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Volume 19, No. 12

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

December 2001

O CHRISTMAS TREE!

By Linda Brown

O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
Thy leaves are so unchanging:
Not only green when summer's here,
But also when it's cold and drear.
O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree
Thy leaves are so unchanging.

Christmas trees, so many kinds and yet so alike. The Christmas trees around town in Mentone are as different as there are people. Everyone who puts up a Christmas tree brings a part of themselves to the decorating.

The tree that is in the Town Hall in Mentone is special because so many people had a part in its design. The fifteen children who are in the kindergarten class at Moon Lake School made the decorations. They are a Junior Garden Club under the sponsorship of the Rhododendron Garden Club. The name of their club is Partridge Peas. To help them understand that you don't have to purchase decorations for a tree, they have made paper butterflies and covered recycled compact disks with glitter glue to decorate the tree.

Another tree of interest is the one outside on the lot beside the Mentone Inn. It seems that Homer Crow and George Walker go out into the woods and cut the tree down, haul it back, and put it up to be decorated. It is a very welcome sight when you come over the top of the mountain at night.

The tree that is in the Mentone Inn is interesting because it is a reflection of a life. Glenda Hollis, the proprietor, said that the ornaments are a collection of many years. Some of them were made by children, some were hand painted by her and some are gifts from all over the world. The lights are multi-colored. When asked about this, she replied, "Christmas is for children and the colored lights are more fun than one color."

There are three trees decorated in the Mentone Springs Hotel. One contains magnolia sprays, gilded with gold, and world globes that are made of hand blown glass to commemorate the year 2000. These are a beautiful color of blue with gold

etching. Another tree is filled with hand blown glass ornaments of every hue. The largest tree contains the personal ornaments of the new owners. Some of them date back to the 1900s and one has survived World War I and World War II. Another is made of the ash from the volcano at Mount Saint Helen's.

The tree at Dessie's Restaurant is very traditional. It has an assortment of ornaments and hand crocheted angels and bells. The tree is placed under the pictures of Mentone from long ago and looks very much like a tree from yesteryear.

Almost all of the members of Rhododendron Garden Club said that they have a traditional tree. Their decorations consist of everything from the handprint made by their children in kindergarten to the gold ones that commemorate special events or places.

Barbara Blalock has several ornaments in her collection that have motion or sound when turned on. Marilyn Blanton Campbell has a tree that is totally pink. It is a pink tree, with pink ornaments and even pink candy canes. Alyce Springer has a white tree adorned with Chrismons. Alyce has made most of these symbols from gold wire and pearl or gold beads.

The Mentone United Methodist Church has an evergreen tree covered with white lights and Chrismons. These are symbols that remind us of something in the life of Jesus. They are always gold and white. The ones on this tree are either made of beads and wire or counted cross-stitch framed in gold. The name Chrismon came from two words, Christ's Monograms.

The Christmas tree is a symbol of joy and happiness. It seems that almost every home in America puts one up. Some are evergreens, some are artificial, some are green, white, blue or pink and the newest thing this year is a fiber optic tree, with tiny dots of color that blink in sequence on the end of every branch. Whatever your choice of tree, make it truly yours and enjoy it and the holiday season.



Christmas Tree at Mentone Town Hall

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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.

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Mapa Christmas Dinner

By Marie Dillenbeck

At the regular 1st Tuesday meeting night, MAPA members and guests arrived at Dessie's Kountry Chef for the annual covered dish dinner in celebration of the Christmas season. Those attending were: Mickey and Sherman Gough; Homer and Bernise Crow and daughter, Joyce Cooper; Coy Crow; Barry Crow; Lucille Crowe; Dot Crow; Dessie Newberry; Ruby Brock; Jim and Penny Lyday; Page and Margaret Cunningham; Ed and Gerry Disney; Rick Chapman; Walter and Lucy Fowikes; Jack and Olive Jones; Karl and Mackie Yatooma; George and Hope Walker; Wall Dillenbeck from Belding, Michigan; Marie Dillenbeck and mother, Dorothy Sheldon; Mayor G.E. Britt and wife, Karen. Throughout the evening, Coy and Barry Crow entertained with Christmas music. George Walker lead the singing of Christmas carols, with Bernise Crow and others assisting.

Each person left the party with a gift, and filled with the Christmas spirit.

On Saturday, Dec. 8, at 6 PM, Homer Crow and George Walker had prepared a roaring fire to keep warm those who came to sing Christmas Carols on the square. The MAPA Christmas tree had been provided by Homer and George and placed on the square earlier in the month. Hot cocoa and coffee were available. Before the singing got underway, the rain came and Homer and Bernise Crow, Jim and Jean Milstead, George and Hope Walker, Mickey and Sherman Gough, Marie Dillenbeck and Dorothy Sheldon moved to the front of the Hitching Post and were joined by Donna Mauldin and Alishi Henri.

While enjoying the hot coffee and cocoa, the group joyfully sang several Christmas songs: Jingle Bells, White Christmas, Deck the Halls, Here Comes Santa Claus, Blue Christmas, O Christmas Tree, Silver Bells, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Silent Night, Joy To The World, and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

Come and join us next year. March 5, 2002 is the first meeting of the new year, as they do not meet during January and February. MAPA meets the first Tuesday in each of the other months, at 7 PM. MAPA welcomes all who wish to come and visit and hopefully join us in the pursuit of our goals.

MAPA wishes all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



-PUBLIC NOTICE--

MENTONE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
Meeting dates for remainder of 2001

December 20

Other special or called meetings will be posted as required.

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

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DEKALB COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



The newly elected 2002 officers are L/R: President: Linda York; 1st VP, Ledon Twilley; 2nd VP, Karen Saferite; Treas. Larry Beane, Recording Sec. Joe Ann Koss; and Corresponding Sec. Lana Floyd

Submitted by Lana Floyd

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Fort Payne, Alabama, has recently opened a Family History Center for the use of anyone doing genealogical research. Many of the records found in The Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, are on microfilm and, thus, available throughout the world to patrons visiting any of the participating church units, such as the one in Fort Payne. It is now open on Wednesday from 3:30-7:30 p.m., Thursday from 3:30-7:30 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., central time. (Holiday hours will vary.) If these hours are not convenient, individual appointments for other times may be made by calling Lana Floyd, 256-623-2052 or Joe Koss, 256-645-2710, co-directors of the facility.

Some files are kept permanently at the Family History Center (in Fort Payne) while other items may be ordered through the postal service and kept for about 1 month for patrons to view. There is a rental (includes postage fee) fee of \$3.75 per roll of microfilm and \$1.15 per sheet of microfiche ordered. Some records (such as 1850, 1880, 1900 census, 1880 U.S. census on CD, accelerated index system, etc.) pertaining to DeKalb County, Alabama, and the surrounding counties are permanently kept in the center's inventory and may be viewed at no charge.

The public is invited to visit the facility and see how it can assist in doing family research.

Below is a membership application form to fill out and mail in if you are interested in joining.

Mail to: Membership Application		Individual - \$10.00 (per year) Family - \$15.00
DeKalb County Genealogical Society P.O. Box 681087 Fort Payne, AL 35968-1612		
Name _____		Date _____
Address _____		
Telephone _____	Email _____	
Surnames _____		

Notes from the Mayor's Office

This being the last notes for the year 2001, I will make them brief this month. The December Town Council meeting approved the budget for the fiscal year 2002. Again it is very tight, and we will have to operate very cautiously.

The council posted a "Noise Ordinance" to deal with the ever increasing loud boom boxes which so many of our citizens have complained about. We can post ordinances, but they do not solve the problem unless we get an officially registered complaint from you.

We have received notice from health officials that we must plan to deal with the "West Nile Virus" this spring, which is expected to be a health hazard to our citizens. This disease is transmitted by mosquitoes. In order to eliminate their breeding places, we must clean up places that provide for their habitat, such as old tires, open junk automobiles, cans, barrels—in other words, where rain water can stand.

I expect to ask the council for help in carting off debris as a result of an organized community effort "Clean Up," especially to help those who are unable to help themselves. I would appreciate any ideas from you as to what we should and can do. This is a very serious problem, and we must unite to overcome it.

It is very difficult for me to understand why so many people came to meetings requesting water; I worked very hard to get the Drought Grant approved, and then we and several of those needing water had to pull teeth to get the required number (61) to sign up. Several who had written to me before, begging for water, did not sign up during the sign-up period as required by RDA. I am sorry that we will be unable to provide service to those at the same installation cost allowed during the sign-up period.

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY 2002!

Christmas Cantata

"Down From His Glory"

will be performed by the Community Choir on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 5 PM at Mentone Methodist Church and 7 PM at Valley Head Baptist Church. Everyone is welcome.



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This is the Christmas season, a time for remembering the ones you care about. Please take time to visit those who are shut in and unable to get out either because of illness or age.

I would like to thank my neighbors on Cove Road for putting up such beautiful and colorful Christmas decorations. It makes my drive home each evening a joy.

My son, Joey Dillenbeck from Huntsville, and his wife, Kumi, came to visit last month. They brought with them Joey's sister, Lani. They visited with me and my mom for a day, and we all went out to Dessie's Kountry Chef for lunch.

The lucky winner of the White Elephant drawing during their annual sale was Kathy Dunne of Birmingham. The White Elephant had over 4800 people come through their doors during the month of November. There were 1800 more names in the drawing than last year. Judy Pierce, one of the owners, said they had to go to the basement when there was a tornado warning on the day of the drawing. The shoppers went willingly and came back up and shopped.

The December birthdays were mentioned in last month's column and are not included in this month's. Since the January issue will not be published until the second Thursday of January, the January birthdays are included in this issue.

Happy January 2002 Birthdays and Anniversaries to: ♦1- Scott and Linda Brubaker (anniv.); ♦2- Adia Childers (in memory of); ♦3- Freda Brandon; ♦4- Ed Ringer; ♦5- Angela Chambers; ♦7- Samuel G. Whatley, Ronnie Hulan; ♦8- Charlyne O'Rear, Karen Kay Powell, Garnett Lee Smith, Robert Brandon; ♦9- Stacie Worthey, Heath Miller; ♦10- Walt Dillenbeck, Belding, MI; ♦12- Mayfred Clinderella Whatley, Denise Black, Marie Dillenbeck, Ted Holleman; ♦13- Robert Johnston (in memory of), Lisa Shaw; ♦14- S.B. Stinson; ♦18- Barbara Bialock; ♦19- Judy McMahan; ♦20- Samuel E. Whatley, Judy Windom; ♦21- Ashley Tuxbury, Alyce Springer, Linda Brubaker; ♦22- Madison Moore; ♦23- Clyde Hawkins, Scott Gifford, Kent Kerby; ♦24- Dorothy Blansit, Tommy Harrison Jr.; ♦25- Dennis Lewis; ♦26- Dove Foreman, Shannon Smith; ♦27- George Smith (in memory of); ♦28- Derek Whisenant; ♦29- Doye Harrow.

