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Volume 21, No. 12

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

December 2003

MENTONE LOSES "A TRUE CHARACTER"

A True Character

By Bubba Browder

When God created man, He gave each one of us talents and abilities. God went one step further and gave us character. This character is what makes us all different from one another, and it gives others something to recognize us by. The talents and abilities of Arthur "Lightnin" Goss were proven through years of service to the town of Mentone and the people that he helped. But it's his character that people will remember most of all. His jolly and upbeat attitude has caused many smiles and laughs over the years. His honesty and never-say-die approach to his work earned him a reputation almost unheard of today. Many times I've seen him work on a lawnmower for hours only to charge five dollars because he told the customer he thought he could fix it for that.

He was raised in the old school way to treat people right and do your best. He told me several times that he didn't want to leave this world owing anybody anything and with no hard feelings toward anyone. I believe he accomplished just that.

Under all the character was a man like you and me. He had

his share of fears, pains and sorrows. This is the side he kept from the world. Like most fathers, he had fears for his children and the suffering that was in their lives in the form of sickness or other tragic events. The pains his children went through were felt by him, also. Sorrows were also part of his life. He did what parents aren't supposed to do, see your children die first. His greatest sorrow came from the loss of his bride of sixty-seven years. This sorrow he never overcame. His fears, pains and sorrow will bother him no more.

This man we called Arthur, Lightnin, Daddy, or Papaw has finished his work and gone to be with his wife. He is loved by many and will be missed by all that knew him. I count it an honor to be his grandson and a blessing to have been loved by him.

Mentone has truly lost a character.

Isaac Arthur "Lightnin" Goss was born July 24, 1911, and married Flora Goss on July 28, 1929. They had 10 children: Corinthia, Dewey Donald and Huey Ronald, Betty Bell, Rindy Millican, Clifford, Mary Flannigan, Sherman "Bud", Regena Wisner, and Benny.

Lightnin had 19 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren, and 4 great-great grandchildren.

He worked as a retired Star Route Letter carrier for approximately 40 years and retired in July 1976. While working for the postal service, he also worked



Isaac Arthur "Lightnin" Goss
1911-2003

for the water department of the Town of Mentone for 22 of those years. His last official day in the water department was Sept. 30, 1979.

On November 10, 2003, Mentone lost a true character!

He will truly be missed!

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

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NOTES FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

In an effort to head off the problems associated with the West Nile Virus and its carriers, we must all be concerned enough to be willing to do our part to eliminate mosquito breeding places. In this connection, the town is doing what it can to help out. I mentioned last month that we had received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the State of Alabama to conduct a program to promote an increased participation in recycling. We propose to use these monies to buy containers for packaging plastic bottles, aluminum and steel cans, tires, batteries, steel products--anything that can provide a haven for mosquitoes. Through this program, we should be able to address some citizens' concerns about spraying for mosquitoes.

WE NEED VOLUNTARY HELP IN CLEARING AN AREA FOR THE SITE, WHICH WILL ENTAIL A FEW HOURS OF DOZER, BACK HOE, AND GRAVEL HAULING TIME.

At the last council meeting, a number of concerned citizens addressed the council regarding the proposed spraying program. At this meeting, a committee was appointed to address issues in Mentone and the surrounding areas regarding environmentally sensitive issues. The committee consists of council woman Debbie Guffey, Lyle Nicely, and Desmond Disney. Anyone else interested in participating, may contact Debbie at 634-3698.

RDA has given us the go ahead to let contracts on the new 400,000 gallon water tank to be located off County Road 642, and the addition on Town Hall for a Waterboard office. We are still working on the contract for rehab of the old lines. A water rate increase will take place, effective with December water usage.



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A NOTE FROM THE GROUNDHOG EDITORS

We extend a special thanks to all the **VETERANS** who participated in November's Groundhog. We plan to do more veteran pictures in the January issue if you missed getting yours in last month.

Please send the picture, information containing the branch of service, dates of service, your rank, and where you served.

The Groundhog wants to do articles that you enjoy. Please let us know what you especially enjoyed this year, and this will help us in planning for the year 2004.



Affectionate older cat, abandoned by her last two owners needs a good home!

Call Elizabeth 634-4037.

~~NOTICE~~

The original date for the **Mentone**

Waterworks Board

Meeting in December

will be changed from the fourth Thursday, December 25 to the third Thursday,

December 18, 4PM.

This change is due to Christmas day falling on the fourth Thursday.

All Waterboard Meetings are open to the public.

Lookout Mountain Natural Healing: Winter Skin Care

By L.C. Moon

As the cold winds blow through the valleys and whip across the top of the mountain, we know winter is upon us. People of all ages, genders, and from all walks of life have skin problems in the winter. Chapped lips and dry skin are obviously the most common. Chapped lips can be naturally avoided with a beeswax based lip balm. However, dry skin can lead to other unsightly and uncomfortable skin problems.

Soap is one of the biggest enemies of skin in the winter. Your skin is stripped of all its natural oils and protection. A glycerin or castile soap is the best option for a gentle soap. You can also use **cleansing oils**--apply oil to your face and wipe with a warm wash cloth; **herbal waters**--steep 3 tsp. lemon balm, calendula or lavender in hot distilled water for fifteen minutes, and/or fruits to clean your skin (simply mash fruits, apply to skin and rinse with warm water).

Egg Cleansing Formula

You can find organic & pasteurized eggs in order to protect against salmonella. 1 beaten egg, 1 tsp of honey, 1 tsp ground almonds or coconut, 1 tsp lemon juice. Use immediately by rubbing into your skin and rinsing with warm water. Discard leftovers.

Lotions, even if they claim to be all natural, often contain alcohol and synthetic preservatives. Glycerin and beeswax based lotions help nourish the skin while moisturizing. The commercially produced lotions also have synthetic perfumes and artificial colors that can cause irritation or toxins that your skin has to process. These lotions often leave your skin feeling dry a short time after they are applied. They also do not provide nourishment for the skin to heal once the winter has caused a problem.

Natural emollients (products that soften, lubricate and provide a protective barrier to skin and hair) such as botanical oils (Almond, Jojoba, Olive, Grapeseed, Apricot, Kernel, Avocado) will provide relief from winter skin woes. Baby oil (mineral oil) is prone to clog the pores as it moisturizes and does not provide the same benefits as botanical oils. Jojoba oil is the closest to human skin sebum (oil). It is the lightest, least greasy, and deepest penetrating of all the oils. Jojoba oil combined with infusions of calendula and/or comfrey both known as emollient herbs provides protection against dehydrated skin. A salve or lotion made from botanical oils and combined with lanolin, cocoa butter, beeswax and/or glycerin is wonderful extra protection for preventing dry, rough and cracked skin. A salve with comfrey and/or calendula may be necessary if there is severe cracking--though oil infusions are generally sufficient for healing dry skin. Cold Pressed Olive Oil is an easy moisturizer alternative if you want something inexpensive and versatile.

Aromatherapy sprays, bath oils and moisturizing oils are very healing this time of year. Supplying your dry skin with needed oils can prevent problems such as ingrown hairs and rash. Bath and moisturizing oils also help prevent premature aging that happens as a result of skin dehydration--dry skin is prone to develop fine lines and wrinkles. There is a noticeable difference to skin texture and appearance when moisturizers that nourish the skin with proteins and other

nutrients are used regularly. Aging is inevitable though it is possible to slow the process with a regular regimen and using skin cell regenerating herbs such as Lavender, Comfrey and Calendula.

What you put in your body, as well as what you put on your skin is important to skin health. Any time of year you should drink a half gallon of water per day to help maintain suppleness to the skin and overall health. Eating more oils containing essential fatty acids (hempseed, flax seed, or supplement containing EPA's) in combination with eating foods that are high in B-vitamins (and/or taking a B-complex supplement) is great for skin health all year, but particularly during winter stress. Stress can cause havoc on the youthful appearance and health of the skin. Winter can be a stressful time of year as a result of the holidays and being cooped up with cabin fever.

