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13 Years
in Print**

THE GROUNDHOG

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Mentone • Valley Head • Hammondville • Cloudland • Menlo

Volume 13, No. 12

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

December 1995

MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS PAST

By Ernest H. Smith

Back in the olden days, as late as the 1930s, Christmas was pretty much a do-it-yourself type thing. There were very few purchases necessary, or affordable, in preparing for the Christmas holidays.

Most families in the Mentone area would barter, borrow, rake and scrape, in order to have something extra for their Christmas. These families lived on farms and kept livestock, chickens, pigs, and the like, thereby producing most of their food. They did have to buy or barter for some staple food items, such as coffee, sugar, and flour.

Since the spinning wheel and loom were no longer found in the home, it was necessary to purchase items of clothing, or cloth for making clothing. Also, shoes and outer apparel had to be purchased at the store. To obtain any of these items it usually required cash on the barrel head, and cash was always hard to come by.

About the first thing to happen in getting ready for Christmas was to cut plenty of firewood. Almost every home had a fireplace for the main source of heat. Their choice of Christmas wood was usually green hickory. It made a hot fire and lasted good too. Of course, you needed a gum backstick for holding fire and reflecting heat. A few pine knots came in handy for goosing the fire now and then. The pine knots kept the green wood burning and provided light around the hearth area.

Some Mentone families would order their bonded whiskey from Chattanooga. This was before the prohibition act. It would be shipped down by train to the Valley Head depot, where it would be called for. Of course, there was plenty of moonshine back then, but this was sipping whiskey for a special occasion. Rarely did anyone get rip-roaring drunk. It was just something they believed added to the holiday cheer.

The main items bought especially for the children's stockings were oranges, apples, candies, nuts, and raisins on the stem. These items were enjoyed only at Christmas time, since they couldn't be afforded throughout the year. Most families did have plenty of preserved fruit they had canned or dried, but fresh fruit, out of season, was a special treat.

Besides the fruit and candies, the stockings would contain a or other small gift. Sometimes this would be in addition to the main gift, but usually that was it. Over many Christmases I remember getting such items as a yo-yo, jacks, marbles, cap pistol, pocketknife, small harmonica, jew's harp, puzzles, game boards, etc.

Most children today wouldn't understand how pleased children once were to receive a ten or fifteen cent gift in their stocking. Times were different back then. To quote an old cliché, "You don't miss what you never had."

Some of the teenage boys, still living at home and having a little money they'd earned at home, or elsewhere, would get



This postmark on the back of this postcard is dated December 21, 1908, from Pampa, Texas to Mentone, Alabama
Courtesy of Ernest H. Smith

together and go to Valley Head to buy their Christmas. Each of them would take along an empty flour sack to put their goodies in. They would go through the stores and buy what they liked to eat, such as oranges, apples, bananas, whole coconuts, candies, mixed nuts, crackers, small tins of meat, cheese, and so forth. All these items would be put in their Christmas sack. They would usually walk back up the mountain with the sack on their back. Again, how times have changed.

Some families would decorate for Christmas. They would cut a wild cedar or bunchy pine for a Christmas tree. It was usually trimmed with homemade decorations. They would string popcorn to wrap around the tree and make colored paper cutouts for ornaments. Sometimes they would sew little stars, balls, and dolls, from scraps of cloth and stuff them with cotton. These looked much better on the tree than the paper things.

In addition to the Christmas tree, they would decorate the house with holly, mistletoe, and wreaths made from ground cedar with sprigs of holly, pine cones, and perhaps a red bow. These decorations would pale alongside what they have today, but it was sufficient for that time, and made the whole house smell fresh and clean, like a forest.

The schools would close the day before Christmas Eve, or the last weekday before. The schools would remain closed until the first weekday following the new year.

Students in each classroom would draw names for gift giving. The gifts would be given out the last day before Christmas turn-out. The teacher would tell their students not to give anything expensive, but something nice and useful. Most gifts were ten to twenty five cent items.

During the depression years a dime gift might not be afford-

able. In which case, you might be given something homemade or something edible grown on the farm.

If my mother didn't have the money to buy a gift for the names we drew, she would send eggs or live chickens to the store to trade for the gifts we needed.

I remember one Christmas at Moon Lake School when I received a shoe box filled with raw peanuts in the shell and ears of popcorn, for my gift. Of course, I was disappointed, being a nine year old, but I had the good judgment to wait until I got home to pitch a fit.

The boy who had drawn my name came and told me that they didn't have any money to buy anything at the store. He said that his mother had fixed the box and that she hoped that it would be alright.

Since that gift of peanuts and popcorn, I've received many gifts at Christmas, but have little or no recollection as to what these gifts were. It is the gift in the shoe box that I'll always remember. This family had given generously of the only things they had to give.

Of course, it is not the value or choice of a gift that is important, but rather the spirit in which it is given. But, children aren't always that understanding.

On Christmas Eve, the grocery stores in Mentone would sometimes have a drawing for grocery items. Slips would have been passed out with grocery purchases for sometime, on which you were to write your name, and drop it in the box. I remember one Christmas drawing at Charlie Hall's store when someone picked me up and put me on top of the counter to do the drawing. One man won a fifty pound sack of flour. He was so thrilled that he gave me a quarter. That was quite a boost to me, I'll tell you.

The local churches would usually have their Christmas plays on either Christmas Eve night or Christmas night. These plays were enjoyed as they are today. Sometimes the children in Sunday school classes would draw names. These gifts would be passed out after the play along with bags of fruit for everyone.

On Christmas morning, the children would be up early to check their stockings. They were always too excited to eat any breakfast.

A little later on Christmas morning, the whole family would be off to visit grandparents. They would either walk or ride in a wagon. Most families usually alternated Christmas day dinners with grandparents. They would enjoy seeing relatives they hadn't seen for months, or even the past year. The highlight of the day would be a bountiful Christmas dinner.

After Christmas day, the rest of the week would be spent exchanging visits with other relatives or friends. Sometimes the men and older boys would go squirrel or rabbit hunting.

(Continued on Page 3.)

Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Other Dates

•Friday, December 8, 4:00 p.m.
MAPA Christmas Party for the Children, Mentone Town Hall

•Thursday, December 21, 4 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting, Mentone Town Hall (See notice elsewhere.)

•Monday, December 25, Christmas Day

•Saturday, December 16, 6:30 p.m., Christmas Cantata, The Fountains, Ft. Payne

•Monday, January 1, 1996, New Year's Day

•Sunday, December 17, Christmas Cantata,
5:00 p.m. Mentone United Methodist Church;
7:00 p.m. Valley Head Baptist Church

•Monday, January 2, 7 p.m., MAPA Meeting, Town Hall
•Monday, January 8, 6 p.m., Mentone Council Meeting, Town Hall

Look on Page 7 for the Authentic Civil War Stories from the collection of Grady Hammond.

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THE GROUNDHOG

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Member-At-Large.....Donna Bouldin

In case of errors in advertisements, The Groundhog assumes liability only for the actual space that is incorrect in the advertisement. Call Evelyn Graves at 634-4390 for advertising.

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. The publication is due out by the first Tuesday of each month.

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---NOTICE--- CITY MEETING

The Planning Commission of the Town of Mentone will meet Thursday, December 21, at 4 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room. This will be a regular quarterly meeting and a public hearing.

Business to be discussed will be the approval of current certificates of zoning compliances and a review of those filed with the commission in 1995. Officers for the year 1996 will be elected.

This meeting will also serve as a public hearing to consider a change in the wording of the zoning ordinance.

All persons who desire shall have an opportunity of being heard in favor or in opposition to the change.

MAPA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bernise Crow

May each of you be especially blessed as we enter the festivities of celebrating the birth of Christ our Lord. It is a time for giving and forgiving. It seems everyone softens during the Christmas season, which seems to bring out the best in us. But there are a few who want to imbibe and drive under the influence, so be careful when traveling.

Our MAPA Christmas dinner will be held at Dessie's Kountry Chef. MAPA will furnish the meat, which Dessie will prepare, and we will take a covered dish. We look forward to an evening of relaxation and fun. You are invite--just bring a small dish of food and a gift wrapped for a child--and one to exchange if you care to do so. The gifts for children will be given at the party, Dec. 8.

MAPA NOVEMBER MEETING

By Mickey Gough

Bernise called the meeting to order. The minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given and filed. Evelyn Graves could not make the meeting, but said all was going well with *The Groundhog*.

Bernise told the members the Board had met and discussed the festival. Suggestions were made to improve it. A committee should be formed and a vice-chairman to run it. Jim Lyday said the wiring was done on both shelters, and there was plenty of power for the vendors.

Dec. 5 is the date of the adult Christmas party, and Dec. 8th for the children. The adult party will be at Dessie's County Chef. It will be pot-luck and members were asked to bring a gift to exchange among the adults and a gift for the children at the party for them. Santa and Mrs. Clause will be at the party.

Jim Lyday announced there would be a seminar for people interested in writing or publishing at the Mentone Inn on Wed. Nov. 8th, at 10 until 12.

Dr. Bill Berry thanked MAPA for letting the Boy Scouts park cars at the festival. He said it was their big money raiser for the year. He introduced the guest speaker, Yumika Muramatsu from Japan. She is a teacher this year at Moon Lake School. She explained how she first came to our country when she was 15 and knew then she wanted to come back. She majored in English, and was appointed to Moon Lake School. She is one of several Japanese ladies working in DeKalb County. She said she found the people in Mentone very gracious and friendly. She enjoys the children and said they were eager to learn more about her country and its culture. She laughed at learning new Southern English.

After the interesting talk, refreshments were served.



Teresa Phillips, with Ashley and Jessie

"MOTHER ON THE RUN"

One can't help but wonder what Jesse Phillips, 2, and sister Ashley Phillips, 4, are thinking while whizzing along the roadway in a double-stroller...amidst a host of sweating running men, women, and children who don't have the advantage they do. Their advantage is their momma, Teresa Phillips. At 33, she's got to be one of the toughest moms around.

On a regular basis, she participates in 3-and 4-mile runs. She has even been known to stretch into the 5-mile races. The differences between her and all the other running females in her age group is, she runs while pushing the stroller with the combined weight of the two preschoolers inside. That totals 70 pounds, plus the stroller. It's specially made and lightweight, and she shopped "everywhere in the world" before finding one "in the J.C. Penney catalogue," Mrs. Phillips said.

She ran the 4.2-mile Groundhog Classic run in Mentone during the October Colorfest, with its rolling hills and (on that particular Saturday morning) 34-degree temperature.

She and running pal Beverly Wood, 42, of Gadsden, are faithful runners and got into the habit through a physical fitness program at their church's family life center. Mrs. Phillips said they attend Bellevue Baptist in Gadsden, and she, in particular, began running (and pushing a stroller simultaneously) when her first child, Ashley, was ten months old. She's been racing while pushing a stroller for little more than three years.

One would think that should really get the leg muscles in shape, so when asked if she had run without the children (in an official race) recently, she said, "Yes."



Jonathon Ezra Black

Happy Birthday
to **Jonathon Ezra Black**, who celebrated his first birthday on November 8, 1995. Jon is the son of Alan and Tricia Black of Blake. His grandparents are Glen and Wanda Black, Erma Black and Annie Young, all of Blake, and Paul and Emma Posey of Cherokee, Ala.

Memories of Christmases Past

(continued from Page 1)

All too soon, the Christmas week came to an end. It was back to school for the children and back to work for the grownups. Another old down-home Christmas on the farm was now history.

We are now living in a highly commercialized world where everything you could possibly need for Christmas can be bought at the store. Even the Christmas dinner may be ordered for delivery or pick-up, in case you don't eat out. Somehow it doesn't seem the same to me, but I'm sure that most people enjoy Christmas as much as anyone ever did. Nevertheless, some old timers still have fond memories of those old fashioned Christmases that will haunt them for the rest of their lives.

Throughout this issue you will notice postcards from the early 1900s. They are courtesy of Ernest H. Smith.



**Mack Robert McCurdy & Eula Alice Durham
In 1945**

Mack and Alice McCurdy of Route Two Fort Payne (the High Point Community) will be celebrating their **Golden Wedding Anniversary**. A party will be given for the couple, hosted by their children. The party will be held on Saturday, December 9th, 1995, beginning at three o'clock in the afternoon at "Ye ole Heritage House Restaurant & Hotel" located on the brow at Mentone, Alabama.

All friends and relatives are cordially invited to attend. Their children are Hazel Haynes, Bobby, Ronald, Billy, and the late Milford McCurdy.

Our Christmas Wish

By Evelyn Graves

Following is a reprint, in part, of an article by Kent Warneke, Editor of the *Norfolk Daily News* in Norfolk, Nebraska, the Tuesday, November 21, 1995, edition:

Lewchuk wins a retrial

Technically speaking, a [unanimous] ruling by the Nebraska Court of Appeals Tuesday morning means that former Norfolkian Dennis Lewchuk is entitled to a new trial on a first-degree assault charge. Practically speaking, the ruling may mean much more than that for the man who was first convicted in 1980 of stabbing a Norfolk man and then lived as a fugitive for 14 years before being found and arrested by the FBI in 1994. ... The appeals court ruled that the Madison County District Court erred during Lewchuk's trial in 1980 when it failed to allow testimony regarding prior violent conduct by the stabbing victim—James Warner—that may have precipitated the incident.

That's good news for Lewchuk and his family, who fled Madison County while awaiting sentencing on the assault charge, and spent most of the next 14 years living in Alabama. While living in the small town of Mentone, Ala., he and his wife, Joy, took on the assumed names of Johnny and Pam Wesley and worked as flea market vendors. They have four children. ...

The court's ruling gives the prosecuting attorney in the case six months to retry Lewchuk on the first-degree assault charge. [Madison County Attorney Joseph] Smith said he already has asked law enforcement personnel to begin the search for witnesses to the original incident. But, he acknowledges they may be difficult to find. ...

Regardless of the ruling on the assault charge, Lewchuk still needs to finish the one-year charge handed down for his conviction of the separate charge of failing to appear for sentencing back in 1980. ...

[Defendant Lewchuk's attorney David] Domina said, "He was very well liked in Alabama. There were 20 people from Mentone who attended the sentencing, and we presented petitions with 2,400 signatures of support."

Pam Wesley and the children are excited about the decision of the Court of Appeals, and unless there is an appeal filed by the prosecuting attorney, or the case is sent to the Appellate Court for review, there is a strong possibility that Johnny will be home for Christmas!

Pam is able to speak with Johnny on the telephone periodically, and they do a lot of letter writing. His letters are full of optimism about what is taking place in his own life in the way of rehabilitation. He works out in the gym every morning and is now in good physical condition; he is going to school to receive his GED for high school equivalency; he has time in the afternoon to study his Bible, and has grown tremendously in his spiritual life through Bible study, regular study aids from his former pastor, and encouraging letters from friends at Mentone. He always expresses to Pam and the children his love for them, how important they are to him, and his hopes and dreams for them when he gets home and they can live as a normal family without fear. He said in one letter that being brought back to Nebraska is perhaps the best thing that could have happened because it is bringing an end to a bad experience that he wants to put behind him.

Pam is staying busy in the house, attending to the children's needs, and trying to be patient until the family is reunited. She thanks the community again for its support and the individuals who have been there for them, and she especially thanks the Lord for watching over them. The one Christmas wish she and the family have is that they may all be together for Christmas, and they really believe this wish will come true for them!



