

**Celebrating  
16 Years  
in Print**

**THE**

# GROUNDHOG

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**Provided FREE  
Since 1982  
By M.A.P.A.**

Volume 16, No. 12

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

December 1998

## History of the Musical Mountain Christmas in Mentone

*Come Enjoy Our*  
**MUSICAL MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS**  
**MENTONE, ALABAMA**

**DEC. 4**  
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY  
ALABAMA 117 & DESOTO PKY. 89 5 PM

**DEC. 5**  
MERCHANT'S HOSPITALITY OPEN HOUSES  
WITH REFRESHMENTS  
10 AM TO 5 PM

**PHOTOS WITH SANTA AT BOY'S KREATIONS**  
HIGHWAY 117 1 TO 3 PM

**MOUNTAIN MUSIC AT MENTONE SUPPERETTE**  
HIGHWAY 117 1 TO 3 PM

**DEC. 11**  
MENTONE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY  
COME OUT FOR ALL COMMUNITY SING AT CHRISTMAS TREE  
CORNER AL 117 & DESOTO PKY. 89 8 PM

**DEC. 12**  
MERCHANT'S HOSPITALITY OPEN HOUSES  
WITH REFRESHMENTS  
10 AM TO 5 PM

**AREA CHURCHES CAROL & GROUPS SING**  
LOU CABIN VILLAGE 10 AM TO 5 PM

**SANTA VISITS STORES THROUGHOUT MENTONE**

**DEC. 13**  
COMMUNITY CHORUS CHRISTMAS CANTATA  
MOON LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH 8 PM  
VALLEY HEAD BAPTIST CHURCH 7 PM

**DEC. 31**  
RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH GOSPEL SINGING  
DESSIE'S COUNTRY CHIEF HWY. 117 8 PM-MIDNIGHT

*More Information? Contact Corinne Caplano, Chairperson (256) 634-8816 or  
Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) 634-4841 & 1-800-340-7381*

**By Marie S. Dillenbeck**

In the December 1983 issue, under the title, 1983 Holiday Festival will Illuminate Mentone Dec. 10-11, an article read: "Mentone's gala and sparkling 1983 holiday celebration on December 10 and 11 is called a 'Wintery Wonderful Christmas' to be produced and coordinated by local merchants, residents, and the Mentone Area Preservation Association. Decoration and lighting themes will reflect Mentone of the 1920's when the area bustled and shone with rural radiance."

"Activities will begin on Saturday, December 10 (1983). Santa will be in Cabin Village (behind the Log Cabin Deli) from noon till 8 p.m. Christmas wreaths will be for sale in Santa's special cabin. MAPA members will make and donate wreaths."

"The Candy Cane Circuit tour of homes will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. This will also be repeated on Sunday, December 11, except for Cragsmere Manna."

"Saturday afternoon at 3 there will be a skiing exhibition at Cloudmont. At 6 pm. The community Christmas tree will be lighted on the lawn of the Mentone Inn in Historic Hotel Square. There will be a choral group singing. At 9 o'clock there will be candlelight skiing at Cloudmont."

"Chairpeople of the celebration are John Hilderbrand, Randy Still and Amelia Brooks."

"Merchants and residents wishing to enter the lighting contest should contact Amelia Brooks at the Mentone Inn, or John Hilderbrand at

the Cameron Craft Cottage. The first place award to residences will be \$50 and to businesses, \$25. The judges will concentrate on the appropriate naturalness of decorations and lighting. They urge the use of native greenery. Judging of the lighting and decorations will take place on Friday, December 9."

"There will be coupon books available for sale with discount prices from special participating local merchants. Proceeds will go to aid MAPA in implementing its various community projects."

In the December 1984 issue:

Musical Mountain Christmas:

The Last Centennial Event

"The last event of the year's Centennial Celebration is the Musical Mountain Christmas, according to Geri and Ed Disney, coordinators. This will occur the weekend of Dec. 15 and 16."

"Saturday afternoon, Dec. 15, will feature the lighting of the community tree at 5 p.m. The Community Chorus, under the direction of David Mays, will sing, and Ed Disney will be the master of ceremonies."

"On Saturday from 2 till 4, there will be an old fashioned Christmas at the Mentone Springs Hotel, with refreshments by MAPA. Drew Wolcott will be Santa with gifts for the little ones; refreshments will be served. There will be singing and music for everyone. Families inadvertently omitted from the Centennial Tea ceremony honoring founding families will be honored at this occasion."

"EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ALL OF THESE EVENTS."

"The Community Chorus Gives Christmas Cantata."

"The Community Chorus will present three performances of a Christmas Cantata, 'King of Love,' by Rodger Strader. Director David Mays announces that there will be two renditions on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 5 p.m. at the Valley Head Baptist Church, and at 7 p.m. at the Moon Lake Baptist Church. A third performance will be presented at the United Methodist Church in Mentone, Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m."

"The group will also be at the Mentone community tree lighting ceremony to sing carols on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 5 p.m."

December 1985 issue:

Musical Mountain Christmas:

Parade, Songs, Goodies

"Mentone's Musical Mountain Christmas begins this Saturday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. with a parade beginning at the triangle and moving to Old Hotel Square. All citizens are invited to gather at the Post Office parking lot."

"According to coordinator Angelo Rosario, the procession will be led by Police Chief Colquitt Jones in the patrol car, followed by representatives of the town council, ministers and their congregations."

(Continued on Page 5.)

**To Subscribe to the  
Groundhog,  
See Page 2.**

### Please Mail Early!

Mentone Postmaster, Benny Goss, asks that everyone please get their Christmas cards and packages in the mail as early as possible. Mailing early will ensure that your mail is received on time. If you need products to mail your gifts, the post office has some on hand for your use. No long lines in Mentone.

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### SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

- Tuesday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m., MAPA Christmas covered dish supper/meeting, Dessie's Kountry Chef
- Dec. 4-Dec.13 Musical Mountain Christmas (See flyer.)
- Monday, Dec. 7, 6 p.m. (NOTE THE TIME!) Mentone Council Meeting, Town Hall

Place of Christmas Party to be announced (See flyer.)

- Thursday, Dec. 17, 4 p.m., Town Hall Quarterly Zoning Meeting
- Friday, Dec. 18, Schools are out for holidays
- Saturday, Dec. 19, Valley Head Christmas Parade

# THE GROUNDHOG

P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

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

Editor..... Evelyn Graves  
Associate Editor/ typesetter..... Marie Dillenbeck  
Contributing Writers..... Ruby Brock, Linda Brown, Eloise Brown, Madeleine Bullock, Marilyn Campbell, Bernise Crow, Marie Dillenbeck, Dowe Foreman, Evelyn Graves, Phil Harris, Lisa Moore, Sue Schwarz, Jennifer Smith

## MAPA OFFICERS

President..... Homer Crow  
Vice President.....  
Secretary..... Corinne Caplano  
Treasurer..... Dessie Newberry  
Parliamentarian..... Bernise Crow  
Member-At-Large..... Dorothy Crow  
Member-At-Large..... Lucille Crowe

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

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

The DEADLINE for all material for The Groundhog is the 15TH DAY OF THE MONTH preceding publication. The Groundhog is due out by the 25th of each month.

## --PUBLIC NOTICE--

MENTONE PLANNING  
AND ZONING COMMISSION  
Meeting Date: December 17, 4 PM

All meetings are held in the town public meeting room and are open to the public.

## ---SPECIAL NOTICE---

The Town of Mentone's Zoning Ordinance prohibits signs placed off premises, i.e., not on property being advertised for sale or rent, either by owner or real estate entity.

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ASSOCIATION (MAPA)  
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# MAPA November MEETING



The November MAPA meeting was held on Nov. 3. Homer Crow presided. In accordance with the bylaws, the board met and selected Homer to take the office of presidency that was created by the resignation of Jerry Waters at the last meeting due to business concerns.

Dick Keefer, representing the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District thanked the members for their support. He said with the passage of Local Amendment #1, the volunteer fire departments will realize funds to buy equipment and receive training. The State Fire College has training classes, and the most recent one was held in Rainsville. It is a 160-hour course (4 weeks) and there needs to be a minimum of 25 participants. Training will reduce insurance rates for home owners.

The MAPA annual Christmas Party is Dec. 1, at Dessie's Kountry Chef. It will be covered dish, with Dessie cooking the meat that MAPA provides. Everyone was asked to donate \$1.00 each toward cleanup after the party and to bring a gift of not more than \$10 in value to the party.

The board voted not to have a January meeting, so the next meeting after the Christmas Party is in February, February 2, Groundhog Day, weather permitting, that is.

Homer thanked Jack Jones for the successful bonfire at the Colorfest. It was the best one ever!

The annual lighting of the Community Christmas Tree is to be Friday, December 4, at 5 PM. Jack Johnston to help put the Christmas lights up.

Musical Mountain Christmas has been planned, and Corinne Caplano is the chairperson for all of the events. (See the flyer elsewhere.) MAPA is planning to revive the Musical Mountain Christmas with the help of the local merchants who plan to have an open house on the first week-end of December, Dec. 5 and 6.

The meeting was adjourned to eat delicious refreshments.

## Christmas in Mentone

By Bernise Crow

A celebration for the Christmas season in Mentone has already been planned, and we want to urge everyone to be a part of it. We have had a musical mountain Christmas mentioned in our brochure for years, and we intend to follow through with it this year.

The Christmas lighted wreaths were placed on light posts in the town this week. Mr. Jack Johnston of the GTE phone company helped Homer Crow, and others in putting them up. There will be a community Christmas tree on the lot at the Mentone Inn. All those wishing to help decorate the tree after it is set up, call the number below.

We work with the North DeKalb Ministerial Association to have a party for all children in the area. Corinne Caplano will be chairing this project and would appreciate everyone assisting her. Check the flyer on the front and back page to see when the events will be taking place. Let's have a beautifully decorated Mentone and surrounding area.

Call 1-888-340-3381 or 634-4041 to volunteer.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

November 10, 1998

Editor: Evelyn Graves

In reference to an article in your publication Volume 16, No. 11, page 19, titled "COUNTY ROADS CARRY 45 MPH SPEED LIMIT." It is stated that all people who get an Alabama Drivers license is supposed to be part of general knowledge, maintained by that person, has the responsibility to know the standardized non-posted speed limit of 45 mph on all county roads.

It seems as if this does not take in the consideration of all the out-of-state drivers that pass through your state with their own state's drivers license. They may not know of your states standardized non-posted speed limit of 45 mph. These normal law abiding people may be cruising along at 55 mph not knowing they are breaking the law by speeding. Other wise these people could get a ticket. If the road had the posted 45 mph speed limit, they would not have been speeding. The local law enforcement may take this into consideration, at their discretion of situation of the infraction.

This is a win/win situation for the state of Alabama. They save money for not having the expense of putting up all those extra signs, plus get extra revenue on fines from the speeding tickets of out-of-state drivers.

Sincerely Yours,

JD. White, Annuchee, GA

enclosure: copy of article

November 23, 1998

Dear Editor,

While visiting one of your local parks, I observed 2 cats who obviously had been put out and abandoned by their owners. They were so hungry they ate what we were eating--peanuts and fruit! We later returned & took them a huge bag of cat food--hoping that someone would rescue them.

Let me say to the people of Mentone--it is heartless and cruel to abandon pets. If God cares about a sparrow, He will surely get you for that.

Sandra Waguespacks  
Roswell, GA

## Do you have a picture or an article you would like to submit?

To submit pictures for an issue of The Groundhog, please get them in by the 15th of each month to either Evelyn Graves or Marie Dillenbeck. Copy or articles should be in no later than the 20th, so the paper can be printed on the 25th of each month. Thank you.

Greetings at Christmastime

## SPORTS AFIELD

By  
PHIL HARRIS



### NATIONAL SPORTS AT A GLANCE

One of my fans left me an interesting message a couple weeks ago. He wanted to know how I came up with my top ten. Well, I do believe it continues to be Tennessee and UCLA at or near the top. Last month, it was UCLA one and Tennessee two. Overrated Ohio State fell to lowly Michigan State. If Kansas State was as good as they think they are, they would have shelled Nebraska. Nebraska lost to Texas and Texas was blown out by UCLA. My first instinct was to call the gentleman back and explain, but I decided to let things play out. I'm still waiting for the gentleman to call back and tell me, "Phil, you do know a little about football." I guess he is only man enough to talk to an answering machine. The SEC is the premier conference in college football. Always has been and always will be!

The Tide continues to improve. They came from 17 points down to defeat Auburn in the Iron Bowl. Mississippi State upset Arkansas and controls their own destiny for the Western division title. If the Bulldogs defeat Ole Miss Thanksgiving, they will play opposite Tennessee for the SEC championship. Did you know that eight teams from the SEC conference are bowl eligible? Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Arkansas, Ole Miss, Miss State, and Kentucky.

UCLA and Tennessee are on a collision course to play in the Fiesta Bowl for the national title. Kansas State has to hope one of them loses to have a title shot. The Bruins need only to defeat Miami on December 5th. The Vols have to defeat Vanderbilt and win the SEC title game. Kansas State still has to play Texas A&M for the Big XII title. The Aggies are good.

**Groundhog Top Ten:** 1. UCLA, 2. Tennessee, 3. FSU, 4. Kansas State, 5. Ohio St., 6. Florida, 7. Texas AM, 8. Arizona, 9. Georgia Tech, 10. Wisconsin.

**NASCAR** Jeff Gordon completed an outstanding racing season with a record 13 wins. It's amazing how, in a sport that is made as equal as possible for everyone, Gordon just dominates. The Winston Cup title is Gordon's again. Mark Martin had a pretty good season in his own right. Six wins is nothing to sneeze at.

**NBA** The strike lingers on. The important issue is greed. How much more can the NBA milk out of fans remains to be seen. All the owners and players need to get together and pay Michael Jordan to keep playing. He is the only player worth anywhere near what he is paid. There are so many average players making too many dollars for too many teams.

**BASEBALL** The Atlanta Braves have acquired second baseman Brett Boone and outfielder Brian Jordan. The Braves are rock solid, now. Bobby Cox and Company want a World Series, bad!

**PRO-FOOTBALL** Denver and Minnesota have dominated the NFL season. The Broncos' offensive line is just amazing. The Vikings' passing game is nearly unstoppable.