Your skin is known as your third kidney because it is so important in processing impurities. Without proper cleansing of the skin, the impurities are blocked. It is as important to cleanse the inside of our bodies as it is our pores when the skin displays an imbalance. We do not sweat in the winter leaving lots of impurities trapped. When we do sweat in the winter, it is under our heavy layers of clothing, which provides a perfect breeding ground for fungus. Many people get relief from skin problems such as fungus, eczema, psoriasis, rosacea, acne, etc., as a result of taking an extract of burdock, dandelion or red clover to cleanse the blood and body of toxins. Echinacea (or the comparable therapeutic native, Black Eyed Susan), Oregon Grape Root (Yellow Root could be used as a native alternative) or Oregano are used to boost the immune system particularly in winter when your body works in overdrive to keep itself warm. Cleansing the blood, boosting the immune system, along with proper diet and topical applications will allow your body the opportunity to heal itself as well as give you the opportunity of getting to know the full potential of your health and your appearance.

In order for your body to respond the way you desire, it is important to get to know what your body needs in order to operate to full potential. Natural therapies are very effective when you use the correct herbs in proper doses. I've adopted and stand steadfast to the philosophy that, "An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure." Nettle, lemon balm, chickweed, cleavers, red raspberry leaf and calendula are great herbs for tea that all nourish the skin from the inside out when taken internally--as a result are great prevention herbs. Drink a warm cup of herbal tea, nourish your body, calm your nerves and enhance your beauty all at the same time.

It is always wise to consult your healthcare provider before incorporating any new herbs into your regimen, particularly if you are taking medications. If you have any questions, you are welcome to call, write, email or stop by and see me at Mountain Life in the heart of Mentone located behind the Mentone Springs Hotel.

www.MountainLifeMarket.com 256-634-3333,
P.O. Box 224, Mentone, AL 35984

A Time to Remember

Every year in late December,
There's a special time to pause and remember
Childhood days when each gift was a treasure
That gave so much exciting pleasure

Time to remember friends and loved ones dear—
Those who are gone and those still here—
Time to remember when together we met—
Beautiful times we should never forget.

A time to remember those in need—
Worthy ones that for assistance plead—
The ones who are sad and all alone—
Ones who are lost and need to atone.

Above all—the special beginning event—
And everything to mankind it meant—
The message of the angels sweet and clear—
Bringing reassurance, dispelling all fear—
A message of peace in a baby's birth—
The Saviour of Salvation for all the earth—
Remember the star's bright leading ray—
That led and directed to the one sure way—
To eternal hope and peace and life's redeeming.
Remember the beginning and its complete meaning.
Yes, it's a time to meditate and remember
The beginning and ending in late December.

---Eloise Brown

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Mentone Fire Department receives firefighter grant

Congressman Robert Aderholt (R-Haleyville) announced federal grant awards for fire departments in Alabama including Mentone in DeKalb County. The funds are part of the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program which Congress funds with \$750 million to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA). The program's purpose is providing fire departments the needed resources to enhance the health and safety of the public and firefighting personnel.

"Fires kill more than 4,200 Americans and injure 24,913 more every year. On top of that, about 100 firefighters are killed every year in duty-related accidents," said Congressman Aderholt. "This program helps our fire departments provide the best service possible to everyone. It also lets our departments provide the best conditions for fire safety. I'm proud that these departments have received awards. I hope to see many additional fire departments across the district receive grants of this nature as well."

Approximately 19,950 applications, totaling \$1.5 billion applied for this year's program. In Alabama

alone, there were 586 applications totaling \$63 million. The program releases funds in four categories: fire operations and firefighting safety, fire preventions, emergency medical services, and firefighting vehicle acquisition. Among the awards announced on December 4, 2003, in this county is the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District in Mentone, which will receive \$83,700 for a new firefighting vehicle.

Grants will be awarded throughout the year. "I believe it is important that Congress again recognizes the need for this funding and that the program continues. We all depend on these volunteers and are appreciative of the time and services they provide to our communities," added Aderholt.

Ken Kirby, NLMFPD director, said that, "Our total grant request was \$93,000, of which Mentone must match with 10% (\$9,300), and the Federal portion is 90% (\$83,700). Any help you can provide toward our \$9300 requirement will be greatly appreciated."

You may mail your donation to
NLMFPD, PO Box 154, Mentone, AL 35984
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hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving with family and friends and a great feast, as we did. Norma Wright, her son Shaun, his wife, Evelyn and children, Marissa and Mathew came from Lawrenceburg, TN, the day before Thanksgiving to visit **Beverly and Shane Wright** at Valley View near Fort Payne. They were joined on Thanksgiving Day by Emily and Barry Brown; A.J., Patti, Justin, Robert B. and Amanda Brown; Carl Wright; Michelle and John Bob Brown; Cindy, David and Jason Meadows; Alison and Ryan Johnson; Debbie and Charles Frazier; Katie, Scot and Lillie Meadows; Billy Wallace; and Eloise Brown. Chris Brown was in BMC DeKalb Hospital with pneumonia and Robert D. had the flu.

Jo and Howard Carson had most of their family with them Thanksgiving Day: Janise and Charles Mathews; Joel, Amber and Alex, Gail and Tommy Carson, son Travis and friend and daughter Michele; David Gregory and Madison; Lynn and Ronnie Hammon, Keila, Hodges, and Chance, Tam, Jennifer, Lexi, Levi and Layen; and Randy and Cathy Carson.

Susy Campbell, a paramedic in Thomaston, GA, visited her parents, Ada and Thomas Campbell, recently.

Ben Freeman was home from Fayetteville, Arkansas, for Thanksgiving. Others joining him at the home of Karen and Mark Freeman were Mark's mother, Mary Freeman, from Pine Mountain, GA; Jo and Mike Welch and son, Michael, from Chattanooga; Bart Rountree from Knoxville; Matt and Susana, Luke, Lee and Katie Freeman; and Lillie Bowden.

Doris and Jim Carmichael had a house and Linda and Bob Thomas had a house in a beautiful setting at Seaside, FL, for the Thanksgiving holidays. With them were Elizabeth Thomas, William and Katherine Thomas, from Birmingham; Katy Thomas, from the University of AL; Terry Goggans, from Jacksonville State University; Mark, Emmy, John, Lucy, and Polly Ricketts from Birmingham. They had Thanksgiving dinner at Doris and Jim's house Thanksgiving day and dinner at the Thomas' house Friday. They all had a lovely time.

O.H. Durham, of Fyffe, took his mother, Burma Durham, to visit Venna Livingston, recently.

Maureen Hammond and Thelma Johnson enjoyed the Berry family reunion at the Guest Pavilion near Rainsville on Oct. 18. Camilla Yamada spent the month of November in Rome, Italy, visiting a cousin's family. Her brother, Elliott Yamada, is very happy with his job with one of the Warren Buffet Companies, in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Mary, John and E.T. Holleman and David and Peachie Cearley ate Thanksgiving dinner with Laura Margaret Allison and Elizabeth Coleman. The Hollemans visited Nelson and Elizabeth Ellis at Rainsville in the afternoon.

Jim and Joy Hester and **Ruth and Eugene Terrell** had about thirty members of their families to eat Thanksgiving dinner at the Woodmen Promenade Hall.

Christine and Walter Brooks had 18 family members with them Thanksgiving.

Edith and John Dean ate with 16 family members.

Doris and Jim Carmichael visited Virginia Livezy at S. Haven Nursing Home in Birmingham. It's good to hear that she is doing well.

"Cotton" **Hester** is not feeling well. **Rev. Bill Hall** is taking treatments, and **John Jones** has an injured arm. **Chris Brown** has not fully recovered. We hope they and all others who are not well will be fully recovered and can enjoy Christmas.

The **Sunshine Club** met at the home of Ada Campbell, Nov. 20. Those present were Lillie Bowden, Ruth Pickett, Leona Chadwick, Verence Hawkins, Lillian Pickett, Elizabeth Bauerle, Billie Harper, Barbara Palmer, Susie Clark, and Eloise Brown. A collection was taken for a donation to The Way Home.

The **Valley Head Woman's Club** presented a concert by the Northeast Alabama Community College Chorus, Wednesday, November 19, at the Valley Head Methodist Church. The director was Charlene Larson and Joseph Burke was the accompanist. The church looked beautiful; the music was lovely and inspiring as always; and the refreshments were very attractive and delicious, a worthy introduction to the Christmas season!

Jeannie McElhaney and daughter, Lynn Headrick, have finished real estate school and joined the team at N.E. AL Realty at Henagar. Congratulations!

