

**Celebrating
18 Years
in Print**

THE

GROUNDHOG

•Mentone • Valley Head •Hammondville •Cloudland •Menlo

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

Volume 18, No. 12

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

December 2000

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES ON THE MOUNTAIN AND IN THE VALLEY

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

A joint effort between the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA), the Mentone Merchants, and the Mentone Town Council brought out beautiful decorations for Mentone. The Christmas Decorations for the main street of the town are the courtesy of MAPA. Again this year, Jack Johnston, put up the decorations on the telephone poles on Saturday, after Thanksgiving. The lights were to have coincided with the annual open house that the White Elephant Antique Gallery has each year the day after Thanksgiving. Because of the rain, the decorations did not go up until Saturday. The merchants each decorated their establishments and before the end of the month, decorations will be judged with first, second, and third winners to be announced. There will be pictures and a brief write up about each winner in the combined January/February issue of The Groundhog, which will be delivered on February 2nd.

An excerpt from an article by Mayor C.E. Britt states: "The Mentone Area Preservation Association and I, as Mayor, sent out a letter to town merchants urging them to go all out in holiday decorations. In addition, MAPA and the Town Council sponsored a bonfire with live music for caroling on the evening of Friday, December 8, on the lot adjoining the Mentone Inn. We hoped to have a big crowd and to raise a joyful sound! Due to other events in the area, including the Fort Payne Annual Parade, the turnout was small. However, the spirit of those attending was great. Many Christmas carols were sung, and lots of hot chocolate and coffee and cider were available." The Tourist and Events Committee will be meeting next week to make their selection of the winners for the best decorations.

At the bonfire on Friday night, Dec. 8, at 5:30, Jerry Grantland and his Cotaco Creek group volun-



Fritz Steel entry wins 1st prize

teered to come to the mountain and provide music. They are professional musicians who donate their time and talent to our festivals and volunteered to come to the Christmas-on-the-Mountain bonfire. This was the first year the bonfire was scheduled. Next year, with more advertising and planning the event will again bring out Christmas on the Mountain in Mentone.

The Valley Head Parade was a huge success. Vickie Biddle, parade chairman organized the event again this year. Representatives from the Alabama State Trooper's Office opened the parade, followed by DeKalb County Sheriff Reed. There was a group of horses, and a wagon drawn by mules. The 1st prize entry was from Fritz Steel, and is shown on this page. The Shriners made a special effort by sending two of their members to represent them. Numerous vehicles were in the parade--all different types: cars, trucks, tractors, bikes, and four-wheelers, and others. Hulan's five vehicle Texaco fleet was there, even staging a pick up of one of their own fleet during the parade. Woodmen of the World

Lodge 436 brought their special Alabama Disaster Relief trailer that they have with the American Red Cross. Johnny Miller was driving and Ovie Blalock was in the passenger seat. John O'Rear entered three of his antique tractors--he was driving one, Charlyne was driving one, and Tommy Gifford the third one. Rusty Rector was riding on one of the tractors. A four-wheeler pulled a specially built car owned by Jason Wright. The Spahrs from Mentone drove their red Morgan roadster decorated with Christmas wreaths. There were many other antique vehicles. The Alabama Highway Patrol was represented with a motorcycle and vehicle. Skippy Mathis (2nd prize winner) had his truck with the Awana group from his church. Girl Scout Troop

See story and photos continued on center pages.

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

SUBSCRIBERS:

PLEASE NOTE YOUR MAILING LABEL.

If the words, "Subscription Expired" appears, please renew as soon as possible, as there will be no other notice. Thank you.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

- Friday and Saturday, December 15 and 16, 6 PM Live Nativity Play at VFW Fairgrounds, Fort Payne
- Sunday, December 17, Community Christmas Cantata, 5 PM Mentone United Methodist Church; and 7 PM at Valley Head Baptist Church
- Friday, December 19, Schools out for Christmas
- Thursday, December 21, 4 PM, Planning and Zoning Commission meeting open to public
- Thursday, December 21, 6 PM, Waterworks Board Meeting, Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Monday, Dec. 25, CHRISTMAS

- Mentone Town Hall CLOSED Dec. 25 through Jan. 1
- Sunday, December 31, New Year's Eve
- Monday, January 1, 2001 - New Year's Day
- No MAPA meetings in January or February
- Monday, January 8, School back in session
- Tuesday, American Legion Post 215 Meeting, 6:30 PM
- Monday, January 11, 2001, 7 P.M. Mentone Town Council, Town Hall meeting room
- Monday, January 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 25, 6 p.m., Waterworks Board Meeting, Town Hall meeting room, open to public

Standard Mail (A)
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1
Mentone, AL 35984

CAR-R-SORT
Postal Customer
Mentone, AL 35984

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.

THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

Editor..... Evelyn Graves
Associate Editor/ typesetter..... Marie Dillenbeck
Contributing Editors..... Ruby Brock, Linda Brown, Eloise Brown, Madeleine Bullock, Marilyn Campbell, Bernise Crow, Marie Dillenbeck, Dowe Foreman, Evelyn Graves, Phil Harris, Lisa Moore, Sue Schwarz, Laura Catherine a/k/a Moon

MAPA OFFICERS

President..... Marilyn Mathews
Vice President..... Dot Crow
Secretary..... Marie S. Dillenbeck
Treasurer..... Dessie Newberry
Parliamentarian..... Homer Crow
Member-At-Large..... Hope Walker
Member-At-Large..... Betty Bain

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 first Friday of each month.

The Groundhog Advertising Rates

Full Page	\$305.00
1/2 Page	\$205.00
1/3 Page	\$145.00
1/4 Page	\$110.00
1/6 Page	\$ 60.00
1/8 Page	\$ 40.00
Business Card Size	\$ 25.00
Classified Ads (minimum of 3 lines)	\$ 1.00 per line

Set up charges

Photos: \$5.00 initial shot

No charge if the ad is camera-ready

Changes: \$2.50 up depending on the extent of the change
We will negotiate prices for a long-term contract on ads.

Use this form to subscribe to The Groundhog

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, _____ State, _____ Zip _____



Have The Groundhog delivered to your mailbox! Give The Groundhog for a birthday present or as a special gift for someone you love. If gift, give name and complete address of recipient. Renew your own subscription. Still just \$10/year. Send your check payable to:

MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION
ASSOCIATION (MAPA)
P.O. BOX 50, MENTONE, AL 35984

Your membership/subscription is tax deductible.



MAPA CHRISTMAS PARTY AND COVERED DISH SUPPER

The MAPA Christmas party was well attended. Present were: Marilyn and Huey Mathews, Dessie Newberry, Dot Crow, Marie Dillenbeck, Homer and Bernise Crow, Gerald and Margaret Taylor, Page and Margaret Cunningham, Rick and Betty Chapman, Jack and Olive Jones, Ed and Gerry Disney, Mickey and Sherman Gough, and new members James and Betty (Harris) McCombs. Also attending were Mike and Tena Cryer, who provided wonderful Christmas music, and Floyd and Pat Blankenship.

After enjoying the plentiful food brought by those attending, and singing a few Christmas carols, President Mathews announced it was time to play "dirty Santa." Each member was to bring a gift suitable for a man or a woman. Everyone who brought a gift was to draw a number. When that number was called, one selects a gift from the table or under the tree and unwraps it so others can see what it is. Then, another number is called, and this gift may be taken from someone, or a new gift chosen. However, a gift can only be circulated two times before it is no longer available to be "taken." The game creates a lot of laughter and fun.

President Marilyn Mathews announced that there will be no meetings during the months of January and February. The next MAPA meeting will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 6, 2001, at Dessie's Kountry Chef.

--PUBLIC NOTICE--

MENTONE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Meeting date is

December 21 at 4 PM.

This will be a public hearing on the rezoning of Dempsey Avenue and Huron Street in Mentone.

The nomination of a new chairman of the Zoning and Planning Commission will be held at that meeting.

All meetings are held in the town public meeting room at 4 p.m.

--PUBLIC NOTICE--

There will be a joint meeting of the following committees:
Tourist and Events, Beautification, Streets, Bridges, and Parks, on Monday evening, December 18, at the Town Hall meeting room. The committee members will be contacted as to the time and the time will be posted for the public.

The meeting is open to the public.

C.E. Britt, Mayor of Mentone

Notes from the Mayor's Office

The Mentone Area Preservation Association and I, as Mayor, are getting out a letter to town merchants urging them to go all out in holiday decorations. In addition, MAPA and the Town Council are sponsoring a bonfire with live music for caroling on the evening of Friday, December 86 on the lot adjoining the Mentone Inn. We hope to have a big crowd and to raise a joyful sound!

On the day before Thanksgiving, Senator Lowell Barron arranged for a meeting with Alabama Department of Transportation officials and me in our Town Hall. Mr. Tony Camp, regional engineer, and Mr. Curtis Lowe, district engineer, told us that the Whatley's Bridge has been on the #1 priority list for 2000, only another bridge, judged structurally unsound, was rebuilt first. The Whatley's Bridge should be rebuilt during the fiscal year 2001. The Skyline Bridge is on the #5 priority list, with a sidewalk included in fiscal year 2002. We are getting new signs put up at the state line stating that motorists are now in the Central Time Zone, thus eliminating any excuses for not honoring or school zone speed limits.

One of the first motions passed by the new Town Council was a unanimous resolution honoring former Mayor Max Cash and Council Member James Johnson for their many years of dedicated service to the town.

I feel heartened by the interest and participation of our people on various committees. The Streets, Parks, and Bridges group has elected Larry Gray as chairman. Gerald Bailey has been elected chairman of the Judiciary and Ordinances Committee.

Some 75 people braved a pouring rain to come to the Moon Lake School gym on Thursday, Nov. 16th. Sheriff Cecil Reed was present to comment on the Community/Neighborhood Watch Program. The group ordered 40-45 signs to signify our looking out for one another and caring for the safety of our homes.

I have applied for two grants aimed at improving the quality of life in Mentone. One to the Alabama Dept. of Economic and Community Affairs is to improve communications and to eliminate ineffective areas in the use of cell phones. The other is to the Alabama Dept. of Emergency Management in cooperation with the Federal agency for a weather alert warning system for our town.

We urge you to attend a Town Council meeting on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. The Water Board meets on the fourth Thursday at 6 p.m. You are welcome at both of these regular meetings.



--PUBLIC NOTICE--

MENTONE WATERWORKS BOARD

The meeting date has been changed to the third Thursday for the month of December only.

The meeting is on December 21, at 6 PM at the Town Hall meeting room and is open to the public.

FAREWELL TO A SPECIAL FRIEND

By Evelyn Graves

Clara Green Cash was born on December 4, 1912, to Lonnie and Nettie Jones Green. She was an only child, and was a very devoted daughter, taking care of both of her parents until their deaths.

Clara loved people of all ages, but she was especially fond of children and older people. She always sent birthday cards and money to the neighborhood children and to the elderly. She and her husband, Sammie spent a great deal of time visiting the sick and shut-ins in the community. She knew how much this meant to those who were unable

to leave their homes because her mother suffered tuberculosis and was confined for a long period of time prior to her death, and the family always enjoyed and appreciated visits.

Clara and Sammie were not blessed with children of their own, but they loved all the children, and many children received love and friendship from them. I was one of the fortunate ones to have been in that category. As long as I can remember, even before Clara married, she always remembered my birthday with something special; and many times throughout the year, she would buy dress material for Mother to make a new dress for me. When I was three, she was delighted when I took her to my closet and pointed out, "This is my Clara dress." I had reference to a yellow voile dress with a small print that Mother had trimmed with lace, small crystal buttons, and sashes. Clara loved the finished product and beamed with pride that she had a part in the project. After I was grown, I always called her when I was cleaning out my closet, because she loved my outgrown clothes. When she would wear them, she would smile with that same smile and say what I had said, "This is my Sis dress." She always called me "Sis" as my family and close friends have always done.

Clara worked in the Mentone post office as a clerk with my aunt Evelyn Selman, who was postmistress. She came home with Aunt Evelyn every day for lunch and enjoyed the large family and all the huge bowls and platters of food that my grandmother prepared. She talked about this to me not long before her death on April 1, 2000. She said those were special times, she smiled and said, "Cousin Fred always kept us laughing." She had reference to my grandfather who, indeed, had a very keen sense of humor. Clara bonded with our family since she was deprived of the many experiences a person has, with siblings. She became especially close to my mother, and referred to her as "my sister."

Clara loved the Lord and loved her church and her pastor. She lived a fine Christian life. After her parents' deaths, she was lonely for them, but she filled her time with teaching junior age children at church, planning her lessons for them, and



Clara Green Cash
School Days 1960-61, Moon Lake

enjoying providing outings for them. She also did some substitute teaching at Moon Lake School. After Sammie's death, life was difficult for her. They were very close, and she missed him so much. She would comfort me when I was lonely for my parents who are in the nursing home by saying, "We just have to do the best we can." She told me that so many times about so many things, and I find myself repeating those words to myself, "We just have to do the best we can." Is that not so true? If we do the best we can and trust the Lord with the rest, our lives are

so much richer.

Clara derived a lot of pleasure from being Troop Mother for the Mentone Boy Scout Troop. She looked forward to the boys' achievements and to the social activities to which she was invited. She loved Bill Berry and David Gilbreath, scout leaders, and felt honored to have been asked to serve in that capacity.

Clara lived a simple life, not wanting anything, not wishing to be recognized, but always being appreciative of what was done for her.

About a week before her death, she sent for me to come to the nursing home because she wanted to talk with me. On that visit, she told me, "Sis, you know I have always loved you. From the time you were just a little girl, you have meant so much to me." I assured her that I was aware of her love for me and that I loved her as well. It was a sweet visit that we had, and I did not realize that it would be our last one.

I am reminded of a verse of scripture that Clara loved and lived by, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." She claimed this promise from the Lord many years ago and she was indeed faithful unto death, and I am confident that our heavenly Father will keep His promise to her.



Clara Cash

Clara's birthday was December 4,
and this tribute is written in her memory.

SALE!!!

UP TO 50% OFF MANY ITEMS THROUGHOUT THE STORE

NEW SELECTION OF LONGSLEEVE MENTONE
SHIRTS, MUGS, AND OTHER GREAT CHRISTMAS
GIFTS. CHECK OUT

WWW.LITTLERIVERHARDWARE.COM
FOR OVER 60,000 ITEMS THAT CAN BE SHIPPED
ANYWHERE IN THE U.S.