Hey, what about the dirty bird Atlanta Falcons? They lead the NFC's western division with a 9-2 record. Yes, they lead the NFC western division over San Francisco. I keep saying it over and over, again, trying to make myself believe it.

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL** It's too early to tell who is good and who is not. Duke, Connecticut, Stanford, and Kentucky are most prognosticators' top picks. March Madness is a long way off—it's definitely worth the wait.

**Groundhog National Champion pick:** Connecticut.

The SEC is, as usual, Kentucky's to lose. After all, they have the best coach in the country. Tennessee, Florida, and Arkansas have talented teams, and could give the Wildcats a run for the title.

**Groundhog SEC picks:**

East: 1. Kentucky, 2. Florida, 3. Tennessee, 4. Georgia, 5. South Carolina, 6. Vanderbilt.

Tennessee's women had their 46-game winning streak snapped by Purdue. The Lady Vols are human after all. They are still the overwhelming favorite to win the woman's national title.

The SEC has six teams ranked in the top 25: Tennessee (3), Georgia (6), Alabama (8), Florida (13), Arkansas (14), Vanderbilt (18).

**Groundhog national champion pick:** Tennessee

### SPORTS ON THE SCENE

The Tiger football team finished the season at 2-8. Two wins are nothing to write home to Momma about, but Valley Head improved leaps and bounds. I wish the young men that walk the halls of Valley Head School really knew what it meant to wear the purple and gold. Maybe more would play!

The Valley Head Tiger basketball teams are underway. Everyone knows about the Lady Tigers' success year after year. This year, they may be overshadowed by the boys team. The boys walloped Geraldine to run the season's record to 3-0. The boys had not had a winning season since 1986-87. The girls are currently 4-1 after a last second loss to Geraldine.

Both teams compete in 2A area 14 with Section, Skyline, Ider, and Fyffe. The girls compete with Fyffe for area supremacy. The boys side looks like Section will be the favorite. Skyline and Valley Head, on paper, are a little behind the Lions.

Girls team members are: Ashley Blalock, Candace Fuller, Amanda Hall, Tabitha Brisendine, Heather Williamson, Laura Martin, Jennifer Brubaker, Nina Stanfill, Christy Sweatman, Brandy Johnson, Kayla Wilbanks, and Christy Hatfield.

The boys team members are: Slade Carden, Derek Talley, Jeremy Hyde, Toby Crider, Kyle Freeman, Johnathan Browder, Daniel Brown, Thomas Brendle, Jesse Clements, and Dennis McDonald.

The High School playoffs were not kind to area teams this year. This was the worst we've done in a long time. DeKalb County teams all lost in the first round: Collinsville to Carrollton, Plainview to Good Hope, Ider to Lineville, Fyffe to Clay County, and Crossville to Springville.

Sand Rock and North Sand Mountain did make it to the second round. They fell to Clay County and Springville, respectively.

Well, that does it for another month. Merry Christmas and God Bless. See you next time.



Ho... Ho... Ho... Merry Christmas

## From Between the Counters

By  
BRUTUS



Merry Christmas to all you fans. Jeff, the younger human that I own here in Atlanta, has been chasing moi around the island in the kitchen, every night. Well, moi cut him off and chased Jeff. Boy, was he surprised about that magnificent move by your royal highness, moi.

One night moi wanted to go outside and Jeff's dad said, "NO!" On moi's way out the door, he stuck his foot out in front of moi to stop the great one from his exit, and moi "accidentally" bit his toe.

As you can see, moi is keeping them in stitches over here in Atlanta, just as back in Mentone.

Hope everyone has a safe holiday. Tell all the little ones hello from the great one! Moi has heard that Santa Clause is coming to all the good little girls and boys.

Moi wishes you all "MERRY CHRISTMAS!"

## --NOTICE-- New Mentone Water Customers

If you live in the Baty Community and have not already paid your meter deposits, you must do so before your water is hooked up to the main lines.

The Baty Community and customers on Alabama Hwy 117 from Moon Lake Baptist Church will all be receiving water from the new six inch line. Those with meters that are being reconnected to the 6" line, will not owe any further deposit. Those in the Baty and Lee Crowe areas must pay a meter deposit and set up fee of \$85.00. This must be paid in order to receive the water.

The Lee Crowe Community will receive water as soon as the pump station is installed at the water tower. It is possible that water will be available by Christmas. Please be patient while the work is in progress. Thank you.

TOWN OF MENTONE.

# Mentone Grapevine II

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

Continue to keep the following in your prayers: Rev. Edmund Crowe, Buddy Vetzal, Jewel Baty, Ernest Smith who may be home by the time you read this column.

George Porter of Oakland, MD. Sue Schwarz's dad, recently broke his ankle. Ruth will have quite a time trying to keep him off his feet.

Congratulations to Johnny Black and Nichole Shrader of Valley Head who are the proud parents of a daughter, Taylor Nichole, on Oct. 21, 1998 at DeKalb BMC. She weighed 6 lbs. 1 oz and was 19 1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Melvin and Brenda Black, Glenda Veal, and the late T.W. Shrader, Jr., all of Valley Head. Great grandparents are Fannie Mae Black and the late C.H. Black, Byron Brown and the late Wilma Brown, all of Rainsville, and T.W. and Lily Shrader of High Point.

Good news, Bobbi Rokus has her two dogs back after putting an ad in the last issue of *The Groundhog* about their being lost. She was so happy to have them returned. Thanks to the Kim Cash family who took care of them until they could be returned to their home.

Mickey and Sherman Gough returned from trip to Arizona. They flew out for a wedding of Sherman's nephew, Andrew Gough and his new wife, Jennifer in Phoenix, Arizona. This was the first time that all of Sherman's family (who are still living) have gotten together. Sherman is one of eight brothers. "It was wonderful," they said. However, they are glad to be back home in Mentone.

Girls 12 and under Fort Payne Frenzy soccer team won the state championship in Montgomery the weekend of November 14th. Three girls from Moon Lake School play on the team: Samantha Stevens, Robin Stevens, and Sara Dodd. Congratulations to the whole team!

Jerome and Liz Stephens were here in Mentone recently, reading their property on the brow for renovations. The couple plans to build a small cabin for their son and a spot has been cleared for it. They plan to spend lots of time in Mentone.

Richard Goss, son of H.P. Goss was injured in an automobile wreck this week. H.P. said he was in the hospital with several broken bones. Please put him on your prayer list for a speedy recovery.

Navy Fireman William M. Lee, son of John E. and Cindy K. Gilbert of Valley Head, is currently on a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. Lee's ship earned the Allen G. Ogden Award for being the best ship afloat crash and salvage aircraft carrier. He also participated in Matador Lives, a combined forces two-day exercise in which 294 sorties were launched. Lee is a 1995 graduate of Valley Head High School.

Congratulations to Northeast Alabama State Community College student, Christy Ferguson, of Mentone, who is one of 38 students from this area among the over 120,000 students included in the 21st Annual Edition of "The National Dean's List, 1997-98." The National Dean's List published by Educational Communications, Inc., is the largest recognition program and publication in the nation honoring high achieving college students.

Several Mentone residents went to the Garden Theater in Atlanta in October to see the special showing of the movie, "Southern Heart." Most of the actors were at this showing, which was the second one for the movie--the first being in New York. Those who saw it would like to see it again so they can recognize all the Mentone area residents who had a part in it. Jack Jones as Thurman, was there, and he thoroughly enjoyed the movie. A lot of the other Mentone cast members were there, too. We'd all like to own a video of this movie when it comes out. It was shot last October (1997) and the scenery is breathtaking.

Congratulations to young weather artists from Valley Head whose drawings have appeared recently in the *Times-Journal*: Tyler Gatlin, 10, (10/31-11/1); Zack Cooper, 9, (11/6); and Kevin Bates, 10, (11/1); Aaron Britton, 10, (11/13); Buck

Williams, 9, (11/21-22).

A reception honoring Mrs. Martha Stanley was held at the Valley Head Baptist Church on Sunday, November 8th. Many friends and relatives attended this surprise reception. Mrs. Stanley is an outstanding community leader and a wonderful person. She is loved and respected by many.

Mr. Ed Ringer recently visited his brother and sister-in-law in Panama City Florida.

Mrs. Annie Young hasn't been feeling well lately. Mrs. Annie recently had pneumonia and had to stay in for a week or two. We are happy to know that she is feeling lots better now.

Tommy and Barbara Gifford took a vacation to visit John and Anna Young in New Jersey, recently. Tommy has decided that New York IS NOT "where he'd rather be". He likes to visit but wouldn't want to live there. They had a very nice trip.

November 11, Marilyn Blanton Campbell had as her luncheon guests Mrs. Carol Brown Hazell, Miss Kayla Hazell, and Alex Hazell of Mentone, Mrs. Barbie Hester, Miss Brittany Hester, and Master Tyler Hester of Valley Head, and Miss Kara Miller of Mentone. At lunch, the guests were served "Mickey Mouse" Potato Salad, "Bloody Pirate" Homemade Vegetable Soup, and toasted cheese sandwiches in the shape of turkeys. For dessert, vanilla ice cream was served up with caramel cake and belated Happy Birthday wishes for Mrs. Hazell.

Deepest sympathies to the families of the following who have passed away:

- Mrs. Myrcie Phillips Dooley, 81, of Valley Head, Nov. 2;
- Charles Ernest Gregory, 55, of Valley Head, Nov. 3;
- Jessie Henderson, 55, of Mentone, Nov. 4;
- Claude Wright, 84, Mentone, Nov. 11

•Mrs. Ethel Green Adams, 100, of Mentone/Ft. Payne, Nov. 26  
Happy 85th birthday to Clara Cash. Clara turns 85 on Dec. 4. You are wished many more happy birthdays, Clara!  
Happy 65th Anniversary to Raymond and Mary Brown, who celebrate their anniversary on Nov. 30.

Happy Belated October/November Birthday wishes to Ethan Hunt (1 year old - Oct. 1); Nov. •10- Jean McGehee; •26- Bart Nino; 28- Jo Beaubie; and •30- Russell DePaul.

Happy Belated November 24th Birthday wishes to: Mentone Mayor Max Cash, who celebrated his 74th; Kathy Addison; Betty Johnson; William Blackburn (in memory of); and Tammy Green (10, Conroe, TX).

Happy December Birthdays to: •1- Shane Bo Thomas (7), Brian Green (15, from Conroe, TX), Mark Hatfield, Caleb Hunt (5); •2-Dwayne McKenzie, Angel Wesley; •4-Myrtle Webb, Clara Cash (86), Heath Blalock, Ann King Jackson; •5-Rodney Pelletier; •6- Ellen Thompson, Amber Nekole Tackett (3 years), Phyllis Lewis, Lisa Hulan; •7- Robin Hulan, Ken Hammond; •8- Pat Vest, Renae Day, DeAnna Harris; •9- Brian McAdams, Bill Shaw; •10- Bobbie Smith; •12- Homer Crow, Valerie Chappell, Kristen Lauro (3 years old, Springfield, Va.); •14- Bruce BonFleur, Jim Phillips, Tina Shrader, Hunter Whisenant (4 yrs); •19- Brynda Hopper; •20- Allison Allen; •21- Mabel Kirk, O.W. Hunt (78), Vickie Biddle, Coby Harrison; •23- Mike Key; •24- Maureen Hammond, Joe Kent; •25-JESUS; •26-Michael Croxton; •27-Melissa Harrison, Jennifer Blalock; •28- Annette Chappell, Rusty Rector; 29- Randy and Brenda Green of Conroe, TX, (19th Anniversary); •30-Emily Collins, Marquita Brown, Scott Burke.

Congratulations to DeWayne and Kelly Blalock on the birth of their son, Cade. Great grandmother and grandfather, Barbara and Ovie Blalock, announced it at church Sunday.

I'd like to leave you with this famous definition of success by Bessie Anderson Stanley. It was published in 1904 in Brown Book Magazine. It also was one of Dr. Pat Seymour's favorite definitions. Dr. Pat was a success, and I believe the definition described her perfectly.

## "Success"

"He has achieved success, who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much; who has enjoyed the trust of pure women, the respect of intelligent men, and the love of little children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who has left the world better than he found it; whether an improved poppy, a perfect poem, or a rescued soul who has always looked for the best in others and given them the best he had; whose life was an inspiration; whose memory a benediction."

—Bessie Anderson Stanley

Merry Christmas.

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## History of the Musical Mountain Christmas in Mentone

Continued from page 1.

Also invited are the principal, teacher, students, and parents of Moon Lake School.

"At the end of the parade will be Santa Claus (Walter Sumner), riding in Dorothy Crow's Mentone Maggie, the unusual vehicle that has brightened so many local events. Everyone is urged to carry a flashlight (modern version of the candle).

"As Santa presents gifts to the youngsters, each church group will be given opportunity to sing holiday songs. Music sheets will be distributed for carols that will be led by David Mays. It all ends with Santa leading the singing of 'Jingle Bells.'

"In event of inclement weather, the gathering will be in the dining room of the Mentone Springs Hotel.

"This may be the beginning of something beautiful," says coordinator Rosario. "That an entire town can get together in good fellowship and give praise."

January 1984 issue: Musical Mountain Christmas - The near-zero weather caused cancellation by Coordinator Angelo Rosario of the parade from the triangle to the square. However, a cheerful fire in the huge fireplace of the Mentone Springs Hotel awaited the guests. After informal conversation, everyone gathered in the dining room, where David Mays led singing strengthened by the Moon Lake Baptist Choir and other local singers. Santa Claus (Randy Still) made a joyous appearance. So it was, the Musical Mountain Christmas went as scheduled, enjoyed by many and anticipated in future years.

November 1986: Musical Mountain Christmas - To celebrate the coming of Christmas, the Mentone Area Merchants Association is already making plans for "Musical Mountain Christmas" during the first weekend in December (Dec. 5-7). The entire town will be decorated—evergreen boughs, candy canes, ribbons, and wreaths, and cheery Christmas lights—creating a warm, festive atmosphere.

"At 6:00 on Friday night, December 5, a tree-lighting and Christmas carolling will herald the beginning of the festivities.