Everyone is busy with preparations for Christmas. Remember to take care of your health. There was no room for Jesus on His birthday--will there be room for Him today? Remember to prepare a place in your heart and life for Him to abide every day.

The **Women of Mission of Valley Head Baptist Church** met on Dec. 9, at the home of Sadie Cooper. Martha Stanley gave the mission study and then they exchanged gifts. Present were Ruth Pickett, Martha Stanley, Priscilla Monroe, Lillian Pickett, Louise Hammond, Jean Jones, Ruth Burnett, Oline Roberts, Clara Bridgeman, Sadie Cooper, and Valenda Talley.

I hope everyone has a healthy, happy Christmas, and the best year ever!

Christmas Prayer

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the wisdom of the wise men. Close the doors of hate, and open the doors of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts forgiving and forgiven for Jesus' sake. Amen

---Eloise from Robert Louise Stevenson
1850-1894

Qualities of Christmas

Christ was the beginning of Christmas,

Cradled as baby of lowly birth,

Center of faith and peace for Christians,

Crucified to save the men of earth.

Holy is the meaning of Christmas,

Happy is the feeling that we earn;

Hope is the fulfillment of Christmas,

Home is the haven in Heaven to learn.

Rosy is the color of Christmas

Red in its glory like cleansing blood;

Reverent is the mood of Christmas

Radiant the promise of blessing flood.

Innocence is the purity of Christmas,

Incarnation of God's important son,

Illustration of His look for man,

Immortality - faith will have won,

Sharing is the caring of Christmas,

Songs of Celebration all over earth;

Spirit of love embraces Christmas,

Sanctified by the Saviour's sacred birth.

Tinsel is the glitter of Christmas

Trees sparkle, with baubles and lights;

Trimings decorate streets and houses,

Toys bring joys to children as their rights.

Mary was the mother of Christmas,

Music in cantatas and songs of praise,

Magnificat magnificence of Christmas--

Memories are made in many ways,

Appreciation--the heart of Christmas

Advent--the time of preparation,

Adoration and worship of God,

Angels join in the jubilation,

Starbright is the beacon of Christmas

Shining from God's inviting hand,

Showing the pathway to His presence--

Showers of blessings with Heaven's band.

Qualities of Christmas are sacred,

Its true purpose and meaning reveal--

When Christ is born anew in a heart--

Real Christmas it will practice and feel.

---Eloise Brown

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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 sunrises 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 bell, and now that bell rings as newlyweds exit the door of the chapel.

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The Church News

By
EVELYN GRAVES



Sunday morning services at **Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church** are held at 9AM 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 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM; Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM; Midweek Service (Wednesday) at 6PM; Brotherhood breakfast and devotional at 8:30AM the first Sunday of each month; Women on Mission meet at 2PM the second Tuesday of each month at different homes. Everyone is welcome to come.

The **Valley Head Methodist Church** prayer meeting is Wednesday night at 5PM. Bible study is Wednesday night at 6:30PM. A prayer chain has been formed. Sunday School is at 9AM each Sunday and Worship is at 10AM.

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: 9:30-10:45AM, Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnell.

The **Harmony Grove Baptist Church** invites everyone to come and worship with them. God's Country Church is located on Co. Rd 239 (Hawkins Road). Sunday School is at 9:45AM; Morning Worship is at 11AM; Evening Worship is at 6PM; Wednesday Night Prayer service is at 6PM.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds mass services at 10:30AM each Sunday; and Communion services at 5PM on Tuesdays.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular worship services are at 10AM and Sunday School at 9AM. Steve Schrader, pastor - 845-4314. All are welcome.

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

Anyone interested in observing the **Sabbath and Holy Days**, call 845-2246 for time and location.

Presbyterian Church worship service at Cloudland begins at 10AM (EST), and the Menlo service begins at 11:15AM (EST).

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

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

Lighthouse Fellowship, 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 10AM; Worship - 11AM, Alabama time. Everyone is welcome. Phone: 706-862-2607.

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10AM, Worship at 11AM. Wednesday Bible study at 6PM. 256-634-4147.

The **Mentone Revival Center** and Pastor Alfred Chambers and his wife, Polly, invite everyone to join in worship on Sunday at 10AM. Wednesday evening worship begins at 5:30PM.

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

Mentone Community Church Sunday School 10AM; Sunday Worship 10:45AM; Sunday evening service 6:30PM. Wednesday evening service 6:30PM with Bible study and Teen class. Nursery provided for all services. Pastor Rick Haworth welcomes all.

The **Mentone Church of God of Prophecy** Sunday School is at 10AM, with Worship at 11AM. Evening Services begin at 6PM. Rev. Charles Flannigan invites everyone to attend regular services.

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

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church A place of prayer, thanksgiving, and celebration. Come by any time to pray and give thanks. Open 24 hours every day. Sunday service is at 10:30AM.

The **Mentone United Methodist Church** services are at 11AM each Sunday. Sunday School is at 10AM. Pastor Les Brown welcomes everyone. The Ethel Brown Unit of UMW meets on the 1st Wednesday at 1PM in the fellowship hall and the Mountain Laurel Unit of UMW meets on the 3rd Monday at 12:30PM at the church.

Moon Lake Baptist Church welcomes you. The Sunday schedule is: Bible study 9:45AM; Morning Worship - 11AM; Children's Choir Practice - 4:30PM; Youth Choir, Discipleship Training & YGAs - 5PM; Evening Worship - 5PM; Adult Choir Practice - 7PM; Wednesday: Team Kids, Youth & Adult Bible Study - 6:30PM. Young Women's Prayer & Share Group meets each Wednesday evening at 5:30PM.

Cove Road Baptist Church invites all children of the surrounding area to attend children's church. Parents are also invited for SS and church. SS at 9AM; Worship at 10AM. Sunday Evening Worship at 5PM. All times CST.



Rhododendron Garden Club

by Gethryn S. Giles

The Rhododendron Garden club met at the Mentone Community House on December 9, 2003. The meeting was called to order by President Martha Wood at 12:40 p.m. There were 15 members present. Barbara Nelson and Marie Goan were visitors.

After the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Gethryn Giles gave a devotional on the history and tradition of Advent, Advent wreaths, and Christmas. Hostesses were Lucy Fowlkes, Shirley Hussell, and Harriett Lillich.

The minutes of the meeting of November 11, 2003, were approved as amended. Correspondence consisted of a letter from Dr. Bill Berry, Principal of Moon Lake Elementary School, thanking the club for the donation of mulch for the renovation project, and a letter from Carol Hazell, MERF Treasurer, thanking the club for a donation towards upkeep of the Community House.

Dorothy Cyr, chair of the Conservation Committee, gave a short presentation of the preservation of quilts.

The program for the meeting was the making of Christmas wreaths. Each member brought a wreath and decorated it with greenery, pine cones, feathers, acorns, ribbons, or other items. This activity caused a lot of conversation and creativity.

Barbara Nelson won the door prize.

The next meeting will be on January 13, 2004, at 12:30 p.m. at the Mentone Community House.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of the DeKalb/Cherokee Federation; The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., District II; and the National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Region.



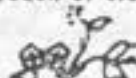
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Mentone Environmental Committee Update

By L.C. Moon

As of December 8, 2003, the Mentone Environmental Committee has been officially formed. This took place at the Mentone town council meeting. In October, Mayor C.E. Britt appointed Lyle Nicely as head of the committee to research the natural alternatives to mosquito control after Lyle voiced his concerns regarding chemical spraying and synthetic fumigation.

The initial mention of chemical poisoning to the mosquitoes was mentioned at the October town council meeting. After hearing this, Lyle Nicely and I immediately began letting the community know, researching the factual information regarding natural alternatives, the dangers of synthetic pesticides, the effectiveness of natural vs. synthetic, and interviewing environmental groups. Lyle Nicely was also in contact with Mayor Britt regarding what chemicals and practices the town planned to implement. I turned over all of my research and information to Lyle Nicely. Mr. Nicely arrived at the December 8 meeting with a comprehensive review of all the research and a room full of supporters, including Desmond Disney. Desmond was the first one to volunteer to help Lyle in implementing natural mosquito control in order to protect the people, the wildlife, the river, and the overall ecological balance.

Following Desmond's agreement to be a part of the committee, town council members, Larry Sanders and Deborah Guffey, agreed to be on the committee. The consensus of the town council seemed to be that they absolutely did not want to use chemical poisoning for mosquito control, especially after hearing the concerns of the community and the factual evidence.