Little River Hardware

5190 AL HWY 117 • Mentone AL 35984
256-634-4757 • 1-800-634-4787 • Fax 256-634-4105

*A healthy and happy Christmas and
New Year from Dr. Steve McGee and staff*

Dr. Steven L. McGee
Chiropractor

Drugless family health care

1913 Godfrey Avenue N.E., Fort Payne, AL 35967

(256) 845-2819



Located next to the Mentone Springs Hotel

OPEN 6 days a week - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Closed
Tuesdays

Antiques, Collectibles, Uniques
Owners, Judy and Louis Pierce
(256) 634-4529

—Newly opened in time for the Hunting Season—
Lookout Creek Cabin



sleeps up to 6

5 fishing lakes - 1 with rainbow trout,
4 with bass, bluegill, shell cracker

Secluded in the woods North of Valley Head

Call now for reservations—by the weekend or the week—
and prices on hunting and fishing.

256-635-6420

Robert (Cub) & Michele Brown

Mentone Grapevine II

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

Please continue to keep the following on your prayer list: Rovene Truett, Betty Chapman, Cindy Jones, Joyce Cooper, Kathryn Jones, Herman Jones, Herman Jones Jr., Lora Dell Perkins, Jimmy Graves, and Bill Pullen, as well as others that you personally know need prayers.

H.P. Goss is in DeKalb BMC in Fort Payne. He was admitted on Monday, Dec. 11. We hope he has a speedy recovery.

Max Cash had heart catheterization Tuesday, Dec. 12, at the hospital in Rome, Ga. It is reported that he is improving.

Marilyn Blanton Campbell is continuing her treatments and reports that she is doing "especially well" right now. She had chemo and saw her doctor on Nov. 28. She no longer has to return for those annoying in-between blood tests, because she is doing so well. With only two more chemo sessions left, Marilyn can see the light at the end of the tunnel. She asks that we keep the thoughts and prayers going her way.

For those of you who know **Barbara Nancarrow** and would like to find out how she is doing, you may write to her husband, Bob, in Michigan, at the following address: 205 Kennedy Rd. A-4, Saginaw, MI 48609. Barbara suffered a severe stroke July 21. She and Bob can also use your prayers.

Cloudmont Ski Resort had their earliest snow in their 30 years of skiing. On Thanksgiving Day it was cold enough to make snow.

Happy December Birthdays to: #1- Shane Bo Thomas, Brian Green (17, from Conroe, TX), Mark Hatfield, Caleb Hunt; #2- Dwyane McKenzie, Angel Wesley; #3- Myrtle Webb, Clara Cash (in memory of), Heath Blalock, Ann King Jackson; #4- Rodney Pelletier; #5- Ellen Thompson, Amber Nekole Tackett, Phyllis Lewis, Lisa Hulgant; #6- Robin Hulgant, Ken Hammond; #7- Pat Vest, Renae Day, DeAnna Harris; #8- Brian McAdams, Bill Shaw; #9- Kevin Worthey, Tammy Hopper, Bobbie Smith; #10- Homer Crow, Valerie Chappell, Kristen Lauro (5 years old, Springfield, Va.); #11- Bruce Bonfleur, Jim Phillips, Tina Shrader, Hunter Whisenant; #12- Brynda Hopper; #13- Allison Allen; #14- Mabel Kirk (in memory of), O.W. Hunt, Vickie Biddle Deleagarza, Coby Harrison; #15- Mike Key; #16- Maureen Hammond, Joe Kent; #17- JESUS; #18- Michael Croxton; #19- Melissa Harrison, Jennifer Blalock; #20- Lily Harrison, Annette Chappell, Rusty Rector; #21- Randy and Brenda Green of Conroe, TX, (21st Anniversary); #22- Emily Collins, Marquita Brown, Scott Burke.

Marilyn Mathews had eye surgery this past week and was unable to attend the December 8th bonfire. She is doing fine, now, and says, "I can see!"

The next issue of *The Groundhog* will be a combined January/February issue, which will be out on February 2nd. Therefore, birthdays for January are also included here:

Happy January Birthdays and Anniversaries to: #1- Scott and Linda Brubaker (anniv.); #2- Freda Brandon; #3- Ed Ringer; #4- Angela Chambers; #5- Samuel G. Whatley, Ronnie Hulgant; #6- Charlyne O'Rear, Karen Kay Powell, Gamett Lee Smith, Robert Brandon; #7- Stacie Worthey, Heath Miller; #8- Mayfred Clinderella Whatley, Denise Black, Marie Dillenbeck, Ted Holleman; #9- Lisa Shaw; #10- S.B. Stinson; #11- Barbara Blalock; #12- Judy McMahan; #13- Samuel E. Whatley, Judy Windom; #14- Ashley Tuxbury, Alyce Springer, Linda Brubaker; #15- Madison Moore; #16- Clyde Hawkins, Scott Gifford, Kent Kerby; #17- Dorothy Blansit, Tommy Harrison Jr.; #18- Dennis Lewis; #19- Dowe Foreman, Shannon Smith; #20- Derek Whisenant (18); #21- Doy's Harcrow.

Congratulations to **Jennifer Renee Brubaker** and **Russell Louis McElhane**, who were married on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Union Hill Baptist Church in Fort Payne. Jennifer is the daughter of Steve and Debbie Brubaker of Hammondville. Russell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike McElhane of Fort Payne.

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

- Mary N. Crabtree, 91, Mentone, 11/10;
- Charles Mildred Gass, 87, Valley Head, 11/13;
- Myrtle Kirby Hawxhurst, Chattanooga, 11/18
- Albert Freeman, 61, Valley Head, 11/22.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you are traveling, be careful of other drivers, and keep aware of the weather. Happy Holidays!

- NOTICE -

If you would like an item included in the Grapevine, please mail it to Marie S. Dillenbeck, PO Box 293, Mentone, AL 35984; or call me at 634-4541, and leave a message on my answering machine if I am not at home. I welcome and appreciate your contributions.



WORLD'S BEST CATFISH & VEGETABLES

Voted Best Cook DeKalb County 1995 & 1997

Dessie Newberry P.O. Box 425 Mentone, AL 35984
10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat. * Open Sunday 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Builder's Supply Company, Inc.

- Concrete Blocks
- Building Materials
- Roof & Floor Trusses

Fort Payne
611 Godfrey Ave. S.
845-1451

Sylvania
Highway #75
638-2244

Stock Up On Supplies

Cloudland Trade Center

One Stop Shopping

Hours: Mon-Thurs. 7 a.m.-10 p.m.
Fri-Sat. 7 a.m.-Midnight-Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

706-862-2711

- Sub Sandwiches
- Pizza
- Exxon Gas
- Fresh Bar-B-Que
- Deli Meats and Cheeses
- Groceries
- Kerosene

- Plumbing & Electrical Supplies
- Well Pumps
- Water Filter Systems
- Propane Bottles Filled
- Videos
- Building Hardware
- Tools

Just off DeSoto Parkway past DeSoto Falls

1 week for 6-8
2 weeks for 9 to 16

Challenging...Thrilling...Outdoors...
with more opportunities than you ever dreamed possible!

Riding	Soccer
Swimming	Golf
Diving	Volleyball
Heated Pool	Aerobics
River Blob	Dance
Tennis	Archery
Canoeing	Rifery
Gymnastics	Arts & Crafts
Cheerleading	Ropes Course
Nature	Christian Leadership
Sports	and more...
Basketball	

FREE Video and Catalog

1-800-882-0722

www.riverviewcamp.com

On Top Of Lookout Mtn. - Mentone, AL

Susan & Larry Hooks, Directors
Dorine Barnes - Asst. Director

Accredited by American Camping Association
Members of Christian Camping International

Have a Great Year!



a "rustic touch of class"

Mountain Laurel Inn

(formerly Blossom Hill Bed & Breakfast)

Innkeeper: Sarah Wilcox

For Reservations, Call (256) 634-4673 or (800) 889-4244
or write P.O. Box 443, Mentone, AL 35984

DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs Hold Post Mortem On Flower Show

by Marilyn Blanton Campbell

The ladies of the DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs met Monday night, November 13, in the Rio Room at Western Sizzlin on Gault Avenue in Fort Payne. The ladies arrived early and ate a leisurely supper prior to President Ann Wright's calling the meeting to order. Secretary Linda Brown called the roll, and, of the eight clubs in the federation, six had ladies present. Celestine Darnell and Karen Swift represented Fort Payne Garden Club. Mrs. Aubie Mae Dean was there from Azalea Garden Club. Linda McCurdy, Lois Fuller, and Lori Stubbs were on hand to represent Ider Garden Club. Rieta Grant, Pat Shippey, and Mrs. Pat Shippey's sister and guest, Mrs. Sybil Lea from Chatanooga, were there from Flowering Dogwood Garden Club. Ann Houston, President of the Rainsville Garden Club and treasurer for the federation, represented her group, and Rhododendron Garden Club had DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs' President Ann Wright, Secretary Linda Brown, and Marilyn Blanton Campbell present for the meeting.

Secretary Linda Brown read the minutes of the DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs August 14 meeting, and those were adopted without additions or corrections. Treasurer Ann Houston read the financial reports and gave all the ladies present a copy of the same. Just to give ordinary non-garden-club-type people some idea of how much money is actually represented by the various ribbons at the Flower Show at the VFW's Agricultural Fair in Fort Payne each autumn, at the 2000 fair some 5083 was given out to winners in the various categories. Yes, there was a special section for garden clubs and their wonderful designs, but most of that impressive sum went to ordinary people, who could boast a horticultural specimen that had simply survived the drought.

Under the category of unfinished business, Rieta Grant, Flower Show Chairman, read letters about the flower show and the judging thereof from Mary Lou McNabb, Carlene Elrod, Joyce Bollinger, Nell Bragg, Dot Arms, Garden Club of Alabama President Dot Mapes, and Marzee Ethridge. As the discussion of the 2000 DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs Flower Show continued, there was a discussion of the fact that people in general are turning away from the growing of roses to more drought resistant and less labor intensive flowers such as dahlias and zinnias. Face facts, numerous overly dry summers in a row are not good for any kind of plants and especially not for roses that, even in good weather, require more care than a sick baby. Therefore, nobody could really be surprised at that particular trend. The last few years, the hard core faithful people, who grew roses, could do little more than keep their treasures alive in the drought, and roses that have merely been kept alive hardly qualify as flower show winners.

In the discussion of the flower show, the ladies covered topics such as security. They work long and hard to make that event a success every year, and some of the ladies take accessories they value to add to their displays. This year, two different items were stolen from the displays, and the owners were

unhappy to say the least. Aside from cautioning ladies not to use items of value-sentimental or otherwise all anybody can really do is encourage extra security in the form of guards to keep the public from handling components of the displays, and the addition of extra security cameras in that area. It must be made clear to the world at large that no one person or small group of people can possibly do a flower show of the magnitude and success that the ladies of the DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs manage to present year after year without a great deal of cooperation. Everybody has to help in order for any real degree of success to be achieved. The tremendous degree of cooperation would have to be patently obvious even to the most casual observer who is simply strolling through the fair to get to other exhibits.

Mrs. Aubie Mae Dean reported on the school ground evaluations, and she told the ladies that, while everything looks good, there is construction, as well as the confusion that causes, on various school campuses, and, when that is over, attention can once again be brought back to the efforts to beautify those areas, and exceptional results are expected. Please remember that this effort to improve the school grounds has benefited every child in public school anywhere in the area of DeKalb County and Cherokee County. When that effort first started, there were school grounds that were actually dangerous to the lives and limbs of the children, and, now, those same campuses are showplaces in which everyone can take pride.

The DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs "Every Light A Prayer For Peace" Celebration was held at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 12, at the Montone United Methodist Church with the Rhododendron Garden Club hosting the event. This was a covered dish luncheon. All garden club ladies were reminded to attend, bring food, and enjoy. That really promised to be a very nice gathering, and it was!

The DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs have also set the date for the Spring Luncheon. That is set for April 28, and the details of time and place will be announced later. This is the year for new federation officers. The nominating committee is made up of the current president and the presidents of all the clubs in the federation. As yet their meeting has not been scheduled, but that committee will meet in time to have the new slate of officers installed at the Spring Luncheon.

The Fort Payne Garden Club's "Every Light A Prayer For Peace" celebration was December 7 at 2 p.m. at the Theater Garden.

The Flowering Dogwood Garden Club at Hixnagar met Tuesday, November 28, at 6:30 p.m. at the Runtan Building with Jason Powell—"Petals From The Past", who spoke on old fashioned plants and heirloom roses. Federation ladies were invited because his programs are always so wonderful to say nothing of knowledgeable.

The meeting was adjourned, and the ladies left taking with them a list of what needs to be thought about before another flower show is attempted.

MOON LAKE SCHOOL

1st NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL

FIRST GRADE	FOURTH GRADE
ALLA'S	ALLA'S
Megan Addison	Vince Carden
Hope Carden	Ashley Henry
Brandon Davis	Brittany Hester
Tiffany Easter	Daniel Hughes
Gaye Foster	Kara Miller
Christian Henry	Jamie Sherwood
ALLA'S & B'S	ALLA'S & B'S
Jessica Bales	Lauren Addison
James Phillips	Jessica Easter
Savanna Pincus	Ene Hunt
Jeffrey Smith	Nathan Jones
Stephen Smith	Serra Nicols
Morgan Webb	Heather Smith
Ryan Wilks	Megan Smith
SECOND GRADE	FIFTH GRADE
ALLA'S	ALLA'S
Brittany Barn	Randy Addison
Akela Barkley	Jeb Bunch
Tyler Blansit	Chnt Gray
Starla Cash	Kayla Hazel
Dillion Kean	Shenna Tishaw
Hunter Stone	Paige Wright
Josh Whitaker	ALLA'S & B'S
A'S & B'S	Tim Barn
Trey Kinser	Emily Bowman
Chaz McSpadden	Patrick Murphy
Bradley Newell	Will Scott
THIRD GRADE	SIXTH GRADE
ALLA'S	ALLA'S
Ethan Corder	Livy Griffith
Chloe Griffith	Alex Hazel
Nick Ferego	Angel Wesley
Keisha Powell	ALLA'S & B'S
Brandon Willingham	Barnabas Betts
ALLA'S & B'S	Mark Corey
Ashley Annons	Mebase Crane
Alex Blackburn	Chad Franklin
Kaleb McMunn	Kayla Green
Jacob Tweedell	Loren Kate
Daniel Scull	Justin Smith
Brittany Strozier	

MOON LAKE SCHOOL NEWS

Moon Lake Elementary School has been accepted into the Alabama Reading Initiative program. Next summer, all instructional staff members of the school will attend a two-week training session that will allow the school to implement creative strategies toward the instruction of reading across the curriculum. Moon Lake will become a Literacy Demonstration Site and will host other schools that will be considering applying for the same program.

For the third time, Moon Lake's cafeteria has scored 100 in its health inspection. We congratulate Child Nutrition Program Manager Brynda Hooper and her assistant, Michele Kinser, on their high standards.

Moon Lake recently was granted \$1,000 by the DeKalb Educational Foundation toward the purchase of literature sets for the upper grade students. The grant application was submitted by Leslie Bunch, Donnis Barkley, and Lynne Wagner.