"Look for Santa Clause to appear on Saturday, he will be throwing goodies to the children as he rides through Mentone in the Christmas parade. The parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Mentone City Park, proceed through town, and finish at the Mentone Brow Park. Included in the parade will be the Fyffe High School Marching Band (FHSMB) and the Valley Head High School Marching Band. the FHSMB, an award-winning band which has taken home 13 trophies this year, will perform again at 11:00 A.M. on the historic hotel square.

"Shopkeepers have banded together and agreed to make Mentone one big 'open house' during the weekend, dressed in period costumes, they will be welcoming visitors with Christmas music, door prizes, and refreshments. In addition to their regular house, some shops will begin "open house" on Friday night during the tree lighting ceremony. Cragmere Manna Restaurant will open from 12-4 on Saturday to serve mountain cider and fried mushrooms.

"The weekend will include many more activities which are not being planned. Don't miss the fun. Bring the children and help celebrate during "Musical Mountain Christmas."

December 1986 issue: Musical Mountain Christmas. "The Mentone Merchants Association, members of MAPA, the



During the 1986 Musical Mountain Christmas Santa rides the Mentone Maggie in the Parade



During the 1986 Musical Mountain Christmas the Log Cabin Deli Delights rode in the Parade

Town Council, and many others worked together to decorate Mentone and get an early start in the celebration of Christmas.

"This year's Musical Mountain Christmas, which has become an annual holiday event, took place during the first weekend of December. On Friday night a tree lighting marked the beginning of the festivities. Decorating the large cedar tree

beside the Log Cabin Deli turned out to be no easy task. It took the combined efforts of a number of Mentone citizens, plus Sand Mountain Electric Co-op's Billy Clanton, Robert Stone, John Chipwood, Crockett Smith, Stan Skaggs, L.W. Moses, Mickey Willigatan, and CONTEL's Jack Johnston. (Both S.M.E.C. and CONTEL supplied trucks equipped with cherry pickers.)

"On Saturday morning Santa made his appearance as part of the Mentone Christmas parade. Others in the parade included the Mentone Police and Fire Departments, Tony Goggans, WFPA Radio, Mayor Rob Hammond AND State Senator Lowell Barron, the Fyffe and Valley Head High School Marching Bands, the DeSoto Rescue Squad, WQRX Radio, the Mentone Maggie with Santa at the wheel, WSAF Radio, and the Log Cabin Deli staff.

"The rest of the weekend was filled with music and entertainment, refreshments, visits from Santa, and a variety of other activities. Mark Herndon was on hand to sign autographs at the Mentone Springs Hotel, Mentone shopkeepers served refreshments and gave away door prizes; at the White Elephant Galleries there was banjo playing while Santa gave candy to all the children; the kids seemed to enjoy the weekend as much if not more than the adults."

From 1986, it appears that the lighting of the Christmas Tree either in Ed Mason Park or on the square at the Mentone Inn continued to be an annual event, along with a party for the local children in the Mentone town hall, complete with Santa, and sometimes his helpers and elves, handing out gifts; and carol singing. Later, when the North DeKalb Ministerial Association was formed, they helped provide stockings for the children at Christmas. Other earlier events included a MAPA sponsored contest to find the most beautiful holiday lighting, community get-togethers in the city park.

This year, when the community Christmas tree is lit at 5 PM on Friday, December 4, bring your family and sing Christmas carols. The town Christmas lights (courtesy of MAPA), are again up and bringing joy to those who come up the mountain, as well as those who live here. When the Mentone merchants have open house on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., come and shop with them and get some of those special Christmas gifts for your friends and family.

Bring the children to have their photos taken with Santa at Ro's Kreations across from the Superette on Hwy 117. There are so many activities during the first two weekends of December to really make this a Musical Mountain Christmas for all.

With the help of the various organizations and churches in Mentone, the Mentone town council, the North DeKalb Ministerial Association, the merchants, the citizens, and visitors to this area, the tradition that was set in the 80s can again become an integral part of the activities in Mentone at Christmas time. It is a festive time of the year. Please help support Musical Mountain Christmas each year by participating in activities, by volunteering where you can, and inviting your friends to join in.

Also, remember the reason for the season. It is the celebration of the birth of Christ.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!



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Season's  
Greetings





## The Recipe Corner

By  
SUE SCHWARZ

It's hard to believe that it is time for the December column to be turned in. This year has flown by. We have had some great times and a few that weren't so hot, so I guess we are right in there with the rest of you. My stepdaughter, Janet and I have been on a pumpkin bread spree this fall and she was using the one I am giving you now. It is delicious and very easy to put together. If you like it a little spicier, kick it up a notch with a little ginger and allspice (about 1/4 teaspoon of each). The other recipe is for a fruit cobbler. I found this one in the paper while we were in Portland this fall. It calls for fresh fruit, but I am sure that you could substitute frozen or canned fruit. Enjoy!

Bill and I and our family wish all of you the very best for this holiday season. Don't get so caught up in the busyness that you can't enjoy the true spirit of this time of year.

**PUMPKIN BREAD** - Janet Hamilton, Beaverton, Oregon

3-1/3 C flour

2 t baking soda

3 c sugar

1 1/2 t salt

1 t cinnamon

1 t cloves

1 t nutmeg

Mix together. Make a well in center and add:

1 C vegetable oil

2/3 C water

4 egg whites

2 C pumpkin

Mix until smooth. Pour into two 9x5 loaf pans, well greased and floured. (If you use a vegetable spray, omit flouring pans.) Bake at 325° for 1 hour and 20 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. You can use mini loaf pans. This recipe will make 6. Bake the mini's at 325° for 25 to 45 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

**ONE PAN MIX-AND-BAKE FRUIT COBBLER**

1 C all-purpose flour

1 C granulated sugar

2 t baking powder

1/2 t ground cinnamon

1/4 t ground nutmeg

1 C milk

1 t vanilla

2 C fresh fruit (Raspberries, blackberries, peaches, pears, or cherries or other fruit of your choice.)

1/2 C chopped pecans or walnuts (optional)

1/2 C butter or margarine, melted

Whipped topping

Preheat oven to 350°.

In an ungreased, 2-quart square baking dish, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add milk and vanilla, stir until smooth. Sprinkle fruit and nuts evenly over batter. Drizzle with melted butter or margarine. (Do not stir.)

Bake for about 45 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted into center of cake comes out clean. Serve warm with a generous topping of whipped topping. (I think I will try this with apples and cranberries during this upcoming holiday season.)

Peace on Earth

## GARDEN HINTS

By Madeleine Bullock

I can't seem to grasp the fact that summer and gardening is all but over except for the clean-up; and it's time to peruse the seed and plant catalogues again, choose new or heirloom seeds and plants, plan and plot out new gardening sites.

I have been reading and hearing a lot about the new genetically altered (engineered) plants and seeds, and I seem to remember that it all started with them (scientists) removing the gene in the tomato that made it ripen too rapidly. Now, they have made cold hardy tomatoes by inserting a gene from a cold-water fish. And it does not stop there, they are way beyond anything we could imagine. It's reported that almost all the fresh produce have been genetically altered one way or another to withstand the upheavals of evolution. Who would have thought that the fantasy movie known as *The Island of Dr. Moreau* would truly exist!

I am all for making life better or easier but I don't approve of inserting herbicides and pesticides into the genetic composition of plants that are grown for human or animal consumption. It is bound to cause some sort of health hazard in the long run.

My family simply loves tinned (canned) corn, but since I found out that the lining in the tin contains estrogen in its composition, the delicious vegetable is now only a distant and good memory, as I will not buy it anymore. I don't believe that the males in my home need estrogen (a female hormone) running in their systems. Life has enough twists as it is without deliberately contributing to it.

Now the latest scare is that after all these years of using any type of plastic in the microwave that can withstand the high temperatures without melting is that we have been ingesting cancer-causing compounds that leach from the plastic at high temperatures, and we are NOW being cautioned not to use any plastic that has not been manufactured specifically for microwave use. Furthermore, soft plastic baby toys and teething rings contain alroids, a cancer-causing chemical that is added to the plastic to make it soft and pliable. After forty years of making the soft toys and teething rings, we are NOW being notified that we have been unknowingly assisting our children in becoming susceptible to cancer.

**VEGETABLE SCOREBOARD.** It's reported that cooked tomatoes may reduce the risk of prostate cancer. Broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage fight cancer. Spinach and other leafy greens can help lower blood pressure. For more information on adding a healthy mix of vegetables to your diet, see the web site ([time.com/personal](http://time.com/personal)) or E-mail Christine at ([gorman@time.com](mailto:gorman@time.com)).

Black walnut tree roots are toxic to many plants, so allow a distance of 30'-40' between them and any veggie patch.

Allow indoor ferns to dry between waterings, then water well. Place low in windows to maximize the light ferns receive.

Thinking of planting an apple tree or two? The one that tested best is the PIPPIN. The fruits when picked will store in a cool place (35 degrees F) for as long as ten months. For more information on plant genetic technology, yield data, seed selection for farms, agronomic news and animal nutrition, hit web site ([www.pioneer.com](http://www.pioneer.com)), ([www.progressivefarmer.com](http://www.progressivefarmer.com)), ([www.mycogen.com](http://www.mycogen.com)).



## LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN'S NATURAL HEALING: ST. JOHN'S WORT

By Laura Catherine a/k/a Moon

St. John's Wort, *Hypericum perforatum*, hype is covering America as the natural alternative to Prozac. This perennial is used widely in Europe for mood enhancement. For centuries, St. John's Wort has been used for many things, such as a plant dye, a blood purifier, an astringent, nervous conditions, etc. The herb is quite costly when bought at your local store in capsule form. Fortunately, you can find St. John's Wort in abundance all over Lookout Mountain.

St. John's Wort can often be found in meadows, on grassy banks and along roadsides. It propagates by seed and comes back from the root stalk each year. Therefore, it is plentiful and easily started in your garden. St. John's Wort blooms a small pretty 5-petaled, pleasant-scented yellow bloom with many thread-like hairs in the center of the bloom. The herb branches out at the top when it begins to bloom, growing one to three feet in height with small oblong leaves. As the bloom matures, if you look very closely, you can see tiny little dots along the edge of the blooms. St. John's Wort's yellow bloom is known to bleed red. "I soaked some flowers (St. John's) in oil and they did bleed red from the edges of the bloom" says Marilyn Wigley (my herbal mentor).

The bleeding flower started much mysticism regarding St. John's Wort. According to "Herbs: Their Medicine and Their Magic" by Anna Krueger, the bleeding flower is what prompted herbalists to use St. John's Wort for healing wounds. Krueger also said there was a tale "in the English Isle of Wight that if you stepped on St. John's Wort at dusk, you would spend a terrifying night on the back of a fairy horse. Through all the myths, St. John's Wort has maintained a good reputation with herbalists and is still used in the treatment of wounds, healing, minor pain relief and cleaning wounds.

I used St. John's Wort to help heal a crick or spasm my husband, Dane, had in his neck per the advice of Marilyn Wigley. "Take a handful of St. John's Wort" Marilyn said, as she handed me a paper lunch sack full of St. John's Wort tops, leaves and some stems. "mix it with about 4 cups of water, boil it in an enamel pan covered for about 10 minutes, and let it steep for 30 minutes. Get a rag, saturate it in the St. John's Wort, ring it out, and apply it to the painful area." I reapplied the St. John's Wort every time the rag got cold, continuing for a couple of hours. I refrigerated the mixture that was left. The next morning, Dane's neck began feeling stiff again. I did the process over, except I alternated hot and cold rags. I soaked a rag in the cold mixture I refrigerated (which will stay good in an airtight container refrigerated) while the hot rag from the new mixture was on Dane's neck. After days of increasing pain and discomfort, the St. John's Wort application helped substantially in relieving Dane's pain.

While making the St. John's Wort decoction, by accident, I discovered that boiling the whole plant in water makes a beautiful rose dye for materials. According to the "Complete Book of Herbs and Spices" by Lesley Bremness and Jill Norman, the lemon scented yellow flowers produce a yellow wood dye when mixed with alum as a fixative or a violet-red dye when used with alcohol as a fixative. Bremness and Norman also state that the flower oil is beneficial in treating bruises, varicose veins, ulcers and sunburn, and a pain-reducing tea can be made for nerves, rheumatism, headaches, and anemia.

"Earth Medicine & Earth Food" by Michael Weiner states "The Menominee tribe drank a tea of St. John's Wort and black raspberry root as treatment for tuberculosis. Weiner also says St. John's Wort is used in treating intestinal worms and kidney stones. Other beneficial uses for St. John's Wort are for the treatment of tumors and boils, uterine troubles, pains following childbirth, diarrhea, dysentery, jaundice, irregular menstruation, menopausal problems, to correct bed wetting, bites of insects and other skin irritations.

As with any substance, you should take great caution in the amount you use internally. Although St. John's Wort has many healing properties, it is rumored that people have taken too much of the herb and become poisoned. Do not use if lactating, pregnant, or if taking antidepressants.

St. John's Wort can cause sensitivity to sunlight, especially if you are fair skinned. Consult your physician before taking St. John's Wort, especially if you are taking other medications.

If you would like to contact Marilyn and me, then come see us on Saturday and Sunday at Granny's Panties and Mountain Memories in the Log Cabin Village, or write P.O. Box 224, Mentone, AL 35984.

Words to live by: Healthy is a state of mind.



Top Photo is shop where White Feather Cherokee Legend has many items, some of which are shown in the bottom photo

## WHITE FEATHER CHEROKEE LEGEND

You may have noticed the grey and red building on Alabama Hwy 117, in Mentone, where a new business is located.

White Feather Cherokee Legend is unlike any store in this area. It is dedicated to the Cherokee legend "The Trail of Tears."

### "Trail of Tears"

During the years 1838-1839, a brutal order was handed down concerning the Cherokee Indians located in TN, KY, NC, GA, AL. Soldiers of the United States Army had been given the job of forcing the Indians to move to the West, leaving the wildlife area they now enjoy.

Indians were arrested and dragged from their mountain homes, then loaded like cattle into 645 wagons. During the long journey to Oklahoma, they encountered terrific sleet and snow storms. The long, painful journey led to death due to pneumonia, ill treatment, cold, and exposure for more than 4,000 Cherokees. It ended on March 26, 1839.

As you drive or walk through Mentone, appreciate this area and our freedom. The earth has heard the silent sounds of Indian moccasins, but, "Their spirit lives on."