A Merry Christmas

From Between the Counters

By
BRUTUS



Devoted readers and appreciators of true beauty, an event occurred on Dec. 4, 1995, at the Superette that truly jarred my preserves! Precious, my nearly beloved, was seen in front of the store, so Pop put her in the pen outside to save her from 117. Moi could only think, "Who is going to tell that sweet girl the terrible truth about my present condition?"

Luckily, moi was saved the hideous embarrassment of the truth when Brian Phillips came in and identified the beautiful girl bulldog as his lost pet that had broken her chain. Whew! Was I relieved. I was sure that moi had seen a ghost! (Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these, "It might have been!")

Can you believe who came in the store to see me yesterday? The butcher who conspired with pond scum Al to "alter" my physique, Dr. Joe McNew. How's that for nerve you wouldn't want in one of your teeth. The "good" doctor has put moi back on starvation rations since I've gained five pounds and am now up to 90 pounds. More to love, I say!

Scores of flatlanders are still making pilgrimages to view the magnificent pride of Mentone: moi! Bill and Loretta Frost of Pell City paid homage to the legend of the Superette last week on a trip to the "shrine between the counters." It was Loretta's first visit, and she reeled away from the encounter with tear-glazed eyes. Some people are stunned by moi's magnificence, truly.

C.C. and Evelyn Weldon of Talladega waited in line for nearly an hour seeking an audience at moi's incredibly flawless feet. She swooned, and he left muttering something like, "awesome, simply awesome!"

One rewarding Thanksgiving week visit was with Alyce Springer's son Rick and his two boys, Ryan, 3, and Clay, 10, from Indiana. Never had these Yankees viewed such a wonder as moi. Rick asked for back issues of my columns so he could read for himself my matchless prose. It's not easy being the bard of Mentone!

John Sturgis from Decatur, Ala., came by last week to confirm that moi really existed. He had read my many splendid columns and doubted such a noble creature could be found on Lookout Mountain. John owns a bulldog, Byron who, he told Pop, "was just like Brutus." John, boy, there IS no bulldog "just like Brutus," Pop said with blood in his eye! Sic 'em, Pop!

As moi's glorious fame spreads, more and more children read about the imposing canine in the Mentone Superette. Nicole, Craig, and Sandy Hulan all came in to see moi last week. It seems the trio reads "Between the Counters" each issue of *The Groundhog*, but they had never viewed moi's exquisiteness for themselves. What a blinding spectacle it must have been for them. Pop had to lead them sobbing uncontrollably to the door, afterwards. What if I had stood up or rolled over or done any other of my impressive tricks? They might never have found their way out of the store.

Well, you loyal subjects, think of moi as you stuff yourself with holiday treats. McNew has me eating 1/2 cup of what tastes like mice droppings each day, so moi may not be here in the New Year—just a ghost of Christmas Past! Shalom to all and to all a good night!



Mentone Grapevine

By
PAT SEYMOUR

Mentone was the scene of many festive holiday gatherings of family members who came "over the river and up the mountain" to be with their kin.

As usual, the George and Jo Beaubé house was bustin' at the seams with daughters and their families, as Jo laid out bountiful feasts all week long (Jan & Terry from Gadsden; and Danny and Georgia from Chattanooga.)

Col. George and Hope Walker's lovely brow home, "Stonehenge," rang with laughter and good conversation throughout Thanksgiving with daughters, grandchildren, and sons-in-law all visiting.

Sam Franks, new owner of the (Martha) Berry House on the brow, had his first guests over Thanksgiving. Totally redecorated, the gracious home will be open year round as a tourist home, complete with open fireplace. The Berry House is located on Linchpney Road just south of James and Betty Johnson.

The Mentone community was saddened to learn of the death of Donna Bares' father, Preston Bourgeois, on Nov. 18, in Thibodaux, La. Donna is the popular assistant director of Skyline Ranch Camp with Susan and Larry Hooks.

Valley Head has a new police chief, Kenneth Busby, husband of Carol Busby, who is employed at the Mentone Inn. Ken brings a lot of experience to the job. Good luck, to one of the good guys!

Marion Blanton Campbell reports that her major activity in November was a big Thanksgiving feast with friends at the Mentone Inn. She said there was more delicious food than could be eaten, served in a festive holiday setting.

Don and Yvonne Brock's lovely daughter, Donna, was a cast member in the Northeast Alabama State Community College production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat." She had a singing part as a member of the chorus.

Max Cash, mayor of Mentone, has recently flown to Austin, Texas, to check on the status of his grandson, B.J. Cash, 12, who injured his heel in a hunting accident. The boy is having some problems with nerve reconstruction.

Clara Cash "kicked up her heels" on Thanksgiving, joining a dinner party at the Mentone Inn. Clara received a lot of attention with a beautiful pendant she was wearing.

Sherman and Mickey Gough were among Mentonites entertaining family over the holidays. His sister, Kathleen, and her husband John Rogers from Tyon, N.C., spent several days with them. Afterwards, Sherman was sick and in bed with the virus making its rounds in Mentone.

Speaking of the virus infecting Mentone, Connie Bell has been quite sick with it. She has missed several days at work.

Cathie Crowe and daughter Anna have just returned from two weeks in England. Cathie said that they stayed healthy and had a great time.

Marie Dillenbeck made a pre-Thanksgiving visit to see her mother, Dorothy Shelden, in Las Cruces, N.M. While there, Marie spent time with her brother Dale and wife, Tessie Shelden.

Congratulations to Frank and Linda Villapando on their new brow home. The home is the second one facing the brow where the festivals are held.

Friends in Mentone were saddened to learn of the recent death of Mrs. James A. (Mildred) Ferry in Birmingham, on Nov. 6. She owned a beautiful home on the brow in Mentone. Rev. Oscar Hussell of Mentone conducted the graveside services.

Flora Goss is reported by son Benny to be much improved. The Goss family is truly grateful for all the concern shown in Mentone during Flora's illness.

When the large, seven-foot Christmas tree arrived by truck at the City Hall this week, "good-guy" Sanford Hartline was driving by and stopped to help the struggling woman (ME) unload it. Surely, the Lord sent him to put that tree inside the building. Thanks, big guy! The tree was graciously donated by

Blackburn's Nursery.

Jimmy and Barbie Hester's little son, Tyler, is one of the youngest victims of the virus making its rounds. Tyler's temperature rose to 105 degrees at one point. He is now recovering nicely.

October 14-21, Hobson Kirby took wife Martha on a birthday trip of over 2,000 miles. They saw the Pennsylvania Dutch country and most of the eastern U.S. Is that boy a romantic fool or what? Martha, you are one lucky lady!

Marie Moss has a cute new little dog, Cloy, to keep her company. Having lost Pixie, her pet of 16-1/2 years, some months ago, Marie had an empty heart and house for a while. This was an older dog who needed a good, kind owner, so, who better than Marie?

Bill and Grace Pullen had many friends and relatives attend their 50th Wedding Anniversary at L'il Mole Run. (See writeup on back page on The Groundhog.) May they enjoy many more years of happiness together!

Friends of Annette Orr surprised her with a big birthday bash at McDonald's, on Saturday, Dec. 2. Planning the event were Fouts and Nancy Rector, Jewel Collins, and Charlie Rogers. (McDonalds??)

Bill Schwarz is recovering from hip replacement surgery in Huntsville. Daughter Janet flew in the day after the operation to be with her dad and his wife, Sue, for a few days. Bill is recovering at home and hopes to be up and about soon.

Alyce Springer had her son Rick and his wife Jody, and grandsons Clay (10) and Ryan (13), from Zionsville, Indiana, for a week over Thanksgiving. Then, Alyce's cousins Beverly and Sam Simons, Conneaut, Ohio, were with her for nine days.

If you haven't tried Friday night (5 p.m.-8 p.m.) steak night at Tigers Inn, you're missing a real (cheap!) treat! A delicious steak dinner is less than \$7.00 with all the extras. From T-Bone to Rib Eye, there is a wide selection and varying prices on all cuts.

Lisa Moore is up and around after her surgery. She was sorely missed at the Valley Head Water Works Board where she really keeps things humming. Welcome back, Lisa. You were REALLY missed!

The staff of the City of Fort Payne will host their annual Christmas in Union Park immediately following the Jaycee's Christmas parade, Friday, Dec. 8. Refreshments, including coffee, chocolate, soft drinks, pop corn, peanuts, and cookies will be served in the park beginning at 5 p.m. Seasonal music will be provided by the Union Hill Church and Fort Payne High School band and chorus.

Sincere sympathy to Jack and Lillian Watson on the death of her mother in Birmingham.

Moon Lake will hold a Free Throw Turkey Shoot on Saturday, Dec. 16, at noon, in the Moon Lake gym. (See flyer elsewhere.) Entry fee is \$3 per person. The event coincides with the last home basketball game for the third, fourth, and fifth grade teams. It is also Homecoming, and all alumni are invited to attend. Coach Donnie King at Moon Lake School has more information, 634-4113.

Judith Crider, DeKalb County Artist in Residence, has returned to Valley Head High School for another month of art during December. Valley Head was one of the schools Ms. Crider worked with in the art program last year.

On the President's List during the Summer Quarter at Northeast Alabama Community College were Nighman Kahn and Amy Kirby of Valley Head. On the part-time Honor's List were Marcus Smalley, Mentone, and Phillip McCurdy, Sheila Meadows, and Carrie Whitfield of Valley Head. Congratulations to each of the DeKalb scholars!

The Valley Head High School Band will present a concert at Moon Lake School on Thurs., Dec. 14, at 1:30 p.m. No admission will be charged. This is your chance to hear this great band if you missed the concert on Dec. 2.

There will be a joint candlelight service at 5 p.m., Dec. 24, at the Valley Head Baptist Church.

Members of the staff of Nature's Classroom, located on the Saddle Rock camp grounds, presented a program recently for Delta Kappa Gamma, a group of DeKalb County educators. At the Classroom, Carolyn Mobby is the director; Anita Hausbeer, Curriculum Director; Susan Chernes, Program Director; and Heather Brock, Curriculum Developer.

Weather artists in the Times-Journal recently were Vince Wright, 5, and Wendy Edgeworth, 5, both of Valley Head. Congratulations to these fine young artists!

Gary and Shandra Holbrook are expecting twins. What an exciting prospect!

Some of Valley Head's 5th, 6th, and 7th graders, accom-

panied by teachers, set out by school bus to Hanceville on November 21 to hear former Miss America, Heather Whitstone, speak. Unfortunately, drivers George Battles and Beverly Windom took a wrong turn somewhere and the group never made it to Hanceville. They did visit a real nice McDonald's somewhere before returning home. What a great field trip, guys! Moments to remember.

Alan and Penny Baugh announce the birth of their new baby boy, John Alexander. More next month.

Dec. 6 is the 11th Anniversary of Valley Heads' 13-6 win over Sweetwater to make Valley Head the 1A State Champion in 1984.

David "Tater" Hopper and Al Brown were entered in the "Big Buck Contest" sponsored by Terri's Time Saver in Fischer, and both bagged a dear while hunting Dec. 3. "Tater" got a 10 pt. buck, while Al got a 9 pt. Way to shoot, big guys!

Paulette Goss Mitchell and husband Darrell are proud to announce the arrival of Garrett Dalton on Nov. 14, at the Guntersville/Arab Medical Center. Paulette is the daughter of Richard and Margie Goss and the granddaughter of H.P. and Gladys Goss of Mentone. A formal announcement and picture will follow in January.

Mack and Alice McCurdy's 50th Wedding Anniversary will be celebrated on December 9, at 3 p.m. at Ye Ole Heritage House Restaurant in Mentone. All relatives and friends are invited.

Katie Gray celebrated her 8th birthday on Nov. 18, with a sleepover at her home with invited guests Sarah Hurt, Melissa Harrison, Emily Tipton, and Marie Hunt, present. Katie is the daughter of Steve Gray of Indiana and Sandra Pruitt of Mentone, and is the granddaughter of Junior and Mary Jane Gray and Jimmy and Evelyn Graves.

A late November 29 Happy Birthday to Claudia Croxton.

Happy Birthday all around in December:

●1, Mark Hatfield; ●4, Clara Cash; ●5, Rodney Pelletier; ●6, Phyllis Lewis, Lisa Hulgant; ●7, Ken Hammond; ●8, Eula Cash, DeAnna Harris, Pat Vest; ●10, Kevin Worthey, Tammy Hopper; ●11, Gail Hatfield; ●14, Hunter Whisenant (1), Sonya Tidwell; ●15, Linda Smith; ●17, Holly Day; ●19, Pearson Chadwick; Brenda Hopper; ●21, Vickie Hester; ●23, Mike Key; ●24, Maureen Hammond, Joe Kent; ●25, JESUS; ●26, Michael Croxton; ●27, Melissa Harrison; ●29, Rusty Rector; ●30, Scott Burke; ●31, Marquita Brown

Deepest Sympathy to the families of: David Carlton Cooper, 50, who passed away on Nov. 9, 1995; James Melvin Haney Jr., 56, who passed away on Nov. 17, 1995; Ralph Tab Smith, 58, who passed away on Nov. 26, 1995; and Ellis Roderick Clerk, 51, who passed away on Nov. 30, 1995.

At this most holy of seasons, may I leave you with this thought: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give!" Merry Christmas to all, and may your new year be filled with blessings.

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PRESCRIPTIONS



The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

Crisp cool days are here when a sweater or sweat shirt is just right for wearing outside. Many people are still coming to Mentone, even though our summer is over. It is nice to have a variety of Bed and Breakfast places for them to stay, and the restaurant at the Mentone Inn gives them another choice of restaurant.

October was particularly lively and interesting because of visitors. We had two very nice ladies from England—one of whom was a priest of The Church of England. They were excited about visiting a southern mountain area, and especially St. Joseph's Episcopal Church.

Our Colorfest was a good one. We probably didn't have as many people this year, but there was a feeling of fun and festivity in the air, and that is contagious. We had guests at our house, but could not really entertain them. We were too busy. We gave them breakfast and dinner, and they were on their own during the day. Our daughter, Joyce, and husband, Gregg Cooper, brought Gregg's brother, English, wife, Ann, and daughter, Sarah, with them. English and Ann had never been to Mentone before, and they seemed to enjoy the atmosphere as much as we did. We hope they return in the spring, when the mountain puts on a colorful display of rhododendron, redbud, and dogwood.

One of my best friends, Marjorie Johnston, and her husband, Ben, came by the Hitching Post one day, recently. That was a pleasant surprise. We had not seen each other in about fifteen years. Both of us were very active in garden club work in Chattanooga. They now live in Knoxville, Tenn., and we intend to visit them, soon. It's wonderful to have good friends drop by the antique store who might hesitate to come to our home.

Jim Lyday arranged a seminar for writers on Nov. 8th, at the Mentone Inn, and those of us who scribble a few lines for *The Groundhog* were invited. David Carney, editor and publisher of Jim's second book, *The In-Between Years*, was the speaker. Maybe we learned a little. Sentence structure and grammar have inhibited me because I want to write interesting things that are correctly done. He encouraged us to write naturally, and not worry about "dangling participles." He stated there are not set rules—just plainly said "there ain't none!" What a boost that gave me.

