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in print.

THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville

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Since 1982
By M.A.P.A.

Volume 27, No. 10

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

December 2008

L. M. Flannigan Funeral Service "There's An Empty Seat This Morning"

By Dr. Don G. Brock

Saturday, November 15, 2008, 11:00 AM
Burt Funeral Home, Valley Head, AL
(Burial at Bankhead Cemetery)

We are gathered here today to give honor to the life of L. M. Flannigan. His was a life to be honored. Today we give him honor and recognition.

Thursday morning, Mentone lost its true ambassador. Mentone may now need a Chamber of Commerce or someone else to represent our town or give directions to visitors. Of course, they will have to know how Sammy Cash used to go to DeSoto State Park, and where Ed Jones used to haul hay (earmarks of LM's directions).

TEXT: (Titus 2:11-13) For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; (KJV)

LM has now found that blessed hope. For he lived his life according to this passage of scripture - soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.

LM may have had a slight handicap, but he knew and understood much more than most people realized. It is interesting how God is so complex that He confounds the wise. Theologians spend a lifetime studying God to understand Him better. They teach at seminaries and universities, they compare notes and consult with one another for a lifetime and still cannot agree. Yet one as simple as LM went right to the essence of God, understood the principles of righteous living, and applied those principles to his own Christian life.

As a matter of fact, I believe we all need to learn some things from the life LM Flannigan.

1. Unconditional Love - (Romans

12:9) Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good"

2. Discipline of Prayer - LM always used to say, "I'll pray for you tonight before I go to bed." (Colossians 4:2) Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful" I believe he did. In fact, he preferred to pray on his knees. While in the hospital, he was disappointed that he could not get out of bed to pray on his knees.

3. Absence of Vanity - (1 Corinthians 3:20) 'And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.' LM never had any vain glory about himself. He was just who he was.

4. A Gentle Spirit - (Galatians 5:22) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith..." LM was a gentle giant.

5. A Love of Creation - LM loved the Creator and creation. He was an environmentalist - with a sincere appreciation of every living thing. He loved all animals, especially horses.

6. The Absence of Vices - While some say you cannot live without drinking, smoking, cursing, chewing, or gambling - LM did. To my knowledge, he had no vices.

7. How To Worship - LM loved to worship. It did not matter to him what music was used, what Word was given, nor what song was sung - he related to his God on every occasion.

There have been many people in addition to LM's Family who have been special friends to LM down through the years. I cannot list them all, but I would like to mention a few:

Ed Jones, Ronnie Jones, Dewey & Nancy Smith, Larry Smith, Butch Manifold, Toby Manifold, Charles Bain, Sam & Clara Cash, Hobson & Martha Kirby, Eddy Goodman & Family, Tom & Kristin at the Mentone Market. There are four special people in addition to the family who helped LM during his time of sickness: Amy, Jennifer, Kristin, and Rachel.

THERE IS AN EMPTY SEAT IN OUR HEARTS THIS MORNING:



• At dinner time there will be an empty seat at Eloise's house ... pray for her.

• A saddle is empty today in Mentone.

• There'll be an empty seat at the church in every service ... not just Sunday mornings. The front pew on the left side will be vacant in the morning.

• There'll be an empty seat at the Lord's Supper table of communion where LM partook so faithfully.

• There'll be an empty seat in the many cars and trucks who gave "M" a ride.

• But most of all, there's an empty chair at the Mentone Market. A rocking chair with LM's initials embroidered on the back. The place where we all saw him most. That chair is now empty.

These seats on earth are now empty. BUT, THERE IS A SEAT IN HEAVEN TODAY THAT IS FILLED! That is the seat at the feet of Jesus!

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THE GROUNDHOG

PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 5, 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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**DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIAL
FOR THE GROUNDHOG IS
20TH DAY OF EACH MONTH
PRECEDING PUBLICATION.
PLEASE ABIDE BY THIS!!**

The Mentone Town Council
met on Monday, October 13, 2008,
at 6 PM. Mayor Hammond called



the meeting to order and conducted the pledge of allegiance. Wesley Griffith gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Hammond, Wesley Griffith, Larry Sanders, Gail Chambers, John Paul Verdon, and Gerald Bailey; Also Mentone Chief of Police Lamar Bray, and visitor JP Nation.