The last day of school for students is Tuesday, December 19. Students return on Monday, January 8.

The school spelling bee will be held on Wednesday, January 10, at 8 A.M. in the gym.

There will be no school on Monday, January 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Alabama led way for Christmastime

Superstitious customs are still followed today

By Steven Stiefel

The Times-Journal

Did you know that, when it comes to celebrating the Christmas holiday, the rest of the country is playing catch-up to Alabama? "Alabama was the first state in the union to make Christmas a legal holiday in 1836," said Dr. Sheri Marie Shuck, assistant professor of history at The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Several years later, during an 11-year period between 1850 and 1861, 15 other states followed Alabama's lead by passing legislation declaring recognition of Dec. 25 as Christmas Day. Shuck, whose field of study is Southern history, said legislation officially designating Dec. 25 as the Christmas holiday helped standardize the date nationally for celebration. Before that, she said, sporadic celebrations took place at various times between Dec. 6 and Jan. 6 during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Shuck said it wasn't until the mid-to-latter part of the 19th century that the commercialism of Christmas began to spread in earnest. By 1860, Christmas was on its way to becoming the most-celebrated holiday.

Oklahoma, she said, became the last state in the union to declare Christmas a legal holiday in 1907.

Shuck said various customs passed on from settlers of other countries, along with our own Southern traditions and beliefs in superstitions, continue to play a major role in how we celebrate the holidays. "Christmas wouldn't have much flair in the Deep South if not for the customs, stories, superstitions and other sharing experiences handed down at large family gatherings."

Many people feel that Christmas is too commercialized today and yearn for the early years when it meant something more. They would be surprised to learn, then, that some religious figures in the past wanted to eliminate the holiday. "In early America, puritan New England associated this holiday celebration with Catholicism," Shuck said. "Moreover, puritans were reluctant, if not hostile to the idea of a state-sponsored celebration that had no biblical sanction. In fact, New England states were some of the last to officiate Christmas as a state holiday."

"Colonial Southerners had ties to the Anglican church and were less constrained by such attempts to disassociate themselves with the Catholic faith," she said.

Although Christmas is now largely celebrated as a religious holiday, Shuck said there is some indication

it was first observed in the South as a social event to relieve boredom. Some activities were considered as a rite of passage, such as male family members participating in Christmas day hunts and women exchanging recipes, quilting and swapping dishes of food.

But, Shuck said, it is recounting of stories and tales and the forewarning of certain superstitions that makes celebrating the holidays in the South so unique.

Most of the stories and superstitions are just hilarious, but every year we Southerners make it a point to remind each other of what not to do during Christmas and New Year's," Shuck said. Some of the superstitions we still follow include:

- If you wash clothes on the first Friday of the New Year, you will wash someone in the family.

- If you wash clothes the last Friday before the New Year, you will wash someone out of the family.

- It is considered bad luck to change into a clean shirt on New Year's because to do so may cause boils.

- On Christmas Eve, eat an apple for good health throughout the year.

- Don't let the fire go out on Christmas morning or evil spirits will enter.

- Whatever you're doing at the turn of the New Year (when the clock strikes midnight), you'll be doing all year long.

- To ensure good luck throughout the year, a male must be the first person to enter your home.

- For good luck all year long, New Year's dinner must consist of pork, cabbage and black-eyed peas.

She said other customs observed in the South include celebrating with fireworks and shooting guns. Shuck said shooting guns were used to send a greeting to neighbors by early settlers and to ward off evil spirits in the Colonial South.

Shuck said other Christmas traditions that began with a small start include:

- The concept of the Christmas tree grew out of a decorated log. The first Christmas tree was brought home by Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer, who decorated it with candles.

- The first Christmas tree was more in stature like a Charlie Brown tree and it was decorated with fruit.

- The famous reindeer Rudolph was an advertising campaign began in 1939 by Montgomery Ward's Department stores. The tale of the red-nosed reindeer was recorded in 1949 by Gene Autry and Bing Crosby.

About Our Town

By LINDA BROWN

Can you believe that it is already the month of December. Of course, that means that the holiday season is upon us. We had an early Thanksgiving this year and that gave us a false sense of time. We thought we had time to relax before the hustle and bustle of Christmas. Not!! The stores and catalogs saw to that. The few times I did venture out to do a little shopping, I was met with lots of traffic and even more frantic people. The clerks in several stores told me that they did not understand the crowds that suddenly appeared as soon as we ate that Thanksgiving turkey! I thought the turkey growers only fed them hormones, now it seems that they include a secret ingredient that makes people want to go shopping.

As I write this, there is another prediction of snow for our area. The snow that came in November was one to remember. Not only was it very early but it was so pretty! When I looked out of my window that morning, I was very surprised to see everything covered with snow. When I looked out the kitchen door, I thought I had been transposed into the scene of a Christmas card. There was a pair of cardinals eating at the bird feeder, a nuthatch on the tree beside it, and several doves and squirrels eating on the ground under the feeder. It was truly a winter wonderland.

Several newspaper articles have predicted that this may be a winter with lots of snow and ice. They say that we have had four very mild winters and are due for a bad one. The only saving grace may be that it doesn't seem that it is going to be extremely cold. At least maybe the snow won't last until we get so tired of it. Be sure to stock enough supplies to last a few days. This is especially important on the mountain, as sometimes the highways will ice over and driving can be very dangerous. It is also a good idea to have flashlights, a battery operated radio and board games—especially if you have children!

Mentone is beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The lights are up on the poles and the bulbs have been replaced. This really adds a lot to our town. Many thanks to all of the MAPA members who worked so hard to achieve this. Several of the shops and hotels have their decorations up. The town and MAPA recently mailed a letter to all of the owners encouraging them to decorate their places of business. Can you believe that twenty-three letters were mailed? It doesn't seem that there are that many business places in town. If you didn't receive one, please decorate anyway. I think there is to be a contest, but I don't know the details. Look for more information elsewhere in this issue of The Groundhog.

Plans are being made to put a holiday tree in the town hall. We are asking the townspeople to bring an ornament or two to be placed on the tree. You may leave it with Marie at town hall and someone will hang it for you. This will be a community tree and we want you to be a part of it. We would especially like for the children to make paper chains or other crafted ornaments to be placed on it.

Recently, some of the council members had lunch with Senator Lowell Barron. He seems very interested in our town and promised to help in any way that he can. We have a meeting scheduled with Todd Greeson next week. I'll report on that meeting next month.

Mayor C. E. Britt is attending meetings right and left and the rest of DeKalb County is starting to know that Mentone is interested in providing the best for its town. Some people have expressed a concern to me that they

are afraid that Mentone is starting to become too worldly and will lose some of its charm as a nice quiet place to come and relax. I don't see this as a danger. Everyone on the town council has either lived here for a long time or has moved here because of the reputation that Mentone is more "laid back" than most places. It does bother me a little that so many people seem to rely on e-mail and the internet, not to mention the telephones that seem to ring no matter where you are. Recently I ate lunch in Fort Payne at one of the steak houses and two phones rang and were answered by people sitting very close to me. One man couldn't get

very good reception, so he jumped over some chairs and ran outside and paced the parking lot with a phone to his ear! Wouldn't you think that everyone deserves to eat lunch without a phone call? I have one and I do know that they have an off button.

Those of us who have lived in Mentone for a while know that winter is the time to slow down. Things move at a much slower pace and people do not rush around like they do in the summer months. This is one of the charms of Mentone and one that will probably continue for years to come. Have you heard the phrase, "still waters run deep?" That accurately describes Mentone in the cold months. We are still getting things done, just not as fast or in such a grandiose manner.

I wrote in last month's column that the elections would probably be over before that issue hit the streets. Boy, was I wrong! The elections may never be over. Some people seem to be very tired of all of the counting of ballots and chads. Some even think that it is a disgrace that this could happen in the United States. I think that it is a great example of democracy at work and would not want it any other way. I have worked at the voting places for many years and I realize the importance of each person's vote being counted. Everyone who works at the polls is required to attend a training session. The first and most important thing that we are taught is that every person who is registered to vote has that right and we are to do everything we can to see that they are able to do so.

Sometimes someone has to help a voter write their name, sometimes the voter cannot see the ballot clearly and has to borrow a pair of glasses, sometimes we must lower the voting machine for a person in a wheelchair and sometimes the voter will request that the names on the ballot be read to them. We are glad to do any of these things and more to ensure everyone the right to vote. After doing all of this, would it make sense for us not to run the final tally on the machine and turn it in to be counted with all of the other boxes in the county and the nation? We really have a great method of voting in DeKalb County. I did not realize how modern our machines were until I saw some of the methods used in other places.

My Holiday Wish for each of you is, "May you have good health, peace of mind, a warm place to stay, enough to eat and someone who cares about you."



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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. Rev. Jerry Davis and Rev. L.A. Smith are alternate speakers for these services.

The **Valley Head Baptist Church** invites you to attend Sunday School at 10 AM; Worship Service at 11 AM; Sunday Evening Worship at 6 PM; Midweek Service (Wednesday) at 6 PM; Brotherhood breakfast and devotional at 8:30 AM the first Sunday of each month; Women on Mission meet at 2 PM the second Tuesday of each month at different homes. Dec. 17, 7 PM, the Community Choir will be presenting the Christmas Cantata at the church. Refreshments afterwards.

The **Valley Head United Methodist Church** prayer meeting is Wednesday night at 6 PM. Bible study Wednesday night at 6:30 PM. A prayer chain has been formed. Anyone who would like to share their prayer needs are invited to call Verna Livingston at 635-6350 or Mary Holleman at 635-6241, so the church may pray for them. Sunday School is at 9 AM each Sunday and Worship is at 10 AM.

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, is currently holding services in the Woodmen of the World Hall in Valley Head. All are invited to attend! Sabbath School and Song Service: 9:30-10:45. Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood. Lay Pastor - Michael Schrabellhner.

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.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds mass services at 10:30 AM each Sunday; and Communion Services at 6 PM on Tuesdays.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 114 First St. SW, Fort Payne, 845-4842, has regular Sunday services at 8 AM and Sunday School at 9 AM.

Walnut Grove Baptist Church, on Highway 11 north of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School at 10 a.m., Worship service at 11 a.m., Wednesday night youth meeting with snacks, lessons, and activities at 6 p.m., and Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:30 pm.

Anyone interested in observing the **Sabbath and Holy Days**, please attend with us at 11 AM each Sabbath. Located 2 blocks on right on Hwy 85, off Highway 11, approximately 2 miles from Fort Payne. Call 845-2246 for information.

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.

Pastor Rev. Gerhard Grau invites the public to attend the **Presbyterian Church** worship service at Cloudland, which begins at 10 AM (EST), and the Menlo service which begins at 11:15 AM (EST).

The **Mount Calvary Baptist Church** is truly growing, and we hope you will come visit and take part in our services - Sunday School 10 AM; worship hour - 11 AM. 'Children's Church' also at 11 AM - Sunday night at 6 PM and Wed. night at 7 PM. Everyone is welcome. Mount Calvary is located behind the Lookout Restaurant at Cloudland.

Lighthouse Fellowship. Greetings, Mentone! All are welcome to our church just south of the Georgia/Alabama line on State Road 48. Our services: Sunday School - 10 AM CST; morning Worship - 11 AM CST.

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10 AM. Worship at 11AM. Wednesday Bible Study at 6 PM. 256-634-4137.

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.

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.

Mentone Wesleyan Community Church invites you to join us for Sunday School at 10 AM and worship service at 10:45 AM. Bible classes Wed. 7:00 - 7:45. Ladies' Bible study and low-impact aerobics Wed. 7:00 - 7:45. Pastor Randy Addison welcomes all!

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 PM. Rev. Charles Flannigan invites everyone to attend.

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to attend Sunday School at 9:45 AM each Sunday. Morning worship and Children's Church are at 11:00 AM. First Place meets in the Fellowship Hall and GAs meet at 4:30 PM. Discipleship Training and Youth Choir meet at 5:00 PM, followed by Evening Worship at 6:00 PM. On Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Children's Bible Study meets in the Fellowship Hall, the Youth have Bible Study and Recreation Time. Adults meet for Bible Study and Prayer.

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church services are Sunday at 10:30 AM, with a time for fellowship after the services. Sunday School is at 9:30 AM. Contact the church at 634-4476 for more information on any events or services. Everyone is welcome to join in worship services or special events.

The **Mentone United Methodist Church** services are at 11 AM each Sunday. Sunday school is at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome. The Pastor is Linda Tucker. *Sunday, Dec. 17, 5 PM, the Community Choir will be presenting the Christmas Cantata at the church. Refreshments afterwards.

Merry Christmas

Compare Our CD Rates

Bank-issued FDIC-insured to \$100,000

1-year 6.60% APY* Minimum deposit \$5,000

3-year 6.75% APY* Minimum deposit \$5,000

5-year 6.85% APY* Minimum deposit \$5,000

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) - Interest cannot remain on deposit; periodic payout of interest is required. Effective 10/3/00.

Call or stop by today.

www.edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones

Serving Individual Investors Since 1871



Vicky C. Kirby
616A Gault Avenue N.
Fort Payne, AL 35967
256-845-2610
1-800-258-6064



John T. Davis
201 Grand Avenue N.
Fort Payne, AL 35967
256-845-4560
1-800-258-NYSE



Gary Barr
201 Grand Avenue N.
Fort Payne, AL 35967
256-845-4560
1-800-258-NYSE



At Christmastime

The Bistro

OPEN

• Fri, Sat. & Sun
Lunch - 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
• Thurs., Fri., & Sat.
evenings - 5 to 9

CLOSED

between the hours
of 3 and 5 p.m.
Reservations can be
made by calling
256-634-8200.



Bed 'n Breakfast



Replenishing the spirit since 1927.

For Reservations, Call
(256) 634-4836 or (800) 455-7470
or write P.O. Box 290 Mentone, AL 35984

Mrs. Sherri Black, Innkeeper

Come and enjoy peaceful Southern
hospitality and nature at its best.

The Lookout Restaurant

"Atop Lookout Mountain"
CLOUDLAND, GEORGIA

(706) 862-2515

Reservations Necessary Friday and Saturday



A Friendly— **Valley View**

By
ELOISE BROWN

Thanksgiving was a time for families to get together, to feast, to think, and to thank! With me, Beverly and Shane Wright, at our house, were Emily and Barry Brown; Cindy, David, Alison, Scot, and Jason Meadows; Robert D., Michelle, and John Bob Brown, and Billy Wallace, A.J., Patti, Robert B., Mandy and Justin Brown, Carl Wright, Amanda Stewart, and Chris and Dillon Brown. Gracie Brown had gone to Cartersville, Ga., to cook Thanksgiving dinner for her dad, Coy Butler, and was joined later by Chris, Dillon and Amanda.

