

**Celebrating
14 Years
in Print**

THE GROUNDHOG

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by M.A.P.A.**

Volume 14, No. 12

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

December 1996

The Perfect Christmas Cake

By Ernest H. Smith

Many years ago some good people of a small town came together and wanted to do something special for the Christmas holidays. They thought of a cantata, a play, a community Christmas tree, or beautiful decorations for all the churches, but none of these things seemed to be what they wanted. They were greatly troubled and unable to decide on what they should do.

Then, Old Brother Tom seemed to awaken from a nap. He pulled up on his walker, staring blankly from cloudy eyes grown dim with age, and blurted out, "I've got it. Let's bake a cake." All were startled

by his sudden outburst. Many thought that the old dotard wanted to fill his belly with sweets.

Then, Old Tom said, "I know what you're thinking, but wait until you hear my recipe." Then, he began his list of ingredients: "First, there must be plenty of **freshly milled wheat** for the cake I have in mind. It must be sufficient to sustain the poor of the town. Therefore, all must bring a portion to share, each according to his means, for all, after a fashion, are sowers and reapers of the bread of life. Next, we must have **sweetener**, but there should be no shortage of that. What is sweeter than kindness? Now, we must have **leavening** so that our cake may rise and know no bounds. If our faith is as a billowing sea, yet solid as a rock, our cake will not fail. Now, we must have a little **salt** for seasoning, but we have plenty of that, for we are the salt of the earth. Our cake must have **eggs** for enrichment. The egg is the symbol of birth and life. We were all



Christmas is a time for sharing

born into this world that our life might have a purpose. This is a vital part of the cake. Finally, our cake must have a **flavor** that is pleasing to the taste. I recommend a blend of honesty and sincerity. These ingredients will never leave a bitter taste. And, last, everything must be mixed thoroughly."

Then, a puzzled young lady asked Tom, "What container would hold such a cake?" Old Tom replied, "That will not be a hindrance. We're all vessels of our lord. Our capacity to do his work is without measure."

In continuing the recipe, Tom went on to say, "Now that all ingredients have been well blended, the cake must stand the test of fire. The whole must cling and be of a permanent nature; for surely the cake must last, not only through the twelve days of Christmas, but beyond."

Now, all were straining to hear Tom's every word,

for his voice was growing thin, as a voice from the grave, but still he could be heard to say, "The cake may be baked to absolute perfection, but then what is a cake without icing? I've saved the finishing touch until last. Our cake should be frosted with a generous outpouring of love, for what is a world without love?"

Now, the good people of the town began their task of baking a perfect Christmas cake based on Tom's recipe of **toil, sharing, kindness, faith, and love**. The cake was so perfect that they wondered if they should share Tom's recipe or keep it a secret.

Being good people,

they decided to share the recipe with all the towns throughout the world. Could this be why that, not only Christians, but people of every faith, have found this to be the perfect recipe for the perfect cake?

Well, it's sure that the recipe is much older than Tom or the town, but it's well to review it from time to time, in order that you not leave out any of the ingredients.

It's thought that the message in this story is that, if things are not going well in your community, perhaps you should bake a cake. It would be a rich blessing for you and a Godsend to those in need of a generous spirit.

**BEST WISHES FOR A
MERRY CHRISTMAS.**

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

- Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m., MAPA Christmas party, Dessie's Kountry Chef
- Friday, Dec. 13, 3:30 p.m., MAPA Annual Christmas Party for CHILDREN, Mentone Town Hall
- Sunday, Dec. 15, 5 p.m. & 7 p.m. Community Choir presents Christmas Cantata (See notice on back page.)

- Wednesday, Dec. 25, Christmas
- Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1997, New Years Day
- Monday, Jan. 6, 1997, 6:30 p.m., Mentone Town Council, Town Hall
- Tuesday, January 7, 1997, 7 p.m. MAPA meeting, Mentone Inn

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THE GROUNDHOG

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Letters to the editor are welcome. They should be type-written and of reasonable length.

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MESSAGE FROM

THE MAPA PRESIDENT

By Bernise Crow



As Christmas approaches, our hearts are made softer and more tender toward everyone. It would be wonderful if we could keep this spirit of lovingkindness for the entire year. It is the one season when the true meaning of the love of Christ shines forth. We start thinking more about giving than receiving; we think more about loving friendships than about enmity. Somehow enmity and Christianity do not mix. It would be like trying to mix oil and water, one will ride to the top. May the spirit of forgiveness and peace, which comes from having been forgiven, abide with all of you not only at Christmas but for the coming year.

Our Christmas party for the children of the Mentone area will be held at the town hall meeting room December 13, at 3:30 P.M. The Rhododendron Garden Club will decorate a tree for the room; the North DeKalb Ministerial Assn. will give filled stockings; the Gideons will present Bibles to the children; and M.A.P.A. will furnish refreshments and wrapped presents. Following the party, we will have the tree lighting on the lot by the Mentone Inn, where we will have caroling by the Moon Lake Glee Club Chorus, under the direction of Rev. Randy Addison. Please take time to see the children enjoy their party. Merry Christmas to all!



MAPA CHRISTMAS DINNER MEETING

The December meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) meeting has been changed from December 2nd to December 10th. The menu is turkey and dressing, green beans, sweet potato casserole, dinner salad, rolls or corn bread, dessert and drink for \$10.00 per person. Also, if you wish to participate in the exchange of gifts at the party on the 10th, please bring a gag gift.

Mickey Gough said that members are requested to bring toys for a child. These will be distributed at the annual Christmas Party for the Children scheduled for Friday, December 13, right after school, 3:30 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Clause will be at the Town Hall.

Following the party, there will be a Christmas tree lighting at the corner of Ala. Hwy. 117 and Scenic Highway, on the Mentone Inn lot. Plan to sing some Christmas carols and get into the spirit of Christmas.

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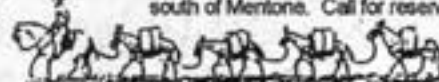
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Valley Head High School Varsity Girls Basketball Schedule

11/23	at Geraldine
11/26	Fyffe
11/29-30	Thanksgiving Tour
12/3	at Gaylesville
12/6	Crossville
12/10	Collinsville
12/12	at Ider
12/13	Cedar Bluff
12/17	PRV
1/3	Gaylesville
1/4	at Cedar Bluff
1/7	at Collinsville
1/11	at Crossville
1/14	Ider
1/17	Woodville
1/20-25	County Tour
1/28	Geraldine
1/31	at Sand Rock
2/3	at Fyffe
2/6	Area Tour



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A Friendly— Valley View

By
ELOISE BROWN

I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving and took time to think about their many blessings. I was sick and had to miss things I would have liked to attend. I had two dinner invitations, one from my granddaughter, Cindy Meadows and family, and Emily and my son, Barry Brown, were invited to my cousins, Blanche and Bill Fuller's in Madison, Ala. I was unable to go, but they went and brought me enough food for two meals. Most of all, I hated to miss the Community Thanksgiving service at Valley Head Methodist Church, Nov. 27, sponsored by the North DeKalb Ministerial Association. I was told that it was a wonderful service. All denominations came together and filled the church. Rev. Jeff Adkins did the invocation; welcome by Rev. Gary Moore, responsive reading led by Rev. Al Cherbonneau. There were testimonies of praise by the congregation, Dr. Pat Seymour was remembered, prayer of Thanksgiving by Rev. Kenneth Shelton, Rev. Don Brock brought the good message of unity. There was beautiful music led by Rev. Randy Addison with Mrs. Juanita Smith as pianist and special music by the Moon Lake Glee Club.

Ruth and Bert Pickett had about twenty members of their family on Thanksgiving.

Gladys Cobble spent Thanksgiving in Chattanooga with her son, Mickey Cobble and Linda. She was accompanied by Becky and Nicole Stott and Jennie White.

Mary, Ted and John Holleman had Thanksgiving dinner with Betty and "Red" Adams in Gadsden.

Carmen Mosley came home from the University of Alabama to spend Thanksgiving with her family and grandmother, Venna Livingston, who had all her family, in and out, that weekend.

Violet Barker had the families of her two sisters, Evelyn Clark and Ann Daniel, with her at Spring Grove Activity Building for dinner. Those present were Jeanie and Sydney Stevens and son, Barry from Charlotte, SC; their daughter, Barbara and Joe Edison from Atlanta; Beth Warrinsford from DeLand, FL; Susan and David Hamrick and Katy from Centre; Ann and Hank Daniel and son, Steve, and Mary Brannon from Brunswick, GA; Evelyn and Loy Clark and their son, Loy Jr., and Margaret and children, Scott and Jeremy Clark, from Birmingham.

Linda Blackburn, from Orange Park, FL, joined Martha and "Hoot" Gibson at her parents, Dot and Bill Blackburn's home for the holidays.

The family of Robert Phillips brought his dinner and helped him celebrate his eighty-second birthday. May you have many more happy birthdays, Robert!

Marilyn and Paul Koshitar and children, Tara and Paul Jr., from Woodbridge, VA, were recent visitors of Dot and Bill Blackburn.

Adelaide Biddle spent Thanksgiving with her daughter, Mary Lou Carmichael, and David and family in Dallas, GA. Marilyn, Marsha and Jessica Biddle, also, were there.

The Sunshine Club met Nov. 21, at the home of Glenda Savage. Those present were Ruth Pickett, Elizabeth Bauerle, Billie Harper, Verence Hawkins, Sue Clark, Gladys Cobble, Helen Watters, and Eloise Brown. Billie Harper helped us make some miniature Christmas shadow boxes, and Glenda showed some beautiful rug pictures she had made. The next meeting will be a covered dish luncheon with Jewell Palmer as hostess, at Spring Grove Activity Building, Fri., Dec. 13, at 11:30 a.m., with gifts exchanged.

Sadie Cooper was hostess for the Week of Prayer Program of the Valley Head Baptist Church at her home. Martha Stanley led the program. Others present were Gladys Cobble, Jean Jones, Teresa Cooper, Louise Hammond, Priscilla Monroe, and Ruth Pickett. Secret Pal gifts were exchanged. Sadie's home was beautifully decorated for Christmas.

Gracie and Chris Brown and children, Amanda and Dillon, spent Thanksgiving with her family in Cartersville, GA. Betty

and Coy Butler, sister Cindy and brother Coy Jr., who brought his fiancée, Sharon, and her sons, Jason and Danny, from Marietta, GA.

Congratulations to Kim McKinny, who marched with the Jacksonville University Band in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. She is the daughter of Marsha and Bill McKinney of Valley Head.

Also congratulations to Christy Koger, who, as Vice President of the P.M. Chapter of the DeKalb County Vocational School's Future Business Leaders of America, attended the Officer Training Conference at Snead Junior College in Boaz. She is the daughter of Joan and David Koger of Valley Head. Christy Hamilton, as president, also attended. They participated in training sessions relative to their offices, as well as "Principles of Leadership" and "Team Building."

The Class of '66 of Valley Head High School had their reunion, Nov. 30, at Tigers Inn. We hope to have more details about their meeting in next month's *Groundhog*.

May everyone have a safe Christmas and be healthy and happy and remember the original and greatest gift of Christmas.

Spiritual Gifts

Father, I bring you my Christmas list,
Of the gifts I would like to receive--
Of different spirits they consist
Things needed badly, I do believe:

Forgiveness for all the many ways,
This season's holiness is obscured,
Forgetting the meaning of these days,
When faith its most precious hope secured.

Give me, O God, a receptive mind,
To receive divine revelation;
Perseverance to seek and to find
Eternal values' compensation.

The spirit of your humility--
Exemplified in your lowly birth;
The quiet calmness and tranquility,
To bless my soul and this troubled earth.

The spirit of sensitivity
To beauty and feelings and other's needs,
A spirit of love and activity--
In duty expressed in kindly deeds.

Visions of splendor in starry skies
And every day common things too,
Eternal hope and faith that never dies
Dream and aspirations that come true!

Spirit of music to thrill my soul
With anthems like the angels did sing,
Overflowing in melodic role,
The message of joy Christmas should bring.

Appreciation give most of all,
For creation and most precious gift to men
Adoration and worship enthrall
Where all living and giving begin.

These gifts I am asking you to give
When received, I'll return them to you--
Only then can I richly live
And give back to you thy gifts that are due.
---Eloise Brown



From— Between the Counters

By
BRUTUS



Season's Greetings from the Great One. It's that time of year again. Everyone has been so busy with their families and Thanksgiving and now Christmas, they have neglected their regular visits to pay tribute to Mentone's favorite celebrity--moi.

This is the time of year when people think more about doing for others. Along that train of thought, dear readers, here's what's on my Christmas list to Santa: an automatic sleigh to take the struggle out of bringing Pop back and forth from the house to the store. Besides, moi doesn't like Jack Frost nipping at moi's magnificent paws.

Speaking of magnificent paws, little red-headed, Fred Castleberry was just in here admiring mine. His mother, Lynn, commented that moi needed such great paws to support moi's incredible tan and white body. It's a great feeling to know that your fans adore you.

Another item on moi's list is an electric blanket to keep moi warm as customers come in and go out of the door of the Superette. A lot of COLD and CHILLY air blows right in on moi!

As moi said above, 'tis the season to be merry and thinking of others. So, while you are out visiting the shut-ins, come by the Superette and visit moi--the "tied-up" between the counters. Drop by with a sample of your favorite Christmas cakes, puddings, and candies. Moi will gladly receive these thoughtful gifts while you are in the giving mood. Just be sure to bring a LARGE enough portion so moi can savor the taste and then give you the "thumbs-up" approval.

During this holiday season, faithful readers, come and adore the great one. Moi will be waiting between the counters for your cards, treats, gifts and tributes--as it should be.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Hallelujah!

Psalm 23-Reversed

The TV is my shepherd, I shall not want.
It makes me to lie down on the sofa,
It leads me away from my scripture,
It destroys my soul.
It leads me in the path of sex and violence,
For the sponsors' sake.
Yea, tho I walk in the shadow
Of my Christian responsibility,
There will be no interruption for the TV is with me,
Its cable and remote control will comfort me.
It will prepare a commercial before me
In the presence of my worldliness.
It will anoint my head with humanism
My covenant runneth over--
Surely laziness and ignorance shall
Follow me all the days of my life.