I have been keeping a daily journal for 20 years and try to keep it hidden from everyone because of timidity about my very personal thoughts. These journals are mostly family history, and I hope my grandchildren and great grandchildren can read them and understand something about their heritage. This is something I would love to have had from my ancestors. The stories my Dad told me about his early years are very precious, and I treasure them. Even simple, everyday occurrences give a picture of the lifestyle of common people that is interesting.

Thank you, Jim Lyday, for inviting us to share in experiences in your life, and maybe you have encouraged others to do the same. We have thoroughly enjoyed both books and look forward to the third one about your retirement years.

It takes discipline to write daily accounts of one's activities, but I can do it, and so can you. I may get behind a few days and sometimes leave a few blank pages when pressure is so heavy I cannot think, much less write. Some days are certainly happier than others, and more inspirational—and some days are mediocre, but all days have their good moments. Of course, there are dark days when we can only be thankful to be living and that every dark cloud has a silver lining, and that all things have a reason for being as they are, even if we cannot see it at present.

Hoil (Bill) McCarty brought a family tree book for us to read and see pictures of his ancestors—the Rape family. This is his mother's family and is well done. He happily pointed to pic-

tures of his mother and grandparents and others. Homer had a great aunt who married a Rape and he is looking for her name and/or picture.

Zora Strayhorn who wrote the book, *A Mentone History*, is doing well at her apartment in New Jersey. We correspond regularly, and quite often laugh about the things we did in Zimbabwe, Africa. We remember how pleasant it was to be the guest of Agnes Kanigoia. Zora had a letter from Agnes recently. Zora has given me the rights to have her book reprinted, and I would love to do it. We have had many requests for the book.

Our great grandson, Alexander Tristen Whatley, was christened at St. Joseph's in November. He is the son of Barry's daughter, Lisa, and Sam Whatley. So, Barry is a grandfather! Wow! Now we have four generations of us. The service was beautiful. Dr. Oscar Hussell, assisted by Terry Hutcheson, did the baptizing. Our daughter, Doreen Waters, did the vocal rendition of the song Barry wrote for Alex.

Please forgive me for all the personal "stuff." Next time might be different!

Mildred (Hodges) Ferry died recently in Birmingham. We were saddened to hear of her passing. She loved Mentone, and spent all the time she could at the Hodges home—Fox Hollow. She would drop by the Hitching Post on her way to the post office. We missed seeing her this past summer, due to her illness. We shall remember her as a charming, gracious little lady who was pleasant at all times. They said when she was ill she would imagine she had spent the weekend at Mentone. Dr. Hussell officiated at her graveside service in Birmingham.

Thanksgiving brought family members home, the weather was pleasant, the food good, and we celebrated all weekend. Homer's sister, Mildred, her husband Dennis Burgess, and their family spent one day with us.

Now, Christmas plans are under way. We look forward to seeing the children enjoy the party for them at the town hall, Dec. 8, at 4:00 p.m. MAPA does this in cooperation with the DeKalb Ministerial Association. They furnish and fill stockings, MAPA furnishes gifts and refreshments. Of course, our regular Santa and Mrs. Santa will be there. After the party, we have the tree lighting ceremony on the square with carol singing. The Mentone Inn will have open house and refreshments. Please join us.

Our tearoom plans are progressing. Fundamental to all is the new septic tank being done. Then things should move fast.



The Menlo News

BY OVIE "BO" BLALOCK

•Holly Shannon Davis and Mark William Benedict were married at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at the First Baptist Church, Menlo. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Davis, Menlo. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Benedict, Summerville.

•David L. Langston Jr. and Connie M. Majors announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage. The future bride is the daughter of Lee and Maxine Majors, Menlo. She is the granddaughter of Carrie Majors, Menlo, the late Edward Majors and the late Gladston and Annie Ruth Dempsey. The prospective groom is the son of David L. Langston Sr. and Eula Mae Langston, Rome. He is the father of Sean and Ashley Langston, Summerville. He is the grandson of the late Jake and Bessie Langston and the late D.F. and Eula H. Quinton.



FIRST BIRTHDAY

Ethan Joseph Hall celebrated his first birthday on Thanksgiving, Nov. 23. Ethan is the son of Mike and Bonita Hall, Saint Simons Island. He has one sister, Hannah Nichole Hall. Ethan's grandparents are Gene and Betty Hall and Wayne and Wilma Whited, Trion. His great-grandparents are Bramlett and Mary Lou Hall, Trion, Harold and Sarah Gregory, Cloudland, the late Joe and Irene Hales and Roxie Hales, LaFayette, Myra Shankles, Sylvania, Ala., and the late Clinton Whited.



MEMORY OF JENNIFER CROW PULLEN

We lost our darling Jennifer Crow Pullen two years ago on Dec. 7. Our pain has lessened somewhat, but the loss will forever be felt. She was the sunshine of our lives. Our memories are beautiful and comforting.

The Family.

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By Martha Pendergrass Templeton

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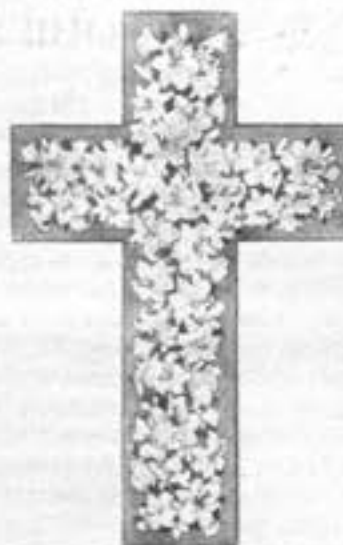


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Edward Jones

I suppose everyone has one particular childhood Christmas which stands out more than any other. For me, it was the year that the Burlington factory in Scottsboro closed down. I was only a small child. I could not name for you the precise year, it is an insignificant blur in my mind, but the events of that Christmas will live forever in my heart.

My father, who had been employed at Burlington, never let on to us that we were having difficulty. After all, children live in a naive world in which money and jobs are nothing more than jabberwocky, and for us the excitement of Christmas could never be squelched. We knew only that our daddy, who, before, had worked long, difficult hours, was now home more than we had ever remembered, each day seemed to be a holiday.

Mama, who had been a homemaker, sought work in the local textile mills, but jobs were difficult to find. Time after time, she was told that there would be no openings before Christmas, and it was on the way home from one such distressing interview that she wrecked our only car. Daddy's meager unemployment check would be all that our family would see.

For my parents, the season brought mounds of worries, crowds of sighs and tears, cascades of prayers.

I can only imagine what transpired between my parents in those moments when the answer came. Perhaps it took a while for the ideas to fully form. Perhaps it was a merging of ideas from both of my parents. I don't know for sure how the idea took life, but, somehow it did. They would scrape together enough money to buy for each of us a Barbie doll. For the rest, they would rely on their talents, using scraps of materials that they already had.

While dark, callused hands sawed, hammered, and painted, nimble fingers fed into the sewing machine dress after dress after dress. There were Barbie-sized bridal gowns, evening gowns...miniature clothes for every imaginable occasion pushed forward from the rattling old machine. Where we were while all of this was taking place, I have no idea. But, somehow, my parents found time to pour themselves into our gifts, and the excitement of Christmas was once again born for the entire family.

That Christmas Eve the sun was just setting over the distant horizon, when I heard the roar of an unexpected motor in the driveway. Looking outside, I could hardly believe my eyes. Uncle Buck and Aunt Charlene, Mama's sister, had driven all the way from Georgia to surprise us. In their car were, packed tight, as though no air were needed, my three cousins, Dean, who was my aunt, but wouldn't be called "Aunt", and both my grandparents, along with innumerable gifts for all of us, all neatly packaged, and tied with beautiful bows. They had known that it would be a difficult Christmas, and they had come to help.

The next morning we awoke to more gifts than I ever could have imagined. And, though I don't have one specific memory of what any of the toys were, I know that there were mountains of toys. Toys! Toys! Toys!

And it was there, amidst all that jubilation, that Daddy decided not to give us his gifts. With all of the toys we had gotten, there was no reason to give us the doll houses that he had made. They were rustic and simple red boxes, after all.

Certainly not as good as the store-bought gifts that Mama's family had brought. The morning filled itself with the music of laughter, and we never suspected that, hidden somewhere, we each had another gift.

When Mama asked Daddy about the gifts, he confided his feelings, but she insisted that we be given all our gifts. And so, late that afternoon, after all of the guests had gone, Daddy reluctantly brought to the living room his gifts of love.

Wooden boxes. Wooden boxes, painted red, with hinged lids, so that each could be opened and used as a house. On either side was a compartment just big enough to store a Barbie doll, and all the way across, a rack on which to hang our Barbie clothes. On the outside was a handle, so that when it was closed, held by a magnet that looked remarkably like an equal sign, the house could be carried suitcase style. And, though I don't really remember any of the other gifts I got that day, those boxes are indelibly etched into my mind. I remember the texture of the wood, the exact shade of red paint, the way the pull of the magnet felt when I closed the lid, the time-darkened handles and hinges...I remember how the clothes hung delicately on the hangers inside, and how I had to be careful not to pull Barbie's hair when I closed the lid. I remember everything that is possibly rememberable, because we kept and cherished those boxes long after our Barbie doll days were over.

I have lived and loved twenty-nine Christmases, each new and fresh, with an air of excitement all its own. Each filled with love and hope. Each bringing gifts, cherished and longed for. But few of those gifts could begin to compare with those simple wooden boxes. So it is no wonder that I get teary-eyed when I think of my father, standing there on that cold Christmas morning, and wondering if his gift was good enough.

Love, Daddy, is always good enough!

From the Collection of Grady Hammond AUTHENTICATED CIVIL WAR STORIES

December 1995 Issue/The Groundhog/ Page 7



General John Bell Hood at Redoubt No. 4, The Battle of Nashville, December 15, 1864

The Darkest Of All Decembers

Editor's note: Grady Hammond of Ft. Payne started in 1988 collecting Civil War stories. His interest in the Civil War prompted him to become a collector of Civil War Art. He is the largest private collector of Rick Reeves' Civil War Art, having 22 prints in his collection. This is the third article. Look for other prints and their stories in future issues of The Groundhog.

John Bell Hood's face was creased with the stress and anxiety of sudden crisis. His gaunt features were stark and ashen, and his expression stern. "Men, you must hold your position at all hazards," he ordered.

Amid the lifting fog of that eerie December morning, Hood had learned of a pending heavy assault against his exposed western flank by the massed veterans of Federal General George H. Thomas. About 10:00 A.M., Hood had rapidly ridden to Lieut. General A.P. Stewart's position along the Hillsboro Pike, where his western flank was anchored. Here, he discovered that his old West Point instructor, Thomas, was preparing a heavy blow against the series of redoubts Hood had ordered constructed only five days earlier.

Of the five redoubts positioned along the western perimeter of the Army of Tennessee's flank, Redoubt No. 4, although only partially completed, was among the strongest. As part of Hood's concept of "self supporting detached works," No. 4 was a small semi-enclosed fort with four 12-pounder Napoleon field guns in embrasured emplacements. Commanded by Captain Charles L. Lumsden, the former commandant of cadets at the University of Alabama, its garrison consisted of forty-eight men of Lumsden's Battery. Built of logs and earth along the high ground west of the Hillsboro Pike, Redoubt No. 4, like the others, was intended to allow a minimum number of men to hold their ground against a much larger attacking force until reinforcements could move along interior lines to reach the threatened point.

Suddenly appearing upon this site, Hood tersely told Lumsden's anxious men and their only supports, about 100 infantrymen from the 29th Alabama Infantry, that the position must be held "at all hazards," and that reinforcements were being summoned. Within minutes, the retreating ranks of Ector's Brigade (commanded by Col. David Coleman) streamed past Redoubt No. 4 in total disarray. Lumsden yelled to them to halt and help his detachment hold the hill. "There's a whole Yankee army in your front," they cried, and the men kept running.

It was but a harbinger of the coming ordeal that began with a sustained barrage of Federal artillery from an adjacent ridge. Three Yankee batteries firing rifled shell at Lumsden's redoubt relentlessly battered the walls. Later, the smaller two-gun Redoubt No. 5, 600 yards south, fell to the swarming attack of James H. Wilson's dismounted cavalry and a brigade of infantry. Desperately, Lumsden ordered two guns withdrawn from their embrasures in No. 4, and facing them south, opened a plunging fire on the captured redoubt.

"To remain in our captured fort was certain death," wrote an appalled Iowa soldier. Yet, to attempt the capture of the second fort "seemed madness." Union cavalry division commander Edward Hatch glanced around. Although his men were badly winded by their charge on No. 5, Hatch never wavered. Again, he ordered the charge sounded, and at the bugle's shrill blast, the men began scrambling forward. When Col. Lucius F. Hubbard's nearby infantry brigade joined in from the west, it became a race between the infantry and cavalry to reach the second redoubt. "Take those guns before the infantry get up!" yelled brigade commander Col. Datus E. Coon. Many of his men began crawling on their hands and knees to avoid the heavy incoming fire. Yet, the deadly 7-shot repeating Spencer carbines in the hands of Coon's men put out such a steady stream of bullets that the Confederates were unable to aim well in shooting along the slopes.

Lumsden's gunners were firing double charges of canister, and their infantry supports continued to fire rapid volleys of musketry, but, within minutes, the surging line of blue cavalrymen reached the log walls. Quickly, hand-to-hand combat erupted within the redoubt as the onrushing line of Hubbard's infantry poured over the walls from the west. Many of Lumsden's gunners were still at their posts, but at one Napoleon a cannoneer, with the needed friction primers, had already fled. "Captain, he's gone with the primers!" yelled a gunner. Lumsden shouted back, "Take care of yourselves, boys." Instantly, those who could escape were seen dashing to the rear.

Within the span of about thirty minutes, the combined ranks of Union infantry and cavalry had taken two redoubts, six cannon, and about 150 prisoners. It was a major factor in the disintegration of the entire Confederate left flank, and a prelude to the ultimate disaster of the following day.

From their prisoners, the Yankees learned of Hood's presence before the fight. Hood's desperate enjoiner on Redoubt No. 4 prior to the attack had proved worthless. A bedraggled army, sick of being sacrificed in bizarre tactical efforts by their high command, had simply given up hope. Since Franklin, the Army of Tennessee had been essentially a disaster waiting to happen. At Nashville it became an army running away from its enemy, from its commanders, from itself. The soldiers' perspectives had shifted from military duty to that of personal survival. Running away simply had become a practical solution. John Bell Hood had wasted too many lives. The men no longer would endure their repeated abuse and sacrifice to no sensible purpose.

For the Army of Tennessee, it had become the darkest of all Decembers.

Rick Reeves' vivid painting depicts the austere and crippled John Bell Hood, enjoining the defenders of Redoubt No. 4 to hold their position "at all hazards."

Narrative by Wiley Sword, author of Embrace an Angry Wind: The Confederacy's Last Hurdle: Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville (1992).

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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needs to complete a voter's update form, prior to the 1996 elections.

The National Voter Registration Act was enacted in 1993, and took effect Jan. 1, 1995. If you have not contacted the Board of Registrars in your county to fill out an update form, you need to do so as soon as possible. This is for everybody. The Groundhog ran an update form in its October issue. Watch in the January issue for a complete writeup about the need for everyone to be sure they complete an update form.