The minutes from the September 8th meeting were reviewed and accepted. The financial report was reviewed and the checks written in September were accepted.

There being no Old Business, Mayor Hammond said he had received a letter from Karen Britt resigning as chairman of the North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Protection District. A motion was made and seconded to accept the resignation.

A discussion was had regarding the NLMVFP District. The ISO rating is presently a nine (9). Rusty Chambers is NIMS trained, and presently, Richard Harrison is acting Chief, and Joseph Lee is Assistant Chief.

A Resolution to Host a Homecoming Celebration in Mentone was discussed. The date will be decided at the November meeting. There will be a plaque and the wording needs to be sent to the State of Alabama by December 1st.

By general consensus of the council, the November meeting was

changed from the second Monday to the First Monday, as the council members are to be sworn in for the four-year term on November 3rd.

Mayor Hammond talked with Zack Jones about a website for the Town, and also Patty Tucker who suggested the name "Historic Mentone" for the website. A discussion followed.

Police Chief Lamar Bray introduced MAPA Treasurer JP Nation to the council. Mr. Nation presented a \$1000 check to the Mentone Police Department from the Mentone Area Preservation Association to be used for equipment needed by the department for the new car, and stated that they hoped to continue this each year.

Mr. Nation reported that the

annual Octoberfest bonfire and singing will be at the festival site at Brow Park and this will allow the festival vendors to enjoy the bonfire and singing.

Mayor Hammond stated that Johnny Harris was looking into the matter of trails in Mentone. A discussion was had regarding something for the youth, such as playground equipment, etc.

Under new business, Gail Chambers brought up the need for repairs and an office for the Mayor. A motion was made and seconded to provide a separate office for the Mayor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



An early-season snowfall December 2 allowed Charlotte Gentry and Ryan Hilyer to build a snowman in Mentone, where a light dusting covered the ground on Lookout Mountain.

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- The Groundhog is printed by the last Thursday of each month.
- We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. Thank you.

Public Notice

The 2008 quarterly meeting dates for the Mentone Planning Commission, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be on the 3rd Thursday of the following months:

Thursday, January 15, 2009

All meetings will be held beginning at 5:00 PM in the Mentone Town Hall meeting room. Should there be any changes in the date, time, or place, a notice will be posted on the bulletin board at the Mentone Town Hall. A notice of any special or called meeting will also be posted on the same bulletin board prior to the meeting date and time.

Public Notice

The 2008 dates for the Mentone Waterworks Board, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be at 4:00 PM on the 4th Thursday as follows:

Thursday, December 18

All meetings will be held beginning at 4:00 PM in the Mentone Water Works office in the board room. Should there be any changes in the date, time, or place, a notice will be posted on the bulletin board of the Mentone Town Hall, adjacent to the Water office. A notice of any special or called meeting will also be

posted on the same bulletin board prior to the meeting date and time.

Public Notice

The 2008 meeting dates for the Mentone Town Council, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6PM, as follows:

Monday, December 8

All meetings will be held beginning at 6:00 PM in the Mentone Town Hall meeting room. Should there be any changes in the date, time, or place, a notice will be posted on the bulletin board at the Mentone Town Hall. A notice of any special or called meeting will also be posted on the same bulletin board prior to the meeting date and time.

Public Notice

The 2008 meeting dates for the Valley Head Water Works Board, 101 School Street, Valley Head, AL as follows:

Monday, December 8

All meetings will be held beginning at 4:00 PM in the Valley Head Water Works office in the board room. Should there be any changes in the date, time, or place, or there is a special called meeting, a notice detailing changes will be posted in the lobby of the Valley Head Water Works building prior to the meeting.