In memory of:

Nick Ciegghorn Cherokee  
Eva Maples Cherokee

White Feather Cherokee Legend will be having holiday hours in December: **Fri-Sat-Sun: 12-4; Dec. 18 through 24: 12-4**

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PRIME is proud to offer this beautiful brick rancher with 2.5+ acres of majestic beauty. Home features living room, kitchen, den w/brick fireplace, 2 BR/1.5 bath, sun room, utility room, 2-car garage, outbuilding. Cent H/A, gas back-up, Cloudland water system. Add'l 7+ acres available.



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MUST SELL-Owner Relocating-Great Mountain Retreat-Cloudland-4 years old. Entrance foyer, great room offering kitchen/dining/living area. Master suite with large bath & separate entrance. 2nd BR and additional utility bath. 0.78 acre tract at \$69,900. Add'l 5.70 acres available. Must See!! Must Sell!!



CLOUDLAND - Beautiful, two story log home overlooking the east fork of Little River sports 3 BR, 4.5 BA, kitchen, formal dining, great room with mountain stone fireplace, screened porch overlooking river, den with wet bar and mountain stone fireplace, 2 car garage, shop, and storage area, plus large unfinished attic on 2.5 +/- acre tract, showcased by mountain laurel, rhododendron, and natural beauty of the mountain. Too many amenities to list, and priced at only \$129,000. (No G-57)



CLOUDLAND - A frame, with great room, rock fireplace, hardwood floors, 2 BR, 2 BA, utility, wrap deck porch. Meticulously built on approx. 11.48 acre tract. \$149,900. Reduced to \$142,500.



CLOUDLAND- Lower Brow - custom brow home, 2500 sq. ft., large great room, FP, deck & master suite overlooking valley. Reduced to \$220,000. 24 Hour Property Info-1-800-901-8882 #602



CLOUDLAND, GA - East Fork of Little River runs through your backyard! 6.33 acres, min. tract & Home w/huge great room, FP, finished basement. 24 Hour Property Info-1-800-901-8882 #604



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Mountain River Estates - Hwy 117 Mentone - Phase 1 & 2 now open. 3 to 5 acre riverfront tracts starting at \$27,500.00. 4 to 15 acre min. stream tracts starting at \$10,000.

## Rhododendron Garden Club Establishes Library

By Marilyn Blanton Campbell

Tuesday afternoon, November 10, 1998, the Rhododendron Garden Club met at the Community House in Mentone at 12:30 p.m. President Jan Wilkinson called the meeting to order. Mrs. Dorothy Cyr read a devotional using Luke 17: 11-19 as the scripture and Henry B. Gerike's poem "Thanksgiving" from *Portals of Prayer*. Then the ladies went on to have their refreshments and the program ahead of the business meeting so that the speaker, Terry Hutcheson, could get back to his law practice in Fort Payne.

The food was especially good. A dish of pecans that had been deep fried and seasoned saw lots of traffic, purely because those nuts were so good. Hot apple cider punch was served from a large pumpkin husk, and pumpkin tarts with pecan accents and cornbread muffins that had been hollowed out and filled with homemade deviled ham just hit the spot. After the ladies had had their refreshments, President Wilkinson introduced him, and Terry Hutcheson spoke about native plants. He gave the ladies each a card and told them to write the names of ten native plants. He wanted to see which ones would list his ten favorites. Then he went over the list of his ten favorites which are as follows.

1. Fire Pink, Catchfly (*Silene virginica* L.)
2. Black Snakeroot, Bugbane (*Cimicifuga racemosa* Nutt.)
3. Sweet-Shrub (*Calycanthus floridus* L.)
4. Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia* L.)
5. Trailing Arbutus, Mayflower (*Epigaea repens* L.)
6. Yellow Jessamine, Evening Trumpet-Flower (*Gelsemium sempervirens* L.) (Ail. f.)
7. Trumpet-Creeper, Cow-Itch (*Campsis radicans* (L.) Seemann)
8. Mountain Rosebay, Catawba Rhododendron (*Rhododendrom catawbiense*)
9. Kalm's St. Johnswort (*Hypericum kalmianum*)
10. Pixter Flower, Pink Azalea (*Rhododendron nudiflorum*)

All good gardeners tend to collect plants from roadsides, ditch banks, right-of-ways, and the like. Hutcheson chuckled and said, "I never stole a plant in my life, but I have liberated several." When he was seriously giving advice on the care of wild flowers, he said simply to leave them alone, because, for the most part, they do not like to be fooled with. There are natural fertilizers for wild flowers, and the rule of thumb is that wild flowers usually grow where they can get the nutrients from the soil that they need. Herbs do not need much fertilizer. Nature has a way of taking care of itself. In his talk, Hutcheson told about several plants and where to find them. For example, Galax likes banks and creeks. The point he

made that seemed almost religious was that some plants are best viewed from the knees.

Hutcheson presented a copy of *Wildflowers of Alabama and Adjoining States* by Blanche Dean, Amy Mason, and Joab Thomas, to the Rhododendron Garden Club as the beginning of their library, and President Wilkinson graciously and with great appreciation accepted that. The question of where the books of the Rhododendron Garden Club's library will be kept was put off until there is more than one book to be considered.

After some questions from the ladies in the group, Hutcheson went on his way, and the ladies resumed their meeting. Karen Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Wilkinson welcomed everybody, thanked hostesses Dallyn Jones, Penny Lyday, Ann Wright, and Karen Wright, and acknowledged visitor Jayne Ross.

Secretary Marilyn Blanton Campbell called the roll, and the ladies answered with the name and description of a native plant. Mrs. Campbell continued to read the minutes of the last meeting, and those were approved as read. Treasurer Barbara Blalock gave the financial reports.

Ann Wright reported on the Ecoteers and Junior Gardeners at Moon Lake School. There are four groups, and three of those consist of 20 children each while the other one has 24 children. They have a slate of interesting things to do, and the boys and girls will enjoy those. Mickey Gough gave the Horticulture Tip for the month. She said that spiders are friends to gardeners, and the way to attract spiders is with straw mulch.

Under Old Business, President Wilkinson announced that the DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs "Every Light A Prayer For Peace" service will be held Sunday, November 29, at 2:00 p.m. at the DeKalb County Library in Fort Payne, and she encouraged everybody to attend. The Heritage Garden has been tabled until Spring when, hopefully, weather conditions will be more conducive to the growth of plants there. Under New Business, the Christmas meeting was announced for December 8 at 12:30 at Jo Beaube's house. That will be a holiday covered dish luncheon.

The sickness and worry report caught the ladies up on community misery. Mrs. Shirley Russell won the door prize.

The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Region, The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., Garden Clubs of District II, and the DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs.

## Veterans Day Celebration

by Marilyn Blanton Campbell

Tuesday evening, November 10, 1998, the Ladies of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 215 at Mentone joined with the gentlemen of American Legion Post 215 for the annual Veterans Day celebration with a covered dish supper at the legion home on Cove Road in Mentone. That gathering is usually quite well attended, and this year was no exception when the weather conditions were considered. In view of the drought the whole area has been experiencing, nobody wanted to say anything about the pouring rain, but there were some people who stayed away because of it.

In the absence of Post 215 Commander, Roger Sharp, Vice-Commander, Jim Lyday, called the assemblage to order and welcomed everybody. Chaplain Howard Carson said a prayer to bless the food, and the group recited the Pledge of Allegiance prior to serving themselves at a sumptuous buffet. Coffee, tea, water, and carbonated drinks were served with the meal. The gentlemen of Post 215 always comment on the fact that the ladies never preplan what they are going to take to those gatherings at the Legion, but they always seem to have a wonderful variety of foods. It also seems like each covered dish supper the food is better than the one before. While that hardly seems possible, there was certainly lots more good food there than a group many times that size could have eaten. The sinfully delicious desserts were beyond description. It always seems that everybody takes only the best things in their baking repertoire.

After the supper, Col. George Walker (U. S. Air Force, retired) led the group in singing "America" and "America The Beautiful" without musical accompaniment. Vice-Commander Lyday then introduced the Reverend Don Brock, pastor at the Collinsville Church of God of Prophecy, who spoke to the gathering on the importance of valuing each and every veteran's service to America. The Reverend Brock is former pastor of the Mentone Church of God of Prophecy, and he and his lovely wife, Yvonne, ran Madaperca Bed and Breakfast while they were at Mentone. In addition to all of that, the Reverend Brock was also on the Mentone Town Council. In the crowd, were Mrs. Ruby Brock, the Reverend Brock's mother, and his aunt, Mrs. Lucille Crowe.

The moderate sized crowd of legion members and their guests all seemed to have a wonderful time. Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Cooper of Fort Payne joined the group for the occasion. Mr. Cooper was extremely active in the American Legion in Kentucky prior to moving to this area, and he is still on the Board of Directors for Boys State in Kentucky.

Mrs. Joyce McGee, State Veterans Representative for DeKalb County was in attendance. Mrs. McGee is the one who has worked so tirelessly with her staff to help the local veterans get the services they needed. Those ladies do good work, and they are greatly appreciated for it. In addition to all the other things they do, the ladies in Mrs. McGee's office help the various American Legion groups to put their efforts where they will do the most good.

## SHARE THE JOYS OF CHRISTMAS



### Ro's Kreations

Across from the Mentone Superette and next to Cottage Collectables on Alabama Hwy 117, Mentone.

Rovene Truett, invites you to  
**OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday, Dec. 5, from 1-5 p.m.

Photos with Santa from 1-3 p.m.

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The Groundhog



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and  
Happy New Year

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(1) **ONE AND ONLY LITTLE RIVER CANYON**, 3 to 5 acre tracts overlooking Canyon, some with Waterfalls. Property adjoins Wild Life Management Land. Many tracts to choose from and all on Private gate access. Point and Bluff sections now available. Very Secluded \$25,000 to \$40,000. Appointment ONLY.



(5) **EAST BROW, CLOUDLAND, GA.** What a view from these 2 to 3 acre lots located off Hwy 157 North. Rock formations, wooded, private with 100 to 250 ft. of breath-taking edge of the world view. Starting at \$32,000. Owner financing.



(9) **MOUNTAIN RIVER ESTATES** Phase 1 & 2 now open. 3 to 5 acre tracts on the middle Fork of Little River. Located on Lookout Mountain Parkway, 4 miles from downtown Mentone and 2 miles from the Ga. line. River front tracts starting at \$27,500. and 4-15 acre wooded stream tracts.



(13) **87 ACRES ON THE EAST BROW LOOKOUT MTN.** Over 1,000 ft. of frontage, Rock formations, spring fed pond, artesian well, electric, and approx 5 acres cleared. Joining Wildlife Management and NPS. \$138,000.



(14) **BUILT IN 1926, AN ORIGINAL CLOUDLAND HOME**, 2 story, Upstairs, being a Large Dormitory room with bath. Downstairs 2 bdrm, bath, living fireplace, Dining and Kitchen. All new wiring. City Water. \$74,500.



(2) **100 YEAR OLD OAK TREES** Shade the 3 bdrm, 2 bath Older Home Located on Cutler Ave., MENTONE, 2 story with Detached Garage, City Water, Cable, and Walking distance to Downtown. \$51,900.



(6) **ONE BLOCK FROM VALLEY HEAD SCHOOL**, Maintenance free vinyl sided, 3 bdrm, 1 bath, mostly Hardwood floor, ample closets, Carport, Fenced back yard. \$42,000.



(10) **CLOUDLAND, GA.** Home or business could be the agenda of this 3 bedroom, 2 bath, approx. 1,500 sq. ft. completely fenced, stone fireplace; CH&A, rustic pine paneled, on 1 acre. Located on Lookout Mountain Parkway, Hwy 48. \$49,500. May be leased for business. Call for details.



(3) Walking distance to Mentone, Adorable 2 Bdrm Cottage, CHA, New Carpet and Vinyl. Large Deck, Rock Patio, on two lots, located on S. Cool St. (Huckleberry Lane) \$62,000.



(7) **WILD RIVER COMMUNITY**, 100x300 ft lots on the East Fork Little River. Secluded and Scenic. \$10,000 each. ALSO AVAILABLE 29 acres with over 800 ft. of river frontage for canoeing, fishing. \$85,000.



(11) **GET AWAY FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF CITY LIFE**, and enjoy the peaceful serenity of Little River Canyon. BONUS-2 Bdr, 2 bath home, 1-1/2 story with open Great Room, Stone fireplace, CHA. 7 acres with creek and Waterfall. Located Canyon View Forest. "WOW!" \$150,000.



(4) **LAUREL CREEK LAKES SUBDIVISION**, Wooded lots starting at \$8,500. Lakeside (3 left) and pasture lots (2 left) starting at \$12,500. Mentone area, County Road 106. Common areas for hiking and fishing. Restrictive covenants. Owner financing available.



(8) **COTTAGE ON LAKE LAHUSAGE**, Furnished, Rustic 3 Bdrm 1 Bath, Fireplace, 2 decks and Screened Porch. All appliances. Also Efficiency apartment above Garage. Creek on the West Boundary. A unique structure with lots of Mountain Stone Accents. Dock on Lake. \$95,000.



(12) **MENTONE CONNECTION**, Two story Cedar and Log Home on the West Brow, 1 mile from Downtown. 4 Bdr (master 1st level) 2-1/2 baths. Heart Pine Plank Flooring in Living, Dining, Den, Kitchen. Fireplace w/insert, CHA, lots of storage and closets. Large Deck and Screened Porch for enjoying the Sunsets. 3 acres ML. \$240,000.

## OTHER PROPERTIES

(15) **INDIAN TRAILS** over 3 acre tracts on the highest point on the Brow overlooking North Fort Payne valley, to the Cumberland Plateau. City water available, access to and overlooking private lakes. Private access. Off Citadel Rock Rd. Restrictive covenants. \$50,000 each.

(16) **29 ACRES** Wooded with Springs, Hollows, and Rock formations. Located on Co. Rd. 633, Mentone. \$40,000. Also available 10 acres and up ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,500 per acre. Owner financing to qualified.

(17) **DESOTO PARKWAY - (LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN PARKWAY)** 1.5 acres ML, wooded, city water and natural gas available. Minutes from State Park and Fort Payne. \$12,500.

(18) **12 ACRES ON EAST FORK LITTLE RIVER**, Wooded and Private with 330 ft. of Water frontage. Relax on the Large Flat rock in the middle of River. \$78,000.