John, Dianne, Jerry and Jennifer Roberts came from Cullman and brought dinner to share with John's mother, Olene Roberts.

Edith and John Dean had fourteen members of their family present for Thanksgiving dinner.

Sadie Cooper went to son Jim's and Janet's home for dinner. Son Brent was there and son Patrick was home from Auburn. Janet's parents, the Ellers, and Janet's brother and wife and two children were also there. That night, all the family went to Sadie's house for supper.

Margaret and Loy Clark and boys, from Birmingham, spent Thanksgiving with Loy's mother, Evelyn Clark.

Anna Daniel went to Moulton, Ala., to spend Thanksgiving with her son, Bill Holloway, and family.

Venna Livingston spent Thanksgiving with her daughter, Marilyn Mercer, and family at Fort Oglethorpe.

Ruth and Bert Pickett had sixteen members of their family at Thanksgiving.

Congratulations to Billie Pickett for winning the Polaris four wheeler and trailer given by Marvin's.

Doris and Jim Carmichael joined Emmy and Mark Ricketts and children, Lucy, John, and Polly, from Tuscaloosa, at the home of daughter, Linda, and Bob Thomas in Fort Payne, for Thanksgiving dinner. Their daughter, Katy, was home from the University of Alabama. Bob's mother, Elizabeth Thomas, was also with them. Polly came home with Doris and Jim and spent two days.

Christine and Walter Brooks spent three days in the Smoky Mountains, October 23-25. They spent a day in Dollywood and saw old craft making, and rode the Smoky Mountain train, and saw the eagles, and their nests. They went to Danville, Ky., Nov. 11-13, to visit Janey, Kris, Ashley and Sydney Hulgán. They enjoyed visiting the Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill, and saw the women spinning threads and making beautiful rugs, and the men making buggies, wagons, and brooms.

My cousins, Bill and Blanche Fuller, from Madison, Ala., spent the day with us, Sunday, Nov. 26 and took Emily and Barry Brown and me to the Mentone Hotel for dinner.

Nov. 19, Thelma and Howard Meadows were hosts for dinner for the following: Shane and Beverly Wright, David, Cindy, Alison, Scot and Jason Meadows; Hubert, Rita, Jennifer, and Sandy Carroll, Ryan Scott, Rodney, Sheila, Kolton and Connor McCamy; Lisa, Brian, Caitlyn, and Jayden Richburg.

Ed Ringer spent the Thanksgiving holidays with his brother, Dr. Robert Ringer, and Myrice in Marianna, Fla. Others there for Thanksgiving dinner included Harold and Joyce Allen, from Centre, Ala.; Louis Baker, from Biloxi, Ms.; Sara, Burt and Mike Schmidt, from Enterprise, Ala.

Beverly and Shane Wright attended the Christmas party given for Ovalstrapping employees at the DeSoto Country Club, Sat. night, Dec. 9.

Dr. and Mrs. Charles Jenkins enjoyed several days vacation in Gatlinburg recently.

Juanita and Eugene Smith had most of their family with them Thanksgiving.

Kim McKinny visited her parents, Rindy and David Millican recently and brought little six-weeks-old Emmaline and five-year-old Edison. According to their grandmother, "They are perfect dolls." And I'm sure that they are.

Sue Hale is recovering from knee surgery. Dot Blackburn came home Fri., Dec. 1, after a stay in Montclair Hospital in Birmingham. She had a rough time after back surgery and suffering a slight stroke. It's good to know that she is feeling better.

John Jones is a patient at Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga. Jean had spent some time with her mother, who was in a hospital in Tupelo, Miss.

Dr. Quimby is now bedfast, and gravely ill. Valley Head and Hammondville lost two good citizens in the unexpected deaths of William Hawk and Al Freeman. Sincere sympathy to their families and friends.

Keep the sick and bereaved in your thoughts and prayers. May all who are sick, make a quick and complete recovery.

A bus load from Valley Head Baptist Church went to Cook Springs, Ala., Dec. 8, to the World's Song Camp and Retreat Center for the "Christmas Around the World" event. They enjoyed seeing nativity scenes from around the world, showing their ways of celebrating and their different cultures; and also, the Arts and Crafts Center, talking Christmas tree, hearing Christmas stories, seeing "thousands of lights leading to the true light of the world."

The Valley Head Water Board held a public meeting, Thurs. Nov. 30, at the Valley Head High School auditorium to discuss their protection program for the water supply. Dr. Robert Baker, from the Ala. Geological Dept., spoke, and Dennis Lewis, and also Larry Whitley, from Ladd Environmental Dept., spoke on emergency measures and protection. A large crowd of concerned citizens attended. I think everyone appreciates, so much, our good, plentiful supply of pure water.

I received this news from Dael and Doug Hoyt, which I appreciate: "I have passed my C.P.A. board exams and have received my license to practice. I intend to open a local office in January 2001, just in time for the tax season. I will devote part time to the C.P.A. practice and continue my work as a corporate accountant in the automotive industry. I hope to grow the local office and some day stop the long commute to Chattanooga. I graduated from Florida State University in 1982."

Dael has recovered from her hand surgery. She had some difficulty with her first doctor. He performed the operation on her hand three times and still didn't get it right. She got a new doctor and he did a wonderful job, and she seems to be healing just fine. Unfortunately, she has to have the other hand done in early 2001.

Congratulations to Doug and best wishes in both. Dael's hands are beautiful and always helpful. They are both faithful and wonderful workers at the Valley Head Methodist Church.

Congratulations to Doug and best wishes to both. Dael's hands are beautiful and always helpful. They are both faithful and wonderful workers at the Valley Head Methodist Church.

The Sunshine Club met on November 21 at the home of Joy Faye Hunt. Others present were Bethye Betts, Lillie Bowden, Elizabeth Bauerle, Anna Daniel, Sue Clark, Lillian Pickett, Ruth Pickett, Billie Harper, and Eloise Brown. The December meeting was held on December 14, at 11:30 a.m. at the home of Billie Harper, who always has her home so beautifully decorated. The members enjoyed a covered dish luncheon. Everyone brought a toy to be donated to Toys For Tots.

I felt honored to receive Christmas greetings from Governor and Mrs. Siegelman and the nice picture of his family, and the special invitation to the December 7, Lighting of the State Christmas Tree ceremony and reception afterwards at the State Capitol. I heard that Jim Carmichael received one also. I am sorry we couldn't go.

There was no room at the inn for Christ to be born
but on this special Christmas morn,
may He find room in every heart,
that He may be the most important part
of the Christmas celebration
in worship and appreciation,
so that He may richly bless
every person with perfect peace and happiness!

—Eloise Brown

The Week Before Christmas

It was the week before Christmas
and all through the town

All the people were hurrying with worried frown.
Time was running out fast and presents would be due,
And they had collected not enough, just a few!
Stores were all crowded, with much pushing and shoving.
Everyone had forgotten the magic of loving.
Merchandise pawed over hastily without care,
Hoping to find something for somebody there—
Flinging it aside with disdain and disgust,
Prices so high for quality you distrust—
Everything picked over there's no selection—
Take off rushing in another direction—
Nothing to lure with appropriate attraction—
Only driving to frustrating distraction—
Now next Christmas, I resolve will not be like this—
All this last minute rushing and crushing I'll miss
For right after Christmas, I will start to shop,
By the middle of August, I'll finish and stop—
Then as Christmas approaches at this time next year,
It will be Merry Christmas

filled with peace and good cheer!
Now you know, I hate to be a monotonous bore
It seems I have heard my self
say this same thing before!

—Eloise Brown

Christmas Cheer

There is a new feeling in the air,
It is a good feeling high and rare.
There is a smile on everyone's face
Even the grouches are showing grace.

Berries of Holly glow rich and red,
Mistletoe inviting overhead,
Secrets are whispered so sweet and low,
Stockings are hanging inviting in a row.

Spicy aromas fill the kitchen
Everyone's busy as all pitch in;
Bright papers and ribbons taunting, tease,
Hoping someone's secret wish to please.

Children are dancing and shout with glee—
There is an air of expectancy.
Love and good will is blooming everywhere—
Wanting to give and willing to share.

Alas, only once during the year,
We may be blessed with Christmas cheer—
Every heart should feel and always remember
This special joy of late December!

—Eloise Brown

BRIDGESTONE

BF Goodrich

Westmoreland Tire Co.

**301 South Gault Ave.
Fort Payne, AL 35967**

256-845-5656

1-800-443-9149



GARDEN HINTS

By Madeline Bullock

Well here we are again, another winter is nearly upon us. It looks like it will be a normal one this year, hopefully, especially for the bug situation, if not for the human race. It now seems quite cold to us, as we seemed to have gotten spoiled with the warmer temperatures of the last few winters.

So far we have seen rain, and lots of it but not too much, just a bit of sleet, snow and lots of frost and ice, that seems to be a lot for this time of the year here, and the drive to work is not much fun anymore, it's a battle trying to stay warm while the car heater decides when to send out some warm air and it seems like it takes forever.

Now let us see what we can come up with for the Christmas holidays in decorations and such stuff. Sometimes it is nice to not be so habitual. Wreaths have always been a traditional part of our holiday decor—we hang them on doors to signify the season and welcome friends. This year, how about creating a "living wreath"? This simple tabletop wreath can be created with a few small ivy plants, sphagnum moss and a wire form, and when the season is over just re-pot it, so it is a lasting memory, too. Materials: Two 12-inch wreath forms; sphagnum moss; monofilament line or floral wire; five small containers of ivy; waterproof plate; house plant fertilizer. First soak your sphagnum moss in a solution of water and house plant fertilizer following the directions on the container, next fill one side of the wire form with the moistened moss thick enough to hold the ivy plants. Next, place the second wire form over the moss and wrap the two forms with monofilament to secure them together. Remove each ivy plant from its container and gently separate the stalks; carefully remove the excess dirt from around the roots; with a pencil or finger pierce the moss and place the plants roots in the moss; stuff some extra moss around the roots to anchor it; continue around the form until you have filled the entire wreath with ivy. Place your living wreath on a plate large enough to hold the entire form. To create a unique center piece/tabletop display place candles of varying heights in the center of your plate. Keep the moss moist by watering lightly every other day; keeping a little water in the plate will also help to keep it moist; for best results follow the directions for light and feeding needs as well.

Ever thought of adding a special touch to your gifts with wrapping that you have made simply by using household brown paper or burlap with a variety of foliage and clippings from your garden to

create unique patterns and designs? You can also use them to make gift tags too. **MATERIALS:** Tracing paper or decorative rice paper; burlap cloth; metallic spray paint; ribbon; gold or silver paint pen; brown paper; dried/pressed flowers/foilage; acrylic paints; stenciling brush; hole punch. **FERN-STENCILED BURLAP:** Lay the piece of paper or burlap cloth out flat, place a small fern leaf on it, and lightly spray over the leaf with the metallic spray paint. Remove the leaf and repeat randomly across the surface area until you have covered the entire surface. Next cut a small piece of paper, create a card, and again place the fern leaf on the card and spray it. Once the spray paint on the leaf dries, you can use it to decorate the package. **BURLAP WRAP:** Cut a piece of burlap larger than you would normally use to wrap the gift, place the package in the center of the burlap and gather the sides using a rubber band; the fern-stenciled burlap would look great here too; take your ribbon and tie a bow around the rubber band to hide it, adorn your ribbon with some fresh holly. **LEAF-STENCILED PAPER:** Cut the right size paper for the gift to be wrapped; take a leaf and place it on the paper; dip the stencil brush in some acrylic paint and lightly tap around the edge of the leaf, repeating this in a random pattern across the rest of the paper. Once the paint completely dries, wrap the gift as usual, you can also use the leaf as your note card attaching it to the gift with glue or double-sided tape. **PANSY PAPER:** Wrap your gift with some white wrapping paper; glue the dried/pressed pansies to the white-papered wrapped gift. Next cut a piece of tracing/rice paper and re-wrap the gift allowing your pansies to be seen through the transparent paper; write your gift note on the package using the gold or silver paint pen. **HAND-DRAWN PAPER:** Finally, you can use your metallic paint pens to create your own patterns on white or brown paper; then take your bundle of leaves and write your message on it! Here on this side of Menthone we have a whole field of Lady Slippers; they bloom in the early spring but what I never knew all these years is that it is an Orchid and a commoner at that too and one of the easiest to grow and tend. General growing tips for them are simple too; keep your orchids in bright indirect sunlight, as they prefer humidity; during the winter place them on top of a tray of pebbles with some water; you can also mist the plant in the morning; and its best to fertilize your orchid three times a month using a balanced fertilizer like 20-20-20 making sure it is diluted to half strength.

TRI-COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE/RESCUE NEWS

By Mary Alice Stout

SANTA TO VISIT TRI-COUNTY headquarters on Saturday, December 16, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM (GA time). The Tri-County Volunteers will be providing refreshments, "goodie" bags, and polaroid pictures with Santa. Children of all ages are invited to participate.

HEADQUARTERS LOCATION: on GA highway 48 at the AL/GA line. We are located behind the new Crafts & More business, beside AAA Hardware & Mini-Storage, and across highway 48 from Mountain Top Country Store. PLEASE park near the Tri-County headquarters or across the highway beside Mountain Top Country Store.

DONATIONS OF CANNED GOODS-Toiletries, canned food, and paper goods are being collected for the Chattooga County Food Pantry. You may bring your donations to the Santa Party on Dec. 16 or leave them at the Mountain Top Country Store across from the headquarters. The drive will run through Dec. 20.

THE FIREFIGHTER'S COOKBOOK is in process. There is still time to submit a recipe or buy an ad. For recipes, call Charla Huskey, 706-862-6344 and for ads call Mary Alice Stout 706-862-2142.

JOINT TRAINING with GORE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT-The Tri-County volunteers spent an October Saturday in Gore with Gore's volunteers. They managed two controlled burns on houses. During the burn, they studied the mechanics of fires and techniques to extinguish them safely. Tri-County member, Wayne Cain, commented, "This has been one of the best training experiences I've attended."

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) is to arrive at Tri-County soon. Many people who suffer cardiac arrest and might die may be saved with the use of defibrillators that shock them back to life. Ideally, the shock to the chest should be given within three minutes of the victim's collapse and is unlikely to work after 10 minutes. Each minute of delay drops the odds of survival by 7 to 10 percent. This is why it is so important for our mountain-top community to have a portable defibrillator available for quick use.

The AED will NOT deliver a shock for any condition other than ventricular fibrillation because shocking a healthy person or someone with another type of heart problem could be dangerous. The machine will not fire if a patient's heart has no electrical activity whatsoever, because a shock will not restart such a heart. **Donations** to help purchase the AED may be sent to: Tri-County Volunteer Fire/Rescue, 12511 Hwy 48, Cloudland, GA 30731.