Christmas Dinner In A Tent

(This seasonal article and others to follow are from a scrap book belonging to long-time Mentone resident Mary Weigand. The large scrapbook of her favorite seasonal articles by various authors was found recently in a storage chest at 'Madagascar' by Don & Yvonne Brock.)

At Christmas we went to the "mountain" together, prepared to camp at the Stone House. The "house" was, at its present stage, a huge, barn-like structure, with great, grey walls, yawning caverns of Stygian darkness, and a roof so high above us that we were reminded of the Winchester Cathedral. But there we were, at home, prepared for nothing.

The builder left at dusk, which fell shortly after four on that late December day. We felt as if we were all alone in a strange world of trees, shadows, and stone. The workman's boarding place on the rocks was dark and untenanted. The workers had gone to their homes to be with their families for the holiday. One end of what was in reality the cellar was fairly cleaned up. Our tent had been set up and the floor covered with plank and cedar and spruce. It smelled nice and Christmasy. I laid our old camp canvas tablecloth on the folding table, drew up our camp chairs, and made up our cot beds. When two safety lanterns were lighted, and a blue flame oil heater was burning brightly, our tent looked festive and cozy.

"Now for a Christmas tree," said the Doctor. "We must cut it before nightfall." We quickly found and cut a little, straight, spreading hemlock. It was not cold. There was no snow. Beyond the pines hung a gorgeous, red sunset curtain. The east was softly luminous with a full moon rising over the great oaks. Christmas night, the night dedicated by all centuries and countless peoples to peace and good will! Here ... there was deep, wondrous deep, peace, like the quiet of the silver rain the moon was pouring down on all things.

When we got back, our brightly-lighted tent glowed with welcome cheer. Inside our walls of canvas it was warm as toast. The warmth brought out strongly the aromatic smell of evergreen boughs on floor and on tent walls. While I made our little hemlock gay with red candles and scarlet ribbons, the Doctor made a rude fireplace, just outside the tent. He made a circle of the stone, which lay at hand everywhere on the cement floor. Then he built a fire, which lit up the cathedral vault fitfully.

It seemed like trying the life of centuries past. We had with us our camp and cooking outfit. We grilled the chops brought all the way from New York - how far away it was - on forked sticks over the fire; we baked sweet potatoes in the ashes ... When red apples from our own trees were on the camp table, with its gaily-lighted tree, and the steaming hot picnic meal was ready, life seemed a thing worth any struggle, a great adventure filled with interest and happiness.

Our Christmas dinner in a tent set up in a cellar, tasted like a feast of Lucullus.

From "Winged Seeds," by Bertha Oppenheim. (New York: Macmillan.)

The Groundhog regrets the error in the cutlines under the pictures of the two teams identified by several individuals in the November issue on page 19. The cutlines were reversed. See next month's issue for a list of all the winners in the contest.

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Please Call for Reservations.

55 years ago VALLEY HEAD FOOTBALL TEAM HONORED (writeup submitted by Rachel M. Manning)

The Valley Head Civitan Club and the P.T.A. honored our 1940 DeKalb County champions last Thursday evening, December 12th, with a formal banquet. The boys were asked to bring their dates.

It was quite a gala occasion with Captain Fred Manning bringing Elsie Ruth Cordell, wearing a fitted pink jersey, with very lovely pink carnations at her neck.

Co-captain Bill Ellis brought his dream girl, Johnnie Cox, who was dressed in white tulle trimmed in black around the neck and skirt. She was wearing white carnations.

Coach Hudson attended bringing his wife who wore a blue crepe skirt and a rose blouse. We regret saying Mrs. Hawkins didn't attend with her husband.

Mary Frances Cox, wearing pink tulle trimmed in black, and wearing white carnations, attended with her escort, Paul Davenport.

W. O. Davenport attended bringing Evelyn Bell, who was wearing white, the color of brides, embroidered in gold, and wearing tulle roses at her neck. She also was wearing a new stunning black velvet evening wrap.

Myrl Bennet Wade in peach taffeta and also wearing tulle roses, attended with Billy Manning.

Reubin Beck came bearing at his right Colleen Winsor, wearing blue and pink taffeta. She had a lovely corsage.

Ann Brown, wearing blue velvet and white lace bolero, with carnations in her hair, attended with Buddy Davenport.

Lucretia Davenport, wearing blue tulle and a precious Juliet cap on her hair, and pink and white carnations at her neck, attended with L. D. Culpepper.

Wulodeen Culpepper attended wearing a lovely peach taffeta and pink and white carnations with Lauren Thornbury.

John Hamner escorted Adelaide Ellis. She was wearing white embroidered in silver and lovely carnations.

Virginia Kershaw, with Robert Davenport was wearing blue taffeta trimmed in pink.

R. B. escorted Louise Williams who was wearing the only black dress of the evening, made of taffeta. She also had lovely flowers.

Juanita Culpepper, wearing an off-the-shoulder turquoise chiffon gown, attended with Ronald Shankles.

Jude Stinson brought Ruth Henderson who wore a pink dress.

Pete Thornberry brought Ina Mae Jackson who was dressed in lovely peach satin.

Those attending stag were Bob Hawkins, Jim Mallicoat, Ronald Lee, Carlton Gifford, Jarvice Gifford, Ralph Hawkins, Ralph Bauerle, Bill Emerson, Leslie York, George Hutcherson, and Coach Hawkins. Also, all Civitan members.

The decorations were lovely. There were footballs on the three corners of the table. The one in the center of the head table had the names of the squad on it and the games of this year with their scores.

Superintendent Hulme was the guest speaker, and at this time presented the two captains the DeKalb County Champion trophy.

Mr. P.N. Davenport, master of ceremonies, dismissed the group after Mr. Hulme's speech.

Mr. S.S. Barksdale, manager of the DeKalb Theatre, had invited the entire team and their dates to the picture show, so they all went to see "Knute Rockne."

DeSoto Rescue Squad

By Ilene Green

The Alabama Association of Rescue Squads convention was held Nov. 17-19, in Huntsville and was attended by members Lisa Scott and son Justin, Richard and Terry Douthat, Shawn and Melissa Douthat, Alan Chambers, and Robert and Ilene Green. Several attended classes on high angle rescue, water recovery, and trauma in infants and children. Everyone enjoyed the banquet and dance on Saturday night, as well as a trip to the Space and Rocket Center.

The Halloween party given for the Mentone and Valley Head children at Promenade Hall was a great success. Approximately 150 children were entertained with games, refreshments, and prizes. Winners of the costume contest were: 0-4 years - Paige Weber and Decker Jones; 5-8 years - Kelly Chapman and Andrew Smith; 9-12 years - Karina Taylor and co-winners Donald Turner and Joseph Smith. We wish to thank our very capable judges, Fay and Taylor Adams of Cloudland and Joanne Hawkins of Valley Head.

Winner of the \$1,000 given away by the squad at the October Colorfest was Geraldine Blalock. Thanks to everyone who bought chances and those who worked so hard to sell them.

Congratulations are in order to members Rob and Shaney Sharpe. They are the proud parents of Jadon, born Sept. 18. He has an older brother, Sterling, 19 mos.

Congratulations also to Lisa Scott. She's passed her first quarter of cosmetology. Watch out, she's looking for people to practice on!

The squad is looking ahead to February and our second annual Womenless Beauty Pageant. Our first one was very successful and we're planning to make this one bigger and better. We're looking for contestants, so, fellows, if you want to help us out, contact any squad member.

That's our news for this month. We're all looking forward to a really fun happening on Dec. 9. The Mentone Fire Department is hosting a 50s dance at Promenade Hall in Valley Head. Join us and reminisce, enjoy the fun, and support our fire department.

Capt. Richard Douthat — 634-4813 or 845-2210
Secy. - Ilene Green — 634-4770 or 635-6424
Treas. - Lisa Scott — 634-4207



Alex Easler

Happy Birthday to Alex Easler, who will be celebrating his 3rd birthday on December 6th. His parents are Sam and Barbie Easler. His grandparents are: Slim and Bonnie Easler, James and Brenda Hall. Alex also has a 3-month old baby sister, Summer Leshae.



Summer hours:
Mon./Tues. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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GARDEN HINTS

by Madeleine Bullock

If the rainy weather kept all the other gardeners like me house-bound and frustrated, well let's just keep reminding ourselves that all the rain has replenished the ground water, and the early cold weather has killed out some of the bugs early, before they had enough time to produce an abundance of eggs. Also, the cold sweetens the collards and Brussels sprouts.

For this month's column, if you all don't mind, I have found a hodge-podge of hints and such to write about. So, this will be as unconventional as the weather has been here.

For starters, I thought I would tell you about my four-year-old poinsettia. Yes, I finally managed to keep one alive that long, and it's about three and a half feet tall and has quite a spread of foliage which is still green as it needs short daylight hours to turn red. Experts suggest putting it in a closet for a few hours a day. I nearly lost it quite a few times by moving it around and outdoors in the summer, but then I just left it alone, except for adding aged manure and watering it once about every three weeks. This year I am going to buy one of the latest hybrids, the one with the multi-colored leaves, and see if I have as much luck with it.

If you are looking for a carefree onion, keep in mind the Welsh onion (*Allium fistulosum*) also known as multiplier onion, scallion, and bunching onion. It can be planted in any part of the U.S. --and they follow their name, they multiply at the base, forming more stems and small onions. They never form large bulbs as conventional onions do; they are a white onion, and stems and leaves are green and hollow. They grow from 6" to 24" long. The Welsh onion is a perennial and grown from seed and will form its own seed heads the second year. Sow in the fall for an early spring treat or in the spring for summer harvest. It's better to grow them in a group in one place rather than tucked into various garden nooks as you might with garlic or bulb onions.

Welsh onions re-seed themselves, grow in almost any soil and have only average water requirements. After four or five months, the bulbs will start multiplying, and if green tops are your prize, all's well as is; but, if you prefer long, white base stems, then dig up the onions and replant them in 6"-8" deep trenches. Every three or four years, divide the patch and spread out. You can begin harvesting in two months, even if the variety you're growing takes twice that long to mature. Welsh onions keep much better in the ground than in the fridge, so pull when you need, they will even over winter in the garden if the weather is not too severe and you mulch them.

Next, every time I go to the grocery store, I notice that big brown root in the oriental section of the fresh produce, it's called JICAMA, and I always wondered what it tastes like and how to prepare it. Well, apparently it has a sweet flavor and a texture similar to water chestnuts. It can be used raw in salads or stir fried or maybe fried with onions like fried potatoes and onions.

Another different fruit I saw piled up in the produce section are gooseberries (ground cherry). It's a sweet marble-sized golden yellow fruit encased in a papery husk. It can be used in vegetable or fruit salads for a sweet, exotic flavor; it also makes great pies and jams and can be frozen or dried to keep.

Well, that's it for this month, and maybe you will try some of those exotic foods for the Christmas feast to break the monotony of the usual Christmas repasts or add them to the usual dishes for a difference.

From my family and me to all, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!



About

Our Town

By
LINDA BROWN



Can you believe that Christmas is almost here? Only yesterday the Halloween ghosts and goblins were knocking on my door. Then the old turkey came gobbling around and reminded us that we should be thankful for the privilege of being thankful. And now it is the best and most perfect season of the year. Why do I think this when Christmas has become so commercialized and the main theme seems to be how many presents will I get and from how many people? Let me tell you why.

First and foremost, Christmas is the date set aside to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior of all who call upon His name. I have taught Sunday School for more years than I care to remember. At one time, I was teaching a class of teenagers, and one of the girls said, "I would rather believe in God and come to the end of my life and find out that God didn't exist, than not believe and come to the end and find out that God did exist." A very profound statement for one so young, but out of the mouth of babes. To live as a Christian is not to think and be concerned about the end of life, although Christ does promise life after death, but to live a life that shows love, kindness and concern for everyone while you are here on earth.

Second, this season seems to make people more patient, more caring and more concerned about others. Notice how people smile and speak to you when you are shopping during the holiday season. Does that happen all year? The hungry get fed, the cold get warmed, the homeless get a place to stay and the lonely get a visit. **Why not all year?**

Third, the holiday season comes at a perfect time in the year. The bleak, dreary winter days have set in, and we need something to cheer us up. Here comes the Christmas Season! People get out and do things and go places, and this always seems to make them feel better. We have more "eating meetings" than usual, we have more parties, and we visit friends and relatives more often. We don't have time to worry about our little problems. I recently read the story of a man whose car had been stolen with a lot of luggage, etc. inside. He was driving his wife crazy because he refused to let it upset him and make him unhappy. Finally, he told her that he had decided that he could have a stolen car and be unhappy or have a stolen car and be happy, either way he still had a stolen car, and he chose to be happy!

What a great outlook on life, some unpleasant things are going to happen to all of us, sometimes; so, just make the best of a bad situation and go on.

Speaking of relatives, recently, I had a pleasant surprise when an unknown cousin called the family. Cheyenne is in her forties. She did not know about any of us, and we did not know about her. She is the daughter of one of my uncles who traveled a lot. I arranged to meet her, and we found that we liked each other instantly. She started on this search for her father's heritage because she had grandchildren who wanted to prove they had some Native American heritage so that they could be in a wonderful program that is being carried out in the Alabama schools. I had already traced this lineage for my grandchildren, so I was able to let her have this information, as her father and my grandmother were siblings. This is one of the good things about life, there will always be a surprise in store for us if we are willing to be surprised. Another good thing that happened to me recently was going to the movies with my grandchildren and seeing *Toy Story*. This movie is rated G and good wins out over bad. It is completely computerized which makes it interesting for that fact alone. I would recommend it as a movie to see with children this season.

I'm sure that there is a calendar of events for the month of December somewhere in this issue of *The Groundhog*. The tree that will be placed in the meeting room of Mentone City Hall is especially interesting. Dr. Pat Seymour will furnish the

tree and the Rhododendron Garden Club will put the tree up. The Rhododendron Ecoteers (which is a Junior Garden Club, made up this year of the kindergarten class at Moon Lake School) will make the decorations. The city furnishes the lights, and whoever happens to be available will decorate the tree. The North DeKalb Ministerial Association will place a Christmas stocking under the tree for each child present at the party on Friday, December 8. This tree is truly a community tree!

My wish for you all is that you have a safe, healthy and happy Holiday Season!! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Keep
Christmas
Lighting
Safe!



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and Safe
Holiday
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All served with your choice of
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Miss Rebecca Cheri Keith and Scott Gary Burke were united in marriage at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday August 26, in Collinsville Baptist Church, Collinsville. The bride is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Keith Jr. of Mentone. The groom is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Gary Burke, Collinsville.

The wedding setting was created with a prayer bench flanked by candelabra with lighted tapers and greenery. The Rev. John Morgan read the double-ring vows and a program of music was presented by Mrs. Liz Wheatley and Miss Mandy Dunlap, pianists; Mrs. Deb Clayton, organist; Miss Allison Meadows, flutist; Mr. Larry Burke, guitarist; and Mr. Jason Clayton and Mrs. Wheatley, vocalists. Mrs. Wheatley sang "Wind Beneath My Wings," "Bless This House," and "We've Only Just Begun." Mr. Clayton sang "I Cross My Heart" and together they sang "Love Lift Us Up Where We Belong." Guests were registered by Kisha Gore and programs were handed out by Kala Gore and Justin Keith.