5 GENERATIONS



Mrs. Mary Crouch celebrated her 103rd birthday on October 9th, 2008. Mrs. Crouch was honored by her family and friends with a party at the Soddy-Daisy Health Care Facility in Soddy, TN, where she resides, on Sunday, October 12, 2008.

Shown in the picture with Mrs. Crouch is her Son Luther (Luke) Crouch of Chickamauga, GA, Granddaughter, Gail Crouch Worthey Chambers, Great-Grandson, Kevin Worthey, and Great-Great Grandson, Kowen Worthey all of Mentone, AL.

Happy Birthday



KOWEN EDWARD WORTHEY

Celebrated his 1ST Birthday, November 9, 2008 with a Mickey Mouse themed party. Kowen is the son of Kevin and Kayla Worthey of Mentone. Grandparents are Donnie and Connie Bell; Milton and Gail Chambers, and the late Edward R. Worthey, all of Mentone.

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TR 2 - 2.0 AC, 40,000, OPEN & WOODED
TR 3 - 6.0 AC, 51,000, PASTURE
TR 4 - 6.5 AC, 52,000, PASTURE
TR 5 - 11.2 AC, 100,800, CREEK
TR 6 - 6.5 AC, 58,500, CREEK

CHATTOOGA COUNTY NW GA 42+/- ac, wooded, open, new pond, food plots, great hunting tract near Lookout Mtn & Shindbone Ridge. \$218,400

CHATTOOGA COUNTY NW GA 7 ac open pasture, some fencing, county water available, soil work, no restrictions. \$49,500

CHATTOOGA COUNTY NW GA hwy 100 Holland community, 27.65 acres wooded, driveway in, homesite, great mountain views, no restrictions, \$110,000

CHATTOOGA COUNTY NW GA 17.94 Riverbluff drive, great home site overlooking river bottoms, 200 ft front on Chattooga river, county water, deed restrictions. \$98,500

CHATTOOGA CO NW GA/CHEROKEE CO AL 230 +/- ac., open and wooded, timber, seasonal views, great hunting tract, 100 ac in GA, 130 ac in AL, \$3,000/acre.

CHATTOOGA COUNTY NW GA 70 ac wooded, teloga area, near lookout mountain, county water. \$189,900



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SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

DECEMBER

- Sunday, December 14,
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CANTATA
5PM Mentone United Methodist Church
7PM Valley Head Baptist Church
- Thursday, December 18, 4PM
Mentone Waterworks Board Meeting,
Board Room, Open to the public
- December 19-January 5
Christmas/New Year Holiday NO SCHOOL
- Thursday, December 25, Christmas Holiday
- Thursday, January 1, New Year's Day

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 1 - Kaylee McMunn; Brian Green
- 3 - Kerri McMunn
- 4 - Cheryl Baker
- 10- Bobbie Smith; Kevin Worthey;
Melody Gilbreath
- 11- Bud Fielder
- 12- Sue Brown; Sonny Crane;
Kristen Lauro; Homer Crow;
Bill Cyr
- 13- Michael Streeter;
Sandra Blalock
- 16- Karen Holcomb
- 18- Daniel Brown; Charles Akes;
Ashley Henry
- 19- Brenda Hopper
- 20- Ilene Green
- 22- Sid Holcomb
- 28- Ladonna Blalock
- 30- Emily Collins; Lyle Nicely;
Ann Chesnut

Anniversaries

- 1 - Cotton and Pam Baggett
- 4 - Gus & Janet Spahr;
Al and Dianne Kuehl

- 12- Charlie & Sue Brown
- 18- Jim & Joan Byrum
- 19- Ovie & Barbara Blalock
- 21- Randy & Marilyn Hodge
- 24- George & hope Walker
- 25- Bill & Dorothy Cyr
- 29- Randy & Brenda Green
- 30- Jimmy & Evelyn Graves



RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Linda Brown, Secretary

The November 11, 2008 meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club began with President, Martha Wood, leading the members in the pledge to the flag of the United States of America and reading the Club Collect.