---Eloise Brown.

This clipping was found by Jewell Palmer in Eloise Morgan's Bible, and was sent to me.

Mentone Grapevine 11

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

Milton and Grace Howard, now living in Stone Mountain, GA, would like to wish all their friends in the Mentone area a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Grace says they are almost unpacked—they moved in June this year. The Howards are thoroughly enjoying their new home and are having a ball with their grandchildren—Christy, Andrew, and Walter.

The Moon Lake Glee Club performed at the annual community Thanksgiving service on Wednesday night, Nov. 27, singing two songs, "Give Thanks" and "Go Tell It On The Mountain." Emmy Corry sang a solo, and Kerri McMunn, Melissa Harrison, and Sarah Hurt sang a trio during the second song. Randy Addison of the Wesleyan Church has done wonders in such a short period of time with these wonderful young people. They will be singing at the Moon Lake PTO on December 10, and also at the lighting of the Christmas tree on the square in Mentone on December 13. We'll be hearing lots more about this youth group.

Congratulations to Curtis Brent Miller who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on October 10, 1996. See the write-up elsewhere. He is the first scout in Troop 106 to achieve this rank and a special ceremony was held at Moon Lake Baptist Church on November 25, 1996. A very impressive and beautiful ceremony.

Phyllis Lewis is doing much better after surgery in November. Hope she will be able to get out and going soon.

Alma Crabtree has had lots of visitors recently. Estelle Runyan, Carol J. Meador, Doree Collins, Mavis Efferson, Barbara Castleberry, Liz Woods, and Barbara Schulte, all of Birmingham. They had all been staying at Nippersink and came by to visit. Alma's grandson, Jay Wideman and wife Paula, and Greg Young and his new bride, Laura, who had been honeymooning in Tennessee, also visited. They are from Leeds, AL.

Leonard Davis hasn't been feeling very well lately. He had surgery on November 21st and still isn't feeling well. All our prayers go out to him. We hope he has a speedy recovery.

Condolences to the family of Mrs. Priscilla Phillips, who passed away on November 24, 1996. Mrs. Phillips was a very good lady, and we will all miss her.

Hope Wanda Black is feeling great and able to get back to work soon. She had minor surgery on November 20, 1996.

The Valley Head Tigers won their last game against Section. Great job! Hope the team has great luck next year.

Beth Moore had cousins Derek and Jon Whisenant over to watch the Iron Bowl. The game was going just as Beth wanted it to until the last couple of minutes. She tells everyone, "Just wait until next year!"

Hope you all got down to Valley Head on Halloween night for the street festivities. Denny & Paula Grisham gave Haunted Hay Rides, Madam Joy Bester told fortunes, the rescue squad gave out hot chocolate and popcorn, and everyone else just acted silly. All those who participated had a wonderful time and hope to do it again next year.

The Valley Head Band will play Christmas songs for the Moon Lake school on December 13th. Everyone is welcome to come listen. Valley Head PTO met on Monday, December 2nd at 6:30 p.m., and the Valley Head Band performed at the meeting.

Prayers go out to Mr. and Mrs. Millard McNutt, both of whom are suffering from life threatening illnesses.

Earl Trostel of Ft. Payne has been ailing lately. Keep him in your prayers. The snack bar at Bud's won't be the same without Earl's shenanigans.

Sad news for a lot of the kids in the 7th grade at Valley Head School as Karina Taylor-Thomas has moved to Fayette. She will be missed.

Justin Fischer turned 15 in October, and little brother, Jared, had a birthday last month, too. Justin celebrated with a party at the Skate Center in Ft. Payne.

Alan Hawkins was hospitalized in November when he had to have surgery. He is now back at school and doing well.

Kim McKinney was off in New York on the 25th of November to participate in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The band was back at Jacksonville State University on December 1st. Well done, Alabama, making it to THE PARADE!

Semester tests at the Valley Head High School will be on December 17, 18 and 19.

The passing of V.L. Prewett Jr. was a shock to the entire community. He will be missed, terribly. Our deepest sympathy to his family and friends. His deep caring for people will be his everlasting legacy.

Jim and Penny Lyday were hosts to over 30 family members over Thanksgiving. This is a yearly event for them.

Lula McGee Blacklock had her 77th birthday party on November 29 at the home of her daughter in law, Evelyn McGee, in Ft. Payne. Lula's granddaughters, Charlotte, Carlotta, Lorena, Georgeanne, Rosetta, Suzette, James, Kantee, and Stanley, Lewis and Danny, helped Lula celebrate. Lula enjoyed herself and was wished many more birthdays. Lula recently was hospitalized with a mild stroke. Her granddaughter, Georgeanne, is staying with her at her home in Mentone. Keep Lula in your thoughts and prayers.

Norma Williams hasn't been feeling well, and on Thanksgiving Day, she was surprised by her good friend, Dessie Newberry, owner of the Country Chef, who prepared a complete Thanksgiving meal for Norma, her husband, Buddy, and their son, Chad, visiting from Atlanta. Dessie delivered it to their door. Aren't friends grand?

Congratulations to Airman 1st Class Francisco A. Vanega of Valley Head who graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. His parents are Piedad E. and Hollis Smith of Valley Head. Francisco is a 1993 graduate of Valley Head High School and he received an associate's degree in 1996 from Northeast Alabama State Community College.

Knotty Pine Resort is again having a spectacular Christmas Light Show. It can be viewed at the resort located just inside the back entrance to DeSoto State Park, or if you are coming from the front entrance to the park, turn at the County Store onto County Road 618. It is 1-1/2 miles from the store. Drive around and see for yourself. It's worth it!

Sad news for friends of Sam Frank's. He's putting his house up for sale. It is a beautiful place and may be sold partially furnished. The sale price is \$225,000. Those interested may call him at 634-4334. He said he hopes to remain in the area.

George and Hattie Tide had company just before Thanksgiving from Birmingham. Hattie's aunt, Mrs. Staples, recently had surgery and she came home to spend several days with them. For Thanksgiving, they all went back to Birmingham and had dinner with George's sister. George and Hattie returned to Mentone on Friday. By the way, they have a new car and it gets good gas mileage and rides so smooth!

Annette Orr's friends helped her celebrate her birthday on November 29 at the Western Sizzlin in Fort Payne. Annette, has it been a year already since the last birthday? Time flies so fast, it's hard to believe. Happy belated birthday wishes.

Hope and George Walker entertained old school friends early in November. Tom and Margaret McCoy from Orlando, FL, Dr. Wynn and Nick Harris, Montgomery, AL. George said they are high rollers! During Thanksgiving, they had their children with them at their home in Mentone.

Jo and George Beaube also had their children from El Paso, TX and Tuscaloosa, AL, with them during the Thanksgiving holidays. (They traditionally have red velvet cake!) As always, the Beaubes had a great time with their family, and their grandchildren look forward to visiting them.

LaRue Cornelison of Fort Payne has opened LaRue's Laundry Service in her home. For all those who do not like to do laundry or ironing or just need help during the holidays or any days, call LaRue at 845-8859.

Our sympathy goes out to Sammy and Faye Collins whose home located across from Hunt's Funeral Home in Valley Head recently burned. They are temporarily living in Mentone and arrangements can be made to rebuild. They have lived in Valley Head for over 20 years.

Continue to keep the following on your prayer list: Britt and Florene Kirby, whose health is not good; Coley Harvey; Grannie Cash; and Ethel Perkins who is in the cardiac unit at BMC in Ft. Payne and Ruby Daniel who fell recently.

Amber Nekole Tackett, daughter of Jamie Tackett, turns one year old on December 6, according to neighbor, Emma McAdams. Emma's son Brian, also has a birthday on

December 9. Happy Birthday!

Friends of Pat Shippey wish her the best. She is to have surgery soon. Keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Mabel Kirk has been keeping on the road recently. Her sister, Mary Lee, has been hospitalized recently in Chattanooga, and she has been visiting with her at the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers go with you, Mabel.

Happy Belated November Birthday to Bill Schwarz who celebrated on Nov. 27 with family and friends. Bill and Sue also had a visit from their daughter, Chris Hamilton, and grandchildren Rachel and Gwen from Tampa, Florida, during Thanksgiving. Time went too quickly and they all returned to Tampa on Saturday, the 30th.

Happy Belated Anniversary Wishes to Raymond and Mary Brown, who celebrated their 63rd Anniversary on Nov. 30.

Keep William "Chip" Matthews and his family in your prayers as he undergoes continuing cancer therapy.

Jonathan Black, nephew of Lisa Moore, recently celebrated his 2nd birthday with a party and a big Winner The Pool balloon from his Aunt Lynne.

Wendy Mansfield took a trip to Anchorage, Alaska, to visit Laune Longshore. Wendy flew out on Nov. 28, and returned on Nov. 29. She said there wasn't time to see and do everything. They both visited a museum, went snowmobiling, saw real animals—including a moose, dall sheep, and two bald eagles. The snow-capped mountains were spectacular. They had 2-1/2 feet of snow. Wendy is ready to go again if it was such a great experience.

Congratulations to Chad Chaney of Valley Head, who was inducted during the summer quarter into the Southeast Alabama Community College Mu Alpha Theta club.

Congratulations also go to Times-Journal weather artists, Andrew Thomas Smith, 9, and Matt Creston, 9, both of Valley Head.

Michael and Judy Shelly of Valley Head are busy getting ready for daughter Summer's wedding this month. The

A lot of our loved ones are ailing at this time of the year. Malcolm Brewer has returned to UAB hospital for tests and treatment. All his friends wish him a speedy return. We love you, Malcolm!

Edmund Crowe's brother, Richard Crowe from Anniston, is having gall bladder surgery. Keep him in your prayers for a speedy recovery.

The Annual Community Christmas Dinner, under the direction of Bert Carson, had their first volunteer meeting on Nov. 26. Linda Ellis of Mentone is the volunteer coordinator this year. If you would like to help in any way, call Linda at 634-4053 or Bert at 634-3605, and let them know the job you would like to have on Christmas Day.

Deepest sympathy to the families of

- Mrs. Stella Carson Posey, 55, Ft. Payne, who died Oct. 13.
- Judy Flarty, 52, Mentone, who died Nov. 5.
- Melvin Headrick, Flat Rock, 43, who died Nov. 7.
- Eula Cash, 81, Mentone, who died Nov. 9.
- Eloise Morgan, Ft. Payne, 82, who died Nov. 11.
- Lucille Webb, 93, Valley Head, who died Nov. 14.
- Sandra Paulene Goss Mitchell, 26, Grove Oak, who died Nov. 20.

Happy December Birthdays to:

- 1- Mark Hatfield, •2- Dewayne McKenzie, Angel Westley, •3- Myrtle Webb, Clara Cash, Heath Blacklock, •4- Rodney Pelletier, •5- Lisa Hulgian, Phyllis Lewis, •6- Robin Hulgian, Ken Hammond, •7- Pat Vest, Renee Day, DeAnna Harris, •8- Valerie Chappell, •9- Jim Phillips, Tina Shrader, Hunter Whisenant, •10- Brynna Hopper, •11- Allison Allen, •12- Vickie Buddle, Coby Harrison, •13- Mike Key, •14- Maureen Hammond, Joe Kent, •15- Jesus Christ, •16- Michael Croston, •17- Melissa Harrison, Jennifer Blacklock, •18- Annette Chappell, Rusty Rector, •19- Marquita Brown, Scott Burke.

The Ice Cream Parlor in Valley Head will be closing from Dec. 6 until March. Owner Rebecca Barner says they will be renovating the building and readying it for the opening of The Menagerie party room. See you then!

Responsibility, courage, compassion, loyalty, honesty, friendship, persistence, hard work, self-discipline, and faith are traits essential to building good character in a person. In order for our children to develop such traits, we have to offer them examples of good and bad, right and wrong. Our children are our future. Love them and help them make the right decisions so they may develop these traits.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Happy Birthday



Maggie Alice Coots

celebrated her 2nd birthday October 7, 1996. She has a brother, Patrick (6). Her parents are Buster and Sandy Coots of Mentone. Grandparents are Ed and Carolyn Coots, Mentone; and Nancy and Darrell Kelley, Gaylesville, Ala.



Brian Green and Tammy Green

brother and sister, recently celebrated birthdays. Brian became a teenager (13) on December 1. Tammy turned 9 on November 24. Their parents are Randy and Brenda Green of Brenham, Texas, and they will be celebrating their 17th Wedding Anniversary on Dec. 29. Grandparents are Marie Dillenbeck of Mentone, Weldon and Gloria Umlang, of Conroe, TX; and great grandmother, Dorothy Shelden, of Las Cruces, NM.

Birth Announcement



Patrick Conniff Murphy

was born August 28, to proud parents Tim and Margaret Murphy of Valley Head. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces. Maternal grandparents are Jean Conniff Williams Jinright of Birmingham, and the late Lloyd David Jinright. Paternal grandparents are Vergie Marie Brady Murphy, Tallahassee, FL, and the late Simmie Lee Murphy. His great grandmother is Evie Marie Johnson, Tallahassee, FL.



Luke Marlin Blalock

celebrated his 2nd birthday on November 18, 1996. He is the son of Jimmy and LaDonna Blalock of Fort Payne. Grandparents are Marlin and Ann Blalock of Fort Payne; and Donnie and Gayla Smith of Mentone.



Shane Bo Thomas

celebrated his 6th birthday on December 1, 1996. He is the son of Shane Wright of Valley Head. Grandparents are Charles and Bonnie Gregory. He has an Aunt Dena and Uncle Brett in Pasadena, Texas. Shane has two brothers, Chad and Michael.



William Dylan McCord

celebrated his 1st birthday on November 8, 1996. His parents are Jason and Michelle McCord of Ft. Payne. Grandparents are Danny and Cathy Greenleaf of Ft. Payne. Great grandparents are Ethel McCord of Rainsville and the late Bill Tinker of Valley Head.

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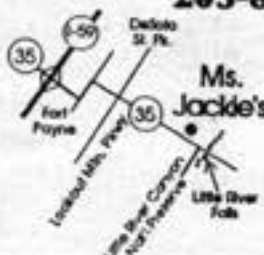
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The Cliffs—a labor of love

By Marie Dillenbeck



A unique eating establishment has arrived in Mentone. The Cliffs officially opened a little over three months ago. The first night they opened, they had 40 reservations and served 120 people. Their menu is health oriented with grilled or sauteed foods, except for a few fried items.