(19) **OAKWOOD ESTATES** - 3 plus acre wooded and Pasture tracts available. Located in Mentone, County Road 106. Restricted Covenants. For permanent or Vacation Residential Homes. \$9,500 to \$12,500.

(20) **50 ACRES LOCATED IN CLOUDLAND, GA.** - Great Farm, with 20x40 Barn, Large Workshop, 3 outbuildings, Garage, 4 wells, Year around spring, 3 garden acres, Grape Arbors, Approx. 5 acres cleared. Beautiful Hardwoods. 12x70 Mobile Home with Rock foundation. Many more amenities. \$165,000. Show by Appt. ONLY.

(21) **VALLEY VIEW FOREST**, 5 to 17 acre Tracts on East Brow overlooking Pleasant Valley and Weiss Lake, and adjoins National Preserve. \$10,000 to \$35,000.

(22) **FOR RENT**, 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, cabin in Downtown Mentone by the week or Weekend. Also 1 bedroom, 1 bath Log Cabin, fireplace and large screened porch. Call for info. Angela Wood (1-888-256-1276)

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Mentone Poll Workers for the November 2nd General Elections:  
(L/R standing) Evelyn Graves, Syble Tipton, Charlean Smith,  
Dee Bell, Jimmy Wright; (seated) Nancy Brown and Linda Brown



This year, 1998, for the first time, Mentone  
had the use of two voting machine for the  
general election held on Nov. 2.



### "Happy Birthday"

from Grandma Dillenbeck to

(L/R) Tammy Green (Nov. 24, 11 years old),  
her dad, Randy Green, (Nov. 17, 39 years old),  
and brother, Brian Green (Dec. 1, 15 years old)  
(Inset is Tammy holding grandma's cat, PurrPurr.  
Pictures were taken last year by Brenda, mother and wife,  
when the family was visiting in Mentone last year.



(R) Lyle Nicely, President of the Moon Lake  
PTO, with (L) Kevin Womack of Sylvania,  
the big winner of the PTO Gym Floor  
Jackpot Jamboree on Oct. 17, 1998

**Holiday  
Blessings**  
to All



The Valley Head PTO would like to recognize the 1st grade students who read their own stories to the audience at the November PTO meeting on November 2nd. They all did a wonderful job and seem to be bright students. We wish them luck in their future. Mrs. Coots' first grade class won the \$25.00 for the most attendance at the meeting.

The next PTO meeting will be held on Monday, December 7th at 6:30 P.M. The Valley Head Band will present their Christmas Concert and the band boosters will have a short meeting beginning at 6:00 P.M. before the PTO meeting. All band parents are urged to attend. The band will also perform for Moon Lake Students on Mon. 12/15/98 at 1:45 P.M. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Valley Head PTO would also like to thank Shaw Industries for their donation of the carpet which will later be installed on the front steps of the school and Agriculture building. We are currently waiting on warmer weather to install it.

This year the PTO has one of the largest number of members in quiet some time. We cur-

rently have 67 members (see list below), and there is still time to join. If you wish to become a member you may pay your dues to Lisa Moore at the Valley Head Water Works Board or turn them in to the office at school. Dues are: \$3.00 single or \$5.00 family.

The Valley Head PTO was recently given a check for \$1,000 from Alabama State Senator Lowell Barron. This money is greatly appreciated and needed.

The PTO will also hold a "Holiday Workshop" in the auditorium at the school during the week of December 7th thru 11th. This will provide a place where the students can purchase small gifts for friends and family for the holidays.

On Monday, November 16th, Mr. Chandler met with the parents of students for coffee and cookies. This was known as a "Parent Involvement Day" and Mrs. Edna Morgan, a retired school teacher and community member, spoke to the parents present. Mr. Chandler would like to express his thanks to all who attended and hopes more parents will be able to attend next year.

## 1998/1999 VALLEY HEAD PTO MEMBERS LIST

Byron & Vickie Armstrong  
Charles & Angie Bell  
Lisa Blevins  
Lamar & Kay Bray  
A.J. & Patti Brown  
Gene & Madeline Bullock  
Ricky & Elaine Burt  
Chris & Angie Camp  
Glen & Kathryn Carden  
Tabatha Carrier  
Ann Carroll  
Ginger Cash  
Angela Cooper  
John & Paula Cooper  
Randy & Tammy Cooper  
Trena Coots  
Donald & Margie Daniel  
Barbara P. Davis  
Leonard & Barbara Davis  
Carl & Vicki Davis  
David & Pam Dean  
Alvin & Sherry Durham  
Debbie Early

Tony & Angela Edgeworth  
Carol A. Fuller  
Bobby & J.P. Gatlin  
Rita Goodwin  
Tina Gregory  
Jackie & Wanda Grisham  
Michael & Nicolett Harper  
W.L. & Rita Hawkins  
Greg & Lynn Headrick  
Dennis & Gail Hicks  
Holly E. Hixon  
Bobby Holloway  
Dann & Norma Hulan  
Ronnie & Sandy Hulan  
Charles & Lynn Jenkins  
Ty & Judy Knopps  
Julie A. Lawton  
Tracie Lee  
Dennis & Sherry Lewis  
Alan & Susan Manning  
Kevin & Connie McElhane  
Johnny & Melinda Miller  
Lisa B. Moore

Terrell Moses & wife  
Martha Bowes Nino  
Darrell & April Nix  
Amy Poe  
Allen & Michelle Powell  
Jewell Rogers  
Patsy Sax  
Penney Scott  
Debra Sharp  
Campbell Smith  
Eugene & Juanita Smith  
Harry & Marti Smith  
L.A. & Lesa Smith  
Melissa Stanfill  
Gary & Debra Talley  
Jon & Tracey Tidmore  
James & Charlotte Turner  
Becky Wagner  
Dana Weller  
Anthony & Judy Windom  
Barry & Brenda Wisner

YOU MAY JOIN AT ANY TIME. JUST SEND YOUR MONEY TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER OR STOP BY THE VALLEY HEAD WATER WORKS BOARD AND SEE LISA. THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR CHILDREN!



*We made a list  
and checked it twice...  
You're invited  
'cause you're so nice!*

*Date: Saturday, December 19  
Time: 2 o'clock pm*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,  
CALL 635-6705 or 635-6814 or 634-4645**

**VALLEY HEAD CHRISTMAS PARADE**

*We'll have A HO-HO WHOLE lot of fun!*



## CORNERSTONE

### GENERAL STORE & FEED

Just a little note to let everyone know about the new business in Valley Head.

Cornerstone General Store & Feed is now open at the corner of Hwy 117 and Hwy 137 (the old rock store). New owner, Larry Watson, together with his wife, Brenda, and sons, Matt and Heath, have worked very hard cleaning, painting, and remodeling the old store, and hope to do even more in the future.

Larry wants everyone to know that they have convenience groceries, and gas, as well, as a full line of feed for just about every animal. So, come to the Cornerstone for your dog food; cat food; horse, hog, turkey, chicken, or cattle feed; deer corn; and more.

We'll be expanding soon to stock more farm and garden supplies for our customers.

Hours are from 6:30 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Monday thru Saturday.

Telephone 635-6619

P.S. The store can be seen briefly in a scene in the movie, "Southern Heart," which was filmed in the Mentone and Valley Head areas last year at this time.



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## MORGAN DRUGS

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Valley Head

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PRESCRIPTIONS

# Submariner Upgrades Navy System

About

## Our Town

By  
LINDA BROWN



Can you believe that this is the December issue of The Groundhog? Nothing has prepared us for the holiday season this year. I still have flowers in bloom. It has not been cold yet. Everywhere I go, I hear people saying, "I'm not ready for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Season." Now we know how people in warmer climates feel. Of course tomorrow may be freezing and snow, you never can tell in Mentone.

The giving of flu shots was well attended at the Community House. I heard that the nurses said they would definitely be back next year. That is something you might want to file away in some closet of your brain. It is so much easier to go over there instead of to Fort Payne. I have started to wonder why everyone doesn't get a flu shot and then there would not be any flu this winter. My daughter says there are so many different kinds of flu that one of them would find us even if we all took the shot. I need to do some more research on this.

Mentone continues to move forward with the water lines. Before long over one hundred houses should have water from the new lines. This is so exciting!! The town has already started the wheels turning for another grant and loan, possibly to up-grade all of the old lines this time. Some of the lines are so old that rust and other materials have collected inside them to the point that not much water can get through. This results in very low water pressure in some homes. Also, the lines have to be a certain size for fire hydrants to be put on them. This leaves some homes without adequate fire protection.

I don't usually write about things that happen at churches, but something happened at Mentone United Methodist Church that I would like to share with you. Our minister, Rev. Linda Tucker, invited eight people to our church from Angola, Africa. Two of them are here to study at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. Five of them were children, and you should have seen what a good time our children had playing with them. We had a covered-dish luncheon, so they had a lot of time together. Sometimes the words were not understood, but the actions certainly were. This is a good thing because our children are sometimes isolated from other cultures and this was a good opportunity for them to see that all people are alike, we are just wrapped in different colors of skin.

Some of the "golden oldies" in Mentone told me that they enjoyed last month's column about the corncobs. If you want me to write more along this line, let me know. If I have not experienced it (I probably have), I can always talk to someone who has. Evelyn Ruth and Marie give me free reins with this column and I appreciate that.

It seems that I think of my Grandmother Putnam quite a bit as I get older. She had such a simple life style. One thing that stands out in my memory is that she roasted all of the used eggshells on the back of the Warm Morning stove. It was always my job to take them out to the back yard and drop them; then, on the way back to the house, I had to step on each one. This crushed them up and the hens ate them. Grandmother said that this made the shells of the eggs they laid much stronger.

I know that all of the Christmas parties and activities are listed in this issue. This is always such a fun time in Mentone. My wish for you this season is that you not get so stressed out that you forget the reason for the season. I don't remember Grandmother Putnam ever giving me a Christmas present, but she gave me so much more. Think about what your children will remember about this season when they are adults.

I still don't have songbirds at my new house. There are lots of crows and one large hawk. I think this might be one reason. I have feeders out and will put out peanut butter filled pine cones later. Maybe this will entice them to come. I miss them. If any of you have any ideas as to how I can get the birds to visit me, let me know. Barbara Blalock says that I am just too impatient.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF YOU! MAY YOU HAVE HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND PEACE OF MIND.**



FTC(SS) John Jones from USS Montpelier (SSN-765) found a better way to provide changes to the Tomahawk missile mission planning system.

By J03 Anthony J. Falvo

(Submitted by John and Jean Jones)

FTC(SS) John Jones didn't make the Tomahawk missile mission data update system. He made it better. Jones and his crew from USS Montpelier (SSN-765) found a better way to provide changes to Tomahawk missile mission planning, a process that usually may have taken hours, or even days to complete. After some hard work and much brainstorming, the enterprising team developed their idea, now one that the entire fleet will use, and captured one of the first annual Copernicus Awards.

"There's a move on in the Navy to evaluate the way we do things using our communications and command and control systems," said Jones. "We would like to move from big, cumbersome, redundant systems to more commercial, off-the-shelf equipment that is less expensive, easier to use and more user friendly."

In the past, Tomahawk mission planning was a long and drawn out process. Then if a mission was to be changed during the submarine's deployment, a mission data update had to be sent via radio and computers were updated after the transmissions back and forth.

This posed two problems for the submarine and its crew. First was the time effectiveness for the submarine's antennas to be exposed above the water while at periscope depth, dangerously giving away position and running shallow for sometimes days at a time. Secondly was the wasted manhours awaiting answers to updates and getting the updates done after the reception.

Just before Montpelier's last Mediterranean deployment, Jones and his crew conferred with their battle group counterparts for a better way to communicate their mission updates.

With the adoption of a new Internet communications system aboard submarines, the battle group information exchange system, Jones felt that if it could be used for normal message traffic, the Tomahawk mission data updates should be done the same way.

"It's basically the Internet over radio," said Jones of the system, now known as the battle group information exchange system—mission data update. "It's a PC-to-PC interface via radio instead of a phone line. When we tested this new system, we found it took 15 to 20 minutes to very reliably transfer information where it used to take a day. Once receiving the information in a 'zipped' file, we can run fast and deep and transfer the information at our leisure. What started out as a way to make our own jobs easier turned out to be something that the whole Navy will be using now."

By using existing equipment from the battle group information exchange system, the only additional equipment needed to run the Logistics communications system was an additional cable to run from the PC laptop where the changes are made into the communications system.

The software used was freeware the Navy already owned making any new modifications by the Navy minimal after adopting the system. Along with the nominal price it will cost to produce the system, the savings in manhours will be a great gain.

Though Jones will be recognized for the creation of the system, he reiterates that it was a total team effort. "We worked with the Afloat Planning Systems detachment on USS Theodore Roosevelt from CINCLANTFLT and various other sources to help bring this to life. Where we worked on it from a submarine perspective, the Afloat Planning Systems detachment worked on it from a surface ship perspective so that the two could interface. My guys stayed up a lot of hours testing and researching the system along with a lot of the leg work. If we hadn't had all these people working on it, it probably wouldn't have happened."

The Copernicus Award, sponsored by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association and the U.S. Naval Institute, will be given for individual contributions to naval warfare in the disciplines of C4I, information systems and information warfare.

Having been one of the 26 selected from a field of more than 140 nominees, Jones has earned a trip to San Diego to accept the honor.

"Winning this award means the satisfaction of knowing that we could do something to make the system better," said Jones. "The big thing is that it makes our jobs a lot easier."

### Christmas Cantata

Dec. 13

The Community Choir will present the Christmas Cantata Dec. 13 at Moon Lake Baptist Church at 5 PM and at Valley Head Baptist at 7 PM. DeVann Jackson is the director. Please put this on your Christmas schedule and attend one or both performances.

### DEKALB COUNTY LIBRARY

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## "Happy Birthday!"



**Jonathan Ezra Black**

Jonathan Ezra Black celebrated his 4th birthday on November 8, 1998, with a Scooby-Doo party at the Life Center at Minvale Baptist Church. Jon is the grandson of Glen and Wanda Black of Blake, and Paul and Emma Posey of Cherokee, Alabama. He is the great grandson of Mrs. Annie Young and Mrs. Erma Black, both of Blake.