Peggy Roark, Chair of Garden Therapy, stated that she and Linda Brown would deliver the cacti plants to some of the residents in Mentone after the meeting today. Peggy and her husband, Tom, have propagated, potted and grown fifteen Holiday Cacti which will be blooming soon. Martha Wood, Chair of Horticulture, showed the bloom of a nerine, which comes from a bulb and seems to be much like the Surprise Lily in that it just pops up out of the ground without warning. She stated that the leaf collection project may need further thought and planning and maybe could be a project for next year.

Linda Brown, Chair of Nominations, presented this report of officers to begin their term in January 2009: President, Dianne Kuehl; First Vice President, Peggy Roark; Second Vice President, Barbara Blalock; Treasurer, Jill Whitten; Secretary, Linda Brown; Parliamentarian, Martha Wood. No nominations were made from the floor and the slate was accepted by acclamation.

President Wood stated that the club has met the requirements to be a Club of Distinction for 2008 and a donation to The Garden Club of Alabama Scholarship Fund would put the club in line to be a Gold Star Club. The members agreed to do this.

Margaret Baker introduced Chef Ben Keener of the Wildflower Cafe. He spoke for several minutes regarding the use of fresh fall vegetables for meals. Ben stressed the use of the fall squashes and told of the many ways they can be prepared. He then cooked and served chopped Butternut Squash on a bed of fresh baby spinach sprinkled with bleu cheese and roasted pecans. Margaret gave each member a print-out of recipes for using Butternut Squash. Margaret finished out the refreshments with a drink and a slice of decadent chocolate-pecan pie.

Next meeting: December 9, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. in the M.E.R.F Community House. Please note the time change. The new officers will be installed and everyone is asked to bring a dish for the Holiday Luncheon.

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

Moon Lake Community Library Open House



Thursday, December 18th

3:00 - 6:00 P.M.



*See the Snow Village,
complete with moving
train*

Meet the members of the Board of Directors

Holiday Refreshments

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

The 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.

Lea's Chapel Baptist Church welcomes you to worship with us. 10AM Sunday Bible Study, 11AM Morning Worship, 6PM Evening Worship. Wednesday 6-8PM Awana (ages 4 to 18); 6:30PM Praise and Prayer time. Located at 4212 County Road 751, Valley Head. 635-1001.

Visitors are always welcome at the **Valley Head United Methodist Church**. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at 9AM.

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 AM, Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor- Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnell.

The Harmony Grove Baptist Church located on County Road 239 invites you to attend Sunday School at 10AM and worship at 11AM. Sunday evening service is at 5PM. Thursday evening service is at 5:30PM.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Mass Services at 11AM each Sunday; Scripture and Communion Services at 6PM on Tuesdays.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM Sunday and 6:30 Wednesday. Christmas Eve service, December 24 at 6:00 PM. Steve Schrader, Pastor - 845-4314. Everyone 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 at 6PM, and Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:30PM.

The Fort Payne Christian Center and Pastors Ken and Elaine Hollman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10 AM, Wednesday evening at 6PM. God Bless you.

Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA), 5760 Gault Ave., NE, Fort Payne, AL. Rev. Billy Dempsey, Pastor, Sunday School 9:45AM; Sunday Worship - 10:55AM.

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.

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

The **Mentone Revival Center** and Pastor LeRoy Nichols and wife, Nell, invite everyone to join in worship on Sunday at 10AM and 11AM, and Sunday night at 6PM. Wednesday night 6:30PM. Homecoming is August 10. Brother Charles Elrod will be preaching and the Faith Walkers will be singing. Everyone is welcome.

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.

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. Once again, St. Joseph On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church will be doing an Angel Tree for Mentone and Valley Head children. Names will be accepted on a first-come basis through December 5. Please contact the church at 634-4476 to put a child's name on the list.

The Mentone United Methodist Church services are at 11AM each Sunday. Sunday School is at 10AM. Daniel Lee of Rainsville is the pastor.