Owners, Brent and Sherri Black, along with Brent's son, Drew Black, and Tim Thompson, built the restaurant on the cliff overlooking the valley near Wade Gap and the Beaubé Road. George and Jo Beaubé's home can be seen across from the Cliffs. The restaurant looks like it is sitting on the side of a cliff, which is the reason it is named "The Cliffs." Approximately .8 of a mile from The Cliffs, going toward the back entrance to DeSoto State Park, one can look out across the mountain and see the restaurant.

Brent and Sherri said they had talked about buying an old house in Mentone—the Badham House, and using the materials from that house in the construction of The Cliffs. The logs from the 1920 dwelling, also known as the Millsaps summer home, were reused and can be found in the front part of the restaurant where the parking area is located. The patio rocks are also used in the new facility. The stone in the foyer was from five fireplaces in the old Badham house. The stones are five to eight inches thick. There were 12 foot ceilings, an open breezeway, a large balcony, and an 18-20' porch on the second floor, which looked out on the valley. All useable material is now in the restaurant building.

The location was chosen because it is close to hiking, horseback riding, fishing, antique shops, sightseeing, DeSoto State Park, The Little River Canyon National Preserve, and other accessible recreation areas. The view also had a lot to do with their decision to build.

Brent said there were no specific plans, the building evolved as it was being constructed. It took them 18 months to build, and a great deal of the construction was done during snow, blowing snow, and hard winds. The rock work was done principally by Sherri, also in the cold weather. It had to be a labor of love. She said she got discouraged many times, but never gave up. When asked how she learned to lay the rock, Sherri said, "On-the-job training." Brent told her how to mix the cement and lay the stones. The rock work outside is Sherri's handiwork, as is the rockwork in the non-smoking dining area. (See top middle and right bottom pictures above.) Brent and Sherri said they both had a great time building The Cliffs.

The lower portion of the walls in the restaurant's smoking side contain the original walnut from the Badham house. There are sound proof and fire proof meeting rooms, which can be partitioned. In the private dining room, 10-45 people may be served. (See picture top right.) The restaurant can hold a capacity of 200 if sitting down, 225 if standing. During the summer months, they plan to serve lunch on the deck. (See picture top left.)



Brent and Sherri Black



The ceiling in the foyer is self supporting, but several poles were positioned in the waiting area to add atmosphere. The carvings on the poles were done by Jerry Dawson of Wildwood, GA. He calls them "the old man of the mountain."

The atmosphere was important. Brent and Sherri wanted to have a nice, relaxing place where one could enjoy a good meal. Nestled away in the mountains, The Cliffs offers a beautiful view, where one can relax and get away from tension, telephones, and traffic jams. It also provides an atmosphere for romance and complete tranquility. Since they have opened, three young couples have gotten engaged at the restaurant. Just recently, a wedding was performed at The Cliffs. The bride's sister lived in the area and felt it was a beautiful setting in which to be married.

Entertainment is offered on Friday and Saturday evenings by a beautiful young lady named Sheila Richards from Sand Mountain near Fayette. She plays the keyboard and accepts requests. Sheila has played all over Europe and is extremely gifted and talented.

Brent and his father Boyce were in Black Manufacturing for many years. Sherri was a nurse and also in food service for 16 years. As a single mom, she was raising her daughter, Ashley Brown, who now helps out in the restaurant wherever she is needed. Brent and Sherri were married during the week of Thanksgiving, this year. Brent's son, Drew is presently in Memphis, TN, with his wife, Tammy. Tim Thompson was in construction when he started working on the restaurant over 18 months ago. Tim was and is loyal and a hard worker. Tim is now the kitchen manager. Those employed by The Cliffs say that there is a feeling of family, and that makes every day a good day to go to work. The atmosphere is, indeed, relaxing, not only for the customers, but for the employees, too. Most of them have been there since the restaurant opened.

The Cliffs' restaurant is located at 15861 County Road 89, Mentone, AL. Hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. They will open other days and nights for private parties, weddings, business seminars and meetings. To make your reservations, call 205-634-3040 or 1-888-225-4337 (1-888-2Cliffs).

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GARDEN HINTS

By Madeleine Bullock

(Member of the National Home Gardening Club)

This month, the furthest thing from our minds is doing the final clean up chores in the garden, whether it be flowers or vegetable, but it is something we gardeners have to do.

By now, all the bulbs and such must be planted ready to bloom for us next spring, and that's when we will be really thankful that we did bother to put that little extra time in the beds. I experimented by buying some Jerusalem artichokes from the fresh produce center and planting them for next year. The shallots that I experimented with this spring did well and that gave me a little more ambition to try some more. I promised to let you know how the bush sweet potatoes did. Well, they did very well except that I did not plant enough. Some suffered from too much rain during the latter part of the summer, but they were so much easier to work with. So, next year, I will go with them again.

Don't forget now to spray any fruit trees with dormant oil spray to smother out the eggs of the hibernating pests. Then, follow the oil spray with a fungicide to help kill or control any of the fungal diseases that cropped up this year due to the very wet late summer and fall. It looks like it's going to be a wet winter, too. Also, if possible, try to paint the tree trunks with a half-and-half mixture of diluted white latex paint and lime sulphur. Apply the mixture from the soil level up to the main branches.

Well, I finally broke down and bought myself a computer gardening program that is supposed to help with selecting the plants that are best suited for our area, climate, soil condition and garden appearance. It will also be a great help in saving money by not buying the wrong plants. It has a library of over 400 plants, which surely will help with all the researching that I have to do.

Christmas is about upon us and my family and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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About

Our Town

By
LINDA BROWN



Can you believe that Thanksgiving Day has already passed and the Christmas season is almost here? Some business places seem to forget about Thanksgiving and start decorating and advertising for Christmas the day after Halloween. When did we get so commercial? we should take the time at Thanksgiving to be glad we can celebrate Christmas, along with ten thousand other things we in America should be thankful for. Even though you will read this after Thanksgiving Day, see how many things you can name that you are thankful for.

There is not much going on right now in the city government. It seems that everything slows down when the weather gets cold and especially during the holidays. Soon there will be many holiday events happening. I know there will be a community chorus cantata and a party for the children given by MAPA in the Town Meeting Hall. Look for dates and times elsewhere in this issue of *The Groundhog*. The editor always does a great job of letting us all know the where and when of all events.

Sometime during this holiday season, stop by the city hall and look at the Christmas tree that is in the window of the Town Meeting Room. This tree is decorated with butterflies made by Mrs. Phyllis Sarratt's kindergarten classes at Moon Lake School. There are nineteen students and they did a great job of turning tissue paper and chenille straws into beautiful butterflies. If you see any of them during the holidays, tell them how much you appreciate their efforts. They are also the Rhododendron Ecoteers, which is a Junior Garden Club sponsored by the Rhododendron Garden Club. They will be planting a tree on Arbor Day and other activities to improve their environment. Can't start teaching them to early early to be aware that we only have one earth!!

An interesting thing happened in our family, recently, that might apply to your situation also. My granddaughter was interviewing her dad (my son) as part of an English assignment. One of the questions was, "What hardships did you endure when you were a child?" He couldn't think of any and, when he called me on the phone, neither could I. I told him that his dad had just taken a new job two months after he was born and money was very tight. Even so, we always had food to eat, a warm house, and clothes to wear. I told him that we didn't have money to make a lot of pictures of him as a baby, but we decided that wasn't a hardship. His sister said that being the only boy and being between two sisters in the family order might be a hardship. We talked this over and decided that even that didn't qualify as a real hardship. The moral of this story is: we are always so much better off than we think we are. We just need someone to ask us the question so we have to stop and think about the answer.

Most of you know about the death of Paulette Goss Mitchell. I knew Paulette, and she was such a sweet, dear person. I would talk to her often at the post office and around town; she was always smiling and happy. I remember how excited she was when she told us she was to be married. She had already chosen the decorating colors for her home. I have never seen her baby, but I know I would love him, too. She will truly be missed by a lot of people. As Dr. Pat always said, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" I know we will all ask ourselves this a thousand times about Paulette. Let's all keep the family she leaves in our prayers and thoughts as they go through this time of sorrow and grief.

Since this will be the last issue of *The Groundhog* before Christmas, let me take this opportunity to wish all of you a joyous Christmas. Remember the reason for the season!

MERRY CHRISTMAS-MERRY CHRISTMAS-MERRY CHRISTMAS



FOR THE BIRDS



THE BLUEBIRD NEST

By Ray Goggans

Last month, we talked about making sure the nest is occupied by a bluebird. I'm assuming it's bluebirds you want to raise. Look for dry grass and weed stems, pine needles (occasionally fine rootlets or twigs), lined with finer grass, and sometimes hair or feathers. The shape of the nest is loosely built in the form of a two to three inch cup. It usually takes 2 to 14 days and possibly a week before the first egg is laid. Interesting to note is that the male makes the nesting site—that is, he picks several spots depending on the number of places to select, but the female makes the final selection. Sound familiar?

Bluebirds usually nest along woodland edges of open fields or other open areas. They are often seen along farm fields, golf courses, and pastures. Nest boxes placed along the edges of these areas are preferred nest sites. A good supply of insects and berries are essential to this songbird. It does not usually feed at bird feeders.

This may be a good time to talk about the bird box. The one I use, called the Peterson bird house, has some features one can appreciate on the bluebird trail. The front is hinged at the bottom with a small pin to hold it closed. This gives one the opportunity to inspect the nest without disturbing the birds. You will need to inspect them so you will know all the things you want to know about raising bluebirds. Here are the dimensions for the Peterson box. An oval 1-3/8 inch by 2-1/4 inch hole yields easier entrance than the more traditional 1-1/2 inch hole. No perch. The large overhanging slanted roof gives protection from sun and predators; the drop front provides easy access for quick checking, essential cleaning between nestings, and use of sparrow traps. The narrow sloping floor (which should have no drain holes) helps discourage starlings and reduces blowfly larvae. The heavier wood construction provides insulation from both heat and cold.

In building the nest, start with a 2x4 twenty-four inches long with the top cut at 63 degrees; another 2x2 8-3/8 inches long with 63 degrees on one end and a 45 degree cut on the other. A short 2x4 3 inches long cut 63 degrees on one end and 90 degrees on the other is fastened down to the longer 2x4 exactly 10-1/2 inches below the short end of the top 8-3/8 inch 2x4. The roof and sides are 3/8 inch hard board with the sides 9-1/2 inches at the top angled down to 2-3/4 inches at the bottom with 2-3/4 inch air hole at the top. The roof is about 9x13 inches. If all this sounds complicated, it take about as long to describe as to make. Perhaps, by the first of the year, I should be able to assist in the construction of these houses, or I can supply the pre-cut parts for assembly of the complete house. Anyone interested, just give me a call at 845-5145, or drop me a note c/o *The Groundhog*.

As a lover of bluebirds, I can't say enough about the Bluebird Recovery Program, or as it is known BBRP. To enroll, simply send your name and address to BLUEBIRD RECOVERY PROGRAM, P.O. Box 3801, Minneapolis, MN 55403, along with tax-deductible contribution of \$5.00 or more for a year's membership. Benefits include: initial information packet; nesting report forms, the Annual Directory of Bluebirders for those reporting, quarterly newsletter, discounted mail order items—including BBRP book "Bluebird Trails-A Guide to Success, annual conference and workshop notices, and consultation and advice, by telephone or correspondence—and in the field, if possible.

Your local Cooperative Extension Service also can provide valuable information regarding birds, building and placement of bluebird houses, and other bird data.



Pictured L/R: Jana Goss, Kelly Wright, Amanda Wright, Brandy Browder, Rhonda Holloway, Beth Shirley, Jackie Davis, Brenda Goss, Karen Wright, Emily Collins, Wanda Henderson, Sherryl Lewis, Shelly Brown, Penny Davis, Tammy Davis, Becky Shirley, Christine Ashley, Debbie Daniels. Not pictured, Ashley LaBuda.

New Generation Dancers Go To National Clogging Convention

By Karen Wright

The New Generation Dancers of Valley Head, Alabama, went to the National Clogging Convention at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN, during the last week in November, returning home on Dec. 1. The hotel was decorated for Christmas with the outside all in lights. The group attended classes in clogging taught by the best instructors in the United States, many from Alabama. Over 6,000 cloggers attended this convention. The dancers saw a great show Saturday night in the Delta Ballroom.

New Generation raised money for the trip with various car washes, bake sales, and road blocks. Thanks to all the people who made our trip possible.

If you are interested in joining our club or taking lessons, call Karen Wright (634-4408) or Sherryl Lewis (657-6136).

And don't forget to clog so your arteries won't!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Wedding



Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Worthey

Kevin Worthey and Kayla Bell of Mentone were united in marriage on November 30, 1996, at 3:00 p.m. at the Mentone Church of God.

Pastor L.A. Smith performed the candle-light ceremony. The wedding was directed by Sandy Shelton and Rev. Ken Shelton. Music consisted of a solo entitled, "Because You Loved Me," performed by Donna Hallahan-Wood, an "The Lord's Prayer," sung by Bill Miracle.

Parents of the bride are Donnie and Connie Bell. Parents of the groom are Milton and Gail Chambers.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Her sister, Angie Carden, was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were sisters of the groom, Kim Worthy and Krissy Harris, and

the bride's best friend, Jennifer Blake. Flower girls were Hope Martin and Ashton McMillian.

Best man was Duane Blalock. Groomsmen were Rusty Chambers, Phil Harris and Dean Freeman. Ushers were J.J. Wigley, Shane Ingram, Scott Burke, and John Chambers. Ring bearers were Logan Chambers and Vance Carden.

A reception was held at the Promenade Hall in Valley Head. Ethel Manifold-Gregory was in charge of the sit-down reception. The servers were Rene McKenzie, Kathleen Johnson, Wendy Manifold, Kami Brown, and Krystee Tillman. The photographer was Terry Niblett.