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

- Mrs. Juanita L. Oliver, 71, Sulphur Springs, 11/14
- Arnold Corbin, 80, Valley Head, 11/16.

**Have a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!**

I regret that many items were not able to make it for this issue. Time and space did not permit them. They will be in next month's issue.

Marie Dillenbeck

Mentone Springs Hotel Update

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

Many new changes are taking place in the Mentone Springs Hotel. For those who have pets and take them on trips, you may like to know that there is a "Doggy Hotel" on the first floor/basement area with a concrete floor for a run.

The hotel is beautifully decorated and daily changes can be seen. Every Saturday and Sunday afternoons, they do dessert and coffee. Everyone is welcome to come and see the changes, sit on the porch, sit in front of the fire, and just enjoy themselves. Andy Talton is the new owner, and Marc Elacqua is the inn keeper. Christmas is everywhere in the hotel.

They have a wine cabinet that they plan to display for sale various items, including fudge and other goodies.

They plan to place a two-story copper clock from Brandenburg, Germany, on the corner where the blinking light and Co. Rd. 89 meet. Chuck Peters is doing the green and white stained glass that will be in the bottom of the clock.

There have been several weddings in the hotel. After the first of the year, there will be a Yoga class in the ballroom of the Hotel. To find out about it, call the hotel for information. The ballroom has been rented out for New Year's Eve. There is going to be a Valentine's Party in February. Be watching in next month's issue for more information.



Sgt. W.J. Dillenbeck retires from U.S. Army



Sgt. W.J. Dillenbeck and wife, Kumi

Sgt. W.J. Dillenbeck enlisted in the U.S. Army in June 1981 and was stationed at Ft. Sill, OK, until September of that year. He enrolled immediately after his 17th birthday while he was a Senior at Gulfport High School, Gulfport, MS. After graduating, he requested an early enlistment into the Army.

From Ft. Sill, he went to Germany for two years (1981-1983), and returned to the United States, where he was assigned to Fort Carson, CO (1983-1985). His next tour of duty was at Ft. Bliss, TX (1986-1988). In 1988, he returned to Germany until 1991, at which time he was sent to Desert Storm.

The Redstone Arsenal was his next assignment and he stayed there from 1992 until 1998. During his stay in Huntsville, he met his future wife, Kumi. They were wed in Huntsville on July 8, 1994.

In 1998, he was sent to Korea for a year. His wife, Kumi traveled to Korea to visit, not only her parents and their extended family, but also to visit with her husband.

When Sgt. Dillenbeck returned to the United States in 1999, he was stationed at Fort Stewart, GA, from which post he retired this year. He and his wife, Kumi, have purchased a home in Huntsville and both are employed in Huntsville.

Sgt. Dillenbeck has an older brother, Randy, and three sisters, Teresa, Lorelei, and LeLani. His mother is Marie S. Dillenbeck of Mentone, AL, and his father is Walter Dillenbeck of Belding, MI. He has one living grandparent, Dorothy Sheldon, who is on an extended visit with her daughter in Mentone.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN NATURAL HEALING: RARE HEALING PLANTS

By L.C.Moon

While walking the woods of Lookout Mountain, I've discovered a virtual gold mine of botanicals. Indian Pipe, Pink Lady's Slipper and Jack-in-the-Pulpit are just to name a few. Many areas of Lookout Mountain are ecologically well preserved so these plants may not seem too uncommon to the natives of Lookout Mountain. Ginseng and Goldenseal are severely over harvested. They seem to have suffered the most repercussions due to their potent healing properties.

Jack-in-the-Pulpit - *Arisaema triphyllum* and related species *A. atrorubens* - contains calcium oxalates that may irritate the skin. I believe this is a natural defense because it is only present in the whole fresh herb. The dried aged root of *A. triphyllum* was used by Native Americans to boost the immune system, treat colds and dry cough. Externally, it was used for boils, abscesses, ringworm, scrofulous, sores, and rheumatism. *A. triphyllum* and *A. atrorubens* are also known to treat asthma, bronchitis, headaches, laryngitis and swelling for snakebites.

At the turn of the 18th century to the 19th century, Lady's Slipper was commonly used for nerve and emotional disorders. Hysteria, insomnia, depression, PMS, anxiety all respond well to Lady's Slipper. The name Lady's Slipper is used to describe a variety of the cypripedium species. Pink is the only color I've seen, though I've heard tell of yellow inhabiting Lookout.

Indian Pipe (*monotropa uniflora*) is known as a powerful pain reliever. Native Americans used the juice of the plant as an eyewash, and for bunions and warts. Root tea of Indian Pipe has been used for convulsions, epilepsy and as a sedative. Physicians of late treated nerve disorders with Indian Pipe extract. Water extracts are known to kill bacteria.

American Ginseng (*Panax Quinquefolius*) and Dwarf Ginseng (*Panax Trifolius*) are native to the Lookout Mountain area. American and Dwarf Ginseng are known to balance what is imbalanced. American Ginseng has proven effective as an adaptogen, though there is little research on the Dwarf Ginseng.

Goldenseal (*Hydrastis Canadensis*) is nature's answer to an antibiotic. The root aids in healing the mucus membranes. Goldenseal is a plant that deserves respect in that it is effective in a vast variety of ways and it is a complex regimen that needs to be followed for optimum effectiveness.

All of these plants are too scarce for wild harvest without survival as the intent. You can find these herbs cultivated. If you are interested in transplanting any of these plants, it is wise to leave plants in their home because you can contact United Plant Savers of America for the plants you want. There are also nurseries that cultivate these plants.

Consult our healthcare provider before incorporating any of these herbs into your health regimen. For more information, contact me at (205) 816-3148 or arvallove@aol.com

Therapeutic Massage

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By Susan Cheronos

Massage is one of the oldest healing methods. It has been in documented use for over 4000 years, and was recommended by Hippocrates, the "father" of modern medicine. Its popularity has increased dramatically in recent years. According to the American Massage Therapy Association, twice as many people visited a massage therapist in 2000 as did just three years earlier. The benefits of massage include: stress reduction, increased circulation, increased range of motion, muscle relaxation, emotional release, diminished fatigue, restored muscle tone, decreased edema, elimination of toxins, and elimination of spasms. Massage can ease strain on the heart, stimulate the lymphatic system which leads to increased immunity, balance the nervous system, reduce pain, stretch connective tissue, improve flexibility and increase blood supply and nutrition to muscles. All this therapeutic benefit and it just plain makes you feel good!

Massage is commonly used to treat conditions including: headaches, high blood pressure, injury, pregnancy discomfort, chronic pain, arthritis, back pain, fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome. In studies, massage has been shown to reduce the length of hospital stays, increase weight of premature babies, and decrease the need for pain medication. In an study published by the *Archives of Internal Medicine* on April 23, 2001, a publication of the American Medical Association, it was stated that "Therapeutic massage was effective for persistent low back pain, apparently providing long term benefits. Massage might be an effective alternative to conventional medical care for persistent back pain." To become a massage therapist requires a serious course of study. Extensive training and testing is required to receive national certification and state licensing and continuing education is mandated at approximately 50 hours every four years.



Local massage therapist, Donna Sutton, of Body Maintenance (next to Little River Hardware), has been practicing therapeutic massage for seven years. She trained with Fort Payne Massage Therapist, Kathy Kirby, who owns Touch of Heath. She is nationally certified and licensed by the State of Alabama. She has lived in Mentone since 1978 and is married to Sam Sutton, a service representative for Oval Strapping. She has two children and three grandchildren. Donna offers thirty-minute and one hour sessions at her office. The client's modesty is of utmost importance to Donna. The client is appropriately covered for the entire session. Before your first massage, Donna will talk with you about your medical history and the conditions you would like to improve through massage. She adapts her techniques and the level of pressure to the needs of the individual. Her techniques include Swedish Massage, Structural Integration and Myofascial Release. If you have any questions about massage and to discover if it might be appropriate for you feel free to call Donna. Gift certificates are available and make excellent holiday gifts. The holidays can get stressful for everyone and if you've never tried a massage this just might be the time to discover the healing, relaxing benefits this therapy offers.

On a personal note, I have received therapeutic massage across the United States and in Europe over the past 20 years, and I promise that you will be hard pressed to find a gentler, more intuitive and professional therapist than Donna. I highly recommend her healing touch therapy to anyone. Donna can be reached at Body Maintenance at 634-3032.

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NORTH LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

By Linda Brown

What's in a name? It seems that a lot is in a name when it is incorrect. This has happened recently with the local volunteer fire department. As secretary to the board of directors, I found that we could possibly get a rebate on some items, since we are organized under the Alabama Forestry Commission. When I tried to submit the proper forms, I found that no organization had our name the same. I have faxed the above name to all of the agencies and still have not heard if we can apply for rebates.

No matter what we are called, we are responding to the needs of Mentone and the surrounding communities. Recently, the volunteers have answered several calls to brush fires and outdoor fires. We all need to be very careful about burning leaves and brush right now because it is so dry. One puff of wind can spread a small fire to an out-of-control fire.

At the November meeting, the members of the Board of Directors decided to set in motion the plans to purchase a new fire truck. This will require a lot of planning; not only will they have to know exactly what is needed on the truck, but they will also have to secure a loan and have reasonable assurance that the payments on this loan can be met.

This is where you can help. If you live in the area north of the DeSoto State Park east to the Georgia state line, west to the town limits of Valley Head and in the state of Alabama north of Mentone, you live in the coverage area of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District. This is a lot of territory. We are a volunteer department. None of the firefighters or members and officers of the board are ever paid for their services. All efforts are strictly a labor of love for their community and its people.

You can send a donation to: NLMFPD, PO Box 154, Mentone, AL 35984. A receipt for tax purposes will be returned to you, if requested.

SPECIAL THANKS

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District would like to express their thanks to Mr. Jonathan Harris of Dutton, Alabama. Mr. Harris owns and operates Harris Mill Works, a company that does quality cabinet making. Mr. Harris donated all of the cabinets necessary to install the sinks and water heater for the food pavilion in the Mentone Brow Park. The installation of sinks, water heater, refrigerator and netting was a requirement by the DeKalb County Health Department before the volunteer firefighters could serve barbeque sandwiches and other food to the public at the Mentone Colorfest.

The food sales were a great success. As far as anyone can remember, a record was set for amount of money made serving food during that weekend. The Mentone Area Preservation Association agreed to pay one half of the expenses for preparing the food pavilion. The proceeds for the fire department will pay our part of this joint effort and all expenses for the purchase of supplies and still make a profit.

Again we thank Mr. Harris and all others who made this effort worth our time and effort. All money made will be used for operating expenses by the fire department. You can contact Mr. Harris for quality cabinets and other products at 256-657-4412.