**Christopher Glenn Black**

Christopher Glenn Black celebrated his 2nd birthday on July 17, 1998. Christopher is the son of Chris and Denise Black of Blake. His grandparents are Glen and Wanda Black of Blake and Glenn and Jenneth Bridger of Pleasant View. He is the great grandson of Mrs. Erma Black and Mrs. Annie Young, both of Blake.

## Birth Announcement



**Jarrett Ray Smith**

Jarrett Ray Smith was born July 8, 1998, at DeKalb BMC Hospital. He weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz. and was 21 inches long. His parents are Tommy and JoAnn Smith. He has one brother Chaddis Ray Smith of Valley Head. His grandparents are Nigel and Edna Rochester of Valley Head and Milton and Shirley Pressley of Fort Payne. Great grandparents are the late Charlie and Lena Hester of Valley Head.

**WE ARE PROUD OF HIM!**

**Merry Christmas  
from  
The Groundhog**

## dish

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**11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

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## Moon Lake School News

**Dec. 2 - 1:40 PM** - special program in the gym featuring clowns and illusions teaching children about peanuts. Everyone is invited to come. Admission is \$2.00.

**Dec. 2-4** - Sixth grade class will be experiencing Nature's Classroom at Camp Riverview

**Dec. 8** - PTO meeting at 6:30 PM

**Dec. 15** - Valley Head Band will present their annual Christmas concert at 1:45. The public is invited to attend, and it is free.

**Dec. 18** - Last day of school before Christmas.

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**LOG HOME ON A 13 ACRE LAKE** - 2 story, 3 BR, 2 BTH, cathedral ceiling with exposed beams and loft overlooking the beautiful stone fireplace. Kitchen (with dishwasher, stove, and frig), pine floors throughout. BIG country front porch, screened back porch, central heat and air, new landscaping and dock. Lots of curb appeal! 200 feet of lake front. **PRICED AT \$150,000.00.** Located within a short walking distance from the 14,000 acre Little River Canyon National Preserve.



**CAN'T DECIDE, LAKE OR BROW PROPERTY?** We have lake and brow homesites with common areas to each at Lake on the Brow Subdivision. Protective and Restrictive Covenants. Special Feature: adjoins the 14,000 ac. Little River National Wildlife Preserve! Provides hunting, fly-fishing, white water rafting, and beautiful mountain hiking, to mention a few recreational activities! **NOW OPEN, Phase II.**

**WEST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER** - 3 ac. tracts, 150' to 300' river frontage on the Pristine Little River. Choose from gentle flowing to the ever so soothing effect of the white water rapids! Protective & Restrictive Covenants.

**NEW HOME ON THE EAST BROW** - UNDER CONSTRUCTION at Lake on the Brow subdivision, 3 BR, 2 BTH, great room (with cathedral ceiling and stone fireplace), kitchen (with built-ins), breakfast area, formal dining room and master suite. Central heat and air, 2 car garage and a bonus room. **ALL ON ONE LEVEL! PRICED AT \$195,000.00.**

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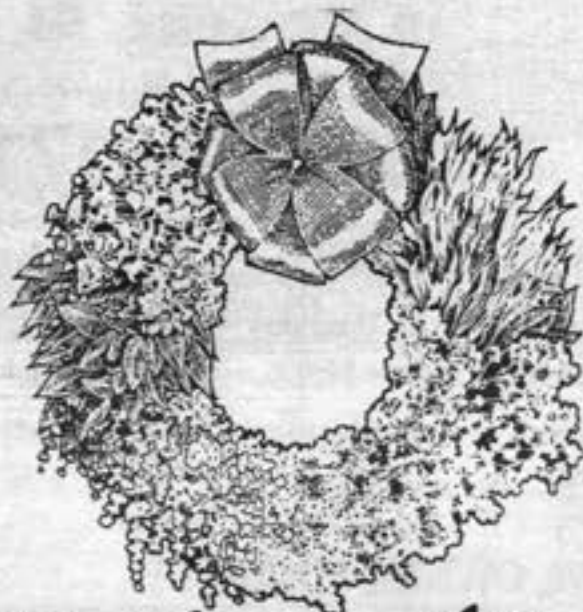
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**Merry  
Christmas**





*Best Holiday Wishes*

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**Edward Jones**

**Mentone, Alabama**

It's filled with questions  
And lots of people  
From extremely different  
Walks of life  
Certainly on different days  
You will notice folks  
Who have come to slip away  
Into a home that they find  
Is filled with nothing  
But pure, deep in and out  
serenity.

—Connor Roberts  
of Metals and Petals

**Snow Fun**

The sunshine glows on the winter snow,  
It looks so pretty, but the wind does blow.

I love to play with my friends outside,  
Making snowmen and taking a sled ride.

Before too long the sun makes the snow go away,  
But I know it will come back another day.

—Katie Gray

**"Here Lies 'Greed'"**

A song by Buck Fell

I once had a dog that drove my car  
Mowed my grass and took me to bars  
Whipped a cougar good and killed a mean ol' mole  
I saved his gas t' burn fur fuel

He barked in Japanese and he howled in Greek  
I found him in th' top of a hickory tree  
Nobody else wanted him, he ate too much  
He stomped on his pedals and he popped his clutch

Now, he liked me 'cause I liked his style  
Scratched his back and it stretched fur a mile  
Had five legs and he was full o' ticks  
A ten-foot cedar tree was his fetchin' stick

He could run 'round th' barn in two seconds' time  
Lassoed trespassers with m' ol' clothesline  
I fed him whole-hog 'cause I liked th' way he sang  
He chewed on the asphalt t' sharpen his fangs

I used a half-inch cable when I took him fur a walk  
Hooked it to a steel collar with a Master lock  
One day I lost th' key and the cable got caught  
Pulled th' post office down when th' line got taut

Well, that bad ol' dog is laid t' rest  
In m' back yard now, and was he a test!  
He didn't want t' be buried in a muslin sheet  
So he dug his way out just t' criticize me

Then I took out a loan and I got him a coffin  
Had a headstone carved so's he wouldn't be f' gotten  
He thought it was fine and he went back t' sleep  
And th' headstone reads: "HERE LIES 'GREED'"

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(1) Over 1600 sq. ft. of Living Space. This house offers 2 bdrm, 2 bath, large kitchen with island and breakfast nook. Also features pine paneling, great closet space, a detached garage and storage shed all on 2 acres. \$69,500.



(2) MOUNTAIN RIVER ESTATES - 3 to 5 acre tracts on the middle fork of Little River - running into Lake Lanoka. Prices starting at \$27,500.



(3) COZY AND COMFORTABLE log and frame cottage with log garage-guest house-12x24 enclosed and heated in-ground pool on over 1 acre with a DeSoto Parkway location. Owner says make offer! \$129,500.



(4) A PLACE TO HANG YOUR HEART! You'll get that warm and cozy feeling when you enter this beautiful new home in Mentone. 3 BR, 2 baths, gas fireplace, eat-in kitchen, and carpet and hardwood flooring throughout. Let your green thumb do the work on the beautiful rock gardens around the trees in the front yard. Call today to see. \$98,000.



(5) COUNTRY SOPHISTICATION! One look is all it will take for you to fall in love with this custom built home in the mountains. Only 4 years old with 3 BR, 2 baths, CH&A, 2 car garage, deck, built-in appliances, custom made cabinets and much more! Call today. Only \$135,000.



(7) OVER 100 YEAR OLD FARM HOUSE offering 5 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, large eat-in kitchen, wraparound porch and 3 out buildings. All on 18 acres with creek, pasture, and woods. \$89,900.



(6) COUNTRY LIVING IN THE HEART OF MENTONE - Three bedroom, 2 bath custom built home, pine floors, fireplace open to living area and master bedroom, large kitchen and dining area, sunroom, and private courtyard. \$162,500.



(8) COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES ON HWY 117. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath modular home comes with a fully equipped kitchen, living room, dining room, sunroom, central heat and air, 20x30 shed/garage and a nice landscaped yard on over 1 acre. Call today for more details. \$69,900.



(10) DO YOU WANT PRIVACY? Located close to DeSoto State Park, this home is perfect for a private get-away. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large living room and basement, plus a detached garage/shop building with second story, which could be made into living quarters. Fenced area for house or pets on over an acre of land. \$85,000.



(9) COTTAGE COMFORT - you will love sitting on the front porch taking in the fresh mountain air. This 2 bdrm, 2 bath home is located on six lots adjoining the Mentone City Park. All for \$99,000.



(11) A MAGICAL MOMENT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ENTER THIS WONDERFUL 4-YEAR-OLD LOG HOME close to DeSoto State Park. Secluded in the woods, you can enjoy the large porches, the pine floors, solid wood walls, high ceilings with spacious loft room, and beautiful landscaping. A perfect get-away location, but only minutes from town. Enter today. \$169,500.

## OTHER LISTINGS

- (12) WEEKEND OR WEEKLY RENTAL available. 3 bdrms and 2 baths will accommodate 8 people. For more information, call Susan Collins.
- (13) 10 ACRE TRACTS - gently rolling-heavily wooded-with creek. Close to downtown Mentone on private road. "Lightly" restricted. \$25,000.
- (14) VACATION IN THE BACKYARD! It's relaxing just being at the 11 acre parcel of land in Mentone. Beautiful rock formations and lots of privacy for only \$45,000. Make your appointment to see it today.
- (15) OVER 6 ACRES on DeSoto Parkway - greatly rolling with beautiful landscaping and great building sites. \$35,000.
- (16) 1.75 ACRES ON THE "WEST" FORK OF LITTLE RIVER less than 1 mile from downtown Mentone. \$30,000.
- (17) OPPORTUNITY IS KNOCKING - 66 acres of partially wooded land in Mentone close to the "old" Park entrance. Lots of privacy for your homesite. \$89,000.
- (18) HANDY MAN'S DREAM - New cabin ready for the inside to be finished with your personal touches. Plan is for 2 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths, great room, and sunroom. All on 2.3 acres for only \$29,900.
- (19) MAKE THE MOVE TO MENTONE! Building lot on DeSoto Parkway - 200 feet of road frontage. \$10,000.

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## The Church News

By  
EVELYN GRAVES



Sunday morning services at **Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church** are held at 8:15 AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Reverend Jerry Davis and Reverend L. A. Smith are alternate speakers for these services.

The **Valley Head United Methodist Church** Sunday School is at 9 AM each Sunday and Worship is at 10 AM.

**Howard's Chapel** (Church in the Rock) has regular services at 10 AM each Sunday. You are invited to attend these services or visit the church at other times. Casual dress is always acceptable.

**Menlo Church of Christ** invites you to attend the 10 and 11 AM services and evening services will be at 7 and 9 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

**Union Hill Baptist Church** Sunday School is at 10 AM. Worship is at 11 AM. Adult Choir practice is at 4:30 PM. Discipleship Training is at 6 PM, and Evening Worship is at 7 PM. Wednesday evening at 5 PM is Youth Choir practice with GA's and RA's meeting on alternate Wednesdays at 5 PM. Each 2nd Sunday evening, the church has a singing at 6 PM. Everyone is invited for the singing. Great things are happening and plans for a new church building are under way.

The **Mentone Revival Center** and Pastor Alfred Chambers and his wife Polly, invite everyone to join in worship on Sunday at 10 AM. Wednesday evening worship begins at 6:30 PM.

The **Mentone Church of God of Prophecy** wants to invite you to attend their services. Sunday School is at 10 AM, with Worship at 11 AM. Evening services begin at 6:30 PM. Wednesday evening service is a time of prayer, worship, and to allow specialized ministries to be boosted. The first Wednesday night before Sunday is Youth services, the second Wednesday night is mission services, the third Wednesday night is Heritage services, and the fourth Wednesday night is Care Ministries (local missions). Men's Brotherhood is every fourth Saturday at 8 AM in the church. Women's prayer service is every Wed. morning at 9:30.

The **Valley Head Baptist Church** dedicated the choe boxes for Operation Christmas Child on Nov. 22. Nov. 29 is International Mission Study, 5-7 PM. Week of Prayer is Nov. 29-Dec. 6. Dec. 6 is showing of the film, "Candle in the Dark" at 6 PM. Light refreshments will follow. The children will count the money collected for the Children's Home. Dec. 8 - Nursing Home Store. All items for the nursing home patients must be received before this date. Dec. 13. See notice this page and on the back page about the Cantata by the Community Choir. Dec. 17 - Senior Adult Sunday School Class will enjoy a Christmas Party at the Lookout Restaurant at 5 PM. Dec. 20 - Candlelight Service at 6 PM. Refreshments following. Dec. 23 - There will be no prayer meeting.

**Moon Lake Baptist Church** invites you to attend Sunday School at 9:45 AM each Sunday and Worship at 11 AM. Youth Choir practice is at 4 PM each Sunday. Discipleship Training is at 5 PM, and Evening Worship is at 6 PM. The Men's Prayer group meets every Wednesday at 6:45 AM and Church Bible Study is at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays. Team Kid is 6:30-7:30 PM. The van runs at 5:30 and should return at 8:30 PM. The Youth and Youth Ministry team through Change Your World are available to do whatever they can to help you (cleaning, light construction work, etc.).

**Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter** is currently holding services at the Woodman of the World building in Valley Head. All are invited! Sabbath School - 9:30-10:45; Worship Service - 11 - 12:15 each Saturday. We celebrated Thanksgiving at our monthly fellowship dinner. Lots of good food and fellowship. Dr. s Bernell and Marjorie Baldwin from Wildwood were our guest speakers. A mission story on Rumania was presented. We invite each and every one of you to visit our church and learn more about our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Happy Christmas to all and May God Bless you in the coming year.

**Mount Calvary Baptist Church** welcomes you to attend services on Sundays and Wednesday Evenings. we have added a few new Sunday School classes, and you may join whichever class is comfortable for you at 10 AM. Pastor James Braddy brings the message at 11 AM, Sun. and 7 PM on Wednesdays. We would all like to welcome you as a visitor and you are welcome to attend our church on a regular basis if you do not have a home church. Our singings will resume again in the spring. We discontinue them in the winter months. We are located 2 miles behind the Lookout Restaurant at Cloudland. Come Praise the Lord with US. You may call 706-862-2651 for directions.