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM MOUNTAIN MAMAS

By Mary Alice Stout

Mountain Mamas Pottery and Craft Shop wants to thank each of you who have visited our store during the past year. We have had a very busy and successful season—thanks to each of you! And, if you have not visited us, we hope you will next year.

We are now closed for the winter and will re-open in late March. If you have a "last minute" gift need, we will open by appointment. Call Fayann at 706-862-6150 or Mary Alice at 706-862-2142.

Have a great New Year!



Mountain Crafts & More

Stop in and see us sometime!

Highway 48
Cloudland, GA
706-398-2292



MOUNTAIN MAMAS
POTTERY STUDIO
& CRAFTS

LOCAL AND REGIONAL ARTISTS PRESENTING POTTERY, JEWELRY, WEAVING, SCULPTURE, CANDLES, & FABRIC ART
1/2 mile east of state line, on AL 117/GA 48
OPEN: Friday-Sunday, Noon-6 p.m. (Ga. time)

706-862-6481

(Continued from page 1.)

1012 was represented, as were the Valley Head Junior Cheerleaders (3rd prize winners). Valley Mills had an entry to be proud of, also. Probate Judge Paul Thomas and DeKalb County Commission Chairman Charles Bell also rode in the parade. The DeSoto Rescue Squad, the Valley Head Fire Department, and the Hammondville Fire Department participated in the parade. The Valley Head Marching Band marched in their new suits, of which they are very proud. There were many entries that didn't get listed, but were very important to the success of the parade. This writer regrets not having all of them identified.

Ronnie McMahan, whose nickname is Buckshot, could be seen throughout the parade on his cycle. Later, he would play Santa at the Hammondville Armory.

Deputy Sheriff Lamar Bray directed traffic on Ala Hwy 117 to keep vehicles from interfering with the parade. Mentone Police Chief, Johnny Ferguson, also was available with blue lights flashing to help drivers take notice and slow down.

Following the parade, the children and their families went to the Hammondville Armory, where the Hammondville City Hall is located. A Christmas party had been planned. Louise Sharpe of Valley Head did the decorations for the Armory. Hammondville Town Clerk Debra Graves said that Valley Head Mayor Ken Hammond, commented, "Mrs. Sharp can just make anything out of nothing." Debra said that Mrs. Sharp told them what to do and they did it. Those helping serve the coffee, lemonade, and cokes were Debra Graves (wearing reindeer antlers), Councilwoman Joan Pertree, Holly Wright, and Brenda Watson, wife of Hammondville Mayor, Larry Watson. Mayor Watson spoke to the group after they had assembled in the Armory.

Marty Smith, Town Clerk of Valley Head, decorated the Valley Head Town Hall. She served refreshments at the town hall during the afternoon on Saturday, Dec. 9, and while the parade was making its way from the Valley Head School and across the railroad tracks to go through the streets of Valley Head. After the parade disbursed, Marty took the refreshments up to the Hammondville Armory to add to those already being served. There was a wonderful array of cookies, donuts, cakes, candy, pretzels, peanuts, and cupcakes. The ladies were kept busy by the crowd that came to be a part of this wonderful joint celebration and share in the Christmas spirit that filled the hearts of everyone attending.

At the Armory, several individuals and groups entertained the crowd. The entertainment included singers, cloggers, and dancers. Ladayne Sharp beautifully sang several Christmas songs. The Lookout Mountain Cloggers and New Generation Dancers performed, under the direction of Karen Wright. Gospel singers also entertained the crowd. Everyone who came enjoyed the entertainment, the food, and the fellowship.

When it came time for Santa to give out the presents, Santa had not arrived, having been detained in another area. To the rescue came "Buckshot" who, already dressed in a Santa suit, volunteered to fill in

for Santa. The children loved him and the adults were so thankful that he was there and was willing to help. What is a Christmas celebration without a Santa? They didn't have to find out, because Buckshot did the honors. Approximately 75 stockings/gifts were given out to the children. The photos taken by this writer did not turn out due to inadequate lighting in the Armory. Hopefully, photographs will be available for the next issue of *The Groundhog*.

All those who were working and volunteering that evening felt it was very successful. They learned a lot about what to do for the second annual Christmas parade and party. They plan to incorporate what they learned and put it into action for next year.

This was a joint effort between both towns, and they plan to make it an annual event. Those who participated are looking forward to next year.



Jason Wright's special car



Valley Head Marching Band



DeSoto Rescue Squad, Gail Crider driving

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the parade and thank you for your support. We couldn't have done it without you!

Vickie Biddle, parade chairman



Rhododendron Garden Club Hosts DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs at "Every Light A Prayer For Peace" Celebration At Mentone United Methodist Church

by Marilyn Blanton Campbell

In the past, the DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs held their "Every Light A Prayer For Peace" celebration at the DeKalb Public Library in Fort Payne, and the ladies did everything they could think of to encourage attendance but to no avail. After several embarrassingly poorly attended programs, it became evident to all the ladies that something had to be done about the situation. Therefore, the federation's president, Mrs. Ann Wright, made the suggestion that each local garden club in the group have its own celebration in the hope of better attendance. The federation members voted to accept that suggestion, and each club began to make its own plans.

The Rhododendron Garden Club scheduled its "Every Light A Prayer For Peace" celebration for 11:30 a.m. on the morning of December 12 at the Mentone United Methodist Church in the sanctuary with a covered dish lunch to follow in the social hall. Each club in the federation was invited to join the ladies of the Rhododendron Garden Club for this celebration to honor garden club members, who had died between November of 1999 and the present.

As the ladies were arriving, each one was presented a white candle for use in the memorial service and a program printed on gold colored paper. Federation Secretary and Rhododendron Garden Club Member, Linda Brown, opened the ceremony by welcoming everyone to Lookout Mountain, the Rhododendron Garden Club, the Mentone United Methodist Church, and the "Every Light A Prayer For Peace" service. Mrs. Brown then introduced Pastor Linda Tucker of the Mentone United Methodist Church, who presented the devotional. Pastor Tucker's remarks were apt, brief, and decidedly to the point. The group in general seemed to appreciate the value of her talk.

Rhododendron Garden Club Member and Second Vice-President of the DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs, Barbara Blalock, then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Immediately after the pledge came the high point of the entire program when the Mentone United Methodist Church Children's Choir sang three selections—"I Am A Promise," "Thy Word Is A Lamp Unto My Feet," and "O Little Town of Bethlehem (with 'O Come All Ye Faithful')." The choir consists of nine children—Sarah Petersen, Megan Petersen, Michael Petersen, Jr., Paige Wright, Brooke Wright, Hayley Saferite, Amelia Saferite, Kayla Hazell, and Brittany Hester—and two directors—Carol Brown Hazell and Barbic Hester—but they sounded like many times those numbers. The children were really singing for all they were worth, and the crowd applauded them accordingly upon the conclusion of their performance. Those same children had sung in their cantata the day before, so they were most definitely in fine voice. As soon as the choir children finished singing, their mothers rushed them off to a lunch of hamburgers and a return to school.

Rhododendron Garden Club Member and DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs Non-Flower Show Publicity Person, Marilyn Blanton Campbell, then read a poem called "Father in Heaven" by Angus Hibbard and Friedrich F. Flemming because of its sentiments on peace.

The DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs consists of eight local garden clubs—Azalea Garden Club (Aubie Mae Dean, President), Cedar Bluff Garden Club (Barbara Cavin, President), Flowering Dogwood Garden Club (Rieta Grant, President), Fort Payne Garden Club (Celestine Darnell, President), Ider Garden Club (Lori Stubbs, President), Kaolin Garden Club (Millie Johnson, President), Rainsville Garden Club (Ann Houston, President), Rhododendron Garden Club (Dalyne Jones, President). The "Every Light A Prayer For Peace" ceremony was established in 1951 (during the Korean War) to remember the deceased garden club members in the state of Alabama. At the Rhododendron Garden Club's celebration, there were eight beautiful gold candles on the altar, and, as Linda Brown called each club's name, either the president of that club, a representative, or a proxy lit that club's candle and called out the name of the deceased member(s) to be memorialized. Some clubs had no members to die between November 1999 and the day of the celebration while others had several.

DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs President and Rhododendron Garden Club Member, Ann Wright, and Marilyn Blanton Campbell lit medium sized white candles from the larger white candle on the altar and went on to light the individual candles held by the ladies on the end of each pew. The ladies then lit their personal candles off each other until all were illuminated. The candles remained lit for the singing of one verse of "Let There Be Peace On Earth" written by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson and the closing prayer that also served as a blessing for the food. After the prayer, the ladies blew out their candles, placed them in the provided container, and retired to the church social hall where they had a most wonderful pot luck dinner.

It is naturally a given that covered dish meals in the South consist of little more than competitive cooking, and it is a good thing that nobody has to decide who should get the prize, because everybody habitually takes her best dish. Oh! The food was good! There was lots of it too, and the variety of it was worthy of comment as well. Tea, coffee, carbonated soft drinks, and water were served to the ladies to drink with their meal. The table decorations were especially beautiful to say nothing of unusual as well as seasonal. A wide gold ribbon that looked crocheted enhanced the white table covers where the ladies sat while accents of flat chamaecypariss greenery and yarrow flowers at intervals marked by tea lights in heavy glass candleholders completed the festive effect by carrying out the white and gold color scheme that had been used throughout the program.

The hostess gifts were hand embroidered pillow cases and kitchen towels. The pillow cases were white and featured bright red poinsettias with striking green leaves worked in cross stitch. The kitchen towels featured satin stitch designs—a wreath and candles—in a Christmas motif. All the ladies wanted both, so they gladly put their dollars in the dish and drew out a number tearing it in two, keeping one end, and tossing the other end back into the container. Ann Wright determinedly stirred up the numbers and had a lady from the crowd to draw out two of them. As a result two very happy ladies won and later left extremely pleased with their treasures.

Before dismissal, the ladies were making announcements of general interest to the group when Mrs. Christina Wise, Secretary of the Rhododendron Garden Club, told about the Living Nativity in Fort Payne at the VFW. In 1999, there had been some really wonderful tales to come out of that particular endeavor, and, much to the delight of everyone present, Mrs. Wise recounted some of those. The ladies were enchanted by the stories she told relating last year's problems with the donkey, who did not get along with the camels.

On behalf of the ladies of the DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs and the Rhododendron Garden Club, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



John O'Rear's three antique tractors



Girl Scout Troop 1012



Head Jr High Cheerleaders (3rd prize)



Woodmen of the World Lodge 436/ and American Red Cross Alabama Disaster Relief Van

Happy 1st Birthday!



Kyle McKinley Brubaker

Happy 1st Birthday, Kyle McKinley Brubaker!! We praise God for you! You have brought us so much "joy" since you were born. We love you so much. Kyle's celebration of his 1st birthday was on November 19.

Your big bother, Nicholas,
and Mommy and Daddy
(Scott & Linda Brubaker)

UGF ADOPTS 2001 BUDGET

The Board of Directors of United Givers Fund of DeKalb County met on December 5th to adopt the organization's budget for the coming year.

Because of the very successful campaign this fall, UGF's Budget Committee recommended increases in allocations for many of the member agencies. These increases will enable the agencies to provide needed programs and services during the coming year for the residents of DeKalb County.

Salvation Army has plans to use their increased funding for a special shoe program. This program will provide new shoes for school children. County and City School personnel will help to identify those children in need of this program.

Member agencies to be funded during 2001 from the proceeds of this year's campaign are: Alabama Easter Seal, The American Red Cross, The ARC of DeKalb County, Boy Scouts, CASA of DeKalb County, DeKalb County Children's Advocacy Center, Fort Payne-DeKalb Child Development Center, Fort Payne-DeKalb Rehabilitation Center, Girl Scouts, The Salvation Army-DeKalb County Service Center and Thrift Store, and USO.

First Federal Bank

F
F
BFort Payne
845-1077Rainsville
638-6342Ider
657-6255

"We're more than Bankers."
"We're your neighbors and friends"

Tired of
messy dirt
drives?

SAVE NOW!!

Bulk Rates
Available!

Ground-up Asphalt at a price you can afford!
This material works much better than gravel!
We can deliver to you within a 10 mile radius of I-59 for \$150.00
per load. Buy 3 loads or more and we'll bring our machine and
spread it. Parking Lots/Driveways/Churches/Businesses.
There is a limited supply so please call now.

J&J Excavation 638-4845
667-0100

IRON AGE CRAFTERS, INC.

hdewit@Mindspring.com

706-398-0858

FIRESCREENS, FIREPLACE
FENDERS, TABLES, BEDS,
GATES, CUSTOM DESIGNS

Available now at:
The White Elephant
Mentone, AL.

MOUNTAIN-LAKE
LOG HOMES, INC.

P.O. Box 1123
Pell City, AL 35125

Gary & Georgia Kelley

Tel: (205) 525-5536
Fax: (205) 525-5647

Web - <http://www.bestloghomes.com>
E-Mail - Info@bestloghomes.com

Custom Designs & Building
Services Available



JIMBARNA
LOG SYSTEMS

MAKING DO

By John Baty

Christmas week, 1963, we were at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. Married student. Middle sophomore year. Our car, 1953 model flat-head Ford V8, was rolling blue smoke; burning oil. With no money to speak of, a car engine that had about had its day, we looked at the future and realized we must make some decision. Trading cars seemed out of the question. We were barely holding on financially as things were. Poor as a church house mouse, as it were. No way could we add a car payment. I considered rebuilding the engine. The rest of the car was sound enough. I knew my brother-in-law, Yewell Underwood of Henagar, had a ridge reamer I could borrow.

In actuality, I had already made the decision to rebuild, a couple of weeks previous. With some of our meager funds I had ordered the little valve grinding set above, from Sears, together with the absolute minimum of new parts. I knew, though, that even with these tools and parts I couldn't do a decent job without access to a cylinder hone. One can simply scrub the cylinder wall with emery paper but it doesn't work very well. A hone is very desirable. With only enough money left to buy gasoline to Mentone and back to Tuscaloosa, I couldn't buy a hone nor hire it done. An idea came to me. I had most of a quart of fiberglass left over from patching holes in the body of the old Ford and plenty of hardware. I might could build a workable hone! With cardboard molds I can't recall much about, a thirty-nine cent wheel rock, six machine screws, six small coil springs (nick each) and a quarter inch bolt, I built the hone pictured center above. It worked better than I ever thought it would. With the help of my brother Larry who drove to Fort Payne for odd parts, and the use of Yewell's reamer, we rebuilt the engine during the Holidays, finishing in late evening before classes resumed next morning. Drove all night and never missed a class. We finished two and one-half more years with the engine, drove home in January of 1966 and traded her in for a new one (not better!) one at a car lot in Fort Payne.