Given in marriage by her parents and escorted by her father, the bride wore a princess style gown hand made by the mothers of the couple. It was made of candlelight bengaline with a sweetheart neckline and cap sleeves. The back featured a closure of fifty-five covered buttons ending with a bow on the chapel length train and adorned with hand beaded alencon lace appliques. The hem of the dress was also edged with hand beaded lace. Her headpiece was a tiara with candlelight illusion the same length as the train.

Miss Lauren Guinn served as Maid of Honor. Bridesmaids were Kristie Burke, Krystee Tillman, Nichole Hatfield, Tauret Protz and Donna Brock. Bridesmatron was Nikki Wheat. They wore street length dresses of emerald bengaline accented with covered buttons and a portrait collar. They carried arm bouquets of live daisies, mums and roses. Miss Whitley Williams was Flower Girl. Her dress was a floor length A-line featuring puff sleeves made of candlelight bengaline. She carried a basket hand made from the same material as her dress and filled with rose petals. Miss Brooke Brown served as Page. Her dress was of the same fashion but emerald bengaline. She carried a nosegay of live roses and they both wore halos of live flowers. All dresses were hand made by the bride's mother.

Danny Barber acted as Best Man. Groomsmen were Nathan Keith, brother of the bride, Kelly Brown, Mark Blackwell, Brian Graves, Marty Burke and Jeremy Higginbotham. Justin McMullins was Bell Ringer and Wilbur Joe Dunlap was Ringbearer.

Ushers were Scott Guinn, Ricky Tinsley, Chris Abernathy, and Dave Vest.

Mrs. Keith chose for her daughter's wedding a suit of seafoam green. The groom's mother selected a coral two-piece dress. They wore corsages of white roses.

A reception followed the ceremony in the fellowship hall of the church. The tables were covered with emerald green overlaid in ivory handkerchiefs. The bride's table was centered with a three-tiered cake decorated in white with a cascade of live pink roses and white daisies. A chocolate teddy bear cake centered the groom's table. Servers were Stephanie Guinn, Melissa Williams, Angie Hughes, Susan Griffith, Roslyn Hale and Sherry Frasier.

The couple left dressed in their wedding attire chauffeured in a white stretch limousine to their honeymoon suite at the Wyndfrey Hotel in Birmingham. After their wedding trip to Gulf Shores, Ala., they reside in Collinsville.

Prior to the rehearsal, the groom's parents entertained the wedding party with a buffet dinner in the fellowship hall of the church.



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MOON LAKE SCHOOL NEWS

By Evelyn Graves

On December 7, the Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades will go to Valley Head High School to see a production of the play, "Rapunzel."

The school acknowledges appreciation for the donation of a piano to the school by Dr. Pat Seymour. She has given it for the use the music students at Moon Lake School.

The next PTO meeting will be Monday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m. with the program by the 5th and 6th grades.

On Dec. 14, the Valley Head High School Band will present a Christmas concert in the School gymnasium at 1:30 p.m. Parents are invited for this event.

Recently, the school was donated eight computers and two printers and a computer overhead projection attachment by M.E.R.F. (Mentone Education Resources Foundation). The foundation received these computers from Culver Academy of Indiana. They were donated to M.E.R.F. and in turn M.E.R.F. donated them to the school.

There is one more basket ball game at home on December 16. (See notice elsewhere on this page.)

A Hero Award was presented to Donny King, Dudley Easler, and Becky Easler. Donny and Dudley are basketball coaches, and Becky is cheerleader coach. All three of them have put in many hours and keen interest into building two teams of basketball players and a squad of cheerleaders for which the entire community can be proud. They are teaching the children not only sports and skills, but also life skills.

Old Moon Lake School Yearbooks For Sale!

Moon Lake School has a few yearbooks from the years 1975-1993 on sale for \$1.00 each. Last years yearbooks are on sale for \$5.00—one-half the original price. If you are interested in buying a yearbook, please come by the school or send the money and yearbook date with a student, or mail your money and request to the school. Also, tell anyone you think might be interested about our sale. Give them as gifts for Christmas, birthdays, or as an every-day gift.

Moon Lake School Honor Roll 2nd Six Weeks

ALL A's
Melissa Crane
Erica Cryer
Julie Ingram
Alex Hazell
Katie Herndon
Whitney LaBuda
Chad Newell
Justin Smith
Angel Wesley
Jared Bare
John Baxter
Lori Hope
Sarah Hurt
Brandy Manning
Kellye Phillips
Emily Tipton
Kristen Addison
Matt Hawkins
Andrew McCole
Kyle Hooks
Stuart Hurt
Kerri McMunn
Kiley Young
Ben Corey
Jana Goss
Peter Hurt

A'S AND B'S
Barnabas Bettis
Logan Chambers
Mark Corey
Michael Hawkins
Loren Kean

Jacob Meadows
Jed Platt
Justin Scott
Kelly Swindall
Katie Gray
Marie Hunt
Joshua Rogers
Phillip Waller
Rachel Bryan
Erica Campbell
Paul Davis
Fawn Kitchens
Amanda Johnson
Keith Miller
Emily Platt
Kelly Wright
Michael Bradford
Kim Brisendine
Emma Corey
Niki Johnson
Ashley LaBuda
Ashley McSpadden
Tiffany Bare
Beth Easler
Corey Kirby
Kelly Owen
Jennifer Blalock
Brandy Browder
Alan Hawkins
Melinda Bradford
Eddie Manning
Cassie Hooks
Jerry Lee Brisendine

Ellis Family Reunion By Evelyn Graves

A reunion of the Ellis family was held at Mentone on November 11-12. The group of 26 met at the home of Jimmy and Evelyn Graves for lunch on Saturday, November 11, followed by a tour of the village shops and other points of interest. They all enjoyed a wonderful dinner together at Catherine's Wild Flower Restaurant that evening and met back at the Graves' home to reminisce, sing, and enjoy a wonderful visit. On Sunday, part of the family visited Herman Jones in the nursing home, and the rest attended church with the Graves' family, after which they all met again at the Graves' home for lunch. Those attending the reunion were: Kathryn (Ellis) Jones; Jim and Lib Ellis; Robin and Sherry Ellis of Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.; Julie (Ellis) Johnston and daughter, Kathryn, of Chickamauga, Ga.; Randy and Ann (Ellis) Still of Chattanooga, Tn; Emily (Ellis) Flanigan of Tucker, Ga.; Robert Flanigan and son, Robby, of Tucker, Ga.; Michael and Shelly Flanigan of Tucker, Ga.; Brian and Jackie Hays and son, Christopher, of Covington, Ga.; Herman and Mary Ann Jones of Rossville, Ga.; Hershell and Sandra Pruitt, Allen and Katie Gray, and Jimmy and Evelyn Graves of Mentone.

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King and Queen were Jessica Barkley and Tim Bain

MOON LAKE SCHOOL HARVEST FESTIVAL RAISES OVER \$8,000

Shivering temperatures didn't keep several hundred away from Moon Lake School Harvest Festival Saturday night, Nov. 4 - the PTO's biggest moneyraiser every year. This year's total was a whopping \$8,220.91. The fun took place inside the school's gymnasium and there was entertainment to suit any age. Games, drawings, raffles, a cakewalk, country store and auction were just a few activities. The classes competed, as they do each year, to see whose games can raise the most money for the school.

This year's winner was the kindergarten class, with Jessica Barkley and Tim Bain being crowned queen and king of the harvest, voluntarily representing their fellow kindergartners and teacher, Phyllis Saratt.

Runners-up in the contest were first grade, taught by Denise Roberts and represented by student D.J. Howard; fourth grade, taught by LaJanet Troxter and represented by April Shelton; fifth grade, taught by Joyce Smith and represented by Stephanie Plemmons; and sixth grade, taught by school principal Bill Berry and represented by Ashley Brown.

"That's school spirit!" announced the emcee, when the grand total was tallied. Principal Berry, who himself was crowned king of the harvest as a fourth grader, said the event had been ongoing as long as he could recall.

Dr. Berry said he wished to express appreciation for support from the County Board of Education for a new kindergarten building and the new lunchroom under construction, as well as school ground improvements sponsored by the Rhododendron Garden Club.

"But without the support of the community and the parents, we could not have continued to grow and be successful as we have over the years."

Moon Lake School includes kindergarten through sixth grades. The teachers not already named are Donnis Barkley, 2nd; Mitzi Hughes, 3rd; Karen Prestwood, Title I; Nancy Pendergrass, Instructional Aide; and visiting teacher from Nagoya, Japan, Yumika Muramatsu, whom the kids call "Miss Yumika". Pat Schoen is librarian two days a week; Linda Lawton is counselor; and Ashley Elliott is Special Ed Aide each day for two hours.



**Mentone's
1st Annual
FREE THROW
TURKEY SHOOT**
Saturday, December 16,
1995; 12:00 High Noon

Moon Lake Elementary School Gym
\$3.00 entry fee

\$5.00 late entry fee (after 11:30 a.m.)

Categories: men, women, boys, girls

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and 9:50 a.m.; and ●Dec. 16, Collins at
Moon Lake, at 9 a.m. & 9:50 a.m.

Contact Coach Donny King at Moon Lake
School at 634-4113, between 2:30 -5 p.m. each
school afternoon, for more information.

Registration is by 11:30 a.m.
on Dec. 16 at Moon Lake School gym.

Baby In The Snow

(A testimony from China, submitted by Jean Gauld)

China's itinerant evangelists are the front-line force in spreading the Gospel in China. They often face the greatest danger - and receive the greatest blessings...

The first-hand testimony we share here came from an evangelist who was visiting villages in the rugged province of Gansu, an area in the north of China that borders Mongolia. Traveling on foot, the evangelist was going from village to village to share the Good News of the coming of Jesus Christ. It was Christmas-tide, snowing, and a cold wind was blowing. Although it was his first evangelistic tour, the evangelist had already visited five villages and seen a number of people respond to the Gospel. As the evangelist approached the sixth village, he was totally unaware that he was about to be thrown into a real-life drama that would take him right back to the very first Christmas. For his work as an evangelist, he was about to learn one of his greatest lessons. This is his story.

"As I drew near the village, I sensed something was wrong. People were huddled together, talking in low tones and looking accusingly at each other.

I introduced myself to them, "Greetings, I am a bearer of Good News, that..."

It was a small man who interrupted me, "Well, we have only bad news here right now," he said, with ill-concealed irritation. He then continued: "A couple have just had their baby stolen."

In the poorer areas of China, where couples are restricted to only one child, it is not uncommon to have a child stolen. Indeed, there are even gangs that roam the countryside stealing babies for wealthy childless couples in the cities.

I asked to see the couple, but the people just said to me, "Go away; we don't want you here, stop pestering us."

Tears came into my eyes. I had rarely been spoken to like that. Should I 'shake the dust from my sandals', and move on; or should I strive with them for a little while?

"Please take me to the couple," I pleaded with the villagers, "I may be able to help."

Reluctantly, maybe because I was a stranger, they took me to the home of the unfortunate couple. I stepped inside the house to find both husband and wife staring quietly at me as I entered. Other villagers crowded at the doorway.

There was silence. The couple's grief was like a heavy cloud that hung in the air. I said, "I'm sorry to hear about your plight, but I know someone who may be able to help... God. Let me pray to Him."

There was no reaction on the couple's faces, so I went into my prayer feeling very uncomfortable, indeed.

"Dear Father, many years ago, at this same time of year, you sent a child into the world and rescued us all. We ask that you will send back this child to us and deliver this village from the sadness which grips it.

Suddenly, the young husband spoke. "Shut up and go away. We have prayed to our gods and nothing has happened. Why should your god be any different?"

I was grabbed from behind by the other villagers and forced to leave the village. "Don't you dare come here again!" they shouted as I retreated.

What a failure. I wandered the hills in a daze of humiliation, with tears and crying to God. I shouted, "Lord have I prayed in vain?"

Then, I stopped, and began to think a little about Christmas. The Son of God had come to a world knowing he would be despised, kicked, beaten, misunderstood--and finally crucified. Yet, still he came.

And, I thought, "I went to that village expecting a hero's welcome, or at the very least, I relied on being a curiosity, quizzed and entertained by people who have very dull and isolated lives. Instead, I had only been treated like Christ was treated."

Kneeling there in the snow, I knew what I had to do. I had to go back to that village, and I knew for sure I would be despised. This was to follow in the Master's footsteps. He had the courage, so must I.

But I quaked with fear. The villagers had handled me very roughly and my arms and shoulders were still aching from when they had grabbed me and turned me away.

With a pounding in my heart, I turned, and began to walk slowly back to the village. It was going to be dangerous, and what would I say?

Suddenly, across the still, late afternoon air, I heard a baby's cry!

I changed my direction. There was the cry again, and it seemed to be coming from what appeared to be an old well shaft.

I reached the shaft and looked down. About six feet down was a little baby, wrapped in a thick blanket and lying at the bottom of the dry well.

"Lord, I praise you!" I shouted into the well--and the booming echo frightened the child into another whimper! The baby was blue in the face with cold as I climbed down to hug some warmth back into it.

This must be the missing baby from the village, I thought to myself, snatched only that morning. I unwrapped the blanket. Ah, there was the explanation. It was a baby girl. Those who stole the baby did not realize it was a little girl. Finding out later that it was, they must have left it in this old well to die. The city couples who finance this hideous trade invariably only want male children.

I walked back to the village with the precious bundle of life clasped in my arms.

The villagers came running. They were amazed and overjoyed.

Loving hands led me to the home of the poor couple, and the smile on the mother's face, as I placed her baby into her lap, was terrific!

"Come warm yourself by the fire," said the husband. They drew up a chair for me and, as the other villagers crowded round, he asked, "Who was that God you prayed to?"

What an invitation! Here was I, the honored guest, looking at thirty eager people, waiting with bated breath to hear the Gospel.

"Well," I began, "he came to earth in the form of a little baby, just about this time 2,000 years ago..."

That night, the couple believed in Jesus; but I learned a great lesson, too. I only heard that baby's cry because I had turned to go back to the village."

Can God?

By Jean Gauld

Many people years ago thought God was dead! Now they think He is just old! So, they are trying New Age and other Eastern religions... But, come with me to Indonesia, an island nation with 200 million residents, located southeast of the Philippines and southwest of Vietnam. The major religion is Islam; only 9.3% Protestant Christians.

Let us witness the God of the Bible, still in power and demonstration. In our open-air crusade there, many oppressed of the devil were healed! Wait a minute, Sister Jean, we have doctors today! And so we do! God's second line of defense, and we appreciate them. But, when you visit a poor country without these benefits... they are simple enough to believe the Word of God and act upon it, and God heals them! When they hear that God is the same today as He was yesterday, they believe it. When they hear "by my stripes you are healed," they reach out to receive it in faith. Yes, you say, but I heard Satan, too, will move in lying signs and wonders. Yes, he will try to deceive the very elect, if possible. But you, as a Saint of God, walking in the Spirit of Truth, covered with a shield of faith, praying continually, wholly trusting in the Lord... you will not be deceived... the glory of the Lord will be a shield as well.