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9:45AM, with classes for all ages. Morning Worship is at 11AM. The Lords Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March, and June at the morning worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 5:00PM and Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00PM. On Wednesdays, Team

Kids; Youth Bible Study and Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting are all at 6:30PM. Rev. Terry Turner has been called to be the regular pastor at Moon Lake.

Alpine Community Church, 115 Hwy 337, Menlo, GA. Pastor and Rev. Tommy Pledger welcome each and everyone to worship service, Sunday morning, 11AM, GA time; Sunday School 10AM GA time; Wed. Night Bible Study, 7PM GA time.

Cove Road Baptist Church, County Road 631, Mentone, Alabama. Brother Marlin Starnes, Interim Pastor, welcomes all to Sunday School - 9AM (10AM GA time); Church Services 10AM (11AM GA time); and Sunday night services 5PM (6PM GA time).

Summit Church of God invites you to attend their church. Sunday School-10AM; Morning Worship-11AM. Wednesday evening-6:30PM. Randall Beagles welcomes all.

Mentone Community Church Schedule: Sundays: Sunday School 9:30AM; Worship 10:30AM; Family Service or Small Groups 6:30PM. Wednesdays at 6:30PM; Pioneer Clubs; Youth Group; Adult Bible Study. Betty Johnson is still in the hospital fol-

lowing 4 heart bypasses with complications. You may send cards to: University of AL Hospital 1802 6th Ave. S., Birmingham, AL 35233

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy regular service times are Sunday School at 10AM, with worship at 11AM. Evening services begin at 5:30 on Sunday and 6 on Wednesday. Rev. Dean Clair invites everyone to attend.



DEVOTIONAL

By Evelyn Graves

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11 KJV)

What made Jesus' birth different? (1) He was born of a virgin. (2) He was God's only son. (3) He came to save the people from their sins. (4) He was as much man as he was divine, yet he was without sin. (5) He died on the cross that we might have life.

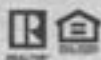
Let us give honor and praise to Christ Jesus at this time of the year that is designated for his birth. Let us praise Him as the heavenly host did on the night of His birth, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Merry Christmas!



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2 FOR 1 HOUSE SALE! Incredible? Yes, but it's true! Just 1 block N. of library, this gracious 5BR/3BA home offers the convenience of town living with all the spaciousness anyone could want. Professionally decorated rooms w/great details. Large country kitchen with lots of storage. 2nd floor is plumbed for a kitchenette for possible mother-in-law suite/apartment. **BONUS!** There's also a 2-story, 3 bedroom, 2 bath rental home behind the house included in this fantastic price! Offered at \$98,000 (18434)



MENTONE

AWE-INSPIRING HANDHEWN LOG CABIN w/true craftsmanship and design, fitted with the best in quality amenities. Maple floors, box elder countertops, custom site-built cabinets and doors, Appalachian interior walls, stacked stone "cave" shower and large jetted tub in MA BA, hand-peeled pine post handrails inside and out. Built to last with 7/8" rebar and 2x2 angle iron bracing and re-enforcements. Each log in this home is fashioned using a broad axe, just as our forefathers did. Hand-notched, half-dovetail design. 3BR, 2.5BA, loft studio or living area, 3rd level bonus room. Approx 1820 sq ft interior, over 1400 sq ft wraparound porch area. 2 fireplaces, one on porch. Main-level MABR. \$278,500. (17537)



MENTONE



NESTLED INTO THE MOUNTAIN ITSELF with boulders and woods for surroundings, this private 1900+/- sq ft home in Mentone features 2BR/2BA; loft for 3rd BR/office/studio; huge walk-in closets; all kitchen appliances; attached 2-car garage, paved circle drive; breezeway; large back deck. Neighboring a large woods w/boundless walking areas, this could be your personal retreat or a place to gather friends who want to enjoy natural peace & beauty. Rock formations, small caves, myriad plantings. Parklike setting just off the Scenic Pkwy between DeSoto State Park and Mentone. \$249,900. (17777)



BROW

MENTONE BROW CABIN. There's nothing quite like it: Winter evenings spent basking in the hot tub then snuggling up beside the mtn stone woodburning fireplace. Doze on the unique hanging bed on the screened back porch; roast marshmallows around the backyard firepit as you watch the sun set over the valley and distant hills. This 1.5 story cabin has the cozy, mtn rustic look and feel, but has all the right stuff to make your time spent here nothing short of perfect. 3BR/2BA with all appliances, furnishings, accessories & custom linens remaining. Currently in cabin rental program. \$375,000 (18144)



BACK ON MKT.