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RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB

By Mickey Gough

The Rhododendron Garden Club met on November 12 at the Mentone Town Hall. The devotional was given by Shirley Hussell, who dedicated the message to Dr. Pat Seymour, about the lasting truth of God's word, reminding us of our opportunity and obligation in our remaining years in this earthly life.

Barbara Blalock led the Pledge of Allegiance to The Flag of The United States of America. Members answered roll call by naming a "chore to winterize your garden." Twenty-four members and guests were present, including Jan Cherbonneau and the speaker Don Castleberry.

After refreshments were served by the hostesses, Bernise Crow, Dorothy Cyr, and Mary Crow, the order of business was changed to allow Don Castleberry, our speaker, to present a program on "Birds." Bernise introduced him as her "little" brother, who was born and reared in Mentone. He attended Berry College for two years, and then went into the navy, where he completed his college education. He spent 26 years on nuclear subs, having been on the first sub--the Polaris. Since he was a child, Don studied animals, birds, and living things in the woods. Don spoke of the many different birds that migrate here during the winter: juncos, black cap chickadees, and full-time red birds/cardinals. They nest in the winter in Canada and upper United States. Other visitors include Cedar waxwings (who love berries), grosbeaks (evening and rose colored breast, purple finch, titmice, nuthatches, ruby and golden crown king wrens, yellow warbler, hermit thrush, and blue birds, among others. Don stressed the importance of feeding the birds a good mixture of bird food and being sure to continue feeding them once you start. When asked if blue bird nests should be cleaned out after the nesting season, Don said, "Yes, and be sure to clean it out in the spring." Along with food, we should also provide water.

Following the program, the meeting returned to its regular format. Marie Dillenbeck called the business meeting to order. The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved, there being no October meeting; and the treasurer's report was given and filed.

Marilyn Campbell reported she had sent cards to Helen Hill, Theresa Bosworth, and Roberta Kirby on the death of her mother, Eula Cash.

Under special projects, Ann Wright reported everything was looking good at Moon Lake School. Shrubs have been pruned, mulching has been done under shrubs and in the butterfly garden, and weeds and grass killed in shrub and flower bed areas. Adam Blalock, who is working toward his Eagle Badge, is building 10 bird houses to use in the garden next spring. Ann also reported that the area in front of the town hall donated by Mrs. Lowman has been mulched and taken care of, and the triangle needs weeding and mulching.

The MAPA Children's Christmas party will be Dec. 13th at the City Hall. The club will purchase the tree, and the Junior Gardeners (Ecoteers) will decorate it.

Our next project will be the laying out of bridges and trails in the Ed Mason park adjacent to the City Hall, along with placement of ID markers for the plants and shrubs.

Under new business, it was decided to have a 1/8 page ad in the *Hortensia* in memory of Dr. Pat Seymour.

A discussion was had as to whether the Garden Club should buy a new or an additional heater for the City Hall. Penny Lyday said she would price a larger one with a fan. The members voted to apply \$200.00 toward the purchase of a heater. Also decided was the purchase of a container for cigarette butts. The container would be placed outside the City Hall. Frances Waller volunteered to check the cost. Marilyn Campbell agreed to look into the price of a new bulletin board.

The officers for next year were presented early by the nominating committee: President - Jan Wilkinson; Vice President - Flo Kirby; Secretary - Marilyn Campbell; Treasurer - Barbara Blalock.

Mildred Wylie volunteered to be on the telephone committee, while Helen Hill is in The Crowne Nursing Home.

The hostess gift was won by Shirley Hussell.

The next meeting will be at the City Hall on December 10th at noon. This will be our covered dish Christmas luncheon. Roll call will be to name your birthday month flower. Wesleyan minister, Rev. Randy Addison, will be singing Christmas music. Hostesses are Marilyn Campbell, Ann Wright, and Alyce Springer. Penny Lyday has the devotional and grace.

MOON LAKE SCHOOL HARVEST FESTIVAL 1996

by Carol B. Hazell

The first Saturday in November was marked by the traditional Moon Lake School Harvest Festival. It was a huge success due to various games, good food, and a large, friendly crowd. It was also successful in raising the funds necessary for the PTO to continue to assist the school in various areas. The many people who made the Festival a success are greatly appreciated. And they also, as some have expressed, deserve to know where this large amount of money is spent each year.

There are so many people involved with this event, that it is hard to know where to begin acknowledgment. The first step in anything involves some planning, so a big thanks to the people who decide the date, time, and place; write the guidelines for what can be included in the Festival; and recruit and instruct the king and queen contestants. Also, various other tasks that include copious writing/copying/collating, time-consuming meetings and publicity must be acknowledged.

An equally big thanks to the families who volunteer to let their child participate in the king and queen contest. These people are responsible for pulling the respective class together in the effort of raising the most money. They spend large amounts of time, energy and, often, money coordinating the effort. Just imagine the work involved in planning a snack sale at the school once a week, a bake sale, dinner, turkey/ham shoot, car wash, etc., about every week for six weeks; and then setting up for the actual night of Harvest Festival.

The faculty and staff at the school are always ready to help facilitate the activities and participate in the events related to the Harvest Festival. We realize that sometimes the events may interfere with a normal school day and appreciate these people showing such dedication and patience.

For years and years, the people of Mentone and surrounding communities have shown tremendous support for the Festival, as well as, any other time the school has a need. This year was no exception. The individuals who spend money on all the activities before the Festival and then spend more the night of the Festival are vitally important. Equally important are the businesses who donate items to be used in some form or fashion related to the Festival. Thanks to all of you.

And finally, the set-up and clean-up committees have to be commended. The task of moving approximately 20 tables and large games is not easy. Plus, the job of placing posters, garbage cans, chairs and decorations before the Festival, and sweeping and cleaning afterwards is no small feat. The committee members accomplished this in record time this year.

Everyone's diligence was rewarded by a Harvest Festival total close to \$10,000 dollars. Granted, this is a large sum of money; but the PTO budget for the last few years has required such. Our largest expenditure over the past two years was the new playground with costs totaling approximately \$4,000. We boast an incredibly innovative elementary playground due to these funds and the volunteer hours spent on labor.

Another large expense, which we have funds earmarked for, is covered walkways located at the back of the school for a total of \$2,216. These walkways will connect the main building with the kindergarten building, the cafeteria, and the gym. We have been waiting a long time for the DeKalb County school system to complete their part of the renovation to the back of the school. And, as soon as they decide to do so, we will begin our part of the walkways.

Several other large expenses include \$2,000 to the school each year to be spent on the needs pinpointed by the faculty, \$150 to each of the eight teachers to be spent for classroom needs totaling \$1,200; \$1,500 for the fence to enclose the playground; \$200 per teacher per year for workshop attendance which could, but rarely does, total \$1,600; and \$1,500 to pay for the school's utilities during the summer.

We have three expenses which are usually recovered by the proceeds made by the events that incurred the cost. These are the Spring Festival, Harvest Festival, and the yearbook. If we are lucky, we will see a profit with these events, despite the costs associated with them.

The 1996 PTO budget below gives a clear picture of the organization's financial needs. The 1997 budget, which is in the works, will be comparable, with the exception of the budgeted playground funds going to school campus lighting and the outdoor amphitheater renovation, which we hope will include a portable stage to be used both inside and outside.

Moon Lake School and PTO both deserve appreciation and

recognition for all they accomplish with the common goal of "providing every student the very best educational experience possible."

BUDGET LIST REPORT

Category	Annual Budget
INCOME CATEGORIES	
Harvest Festival	10,000.00
Interest Income	263.89
PTO Dues	55.00
Spring Festival	2,400.97
Yearbook	2,002.50
EXPENSE CATEGORIES	
Art Teacher	355.00
Bank Charges	0.00
Expense-Harvest Festival	1,576.00
Expense-Playground	1,500.00
Expense-Spring Festival	640.00
Expense-Yearbook	1,500.00
Interest Expense	0.00
Miscellaneous	674.00
MLS Allocation	2,000.00
MLS Utilities	1,500.00
PTO Attendance	80.00
Teacher allocation	1,200.00
Teacher dinner	80.00
Unbudgeted Expense-Fence	0.00
Walkway	2,200.00
Workshops	1,600.00

MOON LAKE SCHOOL NEWS

By Evelyn Graves

The PTO will meet on Tuesday, December 10, at 6 PM. Entertainment will be provided by the Moon Lake Elementary Glee Club. On Friday, December 13, at 1:45 PM, the Valley Head Band will perform a Christmas concert in the school gym. Several basketball games are coming up. They are: Saturday, December 7 - Plainview at Moon Lake; Saturday, December 14 - Plainview at Moon Lake; Saturdays December 21 - Ider at Moon Lake; Saturday, December 28 - Moon Lake at Sylvania; Saturday, Jan. 4 - Moon Lake at Henagar. All game times are 9 AM. The last day for school before the holidays will be Thursday, December 19, and school will resume on Monday, January 6, 1997.



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BOY SCOUT TROOP 106 COURT OF HONOR

By Marie Dillenbeck

Troop 106, under the direction of David Gilbreath, Scoutmaster, and Assistant Scoutmasters Dr. Bill Berry, Planning/Events; Mike Young, Program/Advancements; and Tom Oberle, Activities/Order of the Arrow, have accomplished a great deal this past year. Other leaders are: Troop Chaplain, Glenn Miller; Troop Committee--Jimmy Berry, Chairman; Jim Ellis, Charter Representative; John Hurt, Unit Commissioner; Dianne Gilbreath, Treasurer; Rick Hardin, Member; Brandol Jones, Member; Jim Jones, Member; Christy Hardin, Eagle Rank Coordinator/Special Projects.

Youth Leadership: Adam Blalock, Senior Patrol Leader; Bryan Young, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader; Ryan Drake, Quartermaster; Chad Oberle, Instructor; Curt Miller, Jack Corey, and Richard Hardin, Troop Guides.

Beaver Patrol: Jake Pinholster, Patrol Leader; Peter Hurt, Assistant Patrol Leader; Ken Miller, Troop Scribe; Stuart Hurt, Jonathan Rutledge; Paul Whittle.

Fox Patrol: Marlin Cox, Patrol Leader; Ben Corey, Troop Librarian; Joshua Hughes, Cub Den Chief; Ben Stewart, Chaplain Assistant; Robert McReynolds, Troop Historian; Joshua Hunt.

Two times a year the scouts hold Courts of Honor where individuals are recognized who mean a lot to the troop, including scouts, leaders and others. The Court of Honor held on November 23, 1996, followed a delicious meal prepared by the mothers and other supporters of Troop 106. Dr. Bill Berry, presented three Mentone Green Patches to Clara Cash, Troop Mother; Marilyn Blanton Campbell, for her feeding and watering of the scouts at the festivals; Marie Dillenbeck for her coverage in *The Groundhog*; and Danny Cook of Summerville, for his assistance in recycling projects. Badges and *neckerchief/slide/hat/Mom's sash were presented by Dr. Berry, Mike Young, and Tom Oberle to:

Adam Blalock	Ben Corey
Bryan Young	Robert McReynolds
Ryan Drake	Joshua Hughes*
Jake Pinholster	Ben Stewart*
Marlin Cox	Joshua Hunt
Chad Oberle*	Peter Hurt
Curt Miller	Stuart Hurt
Richard Hardin*	Jonathan Rutledge
Jack Corey	Paul Whittle
Ken Miller	

A neckerchief/slide/hat were also presented to Tom Oberle.

Scout-O-Rama patch/pin and Mentone Green neckerchief slide/hat were presented to guests, Rey Bolanos from Ft. Bragg, Fayetteville, NC; and to Josh, Justin, Jordan, and Jerry Simpson from Troop 169 in Waxhall, NC.

Sheila Simpson and Claudia Bolanos each also received a Mom's Sash. Jerry Simpson presented a slide show of the troop's trip to El Salvador of the 16 boys and leaders who made the trip this summer.

Rick Hardin, Jerry Simpson and Mike Young received Salvadoran patches.

The speaker, Rey Bolanos, said that he started in scouting in El Salvador when he was 7 years old and got all the tools from the very beginning to get to heaven--he had a wonderful mother and he participated in Boy Scouts. Rey is a platoon sergeant who works with 21 soldiers at Fort Bragg, NC. He has dual citizenship--El Salvador and United States. With a firm belief in God, love of God, and love of people, Rey has devoted his life to teaching others the same skills he learned as a scout. As a scout in El Salvador, he learned respect for people, caring for people, and service to the community, along with leadership skills. After nine years in scouting, Rey and another friend, at the age of 16, decided to and did form another troop to give other young boys an opportunity in scouting. After Desert Storm and while he was waiting to go mountain climbing, Rey came back to El Salvador and met some scouts in uniform--the same troop he and his friend had started--Troop 143 in Santa Ana. Rey was 19 years old when he left El Salvador and came to the United States, where he joined the Army.

Twelve members from Mentone Troop 106, and four members from Troop 69 from NC, arrived in El Salvador. While at the customs office, they met Rey, who happened to be in the right place at the right time. (There are no coincidences with God.) He asked if they were scouts and if they would like to get with a troop in El Salvador. The answer was yes, and Rey introduced them to Troop 143, an organized and disciplined troop; and they all played basketball together. Jerry Simpson was taking pictures to record the trip. Following Rey's message, Jerry showed slides of their adventures. This was a very eventful evening for all those participating and those who supported all the scouts.



Kneeling (L/R): Bryan Young, Mike Young, Ken Miller. Standing (L/R): Rick Hardin, Jake Pinholster, Jerry Simpson, Jordan Simpson, Ryan Drake, Rey Bolanos, Bill Berry, Justin Simpson, Dee Gilbreath, Richard Hardin, Adam Blalock, Curt Miller, Josh Simpson

(Photograph taken atop restored Mayan pyramid in Santa Ana, El Salvador.)