CHIEF, JIM ROBERTS

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District Volunteer Fire Department has chosen our Chief, Jim Roberts, as December "Fireman of the Month".

Jim was born and raised in Pisgah, Alabama. In 1964, Jim married Phyllis E. Bialock of Mentone. In 1966, Jim left to serve with the United States Air Force. Jim and Phyllis have three sons: Jim, who is married and has one daughter, Russ (not married), and Chris, who is also married and has a baby daughter.

In 1990, Jim and Phyllis purchased Ruby's Variety Store in Mentone from Phyllis's Mother, Ruby Stalvey. (The Store is now known by many in the area as Ruby's or Jim's.) Jim says that he enjoys seeing the residents of Mentone on a daily basis and has met people from all over the world at his store.

Jim joined the volunteer fire department in 1991. About 5 years ago, he was elected into the Fire Chief position. Since then, Jim recalls that the department has grown from 6 members to 15 members. "We are trying to raise enough funds to buy a NEW fire truck with enough equipment to help the department get a lower ISO rating. With the help from the community, I know we will accomplish this," Jim says.

THANK YOU, JIM, FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.....

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American Legion Auxiliary Unit 215 at Mentone, Wishes Veterans at Fann Home in Huntsville a Very Merry Christmas

by Marilyn Blanton Campbell

"Every year, it looks like our ranks get thinner, but we still manage to get done all the things we committed ourselves to years ago," Mickey Gough, President of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 215 at Mentone said in a statement issued Tuesday, November 27. "We have so few active members that it surprises us every time we manage to get anything accomplished. Years ago, we committed ourselves to doing two things each year. The first is sending a girl to Girl's State, and the second is keeping up the morale of the veterans from DeKalb County who are in residence at the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville.

"Sending a girl to Girl's State is one of those things that we can write a check and discharge our obligation in that respect, but, when it comes to keeping up the morale of the local veterans living in the Fann Home, that takes a little more effort. Twice a year—at Valentine's Day and at Christmas—we send a box containing cards enough for the entire resident population of the Fann Home. We send that to the Activities Director, and she and her staff distribute those cards to everybody over there. Naturally, some people are more able to appreciate our efforts than others, but we try to see to it that everybody is wished a Happy Valentine's Day and a Merry Christmas.

"As for our local veterans, who reside in the Fann Home, we make it our business to send them individual cards some nine times per year—New Year's, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Fourth of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas in addition to their birthdays. We have a committee that is in charge of procuring the cards and seeing to it that they are sent out at the proper time. Anybody, who has ever been away from home, can appreciate getting mail from the home county people. Among our local veterans who live at the Fann Home are those who can appreciate the weekly paper, and we have that sent to them so they can keep up with what is going on back home.

"Many of the veterans in the Fann Home are there purely because they are beyond the limits of home care, but that does not mean they should be forgotten. Please, if you know someone, who lives in the Fann Home, send a holiday greeting card to that person. Even if you do not know anyone who lives there, let me assure you that a card from you will indeed be appreciated anyway. All you have to do is address your card thusly: Mrs. Elizabeth Walls, Activities Director, Floyd E. "Tut" State Veterans Home, 2701 Meridian Street, Huntsville, Alabama 35811.

Just stick a little note inside to the effect that you want your card given to someone who will appreciate it, and Mrs. Walls and her staff will see to it that the person, who will appreciate it the most, receives it.

"We usually send our box of Christmas cards for the general population through the mail, but this time we had somebody going to Huntsville for medical reasons, and she dropped that off with a member of Mrs. Walls's staff, a very nice young lady named Amanda. Mrs. Walls was in a meeting that day and unavailable to accept our offering of love personally. Amanda explained that Mrs. Walls has two assistants, and those are the ladies, who distribute the mail and who read mail to people, who either cannot see to read it for themselves or who need it read to them for some other reason.

"Upon her return to Mentone, our lady reported that Amanda said they would be most glad to see to it that people (and, yes, they do have some), who never get any mail from anybody, are the recipients of the Christmas cards that come in from people like you who know absolutely nobody over there.

"Even if the residents in a particular section are not as in touch with reality as the rest of us happen to be, they are aware when somebody comes around giving out cards with pretty pictures on them. Their families are aware too when they go visit and find those cards on the nightstand in the resident's room.

"The truth of the matter is that it has been a long time since we (the legion ladies) actually made a visit to the Fann Home, but there is a very good reason for that. First, our ranks were thin to start with. Second, our thin ranks were depleted even more when some of our hard core faithful ladies got seriously sick. Third, there are those among us who have sick husbands, who need looking after. Fourth, there are those among us who have prior claims on our time, and we simply cannot turn loose to go much of anywhere. However, we do keep sending cards and encouraging others to send cards.

"When we started out with our morale boosting campaign, we had seven veterans from DeKalb County residing in the Fann Home. Then, we got down to two. Now, we are back up to four. Please, remember to keep the Fann Home veterans in your thoughts and prayers over the holiday season even if you do not send cards.



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College Show Off

By John Baty

Anyone who knows me, or has read something I have written, will know that I was raised around sawmills and hunted the woods since I was big enough to follow the grownups around. Just about every tree which grew on the mountain (Lookout Mountain) was very familiar to me. Each one had been pointed out and its local name was burned into my mind. I didn't mistake many of our trees here. The valley trees—sycamores, beeches, black locusts, box elder, etc., were not so well known to my list, but I knew them pretty well also. Every mountain boy knew his local trees; not only by the bark and twigs, but knew the lumber after it was sawed; could even identify the lumber after it was dried, dressed and on a wall. Such was no big deal to the boys I knew. We would poke fun at any boy who didn't know the name (or a name) for any mountain tree.

In addition to that background of familiarity, I had just finished a year of sawing on a sawmill for my brother when I quit and began as a college freshman.

I was taking introductory botany as a freshman, and the course had a lab to supplement the lecture. A young lady graduate student was teaching the lab and she was probably concerned that she should exhibit the correct amount of authority, starting with day one. She was hosing 'round and giving orders as to what we could touch and what we were to leave alone. We were in no uncertainty that she meant business and that she was in charge unconditionally.

When she turned us loose in the laboratory, I was looking around at the strange stuff when I came upon something that I recognized very well.

Someone had chainsawed several blocks off a small oak tree (about 6 in. in diameter and 2 in. thick) and had glued a 3/4 in. hole part way through the center of each. Then they had set a 3/4 in. piece of dowel rod in each hole and tacked it with a small nail. They then had cut similar blocks from most of the common trees, choosing somewhat smaller trees for the purpose, and drilled a slightly larger hole in each of these. Then they threaded about half a dozen of each kind over the dowel rods. We were planning to learn to identify the trees from which each stack of blocks were cut. That information would be on the final Lab test, the teacher warned.

As I looked the little sampler over, I noted that the stack of post oak blocks had two poplar (yellow poplar) blocks on top of the oaks. The yellow poplar stack was nearby. I casually lifted the poplar blocks off the oaks and was about to put them back with their kind. The teacher barked at me and ordered me to "put those blocks back where you got them. Don't disturb those stacks!" "Well," I said, "Them two are on the wrong stack."

"How do you know?" she barked. "Well, I just know the difference. They are not the same." "Well," she said, "We'll just find out!" She grabbed the blocks and disappeared down the hall. After a time, she returned and placed the little blocks on the correct stack. "I asked Professor (Somebody), and he said that you were right. Anyway, somebody had just inadvertently mixed them. That's all! What did you think they were?" she asked. "Oh," they were poplars," I said.

Along toward the last of class, the teacher eased up beside me and said in a low voice, "I was afraid I might run into someone like you when I agreed to teach this lab!"

She did pass me, I guess I might have impressed her, without intending to. I think that was the only thing I got right in that course, though!

Them ol' sawmillers had stacked their boards in the correct stacks every day for a lifetime. You would play heck fooling one about the kind of tree.

New Book By John Baty Has Been Released

by Evelyn Graves

Long Ago and Far Away, John Baty's fifth book, has now been completed and is available in limited quantities at this time.

The book is a deliberate attempt on the part of the author to preserve the history of Lookout Mountain through a vivid account of various experiences and a close look at the culture of pioneers in this area.

The book is written with clarity, humor, and sincerity, and will be invaluable to future generations as they begin to search for their heritage.

This is a book that you will want to make a part of your library and share with family and friends. I cannot think of a better gift to tuck into a Christmas stocking.

I am sure that if you want some copies to give for Christmas, John will be able to accommodate you. Give him a call at 634-4415.

RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB

By Sue Schwarz

The regular meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was held November 13, 200, at the Mentone Community house. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Flo Kirby; and Marie Dillenbeck presented the Devotional. Refreshments were served. Hostesses were Hope Walker, Diane Kuehl and Sue Schwarz.

A delightful program titled, *Holiday Garnishes*, was presented by Linda Hill. Linda is a garden club member and also is a member of Master Gardeners. She inspired us all with her creative presentations and decoration tips.

The minutes were read and approved as read. The Treasurer's report was presented by Diane Kuehl. She reported that as of September 11, there was a balance of \$711.07. Since then, there have been deposits of \$194.00 and expenses of \$237.50, leaving a balance of \$668.40.

Linda Brown reported that the Partridge Peas planted narcissus bulbs in their classrooms and are looking forward to watching them grow and bloom.

Ann Wright reported that Senator Lowell Barron enjoyed a visit to the Moon Lake School Butterfly Garden along with other distinguished visitors.

The Rhododendron Garden Club has experienced the loss of Betty Chapman, a gracious lady with a helping hand when needed and one who was very active in several aspects of the community here; and she will be sorely missed by all who know her. A rhododendron is to be planted at the community house in her memory.

There will be a raffle by the Federation to help defray expenses for the annual flower show. A playhouse is to be given away before Christmas. Money and tickets are due at the December meeting.

Linda Brown moved that we buy a memorial space in *Hortensia* in honor of Rovene Truett, Ruby Daniel and Betty Chapman.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be a Covered Dish Dinner and is scheduled for 11:30, December 11th at the Community House.

FIVE GENERATIONS



Dorothy Sheldon, mother; daughter, Lois Wagy; Granddaughter Bonnie Gaddis; Great Granddaughter, Nicole Lillie; and Great Great Grandson Domiano (DJ Jr.)



Dorothy Sheldon, mother; daughter, Lois Wagy; Granddaughter Connie Wagy; Great Great Grandson, Michael Way; Great Grandson, Dustin Wagy, Wife Amanda Wagy; Great Great Granddaughter Makayla Wagy

Pictures were taken at family reunion in September 2001, in Oquawka, Illinois, at the home of Lois Wagy.