Years later I found the little hone and the valve grinding set in a box and brought them into the house. Somehow, you know, after thirty-four years, the little tool seems to have taken on more significance. Of course, we had other help (not money) from other family members, but the car problem was the nearest I ever came to scrapping our plans.

In 1954, the overhead valve arrangement was debuted in the Ford engine and thereafter an engine job was a different ball game.

The above should in no manner be considered as criticism of the initiative of our young people today. The problems they face today are far different and far more complex than one faced back when.



6090 Highway 117, South
P.O. Box 44
Lookout Mountain Parkway
Mentone, Alabama 35984

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Preferred Realty, LLC

L M P R

Angela J. Wood
Owner and AL/GA Broker
Office: (256) 634-4672
Home: (256) 634-4169
1-888-256-1276
Cell: (256) 997-8138
Fax: (256) 634-4702

Website - WWW.DeKalbRealestateGuide.com/LMPR



(1) **MENTONE AREA.** Neat and Clean Split Level Home. 1,700 sq ft. 3 Bdrm 2 Bath. C/H/A, 1/2 basement and 1 car garage. Workshop/Toolshed, City Water, and over an acre with a view of the distant ridges across Lookout Mtn. \$114,900.



(2) **HIGHWAY 1175 MENTONE.** Older Home, Large Live-in Bedroom, Bath with Walk-in Shower. 36x24 Living Room, Handicap access. Two rooms in Basement, Detached Garage, City Water. Over 1 acre with Spring. \$47,900.



(3) **A ROOM WITH A VIEW.** Adorable Cottage on the BROW, downtown "MENTONE", 3 bdrm, 1-1/2 Bath newly remodeled, with Rock Fireplace, hardwood floors, open living room area, and new Tin Roof. \$120,000, furnished.



(4) **WILD RIVER COMMUNITY.** (2 tracts left) 220x330 on the East Fork of Little River - Secluded and Scenic, with Pools and Rapids - \$25,000 Each.



(5) **MOUNTAIN RIVER ESTATES.** A River runs through it! Direct access from Lookout Mountain Parkway on Ala. Hwy 117, Minutes from Mentone and Cloudland, GA. 3 to 7 acre Riverfront tracts starting at \$27,500. 5 to 15 acre wooded stream tracts from \$21,000. Restricted covenants apply.



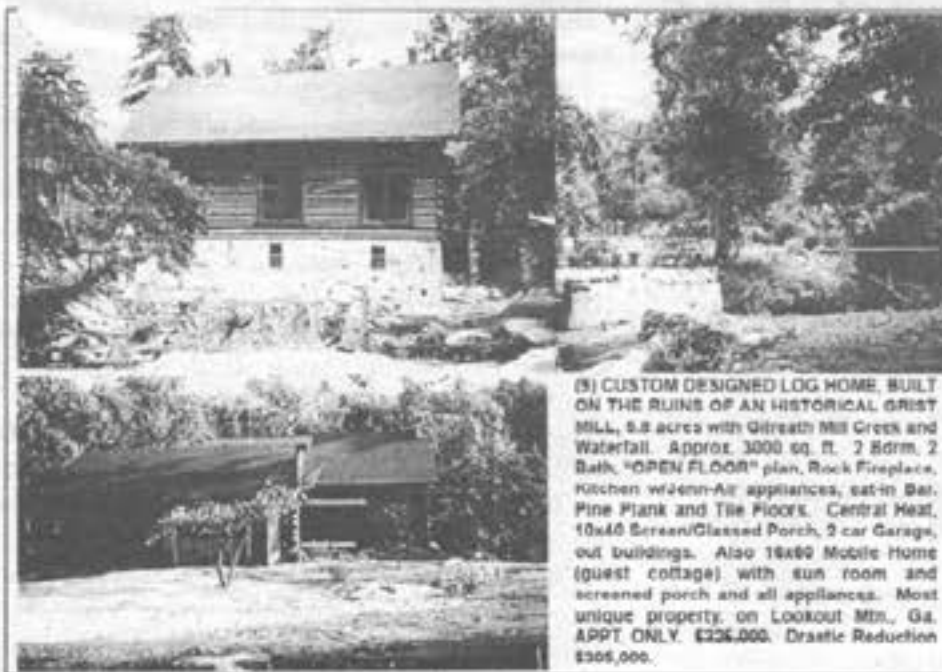
(6) **THREE STATES CAN BE SEEN.** from these Breathtaking West Brow (Sunset) Tracts. On Hwy 185, Lookout Mtn. Pkwy, Dade County, Ga. Just Minutes from Chattanooga, TN (#12) 12 acres \$70,000 (#13) 10.3 Acres \$55,000 (#14) 9.1 acres \$35,000 Restrictions Apply.



(7) **INDIAN TRAIL ESTATES.** Building Lots on the West Brow, above N. Ft. Payne. County Rd. City water access, view lots starting at \$10,000; wooded lots starting at \$6,000.



(8) **GET AWAY FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF CITY LIFE** and enjoy the peaceful serenity of Little River Canyon. BONUS-2 Bdrm, 2 bath home, 1-1/2 story with open Great Room, Stone fireplace, C/H/A. 7 acres with creek and waterfall. Located Canyon View Forest. "WOW!" \$148,000.



(9) **CUSTOM DESIGNED LOG HOME.** BUILT ON THE RUINS OF AN HISTORICAL GRIST MILL, 5.8 acres with Gristmill Mill Creek and Waterfall. Approx. 3000 sq. ft. 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, "OPEN FLOOR" plan, Rock Fireplace, Kitchen w/Amn-Air appliances, eat-in Bar, Pine Plank and Tile Floors, Central Heat, 10x40 Screen/Glassed Porch, 2 car Garage, out buildings. Also 18x60 Mobile Home (guest cottage) with sun room and screened porch and all appliances. Most unique property on Lookout Mtn., Ga. APPT ONLY. \$236,000. Drafter Reduction \$206,000.



(10) **ADIRONDACK STYLE (1800'S) LOG LODGE** sitting on 2 private acres in downtown Mentone. Complete with Dog Trot separating the Kitchen with Fireplace and Living Area with Fireplace. Unique 4 Bdrm, 2 Bath. Screened Breezeways, and Porches. Wood Floors, and Tin Roof. Separate Guest Cottage. City Water, along with Hand pump Well. Step back in time with this One-of-a-kind FURNISHED HOME. Reduced to \$197,000.

OTHER PROPERTIES

- (11) **OFF DEBOTO PARKWAY.** Wooded 1.7 acres, city water available, great lot for that Cabin in the Mountains. Minutes from Mentone. \$20,000.
- (12) **WEEKEND/WEEKLY RENTALS.** available on the Brow and Downtown Mentone. 1,2,3 Bedrooms. \$85.00 and \$125.00 nightly. Call Angela Wood for more info.
- (13) **COUNTY ROAD 636, WOODED TRACTS** from 10 acres and up, ranging \$2,000 to \$2,500 an acre. Owner Financing to qualified buyers.
- (14) **OAKWOOD ESTATES** - 3 plus acre wooded and Pasture tracts available. Located in Mentone. County Road 106. Restricted Covenants. For permanent or Vacation Residential Homes. \$14,600 each.
- (15) **THE BIG WOODS, EAST FORK RIVER.** 75 acres ML available with access from Paved Road, and County Water. Over 900 ft. of River, 3 springs, wet weather cascading water fall. Also, part of the Historical Dinky Line Railway. \$248,000.
- (16) **VALLEY VIEW FOREST.** 5 to 17 acre tracts on East Brow overlooking Pleasant Valley and Weiss Lake, adjoins National Preserve. \$10,000 to \$30,000.
- (17) **ONE AND ONLY LITTLE RIVER CANYON.** 3 to 9 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.
- (18) **50 ACRES, LOCATED IN CLOUDLAND, GA.** Great Farm with 20x40 Barn, Large Workshop, 3 outbuildings, Garage, 4 wells, year around spring, 3 garden areas, Grape Arbors, Approx. 5 acres cleared. Beautiful Hardwoods. 12x70 Mobile Home with Rock Foundation. Many more amenities. \$165,000. Shown by Appointment ONLY.
- (19) **MENTONE, CO. RD. 89N.** Wooded Tracts available. 1.32 acre, \$12,000. 3 acre - \$18,000, City Water Accessible. Lightly Restricted.
- (20) **FISH IN THE RIVER, ACROSS THE STREET** from this 28x60 Mobile Home. 3 bdrm 2 bath, Country Kitchen, C/H/A, New porch, glassed Sunroom and 2-car garage. Located on County Road 636, Mentone. \$67,500. **SOLD**
- (21) **POST AND BEAM CONSTRUCTION.** 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath, Large Open Great Room and Kitchen area. Loft all wood interior, custom trim. C/H/A over 1,000 sq ft. of heated space plus an unfinished basement/Bonus room. Multi Decks overlooking Middle Fork of Little River. **SOLD** Mtn. River Estates. 3.5 acres with 445 ft of water Frontage. All this at a steal of a price. \$170,000.
- (22) **REMODELED HOME IN RURAL MENTONE.** 14.5 acres with over 1,000 ft on the WEST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER. 3 Bdrm 2 Bath new addition screened porch, large Deck. All appliances stay. C/H/A over 1400 sq ft. All that River for only \$175,000.
- (23) **15 ACRES.** - pasture land, City water, Mentone area. Great Place for HORSES, AND TO BUILD YOUR FARM-HOUSE. \$55,000.
- (24) **LAUREL CREEK LAKES SUB.** LOT #19 - 1.4 acre partially cleared, level, wooded. \$10,500. Lot #28 - 1.75 acre, power, drive, well installed. \$18,000. Common areas for hiking, fishing and canoeing. Mentone area.

TOO MANY PROPERTIES TO LIST THEM ALL.

If L.M.P.R. doesn't have it, L.M.P.R. will find what you're looking for.
L.M.P.R. is licensed in Georgia, as well as Alabama.
L.M.P.R. covers more of Lookout Mountain, to offer a wider range to choose from.
Want to sell or looking to buy that special place in the mountains?
Call Angela J. Wood. Multi-state Broker.



COUNTDOWN
to a New Year!

Time is winding down on another fantastic year, but we'll be watching out for you in 2001. Thank you for being such a loyal customer.

Happy New Year
from
The Groundhog.

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	Valley Head
845-3232	635-6247

Dixie Salvage

3630 N. Gault Avenue
Fort Payne, Alabama 35967

JOHN CROW
Business (256) 845-5475
FAX (256) 845-5475

CLASSIFIED ADS
FOR SALE:
2 lots on Lake Labusage; 634-4744
1992 Mobile home, 16' x 70',
3 BDRM, 2 baths; 634-4744



MORGAN DRUGS

Donald R. Morgan

Valley Head
635-6812

Dogwood Haven I
741 Houston Loop Rd. W • Ft. Payne, AL 35968
Phone: (256)-845-0211
Assisted Living Residence
Brenda Pendergrass
Owner



Dogwood Haven II
751 Houston Loop Rd. W • Ft. Payne, AL 35968
Phone: (256)-845-8244



The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

This is the last journal for the year 2000. Where did the year go? All the dooms-day predictions have eluded us and we have about finished the year, counting it a great year. I am thankful for each day we have been privileged to exist and enjoy health, good friends, and to tolerate those who paint a gloomy picture.

Our presidential election has been a long drawn out procedure, but it makes us know that the individual vote of each of us counts, and the beat goes on and on and on like the long lasting battery! This will go down in history as the longest lasting election in the history of the United States. The only election, where both parties claimed victory, was in 1876 when Rutherford B. Hayes won by one electoral vote over Samuel J. Tilden. Congress appointed an electoral commission which decided by a vote of eight to seven in favor of Hayes. This makes me think that the popular vote should elect the president instead of an electoral college. You may have a different opinion. So much for politics.

We have many things to do and will be kept busy for the remainder of the year. Shopping, cooking, writing Christmas cards, collecting funds for the needy, and baking for the holiday feast will take most of the time for the women who have families, but it is "a labor of love". Any time one prepares a dish that the family relishes, it brings a smile of satisfaction to the one who did the cooking. We used to say that the way to a man's heart was through his stomach. It still holds true.

We had a good Thanksgiving holiday with most of our family. I baked and made casseroles ahead of time, which made it easier on Thanksgiving day. Homer's sister, Mildred and her husband Dennis Burgess, their son Mark and wife Laurie with their two daughters, Kristi and Melissa, and their cousin Sean (Darla's son) came from Texas to visit Dennis's mother who lives in Atlanta. They brought Mrs. Burgess with them to visit us before Thanksgiving. Dennis wanted to get back home before the holiday traffic became so bad. Darla and Sean are the ones we visited in England two years ago while they lived there. Sean is now eighteen years old and is going into the air force on the eighth of January. While here, they had lunch at Dessie's and visited with Jesse Crow, Lucille Crowe and her son Leroy and wife Joann. We enjoyed seeing all of them and look forward to them coming back again.

Our daughter, Doreen and her husband, Jerry Waters, spent Thanksgiving holidays in California. They flew to San Diego to visit Jerry's nephew, Jason Waters, who is in the Marines, rented a car and drove up the coast to San Francisco. They really enjoyed touring that beautiful city, riding the trolley, etc. I told them to call Amelia Kirk Lolli while there, but they were so busy they forgot they had the phone number. Amelia and her husband have a wonderful Italian restaurant, which they would have enjoyed. From San Francisco, they went to San Jose to visit a friend who graduated from high school with Jerry. They spent two nights with that family and Thanksgiving day.

Jerry and Doreen joined us on Saturday. Gregg and Joyce Cooper were still with us, and my niece, Caro Pogue, joined us for a feast of finger foods and home made chili prepared by Joyce. We sat around the fire place and had a delightful time. It was a special pleasure because I did not have to do the preparing and had worked all day at the Hitching Post. Gregg used some of the pine cone lighters Joyce makes from large pine cones dipped in melted wax from old candles. She arranges them in a basket, sprinkles a little glitter on them and ties a pretty bow on the basket handle. These make good Christmas presents for those who have working fireplaces.

We spent most of the evening listening to Jerry and Doreen "recount" to us about their trip to California. They were fascinated about touring the Winchester mansion in San Jose. It is called a haunted house because the lady who had it built was mentally disturbed. It has two hundred rooms but they are too small for anyone to live in them.

Jack Johnston, who works for the phone company has again hung the Christmas decorations in Mentone. Our MAPA co-president, Huey Matthews, assisted him and we are all very grateful to both of them for the work on a cold, wet, and foggy day. I hope neither of them took a cold.

We have more exciting things to do before Christmas. For one thing, I would like to get the Hitching Post decorated a little better than usual this time. It takes time and money to use lots of lights. We are hoping that the merchants will all use white lights for decorating this time. They look so much better when every one uses them. The Mentone inn was very pretty last year and that made the rest of us want to put a little more effort toward making the town shine.