TROOP 106 HONORS ITS FIRST EAGLE SCOUT

By Marie Dillenbeck



CURTIS BRENT MILLER
Having Achieved the Rank of Eagle Scout
October 10, 1996

Rank Advancement

Scout	May 1993	First Class	April 1994
Tenderfoot	August 1993	Star	October 1994
Second Class	November 1993	Life	May 1995

Troop 106, family, friends, and supporters all gathered Monday, November 25, 1996, at 7 p.m. at the Moon Lake Baptist Church to honor Curtis Brent Miller, Troop 106's first scout to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout on October 10, 1996. This was the first Eagle Scout ceremony the troop has had. Curtis and his parents had a part in organizing this most important celebration in Curtis' life. Curtis is a member of Moon Lake Baptist Church and the Artist's Guild of Northeast Alabama and Northwest Georgia. His Freshman/Sophomore years were at Fort Payne High School, where he was a member of Master's Minority, Future Homemakers of America, Junior ROTC Sergeant First-Class, Spanish Club, Soccer Team. In his Junior/Senior years at Alabama School of Mathematics and Science, Curt was President of the Christian fellowship club-SALT, a member of the Key Club, Yearbook photographer, and Soccer Team. Summer Mission Trips included Jamaica in 1994 and Mexico in 1996.

His advancement along the Eagle Trail and the Eagle Badge represent accomplishments in scouting skills shown by earning 21 merit badges, including 11 required ones; teamwork as a member and leader of his troop and patrol; and demonstrating scout spirit as represented by living the scout oath and law. Less than two percent of all boys in scouting achieve the Eagle Scout Award.

The Merit Badges earned by Curt include Eagle Required Badges: Camping, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Science, Family Life, First Aid, Lifesaving, Personal Management, Safety, and Swimming. Elective Badges include Archery, Athletics,

Aviation, Basketry, Fingerprinting, Hiking, Indian Lore, Leatherwork, Mammal Study, Motorboating, Pioneering, Pulp and Paper, Rowing, Sculpture, Shotgun and Rifle Shooting, and Space Exploration.

Major scouting activities in which Curt has been involved are: Comer Scout Reservation 1993, 1994, 1995; Order of the Arrow 1994; Philmont Scout Ranch 1994; Junior Leadership Training 1995; Washington, D.C., 1995; and El Salvador 1996.

The program opened and closed with the Voice of the Eagle by Tom Oberle, Assistant Scoutmaster. Rev. Bob "Chief Eagle Feather" Atwood, from Pennsylvania, and a scout for 64 years, read the Eagle Challenge. Several scout committee members and family members participated in the program.

Following the song, "Thank You," by Jeff Hopper, Yon Hopper and Anna Crow, the presentation of the Eagle Award was made to Curt by his father and mother, Glenn and Linda Miller. Personal letters of honor were read by Troop Committee members. Dr. Bill Berry, Assistant Scoutmaster, read the Eagle Charge. Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Miller, parents of the honoree, and Helen "Grandma" Yerkes responded as a family, followed by Eagle Scout Curtis Brent Miller. Grandma Yerkes presented Curt a lifetime membership to the National Eagle Scout organization. Mike Young, Assistant Scoutmaster sang "Wings As Eagles." Jonas B. "Grandpa" Miller gave the benediction, and Kenneth Miller played taps.

The ceremony was beautifully done and was enjoyed by all who came to honor this fine young man and his accomplishments.

A reception followed in the fellowship hall.

DEKALB EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION RECEIVES \$7,500 IN SEED MONEY FROM SMEC



Seated: Mike Simpson, general manager for the co-op; Ronnie Campbell, president of the DeKalb Educational Foundation; James Carmichael, president of the board for the co-op; Danny Ashley, principal of Fyffe High School; (standing) Rita Adrian, foundation secretary; Karen Albrecht, foundation director; Gelane Nelson, director; Susan Barron, director; Karen McGee, director; Dr. Bill Berry, foundation treasurer; and Teresa Hill director

The Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative (SMEC) has provided the seed money The DeKalb Educational Foundation needed to obtain matching funds from Alabama Power. The money comes in the form of a \$7,500 "promotional fee" the cooperative is paying the foundation for the ability to display an engraved plaque outlining SMEC's commitment to education in the schools serviced by the cooperative. The revenue will enable the foundation to qualify for \$15,000 from Alabama Power in matching funds for the DeKalb County School System, based on a two-to-one match. In order to obtain all the matching funds available for the Fort Payne City School System from the Alabama Power Company, the foundation members will have to raise \$20,000 to qualify for the full \$5,000 in matching funds from Alabama Power, as the city system is in a different category—it is only matched on a 25-cents-per-dollar basis.

The Foundation has already received approximately \$13,300 in donations. After the first \$7,500 is put toward the county's application, the remaining monies raised will be put toward the application for city schools, which can still receive a percentage of the matching funds, if not the full amount.

Larry Hooks, administrative assistant to City Schools Superintendent Dr. Tom McCormack; Sharon Hughes, a mother of three in the Fort Payne system; and Hugh Chitwood, a resident of Fort Payne and community leader, were added to the DeKalb Educational Foundation's board of director's on Thursday, Nov. 14, to give the city representation that previously did not exist.

Hooks said, "What we need to do is look at it as we have to raise \$27,500 in order to get \$20,000. Not that we have to get this amount to help the city and that amount to help the county."

Robin Duke, with the Alabama Power Foundation, said, "Then, that would give you almost \$50,000 to work with."

"The progress and success of local schools continue to be of great concern to Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative," SMEC President James Carmichael said when presenting the foundation with a check. "When we promote our schools, we know it is an investment toward our future."

Schools that will receive \$500 for both their elementary and high school grades are Collinsville, Valley Head, Ider,

Sylvania, Plainview, and Fyffe. Henagar Junior High School and Moon Lake Elementary School also will receive \$500 each. Although they are not in the co-op's service area, Geraldine elementary and high schools will receive \$250 each because so many of their students live within the SMEC service area.

Ronnie Campbell, president of the foundation, said the revenue given to the foundation from the co-op is earmarked for the schools cited above, but the money from Alabama Power will be placed in a foundation general fund and distributed to schools throughout the county system based on merit and educational need.

The foundation will begin sending out grant applications to educators on Feb. 1, 1997. Applications will be due back by April 1, with the foundation beginning to disperse funds May 1. It will make funds available to education professionals to help pay for worthwhile projects and activities such as: **field trips, special teaching materials, classroom equipment, cultural enrichment, and teacher mini grants.**

The foundation is a partnership of parents, educators, civic groups, businesses/industries, DeKalb County citizens, and the Alabama Power Company. The purpose is explained by the mission statement: The DeKalb Educational Foundation sponsors projects and programs that are designed to encourage, support, and enhance learning opportunities for students. This is to be accomplished by raising funds and awarding them to teachers for projects that are not funded by normal school budgets and is completely separate from local boards of education.

Investing in education allows us to invest in our future. If you are interested in becoming involved, you are invited to contact a board member. Help is needed in every community in DeKalb County. Whether you donate your time or your money, the success of the Foundation depends on the excitement and energy of DeKalb County. The Foundation is a 501C-3 Corporation, so donations are tax deductible. Because interest and involvement are as important as funds, donation levels will begin at \$5.00 and go up.

A lighthouse is the symbol of the organization and reminds everyone of the need to brighten the path of our students. For more information, or if you would like a speaker for a civic group, call 845-8575.



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SECOND GRADE - MRS. BARKLEY

ALL A's: Melissa Crane, Alex Hazell, Justin Smith.

A's and B's: Barnabas Bettis, Logan Chambers, Mark Corey, Michael Hawkins, Katie Herndon, Julie Ingram, Jacob Meadows, Heather Phillips, Angel Wesley.

THIRD GRADE - MRS. HUGHES

ALL A's: Jared Bare, John Baxter, Katie Gray, Melissa Harrison, Lori Hope, Marie Hunt, Sarah Hurt, Brandy Manning, Kirby McMunn, Kellye Phillips, Emily Tipton.

A's and B's: Laura Floyd, Josh Rogers, Cayla Wails, Jason Willis.

FOURTH GRADE - MRS. TROXTEL

ALL A's: Erica Campbell, Matt Hawkins, Catrina Ingram, Amanda Johnson, Andrew McCole.

A's and B's: Kristen Addison, Colby Baty, Rachel Bryan, Paul Davis, Jessica Meadows, Keith Miller, Josh Smith, Natasha Tishaw, Kelly Wright.

FIFTH GRADE - MRS. SMITH

A's and B's: Tisha Bridges, Kim Brisendine, Dustin Burt, Emmy Corey, Kyle Hooks, Ashley LaBuda, Ashley McSpadden.

SIXTH GRADE - MRS. FROST

ALL A's: Tiffany Bare, Tessa Collett, Stuart Hurt, Kerri McMunn, Kiley Young.

A's and B's: Corey Kirby, Natasha Moreland, Kelly Owen.

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The Church News

By
EVELYN GRAVES



There will be a dinner and baby shower for Melinda and Jeff Adkins at the **Valley Head Methodist Church** on Sunday, December 8. The baby is expected around January 7. The Community Thanksgiving service was wonderful, bringing a large crowd and a great service.

There will be a Children's Christmas play at the **Mentone Wesleyan Church** on December 22, at 6 PM. Refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall following the program. Christmas communion will be observed on Sunday morning, December 22. There will be a Christmas message that morning as well.

On December 10, the **Valley Head Baptist Church** will be participating in the Christmas store at Mountain Manor Nursing Home. All the adult classes are going to have their Christmas parties at the parsonage on December 13, from 6 to 8 PM. The Brotherhood will meet on December 14 at 8 AM for breakfast in the fellowship hall. The annual Christmas cantata is scheduled for December 15. The first performance will be at 5 PM at the Moon Lake Baptist Church, and the last one will be at 7 PM at the Valley Head Baptist Church. On December 22, there will be a candlelight service in the morning service. The evening service will be communion. There will be no mid-week service that week. On December 29, the evening service will be a hymn sing. On December 31, there will be a Tuesday prayer service at 6:30 instead of the usual Wednesday evening service.

The **Mentone Church of God** will have a Christmas program and party on the evening of December 15, at 6 PM. There will be no service on Wednesday, December 25 or January 1. There will be a watch night service on December 31 with several special singing groups. Everyone is invited. The Men's Fellowship will have a Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 7, at Larry's Restaurant in Trenton, Georgia. The group will leave the church at 5 PM. There is still some Christmas candy available for sale if anyone wants it. Please call the church to place your order. Pastor Shelton wishes everyone Happy Holidays!

Jerry Adkins, from Chattanooga, will be speaking at **Lea's Chapel Baptist Church** in both services on December 15.

The **Grace Presbyterian** youth choir will be performing on December 9, at 7 PM at the DeKalb Theatre in "Christmas at Home", a reading theatre drama. Admission is \$1.00 per person. Call 635-4756 for any further information.

On Sunday evening, December 15, at 6 PM, the **Union Hill Baptist Church** children and youth will be presenting a Christmas play written by Susan Bolding. Refreshments will be served afterward in the fellowship hall, as well as the exchanging of gifts by the children's classes. Reverend Joe Blalock from North Carolina will be speaking in the morning service on Sunday, December 29. He is the nephew of former pastor, Reverend Virgil Blalock. Monthly singing will be held on Sunday evening, December 8, at 6 PM. Wednesday evening prayer service on December 11 will be held at the home of Paul Keefe Jr., whose father is no longer able to attend church because of cancer.

There will be a Christmas musical at **Moon Lake Baptist Church** on Sunday evening, December 22, at 6 PM. The title of the program is "The Story that Changed My Life". There will be a candlelight service on December 24 at 5:30 PM. The Winter Youth Retreat will be held on December 17-20 at Pigeon Forge. Any youth who want to be a part of it are welcome. The registration is \$15.00 due on December 15, and the

balance of \$45.00 is due on January 12. There will be a New Year's Eve celebration for the youth on December 31. (See Brad VanCleave, Youth Director, for further details.) The Youth Christmas party is on December 20. They will be caroling and partying from 3-9 PM.

St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church will continue with worship services at 10:30 each Sunday. Sunday School is at 9 AM. Wednesday communion is at 12:05. The church will be decorated on December 14 for the Christmas season. Plans for special Christmas services have not been announced.

The **Church of God of Prophecy** will have a Christmas play on Sunday, December 22, at 6:30 PM. The title of the play is, "The Hidden Gift." Everyone is invited to attend.

Howard's Chapel (Church in the Rock) invites you to attend services on Sunday morning at 10 AM. Visitors are always welcome to visit the chapel at other times also. Vacation clothes are always acceptable for the service.

Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church invites you to attend worship services each Sunday at 9 AM. Reverend Jerry Davis and Reverend L. A. Smith are speakers on alternate Sundays.

The **UMW of the Mentone United Methodist Church** met at Ann Wright's home on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at noon, for a covered dish meeting. Linda Brown had the program, "Make Room In The Inn." There will be a covered dish dinner following the morning services on Sunday, Dec. 15. Everyone is invited to come and bring a dish. Enjoy the food and the fellowship.

J.O.Y.

The **Just Older Youth** Christmas party will be held at Camp Ponderosa on December 19, at 11:30 AM. If you do not wish to drive your automobile, the church van will leave Moon Lake Church at 11 AM. Please bring a covered dish and a gag gift. Everyone is welcome.

North DeKalb Ministerial Association

The next regular meeting of the Ministerial Association will be on December 12, at 1 PM, at Moon Lake Baptist Church.

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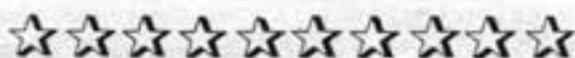
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The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

We have finally visited one of the places we have wanted to see for many years—Colonial Williamsburg. It is wonderful to see things restored much like they were two hundred years ago. I could just imagine Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and perhaps James Monroe, coming down the side avenue facing the governor's mansion. They would be walking briskly, in their knickers and hose, and wearing powdered wigs, and discussing the free states, or colonies, to form the United States of America.

It was exciting to walk through the rooms of the mansion and imagine the ladies dressed in their finest full taffeta skirts, waiting for the distinguished guests to arrive. The governors in the eighteenth century were under the rule of King William of England—that is, before the Declaration of Independence was signed. I loved the primitive kitchen in a separate building where all the cooking was done. A primitive invention to turn the spit on the fireplace was fascinating. Samples of the sort of food served in colonial times was displayed. Of course, there were plenty of slaves to transport the warm food to the fancy dining room.