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Halloween Pinata: Tri-County Chief Howard Durham and member Wanda Durham assist Halloween cat
Photos by Mary Alice Stout



OPEN HOUSE HELD

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN ANIMAL RESOURCES (LMAR) held an open house on Sunday, Dec. 2, at their location on Trion-Teloga Road in Summerville, GA. Attending were board members and local supporters. Theresa Smith, director, showed everyone the new boarding facilities built by some of LMAR's wonderful volunteers.

Everyone enjoyed refreshments. Pet toys and the new LMAR t-shirts were available for sale. (See t-shirt picture below.)

LMAR offers a low cost spay/neuter service. Some grant funds are available for DeKalb County, AL, residents. Call LMAR for details or for information on how to purchase a \$10 t-shirt.

Donations are always appreciated and are tax deductible. PO Box 416, Monro, GA 30731
Phone: 706-734-0812



TRI-COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE/RESCUE NEWS

by Mary Alice Stout

SANTA TO ARRIVE by FIRE TRUCK on Saturday, December 15, from 4:00 to 7:00pm (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 GA/AL line, where AL Highway 117 ends.

COOKBOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS--Copies of the Tri-County Cookbook, "TASTES FROM THE COUNTRY", will be for sale at the December 15 Christmas party. They are only \$8 and will be an appreciated gift. Cookbooks may also be ordered from Assistant Chief, Janet Harris, at 706-862-2128.

THE AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) has now been available as a Tri-County tool for a year. The AED was purchased with financial help from Redmond Regional Hospital (Rome), Chattooga County, GA, the State of GA (thanks to Representative Barbara Reese), and funds raised by Tri-County. See photo of Tri-County paying its share. Eight Tri-County members are certified in the AED's use.

CONGRATULATIONS to Tri-County Volunteer CHARLA HUSKEY. She completed training to become a Basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and recently passed her national exam! Tri-County Volunteers Wanda and James Durham are also attending training to become EMT's.

TRI-COUNTY BUDGET--Recently, the owner of a Lookout Mountain vacation home said to me, "Why are you always asking for money?" Here's how I answered her:

Tri-County Volunteer Fire/Rescue is a VOLUNTEER organization. We not only give of our time to be trained, to fight fires and to provide emergency medical services, but we have to raise the money to make sure these activities happen. Tri-County's budget is financed by community donations, bake sales, chili suppers, turkey shoots, yard sales, etc. This past year, we received our FIRST small check from Chattooga County, Ga. With these funds, we pay the loan on the fire trucks, insurance on vehicles and building, utility bills, property taxes, vehicle maintenance, fire fighting clothing (protective gear), children's holiday parties, and so on. We do a lot with a little, like we all do at home. When there's not enough money, the volunteers look into their own pockets to help "make ends meet."

We are VERY grateful to each of you who have supported us and ask that you please continue. Without your support, there would be no Tri-County Volunteer Fire/Rescue. Donations may be sent to: Tri-County Volunteer Fire/Rescue, 12511 Hwy 48, Cloudland, GA, 30731. Receipts are provided on request.

THANK YOU!

Mountain Mamas Arts and Crafts Store and Rock Shop is closed for the winter and will open again in the spring. Our holiday sale weekend was very successful. All the artists wish to thank the community for its continued support. And we hope everyone has a joyous and peaceful holiday. See you in the Spring!



The AED is paid for! Tri-County pays its share as Mary Alice Stout presents checks to Chattooga County Commissioner, Jim Parker.



Tri-County's Halloween Winners L/R: Brittany Clark, Jamie Mayhew and Tommy Lambino

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM MOUNTAIN MAMAS

by Mary Alice Stout

Mountain Mamas 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! If you have not visited us, we hope you will next year.

We are now closed for the winter and will re-open by April 1". If you have a "last minute" gift need, we will open by appointment. Call Fayann or Morgana at 706-862-6150 or Mary Alice at 706-862-2142.

Have a Great New Year!

The Church News

By EVELYN GRAVES



Sunday morning services at **Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church** are held at 8:15 AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. 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. This year's Community Cantata will be performed on Sunday, December 16th, at 7 PM. Everyone is welcome to come.

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 Venna Livingston at 635-6350 or Mary Holleran 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 Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

The **Harmony Grove Baptist Church** invites everyone to come and worship with them. God's Country Church is located on Co. Road 239 (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 p.m.

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.

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).

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

The **Mount Calvary Baptist Church**, Cloudland, Georgia, welcomes everyone to come and take part in our church services. Sunday School at 10 AM; Worship Service at 11 AM; Sunday evening at 6 PM, and Wednesday evening at 7 PM.

Lighthouse Fellowship assembly has moved to Cloudland. Turn at the produce stand, pass the tennis court, and go to the stop sign. Go right two blocks. A church alive is worth the drive. Sunday School - 10 AM; Worship - 11 AM, Alabama time. Everyone is welcome. Phone: 706-862-2607.

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10 AM, Worship at 11 AM, 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 Study Wed. 7:00-7:45 PM. 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.

Mentone Church of God invites you to attend their church. Sunday School - 10 AM; Morning Worship - 11 AM. Sunday evening - 6 PM; Wednesday evening - 6:30 PM. Pastor LuRue Garraway welcomes new comers.

MT. Carmel Community Baptist Church, 1041 Yankee Rd, Cloudland, GA 30731, 706-396-7010, now offers a 24 hour Prayer Line. Need Prayer? Just call and leave your message. Other activities include: Sunday School - 10 AM, Worship Services - 11 AM & 6 PM, Monday 7-8 PM - Informal Prayer Time; Wed 7 PM - Mid-week Prayer Service; Thursday 7-8 PM - Bible Discussion. We need Piano Player, Music Director, Children for Sunday School and Youth!

A **Community Christmas Service** will be Wed., Dec. 19, at 6 PM, at **Lees Chapel**. Jeff Adkins of Valley Head will bring the message.

The **Mentone United Methodist Church** services are at 11 AM each Sunday. Sunday school is at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome. The Pastor is Frankie Jones. The children, accompanied by their parents, will go caroling on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 5 PM. Each Sunday during this year's Advent season, a mini-drama is being performed by Linda and Bobby Brown, with Barbara Bialock as narrator. The children have been practicing for several weeks for their play/cantata which will be Sunday, December 23, at 5 PM. Following the performance, will be a church-wide Christmas party with a covered dish dinner, and the children exchanging gifts.

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church ATOP LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN IN MENTONE, ALABAMA, regular 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.

Want to celebrate Christmas in a very special way this year? **St. Joseph's On-The-Mountain Episcopal Church** is having a **Christmas Eve Midnight service** on Monday night, Christmas Eve, beginning with Christmas Snacks at 10:30 PM, followed by Christmas carols at 11:00 PM, and the midnight service beginning at 11:30. Everyone is cordially invited to attend and help celebrate the birthday of the One whose life has brought new life and happiness to so many. You may call 634-4476 for more information.



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www.mentonecabins.com

Mentone Wedding Chapel

Nestled in the woods atop Lookout Mountain, near Mentone, Alabama, this quaint little chapel is surrounded by ferns, forest and flowers. The chapel is a scaled version of traditional Appalachian churches of days gone by. Stained glass windows filtering soft forest sunrays and soft organ music accent an ambience fitting the wedding ceremony. Inside wooden pews will seat approximately 60 guests.



Linda Patterson, owner of the chapel, said the idea for it began with a ball, and now that ball rings as newlyweds exit the door of the chapel.

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256-634-4181

PHOTOS FROM THE VALLEY



Saturday, December 8, at 11:00 AM, the annual Valley Head Christmas Parade participants lined up at the Valley Head School. At noon, throwing candy to the crowds, they passed through the streets of Valley Head in the following order:

1. Craig Chandler-E-011 Jeep
2. Northeast Alabama Security Service
3. Carson Clark- Channel 10 Huntsville
4. DeKalb Ambulance Service - Tim Bray
5. Valley Head School Band
6. Ralph DeLagarza with Santa Claus on the back of the truck
7. Sandy Hulgan - Sponsor of the Valley Head Junior Cheerleaders
8. Kaolin Garden Club
9. Shriners from Alhambra Temple
10. 5th and 8th Grade Basketball Team driven by Steve Davis
11. 3rd and 4th Basketball Team driven by a sponsor
12. Marjorie Harper and J. Robertson driven by Mrs. Harper
13. Democrat Float-Cecil Reed, Bob Johnson, Sid Holcomb, and others

14. LEE'S CHAPEL ***1ST PLACE***

driven by Skippy Mathis

15. Fritz Steel
16. John O'Rear -Antique Tractor
17. Tommy Gifford, Antique Tractor
18. Al Blackburn- followed by 4-wheeler driven by Wil Blackburn with Alex Blackburn and another
19. Valley Tooling, Inc., Scott Gifford
20. Inspec Tech
21. DeSoto Rescue Squad
22. DeSoto Rescue Squad
23. Masonic Lodge
24. Jason Wright- Camaro antique
25. Dennis Lewis- antique car
26. Raymond Blalock and others
27. Lowell McKenzie- Golf Cart
28. Tommy Carson and others
29. J. P. Thornberry, Shriners from Atlanta
30. DeKalb Shrine Club
31. Lee's Chapel Church- Henagar ***3RD PLACE***

32. Hulgan Wrecker Service
33. Hulgan Wrecker Service
34. Hulgan Wrecker Service
35. Hulgan Wrecker Service
36. Herman Johnson and others on horses
37. Woodmen of the World, Johnny Miller, Ovie Blalock, and Barbara Blalock
38. #24 Volkswagen- Jeff Harrison
39. Valley Head Fire Department
40. Hammondville Fire Department
41. North Lookout Mountain Fire Department
42. David Guffey

HEAD CHRISTMAS PARADE



43. Valley Mills, Inc. ***2ND PLACE***

Giving away socks

Bill Guffey helped with the line up.

Assisting with traffic: Valley Head Police 2 cars; Hammondville Police 2 Cars; and Tim Bailey from DeKalb County Sheriff 1 car

The prizes for winning entries were: 1st place \$75; 2nd place \$50; and 3rd place \$25.

The Town of Valley Head would like to thank all those who were in the parade and all those who came out to support the parade. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!



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The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

November was a busy month for some of you. (By having a monthly paper, you know some of our news is old news!) The colors remained during part of the month and visitors kept coming to our little town.

The Mentone Springs Hotel has been sold. The new owner, Andy Talton, is working hard and fast improving the outside while the weather is good. They are still in the Bed & Breakfast business.

Our veterans had special attention this year. Maybe the Afghanistan war has made us more appreciative of those who fought in previous wars. I think all WWI veterans are deceased, but a great number of WWII men and women are still with us, but are getting on in years. I am proud to be the wife of a WWII veteran and the mother of two sons who served their country during the Vietnam conflict.