A MENTONE ORIGINAL. Here is a classic Mentone home built back when vacation homes in the mtns always included a sleeping porch. The full, screened front porch on this 2-story 2BR/2BA farm-style house is spacious & welcoming. See it with your heart & fall in love with this truly unique home filled with that certain something these old homes in Mentone alone can offer. \$115,000 (18502)



MENTONE

IN A CABIN IN THE WOODS... live or getaway for the weekend in this beautiful 2-story retreat on 3.3 acres w/wooded, winding drive almost at the end of a quiet lane in Mentone. Cabin features 3BR/2.5BA; main-level MABR; MABA w/double vanity, jetted tub & sep shower. 2 lg BRs & guest bath upstairs. Full, covered front porch for sitting on fine days, a fireplace in LR for chilly evenings. Cabin comes fully furnished for only \$179,500 (18438)



MENTONE

ADORABLE LOG CABIN GETAWAY. Hand-hewn white pine logs surround the sweetest little hideaway you could ever want to snuggle up in! Small, but just enough of every amenity you could possibly desire. Cradled in the woods, great front and back porches, 1.4 acres of land, 1BR/1BA with small bunkroom loft, all wood interior. All appliances to remain, including the stacked washer/dryer. This place is perfectly set up for a cabin rental. \$125,000 (18457)



MENTONE

SPACIOUS MOUNTAIN RETREAT sits up on the hill w/seasonal brow view. Main house has 3BR/3.5BA w/approx 3200 sq ft area. Screened porch, multi-level decks, hot tub. Fabulous kitchen w/full SS appliance pkg. Vintage wood htr in LR. 2-story Master suite w/kitchenette, gas log FP, loft studio/office. Luxurious MABA w/lg jetted tub, sep shower. Guest cottage is 1BR/1BA, approx 700 sq ft. Woodland setting. \$369,000. (17069)



MENTONE

AN UNFINISHED WORK of art & craftsmanship in the mountain traditional style. Magnificently begun, this 2,100+ sq ft log cabin has the potential for greatness. 27x27 open great room/kitchen area, cedar closets, main level MABR suite, 3/4 wrap-around 8' porch, metal roof, walls of windows, situated on wooded lot strewn w/wild blueberry & huckleberry bushes. Now \$185,000. (17861)



REDUCED

45 ACRES WITH PANORAMIC BLUFF VIEW and approx 10-acre wetland fed by Indian Creek. Hunters' or nature lovers' paradise with ducks, beaver, turkey, otters, dove, quail, deer and more. Observation deck, camouflaged blinds already in place. 6 acres open pasture land. Remainder of land has been timbered but many hardwoods remain. Access to Hwy 68. Short drive to fishing and boating at Weiss Lake. An amazing new low price. \$159,000. (18102)

LOTS and LAND

DESOTO STATE PARK AREA 19 acres of scenic beauty featuring large trees, interesting rock formations, wildlife & creek. Your own nature preserve, camp or homestead. Peace & quiet for only \$123,500 (17521)

4.42 AC LOT WITH STREAM offers peaceful areas to hike, watch abundant wildlife, or just get away. Perfectly located at end of quiet lane. Only \$37,000 (16824)

ONE ACRE LOT W/CLASSIC AIRSTREAM LAND YACHT RV included! Mildly-restricted lot w/great rural Mentone location, minutes from DeSoto St Pk, Ft Payne & Mentone. Economical getaway now, great place to build in future! 210' road frontage; power & public water at road. RV & lot now priced at \$25,000 (17127)

PICK ONE, or pick them all. 3 lots from which to choose, each with great woods, light restrictions. Mentone. Priced at \$30,000 ea. (17868)

AWESOME SUNSETS FROM THE BROW Park at Mentone are just a few steps away. Beautifully-wooded 0.5 ac lot w/150' paved frontage & public water. (Up to 1.5 ac total available.) \$45,000. (18277)

JSU Canyon Center at Little River Canyon National Preserve

The big day for the grand opening of the new JSU Canyon Center at Little River Canyon National Preserve is Sunday, February 21, 2009. Please plan on attending this day of fun, food, music and crafts.