Friday, December 8, we had a bonfire on the lot at the Mentone Inn and sang carols, served hot cider, hot chocolate, and coffee. And Santa was there! The Cotaco Creek Band furnished music for everyone to enjoy.

I have never outgrown my love of Christmas. It is the one time of the year when even old "scrooges" soften up and get a warm loving spirit. Everyone tends to be more cheerful—just wish it would last all year. Our children in our area are taught the real meaning of Christmas and that in itself is a blessing.

Col. George Walker, Alyce Springer, Jan Wilkins, Walter Pullen, and I are the ones from Mentone singing with the Community Chorus which is practicing the Christmas cantata called "The Perfect Christmas" at Valley Head Baptist Church. Peggy Bentley is directing the choir accompanied by Sheree Isbell on the piano and Juanita Smith on the organ. This is a beautiful cantata and all people are invited to attend one or both presentations. It will be presented at Mentone United Methodist Church at 5:00 P.M. and at Valley Head Baptist Church at 7:00 P.M. on Sunday, Dec. 17.

May your Christmas be merry and bright and health. God bless you everyone.

Stop by & chat with Bernise at

CROW'S NEST ANTIQUES

Antiques,
collectibles,
glassware, books

(256) 634-4548





Southern Properties

845-6000
302 Gault Ave. S., Fort Payne

Agency, Inc.

e-mail Southern Properties at: soprop@peop.tds.net

Visit our web site at: www.dekalbrealestateguide.com/southern



(1) IMPRESSIVE RUSTIC CONTEMPORARY rises before you as you drive down the driveway. Main house features 2 floors, each with a bedroom and bath, living area, office space and/or writing rooms. Decks and porches surround the house with magnificent views of the valley and mountains. A 2-car garage with 1 bedroom apartment also sits on the 2.7 acres. All for \$215,000.



(2) WHAT A MOUNTAIN RETREAT SHOULD BE! Three bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 sitting rooms, sunroom, dining room and kitchen with breakfast nook, pine floors and walls. All this on more than 2 acres of elite brow front property. \$249,900.



(3) GET OUT OF TOWN in this one bedroom, one bath log home in Mentone situated on one acre. This home has a living-dining-kitchen combo, pine floors, and the open floor plan gives you a studio-like feel. This could be the perfect home for you—Call today! \$48,500.



(4) COMPLETELY FURNISHED and ready to move into! This cute country cottage offers 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, rock fireplace and pine floors, add a wet weather branch and 2 wooded lots and you have a great weekend get-away for \$78,500.



(5) SPREAD OUT ON FOUR ACRES in this 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home with vaulted ceiling living room, and open concept living and kitchen. The location is private with lots of trees, yet just minutes from town. \$469,500.



(6) LOOKING FOR SPACE? This home offers 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, living room and great room, front and back porches on 7.7 acres. Beautiful rolling front yard surrounded by large hardwoods all with privacy of a dead end street. \$599,000.



(7) COUNTRY LIVING AT ITS BEST! Enjoy the quiet serenity of this 3 bedroom 2 bath brick home in excellent condition. Large great room with fireplace, dining room, eat-in kitchen, front and back porches. Outside storage building and garage, garden spot, and dog pen. Lots of beautiful trees, grass the 3.79 acre yard. Located in Hammondsville with over 400' of paved road frontage. Additional acreage available. \$106,000.



(8) ESCAPE THE MADNESS—just minutes from tranquility, this rustic retreat offers 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, a studio room, 2-story living area with fireplace, wood floors and lots of windows with great views from the brow of mountains. Built by an artist, this house has tons of charm. \$179,900.



(9) 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, 36x30 shed/garage and a nice landscaped yard on over 1 acre. Call today for more details. \$68,000.



(10) BE FIRST! You can be the first homeowner in this new subdivision on DeSoto Parkway in Mentone. This new construction is now complete with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, gas fireplace, central heat and air, storage building, and metal roof. All bedrooms have a personal balcony and this new home is sitting on a large corner lot. Call us today for your appointment. \$109,900.



(11) WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK FOR? With a private setting and a bargain price, you'll love this 3 bedroom 2 bath home with one acre for only \$82,500. Wood burning fireplace, 2 outbuildings, plus additional acreage available.



(12) SECLUSION JUST OFF DESOTO PARKWAY. 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths - mountain stone fireplace - CHIA - 1.3 acres of woods, wonderful rock formations. \$137,500.



(13) MENTONE SPRINGS HOTEL AND CALDWELL'S RESTAURANT. Historic landmark in downtown Mentone currently being run as a bed and breakfast. Restaurant seats 100+ people. Great for weddings, receptions, conferences—endless possibilities. For more information, please call 256-845-6000. Reduced to \$999,000.



(14) TAKE A CLOSER LOOK...This custom built home offers 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, large eat-in area kitchen, entertaining living room with fireplace and a multi-purpose basement that could serve as a guest room, office, or hobby room. The rock and wood construction blends home and nature all on 2.8 acres. Once you see it, you'll want to own it. Call today for your showing. \$225,000.



(15) TAKE A HEALTHY LOOK AT COUNTRY LIVING—Breathe the clean air at this immaculate split level home featuring a large live-in size master bedroom, eat-in kitchen with screened-in porch, 2 car carport, plus a separate garage with bonus room upstairs—all on 4 acres for \$124,500.



(16) PUT THIS HOUSE ON YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST! Custom built log home features spacious living room with vaulted ceiling and huge rock fireplace, large eat-in kitchen with ceramic tile, 3 or 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, wood floors, tongue and groove walls, loft, and a large covered back porch. All this plus a stocked pond situated on a private 8 acres. Call today! Priced at only \$267,500.

OTHER LISTINGS

- (17) 10 ACRE TRACTS - gently rolling, heavily wooded with creek. Close to downtown Mentone on private road. "Lightly" restricted. \$55,000.
- (18) PRIME PROPERTY - 9 acres on DeSoto Parkway ready for developing. Almost 600 feet of road frontage. Great opportunity! \$49,900.
- (19) 160 ACRES OF NATURAL BEAUTY on Lookout Mountain—just minutes from DeSoto State Park and Mentone. Ready for your dream—hunting club—weekend retreat or development. Sold as a whole only. \$7150 per acre.
- (20) A RARE FIND - building lot inside of Mentone's city limits. Wonderful rock formations. \$15,000.
- (21) BROW LOT on County Road 103 South of Mentone in Phase II of Lake on the Brow. \$45,000.
- (22) WHAT A DEAL! 4-1/2 acres on the West Fork of Little River. Gently sloping with great building sites. Lightly restricted. \$29,000.
- (23) FOR LAND'S SAKE! Just listed 4.3 +/- acres on DeSoto Parkway. Great building site for your new home. Only \$49,500.
- (24) BUILD HERE!! We have just listed (2) Five-acre tracts just off DeSoto Parkway! If you've been looking for acreage to build on, give us a call today! \$44,500 each, or all for \$89,000.
- (25) GO JUMP IN THE RIVER. Little River that let just listed 3-1/2 acres on the West Fork of Little River. No restrictions. Call today. \$40,000.
- (26) JUST OFF DESOTO PARKWAY - 6.2 acres with large rock formations and a winter view. \$59,500.
- (27) COME VIEW THIS GREAT MENTONE HOME. Privately located and close to the park. Vaulted ceiling living room with fireplace, left room which could be used as 3rd bedroom, fenced back yard and beautiful rock formations surround the home. Nest kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, and double garage. \$130,000.
- (28) WAKE UP EVERY MORNING LOOKING AT THE SUNRISE from the East Brow of Lookout Mountain. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home offers a large great room with tray ceiling, wood floors and gas fireplace, an eat-in kitchen with island and skylight bath centrally located around the sunroom and deck. Relax with nature or go fishing in the 13-acre lake across the street. You can have all of this for \$190,000. sold.
- (29) WEEKEND OR WEEKLY RENTAL available. 3 bedrooms and 2 baths will accommodate 8 people. For more information, call Susan Collins.

•Southern Properties has buyers looking for building lots, brow property, River property, farms and acreage.

•If you are considering selling your property in DeKalb County, please call us today.

Susan Collins Residence - 634-4695, Broker, GRI - CRS

Sara Quinn Residence - 845-1881, Broker, GRI - CRS



Girl Scout Troop 1012 holds investiture service on December 8 at Valley Head Baptist Church. Scout Leader, April Nix, and Co-Leader, Joannie Thornberry, lead the service with each scout saying the scout oath and receiving a pin. Following the service, a covered dish supper was enjoyed by all. The scouts in alphabetical order are: Margaret Bailey Brandon, Katy Brown, Stevie Cook, Patti Crider, Payton Day, Angel Ferguson, Crystal Ferguson, Jessica Goodwin, Megan Gregory, Marjorie Harper, Casie Hicks, Jillian Hope, Jessy Mayhew, Dusty Nix, Savannah Pinegar, Elizabeth Pottier, Samantha Rhodes, and Jessica Thornberry.

*Joy
to the World*

WoodMasters

Gift Gallery
Collectibles, Decor & Gifts
"A Wonderland of Gifts for Everyone!"

• OPEN MON-SAT 9 A.M.-5 P.M.
SUNDAYS THROUGH CHRISTMAS EVE 1-4:30 P.M.

• A GIFT for EVERYONE at WoodMasters!
• Our Best selection in years

Dept. 56 Lighted Villages and accessories,
All God's Children, Beanie Babies,
Carson Windchimes, Tom Clark Gnomes,
Tim Wolfe's Animals, Fenton's Glass, Dreamscapes,
The Herd (elephants), Imported European gourmet foods,
Windstone-Dragons, Jim Palmer birds,
Shelia's houses, Classic American barns,
Earthview carved animals, *Scenic* Tree cards,
bath and body Potpourri and candles;
and Many new items this year including Jelly Belly Beans,
Custom Gift baskets, Lead crystal,
San Francisco Music Boxes/Water Globes; and Much More!

322 Gault Avenue NW
Fort Payne, AL 35967
Phone & FAX: 256-845-2367



We Buy Standing Timber
**Menlo Lumber &
Pallet Company, Inc.**
Highway 48
Menlo, Georgia 30731
(706) 862-2131

Appletree Treasures, Inc.
"Today's Gift... Tomorrow's Treasure"

We at Appletree and Dogwood Farms were very pleased to meet each and every one of you at the Mentone Colorfest in October. We would like to thank you for your wonderful comments on our **ALL NATURAL BATH PRODUCTS.** Many of you have tried to contact me since the show. However, I was called out of town on a very serious family medical emergency. I would like to personally invite you to our retail location in Rising Fawn, Ga. We are located in the Old Post Office Building on Hwy 11, Phone 706-462-2214.

Store Hours are (EST) 10-6 Tues-Fri and 10-3 on Saturday

Come and enjoy a wonderful Country Christmas and delight in all the special handmade and original gifts. Basket orders taken by phone.
Marlene K. Thompson

Saddle Rock Golf Course At Cloudmont Resort
Member-Guest Golf Tournament
4-man best ball, Saturday, October 7, 2000

WINNERS PICTURED L/R:



**1st Place: Doug Hair, Steve Flannigan,
Shane Ingram, Nathan Owen**



**2nd Place: Chris Hancock, Bruce Catlett,
Jeff Johnston, Shane Catlett**



**3rd Place: Rick Walker, Danny Hegwood,
Greg Martin, John Espy**

Open to Public
CLOUDMONT
Ski and Golf Resort

30th year of skiing
 The weather is cold enough to maintain the snow
 for skiing. Watch the weather channel.
 Check out our website, too: Cloudmont.com
 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

RENEWING THEIR VOWS



Matthew and Ginger Gray Lee

Matthew and Ginger Gray Lee request your presence at the renew-
 ing of their wedding vows, which will take place at the Hammondville
 Baptist Church, Hammondville, AL, on Saturday, December 30, 2000,
 at 4:00 PM. No invitations will be sent. All friends and relatives are
 invited to attend.

Reception following in church fellowship hall. Hope to see you
 there.

**THE CITIZENS BANK
 OF VALLEY HEAD**

*Large Enough to Serve You—
 Small Enough to Know You!*

Valley Head 635-6292

Ider 657-5122

Member FDIC



Enjoy a fine dining experience on the brow of Lookout Mountain.
 You'll love the sunsets and good food at Cragmere.
 Friday-Saturday 5-9 p.m. DeSoto Parkway - Mentone
 For reservations, call Bonnie at
(256) 634-4677

"60 years continuous service by the same family"
BROWN'S
CLEANING & LAUNDRY
 "An old company with new ideas"
 Uniform Rental • Dust Control • Vault Storage for Furs & Woolens
 • Drapery Cleaning with Machine Decorator Fold • Suede, Leather &
 Fur Cleaning • Fire Restoration & Odor Removal • Wedding Gown
 Preservation • Alterations • Linen Rental • Pillow Cleaning
817 Gault Ave. N (256) 845-3241
 Full Laundry Service

American Legion Post 215 Christmas Meeting

By Marie Dillenbeck

The annual Christmas dinner meeting for Post 215 was held December 12, at 6:30. Commander Sherman Gough called the meeting to order and Adjutant Ed Ringer lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Due to the cold weather, illness, and other matters, the attendance was small, but the spirit was great. There were several guests: Martha Arnold, District 13 President, and her husband, Bernie, and Mrs. Arnold's secretary/treasurer, Della Cook, from Scottsboro. Frank Hill came as guest of Huey and Marilyn Mathews.

George Walker lead the singing of Christmas carols, and he and Bernise Crow did several duets. Prior to the singing of Christmas carols, the group sang "Happy Birthday" to Homer Crow, whose birthday was that day.

Several members lightened the already festive event with joke telling, each trying to outdo the other. It was a fun evening.

Commander Gough announced that there would be a live nativity play at the VFW Hall in Fort Payne both Friday and Saturday nights at 6 p.m., Dec. 15, and 16.

Member Jim Lyday announced that there would be a fund raiser for a marker to go in Ed Mason Park for the veterans. He and his wife, Penny, are donating a 1977 Cadillac and will start selling chances on the Cadillac in March with the drawing to be held at the Rhododendron Festival in May. Jim gave a description of the proposed memorial marker/plaque and further discussions will take place at other meetings, as not everything has been decided.

George Walker stated that WWII veterans across the country are dying at the rate of 1000 a day. Soon there won't be any left and this memorial would be in honor of all those from this area who have given their lives to defend our country. Post 215 does not have any living WWI veterans.

Della Cook, guest from Scottsboro, stated that they still have one active WWI veteran in their post. It is her father, Charlie Cook, who is 105 years old. District 13 President, Martha Arnold announced that there would be a District Meeting Thursday, Dec. 21, sponsored by Valley Head, and held in Henagar by the New Hope Baptist Church. The State Commander will be there, and they will have live music.