Moon Lake School recently presented a very impressive program honoring veterans and giving some history of our country. The fourth graders did an excellent program with patriotic songs and essay readings. After the School program, refreshments were served in the dining hall. Tables were decorated in red, white and blue colors, with fresh flowers. It made all present feel very special. We are so very proud of our school, its principal, Dr. Bill Berry, the entire teaching staff, and its student body.

The American Legion had a most welcomed speaker at its annual covered dish dinner. Dr. Ray Smith spoke well about the improvements in military equipment and training since WWI. I had not seen R. C. since high school days at Valley Head. I always knew he was an intelligent classmate and would succeed in the future - and he has!

James Kuykendall, who has toiled long and hard with all "Landmarks of DeKalb County" programs, has collected pictures of many veterans from our area and has had them featured in the "Advertiser" paper for several weeks. He plans to continue doing so well into the new year. James also coordinated the Veterans Day program at the Opera House in Ft. Payne, giving honor to area residents who served in all military branches.

That entire program was beautifully done - just an example of all the many hours James spent getting it together. His work in all voluntary and we appreciate him very much. James, Elizabeth Howard and many others have done wonders for preserving DeKalb County history. That history had never been researched and written in books until "Landmarks" was formed in 1969 and James served as first president. "Landmarks" books are on sale at Crow's Nest Antiques at the Hitching Post. I recently had a lady call who wanted five copies of the first volume printed.

We have felt the sadness of losing Bill Scruggs. He was one of the best attorneys we've known, a good friend and a favorite of many people. He was so young and seemed to be at the height of his career. Sadly, cancer has no respect of person or age, and we have lost so many dear ones to that dreaded disease. Our heartfelt condolences to Bill's wife, Kay.

Thanksgiving was a little more special to all of us this year, after the attacks of terrorists. Terrorists are taught to have no value for life, even their own. Thank God we are in a part of the world where we can still say, "In God We Trust," without any fear. Macy's went ahead with their parade in New York, which certainly must have been a challenge to that city.

We had all four children home for the feast, but no grandchildren this time. They will make it for Christmas, I suppose. Joyce is still with us and is helping Doreen at the Package Store. Things are very busy there through the holidays. Gregg came for a few days and we enjoyed having him here. All of us stuffed ourselves on turkey and dressing with all the trimmings, then had no room for desserts. I had made lemon meringue and egg custard pies, Joyce brought pumpkin pie and I made a pound cake. We have been eating desserts ever since! It takes time to make such a variety of desserts - so we may have just one dessert at Christmas!

Larry Alexander and his wife (from Indiana) and a friend (from North Carolina) visited with us late Thanksgiving Day. Larry's great grandmother was a Crow and Larry somehow got our names and has been in touch occasionally for about two years. He came here last year and loved the mountain. We found that he loves to sing and plays many musical instruments (including guitar, violin and a computerized guitar). So we all enjoyed a music-filled evening with him and Barry on keyboard and Coy with his guitar.

Now that Thanksgiving is past, Christmas is on the way. Coy has been placing tiny lights all over the outline of our house! When he flips the switch to turn them on, our neighbors may not have any electricity! We are never quite sure that we can see our house from the valley, so Coy plans to light it up so there will

be no doubt of its location!

We have had some severe thunderstorms and small tornadoes in DeKalb County recently - some very close to Mentone. This time, a tornado hit Luther Hartline's farm just over the Georgia line up Highway 89. It destroyed some machinery and two barns, with other possible damage. So strange. The only tornado that I know about hitting the mountain was 45 or so years ago. One came up the mountain and hit the Hartline's home not far from Camp Ponderosa. That was where Luther and Sanford lived when they were still at home with their parents. It destroyed their home but didn't do much damage to any other structures nearby. One could see the tornado streak all the way from the valley to the top of the mountain for a long time, where it took out trees or anything in its path.

We have had unusually warm dry weather this fall which probably produces storms. Jerry Grantland called me recently. He's the lead singer with the Cataco Band that plays for our festivals. He said that he had suffered an attack of meningitis and was in the hospital for twelve days. I understand meningitis can affect the heart and/or liver and some have lost legs after an attack. Please keep Jerry in your prayers. He and his band have done a lot for Mentone - playing at our festivals at no charge. If you would like to send him a card, he can be contacted at:

Jerry Grantland
221 Red Oak Road
Somerville, AL 35670
Phone: 256-778-8717

Homer's brother Dewey and his wife, Pam, have moved into their new home on the brow, not far from us. They are still working on it, but it's easier to finish the small jobs while they are living here. They are enjoying a beautiful view from all rooms of their house (and it is a nice one!).

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to each of you. May all your wishes come true, but if they don't, there will be another day.

God Bless you and God Bless America.

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By Marie S. Dillenbeck

MOON LAKE SCHOOL

On November 9, 2001, veterans and visitors were welcomed to the annual Veterans Day program at Moon Lake Elementary School. Dr. Bill Berry, Principal, welcomed the veterans, the students, and the visitors.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kaleb McMunn, Jacob Tweedell, and members of Webelo Pack 106. Ashley Ammons sang *The Star Spangled Banner*.

Nancy Frost, 4th grade teacher, organized the program, and her 4th grade students presented "A Salute to American Symbols." The program listed the following symbols and presenters. Alex Blackburn and Michael Harrison told about **The American Flag**. Michael Norman Brittany Streeter and Leanna Webb gave an account of **The National Anthem**. Ethan Crider, Ethan Blackwell and Brandon Willingham reported on **The U.S. Capitol**. Bryan Phillips, Daniel Scott and Jacob Tweedell spoke about **The Liberty Bell**. Keshia Carr, Kaleb McMunn and Savannah Williams mentioned **The Bald Eagle**. The entire 4th grade sang, "God Bless the U.S.A."

The 4th grade delivered an excellent program to the delight of the veterans, the other students, and the visitors. We can all be proud of the students and their teachers.

Also part of the celebration was a reading of the top three essays from the sixth grade class. American Legion Post 215 sponsored a contest with the topic, "Is Freedom Free?" The three winning essays were Will Scott, first place; Jessica Mayhew, 2nd place, and Kayla Hazell, third place. The students and their parents were invited to attend the November 10, covered dish supper at the American Legion Post.

Veterans and visitors were invited to enjoy brunch in the school cafeteria. Brynda Hopper, lunchroom manager, Michele Kincer, assistant manager, and Martha McCurdy, school secretary, prepared decorations and served brunch for visiting veterans and special guests.



American Legion Post 215 Veterans

L/R: (front row) Delmas Smith, Leland Cox, Bert Pickett, Jimmy Wright, George Walker, Rick Chapman, Jim Lyday, and Homer Crow, (back row) Luther King Jr, Charles Elrod, Robert Green, John O'Rear, Huey Mathews, Sherman Gough, Ed Ringer, Bill Schwarz, Howard Carson, L.B. Hammond, and Billy Cash

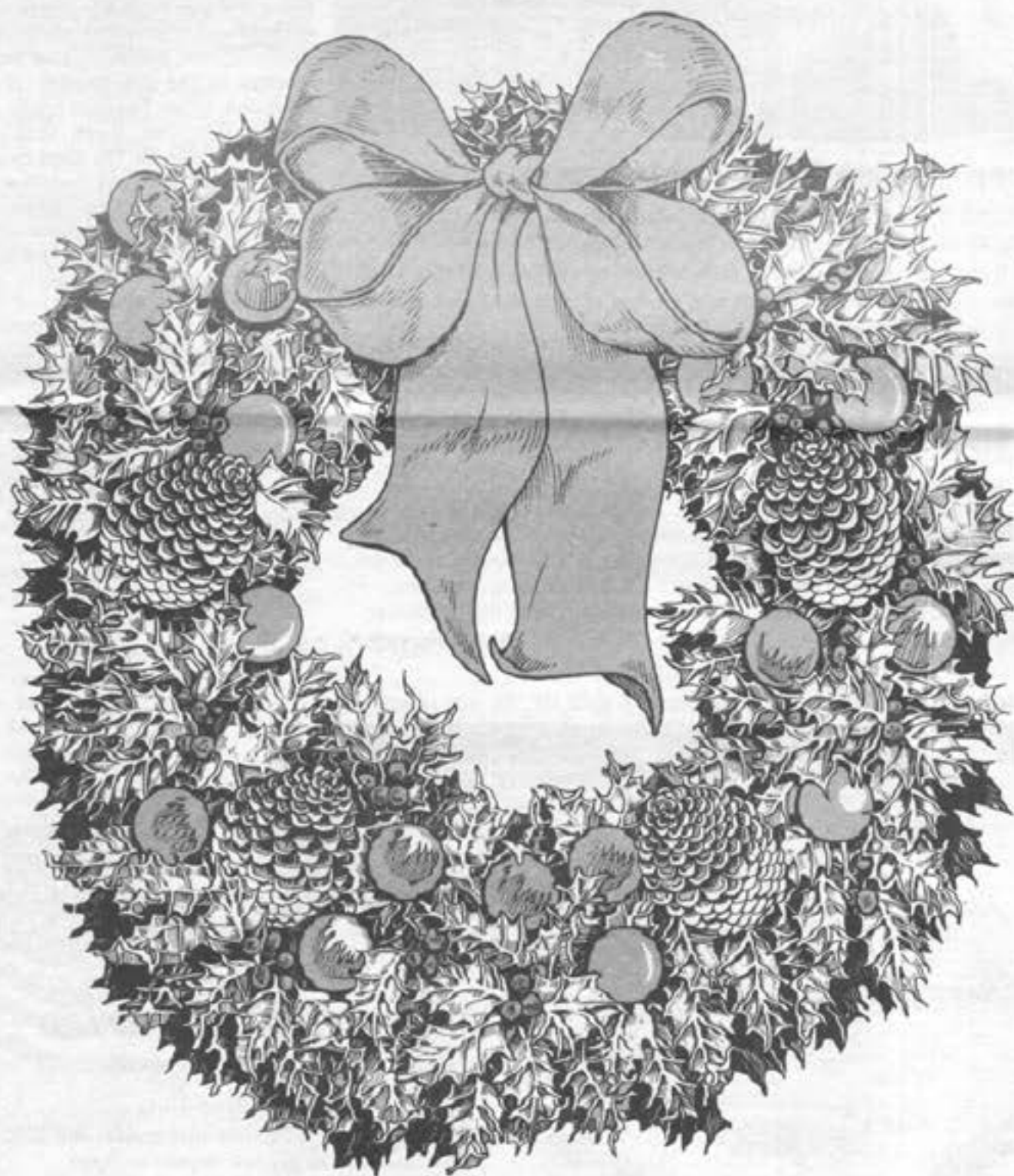


American Legion Post 215 Commander Sherman Gough presenting prizes at the Veterans Day Celebration at Moon Lake Elementary School to the winners of the essay contest, "Is Freedom Really Free?"