Patti Bryan brought up some very good points about damaging the butterfly and songbird populations, as well as the natural predators of mosquitoes, such as dragon flies. Jane Faille and Wayne Gautreau attended, and Wayne elaborated regarding the bat house construction, as did other attendees. Lyle informed everyone of natural alternatives to stop larvae from turning into adult mosquitoes (such as

BTI-Bacillus Thuringiensis Israeliensis, a natural bacteria with no harmful side effects), as well as the dangers of making mosquito infestation worse by mass chemical spraying because of the threat of killing natural predators. I mentioned statistical data that told of potential dangers to the water supply, animals, and children, as a result of chemical pesticides. According to the cumulative research, the pesticides are potentially a bigger health risk than the West Nile Virus. Other attendees were Jen Brown, Bill Russell, Marilyn and Huey Mathews.

West Nile is a virus and should be taken seriously; however, statistically, only 1 in 200 people bitten by west Nile infected mosquitoes ever develop any illness. As of Dec. 3, 2003, according to the CDC, only 8,694 people had developed any illness; of those, only 29% developed a serious illness (2,521); and, of those, there were only 206 deaths in the entire United States.

West Nile clean up efforts and safety is a community effort. We are responsible for our own safety. The Mentone Environmental Committee is organizing a clean up day for the spring. The Environmental Committee asks for volunteers that would like to see Mentone maintain clean air, clean water, and our wonderful ecological diversity. David Crippen (of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in Mentone, and Tabbi Crippen attended the town council meeting. David made a good suggestion of enlisting the children at Moon Lake School to help. In the process of protecting our safety, the children can learn the values of team effort, the importance of keeping a clean environment, environmental education, etc.

If you have any further questions, or would like to view any of the information about the chemicals in question, please feel free to contact Mountain Life. If you are interested in volunteering to support the Mentone Environmental Committee, then you may contact Lyle or Heather Nicely at (256) 634-4124 or Mountain Life at (256) 634-3333, or via email: www.MountainLifeMarket.com.

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"The History of the world" by young writers

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Jacob, son of Isaac stole his brother's birthmark. One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, gave refuse to the Israelites.

Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. David was a Hebrew king who fought the Philistines. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 500 wives and 500 porcupines.

The Greeks invented three kinds of columns - Corinthian, Doric and Ionic. In the Olympic games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits and threw the javs. The reward to the victor was a coral wreath. Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who died from an overdose of wedlock.

In the Middle Ages, King Harold mustered his troops before the Battle of Hastings. Joan of Arc was canonized by George Bernard Shaw. The Magna Carta provided that no free man should be hanged twice for the same offense. William Tell shot an arrow through an apple while standing on his son's head.

In the Renaissance, Martin Luther was nailed to the church door at Wittenberg for selling papal indulgences. The painter Donatello's interest in the female nude made him the father of the Renaissance. Gutenberg invented the Bible. Sir Walter Raleigh invented cigarettes, and Sir Francis Drake circumcised the world with a 100-foot clipper.

Queen Elizabeth's navy defeated the Spanish Armadillo. William Shakespeare wrote about Romeo and Juliet, a romantic couplet. Miguel Cervantes wrote "Donkey Hote." John Milton wrote "paradise Lost." Then, his wife died, and he wrote "Paradise Regained."

Christopher Columbus was a great navigator who discovered America while cursing about the Atlantic. His ships were the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Fe.

One of the causes of the Revolutionary War was that the English put tacks in their tea. Benjamin Franklin invented electricity by rubbing cats backward. Franklin died in 1790, and is still dead.

Abraham Lincoln's mother died in infancy. He signed the Emasculation Proclamation. In 1865, Lincoln got shot by an actor in a moving picture, John Wilkes Booth. This ruined Booth's career.

Gravity was invented by Isaac Walton. It is chiefly noticeable in autumn, when the apples are falling off the trees. Bach and Handel were famous composers. Handel was half-German, half-Italian and half-English. he was very large. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Beethoven was so deaf that he wrote loud music. He expired in 1827, and later died from this.

Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabies. Madman Curie discovered radium. And Karl Marx became one of the Marx Brothers.

Submitted by Marilyn Blanton Campbell

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Halloween Party on the Town Square

By Jane Faile

This year's Halloween party on the town square by the Mentone Inn was a big hit! Thanks go to the Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center, the Mentone Council for Cultural Creativity, and many local townsfolk who worked hard to create a night of magic and fun for the children of the area.



Children take center stage



Goblins and Critters line up for the costume parade!



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Santa joins the fun!

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Mentone Community Church "Fatal Exit"

The Drama, "Fatal Exit" directed by Suzan Gifford was a huge success! Involved in "Fatal Exit" were the cast, stage hands, nursery, ushers, parking, advertising, lighting, set, costumes, prayer. (See the list in the columns in this article.)

The Lord met with us in a wonderful way. Many lives will never be the same. Here are the statistics as we have them: Our event began Monday, October 27, and ran thru Wednesday, October 29.

We had 48 documented people saved!

We believe that there were more people saved or reclaimed that didn't want to speak with a

counselor or give any of their information.

We gave each person that needed a Bible a copy of the New Testament.

We had an excess of 550 people that attended the Fatal Exit Drama. (That is excluding our cast and staff.)

We had a total of 87 people from Mentone Wesleyan Community Church involved each night.

Our biggest night was Wednesday and we had over 300 in attendance! (Again, not including the 83 cast/staff.)

There were 18 people baptized on November 16 at the church. A reception was held in their honor following the baptism service.



Tookie Anderson
Brent & Michelle Black
Josh & Julie Bradley
Chris Cavitt
Rusty, Angela & Logan Chambers
Jim & Donna Crowe
Tom & Brenda Crowe
Heather Daniel
Glenn & Donna Franklin
Chad Franklin
Billy & Jackie Gifford
Scott Gifford
Herman & Mattie Golden
Charles & Amanda Gray
Katie Gray
Robert & Ilene Green
Christiana Gruendler
Ashley Hendricks

Rick, Traci, Stephanie & Josh Haworth
Beverly Henry
Darvin & Martha Hulgan
Mike & Debi Hulgan
Herman & Francis Johnson
James & Betty Johnson
Amy Kirby
Kenneth & Flo Kirby
Martha Kirby
Roberta Kirby
David & Rachel Lee
Patti Lind
Lois Lyday
Hope Martin
Andrew McCole
Tiffany McCurdy
Wanda McKee
Laura McKenzie

Kenneth, Kathy, Kerri, Kirby & Kaylee McMunn
Glenn, Linda, Keith & Kara Miller
Bradley & Tia Newell
John & Charlene O'Rear
Teresa & Amanda Parker
Hershell & Sandra Pruitt
Grace Pullen
Donald Ratliff
Nelson & Mary Stallings
Shelly Sutton
Patti & Stephanie Watkins
Connie White
Irene Willingham

PEACE ON EARTH

Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
from
The Groundhog staff.

Let's count our blessings one and all
For all His creatures large and small
And on this anniversary, celebrate diversity
For He made us all, and on His birth
Let's pray for everlasting peace on earth.



DAISIES from the left: Emily Brown, Brianna Webb, Molly Manifold, Kara Goss; 2nd row: Katie Hester, Kateland Crider, Lexy Owen, and Leader Lori Owen



BROWNIES from the left: Kaylee Hatfield, Alexis Manifold, Sammy Purvis, Mikala Tweedell; 2nd row: Leader Wendy Haynes, Taylor Purvis, Brooke Wright, Amelia Saferite, Kaylee Hope Haynes, Marissa Wiggly, Leader Lisa Tweedell; 3rd row: Megan Sutton, Jonnie Frost, Brittney Harrison



Haley Saferite receiving her 3rd year membership pin



Sponsor Marie Dillenbeck and Megan Petersen

By Barbara Petersen

Girl scout Troop 1012 celebrated their investiture and rededication with a service on November 24th at Moon Lake Baptist Church. This year there are Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors. The troop participated in the 2003 Colorfest Parade as one of the floats.

After the service, the girls and their guests were treated to a bountiful feast in the fellowship hall. This was also a time to fellowship with each other and the friends and family who came to celebrate with them.