We were all seated on the grass in the soccer field in Surabaya, Indonesia. Probably, 3-or 4,000 were present. As Marilyn brought forth the Word in power and demonstration, ears popped open that were deaf from birth, goiters disappeared, and standing ten feet from me, I saw a huge stomach tumor melt away to nothing by the Spirit of God. In Mark 16:17, it states... they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. Many of us have heard the Word all our life, but the Bible says in Heb. 4:2, it did not profit them because it was not mixed with faith! In James 1:17, it tells us there is no "shadow of turning with our Father." He is in noon position waiting for our faith to move Him. He's ready to deliver, heal, rescue, save--according to Strong's Greek Concordance, all these English words describe the original Greek word salvation. If we had faith to get saved, why not to get healed as well?

In Rom. 15:18, Paul tells us "the gentiles were made obedient by word and deed, through mighty signs and wonders by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about Illyricum I have fully preached the Gospel of Christ." When the true Gospel of Christ is fully preached in all the world, then shall the end come.



We all know some preachers have abused the gifts and Word of God. But, as God poured out refreshment, as in any flood, debris will collect on the banks. But as we focus on the Lord, "let us earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the Saints" (Jude 3). Let us come out from our vain traditions and church doctrines and receive the pure, undiluted Word of God! And like Joshua and Calab, who wholly followed the Lord, let us go on and possess the land; let's lay hold on our inheritance!

The Great Wall in China a picture from last month's mission.

Photo by Jean Gauld

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HUNTIN' & FISHIN' TIPS

Compiled by Dr. Pat Seymour

HAND SAVERS: Hunting in cold, rainy weather is a test of endurance, especially in terms of keeping one's fingers from getting numb. Once wet, hunter's hands quickly become chilled, making operation of the safety and trigger difficult and possibly dangerous. A pair of long, gauntlet-style rubber gloves, preferably lined, keep hands dry and fingers dexterous. Even dishwashing gloves will do in a pinch. To be most active, the gloves should be put on before the raingear; the sleeves will then be outside the gloves, preventing water from funneling in.

AIR RIFLE SAFETY: Remember, it's a weapon. The single-stroke air rifle has been a popular choice as a first gun for youths since the 1940s. However, these guns are sometimes given less regard as weapons than 22 rifle or multistroke pneumatic rifles when in fact they are equally dangerous. Single-stroke air rifles can develop a muzzle velocity of around 350 feet per second, which is sufficient to penetrate both sides of a beverage can, and they will launch a BB or a pellet over 100 yards. So if you're planning on giving a young sportsman one of these little guns to get him started, be sure to provide proper safety instruction and supervision, and remind him to exercise utmost caution when using the gun.

THE HOTTEST DOGS: Annual registrations in the American Kennel Club tell us which breeds hunters prefer. Beginning with the most popular, they are: Labrador retriever, Golden retriever, Beagle, Yorkshire terrier, Basset hound, English springer spaniel, German short-haired pointer, Brittany spaniel, Weimaraner, Chesapeake Bay retriever, Vizsla, Irish setter, Gordon setter, German wire-haired pointer, English cocker spaniel, English setter, American water spaniel, Irish water spaniel, American foxhound.

SHOCK THERAPY: Winter, low humidity, and the vinyl seats in your car or truck can literally be a shocking combination when you make contact with them. Rubbing a sheet of fabric softener on the seats, however, will take care of static problems for months.

FOUL-WEATHER PRECAUTIONS: What to bring for a bad situation. If you pride yourself on being able to hunt in the foulest weather, that's fine. But know that one misstep crossing a stream or a swamp can get you into serious trouble, especially in freezing temperatures. It's a good idea to keep a change of wool socks, long underwear, a long-sleeved shirt and a lightweight jacket in a plastic bag in your vehicle. It won't take up much space; and, if you should take a spill or get caught in a bad storm, it could keep you from becoming hypothermic, or worse. Hand warmers, fire-starting materials, and candy bars are also good to have.



Jim Lyday

Author Jim Lyday and Mentone Inn host seminar

Writers and publishers gathered at the Mentone Inn Wednesday, Nov. 8, to conduct a seminar on the art of story telling, writing, and the process of publication. The seminar featured speakers, Dave Carney, Publisher of "Mountain People Gazette, History, and Stories of the South," and Steve Maze, Senior Editor of "Mountain

People Gazette," and a master storyteller and author. The seminar was hosted by the Mentone Inn, Innkeepers Karl and Frances Waller, along with Catherine's Wild Flower Restaurant, which is located within the Inn; and author Jim Lyday.

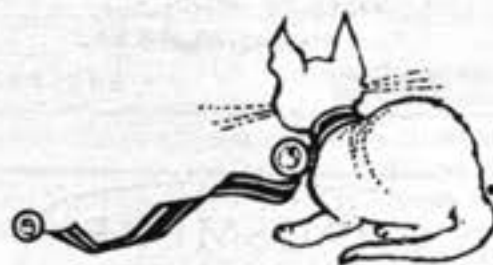
Lyday is the author of two books. His first book, *The First Off The Mountain*, chronicles his first 18 years of life from 1920 until 1948. "This was 1920 to 1938 and is made up of the things I remembered. I didn't do research and make sure everything was just right. I just wrote as I remembered. I was the first from my clan to graduate from high school. To graduate from high school, you had to go off the mountain. There was not a high school on Lookout Mountain at Mentone, or at Cloudland, Georgia. Those of us that had no transportation had to walk. I walked off to Menlo when I lived at Cloudland," Lyday said. He continued, "My graduation from high school didn't help me with the jobs I could get...plowing a mule, cutting timber, or working around a sawmill only required a strong back and a willingness to work."

Lyday said his second book, *The In-Between Years*, covers his life from 1938 to 1948. "I farmed, sawmilled, spent time in the Navy during World War II and came back and went to the University of Georgia under the G.I. Bill," Lyday said.

He said he plans to write two more books. *My Teaching Years* will chronicle his years spent in teaching and school administration between 1948 and 1982; and *My Retirement Years*, will cover the things he does during his retirement from 1982 on. "This will give my grandkids a record from the cradle to the grave of their Granddad," Lyday said.

Lyday's books may be purchased at the Mentone Inn (1-800-455-7470) or from Lyday directly (1-205-634-4403).

The Mentone Inn, recently purchased by Karl and Frances Waller, is now open year-round. The restaurant is owned by Stewart Parins. The new restaurant, named in honor of France Waller's mother, will serve lunch and dinner year-round to guests of the Inn, as well as to the public.



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MENTONE HONORS CATHERINE BROWN BAILEY

Catherine Brown Bailey is the kind of person anyone could love. She has invested years and years of her life in Mentone's people, and to show their appreciation, they honored her Sunday afternoon, November 12, with a reception at Mentone City Hall.

She's not retired from her position as Mentone City Clerk... well not yet. She's served in that capacity some 19 years and rumor has it she may be retiring in a few months.

Regardless, her list of community services far outweigh the one city job.

- She has been treasurer of Mentone United Methodist Church 36 years and taught a Sunday School class 45 years.

- She taught school at Menlo, Ga. four years and she was the head dietitian at Camp Skyline in Mentone for four years.

- She has owned and operated a grocery store 30 years.

- She has two children, six grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren!



CATHERINE BROWN BAILEY

The reception table was attractively set with fall-hued appointments and arrangements of fruit; a giant "Thank You" sheet cake adorned with roseo from Bruce's Foodland; mints and other goodies.

True to her nature, she graciously greeted every visitor and before long, the room became filled with friends, relatives and acquaintances, all chatting away and hugging one another.

"If anybody in Mentone deserves recognition, it is you," stated one gentleman as he took Mrs. Bailey's hand.

Some 200 attended through the afternoon, even though the wind was frigid and the skies overcast.

Dressed in a delicate pastel yellow suit and looking neat as a pin, Mrs. Bailey with a bit of consternation found herself the center of attention, yet her social skills were those of a great lady.

Her friend, Eloise Brown, wrote a poem honoring Mrs. Bailey. She called it "Catherine Brown Bailey". It was read aloud by Ethel Manifold, Mentone Court Magistrate.

CATHERINE BROWN BAILEY

Catherine Bailey, we salute and honor you,
With homage and tribute long overdue,
For years of service in so many ways--
That merit much appreciation and praise--
Recording and dispensing your town's activities
Assisting with many community festivities,
Handling your church's finances faithfully and well,
Teaching others how to live and reach Heaven to dwell,
Cheerful and willing through 'thick and thin',
Striving always for success and victory to win,
You have furnished food for body and for soul,
And achieved a worthwhile life as your goal,
You have won neither fortune nor worldly fame,
To all who know you, you have earned love and acclaim,
The ultimate achievement of a life well-spent,
That brings real happiness and a mind content,
May precious memories bless you forever more,
And be commended with "Well done" as your consummate score!"

- Eloise Brown

COME TO MOUNTAIN MAMAS STUDIO

by E.A. DeNero

The late days of autumn lend a muted, more quiet tone to our lives as if to gently prepare us for the approaching chill of winter months.

We now find ourselves gathering 'round our hearths and wood stoves, soon to be peeking out from frost-covered window panes onto snow-covered ground while the aromas of potted stews or holiday turkey and trimmings linger throughout our homes.

Both spring and summer seem mighty far off this time of year. Yet, I have discovered a place on Lookout Mountain where the beautiful colors of spring flowers and the freshness of summer strawberries thrive in the permanence of pottery and other crafts.

Mountain Mamas, a local craft studio, houses the whimsical pottery creations of Morgana MacVicar and Fayann Schmidt, as well as hand-woven rugs, unique jewelry, hand-dipped candles, photography and fabric-art pillows, all created by local and regional artists.

The pottery itself playfully adorns shelving, tables and baskets throughout the studio and displays a wonderful marriage of fun and function.

To achieve the desired water-color affect, Morgana uses an old European folk technique known as "Majolica" that allows her to paint clay with truly bright colors on top of glazes before kiln-firing. As an artist, she loves the idea of transforming clay into "canvas".

A great advantage is that each piece is lead-free and dishwasher/microwave safe. With dinnerware the specialty, custom orders are always invited.

Morgana is the niece of Alice and Juliet MacVicar who once owned Alpine Camp and operated it with "Aunt Mamie and Uncle Charlie." Morgana's love for The Mountain was nurtured through the many childhood summers spent here. Seven years ago, she bought a home near Alpine.

Fayann, a potter originally from Florida, specializes in producing animal-shaped platters, wheel work and hand-building. With a strong background in preserving our ecological resources -she owned a recycling company- Fayann's other interests include recycled and found-objects art. Barbara Lieu is the studio's business manager and production assistant. She successfully ran a health food store for ten years. Barbara also sells real estate and is in the process of making Cloudland her permanent residence.

The Mountain Mamas Studio, long ago a log cabin motel and for several decades later a residential site, was most recently owned by the late Dot Magnusson, who was delighted to hear of the historic property's new owners' plan for an expanding art studio.

That plan will include the completion of Cloudland's own Craft Village where the general public can also observe artists as they work.

With all that it offers in uncommon arts and crafts at easily affordable prices, Mountain Mamas Studio is the perfect place to shop for the holidays.

The Studio is located on Georgia Highway 48, 1/2 mile west of the Lookout Mountain Restaurant or 1/2 mile east of the Alabama State line.

Hours are Noon to Six every Thursday - Sunday until December 11. The official Grand Opening will be held in early April.



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PRESS RELEASE: NOVEMBER 16, 1995

CONTACT: Barbara Turner, 845-4006

UGF CAMPAIGN "HITS THE MARK"

Just two weeks after the final report meeting, this year's UGF Campaign has exceeded its \$303,000.00 goal. The to-date totals in each division as of Thursday, November 16, were:

Industrial Division	\$210,971.31	or	97.7% of goal
Commercial Division	\$ 25,673.11	or	98.7% of goal
Professional & Special Gifts	\$ 16,976.00	or	85.7% of goal
Public Service Division	\$ 7,697.19	or	100% of goal
Town & County Division	\$ 44,187.68	or	131.9% of goal

The addition of seven new participating payroll deduction companies helped to "put UGF over the top" this year according to Barbara Turner, Campaign Director. She says, "We are extremely grateful to these companies, DeKalb County ARC, DeKalb County MR Board, Galbreath, Gold Kist, Henagar Hosiery, Palmetto Mills, and McGriff, Dowdy and Associates, for the great job they did in organizing and conducting their company campaigns and to their employees for their generous response."

Campaign General Chairman Betty Kirtland extends her appreciation to all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Outstanding company participation and other recognitions will be made at a special luncheon to be hosted by UGF, and sponsored by local business and industry, on December 13.

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The Church News

By
EVELYN GRAVES



On December 5, the Valley Head Baptist Church will participate in the Mountain Manor Christmas store, where gifts will be presented to the patients of Mountain Manor. •On Saturday, December 9, at 8 o'clock, there will be a Brotherhood breakfast at the church. •December 3-9 will be Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions. •December 10 will be Foreign Mission Day. On that date there will be a missionary speaker, Travis Collins, who will speak at the evening service. The Christmas cantata will be presented at The Fountains on December 16, at 6:30 p.m.; at the Mentone United Methodist Church on December 17, at 5:00 p.m.; and at Valley Head Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. The Adult III Sunday School class will have a Christmas party on December 18 at the home of Dot Blackburn. On December 24, there will be a joint candlelight service at 5:00 PM with the Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches of Valley Head participating. It will be held at the Valley Head Baptist Church.

Advent begins on December 3, at St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church, and during the first three Sundays of Advent there will be an adult class that will study Old Testament predictions of the Messiah. During those Sundays, there will be a series of sermons on "Shadowy Figures at the Manger." •On December 24, there will be a gathering to tell Christmas stories at 9:30 a.m., and a special service of lessons in carols with communion at 10:30 a.m. •The church will be decorated on Saturday, December 9, at 10 a.m. •There will be a caroling party on Sunday, December 17, at 4 p.m.

On December 9, the Ladies Ministries of the Mentone Church of God will be having their Christmas banquet. Ruby Blackwood of Oneonta, Alabama, will be the guest speaker. •On December 17, Darrell Cox will be speaking in the morning service, and in the evening service there will be a Christmas program. The teens will be doing a drama and the pre-teens will be doing a Christmas play. •On December 24, there will be a Christmas worship service only at 10:30 a.m. There will be no evening service.

The theme for December at Moon Lake Baptist Church is "Immanuel" (God With Us). The focus is on Advent. Foreign Mission Week is December 3-10, and the goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering is \$1,000+. •The Choir special Christmas music will be on December 10 in the early afternoon. A definite time has not yet been set. •There will be a candlelight service on the afternoon of December 24, at 5 p.m. •There will be a fellowship meal on December 6, at 6 p.m., with a business meeting to follow at 7 p.m. •The other Wednesday nights in December, "Baptist Faith and Message" will be taught by the pastor. •The next J.O.Y. meeting will be held on December 28, at 11:30 a.m., with a Christmas party.

You are invited to worship with Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church each Sunday at 9 a.m.

December 10 is Open House at the Mentone Wesleyan Church parsonage at 6:30 p.m. to show off the new addition. •On December 17, at 6 p.m., there will be a children's program presentation. •On December 23, there will be a Christmas banquet at 6:30 p.m. at DeSoto State Park Lodge. For reservations call 634-4210 no later than December 15. The banquet will be followed by Christmas communion in the dining room. •December 24, at 11 a.m., the Christmas Cantata will be presented. No other service is planned for that date.