L/R: Will Scott, 1st place; Jessie Mayhew, 2nd place; Kayla Hazel, 3rd place



Merry Christmas





The RECIPE CORNER

By
SUE SCHWARZ

I served a Norwegian Apple Pie to some friends recently and decided to share it with you. This was one of the very first recipes featured in this column and has been a favorite of mine for several years. It was given to me by Judith Lollik-Andersen, proprietress of Woodhaven in Valley Head. The second recipe is another family favorite and is a good change of pace sweet potato dish. I found this recipe in a cookbook called *Treasured Alabama Recipes*, by Kathryn Tucker Windham.

Bill, Mother and I wish all of you a wonderful holiday season filled with joy and many wonderful times with family and friends.

NORWEGIAN APPLE PIE

- 1 egg
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts
- 1 cup diced apple (one whole apple)

With wooden spoon, mix ingredients in order given, folding in nuts and apples last. Bake in greased 8" pie pan at 350 F for 30 minutes. Serve warm or cold with ice cream or whipped cream.

SWEET POTATO AND APPLE SCALLOP

- 6 medium sweet potatoes, cooked, peeled and sliced
- 4 tart apples, cored and sliced
- 1/4 cup soft butter
- 1 tsp grated orange peel
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 tsp allspice
- 1/2 cup apple juice

Arrange potatoes and apples in layers in greased casserole. Mix butter and orange peel and dab on potatoes and apples. Stir sugar and allspice into apple juice and pour over potatoes and apples. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for half an hour. Uncover and bake 15 minutes longer, basting occasionally.



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About

Our Town

By
LINDA BROWN



Thirty little hands, forty compact disks, twelve containers of glitter glue and fifteen very creative minds. What do you have? You have the decorations for the holiday tree that you can see in the window of Mentone Town Hall.

On November 29th, I met with the Kindergarten class at Moon Lake School with the idea in mind to help them create something beautiful and to teach them that something that might become trash can be recycled. The meeting was a wonderful success!! The disks we used were those that you receive in the mail asking you to connect to the internet. We turned them with the printed side up and covered them with red, blue, green, gold and silver glitter glue. The designs were very creative and only small amounts of glue got on the tables and clothes. I carried the finished disks home and, after three days, they were dry enough to turn over. I glued a hook to the back side and carried them to town hall and hung them on the tree.

If you have not seen the tree yet, please go by and look at it. You can see it through the window from the outside or maybe the door will be open and you can go in. If you have one of the Moon Lake Kindergarten in your home, carry them by to see it. Maybe they will be able to find the ones that they made and show them to you.

Most of the other happenings in the town are holiday parties. Every organization has such an event planned. Marie really has her work cut out for her. She has to get them all listed in The Groundhog this month. I once heard someone call meetings where food was served, "eaten meetings". Very appropriate, don't you think?

The Board of Directors for the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District has applied for a loan to purchase a new fire truck. It will be after the first of the year before we know if we got the loan or not. After we get the loan, it will be about two more months before we can expect the delivery of a new truck. This seems like a long way off, but we have started the ball (truck) rolling. I have always been told that, "A project begun is half done." We have definitely started this project. We will be making payments for quite a few years, but the time has come that a new truck is necessary. Things can only be patched so many times.

The volunteer firefighters have been very busy this fall. There have been many grass and brush fires, and, thanks to their quick response, there has not been any loss of life or property.

The Holiday Season always brings back memories of those dear souls who have left us. I have never had much interest in angels, except to know that they were spoken of quite often in the Bible. Lately, I have begun to wonder if those who leave us do return as angels unaware. Do you sometimes have the feeling that

someone is with you and trying to help you? This may actually be an angel. Or maybe it's just because that person made such an impression in our lives while they were with us.

There is a wonderful cartoon in some Sunday newspapers called The Family Circus. Quite often, Grandpa returns to family gatherings as an angel and always some member of the family states that they feel that Grandpa is with them at the celebration and all of the family agrees.

On Sunday after the terrorists attacks on New York and Washington, my class of pre-teen girls were discussing the events. We were considering whether God was sad because of all the people killed. We decided that he was sad for all of the relatives who lost someone, but not sad for the ones who lost their life on earth. As one of the girls in the class said, "Why should God be sad? That just means that he has more angels in heaven." I'm not sure where the schools of theology stand on this issue, but it seems to be a healthy approach for young girls to take. Maybe they will never experience anger toward God for something that happens here on earth.

I would never presume that everyone who reads this paper believes in God. I read a wonderful article in Newsweek magazine that was written by a lady who called herself an agnostic. As such, she was upset with President Bush for stating that the war in Afghanistan will be won with God presiding over our victories. She stated that Osama bin Laden also feels that he will win this war because of his faith in a higher power. She has a good point.

Enough of this serious stuff, let's hark back to days of old. I have been making a photograph album, starting with pictures as far back as I can get them and ending with pictures of my life. You don't realize how much you have lived until you try to put your life on two pages!

Doing this brings back many memories. Some good and some not so good. In remembering my relatives in South Carolina, I remembered that the first time I visited them (at age eight) I hit my head on a car door and had to make the trip with a big bandage on my head. Remember those big, heavy doors on cars in the fifties? On the next visit to see them, our family got to Atlanta, Georgia, and when Mama looked at my two brothers and me, she discovered that we had German Measles. We called ahead and everyone there had had them already, so we continued our trip. I remember both visits as being very pleasant.

I don't remember much about the celebration of Christmas when I was growing up. I do remember that one of the highlights of Santa's visit every year was that he always left each of us new crayons and a new coloring book. I loved new crayons and absolutely hated it when the first one was broken. We also left our shoes under the tree instead of hanging stockings. Usually there was fruit and nuts left in them. As I lived on a farm, we were, as they say, poor but didn't know it. We had a warm house, warm clothes and plenty to eat.

The part of plenty to eat was really an experience. We canned every vegetable that grew in the garden in the summer. We made jelly, jam, relishes and pickles from fruits and vegetables. We cured our own meat, usually beef and pork. If you've never smelled the inside of a "smoke house" you don't know what you're missing. The smoke house was where the meat was stored for the winter. A fire was built inside the house,

on a dirt floor, and the meat was hung over the fire to smoke. The smoke escaped through a hole in the roof that was rigged so the rain could not come in. The meat was left hanging until needed for eating or sometimes taken down and sugar cured. This was a process of packing it in brown sugar and spices until it absorbed the flavor.

We dried apples in the sun. They were cut off the core in slices and the slices were placed on a piece of roofing tin. This had to be carried in at night and put back out the next morning until the slices were hard and dry. These were stored in cloth sacks known as "flour sacks", since flour came in them. These wonderful dried apples were cooked, sweetened and used to make fried pies.

We stored potatoes, sweet potatoes and onions in hay in the cellar and most of the canned items were stored there. Our cellar was under the kitchen floor. One winter, we kept hearing little "plinking" sounds coming from the cellar. We discovered that a skunk had decided that our cellar was a wonderful home. The "plinking" sounds were being made by her walking on top of the lids of the canned food. We had to wait until we would see her leave and then run and get enough food to last for several days or until she would leave again.

I hope that everyone has a very good Holiday season. Remember that the most important part of any celebration is the people you love and who love you. Remember those who are not able to care for themselves, help them in any way that you can. This year it seems that not as much money will be spent on material things, so maybe this is the time to start a new tradition and quit letting all of the commercialism rule our heads and not our hearts. Start a new tradition of just enjoying each other for the sake of being together.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyous Kwanzaa, Feliz Navidad, and Happy New Year!!

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(3) **ONE ROOM AND A PATH.** Rustic hunting cabin. 700 sq ft. heated space, stove, frig, power, gas heat, window air. Outhouse, with 5 wooded acres at Little River Canyon National Preserve, and the Wildlife Management land. Located at Canyon View Forest. **\$22,900.**



(4) **ROCK HOME ON THE WEST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER.** located next to Camp Skyline sits a 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with rock fireplace in master living quarters. Greatroom, kitchen and sleeping porch overlooking the water. A must see **\$225,000.**

OTHER PROPERTIES

(7) **12 WOODED ACRES** located on County Road 106, Mentone. Small Meadow area, paved road frontage. City water available. Lightly restricted. A good buy at **\$30,000.**

(8) **22 ACRES AVAILABLE** Mentone area. Lightly Restricted, No Mobile Homes. Priced **\$2200 an acre**

(9) **NICE WOODED LOT** on DeSoto Pkwy near Fischer Crossroads. 1-1/2 acre with city water, natural gas, available. **\$10,000.**

(10) **Hwy 117, Mentone.** Older home. 1 bedroom, bath w/walk-in shower. 36x24 living room, handicap accessible. Storage rooms in basement, over one acre. City water and priced to sell. **\$99,600. \$47,600. OWNER IS ANXIOUS TO SELL! \$38,500.**

(11) **HIGHWAY 117, SOUTH OF MENTONE.** 7.6 acres wooded with stream. City water, surveyed. NO RESTRICTIONS. **\$33,500.** Also 2.88 acres wooded. **\$15,000.** Also .81 acre. **\$5,000.**

(12) **ELEVEN ROOM HOME IN VALLEY HEAD.** consisting of 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, den, living, dining, laundry, kitchen, breakfast room, sun room. Also screened porch, carport, and separate garage/workshop on 3 lots. **\$22,800. Reduced \$19,900.**

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

(14) **50 ACRES LOCATED IN CLOUDLAND, GA.** Great Farm with 20x40 Barn, large workshop, 3 outbuildings, garage, 3 wells, year around spring, 3 garden areas, grape arbors, approx. 9 acres cleared, beautiful hardwoods. 12x70 mobile home with rock foundation. Many more amenities. Show by appt. **ONLY! City water access. Also just added to property, a 40x60 metal carport. \$179,000.**

(15) **INDIAN TRAIL ESTATES:** Building lots on the West Brow, above N. Ft. Payne, county road, city water access, view lots starting at **\$10,000;** wooded lots starting at **\$8,000.**

(16) **BOCKY TOP ESTATES.** 2 West Brow lots available. Adjacent to DeSoto State Park. City Water, paved road. Over One acre. Starting at **\$35,000.**

(17) **WILD RIVER COMMUNITY** (1 tract left) 22X300 on the East Fork Little River. Secluded and scenic, with Pools and Rapids. **\$26,000 each. One 3-acre tract \$35,000.**

(18) **2 ACRE TRACT.** located on Buckley Dr., Lookout Mtn. Unique with Rock formations, winter view, wooded, "overlooks" small private lake. City water, and power access. **\$12,000.**

(19) **14 ACRES IN THE WEST FORK SUBDIVISION.** with over 1,000 ft. of river frontage. Also included is another 2.8 acres, septic, well, and 2 outbuildings. Access from two roads. A must see. **\$182,000.**



(5) **MOUNTAIN RIVER ESTATES.** A River runs through it! Direct access from the Lookout Mtn. Parkway, on AL Hwy 117. Minutes from Mentone and Cloudland, GA. Three to 7 acre Riverfront Tracts starting at **\$29,500.** Five to fifteen wooded stream tracts from **\$21,000.** Restricted covenants apply.