JUNIORS from the left: Lilly Harrison, Megan Petersen; 2nd row: Haley Saferite, Kaylee McMunn, (not shown: Leader Barbara Petersen)



Kaylee McMunn lighting her candle.



COLORFEST PARADE: Megan Sutton, Brooke Wright, Sammy Purvis, Marissa Wiggly, Eli Wiggly; 2nd row: Taylor Purvis, Lexy Owen, Brianna Webb, Megan Petersen, Mikey Petersen, and Mikala Tweedell



Megan Petersen receiving her 3rd year membership pin



Lily Harrison lighting her rededication candle



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Moon Lake School News

Christmas holidays will be observed from December 18 through January 5. Students will return to school on January 6, and report cards will be sent home on January 6.

January 19 will be the next holiday, when the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. will be observed. Students will be out of school on that date.

UDC Meets on Dec. 20th

DeKalb Chapter #1456, United Daughters of the Confederacy, will meet at 10 AM on December 20th at the home of Mrs. Martha Stanley. This will be our annual Christmas meeting and social gathering. All members are urged to attend.

The annual "Gifts for the Genealogy Room" meeting was held at 10AM on Saturday, Dec. 13. It was a time to bring genealogy books, surveys, family histories, supplies, copy paper, file folders, etc., to be donated by the DCGS to the Library. Each year we do this to help the library stock our genealogy room.

New officers for the coming year were installed.

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"The History of the world" by young writers

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Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. David was a Hebrew king who fought the Philistines. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 500 wives and 500 porcupines.

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Queen Elizabeth's navy defeated the Spanish Armadillo. William Shakespeare wrote about Romeo and Juliet, a romantic couplet. Miguel Cervantes wrote "Donkey Hote." John Milton wrote "paradise Lost." Then, his wife died, and he wrote "Paradise Regained."

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Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbits. Madman Curie discovered radium. And Karl Marx became one of the Marx Brothers.

Submitted by Marilyn Blanton Campbell

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An Amazing Parallel

By Albert Jackson, Mentone, AL

It has been said that history repeats itself. With a look at recent events, we realize how quickly history is written and also repeated to some extent.

There are many parallels to be drawn between the death of President Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy, aside from the fact that they were both slain by assassins.

(1) Both were most concerned with the issues of civil rights.

(2) Lincoln was elected in 1860.

Kennedy was elected in 1960.

(3) Both were slain on Friday and in the presence of their wives.

(4) Their successors, both named Johnson, were Southerners and Democrats, and previously had served as U.S. Senators.

(5) Andrew Johnson was born in 1808. Lyndon B. Johnson was born in 1908.

(6) John Wilkes Booth the assassin of Lincoln was born in 1839. Lee Harvey Oswald was born in 1939.

(7) Both Booth and Oswald were Southerners favoring unpopular causes.

(8) Both Booth and Oswald were killed by assassins before trials could be arranged.

(9) Both presidents' wives lost children through death while residing in the White House.

(10) Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy. Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln.



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(3) **RIVER PROPERTY**, East Fork Little River Estates. 4.4 acres nicely wooded and 120 ft on the river. City water, private road. \$50,000.



(4) **BREATHTAKING VIEW** on the West Brow, GA. 5.25 wooded acres and 230 ft on the Bluff. City Water. Paved Road. \$89,000



(5) **ONE OF A KIND LOG, STONE AND CEDAR SHAKE LODGE**. This unique find is complete with Heart Pine Plank floors throughout. Open Great room and a loft with built-in beds. Stone fireplace in Living area, and the custom kitchen with a stone fireplace. French doors open to the sleeping porches and master Bdrm. A must see, with much more to offer. ~~\$299,000~~ REDUCED to \$275,000.



(6) **NESTLED ON A SHADY LOT** sits this 3 bedroom 2 bath cottage with Rock fireplace and screened porch. A Metal roof soothes the sound of summer rain. Located on DeSoto Parkway, minutes from Park and Mentone. \$69,900.



(7) **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 \$35,500. Five to fifteen wooded stream tracts from \$21,000. Restricted covenants apply.



(8) **COMPLETELY REMODELED AND LIKE NEW**. One level Ranch-style home, with apartment. 3 bdrm, 3 bath, Living room with stone Fireplace. Separate dining room. New kitchen cabinets, counters, flooring. New Roof, lifetime warranty windows. Screened porch and breezeway. Wired Generator. So much more. Containing 3.8 acres M/L. Hwy 117, with commercial potential. \$120,500.



(9) **CHARMING BRICK BUNGALOW** sitting on 1.65 acre corner lot. 3 Bdrm 1 bath, living room with fireplace, separate dining, wood floors, C/H/A. Level, Fenced Backyard, quiet setting. Mentone \$69,000.



(10) **WHAT A LIFETIME FIND**. All anyone could ask for in one location. Start with 80 acres of wooded and pasture. 3 miles of trails. 2 residences. One small cottage, 2 bdrm/1bath. 20x30 garage. With a small pond on the upper 40. Continue down the winding drive to the Main house, 3 bdrm/2 bath on a 10-acre LAKE stocked with fish. Private and Serene. Mentone. \$349,500.

MENTONE MINI STORAGE UNITS AVAILABLE
FOR INFO, CALL ANGELA WOOD AT 256-634-4672

OTHER PROPERTIES

- (11) **SECLUDED** wooded acreage, with power, septic, well, driveway installed. Homesite area cleared. Lightly restricted. 11 ac M/L. \$40,000.
- (12) **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 \$6,000.
- (13) **WILD RIVER COMMUNITY**. 220x300 on the East fork of Little River. Secluded and Scenic, with pools and Rapids. \$30,000.
- (14) **WILDLIFE ABUNDANT** on these three 20+ acre tracts. Mostly Open Land, Rolling hills, ponds. May be purchased individually or together. Priced \$2,000 an acre. Located in Mentone area with deeded access road.
- (15) **CANYON VIEW FOREST** adjoins National Preserve, and wildlife Management. 5 acre tract, wooded with drive, power, well installed. Private access behind locked Gate. Overlooks Little River Canyon National Preserve. \$60,000.
- (16) **WOODED LOTS** on Dempsey Ave. Mentone 200x300 = 1.38 acres. \$16,000.
- (17) **RESORT AREA RIVERFRONT PROPERTY**. Building lot with 289 feet on the West Fork River. Woods and rocks. Call for appt. to view. \$43,500.
- (18) **LAUREL CREEK LAKES SUB.** Lots 1&2 approx 2.77 acres wooded with half of Arrowhead lake. Surveyed and perked. Great place to build that Weekend retreat. \$23,500.
- (19) **EAST FORK LITTLE RIVER ESTATES**. 3.8 acres with 1.75 ft on water. Located in Cherokee County. City Water, wooded, private road. Restricted Covenants. \$35,000.
- (20) **7.25 ACRES**, on CO RD 106, City water available, mostly cleared with lake site, Large Oak Trees, where the Old Homeplace used to be. \$56,000.
- (21) **BUILDING LOTS, ADJACENT TO BROW**. 4 lots over an acre. Level, surveyed, perked. Paved Road 89 North. Mentone. Lightly restricted. \$15,000 each.
- (22) **18 ACRES BLUFF PROPERTY**, located on Wade Gap Rd. Wooded with rock formations distant Brow Views. Great for Weekend cabins and/or your very own retreat. \$60,800 **PENDING**



SLOPPY DOINGS

By John Baty

Probably the first sloppy work in this country in the "English speaking colonies," was the type of restrictions placed on the colonists by the first colonial governments. It has been written that the colonies on the East coast fled Europe because of religious persecution. Then these same colonists exercised a stricter control over themselves by electing (or otherwise) persons to government who apparently had forgotten their reason for being here.

It is likely that the second big blunder was committed when John Adams asked Thomas Jefferson to write the Declaration, and he penned the notion that "all men were created equal."

The third fiasco might have been the voicing of ethnocentric arrogance when the Eastern colonies were taught, down thru two centuries, as being the "first" colonies in America.

A fourth, and successive, example(s) could well be the following: We have tried historically, to dominate our neighbors by interfering in their private governmental affairs, and otherwise throwing our weight around; in later times, we have needlessly sent people to explore into space with spacecraft built by the lowest bidder; we have promoted, through false advertisement, our second and third rate foods despite the fact that eighty percent of Americans are overweight and many are resorting to surgery to "correct" what our sloppy eating and exercising have done to us; in high technology our so-called automated phone service has made it next to impossible to call a wayward company person into accountability; in the medical world (our highly touted medical technology) personnel are either poorly trained or of low motivation such that we hardly ever get accurate test results on time.