Union Hill Baptist Church has just completed remodeling the fellowship hall, and met for Thanksgiving dinner in the dining area for the first time since the remodeling. •The Youth are

in the process of getting ready for the Christmas play, "Holiday Hoedown," which will be presented at The DeKalb Theatre on December 14, 15, and 16, at 7 p.m. They will be taking the proceeds from the play and other prior fundraisers for a retreat in Gatlinburg December 26-28. •The church accepted seven persons for membership during November. •There will be a special candlelight service on December 24. The time has not yet been announced.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" will be presented at the Mentone Church of God of Prophecy Sunday morning, December 10, 1995, during the 11:00 a.m. service. This special program will be performed by youth from Birmingham. •The annual church Christmas program will be presented Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m., December 17, 1995. Everyone is invited. A fruit basket will be presented to everyone present. •A special Christmas Service will be observed Sunday morning, December 24, 1995. There will be no service at the church Sunday evening, December 24, 1995.

The Mentone United Methodist Church was the host for a Tim Price Concert on Dec. 3, during the 11 a.m. service. •On Dec. 1, a youth lock-in was held with Tim Price taking a part in the message. •Several youth have signed up to go on the North Carolina ski trip planned for January 1996. They have participated in several fundraisers to earn the money for the trip. •Sunday, Dec. 17, at 5 p.m., the Christmas Cantata will be performed at the church. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Everyone is welcome to attend. •On Monday, Dec. 18, at 4 p.m., the children, youth, and adults will be going Christmas caroling.

The Valley Head United Methodist Church has participated in the area-wide revival held at the National Guard Armory. Ron Pledger preached in the Sunday morning service at the church on Nov. 26, and his son led the singing. •There will be Christmas music on Dec. 24, and the church will be decorated for Christmas. This year, members are asked to bring toys for the nursery instead of exchanging gifts.

North DeKalb Ministerial Association

The Association selected new officers at their last meeting. The new officers are: President - The Rev. Don G. Brock (Mentone Church of God of Prophecy); Vice President - The Rev. Gary Moore (Lea's Chapel Baptist Church); Secretary - The Rev. Kenneth Shelton (Mentone Church of God); Treasurer - Dr. Oscar Hessel (St. Joseph's Episcopal Church); Immediate Past President - Dr. Charles Jenkins (Valley Head Baptist Church).

The annual Community Thanksgiving Service was a great success. The community choir cheered the congregation with seasonal songs. Churches from Mentone, Valley Head and Hammondville were represented.

The next association meeting will be at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, December 7, 1995, at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in Mentone. Following the business meeting, the children's Christmas stockings will be prepared.

The NDMA will be participating with MAPA in the Mentone Christmas at Town Hall Friday, December 8, 1995, at 4 p.m.

The community choir will be performing Sunday afternoon, December 17, 1995, at 5 p.m., at the Mentone United Methodist Church, and again at 7 p.m., at the Valley Head Baptist Church. The public is invited.

Many thanks to all churches for your support of the association and Christian unity.



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"Minnie Remembers"

By Donna Swanson,
Submitted by Pat White

God,
My hands are old.
I've never said that out loud before but they are.
I was so proud of them once.
They were soft like the velvet smoothness of a firm, ripe peach.
Now the softness is more like worn-out sheets or withered leaves.
When did these slender, graceful hands become gnarled, shrunken claws?
When, God?
They lie here in my lap, naked reminders of this worn-out body that has served me too well!

How long has it been since someone touched me?
Twenty years?
Twenty years I've been a widow.
Respected.
Smiled at.
But never touched.
Never held so close that loneliness was blotted out.

I remember how my mother used to hold me, God.
When I was hurt in spirit or flesh, she would gather me close, stroke my silky hair and caress my back with her warm hands.
O God, I'm so lonely!

I remember the first boy who ever kissed me.
We were both so new at that!
The taste of young lips and popcorn
the feeling inside of mysteries to come.

I remember Hank and the babies.
How else can I remember them but together?
Out of the fumbling, awkward attempts of new lovers came the babies.
And as they grew, so did our love.
And, God, Hank didn't seem to mind if my body thickened and faded a little.
He still loved it. And touched it.
And we didn't mind if we were no longer beautiful.
And the children hugged me a lot.
O God, I'm lonely!

God, why didn't we raise the kids to be silly and affectionate as well as dignified and proper?
You see, they do their duty.
They drive up in their fine cars,
they come to my room to pay their respects.
They chatter brightly, and reminisce.
But they don't touch me.
They call me "Mom" or "Mother" or "Grandma."

Never Minnie.
My mother called me Minnie.
So did my friends.
Hank called me Minnie, too.
But they're gone.
And so is Minnie.
Only Grandma is here.
And God! She's lonely!

((This poem expresses how the lack of love takes our life away and makes us less than human. If you know someone who needs to be touched, please do it today, and bring love back into that person(s) life.))



VALLEY HEAD HONOR ROLL 2nd Six Weeks

ALL As	11th Grade
12th Grade	Brandi Abercrombie
Jennifer Robertson	Amy Crane
	Christy Ferguson
11th Grade	Misty Ferguson
Wendy Hyde	Angie Hunt
Nikki Smith	Haley Johnson
	Tonya Turgeon
10th Grade	Brian Bone
None	Dewayne Grisham
	Josh Woods
9th Grade	10th Grade
Nancy Jeffrey	Terri Campbell
	Amy Izell
8th Grade	Jennifer Smith
None	
7th Grade	9th Grade
Jessica Barrier	Ashley Blalock
Emily Collins	Tabitha Brisendine
Becky Mays	Shelley Ingram
Jill Wampler	Jesse Clements
Leeanne Wooten	Eric Crane
Eric Battles	Toby Crider
Slade Carden	
Will Shanklin	8th Grade
ALL As & Bs	Stephani Watkins
	Jeffrey Bullock
12th Grade	7th Grade
Kayla Bell	Shelly Brown
Julie Christian	Virginia Hatfield
Karen Davis	Laura Martin
Krissy Guess	Shelia McKinney
Alison Meadows	Laura Pullen
Rhonda Owens	Nathan Owen
Chrissy Terrell	Matt Watson
Shaunathan Bell	
Coley Morgan	
Lewis Ramsey	

Who's Who

Class Clowns - Yon Hopper & Alison Meadows
 Most Unique - Lewis Ramsey & Kelly Webb
 Biggest Flirts - Trevor Strickland & Chrissy Terrell
 Most Likely to Succeed - Shaunathan Bell & Jennifer Robertson
 Most School Spirit - Trevor Strickland & Sarah Hatfield
 Best Dressed - Brian Turner & Krissy Guess
 Quietest - Jonathan Peace & Evie Morgan
 Loudest - Yon Hopper & Rhonda Owens
 Cutest - Nathan Alcorn, Daniel Vest, Alison Meadows, Angie Wheat
 Best All Around - Jeff Hopper & Angie Wheat
 Most Athletic - Daniel Vest & Kayla Bell
 Most Talented - Brian Turner & Jennifer Robertson
 Most Dependable - Coley Morgan & Karen Davis
 Mr. & Miss Senior - Daniel Vest & Angie Wheat
 Beauty & Beau - Evie Morgan & Nathan Alcorn
 Class Favorites - Jeff Hopper, Yon Hopper, Alison Meadows, Angie Wheat

Senior Class Officers

President - Jennifer Robertson
 Vice President - Alison Meadows
 Secretary - Seth Norman
 Treasurer - Angie Wheat
 Student Council Reps. - Ingrid Vick & Daniel Vest

TOP TEN MAGAZINE SALES

Marlana Beasley	Stephanie Hester
Kayla Bell	Jeff Hopper
Julie Christian	Coley Morgan
Christina Fitzgerald	Rhonda Owens
Sarah Hatfield	Jennifer Robertson

An Interview with Ingrid By Alison Meadows

Ingrid Vik, Valley Head High School's exchange student, is used to small town life, much like life in Mentone. She is originally from a town in Norway called Hegra, it is much like Mentone or Valley Head. The nearest big city is Trondheim.

Ingrid was very honest with her answers to the following questions:

What has been the biggest change for you?

"I have a younger sister back home, but here with my host family, I have three younger brothers. The biggest change has been having a larger family."

What is the biggest difference in school systems?

"There seems to be more responsibility in Norway. I was responsible for my own education there, it is a lot easier here."

What is your social life in the U.S. compared to your social life in Norway?

"We don't drive in Norway until we are 18 and we don't go on dates, we go out in big groups."

What was your first impression of the people at school?

"All the people were very friendly to me."

What is your favorite thing about being here?

"The weather."

Ingrid's last comment about people in America was that "the people here are too judgmental."

Student Council By Alison Meadows

Valley Head's Student Council recently visited the Alabama and Georgia state lines to put red ribbons on the welcome signs in honor of Red Ribbon weeks. After placing the ribbons on the sign with students from Sylvania and Dade County High School, they went to the Alabama Welcome Center for a small program and refreshments.



VALLEY HEAD GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Fri.	Dec. 8	Crossville	Home	Varsity	5:00
Mon.	Dec. 11	Fyffe	Home	7/GB	9/GB 5:00
Tues.	Dec. 12	Cedar Bluff	Away	Varsity	5:00
Thurs.	Dec. 14	Plainview	Away	7/GB	9/GB 5:00
Fri.	Dec. 15	PRV	Away	Varsity	5:00

Dec. 28-30 - Christmas Tournament (at Fort Payne) JV Girls
 Christmas Tournament (at Sand Rock) Girls Only

Tues.	Jan. 2	Gaylesville	Away	Varsity	5:00
Thurs.	Jan. 4	Fyffe	Away	7/GB	9/GB 5:00
Thurs.	Jan. 4	Ider	Home	Varsity	5:00
Fri.	Jan. 5	Crossville	Away	Varsity	5:00
Mon.	Jan. 8	Sylvania	Home	7/GB	9/GB 5:00
Tues.	Jan. 9	Collinsville	Home	Varsity	5:00
Thurs.	Jan. 11	Ider	Away	7/GB	9/GB 5:00
Fri.	Jan. 12	Woodville	Home	Varsity	5:00
Sat.	Jan. 13	Sand Rock	Away	Varsity	5:00
Jan. 13-20 - Jr. High County Tournament (at Rainsville)					
Fri.	Jan. 19	Ider	Away	Varsity	5:00

Jan. 20-27 Junior Varsity Girls Tournament (at Rainsville Civic Center)
 County Tournament (at Rainsville Civic Center - VH will host)

Tues.	Jan. 30	Geraldine	Away	Varsity	5:00
Fri.	Feb. 2	Fyffe	Home	Varsity	5:00
Sat.	Feb. 3	Sylvania	Home	Varsity	5:00
Mon.	Feb. 5	Geraldine	Home	Varsity	5:00
Tues.	Feb. 6	Cedar Bluff	Home	Varsity	5:00

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(1) OWN YOUR OWN WEEK-END PARADISE with 150 feet on the East Fork of Little River. 3 bedroom, 1 bath cottage and detached garage with upstairs room. Fish from your own private dock or canoe down Little River. Co-Broke with Cloudland Realty. \$75,500.



(2) MENTONE BROW- Spectacular View-Beautiful, unique, unusual describes this finished home which offers three bedrooms, one full bath (with Jacuzzi), two one-half baths, great room with wet bar and fireplace, kitchen area features ceramic countertop and an island with custom hood, range, disposal, dishwasher and refrigerator. A two-car garage, glass-enclosed, octagon-shaped casual pool with patio overlooking pool, sauna, shower area, recreation room with pool table, hot tub, and decks are just some of the amenities. All this and approximately 700' of brow frontage! Shown by appointment only to qualified buyers. Great for a restaurant. \$295,000.



(3) LIKE NEW-LOW MAINTENANCE BRICK HOME with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large eat-in kitchen and fireplace with insert. Room for expansion in the 3/4 basement with full bath. Sitting on a low maintenance lot with adjoining land available. \$75,000.



(4) 3-bdrm, 1 bath FARM HOUSE on 40 acres. Hardwood & Pine Floors, Rock Fireplace - 2 car garage - equipment shed & Greenhouse. \$78,500.



(5) WATCH THE SEASONS CHANGE IN THE VALLEY BELOW from in front of the rock fireplace of this 3 bedroom, 2 bath custom log home. Fully equipped kitchen, pine floors, exposed beams in living room and central heat and air on a 7.2 acre brow lot above Mentone. Ready to move into and start enjoying the fantastic view from the large deck where you can spend many lazy afternoons. \$145,000.



(6) LOFTY CONTEMPORARY on the Brow of Mentone. Offering 3 or 4 bedrooms - 2 baths. Fully equipped kitchen-pine floors-dressing room, and solar room. Floor to ceiling glass in the 2 story living room produces a feeling of openness to the outside from both floors. Appointment only. \$225,000.



(7) COZY COUNTRY COTTAGE - 1 acre wooded lot on East Lake Drive. Less than 2 years old. 2 Bd, 2 Bth, large living dining & kitchen. Fireplace. Front & Back porches, 2 car carport & detached garage. \$84,900.

OTHER LISTINGS

- (8) THE WEST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER flows quietly by these 3-acre wooded lots with 300 feet of River Frontage. Restricted for property owner's protection. Prices starting at \$20,000.
- (9) 13 BROW LOTS with additional acreage across the road for a mini-farm. Just over the Georgia line. Restricted. Co-Broke with Cloudland Realty.
- (10) OVERLOOK THE BREATHTAKING GEORGIA VALLEY from this 3.76 acre West Brow lot, about 10 miles north of Mentone. Lightly restricted. Co-Broke with Cloudland Realty. Only \$22,000.
- (11) LAKE ON THE BROW - Where else can you find magnificent sunrise and lake views in the same place? Only at Lake on the Brow. Restricted building lots 10 minutes from town. NOW OPEN-PHASE II - Look now while the choice is prime--starting at only \$12,500.
- (12) TAKE A HEALTHY LOOK AT COUNTRY LIVING and breathe the clean air at this 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 year old home on 4 acres. Front porch, screened back porch, a single car garage, barn and gazebo. All appliances and furniture to remain with house. A must see at only \$72,500.
- (13) OAKWOOD IS NOW OPEN and already selling. At least 3 acres in each tract. Wooded, cleared, great pond sites, lightly restricted. Prices starting at only \$9,950. Make your appointment to see now.

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Younger people think time flies, but I have news for them--the older you get, the faster it flies. It's unbelievable how fast the months and years go by!

Thanksgiving was a time of celebration for most people with family and friends. My daughter, **Eldonna Root**, came from Pasadena, Maryland, Nov. 18, so we had our Thanksgiving on Sunday, Nov. 19, with 22 family members present at my house. They brought a feast. Eldonna left Nov. 22. **Randall Hawkins** took me and his parents, **Geraldine and Howard Hawkins**, to the Cabbage Bowl at Ider for Thanksgiving dinner.

Adelaide Biddle spent Thanksgiving with her daughter, **Julia and Ron Hickey** and family in Chattanooga.

Mary and Ted Holleman had **Elizabeth and Nelson Ellis; Maria and Robert Ellis** and children, **Drew and Laura; Kelly and Paul Ellis; Frances and Bill Ellis; John Ellis** and **Adelaide Biddle** for dinner on Sunday, Nov. 19, at their home. They spent Thanksgiving Day with **Betty and Red Adams** in Gadsden.