(6) **UPSTREAM FROM DESOTO FALLS.** on the west fork of Little River, sits a wonderful 2000 sq ft home. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, rock fireplace, kitchen with all appliances. Many other amenities. Enjoy the view from the screened porch and deck, or stroll down the walkway and fish off the dock. Call for a viewing today. **\$266,000. PRICE SLASHED to \$235,000.**

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Thanksgiving was a time for families "to gather together and ask the Lord's blessing" and to be thankful that they could be together. I believe there was more "togetherness" than ever.

My cousins, Bill and Blanche Fuller, from Madison, AL, spent Sunday, recently, with Emily and Barry Brown and me. We had dinner at DeSoto State Park Mountain Inn and did some sight seeing at the Gorge and other places. Emily and Blanche interviewed the new owner of the Mentone Hotel.

The WMU of Valley Head Baptist Church met Tues, Dec. 5, at Sadie Cooper's home with eleven membs and one visitor present. Sadie had Thanksgiving dinner with Jim and Janet Cooper. Their son, Patrick, was home from college and Janet's niece, Dedra and eleven more family members enjoyed being together. They have new neighbors, the Kilgores, from Ider, and living in the former Methodist parsonage.

Peachie and David Cearley, from Alpharetta, Ga., visited her mother, Laura Margaret Allison and Aunt Elizabeth Coleman, thru Thanksgiving. They also had Tom Allison, as well as Frank Warren from Charlotte, NC, and Marsha and Malcolm Jobling, from Florida, came by.

Mary and Ted, E.T. and John Holleman, spent Thanksgiving Day in Gadsden with Jim, Michelle, and Betty Adams. Bill, Judy, and Kyle Ellis from Kingston, NC, and Nelson and Elizabeth Ellis visited Ted and Mary on Sat. after Thanksgiving.

Loy and Margaret Clark and son, Scott, and Wesley Wear from Birmingham and Anna Daniel, from Fort Payne, had Thanksgiving dinner with Evelyn Clark.

William Thomas was home from college. He and his fiancée, Katherine Hackney (from Birmingham), Emmy, Mark, Lucy, John, and Polly Ricketts, from Tuscaloosa, Doris and Jim Carmichael, Joy DeShields from Dogwood Haven, and Elizabeth Thomas had Thanksgiving dinner with Linda and Bob Thomas in Fort Payne. Doris and Jim received a call from Greg Ashley and wife, from Hendersonville, NC, to wish them a happy holiday.

Mark and Jane Gibson and Jordon and Mathew from Dallas, TX, and Keith Gibson from MS, were guests of Dot and Bill Blackburn and Martha and "Hoot" Gibson.

Christine and Walter Brooks had seventeen family members on Thanksgiving.

Robert D. and Michelle Brown and John and Billy enjoyed Thanksgiving with Michelle's family at the home of her sister, Diane, and Gerald Moeley in Birmingham.

Lillie Bowden went with Mark and Karen Freeman, Matt, Luke and Lee, Ben and Katie Freeman, and Sueana Marie to Pine Mountain, Ga., and had Thanksgiving dinner with Mark's mother, Mary Freeman. Karen and Lillie stayed until Saturday.

Chris, Carol, Amanda, and Dillon Brown went to Cartersville, Ga., to spend Thanksgiving with Carol's

family, the Butlers. Carol's sister, Cindy, came home with them for a week's visit.

Shane Wright's mother, Norma and brother, Shawn and wife Evelyn and children, Marissa and Mathew, came from Laurenceburg, TN, on Wednesday to visit him and Beverly in their new home in Valley View. They were joined by more than twenty other family members for Thanksgiving Day.

These members of the Sunshine Club: Sue Clark, Lillie Bowden, Ruth Pickett, Billie Harper, Anna Daniel, Evelyn Clark, and I, met at Western Sizzlin, Nov. 29, for lunch. The Christmas party will be Dec. 12, at 11:30 a.m. at Billie Harper's home - covered dish luncheon.

Sadie Cooper had a birthday, Nov. 30, and her daughters-in-law took her shopping to celebrate.

Venna Livingston announced the birth of her 1st great granddaughter, Alison Deanna Freed, who was born on Fri. Nov. 30 to Carmen and Jane Freed, of Atlanta. Alison Deanna was 8# and 20 inches long.

Venna Livingston's sister, Lula Waddell, 92, died at Cartersville, GA at the home of her daughter. She will be brought to Fort Payne, Burt Funeral Home, and be buried Sunday in Memory Garden.

Christine Brooks' birthday was Dec. 1, and the nice people at Morgan Drugs gave her and Walter a barbeque dinner with a birthday cake.

Robin Hulan turned the big 40 on Dec. 7. She is still young and beautiful—so are Sadie and Christine!

Congratulations and best wishes to Karen and Mark Freeman on their nice new building and business, Inspec Tech., that opened in Valley Head, Dec. 7.

I went to Collierville, TN, for Thanksgiving week, with my granddaughter, Robin Darby, her husband, Roy, and daughters, Kirsten and Sharon Elise, who was home from college. Kirsten won seven awards at her band banquet. We had a very happy Thanksgiving and did some shopping and saw the Harry Potter movie. I wonder if I slept thru parts of it? I don't know what the fuss is all about.

I read this recipe for happiness recently: "Take 2 heaping cups of patience, 1 heartfelt of love, 2 handfuls of generosity, dash of laughter, 1 headful of understanding, sprinkle generously with kindness. Add plenty of faith and mix well. Spread over a period of a lifetime and serve everybody you meet" And I would add a mindful of appreciation, expressed and shown. Everyone have a happy, wonderful Christmas, and remember the real meaning.

One Happy Return

It is your birthday, Jesus Lord,
According to your Holy Word,
You will have a happy return
For which the hearts of Christians yearn.

—Eloise

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Of the gifts I would like to receive.
Of different spirits they consist
Things needed badly, I do believe:

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

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

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

The spirit of sensitivity
To beauty and feelings and all needs;
The spirit of love with activity
In duty expressed in kindly deeds.

Visions of splendor in starry skies,
And every day common place things, too,
Eternal hope, faith that never dies—
Dreams and aspirations that come true.

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

Appreciation - give most of all
For that most precious gift given men,
Adoration and Worship to enthrall
Where all living and giving begin.

These gifts I am asking you to give—
When received I will return to you—
Their fruits—only then can I live
And give the gifts that are due to you.

—Eloise M. Brown



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XOODLAND

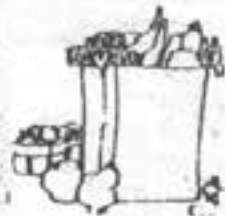
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"A VIEW FROM THE TOP" Prime is proud to announce our affiliation with "Leutertree". Discover lots and homesites atop Lookout Mountain. Imagine, your own mountain acreage, waking each morning with the sun as it highlights your spectacular valley view.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



OAKHILL, CHATTOOGA CO.—Looking for that special farm? Look no further. Custom home offers 1st floor great room w/fireplace, formal dining, custom kitchen all w/ hardwood floors, master suite w/bath, view, large 2nd bath & 2 additional bedrooms, 2-car garage. Second level offers family room w/ fireplace, full kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2-car garage, HVAC, 105-ft. acres, barn, 2 rental trailers (hog.), will subdivide - house and 10 acres with additional acres available or as a whole. (No. Q-35)



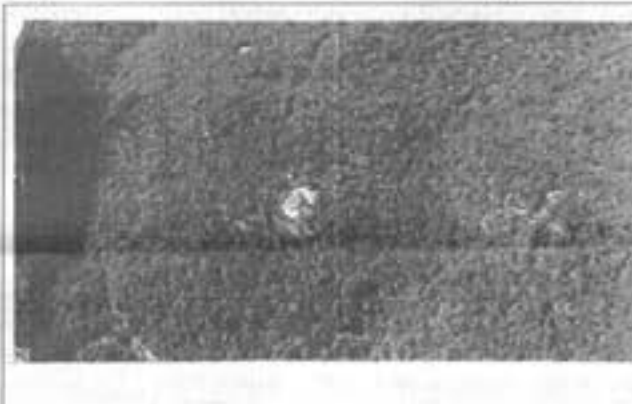
ENJOY THE VIEW from the top of Lookout Mountain in Cleveland, OH! Just listed, this 3-year-old custom-built mountain home! Fine board and batten blends with the view from the top of the brow that you can enjoy from your 15x34 dock! Massive mountain rock in the back yard overlooking the stream! Hike in your back yard, all 3+ acres of it, to the waterfalls! In the evening, start a fire in the rock fireplace and relax in the great room that has a vaulted ceiling and overlooking left 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! Restricted. Reduced to \$145,555. (Sls. C-2)



MENTONE, ALA. -
The Perfect
Getaway --5.76
acres w/lake.
Great building site,
Fl. Payne water
available. (No. A-65)



MENTONE, ALA. - 47+/- acres. We are pleased to offer one of the prettiest locations on the mountain. Privacy, two lakes, Ft. Payne water available, easy access. \$5,000 per acre. THIS IS IT! (No A-66).



CREEKSIDE ON LOOKOUT. Beautiful off Brow and interior wooded tracts. Located in this private community. Restricted - Easy access off Hwy 157 Cloudland. Owner financing.



CLOUDLAND-ON THE BROW - Authentic pine great room with mountain stone fireplace and built-in bookcase. 2 bedrooms/2 baths, one with walk-in ceramic shower. Kitchen with built-in pantry and abundant cabinets. Large covered porch across back, screened-in porch with mountain stone fireplace/grill. Covered, mtn. stone gazebo allows the privilege of unobstructed view of valley. Guest cottage being totally remodeled. A MUST SEE at \$229,000.00

LINE ADS.

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

•South Chatt. Co. -
180+/- AC •cabin •
pond •creek •timber •
private •backs to
Dirtseller Mtn., \$2,000
Per AC. Owner
Financing (G-88)

-Laurawood - 8-1/2 AC
- One in a Kind, Large
Mountain Rock
Formations - Very
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Moon Lake School News

Moon Lake Elementary School deeply appreciates the contribution the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation made in their sponsorship of Music Teacher Brenda Mince during the past six weeks. MERF's support and Miss Mince's talents have greatly enhanced creative opportunities for Moon Lake students.

The last day for students is Monday, December 17, and the first day for students after the holidays will be Monday, January 7.



Experience Cloudland's tranquil atmosphere.

This 3 bedroom, 2 full bath home features mountain rock fireplace, cathedral ceiling with exposed beams, pine flooring, and spacious living quarters.