A couple examples of medical foul-ups might be of interest: Once heart physicians were ready to surgery an aortic heart valve on me when they discovered that the Baty with the problem was another Baty with same first initial; and again, when an inpatient in

a prominent "local" hospital, I was told by my doctor that I was almost ready to go home, that they would check a urine sample and, if okay, they would dismiss me. Later, the doctor came with a chart and told me I could go home, that "my chart showed my urine sample to be negative." My wife and I exchanged looks; then simultaneously asked: "What urine sample? It has not yet been collected." I am sorry to use personal references, but I have the facts straight on them. Others might be in error.

Unfortunately I have had need of a cardiac pacemaker for a long time—thirty years. When I got my first one, I was warned to stay clear of electrical machinery that was in use. When microwave ovens became popular, I avoided them like the plague. When word came that the microwave ovens were not so harmful, medical people I appealed to for help stated that they didn't know what the danger was to pacers. I decided to call the company, which made the brand I had. It was located on the west coast. When I finally was able to explain to the lady who answered and tell my business, she replied: "Oh, you need to talk to one of our Medical Engineers." The fellow came on the line and listened to my request. He said: "Well, pacemakers are better insulated than they ever were, and microwave ovens don't leak so much any more. You can try turning one on and getting close to it. If you begin to feel 'funny,' then get away from it!" Have you ever called a company hotline concerning the malfunction of some electrical device you have recently purchased? If so, then you and I are effectively communicating.

And what the heck. I've learned that microwaves are not so "hot" after all!

When I was a young lad, my Daddy would have me clean the cow stall and put the fertilizer on the garden. If I proved to be awkward and ineffective with the shovel, Daddy would take the tool and show me the best way to handle a shovel. Then he would say with casual good humor: "Son, even if you are shoveling shit, you need to do it right!"



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Santa is coming to the
Mentone Market on
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Times are listed below.
Come and visit with Santa without
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1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
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302 Gault Ave. S., Fort Payne



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(1) CABIN ON THE BROW - You will love coming home at the end of the day to this adorable cabin on the brow near DeSoto State Park. Wood walls and floor, kitchen cabinets with tin inserts, sunroom, a wood stone fireplace, new deck and hot tub, and so much more. Call to see for only \$195,000. (PLS #13084)



(2) CLOUDLAND, GA - New listing with 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, over 3500 square feet. This log home was built in 1928 and is filled with character. Priced at \$172,500. (PLS #11807)



(3) This custom built home offers 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, large eat-in kitchen area, spacious living room with fireplace and multi-purpose basement and includes 2.9 acres. \$199,000.



(4) Room to roam in this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home offering lots of extras. Great room with cathedral ceiling, wood floors, recreation room, barn and fenced pasture on 46 private acres connecting DeSoto State Park. \$249,900.



(5) Looking for a mountain retreat—8 self contained cabins, office building that could be converted into living quarters, numerous RV and camp sites all on 13+ secluded acres adjoining DeSoto State Park. \$450,000



(6) LESS THAN 1 MILE from downtown Mentone and sitting on over 1-1/2 acres, this home offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, an open porch on front and a sunroom on the back. All appliances to remain including washer and dryer, 2-car carport with workshop and a 20x24 building for extra storage... office... craft shop...etc. \$92,500 (PLS #11605)



(7) Postcard setting with this 4 bedroom, 2 bath home featuring a 2-story living room with loft and wood burning fireplace, large country kitchen, 2 hot tubs and a 30' above-ground pool, stocked pond, barn, shed, storage building and 21 acres. ONLY \$125,000.



(8) Own this thriving, well-established restaurant in a prime location of downtown Mentone. Fully-equipped kitchen and dining room that seats 125 people, both turn key and financial information furnished to serious buyers. \$397,500. Seller will sell real estate for \$250,000 and lease-back restaurant.



(9) COUNTRY AT ITS BEST describes this rustic style home with spruce ceiling—floors and walls. Add charm to the 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and great room, large front porch looking out at a beautiful field from the 3.5 acre wooded lot. Listed at \$150,000. (PLS #11719)



(10) INCREDIBLE VIEW! IMMACULATE HOME! This lovely brick home features over 5000 square feet of living space, 6 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 2 half baths, with decks, patios, circle drive, beautiful landscaping and situated on over 3 acres for privacy. Owners must relocate...All reasonable offers will be considered! (Additional lot available also.) \$459,000 (PLS #11917)



(11) Almost maintenance-free BROW home with 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, large eat-in kitchen with island, cozy living room with fireplace, den/pool room with pool table already there. Great views of the valley. \$270,000.



(12) Established old home place in historic Mentone. House is over 100 years old and is restorable with 18.8 acres. This home has several primitive barns and sheds all surrounded by huge Oak trees. Retreat to an era gone by for less than \$100,000.



(13) SATISFY YOUR APPETITE for private living and roominess with this 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home on 54 acres. This traditional brick house also includes large eat-in kitchen with an island, Oak cabinets and French doors to living area and large screened porch. Add a fence and you have great pastures with a barn already there. Priced to sell at \$399,000. (PS #11716)



(14) OWN A LITTLE VILLAGE CALLED VALHALLA—Twenty acres atop Lookout Mountain bordering Little River Canyon National Preserve & DeSoto State Park, including a large farmhouse and four unique cottages all with screened porches, living rooms, dining areas, and full kitchens surrounding serenity pond. Call for details. \$650,000. (PLS #11425)



(15) NEW LISTING! 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with 9.89 acres with 1800 square feet, appliances to stay, rock fireplace and located near DeSoto State Park. \$150,000. (PLS #11809)



(17) QUALITY CONSTRUCTION IS A TIMELESS ASSET. This 3 bedroom home on a level, shaded 3/4 acre lot offers tongue and groove wood walls, hardwood and pine floors under the carpet, spacious rooms, ample closet, CH&A, roof only 5 years new, den which could be a 4th bedroom and a large outside storage building/shop. Just minutes from downtown Mentone. \$69,900. (PLS #11935)



(18) COZY COUNTRY CHARM in downtown Mentone - 2/3 bedrooms, 1 bath with antique footed tub, living/dining combo, pine floors and walls, rock fireplace, central heat and air and a storage building on 2 acres. Fenced side yard. \$72,500. (PLS #12051)



(19) ESCAPE THE MADNESS—Just minutes from tranquility, this rustic retreat offers 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, a studio room, 2-car garage with fireplace, wood floors, lots of windows with great views from the brow of Mentone. Built by an artist, this house has tons of charm and sits on 4 acres. \$210,000.

OTHER LISTINGS

(20) MENTONE - Build your cabin on this secluded yet convenient lot located near DeSoto State Park. \$20,500 (PLS #11730)

(21) WEST FORK SUB. - 254' of river frontage (Little River) Gently sloping with great building sites. Lightly restricted. \$40,000 (PLS #10134)

(22) LAND - Wooded Corner Lot just South of Downtown Mentone. \$5,500. (PLS #11805)

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

(24) 4.3+/- acres on DeSoto Parkway. Only \$44,500.

(25) Almost 600' on the West Fork of Little River, gently rolling and heavily wooded all within 1 mile of Mentone. \$70,000.

(26) BUILD YOUR WEEKEND GET-AWAY on this 1.17+/- acres filled with spectacular rock formations behind city hall in Mentone. \$14,500.

(27) Hwy 11 North - 130+/- acre tract enjoys the setting of the valley with pristine views of pastures, ridges and Wills Creek which meanders through the property. \$600,000.

(28) LAND! 57 acres of prime property located on Hwy 11, between Fort Payne and Hammondville is a dream come true. Call today! \$384,750.

(29) LAND AND LAKE...40+/- acres with a 5+/- acre lake and Brush Creek runs through it. The lake was stocked with Bass and Bream 2 years ago and is approximately 35' deep. \$180,000.

(30) Brow property ...1.7+/- acres on County Road 166 near Desoto State Park. \$37,500.

(31) 3.68 +/- acres on the Brow near Desoto State Park. \$59,900.