The **Harmony Grove Baptist Church** invites everyone to come and worship with them. God's Country Church is located on Co. Road 259 (Hawkins Road). Sunday School is at 9:45 AM; Morning Worship is at 11 AM; Evening Worship is at 6 PM; Wednesday Night Prayer Service is at 6 PM.

The **Mentone United Methodist Church** services are at 11 AM each Sunday. Sunday school is at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome. On Charge Conference Sunday, Nov. 15, we had a covered dish dinner, which was a tremendous success. District Superintendent, Gerald Champion; Costa deOliveira, his wife, and his five children, from Angola, Africa; and Isabelle Fernandez, the daughter of the Bishop in Angola, stayed as guests. Also, Mrs. Jan Eaton, from Long Beach, MS, who was visiting Marie Dillenbeck, stayed to enjoy the bountiful food and great fellowship. The church was full of children and adults, what a great blessing for everyone! Frank and Linda Hill of Mentone were welcomed into the church membership on Sun., Nov. 22.

**Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church** holds mass services at 11:30 AM each Sunday. Tuesday evening services are at 6 PM and children's and adults' education classes are at 6 PM each Wednesday.

**Mentone Wesleyan Church** is committed to being a Bible teaching community church where all people of all races, social standing, and diverse church backgrounds are welcomed and loved.

**St. Joseph's on-the-mountain Episcopal Church** services are Sunday at 10:30 AM, with Sunday School at 9:30 AM. Small groups meeting on Sun., Tues. and Wed. nights. Music Night, Nov. 6, at the home of Homer and Bernice Crow. Contact the church at 634-4476 for more information. Everyone is welcome.

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Friday-Saturday 5-9 p.m. DeSoto Parkway - Mentone  
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**The Lookout Restaurant**  
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**(706) 862-2515**  
Reservations Necessary Friday and Saturday

## Christmas Cantata

The Community Choir under the direction of DeVann Jackson will present  
**"Everywhere You Go It's Christmas"**  
on December 13  
at 5 PM at Moon Lake Baptist church  
and 7 PM at Valley Head Baptist Church. Refreshments will be provided.  
Everyone is cordially invited.

# UNITED GIVERS FUND OF DEKALB COUNTY, INC. GOES OVER GOAL - LOCAL BUSINESSES HONORED

The United Givers Fund of DeKalb County ended its 1998-99 campaign with \$332,115, donated or pledged, representing 102.2% of the \$325,000 goal set for the campaign's 40th year. The goal was the largest ever for the organization.

Final totals for teams and divisions were announced and awards were given at a lunch meeting at Western Sizzlin, where hard-working Group Captains and Team and Division Chairmen celebrated the end of UGF's campaign to provide its member agencies with funding for the coming year.

Chris Kuykendall, President's Club Chairman, congratulated everyone at the meeting, and said, "You've all done a wonderful job, you've worked hard, and you've succeeded." Kuykendall also extended thanks on behalf of the board of directors and member agencies, saying, "Next year, people will get many things they need because of your hard work."

He also thanked Campaign General Chairman Jonnie Justice for a job well done, and thanked the UGF office staff and board members for their many contributions to the campaign's success.

Jonnie Justice thanked everyone involved with the campaign and said, "I've really had fun doing this. UGF makes a difference in so many ways for those it serves. We truly change people's lives."

Following is a list of awards presented to campaign participants:

**Gold Award**, at least 70 percent employee participation—Charleston Hosiery, both Fort Payne and Rainsville; Henagar Hosiery; Johnco Hosiery; Lala Ellen Hosiery; Pioneer Knitting; Plainsman Hosiery; Prewett Associated Mills; Prewett Hosiery Sales/Dist. Ctr.; VI Prewett & Sons; EarthGrains; UPS; Siemens-Westinghouse; Vulcraft; AmSouth Bank; Compass Bank; The Times-Journal; Liberty National; McGriff Dowdy & Associates; Winn Dixie Market



Place; and Word South Public Relations.

**Silver Award**, at least 60% employee participation—C.S. Bell Hosiery; Johnson Hosiery; Cherokee Hosiery; The Heil Company; Complete Care; Ladd Environmental; ARC of DeKalb County and Child Development Center.

**Bronze Award**, at least 50% employee participation—Wee Socks; The Gas House; Child Care Resource Network; Revenue Commission Office; Gold Kist Hatchery; Crossville; Kappler USA; Rainsville.

Among the **Communities** whose citizens exceeded their goals were: Dogtown/Mt. Vernon, Sue Wills; Hammondville, Eloise Brown; Valley Head, Priscilla Monroe; Crossville, Rita Gilbreath; Dawson/Skorum, Opal Driskill; Powell, Slick Helton; Rainsville, Izader Dalton and Stefanie Hale; Henagar, Georgia Blalock; Ider, Michael Bruce; Sylvania, Tammy Jones, and County Schools/Miscellaneous, Donna Taheri.

**Groups** over goal were led by Captains Linda Sterling, Carla Bryan, Julie Morgan, Bill Mitchell and Larry Gray, Lyrica Pack, Carolyn Harrison, Jimmy Gilbreath and Dr. John Isbell.

**Teams** over goal were led by Team Chairmen Linda Sterling, Wilma Lath, Jim Davidson, Larry Hancock, Randolph Bell and Michael Gullledge.

**Divisions** over goal were led by Division Chairman Linda Sterling and Virginia Wright.

**Employees** participating 100 percent in payroll-deducted giving were Lala Ellen Hosiery, Prewett Associated Mills, Prewett Hosiery Sales/Dist. Ctr., AmSouth Bank, Compass Bank, Liberty National Insurance's DeKalb Employees, DeKalb County Child Development Center, Revenue Commission and Word South Public Relations.

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## Health Nugget

By Dowe C. Foreman

### Let's go Nuts!!!

Did you know that a peanut is not really a nut at all, but is in the legume family? So, when you eat your favorite sandwich, you will be eating a legume and jelly or a legume and banana sandwich. Doesn't sound too appealing, does it? Peanuts are still fairly good for you, but true nuts are the best. Almond butter is pretty awesome on bread and is really a lot better for you and actually has better flavor.

Nuts have several good things going for them. One oz. of nuts contains approx. 4 grams of protein, 2-3 grams of fiber, 170 mg potassium and 60 mg of magnesium. Almonds and hazelnuts contain ingredients that can help you avoid hardening of the arteries. Nuts are rich in certain phytochemicals which are helpful in fighting cancer. Almonds and walnuts have proven their effectiveness in lowering cholesterol levels by 10-15 percent. Most of us eat nuts only at Christmas when a lot of our desserts contain these tasty crunchies. This is really a shame, because you can make all sorts of dishes using these healthy nuts.

If interested in recipes for gravies, desserts, or other dishes, call me at 634-4021.

Please have a Happy and Healthy Christmas!

May the love of Jesus be in your heart.

## VEGAN RECIPES

### CASHEW GRAVY

4 C water 1/2 tsp garlic powder  
6 Tbsp soy sauce 2 Tbsp nutritional yeast flakes  
1 C cashew nuts or meal  
2 Tbsp onion powder 2 Tbsp cornstarch  
Blend 2 C water until creamy. Add 1 C of remaining water and rest of ingredients and blend again. Pour into sauce pan. Rinse blender with remaining water and add to pan. Cook on med-high until thick. Great on almond bread dressing.

### ALMOND BREAD DRESSING

1/2 C chopped onions  
2 C sliced almonds  
16 C (2 loaves) whole wheat bread crumbs  
1/2 C chopped fresh basil (or 4 Tbsp. dry)  
4 C chopped celery  
4 Tbsp oil (olive is best)  
2-3 tsp salt  
3 C chicken seasoning broth (Make with 6 or more Tbsp dry chicken-style seasoning and water)  
Sauté onion, celery and almonds in oil until onions are clear. Combine with remaining ingredients, adding broth to moisten thoroughly. (May need more than 3 C.) Pour into "Pam" sprayed baking dish. Cover and bake at 350° for 45 min. Uncover and bake 15 min. more.

Note: McKays chicken style seasoning contains no meat products.

### All are invited to attend a Special Holiday Cooking School

7 PM, Thursday, Dec. 10  
Woodman of the World Building  
in Valley Head  
\$5.00 per person  
Delicious Vegetarian Recipes  
Held in conjunction with  
Wildwood Lifestyle Center and Hospital  
For more info, call Stan & Linda at 634-4658  
or Dowe at 634-4021

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Saturday Buffet 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Mentone  
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Nestled in the woods on Lookout Mountain at Shady Grove, near DeKalb State Park, this small chapel is a scaled-down version of the early churches of the past.

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Time moves on and Christmas is near. Shopping days are already being counted. If one could find what he wanted the first excursion into the shopping areas, it would be easy. This week, I shopped at Proffitts at Northgate Shopping Mall in Chattanooga on Tuesday--the day when senior citizens receive a 15% discount, and that made a good beginning. Northgate Mall is my favorite shopping area because of a good variety of stores and easy access.

Every year, the merchants start pushing sales a little earlier than the year before, and it looks like we may begin right after the Fourth of July, soon. Of course, some people are smart and they buy a few gifts all during the year and stash them away. That's OK if no peepers are around. Some people cannot wait, and they are searching closets and attics for gifts. This was never my thing. The element of surprise is half the pleasure of receiving a gift, be it ever so small. And some people have a little ESP and just know what you have purchased for them. The first year we were married, I bought Homer a nice wool robe and bedroom slippers to match. He was not with me when I made the purchase, and it was gift wrapped in the store, so he could not have peeped. One morning he said it would be nice to have that nice rake I got for him! Then, the next year he said he dreamed what I bought for his gift. Now, wouldn't that be a surprise? I believe I took that gift back and exchanged it for another item.

It used to be fun to buy toys for the children the day after Christmas when nice things were half price. There was a deep drawer in a chest in our bedroom where I kept things, and the children never bothered anything in that area. I had a beautiful doll for Joyce that had been there all year. One day just before the following Christmas, we had been shopping, and when we returned, Doreen was blissfully sitting on the sofa playing with Joyce's doll! What a surprise that was! So, newer hiding places had to be found. That sort of put my whole plan out of focus.

Giving should not be a chore, but at Christmas it sometimes becomes one. We try to cram too much into the Yuletide season, when giving should be done all through the year. If we don't have money to buy gifts, we can give some of our time by visiting those who are sick or doing all sorts of volunteer work. There is something everyone can do to contribute to the community and the country. We are having community activities in Mentone this year that everyone should enjoy. The Merchants, Ministerial Association and MAPA are busily planning for a musical mountain Christmas with a party for children, sleight rides with Santa, a tree lighting ceremony, with carol singing.

When giving your presents for Christmas, please remember the reason for the season, and that Christ's gift to us was Himself.

This year, with all the suffering in Honduras, it would be nice to give to Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, or some group that would use it for getting supplies to the people. It is truly more blessed to give than to receive. Somehow, when we give, we get a warm feeling of fulfillment that is not to be matched by any gift received.

May you have a blessed holiday season shared with friends and family. We have many nice shops in Mentone where beautiful gifts may be purchased and it would be easier than going to the city to shop.

# First Noel



It's hard to believe, it will soon be Christmas. It seems to come earlier every year. This year, decorations, songs and advertising before Halloween. That is too soon!

The Sunshine Club enjoyed lunch at Katy's Catfish Restaurant at Rainsville, Oct. 29. The following members were present: Verence Hawkins, Sue Clark, Gladys Cobble, Ruth Pickett, Anna Daniels, Evelyn Clark, Jean Jones, Lillie Bowden and Eloise Brown.

Mark and Mathew Gibson of Dallas, TX, spent several days, recently, with Dot and Bill Blackburn. Dot and her daughters, Linda and Martha, spent Halloween weekend in Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, and enjoyed the beautiful foliage and shopping.

Geneva Smith has recovered after spending a weekend at BMC-DeKalb. Tara and Tim Morgan and new daughter Kaitlyn, from Albertville, spent last Sunday afternoon with her.

Jo and Howard Carson spent a week in Gulf Shores. They were joined by Tommy and Gail Carson, Randy and Cathy Carson, and Danny and Pam Burge and children. They went deep sea fishing and brought home 100 pounds of filets.

Ed Ringer met and visited with the following friends at Tannehill State Park on Oct. 21: Mr. and Mrs. O.K. Gibbs, from Tuscaloosa; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ward of Newnan, Ga; Mr. and Mrs. Harvel Tilly of Ethelsville, Ala., and son Tony; and Ernest Harris of Selma. He also visited the Iron Works Museum. He had also visited his brother, Dr. Robert Ringer and wife in Marianna, Fla., for several days. They enjoyed joining some of their friends in Panama City Beach for dinner one evening.

Doris and Jim Carmichael's cousin, Elmos and wife, Kathy Palmer of Dallas, Texas, visited them for several days. They visited Huntsville Airport, went to Sandrock and visited their old home place, went to Gatlinburg for one night and across to Cherokee and Dollywood, and also visited their Aunt Mary Emerson in Rome, Ga. He had been a pilot with Continental Air Lines for 48 years.

Jonathan Dean, and Paul and Steve Hawkins are in South Alabama deer hunting--Deer beware!

My cousins, Bill and Blanche Fuller, from Madison, Ala., spent one Sunday with me last month and other cousins, Tommy and Billie Jean Fisher, from Chattanooga spent last Wednesday with me.

John and Jean Jones have been busy traveling--as she wrote "End of May, we went to Chesapeake, Va., and picked up grandson, John, who spent the month of June with us. Took him home, end of June, and brought his sister, Rebecca, back for the month of July. The last of July, we took her home and brought her cousin, Kendra, back for the month of Aug. On returning home in Sept., we received word that my uncle, who lived in Woodstock, Va., died, so we went back to Virginia for his funeral and to help my aunt. We stayed a week, came home for about two weeks and went back for two weeks. After being home for three days, we went to Panama City, and Ocala, Fla." I guess--to rest.

The Valley Head UMW met at Laura Margaret Allison's home, Oct. 29. Those present were Elizabeth Coleman, Peachie Cearley, Mary Crow, Marjorie Gray, Mary Holleman, Adelaide Biddle, Melinda Adkins, and I. We had an interesting program, "Dreams of a Promised Land," led by Adelaide with others taking part. The same officers were re-elected.