We enjoyed watching the coopers making barrels just as they did two hundred years ago; saw them splitting white oak for making baskets, and saw them making the beautiful baskets, wagons, and carts. That was most interesting. We went inside the old jails (gaols in old English), and what a dreary place that was. I don't believe we would have overcrowded conditions in our prisons if they had to live in dark rooms with only one small window for light and a pile of straw in the corner for a bed. There were leg irons hanging on the walls.

We were told about how a court session was held, and it seems that nobody would have to face the stern judges of that time. The judges were appointed for life and had to be upstanding citizens of considerable wealth.

We toured the capitol building, which has been carefully reconstructed as near as possible like the original one. This is the place for trials of higher court cases. There were many rooms for juries to sit at long tables and decide cases or hold meetings. All the hosts and hostesses were dressed in Colonial attire, and it made one feel like being transported back in time two hundred years. It must have been exciting to live in a completely unspoiled new world!

We had lunch in a pub, which looked like those in London and the food was excellent. We had a good trifle for dessert, and we shopped some in lovely little gift shops. One blacksmith shop made beautiful candle holders of brass or silver, but one would have to place an order to purchase them. A young man stands by the fire turning a mechanism that pumps the bellows, and it looked like a tiring job. He didn't seem to mind; he had developed good muscles for the job.

Leaving Williamsburg, we spent the night in Chester, Va., and were up early Saturday morning to go to Monticello (the word means "little mountain" in Italian). It was quite cool early in the morning and a light jacket was needed to stay warm. At the gate where we purchased tickets, parked our car, and waited for a van to take us up to the house, there was a roaring fire in a huge fireplace in an open pavilion where we could warm ourselves. The fall colors were still resplendent, which was an added attraction. When we reached the summit where the house stands, the view was breath-taking. We could face north and see the University of Virginia; and, in any direction, there were mountains in view. Jefferson spent many years building and re-building Monticello. His architecture shows both French and Italian influence, the dome reflecting the style of Palladio, from sixteenth century Italy. The dome was the first one to be constructed in the new world, the idea was carried on at the University of Virginia and reproduced at the Jefferson Memorial in Washington.

Jefferson was an intelligent man of many talents, having

invented many things to make chores easier in his own home. When he was only fourteen years old, he inherited the property where Monticello now stands from his father. There were 6,000 acres at the time, but there are only 2,000 acres today. He loved gardening; and, when he referred to his gardens, he usually meant his vegetable gardens. He kept records of everything he planted and had flats for sprouting seeds in a glassed-in room of the house. Although Jefferson detested slavery, he was a slave owner all his life; but he treated them well, taught them trades, and educated some of them. They were more like hired hands.

Jefferson's library interested me, the place where his tall red leather chair (self-designed) stands. He took this chair with him when he went to the White House. He had 7,000 books at one time, many of which he donated to the Library of Congress. Many good volumes still fill the room.

The man who wrote the Declaration of Independence, served as governor of Virginia, vice president, ambassador to France, and two terms as president of the United States, was really a down home person who loved music, architecture, and farming. He played violin and often entertained his guests with renditions. Jefferson initiated the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expeditions to the far western territory. He designed the University of Virginia building and is known as the father of the institution. His wife died following the birth of their sixth child. Only two of the six children lived to maturity. He grieved for many years over the death of his wife, and, although he was only thirty-nine years old when she died, he never remarried. He said, "A single event wiped away all my plans and left me a blank which I had not the spirits to fill up." His daughter, Martha Jefferson Randolph, and her husband and eleven children moved in with Jefferson when he retired. He was happy to have them and adored the grandchildren. They used the upstairs area as a play area on rainy days.

Many more things can be said about the lovely home and grounds, but most of you have read about these things as I have. It was just wonderful to see them first hand. If you have not been, please go. It is considered a part of Charlottesville, Va., and can be reached in a day. My cousin, Elizabeth King, from Centreville, Ala., accompanied us, and she enjoyed the trip as much as we did. The same day, we toured the estate of James Monroe, which is not far from Monticello. It was very interesting, but not of the magnitude as that of Jefferson's home. It contained some lovely antiques that we enjoyed seeing.

The Garden Club of Virginia restored the gardens at Monticello in 1939 and are still involved with maintenance, I believe. Jefferson said "No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden. But though an old man, I am but a young gardener."

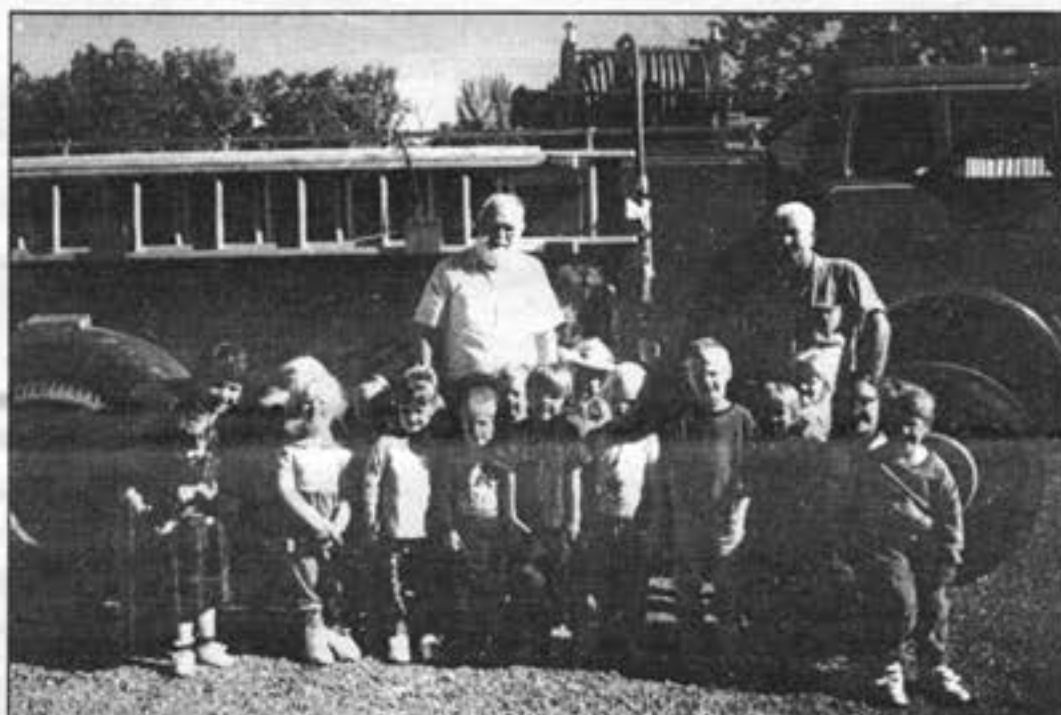
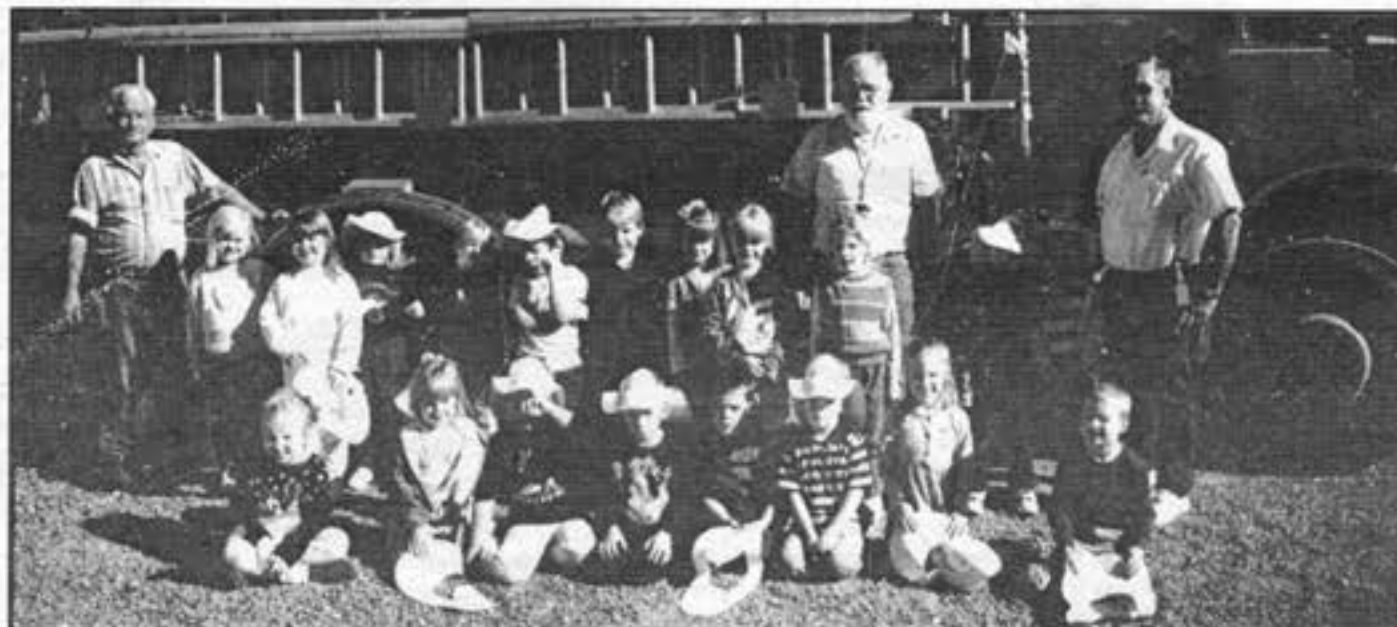
Leaving Monticello, we drove three hundred miles to Asheville, N.C. When we arose the next morning, Lib was knocking on our door to tell us that it was snowing! And it was falling fast—big soft fluffy flakes covering the pines, spruce, and fir trees and making it look like a winter wonderland. It didn't adhere to the ground, so it was not hazardous to drive. We wanted Lib to see Biltmore House, which is the largest single dwelling in the United States, I believe. We had been before but had a most pleasant surprise when we saw it tastefully decorated for Christmas. There was a Christmas tree in all 250 rooms, I think. All the large stone fireplaces were decorated with greenery and wreaths. What a beautiful sight. It's mind boggling to think that this huge mansion was the home of a single family. The Vanderbilts, of course, owned a railroad company, and George Vanderbilt who built the mansion had a railroad constructed to the site to transport building materials. When the house was finished, the railroad was dismantled. The house is situated on a high hill, and a wonderful view of the Blue Ridge Mountains can be seen from all directions.

All of this jaunt was done on a long weekend, so it is not that far away. Our daughter, Doreen Waters, and her husband, Jerry, rode up there on their motorcycle. Of course, it was warmer weather. They bought season tickets, so they can take visitors there.

P.S. We now have Zora Strayhorn's book "Monticello-A History" reprinted. They can be purchased at the Hitching Post and at the Kountry Chef Restaurant. We may place some at other places soon. The book is \$10.00 and it gives good history of the area.

NORTH LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Gail Chambers



The top photo is of Mrs. Sarratt's Kindergarten class at Moon Lake School, with Fire Chief, Jim Roberts, and volunteer firemen Sanford Hartline and Milton Chambers. The bottom photo is of the children from the Head Start Program, with teachers, Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Stinson, and Fire Chief, Jim Roberts and volunteer fireman, Sanford Hartline

During Fire Prevention week, the NLMFPD Volunteer fire Department visited the Head Start Program and the Kindergarten class of Moon Lake School on October 8. Fire Chief, Jim Roberts, gave a class on fire safety. He was assisted by volunteer firemen Sanford Hartline and Milton Chambers. Gail Chambers handed out fire safety lollipops, cardboard fire trucks, and Jr. firefighter stickers to all the children. The children were wearing paper fire hats that they had made in class. Teachers, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Stinson, and Mrs. Sarratt, did a wonderful job of preparing the children for the Fire Department's visit. The children were very excited and interested in all the equipment that was shown to them. They were especially interested in the fire truck itself. The siren was sounded as the fire truck left, and the children waved their goodbyes. Thank you for inviting the Fire Department to visit your classes.

The Fire Department would like to remind everyone to practice safety rules during the Holiday season.

1. Before plugging in any lights or extension cords, be sure to check for exposed wires; frayed, broken or scorched insulation; and cracked or loose sockets (especially if you're using old lights and extension cords).

2. Test lights before using them. Throw away those that show signs of any flaws.

3. Always turn your Christmas tree or outside holiday lights off when you go to bed or leave the house. If you use lights

outdoors, be sure that they are designed for outside use. Do not use outside lights for indoor use. They generate more heat.

4. Do not put your Christmas tree close to a heater or fire-place. It will dry out too soon and cause a fire hazard. Be sure to keep plenty of water at the base of your tree at all times when using a live tree.

5. Do not leave candles burning when you go to bed or leave the house.

During the Holiday season, we tend to think of loved ones who are no longer with us to celebrate the Holidays. We sometimes get depressed and lose a little of the spirit. I, personally, am going to put my outside Christmas lights up this year in memory of "Dr. Pat." She loved to look at them as she passed by the house.

I would like to challenge merchants and home owners alike in the Mentone area to decorate their store fronts, houses, or even a tree in their yard, with lights, in memory of someone; or better yet, do it for those of us who just like to look at the lights. Why travel to see Holiday lights when we can have our own displays right here at home.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that, in the hustle and bustle of the Holiday season, we sometimes forget the real meaning of Christmas. Remember to keep Christ in Christmas. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the members of the NLMFPD Volunteer Fire Department.



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Edward Jones



The River Watch

By
BILL SCHWARZ

A PLEASANT FALL DAY ON LAKE GUNTERSVILLE

Back a few years ago (I'll never divulge how many), when Sue and I were only good friends (not that we aren't good friends now), I invited her out for a delightful day of sailing on Lake Gunterville on my 25-ft sailboat. It was a wonderful early fall day (early October, as I recall), the type of day when the sky is so blue it almost hurts, leaves were just beginning to turn, and there was enough breeze to move us along smartly without causing us much effort to manage the boat. I had visions of a very pleasant afternoon of sailing, quiet conversation, and, perhaps, even a cup of hot tea, for the boat had a small galley. What a really spectacular Saturday we were going to have.

I had planned that we would sail around for a while with no real objective, and, then, end up at a marina about five miles from where I docked my boat. Now, at that time, Sue and I were both adult leaders in a Sea Explorer group of boy scouts (age 14-18). The Sea Explorers were, and still are, a coed organization, and Sue and I had daughters who were members. When our children joined, we each had independently decided to become assistants to the adult leader. That, gentle reader, is how we met and became friends.