(32) OPPORTUNITY AWAITS - 10 acres on Hwy 117, East of Mentone. 3 mobile homes and 2 one bedroom apartments and room to grow. Outside the city limits - no restrictions. \$158,500.

(33) RETREAT, RETREAT, RETREAT - This 40 acres is partly cleared and partly wooded with a large lake and wooded stream. \$170,000.

(34) MENTONE - Beautiful Wooded lot for your weekend get away or home of hour dreams. \$16,500 (PLS #11955) (Can be purchased with PLS #11954 for \$53,000 for a total of 6.3 acres.)

(35) MENTONE - If you're looking for just the right place to build your weekend get away or even a permanent residence, this property is waiting on you. Wooded, although a proposed building site has already been cleared, this property is what you have been looking for. \$37,500 (PLS #11954) (Can be purchased with PLS #11955) for \$53,000 for a total of 6.3 acres)

(36) LOOKOUT MTN. - build your dream home on 3 beautiful wooded acres near DeSoto State Park. Water and power available. Some restrictions. \$25,000 (PLS #12002)

(37) LOOKOUT MTN. - 3 acres near Cloudmont on County Road 614. \$49,500 (PLS #11764)

(38) A GREAT FIND - 18 plus acres on County Road 106. Heavily wooded, road frontage and city water available. Great for subdividing at \$4250 per acre.

The
*Southern
Properties*
staff wishes everyone a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!

(16)

About

Our
Town

By

LINDA BROWN



Have you ever seen Mentone decorated for the holidays in such an attractive manner? Everyone has done an outstanding job with the lights and trees. It is such a good idea to use white lights in all of the stores. When you come up the mountain into Mentone, it is breathtaking! The lights seem to say, "Welcome, we are glad to have you here." Maybe by next year the merchants can get together and purchase the white pole lights like some of the other towns around here have. These would be in keeping with the other lights and if each store could buy one or two, it could be done.

I am very pleased with the tree in the window of the Mentone Town Hall. The compact disks that were decorated by the Moon Lake Kindergarten Class are prettier than I expected they would be. The children did a wonderful job with them and I am very proud of them. The town has trimmed the town hall in white lights and this makes the building fit in with all of the others in town. Please save your junk CD's for me again this year, we will need them to decorate the tree next year. We used about eighty CD's this year. The students glued cut outs from Christmas cards to the shiny side, placed an ornament hanger on the back and used them for ornaments to trim the tree. This taught the students that something beautiful can be made from something that would otherwise be thrown in the trash. I really believe in recycling and in teaching our children this concept as well.

Several members of the town council and the water board met with Senator Lowell Barron recently. I wasn't able to attend the meeting, but I heard good reports. Senator Barron is very interested in Mentone and what happens in our town. As everyone knows, all politicians are now limited in the availability of money they can spend in their district. This money has always been called "pork" and the practice has been stopped. Senator Barron will be keeping us in mind when anything pertaining to our needs comes up for a vote of the Senate. He has always been very generous to help Mentone, especially with projects for Moon Lake Elementary School.

The receiving of a grant to help establish a recycling center in Mentone is on schedule. The town has received word that we have the grant. This is a matching grant, but I'm not sure whether we can match it with labor or if it must be with some funds. We have not established all of the details for the center yet, but we have a committee studying the needs. They are considering setting up several units to hold different materials, such as metal items, paper goods and glass items that can be recycled. Also, we hope to furnish a place where appliances and tires could be stored and then be hauled off before they

became a problem. The finding of the bird that was a carrier of the West Nile Virus last summer was really a wake-up call to the mayor and town council and should be to everyone. We need to really watch for spots that could catch water and become breeding places for mosquitoes. The cold weather months are good times to watch for these hazards and remove them. Anywhere that water can stand or even create a damp spot is a potential place for mosquitoes. They will hatch under leaves and low growing trees as easily as they will in places where water has collected.

Somewhere the idea of a "spraying program" was mentioned as a possible way to eradicate the mosquito problem. This is the last thing that the Mentone Town Council wants to do. First and foremost this would kill some of the good insects and none of us want that to happen. It would probably harm the butterflies and they have just now made a come back from the effects of insecticides. Secondly, the cost is very prohibitive and we have other things we would rather spend our money for. Last, we just don't like the idea of a spray program. It would spray where mosquitoes were and also where they were not. But, everyone in the area must do their part to get rid of the breeding places so we do not have to spray. We cannot let an outbreak of West Nile Virus happen in Mentone. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Winter is the perfect time to plan your garden. Think now about what vegetables you want to plant and also what new flowers you want to try. Some people are really good at planting seeds inside and then transplanting them to garden beds in the spring. I am not good at this, I don't have the patience to deal with the mess that this makes. I just go to one of the many gardening centers in our area and get plants when I am ready to start the garden. This works for me but I greatly admire those who can start from seeds. Many of the DeKalb County Master Gardeners are experts in propagating. They start new plants from older ones in many ways. One of the most interesting is called layering. This is where you pull a lower limb of a shrub down and bury it in the dirt, place a rock on it and the limb will sprout and a new plant is formed. This is especially good for rhododendron plants and for some roses.

The main news of today is the capture of Saddam Hussein. This capture will prevent his doing terrible things to people, but there will be others to take his place. It seems that there is always someone who wants to have their way and doesn't care how they get it. I'm sure this started long before records were kept, but just the events that are recorded in history books are enough to prove this fact. It seems that good has to constantly guard against evil. I often think of the verse in the Bible that states, "And people loved darkness rather than light."

Recently, the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District received very good news. President Bill Clinton initiated a grant program to help volunteer firefighters. The Board of Directors has assisted the volunteers in applying for this grant every year that it has been offered. This year we were named as a recipient of a grant of \$93,000. This grant is a 90-10, which means that we will receive 90% of the grant and will be required to match this with 10%. Due to the generous response to our annual letter by all of you, we will have the money to meet this requirement. We will use this grant for the purchase of a Service Truck. This truck

will be first on the scene when a call for help comes in. It will be equipped with all needed supplies to administer help in any given situation. Also, we have made an extra payment on the new fire engine. This is in addition to the scheduled annual payment. Thanks to everyone who has helped us in any way. We are indeed grateful and will strive to serve you to the best of our ability. You can reach us at any time by calling 911 and they will get in touch with someone immediately. I serve as the secretary and treasurer for the Board of Directors and have gotten to know most of the Volunteer Firefighters. They are a great group of people and Mentone should be very proud of them. When you see one of them, tell them how much you appreciate their giving of their time and efforts.

Speaking of being proud of Mentone citizens, there will be a Holiday Musical Extravaganza on December 28, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the Fort Payne Opera House. Two of the featured performers are Mentone residents. Anna Crow, daughter of Bob and Kathy Crow of the Alpine Camp community, will be a featured soprano soloist. Pierce Pettis, who lives in Mentone, will be featured as a folk singer. You may buy advanced tickets by calling me, Linda Brown, 634-8006 or Kathy Crow, 634-4230. Advanced tickets for students are \$5.00 (\$6.00 at the door) and for adults are \$8.00 (\$10.00 at the door). Look for a more detailed program in this issue of *The Groundhog*.

I have just attended a Christmas Cantata given by the Community Choir. This is a choir consisting of people from the communities of Mentone and Valley Head. Peggy Pullen did a wonderful job as the director of the choir. The singing was beautiful and told the Christmas story well. They always sing in a church in Mentone and one in Valley Head on the same night. This has to be very stressful for them, but they give a great performance at each. This is a wonderful opportunity for the two communities to come together for a common cause.

Do you look at the backs of the Christmas cards that you receive? If you don't, you may be missing part of the message. I love to send and receive Christmas cards. This year as I was preparing some to display on the wall, I turned them over to place tape on the back. I was pleasantly surprised to see how many of them have a double meaning. Several stated that the purchase of this card would help support a very worthy cause. I found that some of mine were in support of such organizations as, The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution and Shriners Hospital of Children. From now on I will look at the backs as well as the beautiful fronts. I suggest that you do this also. You may get twice the pleasure from your cards.

The flu has started making the rounds in our area. I urge everyone to wash your hands often. If you are in contact with any surface that can carry the flu or cold viruses, wash as soon as possible. Experts tell us that this is our best defense against cold and flu viruses. Maybe the closing of schools for the holidays will help to break the cycle of illnesses.