Positioned on two secluded wooded lots and priced to sell at \$169,900.

Call Felecia Floyd
706-734-2920
or 706-859-1272

The Valley Head Woman's Club

By Evelyn Graves

The Valley Head Woman's Club has had a busy club year, beginning with the first meeting of the season at Nippersink Lodge. This was a beautiful, warm day with just a hint of color to the leaves, and Nippersink provided a lovely setting for the September meeting. The hostesses for this meeting were Gerry Disney, Sue Hamilton, Maxine Wright, and Christina Wise.

Doris Carmichael gave a beautiful devotional, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the American flag by the group, led by Evelyn Graves.

The program entitled, "Our History--Visited and Revisited," was given by Lee Swart, who holds offices in the Sons of the American Revolution, and it was a most appropriate time for a very interesting and patriotic presentation, since this meeting was held soon after our country was challenged by the invasion of terrorists.

Following the business session, lovely refreshments were served by the hostesses. September's meeting is traditionally in that it is always at Nippersink Lodge; Gerry Disney, Sue Hamilton, and Maxine Wright are always hostesses; and wonderful muscadine punch is always served, along with many other delicious foods.

October's meeting was held at Kathryn's Cottage, former home of Herman and Kathryn Jones (my parents). The meeting was scheduled to be held at the home of Dallyne Jones; however she suffered foot surgery and was unable to host the meeting or even to attend. Even though I was sorry that Dallyne was unable to have us at her home, I felt a great deal of nostalgia as we met for "a party" at the home where I grew up, and it seemed right for us to be there.

Elizabeth Ellis brought a beautiful devotional about nature and God's creation. She brought to our minds God's part in creation by sharing words from the song, "Fair Lord Jesus." Fair Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature...

The program was presented by Ann Houston and was entitled, "A Touch Of Nature - It's Batty". The program was both informative and interesting, as Ann talked about bats and their nature, and she convinced us that bats are not the scary creatures that many of us have always imagined.

Following the program and business session, delicious refreshments were served by hostesses Marilyn Knight, Jean Jones, Martha Stanley, Sandra Pruitt, and Evelyn Graves.

November's meeting was delightful. It was a beau-

tiful warm, November day, and the leaves were in full color. The drive to the lovely home of Jan Wilkinson was spectacular, and the atmosphere inside was, as always, peaceful and restful. Sue Hamilton gave an impressive devotional and the group followed the devotional with the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

Dr. Bill Berry, principal of Moon Lake School, showed slides and made a very impressive presentation of his trip, along with that of the Boy Scout Troop 106, to Poland. We learned that Poland is a beautiful country with breathtaking scenery from the plains to the mountain peaks. We were able to learn quite a lot about the people of that country in their own culture, and I felt that I had actually been on a trip to Poland! Dr. Berry is indeed a marvelous speaker and an avid traveler.

Delicious refreshments were served by hostesses Jan Wilkinson, Edna Morgan, and Judith Hammond.

The Holiday Party for club members and husbands, (or other guests) was held at DeSoto State Park on December 8. It was a foggy night, which made for difficult driving, but it did not dampen the spirits of the group. The food was good, the attendance was excellent, and the entertainment was provided by Hershell Pruitt, who played the keyboard, and Jan Wilkinson who led the group in Christmas carols. An exchange of gifts (Christmas ornaments of various kinds) was made, and it was fun to see all the different kinds of ornaments that were exchanged. Everyone agreed that this was one of the best parties we have had in years.

The Valley Head Woman's Club has been quite busy since the first of November with its annual pecan sales. Doris Carmichael and Flo Kirby were co-chairman for the project, working with Sandra Pruitt, who was a committee member. It always amazes me when the final sales are made and the report is given as to the number of pounds/cases of pecans that have been sold. It has not yet been decided how the money this year's sales will be used. For several years, the club has been delighted to be able to present a scholarship to a Valley Head High School senior for his/her first year of college. Also, we have contributed to the libraries at Valley Head and Moon Lake.

The Valley Head Woman's Club is a member of General Federation of Women's Clubs, and the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs. It was organized in 1930.

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Culinary and Medicinal Herbs • Stained Glass
Candles • Unique Gifts • Cabin Furniture
Natural Soaps, Creams and Tinctures
Herbal Products by L. C. Moon and
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Enjoy a fine dining experience on the brow of Lookout Mountain.
You'll love the sunsets and good food at Cragmere.
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For reservations, call Donnie at
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(1) A MAGICAL MOMENT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ENTER THIS WONDERFUL LOG HOME close to DeSoto State Park. Secluded in the woods, you can enjoy the large porches, the pine floors, solid wood walls, high ceilings with spacious loft room and beautiful landscaping. A perfect getaway location, but only minutes from town. Enter today! \$159,500. **SOLD**



(2) LOOKING FOR A FARM? Picture yourself there in this 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home featuring living-dining combo, den, large utility room, 2-car garage and full basement with kitchen. All situated on 16 acres surrounded by dogwoods overlooking the pasture and ponds. A must see at \$160,000.



(3) OWN A NEW HOME WITHOUT THE HASSLE OF BUILDING—Perched on the edge of the mountain, this 2 bedroom, 2 bath all wood cottage with stacked stone fireplace can be a weekend get-a-way or permanent residence. A must see for \$163,000.



(4) NESTLED AWAY IN MENTONE - This 3 bedroom, 2-bath modular home comes with a fully equipped kitchen, living room, dining room, central heat and air, 20x30 shed/garage, and a nice landscaped yard on over 1 acre. Call today for more details. \$55,000!



(5) 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. \$230,000.



(6) GET-AWAY TO THE CANYON! Located just 500' from the rim of the canyon, this would make a perfect getaway property. Featuring 1 bedroom, 1 large bath, eat-in kitchen, rock fireplace, central heat and air, metal roof, screened wrap-around deck and nice landscaping including brick entrance columns. Don't wait, call today! \$74,500.



(7) WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS? Why not buy the Little River Cafe? A well-known and established business featuring a fully equipped kitchen and dining room with large porch for outside eating, stage for entertainment, and a rustic atmosphere in a charming renovated old home. Located between DeSoto State Park and Little River Canyon, and only 10 minutes from Fort Payne and Mentone. What a steal for only \$160,500.



(8) ALL THE SPACE YOU NEED IS RIGHT HERE! This custom built home offers 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, large eat-in area kitchen, entertaining sized 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 blend home and nature all on 2.5 acres. Once you see it, you'll want to own it. Call today for your showing. \$229,000.



(9) COME VIEW THIS GREAT MENTONE HOME. Privately located and close to the park. Vaulted ceiling living room with fireplace, loft room which could be used as 3rd bedroom, fenced back yard and beautiful rock formations at home. Neat kitchen 2 bedrooms and double garage. **SOLD** \$129,500

OTHER LISTINGS

(10) 160 ACRES OF NATURAL BEAUTY on Lookout Mountain—just minutes from DeSoto State Park and Mentone Ready for your dreams—hunting club—weekend retreat or development. \$2,150 per acre. Will sell in larger tracts.

(11) GENTLY ROLLING, WOODED VACANT LAND IN VALLEY HEAD. Perfect for development. Extensive paved road frontage, 62 acres listed at \$3,000 per acre. Sold as a whole.

(12) LAKE ON THE BROW - We have a lake lot that is over an acre and is listed at \$37,000. If you're interested, call us today.

(13) FOR LAND'S SAKE! Just listed 4.3 +/- acres on DeSoto Parkway. Only \$49,500.

(14) WEEKEND OR WEEKLY RENTAL AVAILABLE - 3 bedrooms, 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

Let me sell your property
for you!!!

Ron Waits
DeKalb Realty Inc.

Office 256-645-5700
Home 256-634-4693



The Lookout Restaurant

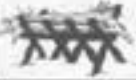
"Atop Lookout Mountain"
CLOUDLAND, GEORGIA

(706) 862-2515

Reservations Necessary Friday and Saturday

Event Scheduling at Community House:
Call Carol or John at LRH 634-4757

DECEMBER 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Rescue Squad 6:00 p.m.	5	6 MERF 7:00 P.M.	7	8
9	10	11 Garden Club 12:30 p.m.	12	13 **Book Club 10:00 a.m.	14	15
16	17	18 Rescue Squad 6:00 p.m.	19 Library Comm Mtg 5:00 pm	20	21	22
23	24	25 Christmas 	26	27	28	29
30	31	**Reading 'The Christmas Box Collection' by Richard Paul Evans				

For info on programs call:
Sue Henry (MERF
chairperson)
634-4599



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Many years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah prophesied of his coming. It was written and was read before all people, but when it really came to pass, many could not accept it. It was an old story. Jesus is coming again the Bible tells us so. Preachers are preaching it, but there are many unbelievers. As the day we celebrate as His birthday comes again this year, let us honor it with praise and glory.

Merry Christmas to all!

A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The DeKalb County Genealogical Society meets the second Saturday (except December) of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the DeKalb County Public Library, 504 Grand Avenue, Fort Payne, Alabama. There is usually a guest speaker and a short business meeting. Membership is \$10.00 a year per individual or \$15.00 a year per family. Visitors are always welcome and invited to attend often. This is a great way to meet others who are researching names in this area.

KAOLIN GARDEN CLUB

meets on the
2nd Monday of each
month at 5 PM
at Valley Head City
Hall. Contact Marty
Smith for more
information.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

- Friday and Saturday, Dec. 14 and 15, Live Community Christmas Pageant at Armory on Valley Head Road into Fort Payne
- Saturday, Dec. 15, 4:00-7:00PM, (GA time) SANTA TO ARRIVE by FIRE TRUCK on Saturday, December 15, from 4:00 to 7:00pm.
- Sunday, Dec. 16, Community Christmas Cantata 5 PM, Mentone United Methodist Church 7 PM, Valley Head Baptist Church
- Monday, December 17, Last Day of School for students before the holiday
- Thursday, Dec. 19, 4:00 pm., Waterworks Board Meeting, Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Tuesday, Dec. 25 - CHRISTMAS
- Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24 and 25,

MENTONE TOWN HALL CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS!

- Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 1 and 2, 2002 MENTONE TOWN HALL CLOSED
HAPPY NEW YEAR
- Monday, January 7, First Day of School for students after the holiday
- Tuesday, Jan. 8, 12:30 P.M., Rhododendron Garden Club, Mentone Community House
- Tuesday, Jan. 8, 7:00 P.M., American Legion Post 215 Meeting
- Monday, Jan 14, 6 P.M., Town Council meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public

The DeKalb County Library Bookmobile Schedule:

Mentone at Town Hall parking lot
on Wednesdays
from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

- December 5, 19
- January 9, 23, 2002
- February 5, 19

The Bookmobile is in
VALLEY HEAD
on the same days from 1:15 to 2:15

and in **HAMMONDVILLE**