Gladola and E.T. Holleman, Becky and Bill Holleman, Amy and Abby Holleman, Lance Marlow, and Kevin Pendergrass spent Thanksgiving week-end in the Smokies.

Helen Waters celebrated her birthday at The Lookout, Nov. 28, with sons **Alex** and his wife, **Misty**, and **Joseph** and his friend, **Diane Smith** and **Glend Savage**.

Sue and Foyl Cooper went to their daughter's home at Hixson for Thanksgiving, with **Marguerite and Steve Wilson** and other family members.

Sorry to hear that **Pearl Thornbury** is in serious condition at BMC-DeKalb.

Lila (Tillie) Schlicher is in a nursing home in Foley, Ala., recovering from a broken hip.

Eloise Morgan and Carmel Gifford have been moved from Erlanger Hospital to Collinsville Nursing Home.

Bealer Barrier is recovering from knee surgery.

Randall Hawkins will have surgery at East Ridge Hospital; and **Geraldine**, his mother, will have oral surgery at Park Ridge on Nov. 30. We hope and pray for better days for all who are ill.

Venna Livingston had all her family present for Thanksgiving weekend.

Ann and Wayne Wooten were joined by their son, **Michael** and his wife, **Marie**, from Rainsville, and daughter **Wynn** and her husband **Greg Harris** and children, **Lynn and Adam** from Ider, for Thanksgiving dinner.

Gail and Robert Hawkins and their daughter, **Robin**, and her fiancé, **Patrick Cox**, from Brewton, Ala., were recent guests of Robert's parents, **Geraldine and Howard Hawkins**.

Laura Margaret Allison's cousins, **Judge and Mrs. Wallace Jopling** of Gainesville, Fla., spent two days with her recently. **Mr. and Mrs. Emory Guy**, from Philadelphia, Penn., were also recent visitors.

Gladys Cobble had ten family members for Thanksgiving.

Ruth and Bert Pickett spent Thanksgiving with their niece **Renee and Charles Monroe** in Apison, Tenn.

Vicki and Rae Baxley spent the holidays at their farm next to the Picketts. They entertained **Billie Pickett** and **Troy and Cheryl Walburn** from Bremen, Ga., on Thanksgiving.

Roy Jones and family from Chesapeake, Va., spent several days with his parents, **Jean and John Jones**. **Kernie Wright** from Tiftonia, was also a guest. **Jean and John** spent the week-end after Thanksgiving with **Jean's** parents, **Lorene and Clyde Holcomb**, in Hackleburg, Ala.

Bert Pickett's aunt, **Bess Wright**, from Chattanooga, spent two days with Bert and Ruth and enjoyed visiting her old home place at Dutton.

Karen and Mark Freeman and family, and **Lillie Bowden**, visited **Mary and Bill Freeman** in Pine Mountain, Ga., and enjoyed, so much, the Festival of Lights at Calloway Gardens--

--the beautiful music and decorations!

Pete West, District Superintendent conducted Charge Conference at **Valley Head Methodist Church**, Nov. 19. Breakfast was served, with 15 present, and one guest, **Mike Young**, from Ponderosa Bible Camp. Rev. West spoke of renewal in our lives and churches, and new church officers were reported and business reports were given. **Mike Young** presented a plan for the school children to meet at our church for non-sectarian learning of character traits and basic Bible verses. He has permission of the County Superintendent to meet off school grounds for this. His plan was unanimously accepted.

The **Sunshine Club** met at the home of **Glenda Savage**, Nov. 9. Present were **Helen Waters, Ruth Pickett, Evelyn Clark, Sue Cooper, Gladys Cobble, Leona Chadwick, Lillie Bowden, Jean Jones, and Eloise Brown**. **Glenda** gave the devotional, "He Restored My Soul." A nominating committee was appointed, composed of **Eloise Brown, Gladys Cobble, and Glenda Savage**. **Gladys** showed some Christmas ornaments and crafts she had made, and **Glenda** showed and demonstrated some hooked rugs she had made. The Christmas luncheon will be Dec. 14, at 11 a.m., at **Billie Harper's** home. Bring a covered dish and gift.

I wish for everyone Happy Christmas Holidays!

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Divine Father of all mankind
this Holy Season must remind
us all of our obligation
to express appreciation
for the supreme gift we receive
if we accept and believe.

Father, cleanse each mind and heart
so that each one may share a part
of your generous love and grace
and in each life may be a place
where you will forever abide
and with your wisdom, lead and guide.

Lead the leaders of each land
so that they may know, understand,
how your sacred plan to fulfill--
of peace on earth to men good will;
that there may come an age of peace
and reason--
to fulfill the promise of this
Holy Season.

--Eloise Brown



Christmas Contrast

How well I remember
when days of December
crept so slowly by
I thought I would die--
could never survive
'til the great day arrive.

Christmas was a time
of delight and wonder sublime--
a time of anticipation--
of whole-hearted celebration.

A living Cedar stood,
looking festive as it could;
biggest socks were hung,
Christmas carols sung.

A restless night was spent,
waiting for the magic moment,
of the dawn's early light
when we could see the gift's sight!

At last it came, I flew
to see if Santa really knew
how good or bad I had been--
if the report was sent in.

What a wonderful surprise--
stars of Christmas in my eyes--
a doll and another toy--
oh, what bliss, what utter joy!
Some nuts and fruit and candy--
ev'rything is good and dandy!

Alas, today, girls and boys,
know naught of Christmas joys--
Christmas comes ev'ry day,
all they know is just to play;
ev'ry day has special treats,
expensive toys and many sweets.

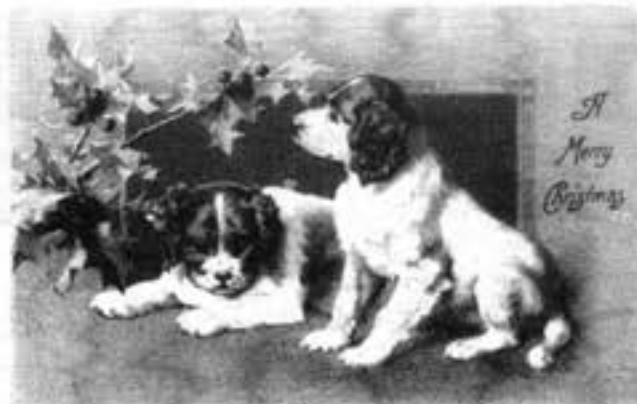
The thrill grows dim--
for most of them--
poor children cannot know
that very special happy glow
of wonder and anticipation--
there can be no celebration--
they're bored and sated--so much
missed as
the magic is gone from
their Christmas.

--Eloise Brown



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Moon Lake School Principal Dr. Bill Berry was recently presented with a plaque for the "Most Improved School Grounds" for the school year 1994-95. Shown from left: Annette Orr, President DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs; Ann Wright, parliamentarian, and special projects chairman, Rhododendron Garden Club; Dr. Berry; and Aubie Mae Dean, DeKalb County Federation Beautification Chairman. DeKalb County of Federation of Garden Clubs is a member of District II, Garden Clubs of Alabama, Deep South Garden Clubs, and National Council of Garden Clubs.

RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB

The October meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was held on Oct. 10, at 12:00 noon, at the home of Heather Nicely. The members brought a brown bag lunch and met in the gardens at Heather's home. After their lunch, president, Marie Dillenbeck, called the meeting to order and Barbara Blalock read the Collect. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States. Fifteen members were present.

There were no minutes or treasurer's report as both the secretary and the treasurer were absent.

Corresponding Secretary, Marilyn Blanton Campbell reported she had sent a card to Betty Haynes, Edie Hill, and Mabel Kirk. Ann Wright, Flower Show Chairman, reported on the flower show. Patti Bryan, on the special projects committee, said she had taught the 3rd, 4th, and 6th grades at Moon Lake about butterflies. Ann said more work is needed to be done on the triangle.

There being no further business, the members toured Heather's lovely gardens. The program for the meeting was, "Conifers: Types and Culture." Heather showed how she has arranged the different conifers with other plants and trees. One could tell it was a labor of love, and it was quite evident that her gorgeous gardens didn't happen over night, but took many years to develop. After the tour, the meeting was adjourned.

The November meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was held at the home of Hattie Lide on November 14, at 2:00 p.m. The hostesses were Marilyn Blanton Campbell, Hattie Lide, and Helen Hill. The refreshments were excellent.

Marie Dillenbeck, president, called the meeting to order. The devotional was given by Hope Walker. She read the 100th Psalm, Golden Thoughts by Helen Marshall, and Blessings for Thanksgiving, God Bless You, by author unknown. The devotion was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States. Eighteen members and two guests were present. Linda Hill and June Hudson, guests of Helen Hill.

Mickey Gough, secretary, read the minutes from the September and the October meeting and they were approved with one correction. Flo Kirby gave the treasurer's report, which was filed.

Ann Wright said that Barbara Blalock had cleaned the Promenade Hall in preparation for the 1995 Fall District II Garden Club meeting, which the Rhododendron Club hosted.

and had paid for another person to clean. Upon motion made and seconded, it was voted to refund the sum to Barbara.

Under special projects, Ann Wright reported on the progress of work on the triangle and the Butterfly Garden at Moon Lake School. She also announced that Moon Lake won the ward for "Most Improved School Grounds" for the year 1994-1995, and a plaque was presented to Moon Lake by the DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs. This plaque is a "traveling" plaque and is given to the school showing the most improvement in their school grounds. (See picture on this page.)

Bernise Crow requested that the members again participate in the decorating of the Christmas Tree at the Mentone Town Hall to be used for the annual Christmas Party for the Children, which is Friday, December 8, after school gets out in the afternoon. Dr. Pat Seymour offered to buy the tree. Ann Wright said that the Ecoteers would make the decorations for the tree, and members would decorate. Bernise invited all the members to attend the tree lighting ceremony on the town square.

Flo Kirby, treasurer, reported that the hostess gift, a devotional book by Ruth Graham, was won by Ann Wright, and \$22.00 was made on this month's ways and means project.

The president thanked the hostesses for the refreshments.

There being no further business, the president presented the program, "Trees: Guardians of Our Soil and Water." She said that trees are studied for many reasons--scientific, economic, cultural, and aesthetic, among others. Since our Earth is covered in good part by forests, it is almost impossible to understand fully the many other groups of plants and animals without taking into account the natural biological role of trees. From the human point of view, trees are a multipurpose natural resource without equal. There are over 1,000 species of trees native to the United States and Canada. Trees really do breathe, they require oxygen as humans do. After a very interesting and informative talk, Marie passed out a handout, "Trees--Facts and Fancies."

The meeting was adjourned, and it was announced that the next meeting would be the annual Christmas meeting and covered dish dinner, at the town hall, on December 12, at 12:00 noon. Roll call is to name your favorite broadleaf evergreen tree in your garden. Betty Johnson has the devotional. Barry Crow will provide a "Christmas Music" program. The hostesses will be Marie Dillenbeck, Dr. Pat Seymour, and one other.

GREEN

Cheston (3) August 15 and Trenton (1) September celebrated their birthdays together with family and friends at Desoto State Pool on September 2. Parents are Randy and Melonee Green of Fort Payne. Grandparents are Kenneth and Gail Chambers of Valley Head and C.B. and Florene Green of Fort Payne.



Tyler Huskey

Happy Birthday to Tyler Huskey. Tyler celebrated his 7th birthday on July 10. He is the son of R.B. and Joyce Huskey of Mentone, and the brother of Allen Huskey, also of Mentone, and Lisa Patterson of Nashville.

Correction: an error occurred in the information under Tyler's picture in last month's issue. We regret the error.

THE FAMILY OF R.B. HUSKEY

wishes to thank everyone for your thoughtfulness and prayers, which helped us through his heart attack November 3, 1995. We appreciate everything that was done for us.

Joyce, Allen,
Lisa, and Tyler
Huskey

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Bill and Grace Pullen
on their 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

The year was '45 when Bill took Grace for his wife. WWII delayed the date, but Grace waited patiently for her mate. Dressed in her suit of blue, she promised always to be true. Performing the wedding vows was their friend, the Rev. Bob White. After surviving fifty years, something must have been done right.

Grace was a housewife, while Bill worked in his skillful way. Building and repairing, then carrying the mail without delay. In the following year, the babies started appearing. Life would never be the same as the Pullen kids needed rearing.

Linda was the leader, arriving in October on the twenty-first. In the year forty-eight, Walter was born, big and robust. Then two years in a row, Ann and Kay made numbers three and four. But when Bob came along, they said, "That's enough, no more!"

With mouths to feed and five kids to clothe, It seemed they needed a little more "dough." That's when Bill found work in Georgia at the Trion mill. For seventeen years, this job helped to pay the bills!

Work was shared on the home place, taking turns doing the chores. Learning the value of work, honesty, responsibility and more. A garden to hoe, grass to mow, yard-cleaning and leaves to rake. Mom taught the girls, cooking & sewing, and quilts to make.

To clothes sewn with love, she added her own special touch. No mistake could be made that she taught us all so much. Homeroom mother and Sunday School teacher, not to mention nutrition. Mom's career was loving and giving...her whole life's ambition.

Winter nights were often enjoyed around the fireplace. With Daddy Bill telling jokes and stories of earlier days. Home-grown peanuts parched just right or popcorn was the treat. With a bountiful garden, there would always be plenty to eat.

As the children grew up and left to make homes of their own, Roots of love and memories of childhood have always been known.

Now eleven grandchildren can claim the best. When counting their grandparents above all the rest. Your love lives on in the lives of so many. Your bright outlook on life and your sense of humor.

So on this day when we honor your marriage,
We thank you for this treasure - our legacy!
No other gift will ever compare.
Your lives, your love will be our heritage.

-Kay Wagner



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:13-14.

As we move into the Christmas season, there will be crimes, drunkenness, and the list will go on and on. But Jesus came to bring peace and good will. How will you celebrate His Birthday? Let us try to bring peace to the troubled ones. Show love to the lonely. Give praise to the one Whose birthday we are celebrating.

Have a Very Merry Christmas!

Ninth Annual Community Christmas Dinner Don't miss the Christmas Dinner!

You don't need a invitation. If you and your family don't have anywhere to go for Christmas Dinner and you'd love to spend some time with friends and have a good meal, put Christmas Day, noon to 2 pm at the Williams Avenue School, in Fort Payne on your calendar. The Tenth annual Christmas Dinner is open to all and it's free. On the menu is turkey and dressing, ham, vegetables, pie and cake and of course Santa Claus will make an appearance. There will be music and door prizes. Take outs are also available for shut-ins between noon and 2 pm. We are also in need of coats and sweaters of all kinds and sizes. If you would like to donate please drop them off at Parker's Cleaners, Brown's Cleaners, or bring them to Williams Avenue School the day of the dinner. If you would like to make a donation you may do so by mailing the donation to AmSouth Bank, P.O. Box 129, Fort Payne, AL 35967, ATTN: Scott Bateman, or drop it off at the bank. If you would like more info, please call 1-800-741-6790. Thank you. **Have a wonderful Holiday Season!**



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SATURDAY DEC. 9TH 7:00 P.M.
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