My holiday wish for each of you is good health, much happiness and peace of mind. Love your neighbor as yourself and look around you for someone that needs your help.

The poem, *The Night Before Christmas*, gave us our concept of what Santa Clause looks like. A Santa said at the end of this wonderful narrative, "MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT." I want to add, HAPPY NEW YEAR, TOO.



The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

The Town of Mentone is bright with Christmas decorations and sparkling lights, thanks to the work that Tony Teverino and David Wassom have done! Last year we had no help to get the community tree set up and nobody to hang the big decorations on the street lights. I am very grateful to these gentlemen. And Mee Hilburn donated the lovely tree that Tony and David installed on the lot by the Mentone Inn. It is about the nicest one we have had. Homer and I have been laid up with the flu virus, or whatever, and could not decorate the tree like we planned, but it looks good anyway.

While we have been "laid up" with the flu bug—or as Marilyn Campbell says, "The Crud", we have done a lot of thinking, praying, reading and watching the birds—and moaning. This thing is no fun. The girls have been cooking good food and Doreen brings it to us, but our taste buds are corroded and nothing tastes very good. My mouth tastes like a rotten potato smells. I told them not to worry, I'll make up for it in a week or two. My appetite doesn't fail me long. Joyce is staying with Doreen because we surely don't want her to get this germ if we can prevent it.

Homer is having to go to a lung specialist in Birmingham—on his birthday—because he is on the verge of pneumonia. He had it in October and does not need it again.

Enough about illness. We have been blessed with good health for many years, and I suppose our resistance is not as good as it used to be. I bought some good daffodil bulbs from the garden club and have not been able to plant them. Maybe I can do that soon.

The birds have been a bright scene on the gloomy days. We have a flock of Purple Finch that are beautiful. They are actually a rose color—some are very bright and others a lighter color. The Goldfinch are mixed in with them, but they are a dull color in winter. Then the little downy woodpecker flits in and out, and the larger red-headed flicker picks a sunflower seed, takes it up on a tree and pecks out the inside kernel. This is one of nature's blessings. I'm glad we can feed them in cold weather when they need it most.

Christmas is the most exciting time of year. For children, it means colorful toys and games around a brightly lit Christmas tree. There are extra things to eat that only come at this time of year. Families draw close together and the love that we feel all year is shown more freely.

It is a happy time of year when we want to wish a Merry Christmas to everyone. We want to do good things for someone and it would be good to carry over the feeling for the rest of the year.

I love Christmas music and never tire of it. The old carols are best. We used to go caroling during the holidays, but I have not done that in a long time. We would try to go to the homes of elderly or disabled people and they would enjoy it. The churches should do this because it is a blessing to cheer the hearts of lonely people.

It is disappointing that I could not sing with the Community Chorus when they presented the Christmas Cantata. My voice is a little rough and the musical tones just don't cooperate. I have practiced every week since September, except the past two weeks. It's a good cantata and one of my favorite songs is included in the program: "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem." Peggy Pullen is directing and DeVan Jackson is singing with the group, which makes the cantata special. The practice sessions at Valley Head Baptist have been good, as we work on enunciation, rests, etc. Jan Wilkinson has been our chauffeur and Dorothy Cur drove a few times. There are about 40 in the choir this year, which is good. They won't miss me. There are plenty of alto singers.

Maybe next week I can start some baking. Barry likes plain sugar cookies and I usually make them. Grandson, Lee Cooper, likes them, too. Then, I make apple turnovers for Coy, and would love to make the stack apple cake like my mother made. She used sun-dried apples, and they were much better than those we buy at the supermarket. They were a brown color and it made the cake look like a chocolate torte.

Christmas cards have been coming daily and are welcome, especially from those we do not see often who include a note giving the history of their family for the past year.

So sorry we missed the Open House for the Bed and Breakfast places in the Mentone area. We certainly meant to go, but were not able to get outside. I hope it was successful and some money was raised for the library.

Stay healthy, have a wonderful Christmas. Remember to say a prayer for our troops in Iraq who will miss being at home with their families.



Elaine Gaudin Secondary School Counselor of the year for the State of Alabama

Elaine Gaudin, part-time Mentone resident, was recently named Secondary School Counselor of the year for the State of Alabama. The award was presented in Birmingham on November 20, 2003, by the Alabama Association of Secondary School Counselors. Elaine has been employed as a high school counselor in Huntsville for approximately 20 years, and plans to retire at the end of this school year.

Elaine and her husband, Jack, recently purchased and remodeled the old Perkins home located next to Moon Lake School. Jack is a retired Boy Scout Executive for the Northern District of Alabama.

Jack and Elaine have two sons, Tom and Tim. Tom is an executive with Blue-Cross Blue Shield of Alabama. He and his wife, Zana, reside in Birmingham with their two daughters, Joise and Eliza. Tim is a salesman in pre-fab construction in Nashville, TN. He and his wife, Mandy, have two sons, Ben and Jack.

~NOTICE~

MAPA TELEPHONE: 256-634-4041

www.MentoneAlabama.org, MAPA'S web site, has a "Directory" to help visitors to our community find the places, things, and services they might want—much like the Yellow Pages in the phone book.

If you have any information for the Directory, please submit it via e-mail to Listings@MentoneAlabama.org

If you already have a listing there, please make sure it is correct and up-to-date.

Thanks for your help!



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Stop by & chat with Bernise at

CROW'S NEST ANTIQUES

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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.

Friday-Saturday 5-9 p.m. DeSoto Parkway - Mentone
For reservations, call Bonnie at

(256) 634-4677

HOLIDAY MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Fort Payne Opera House December 28, 2003 (Sunday) at 2:00 P.M.

Featuring:

Anna Crow, soprano soloist

Pierce Pettis, folk singer

Rosita Ruiz, concert pianist

Charles Hulgan, instrumentalist

Anna Crow is a native of Mentone. She is a candidate for a Master of Music degree with a major in Vocal Performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music studying with Sylvia Anderson. She is the daughter of Bob and Kathy Crow of Mentone.

Pierce Pettis's albums and songwriting have achieved national and international critical acclaim. Pettis' songs have been recorded by Garth Brooks, Art Garfunkel, Sara Groves, Joan Baez, Dar Williams and many others. Pierce currently divides his time between touring, song writing and recording in Nashville and his home in Mentone.

Charles Hulgan, a Fort Payne native, played four years in Colonel Carlton Butler's Million Dollar Band at the University of Alabama, where he received his Master's Degree. He was band director at Pittman Junior High in Hueytown for 34 years.

Student tickets

\$5.00 in advance, \$6.00 at door

Adult tickets

\$8.00 in advance, \$10.00 at door

Proceeds will be used toward the restoration and preservation of the Fort Site recently acquired by Landmarks.

Donations are tax deductible

For tickets:

Linda Brown, 634-8006

Kathy Crow, 634-4230

Bill Berry, 634-4326

A Big thank you to all who participated in the Mentone Christmas tour. We raised \$405.00.

May the new year bring you health happiness and prosperity. Thank you again, The Mentone Tourism and Events Committee.



**MENTONE MUSICAL MOUNTAIN STRINGS
WILL RETURN IN MAY.**

We appreciate your support and participation during our first year.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DRAWING DECEMBER 20TH
Get your tickets today !!!!!!!

WE WILL CALL WINNERS
AND POST NAMES AT MENTONE MARKET.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOURS.
Fabric & Felt productions.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

●Thursday, Dec. 19, School holiday begins

●Thursday, Dec. 18, Waterworks Board Meeting, 4PM, --- CHANGED due to Christmas falling on the 4th Thursday---

●Saturday, Dec. 20, Musical Mountain Strings drawing for prizes

●Thursday, Dec. 25, CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
2004

●Thursday, Jan. 1, NEW YEAR'S DAY

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

●Tuesday, Jan. 6, School back in session
●Monday, Jan. 12, 6PM, Town Council Meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public

●Tuesday, Jan. 13, 12:30PM, Rhododendron Garden Club, Mentone Community House

●Tuesday, Jan. 13, 7 PM, American Legion Hall, Post 215 Meeting

●Monday, Jan. 19, Holiday for Birthdays of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert E. Lee

Live Nativity Scene at Sequoyah Caverns

December 19 through 24
7:00 - 9:00 PM

Mini musical with Christmas carols and live nativity scene. Christmas Decorations are already set up.