Commander Gough reminded the members that the next meeting would be Jan. 9, 2001.

Mentone Springs Hotel
(256) 634-4040

Home of
CALDWELL'S RESTAURANT

Sundays 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Final Inspection

The soldier stood and faced his God
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining
Just as brightly as his brass

"Step forward now, you soldier,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To My church have you been true?"

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,
"No, Lord, I guess I ain't
Because those of us who carry guns
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most sundays
And at times my talk was tough,
And sometimes I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.

But I never took a penny
That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime
When the bills got just too steep,

And never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear,
And sometimes, God forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place
Among the people here;
They never wanted me around
Except to calm their fear.

If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be so grand,
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand."

There was a silence all around the throne
Where the saints had often trod
As the Soldier waited quietly
For the judgment of his God.

"Step forward now, you soldier,
You've borne your burdens well,
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell."

To all that serve
Author unknown.



L/R: Commander Sherman Gough
and General Charles Robertson

American Legion Post 215 Veterans' Day Program

By Marie Dillenbeck

Post 215 met at 6:30 p.m. on Veterans Day at the American Legion Hall in Mentone. Commander Sherman Gough called the meeting to order. Adjutant Ed Ringer read the minutes of the past meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag was conducted.

George Walker moved that they dispense with any further business and sit down and eat. The ladies had prepared a wonderful variety of meats, breads, vegetables, salads, and desserts. Drinks were plenty: coffee, water, tea.

Following the meal, George Walker introduced the guest speaker, General Charles Robertson, and gave some background information about him. Gen. Robertson was born in Anniston, AL. Then, his parents moved to Rome, Ga., where he attended high school. He enrolled in the Marines in 1938 and earned his 1st Sgt rank in 1942. He served in WWII and was in Vietnam in combat positions. He served in China, Brazil, and Hawaii, in non combat positions. After he retired from the Marines in 1974, as comptroller of the US Marine Corp, he taught junior college in Florida, and while he was teaching, he was a citrus grove manager and owner. He spent 20 years in the citrus growing business, with his wife Betty at his side.

After the introduction, General Robertson said that he usually was called upon to certify the quality and quantity of the mess. He announced, "The mess was sufficient and the quality outstanding."

General Robertson gave a brief history of his 30 year's personal involvement with the Marine Corp. He was involved in the planning stage of both the Korean and Viet Nam wars. He was required to serve on court martials. He discussed many of the various areas of the world in which he served either in combat positions or non combat positions. It was very interesting to hear a different slant on the wars and the devastation caused by them.

At the close of his talk, General Robertson read the poem, "The Final Inspection," which is found on this page.

FOODLAND

202 GREENHILL BLVD.
FT. PAYNE, AL. 35967

WE'RE OPEN
7 A.M. - MIDNIGHT
7 DAYS A WEEK

WE ACCEPT

• WIC VOUCHERS • FOOD STAMPS
• QUANTITY RIGHTS RESERVED
• NONE SOLD TO DEALERS

845-1970

WE FEATURE ALL YOUR FAVORITE:

- MEAT MARKET
- BAKERY AND DELICATESSEN
- FAX SERVICE
- VIDEO RENTAL
- POSTAGE STAMPS
- NOVELTIES
- GROCERIES
- PERSONAL SERVICE
- FRESH MEATS
- FRESH SEAFOOD
- EXTENDED HOURS OF SERVICE
- SPECIALTY & DRY FOOD

Lookout Mountain Natural Healing

By Laura Catherine AKA Moon

Holly is an American favorite for decoration at Christmas time. The leathery green leaves of a holly are perfect for adorning wreaths and making fresh decorations. They dry nicely and keep their color if kept from direct sunlight. The red berries that are present at the base of the leaves add an extra Christmas touch. When enjoying the holly decorations that you will inevitably see in the month of December, keep in mind that its uses range beyond decoration.

I was always told not to eat the red berries on the holly tree because they are poisonous. They can be toxic but it is the dosage that makes them toxic. According to Peterson's Field Guide Eastern/Central Medicinal Plants, the berries of an American holly- Ilex Opaca- act as an emetic, diuretic and laxative if an adult chews only ten to twelve berries. They were made into syrup to treat children's diarrhea. American Indians chewed the berries for colic and indigestion.

The leaves and bark of an American holly also have a medicinal purpose. The bark tea has been used in cases of pleurisy, gout, fever, rheumatism, worms, malaria, epilepsy and tumors. The leaf tea will help the body eliminate waste. The American Indians drank Ilex Opaca

leaf tea for measles, colds, flu and pneumonia. They used the tea as drops for sore eyes and externally for sores and itching according to Peterson's Field Guide Eastern/Central Medicinal Plants.

Yaupon holly--Ilex vomitoria--is another native holly. The best way to distinguish it from an American holly is that it has rounded teeth. Yaupon holly is known more for preventative and ceremonial purposes among American Indians rather than medicinal purposes. They used a very strong leaf tea and drank large quantities to induce vomiting in order to cleanse the body before a ceremony. Another interesting fact about Ilex vomitoria is that it may be the only plant native to North America that contains caffeine.

It is wise to keep the leaves and berries of any holly out of reach of children. You should also only use holly under the supervision of a healthcare provider because it can be very toxic. Helpful reference books: The Herbalist by Joseph E. Meyer and Medicinal Plants of the Cumberland Plateau and Appalachian Mountains by John E. Warner.

Words to live by: "Infinite patience will result in peace."

Wayne Dyer

Thank You DeKalb County



Judge Paul Thomas

www.judgepaulthomas.com

Thanks to each and every person who voted for me, and a special thanks to all those who worked so hard in this campaign. I tremendously enjoy serving as your Probate Judge. It is an honor for me to be reelected, and I look forward to serving you another six years. Again, thank you for the trust you have placed in me as your Probate Judge.

Paul Thomas

P.D. POL. ADV. BY PAUL THOMAS, COUNTY ROAD 44, FORT PAYNE, ALABAMA 35968

Prime Realty

401 N. Commerce Street
Summerville, Georgia 30747

Willie McGraw, GA/ALA

706/857-3888 Home; Pager 706/857-9803

706/857-5980 (O)
706/857-5970 (F)

C.S. Baker, GA/ALA
706/859-9241 Pager
706/862-6566 Home
State Gen. Appraiser
HUD 203K consultant



CLOUDLAND - East Brow - We are pleased to offer this wonderful Brow home. The view at creekside (left). The Home (right) - features - Great room-vaulted ceilings-min stone fireplace-custom kitchen w/pickled oak



cabinets - Master suite - Garden tub-shower-walk-in closet-2 additional bedrooms, full bath, utility room, walk-in pantry-garage-large screened in porch-deck w/ hot tub-HVAC-infrared backup-fenced, 1.5 acres. \$165,000



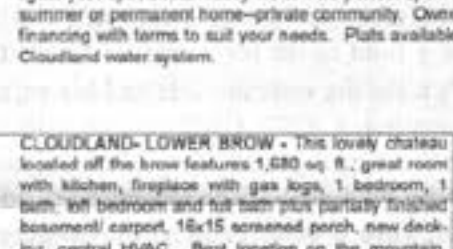
CLOUDLAND/MENTONE - 151 acres, with 1/2 mile of river located below the dam at Lake Lanoka - easy access - water available, \$4,000 per acre.



"A VIEW FROM THE TOP" Prime is proud to announce our affiliation with "Laurawood". Brow lots and homesites atop Lookout Mountain. Imagine, your own mountain acreage, walking each morning with the sun as it highlights your spectacular valley view. The perfect spot for summer or permanent home-private community. Owner financing with terms to suit your needs. Plots available. Cloudland water system.



Description to the right



CLOUDLAND-LOWER BROW - This lovely chateau located off the brow features 1,680 sq. ft., great room with kitchen, fireplace with gas logs, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, loft bedroom and full bath plus partially finished basement/ carport, 16x15 screened porch, new decking, central HVAC. Best location on the mountain. Partially furnished. \$175,000. (No. G-19)



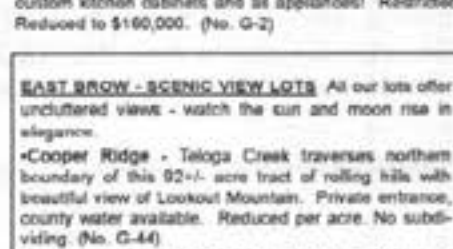
MOUNTAIN RETREAT - Cloudland - Cherokee Co., Ala. - This home offers 2,700+/- sq. ft. featuring family room w/ min. stone fireplace, large kitchen with 2 dining rooms, master suite, 2 additional large bedrooms, full bath, large utility room, 12x80 front porch & 14x80 back deck. 2 acres +/- with an additional 48 acres available. Make offer. (No. A-33)



ENJOY THE VIEW from the top of Lookout Mountain in Cloudland, GA! Just listed, this 2-year-old custom-built mountain home! Pine board and batten blends with the view from the top of the brow that you can enjoy from your 12x34 deck! Massive mountain rock in the back yard overlooking the stream! Hike in our back yard, all 3+ acres of it, to the waterfall! In the evening, start a fire in the rock fireplace and relax in the great room that has a vaulted ceiling and overlooking loft bedroom! Two other bedrooms are located in the west wing along with one full bath! Professionally decorated, it's worth the drive to see if privacy is on your agenda! Central HVAC, satellite dish, custom kitchen cabinets and all appliances! Redrilled. Reduced to \$160,000. (No. G-2)



SAFE HAVEN - Mentone, Ala. - Chateau offers great room w/ min. stone fireplace, bedroom, full bath, 2nd bedroom upstairs w/ deck, 2 outbuildings. Situated on 40 acres of uncut timber. "When privacy is a must." \$159,000. (No. A-32)



EAST BROW - SCENIC VIEW LOTS All our lots offer uncluttered views - watch the sun and moon rise in elegance.

•Cooper Ridge - Teloga Creek traverses northern boundary of this 92+/- acre tract of rolling hills with beautiful view of Lookout Mountain. Private entrance, county water available. Reduced per acre. No subdividing. (No. G-44)

•820+/- ACRES - Looking for that private get away? Look no further than this 820 acres located in SW Cherokee County, AL on the GA line. Secluded with mountains, valleys, streams, and plenty of open land for pastures. Plenty of wildlife, too! Deer, turkeys, and quail abound! Only 25 minutes to Centre, AL, or Rome, GA! Power and telephone service already on the property. A great opportunity - Serious inquiries only. \$995 per acre. Financing available.

•MENTONE 60 AC - Great potential for development. \$4,000.00 per acre. A-98

•MENLO, GA - Jamestown Hwy. 22+ ac. OPEN/Pasture/Road frontage - 1 creek inside the city - Gas, Water, Sewage Potential - Potential Potential. \$3,100.00 per ac. No subdividing. Make offer.

•EAST BROW - Hwy 187 - 2.87 ac. 200 ft. of Brow One of the best views on the mountain. \$80,000. Financing Available. G-7

•600+ ACRES, on Little River, road frontage on 3 sides, hardwoods, \$4,000/acre.



CLOUDLAND, HWY. 48 - Custom built cedar sided home offers 1600+/- sq. ft. featuring kitchen, dining, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, central HVAC, large front porch, 34x34 garage, 16x24 outbuilding, pond on 32 acres. Move on UP! \$194,500. (No. A-36)

"Mint"

I "mint" to call and thank you—
But my time is in demand.
I "mint" to say "I love you"—
But I knew you'd understand.
I "mint" to send you flowers—
But they cost so much you know
I "mint" to pray for you this morning—
But I had some place to go.
I "mint" to say "Forgive Me"—
But that's so hard to do
I heard my Lord say "Bless you child"—
I hope He "mint" me too!

Submitted by Penny Lyday, who gave each of the ladies at the MAPA Christmas party a mint attached to this poem.

Isn't there something you
"mint" to do today?
Don't let today get by you
without doing what you "mint" to do.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

The Groundhog publishing date is the first Thursday of each month. However, the next issue will be a combined January/February issue and will be printed on February 1, 2001. It will be delivered to the covered area on the 2nd and 3rd, and mailed out to the subscribers on the 2nd.

Those submitting articles and/or photos, please get them to us between the 15th-20th of each month. Thanks to everyone who meets this deadline.

HELP!!

THE SENIOR CLUB NEEDS YOU!

The Senior Club program is lacking about 25 names. If you have not already filled in a survey form, please stop by the Town Hall and fill one out. With the required number of survey forms turned in, the DeKalb County Council on Aging will then begin the process of providing meals to the Senior Club on certain days and possibly scheduling activities at the Mentone Community House for seniors. Please help us meet the goal. Stop by and fill in a survey form. Thank you.

C.E. Britt, Mayor of Mentone

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANTATA SCHEDULE

December 17

5 P.M. Mentone United Methodist Church

7 P.M. Valley Head Baptist Church

The Community Choir, under the direction of Peggy Bentley, will be performing their annual Christmas Cantata

--music and narrative--

"A Perfect Christmas"



Angels on the Mountain

There are angels on Lookout Mountain
If you'll take the time to stop and look their way
Maybe you will be blessed and see their face
The wind sings to us God's Praise
The Spring flowers offer us God's Promise
And brings us hope if we will follow in His way
The Summer shows us His Strength and Power
And brings to us His offer of the gifts of the day
The colorful Fall leaves tell us of God's Grace
And His offer of Life in a very Special Place
The Winter tells us of Christ's death and Resurrection
He begs us to come and touch his Face
God and His Angels are here among us
Let us all walk with Him every day.

--CC

Angels Among Us

There appeared Two Angels dressed
in Robes of White

Standing and watching over Two
Bells that sang of Joy and Light

In the beginning I was filled with
Fear and Fright

Then Peace swept over me as I
saw the Light

GOD had Blessed us with this
Heavenly Sight

They came to watch over our
singers both day and night

Now Peace and Tranquility
replaced our fear and fright

GOD sends HIS ANGELS to walk
among us and show us HIS Light

So my Sister my Brother no longer
let there be fright

Let Peace and Tranquility wash over
you no matter your plight

You need only close your eyes and feel
GOD'S GRACE as you walk through life

Heaven is coming if you will only
follow CHRIST'S LIGHT

--CC



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

And she brought forth her firstborn son,
and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and
laid him in a manger: because there was no
room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7

I wonder how many homes today will not have room for Jesus on His birthday? There will be room for pleasure, gift giving, drinking, and parties; but will there be room for Jesus? I'd like to think He will be welcome into many homes. But how many men and women, boys and girls will welcome Jesus into their hearts? That would make the angels in Heaven rejoice. Give it a try.

Merry Christmas to all!



Public Service Announcement

For information on our free spay and neuter program for your pets, call Lookout Mountain Animal Rescue (LMAR) at 706-734-0812. Clinic conveniently located in Menlo, Georgia. LMAR is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation in the State of Georgia.