But, back to my story of the pleasant outing. The Lake Gunterville Yacht Club and Brown's Creek Sailing Association sponsored an all-night sailboat race each fall, and this particular fall, the Sea Explorers had decided they wanted to enter the race. My boat was to be the racing craft, and Sue and I would be on board as the adult leaders. In order to have any chance of placing well, the boat had to be in top-notch condition; and so, Sue and I were taking the boat to have the marine growth cleaned off the boat's hull. Only one marina had the capability of hauling a boat with a fixed keel, and that marina lay up one of the many coves off the main body of Lake Gunterville. There was a fairly narrow channel about a mile long leading to this marina. We had driven down to Gunterville separately, leaving one car at the marina, and then drove together to my boat.

We rigged the boat for sailing, started the little 10-hp outboard motor, backed out of the slip, shifted into forward, and slowly maneuvered out into the lake. We had just about reached the point where I normally cut the engine and hoisted sail, when the engine saved us the trouble of pushing the "STOP" button. That darn engine just stopped cold and would not restart. I fiddled around with the engine long enough that we were about to be blown onto the rocks at the causeway. Sue hoisted the jib, and I hoisted the mainsail; the breeze filled them giving us some headway, and we avoided the rocks. A really exciting start to our pleasant afternoon sail!

Once underway, we decided that it wasn't too bad not to have the engine, 'cause we could sail to the marina; just so long as the breeze didn't quit! We settled down to some very pleasant sailing, and soon we found ourselves at the entrance to the channel leading up the cove to the marina.

As I said earlier, my boat had a fixed keel and needed four feet of water to keep her keel out of the muddy Lake Gunterville bottom. A quick check of the charts showed the channel was six to eight feet deep (plenty of water), but very narrow; and, at the edges of the channel, the water was only 2-3 feet deep. Clearly, this channel was not intended to be used by a boat under sail. So, even with no engine, I had no choice but to press-on, regardless. To give up at this point would have meant returning to my slip, and that was impossible because the waterway in my marina was too narrow to negotiate without an engine. Well, phooey, and other such words of disgust.

Press-on, regardless, and that's what we did. Lots of tacking would be required. Sue tended the jib, and I managed the main and the tiller. About a quarter of a mile up this channel, we were congratulating ourselves on our excellent seamanship, and feeling just very confident that all would turn out well. We could see the marina and knew we would be there soon; when, without warning, I had a lap-full of sail. The jib was still flying, but the mainsail was all piled-up on the floor of the cockpit and on me--the main halyard had parted. The rope that held up the mainsail had broken and the edge of the channel was coming up fast. We had sufficient momentum that I could turn back into the channel, but that was all.

The boat came dead in the water, and the wind started blowing us toward the shallows. I called to Sue to get the jib down, and I dove for the anchor, which was safely tucked away in the cabin. A not-too-smart move on my part to have the anchor so unavailable. By the time I got back on deck, Sue had the jib down, and the main cleared from the decks so I could tie-off the anchor line and drop the anchor overboard. Whew! We had avoided disaster for a second time. Our quiet afternoon of sailing had not turned out quite that way.

So, friends and neighbors, here we were--anchored on the edge of a narrow channel, without an engine; and, now, with no sails. What to do? We couldn't go forward, we couldn't go backward; we could, however, wade to shore through some very chilly water on a very muddy bottom, probably knee-deep in muck in places. That latter solution to our problem was not highly desirable.

A glance up the channel revealed a large houseboat motoring slowly down the channel toward the lake. As they came within shouting distance, I hailed them and asked for help. The skipper of the houseboat headed in our direction, pulled up short, and I explained our predicament. Bless his heart, he never even hesitated, he called for a tow-line; and, then, backed-off while I went to get one. When I returned with my tow line (50 feet of 1/2-in. nylon rope), there on his foredeck, was a lady about Sue's age dressed in her Izod cruise-wear, Aigner sandals, and freshly coiffured hair. In all of this finery, she was prepared to take our line and tie us off. I coiled my line and, hanging on to one end, threw to the houseboat, but it fell short. I carefully recoiled the now wet line and prepared to throw again. With one mighty heave, the line uncoiled as it streaked toward the lady. She threw her hands up to catch the line or to ward it off so it wouldn't hit her--I don't know which. My aim was perfect, that line went right through outstretched arms and landed in a sodden clump on her hair. If looks could kill, I would not be here today. All I could say was, "Oops, sorry," but that did little to repair her hair or dry her blouse. My line went over their life lines at the bow of their boat. She left it there and tied it off to a cleat on deck.

I pulled up our anchor, and the skipper started to back-off, when he noticed his life-lines and stanchions begin to bend and sag. He called to his lady, and told her in no uncertain terms to pass the tow line under the life-lines. The lady pulled herself up to her full 5'4" height and said, "I didn't come out here to be yelled at," and with that, stomped off into the cabin. Mutiny among the crew! Skipper came out of his pilot house (this was a BIG boat), took my line, and tied it off at his stern; and off we went toward the marina.

Sue went aft to handle the tiller and steer us, while I remained on the foredeck by the tow line and anchor, just in case. The next ten minutes or so passed very quietly. Sue had great sympathy for the mutinous crew, while I fully understood the problems faced by the skipper. Sue guided us quite expertly, while I served as her look-out and waited anxiously for the crew to reappear and cast off the tow line at the appropriate time.

By now, the marina was looming large, close, and very real; and our speed was, in my judgment, too great for the distance to the pier at the marina. Just as I was about to cast off the tow line myself--a dangerous move, 'cause it would have tangled in his propeller just as soon as he started to back-up--crew member appeared on the aft deck and just stood there. I called, very politely and gently, I thought, for her to "cast off the tow line." She made no move at all. The pier approached even closer. I called again, no movement. Then, I called, "Untie the rope." This made sense to her, and we were cast loose. By this time, we were almost alongside the pier and still moving fast. Skipper had stopped his boat and was starting to turn around by heading straight into the pier, preparatory to backing around. Sue had us running parallel to the pier, about two feet off (good helmsmanship), and we were almost slow enough



The Recipe Corner

By
SUE SCHWARZ

Has everyone had enough turkey? I hope you all had a great holiday filled with the love of family and friends. We were blessed by having our daughter, Chris, and her daughters with us for a few days.

Do you remember last month and my discussion about our friend Dean Bresseale? Well, we had the pleasure of enjoying a meal cooked by his and Loretta's son, Todd. He fixed us gnocchie with a wonderful tomato sauce for which he has promised to share the recipe. It was a great evening, and Todd is another super cook. Watch for those recipes; I'll share them, later.

Since I'm still into turkey leftovers, I found a good turkey hash recipe to share.

Turkey Hash

3 medium potatoes

1/2-2 t Herbes de Provence (a combination of oregano, thyme, rosemary will make a good substitute)

3 t butter

1 C onion, diced

1/2 C green or red bell pepper, diced

3 C cooked turkey, cubed

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Chicken or turkey broth, if needed

Parsley for garnish

Cook potatoes until just tender, cool, peel, and cut into 1/2" cubes. Set aside. Put herbs into skillet and warm slightly, then add butter and let melt. Add the onion and cook while stirring for a minute or two. Add bell pepper and let cook for 3-4 minutes. Add the potatoes, turkey, salt, and pepper. Let warm, adding broth if too dry. Garnish with parsley and serve at once with leftover gravy. It is best not to over cook, as the turkey will toughen and dry out.

Serves 4.

for me to jump to the pier with our bow line. Sue screamed, and I looked up to see the houseboat's port side not 10 feet away--and we were still moving. Skipper saw the same problem and gunned in reverse. He started back, I jumped. Sue put the tiller hard over to bring us to the pier, and disaster was avoided for the third time; as I snubbed the bow line on a cleat, and the houseboat backed-off enough to miss us by inches. Our boat stopped so suddenly that Sue almost was thrown overboard.

As the skipper motored slowly past us, we all waved. Sue and I thanked him for his help. Mutinous crew remained out of sight. Sue and I heaved a sigh of relief that we and the boat had survived a much too exciting adventure that had started out to be a pleasant Saturday afternoon sail. We sat and just looked at each other, and slowly it dawned on us just how our outing had turned out--the only thing we could do was laugh.

Just as an aside to this adventure, we did enter the race and our finish was 3rd out of 21. Not bad, considering the sailing experience level of the young folks who were actually handling the boat.

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The Menlo News

BY OVIE "BO" BLALOCK

Miss Charlene Powell retired from her job as branch manager of the Menlo Library after 33 years service. She was hired as the branch manager of the library on July 1, 1963. A reception in her honor was held on Sunday Oct. 20, by the Chattooga County Library Board of Trustees and Friends of the Chattooga County Library, at the Menlo City Hall. Tracey Younce will be the new branch manager. The new hours of the Menlo Public Library are 2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Recently, members of the Chattooga Young Farmers (YF), the Chattooga High School FFA, and the Chattooga County 4-H club were able to visit a class of elementary school students in Menlo to share with them the importance of agriculture in their everyday lives.

Menlo Eighth Graders made their annual trip to Georgia's coast leaving Oct. 13 and returning Oct. 18. The trip included a tour of Savannah and an overnight campout at Skidaway State Park, three days at Jekyll Island 4-H Center in the Environmental Studies Program, and a day and night on Cumberland Island hiking and camping. Students were accompanied by teachers Mark Pickle, Ann Hutchins, and Jared Hosmer. Parent chaperones were Eddie Kerce, Kathy Montgomery, and Howard Durham.

Congratulations to Michael L. Sellers Jr., of Menlo, who has been named as one of North Georgia College's 10 Distinguished Military Students for the 1996-97 school year. Cadet Captain Sellers, a senior, was the 1995-96 commander of the Echo Company. Of his experience in NGC's ROTC program, Cadet Captain Sellers said, "It has helped develop my leadership responsibilities." The Distinguished Military Student honor is reserved for cadets who attend ROTC Advanced Camp during the summer and are accepted into the U.S. Army in the fall. To receive the designation, students must also: possess outstanding qualities of leadership and high moral character, exhibit aptitude for and interest in military service, demonstrate initiative and leadership capabilities through participation in campus and civic activities, and maintain academic standing.

Deepest sympathy to the families of:
•Mary L. Wilson, 76, Menlo, who died Oct. 5;
•Ewing Hamilton Goodson, 70, Menlo, who died Oct. 20;
•Esther Hammonds, 72, Menlo, who died Nov. 3.

Menlo Elementary School Honor Roll

Menlo Elementary School announces its A and A-B Honor Rolls, STAR Student and Most Improved for the first nine weeks. They are:

A HONOR ROLL

Fourth grade — Hope Burge, Bryanne Hatt, Ben Swords and Justin Swords.

Fifth grade — Freddy Bryson, Erica Dover, Courtney Duke, John Hall, Doni Lee and Katie Kerce.

Sixth grade — John Brown, Anna Hall, Casey Luther, Clint McMurray, T.J. Pierce and Kenya Webb.

Seventh grade — Erin DeMesquita, Lindsey Nixon and Sunny Smith.

Eighth grade — Sarah Kerce.

A-B HONOR ROLL

Miles Bagley, Justin Canada, Chris Crowe, Branch Harper, Sarah Hedgis, Sarah Jane Hunter, Miranda Hurley, Fawn Kitchens, Cassie Maloney, Matthew Middleton, Carrie Patty, Maggie Rich, Shannon Sammons and Nikita Williams.

Fifth grade — Chris Blackmon, Derek Bullard, Luis Cardenas, Kasey Carter, Chase Hegwood, Jessie Hurley, Katie Kerce, Kim Middleton, Keri Beth Pettitt, Anna Prince, Leanna Robinson, Tyler Vanhorn, Jana Ward, Ashley Wilcox and Jacob Woodard.

Sixth grade — Jennifer Benedict, Corey Crawford, Caris Farrar, Samantha Maloney, Kandy McGill and Jeremy Wooten.

Seventh grade — Richard Bartholomew, Tessa Brock, Jennifer Carroll, Guthrie Frazier, Kasey Green, Amanda Hartman, Ryan Hudgins, Leslie Hurley, Jennifer Jones, Steele Lee, Curtis Long, Amy Prince, Leah Stoker and Ashley Swicegood.

Eighth grade — Robert Brown, April Elrod, Blake Gazaway, Jonathan Hegwood, Ashley Montgomery, Greg Smith and Mandy Yarbrough.

MOST IMPROVED STUDENTS

First grade — Christopher Elrod and Tyler Witter.

Second grade — Cody Goza and Emily Bowman.

Third grade — Ashley Tishaw and Dana Yancey.

Fourth grade — Kenny Cooper and Lee Turner.

Fifth grade — Eric Brown and Elizabeth Smith.

Sixth grade — Jennifer Benedict and Matt Robinson.

Seventh grade — Brian Precise.



FIRST BIRTHDAY

Hunter Thomas Whited celebrated his first birthday Oct. 19 with a Winnie-the-Pooh party. His parents are Laura and Heath Whited, Trion. Hunter's grandparents are Connie and Tom Parker, LaFayette, Wilma and Wayne Whited, Trion. His great-grandparents are the late Bernice and Ernest Parker and Dorothy Stone, Chickamauga, Sarah and Harold Gregory, Cloudland, Myra Whited Shankles, Sylvania, Ala., and the late Clinton Whited.



ONE YEAR OLD

Lightnin Blaine Croy celebrated his first birthday Sept. 8. He is the son of April and Jeremy Croy, Menlo. He is the grandson of Dottie Tucker, Menlo, Buddy Tucker, Trion, Wanda and Ricky Croy, Berryton. He is the great-grandson of Sarah and Willie Smith, Menlo, Howard and Helen Odom, Berryton, Mary Tucker, Trion, George Croy, Summerville. The great-great-grandmother is Beulah Berry, Grove Oak, Ala.



It's a boy!

Eddie and Tammy Ballenger of Cloudland, Ga., announce the birth of their son, Levi Dalton Ballenger, born November 2, 1996, at Floyd Medical Center in Rome, Ga. He weighed 7 lb. 10 oz. and was 20 inches long. He has a sister, Amanda Prestwood.