Lillie Bowden went to Miami, recently, and to visit her cousin, Vee and Jack MacLaren in Coral Gables. They were joined by Pat and Don Clark from Sacramento, Ca., and had a very enjoyable visit.

Virginia Livezy's cousin, Bill Osment, from Tyler, Tx, spent two days with her recently.

Venna Livingston's niece, Marcie Norwood, came from Guin, Ala., and they went to Bryson City and into Cherokee

and Pigeon Forge. They enjoyed sightseeing and shopping, but the highlight of their trip was visiting their nephew, Charles Norwood, at his beautiful new home atop Davis Mountain, and his real estate development, Fontana Lake Estates. The beautiful colors of the foliage were at their peak and were spectacular. The weather was perfect, so they had a wonderful trip.

The Valley Head Methodist Church entertained our District Superintendent, Gerald Champion, Sunday, Nov. 15, with breakfast at the church for the Charge Conference. Those present were Adelaide Biddle, Venna Livingston, Ed Ringer, Marty and Jessica Biddle, Ted Holleman, Jeff, Melinda and Amelia Adkins, Melissa Baxter, J.L. Gibson, Stacey Burris, and myself.

Several of us from here attended the funeral of Ernest (Brody) Hawkins at Moore's Funeral Home in Trenton, Nov. 19, and burial at Beene Cemetery. Sincere sympathy to his family.

The Sunshine Club enjoyed a lovely covered dish luncheon at the home of Lillie Bowden, Nov. 19. I gave the devotional, and Gladys Cobble read a joke. The same officers were elected by acclamation. Others present were Ruth Pickett, Elizabeth Bauerle, Bethye Betica, Joy Hurt, Gladys Harris, Evelyn Clark, Anna Daniel, Susie Clark, and Jean Jones.

Janie Longshore has not been well. We hope she is feeling better.

Congratulations to Jody Wagner, who has been admitted to the professional program in Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine, as a Class of 2002 member. He is a 1995 graduate of Valley Head High School.

I hope everyone enjoys happy and safe holidays with families and friends!

## Prophecy of Hope

Long ago on that special night,  
When stars merged in the glory bright  
Of a beckoning beacon of leading light,  
Shepherds were frightened at the awesome sight,  
And were worried and dreaded an awful plight.

Suddenly beautiful music filled the air,  
And brought great comfort and loving care--  
Bringing joy to dispel mankind's despair  
And a wondrous message forever to share.

As angels sang the proclamation,  
With praise and sacred exultation  
Of the cause for eternal celebration,  
Foretelling hope for the world's salvation.

Wise men heard the news afar  
And came to follow the beckoning star  
To a wonderful miracle nothing could mar  
That could erase sin's awful scar--

A baby had been born in a cattle cave,  
Born to a virgin in a lowly nave,  
It was God's son with love He gave,  
With redeeming power to bless and to save.

The supreme gift from Heaven sent,  
To lead mankind to believe and repent--  
Marvelous love only God could present--  
Hope for all earth and eternal content.

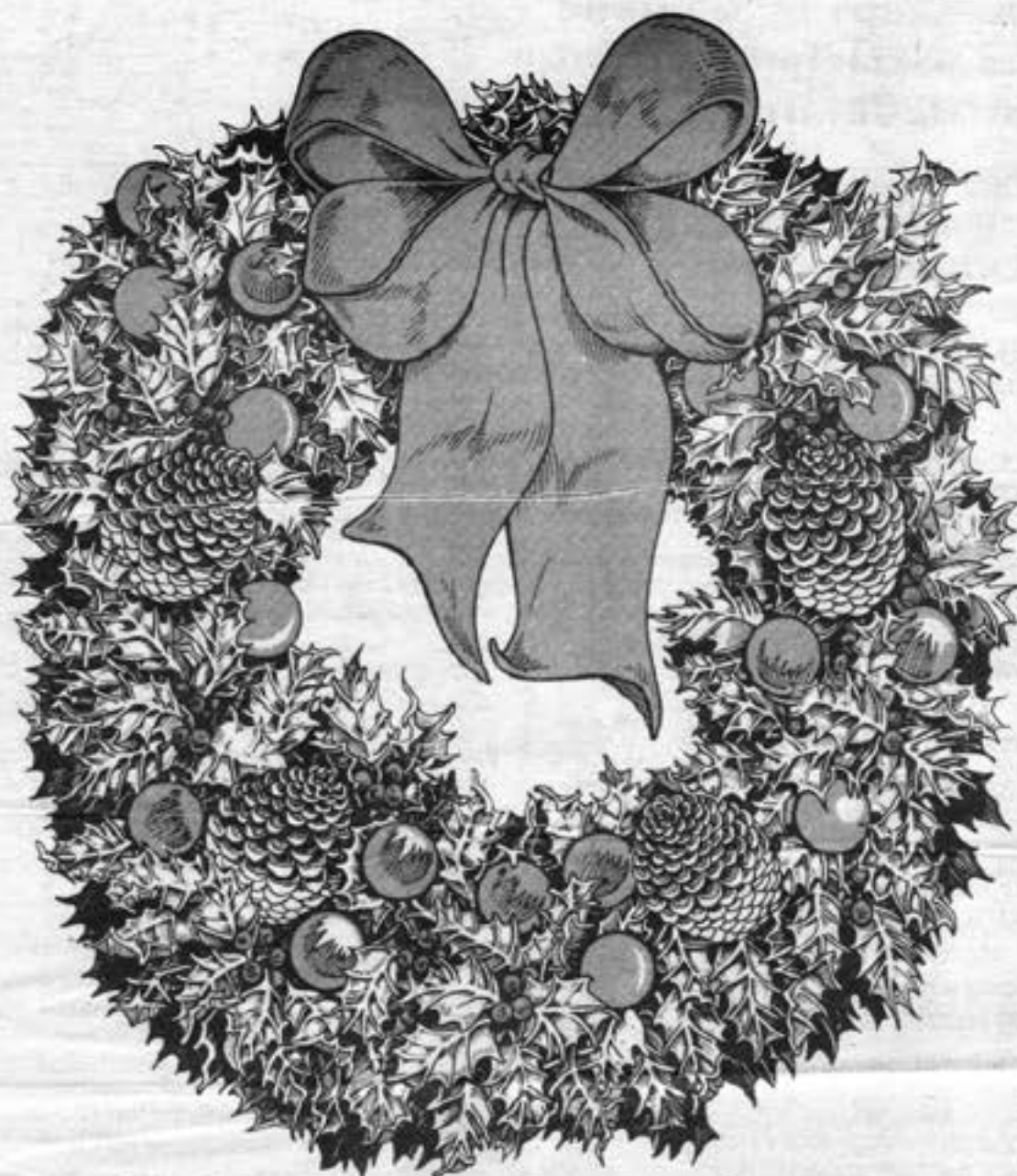
Wise men still follow that star's leading ray  
Knowing it is the only rightful way  
Of hope for love and peace--God's love to repay  
And insure for the world a better day.

When faith nurtures hope to constantly remind  
God has the power to control and bind  
The forces of evil in heart, soul and mind  
Into bonds of love to unite all mankind.

So lift up your spirit and continue to pray,  
For our leaders to follow that leading ray  
That God may guide us all in the right way  
To a prosperous, peaceful and happier day.

Isaiah prophesied "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

—Eloise Brown



## Little River Hardware

and Miscellaneous Mercantile



### Christmas is Coming!

Mentone Mugs, High quality long-sleeved tees with Mentone embroidery, Shirts, Sweatshirts, Bird feeders, stuffed animals, Porch Swings, Puzzles, Windchimes, Assorted local postcards: watercolor and etched, gift certificates...and MORE!  
(We even have hardware.)

We accept all major credit cards.

1-256-634-4757

5190 AL HWY 117  
Mentone AL 35984

1-800-634-4787

FAX (256) 634-4105

### BURT FUNERAL HOME

50 Years of Continuous Service  
First Funeral Home in DeKalb County  
to offer pre-need services

R.J. Burt, Jr. - Owner

Fort Payne  
845-3232

Valley Head  
635-6247



Judy and Louis Pierce  
(256) 634-4529

OPEN M,Wed-Sat: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun: 1-5  
Tues - closed

Antiques, Collectibles, & Uniques  
Dealers welcome - space available.



### Whatley's Towing Service

Day or Night

Lowest Rates

Sam Whatley

(256) 634-4168  
or toll-free: 1-877-634-4168



93 Co.Rd. 106  
Mentone, AL 35984

### Open to Public CLOUDMONT Ski and Golf Resort

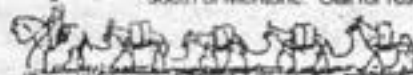
29th year of skiing

We are waiting with our snow machines for weather cold enough to maintain the snow for skiing. Watch the weather channel for information, or

Think Snow! Call (256) 634-4344.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Enjoy the winter with us. Skiing, hiking, fishing. Ski season Dec-Mar. Variety of resort accommodations atop Lookout Mountain 3 miles south of Mentone. Call for reservations.



SHADY GROVE DUDE RANCH  
HORSEBACK RIDING STABLES

Trail Rides & Wagon Trips • Guided & Daily Rides \$10/hour  
Fun for the whole family

(256) 634-4344



## Businesses/Shops in Mentone are open and participating in the 1998 Musical Mountain Christmas

**White Elephant Antique Galleries**  
Louis & Judy Pierce  
Antiques, Collectibles & Uniques  
M,W-S: 10 - 5; Sun: 1 - 5; Closed Tues

**Crow's Nest Antiques**  
Bernise Crow  
Open Sat/Sun: 11-4

**Busy Corner Clock Shop**  
Charlie Rogers  
Open Wed.-Fri. - 9 - 3;  
Sat. - Sun 9 - till; Mon-Tue: Closed

**Bud's Place**  
Wanda Simmons  
collectibles, bottles, clothes, & much  
more. Open Sat. Sun. 11-4

**Country Store**  
Marsha Hair; quilts, hand-crafted  
items, glassware and antiques  
Open: Sat. - Sun. 11 - 5

**Cottage Collectables**  
Pam Baggett  
Open M, W-Sat: 10 - 5  
Sun: 12 - 5; Closed Tuesday

**Ro's Kreations**  
Rovene Truett  
Open: M,W - Sat - 10 - 5  
Sunday: 1 - 5; Closed Tuesday

**Granny's Panties**  
& other mentionable crafts  
Marilyn Wrigley; Open: Sat/Sun: 10-4  
Homemade Christmas Gifts, Creative Crafts

**The Ivy Cottage**  
Betty Bain; crafts and gifts  
Open: Wed-Sat: 11-5; Sun: 12-5  
Closed Mon/Tue

### Come Enjoy Our MUSICAL MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS MENTONE, ALABAMA

**DEC. 4**  
CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY  
ALABAMA 117 & DESOTO PKY. 89 5 PM

**DEC. 5**  
MERCHANT'S HOSPITALITY OPEN HOUSES  
WITH REFRESHMENTS  
10 AM TO 5 PM

PHOTOS WITH SANTA AT RO'S KREATIONS  
HIGHWAY 117 1 TO 3 PM

MOUNTAIN MUSIC AT MENTONE SUPERETTE  
HIGHWAY 117 1 TO 3 PM

**DEC. 11**  
MENTONE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY  
COME OUT FOR ALL COMMUNITY SING AT CHRISTMAS TREE  
CORNER AL 117 & DESOTO PKY. 89 5 PM

**DEC. 12**  
MERCHANT'S HOSPITALITY OPEN HOUSES  
WITH REFRESHMENTS  
10 AM TO 5 PM

AREA CHURCHES CAROL & GROUPS SING  
LOG CABIN VILLAGE 10 AM TO 5 PM

SANTA VISITS STORES THROUGHOUT MENTONE

**DEC. 13**  
COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA  
MOON LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH 5 PM  
VALLEY HEAD BAPTIST CHURCH 7 PM

**DEC. 31**  
RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH GOSPEL SINGING  
DESSIE'S KOUNTRY CHEF HWY. 117 8 PM-MIDNIGHT

More Information? Contact Corinne Caplano, Chairperson (256) 634-0016 or  
Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) 634-4041 & 1-888-340-3381

**Metals & Petals**  
Jan Shanks  
and Frances Roberts  
Open: Sat/Sun: 10-4

**The Mentone Superette**  
Al Blackburn  
gas, groceries, videos  
open 7 days a week

**Mentone Springs Hotel**  
Cliffie and David Wassom  
Caldwell's Restaurant  
Buffets - Sun: 7-3; Sat: 11-8

**Log Cabin Deli**  
Colette Kerby  
Open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. - T-W-Th;  
11 a.m.-9 p.m. - Fri & Sat;  
10 a.m.-7 p.m. - Sun: Closed Mon.

**White Feather  
Cherokee Legend**  
Open: Fri/Sat/Sun - 12-4  
December 18-24: 12-4

**The Village Boutique**  
Janette McCord  
Open: Sat/Sun: 11-4

Look for other ads  
throughout this issue of  
The Groundhog that are  
also celebrating Mentone's  
Musical Mountain  
Christmas.

*Spirit of  
Christmas*

Merry Christmas  
from  
The Groundhog

### CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES

The Chattooga County Garden Club will present their Christmas Tour of Homes on Sunday, December 6, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Homes on the tour include Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Lee Cook in Cloudland, Dr. and Mrs. Sanford Hill in Summerville, Dr. and Mrs. Alan Johnson in Dry Valley, and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Selman on Menlo Highway.

Tickets are \$10.00, with all money going to beautification projects in Chattooga County by the Garden Club. You can buy tickets now from any Garden Club member. Tickets are also on sale at the Farmer's and Merchants Bank or the County Extension office in Summerville. On the day of the tour, tickets will be sold at Cherokee Antiques in Summerville and at each of the homes. Maps to the homes will be provided at Cherokee Antiques and at each home.

In Cloudland and Mentone, or if you can't get out to get your ticket, call Robbi Richter at (706) 862-6178, and she will deliver your ticket to you.



### God's Minute By Ruby Brock

And the angel said unto them, fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11

I would like to have been there and heard what the angel said to the shepherds--what was happening that day. And what a thrill to hear the heavenly host sing, "Peace on Earth." Oh, wouldn't it be great to see peace in all our homes this Christmas? Only God can give that peace, ask Him for it.

Merry Christmas to all.