FOUR YEARS OLD

Emily Sara Purcell is the daughter of Patti and Don Purcell, Austell. She has a brother, Will, age one. Her grandparents are Doris and Paul Purcell, Trion, and Jo Anne and Arnold Brown, Atlanta. Her great-grandparents are Mildred and "Shorty" Wilkerson, Trion, and Margie Purcell, Menlo.



THIRD BIRTHDAY

Hannah Nichole Hall, Newnan, celebrated her third birthday Sept. 29 with her family in Trion. Hannah's parents are Mike and Bonita (Whited) Hall, Newnan. She has one brother, Ethan Joseph Hall. Her grandparents are Gene and Betty Hall, Wayne and Wilma Whited, Trion. Hannah's great-grandparents are Bramlett and Mary Lou Hall, Trion, Harold and Sarah Gregory, Cloudland, Myra Whited Shankles, Sylvania, Ala., and the late Clinton Whited, and the late Joe and Irene Hales.



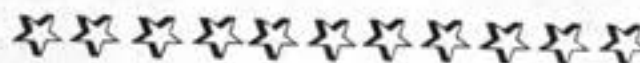
FIFTH BIRTHDAY

Taylor Hunter celebrated his fifth birthday Oct. 15 with a skating party. Taylor is the son of Darry and Julie Hunter, Menlo. He is the grandson of Willie and Glenda Gass, Menlo; Sue Hunter, Broomtown; and Fred and Dale Hunter, Menlo.



ONE YEAR OLD

William Lane "Will" Purcell is the son of Patti and Don Purcell, Austell. He has a sister, Emily, four. His grandparents are Doris and Paul Purcell, Trion, and Jo Anne and Arnold Brown, Atlanta. Her great-grandparents are Mildred and "Shorty" Wilkerson, Trion, and Margie Purcell, Menlo.



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THE SHELDON P. COX MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS DEKALB COUNTY ALUMNI CHAPTER

Tuscaloosa, Ala. - A scholarship fund honoring the late Sheldon P. Cox has been established through the DeKalb County Alumni Chapter of The University of Alabama National Alumni Association. The fund was created by the Cox family of Mentone, Ala. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a DeKalb County student attending The University of Alabama, and will be offered first to a Valley Head, AL, student applying for the scholarship, as Mr. Cox graduated from Valley Head High School.

Sheldon Cox, a Mentone native, was a 1974 graduate of The University of Alabama College of Commerce & Business Administration. He worked for the last 10 years as General Manager with Hotel Group of America in San Francisco, where he was living at the time of his death in March of this year.

The National Alumni Association is comprised of more than 33,000 alumni and friends of The University of Alabama. Through membership contributions, the NAA annually provides more than \$1 million in direct scholarship awards to deserving students attending the University. In addition, the NAA sponsors Homecoming, reunions and other campus events throughout the year and manages an extensive alumni network nationwide.

Contributions to The Sheldon P. Cox Memorial Endowed Scholarship can be sent to the National Alumni Association, P.O. Box 861928, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-0017.

VETERANS HONORED AT ANNUAL GATHERING OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 215

By Marilyn Blanton Campbell, historian

Monday evening, November 11, American Legion Post 215 hosted their annual Veterans Day Supper honoring local veterans with a lovely celebratory covered dish meal at the legion home on Cove Road in Mentone. The men of the legion post impeccably cleaned the building and decorated it using a patriotic motif. The ladies of the legion unit provided the food, did the publicity, duplicated the song sheets, took the pictures, and served the tea and coffee.

Commander Jesse Crabtree welcomed the crowd to the Veterans Day Supper, and Howard Carson, post Chaplain, said the blessing before the food was served buffet style. As a rule, the abundance and variety of foods are always a source of amazement at legion gatherings, and this time was no exception. The ladies brought enough food for a group that size many times over, and all of it was remarkably good. The relaxed atmosphere, the genuine enjoyment of the company, and the savoring of the food made the whole occasion a pleasure to one and all.

After the truly fine meal, Commander Crabtree called the assemblage to order, and Chaplain Carson offered the invocation. Commander Crabtree thanked the ladies for their efforts and introduced Marilyn Blanton Campbell, legion unit historian, who gave a report relating the positive results the ladies of the unit found on their October 23 trip to the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville, read a note of appreciation from Mrs. Grace Poe (wife of D. C. Poe, one of the veterans visited on the Fann home trip), and related other relevant unit activities.

The active contingent of ladies in the legion unit is a small but busy group. In addition to their visit, the ladies have established a card-sending campaign for DeKalb County's veterans residing at the Fann home. Halloween cards have been sent as well as the applicable birthday cards. The ladies have purchased Thanksgiving cards for the county's veterans, and they have Christmas cards enough for the entire resident population of the Fann home already signed, sealed, and ready to be sent out at the proper time. There are seven veterans from this county living at the Fann home, and the ladies of the legion unit have secured subscriptions to the DeKalb Advertiser for the four of those gentlemen who wanted them.

Commander Crabtree introduced the featured speaker, Colonel George S. Walker, United States Air Force, Retired. Col. Walker started his segment of the program by having the group stand and sing "America" to musical accompaniment provided by Barry Crow on the electric keyboard. Col. Walker gave a very interesting talk on the subject of "power" and regaled the group with "war stories" from his peacetime days in the Alaskan bush. His account of the encounter with and the second guessing of a very large and highly disgruntled moose had everybody in stitches, and his fashion tips on how and when to wear which kind of snow shoes may well prove valuable at Mentone if we have another winter like the last one. On a more serious note, Col. Walker discussed American military preparedness in the past, the present, and the future. Col. Walker introduced his charming wife, Hope, as his mainstay throughout his military career and afterward. Col. Walker ended his segment with the group's singing of "America the Beautiful," again accompanied by Barry Crow on the electric keyboard.

Commander Crabtree commented on the success of the legion post's Colorfest project, asked for additional reports, thanked everybody for coming, and adjourned the assemblage, all of whom seemed to have had a wonderful time and enjoyed the occasion thoroughly.

SPORTS

AFIELD

By
PHIL HARRIS



Press time came too early, and Phil's column will not be in this month's issue of The Groundhog. However, Phil wanted the readers to know that North Jackson High School has been cleared of any wrong doing as had been reported in last month's issue. He apologizes for any misinformation that appeared in his column.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See you next month.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Friends of Little River

Tuesday, November 19, at 7 p.m., the membership and board meeting of Friends of Little River was held at Fischer Rescue Squad Building in Fort Payne for the purpose of electing the 1996-1997 officers. Elected were:

President - Desmond Disney
Vice President - Joe Wright
Secretary - Marie S. Dillenbeck
Treasurer - Theresa Cox
Parliamentarian - Don Lucy
Members at large - Ruth Ann Mitchell and Rob Hammond.

Tory Milazzo Sr. and Melanie Blackwell have one more year to serve as members at large.

The next board meeting is on Jan. 21, 1997, the third Tuesday. The public is welcome.

Friends of Little River has completed its newsletter, *Currents*, which has been mailed out to the membership and other individuals and supporters. The Friends of Little River is a diverse group of volunteers dedicated to the protection of a unique natural wonder. The Friends have been active in many ways to secure the wild and pristine quality of the Little River. To accomplish this, it held public meetings, lobbied government officials, sponsored speakers, conducted clean-ups, participated in the Alabama Water Watch monitoring program, established educational outreaches, and supported environmental projects. The development of a permanent field school on Lookout Mountain is its primary focus. We encourage you to support this effort by becoming a member, or making a tax-deductible contribution of \$10.00 for annual dues, \$25.00 for three years, or \$150 for lifetime membership. Send your name, address, and check to:

The Friends of Little River
P.O. Box 111
Mentone, AL 35984

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Curriculum	Clock Hours*
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Pregnancy Massage	20
Anatomy-Physiology	170
T-M-J	10
Reflexology	20
Research Project	20
Practicum	60
Clinic & Community	60
Hydrotherapy	60
Business Skills & Ethics	20
CPR	10
TOTAL HOURS	650

*A clock hour is defined as a minimum of fifty (50) minutes of supervised classroom instruction.

Massages are available by appointment.

Call 635-0840.

"Mentone-A History"

reprinted

M.A.P.A. now has reprinted Zora Strayhorn's book "Mentone-A History". They can be purchased at the Hitching Post and at the Kountry Chef Restaurant. We may place some at other places soon. The book is \$10.00 and it gives good history of the area.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANTATA DECEMBER 15, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

"An Old Fashioned Christmas" is the theme for the 1996 Christmas Cantata to be performed by the Community Choir under the direction of DeVann Jackson, according to spokesperson Priscilla Monroe of Valley Head.

The first performance will be at Moon Lake Baptist Church at 5 p.m., Sunday, December 15. The second will be at the Valley Head Baptist Church on the same evening at 7 p.m. Come and attend one or both performances. Refreshments are served after each performance.

MAPA Annual Christmas Party for the Children

By Bernise Crow

The MAPA annual Christmas party for the children will be Friday, Dec. 13, at the Mentone Town Hall, at 4 p.m. More details will be coming. The North DeKalb Ministerial Association works with MAPA on this project. They do filled stockings, and MAPA members give presents to the children. Santa will be there, of course. We have not worked out a plan for a parade, but hope to have one.

The Community Christmas tree will be lit, with carol singing following the children's program.

Remember this date, and bring your children to the party.

*Glad Tidings
to All*

😊😊😊 Thank you 😊😊😊

On behalf of the DeSoto Rescue Squad and the Valley Head Fire Department, I want to thank all the kids who came out to our Halloween party. Thanks to all the merchants of Valley Head that gave out treats. I also would like to take this time to say a Big Thanks to Denny and Paula Grisham, the new owners of The Country Station Hardware of Valley Head, for the hayride, and to all the volunteers who helped put the hayride together. The Lord will bless you for the smile😊 that you put on the kids' faces. Again, thank you all.

Gail Crider,
DeSoto Rescue Squad

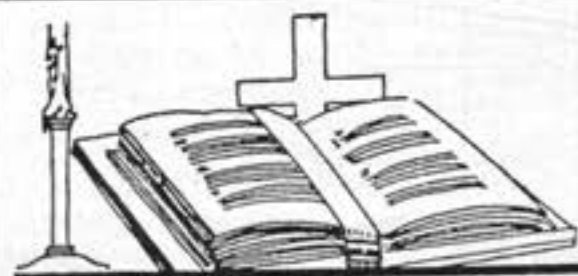
** Thank you **

As an expression of my appreciation for all who contributed to the DeKalb Educational Foundation's recent fund drive, I want to thank everyone who participated. With your help, we achieved our targeted goal—to be matched by funds from Alabama Power. All of DeKalb County's and Fort Payne's public primary and secondary educators will soon be invited to submit their grant proposals. Selected proposals will receive funding during school year '97-'98. With these awards, teachers will see some of their professional dreams come to fruition with and for our children.

A special thank you is for MAPA, whose generous contribution of \$1,000 is designated for Moon Lake School. (Designated contributions, along with match monies, fund chosen projects at the specified school.) This gift and several other donations from individuals in our community insured that an even greater array of creative educational experiences will occur at Moon Lake School. What a wonderful gift to Mentone! For many children, doors of possibility will open that otherwise would have remained closed.

Thanks for believing in our teachers and for supporting their efforts.

Sincerely, Frances Waller,
DeKalb Educational Foundation
Mentone Community Representative



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulders: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9:6*

Many years before it happened, Isaiah prophesied of Christ's coming. Yet, the people could not believe when it happened. But it did happen—maybe not like they wanted it to happen.

The Angels told the apostles, "this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Isaiah 1:11

As we celebrate His birthday, let us keep in mind, He is coming back!

Have a Very Merry Christmas!"

Scholarship Deadline

High school students who are U.S. citizens and have a grade point average of "B" or better are eligible for a \$1,000 college scholarship. To receive an application, send a request by December 15, 1996, to the Educational Communications Scholarship Foundation at 721 North McKinley Road, P.O. Box 5012, Lake Forest, IL 60045-5012.

Fax a request to (847) 295-3972; or e-mail a request to "scholar@ecsf.com".

All requests for applications must include the student's name, permanent home address, city, state, zip code, name of high school, approximate GPA, and year in school during the 1996-97 academic year.

Applications will be fulfilled by mail only, on or about January 15, 1997. One hundred and seventy-five winners will be selected on the basis of academic performance, involvement in extracurricular activities, and some consideration for financial need. A total of \$175,000 will be awarded.

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Peace On Earth

(Assistant Editor's note: This past year, so many friends and loved ones have passed away. Collette Kerby, owner of the Log Cabin Deli in Mentone, sent me a copy following the death of Dr. Pat. Collette's brother had given it to her when their mother died. He had received it from a friend. With her permission, I am sharing it with the readers, so they, too, may find comfort during their time of grieving. —Marie Dillenbeck)

Benjamin Franklin in a letter to a Miss Hubbard on the occasion of the death of his brother, John Franklin:

Philadelphia, 23d February, 1756.

I console with you. We have lost a most dear and valuable relation. But it is the will of God and nature that these mortal bodies be laid aside when the soul is to enter into real life. This is rather an embryo state, a preparation for living. A man is not completely born until he be dead. Why, then, should we grieve that a new child is born among the immortals, a new member added to their happy society?

We are spirits. That bodies should be lent us while they can afford us pleasure, assist us in acquiring knowledge, or in doing good to our fellow creatures, is a kind and benevolent act of God. When they become unfit for these purposes and afford us pain instead of pleasure, instead of an aid become an incumbrance, and answer none of the intentions for which they were given, it is equally kind and benevolent that a way is provided by which we may get rid of them. Death is that way. We ourselves, in some cases, prudently choose a partial death. A mangled, painful limb which cannot be restored we willingly cut off. He who plucks out a tooth parts with it freely, since the pain goes with it; and he who quits the whole body parts at once with all pains and possibilities of pains and diseases which it was liable to or capable of making him suffer.

Our friend and we were invited aboard on a party of pleasure which is to last forever. His chair was ready first and he is gone before us. We could not all conveniently start together, and why should you and I be grieved at this, since we are soon to follow and know where to find him? Adieu,

B. Franklin