The Canyon Center will give Little River Canyon a tourist home base. There will be many meetings and events held at the Canyon Center that will bring people to our area and they in turn will travel our county, stay in Hotels, campgrounds, B&B's and cabins. They will visit attractions, they will eat in our restaurants and shop in our stores. We are very excited about the great contributions soon to happen with the opening of this great new facility.

Sincerely,
John Dersham
DeKalb County Tourist Association

Visit: <http://fieldschool.jsu.edu/>
for a complete schedule of upcoming events

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

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Many Thanks from MERF

Winter is coming which means that Senior lunches on Wednesday at the Mentone Community House have come to an end except for the Christmas party on December 17th. We have had lots of good fun and plenty of fellowship with singing and playing. MERF would like to thank all of those who helped provide a wonderful time this Fall for our community. Thanks go to many that enriched us with wonderful food and service; Tony and Eleanor Teverino (Raven Haven B&B), Mae Hilburn, Susan Petty, Mentone Community Church, St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church, Mentone Methodist Church, the Library Board, MAPA, Camp Laney, Camp DeSoto, and Camp Riverview. Thanks to the librarians: Ann Chestnut and Jill Whitten who keep our noses in good books.

We also appreciate the wonderful piano playing and guitar strumming by Elizabeth Romans, Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones and Harold Broyles. We hope that all who came enjoyed themselves.

If you would like to help with food or serving in the Spring, feel free to contact Sue Henry or Sarah Wilcox. Thanks to all Mentone residents and friends that help support MERF and its mission "to enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources".

See you at the Christmas Party hosted by the Teverinos!

Need a great Christmas gift? Support MERF (Mentone Educational Resources Foundation) this season by purchasing a "Leave Me in Mentone" t-shirt. Long sleeve and short sleeve shirts in fabulous colors are available for purchase at Little River Hardware or Mountain Laurel Inn B&B. All proceeds support MERF programs such as Senior lunches on Wednesdays, a fine Arts program at Moon Lake Elementary School and field trips. Help us support our wonderful community today with a t-shirt purchase or a donation.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for all the things you did during the sickness and death of our loved one. We extend a special thanks to those who helped take care of him during his last days. We appreciate the food, flowers, memorial gifts, cards, visits, and especially the prayers in his behalf. We miss him terribly, as we know all of you do, but we are grateful that he is not suffering any more. Thank you again for your kindness and expressions of love. The family of L.M. Flannigan

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VALLEY HEAD WATER WORKS BOARD
P.O. BOX 195, 101 SCHOOL STREET
VALLEY HEAD, AL 35989
(256) 635-6527 • Fax: 256) 635-6558
November 18, 2008

Dear Customer,

The Valley Head Water Works Board is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During 2004 thru 2007, we did not monitor for Radium-228 and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water concerning Radium-228 during that time.

Please share this information with all other people who think this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

The reason for this monitoring non compliance was the misunderstanding of the number of samples required for Radium-22 during this monitoring period. Although the required is 1 (one) sample for 4 (four) consecutive quarters, only 1 (one) sample was taken during the 4th quarter of 2007. Since that time, during the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters of 2008, follow-up samples were collected and results were good. The water board has taken steps to insure that these types of misunderstandings should not occur again.

Should you have any questions concerning this non-compliance or monitoring requirements, please contact: Dennis Lewis, System Manager at (256) 635-8125, (256) 635-6527, or the office located at 101 School Street, Valley Head, Alabama 35989.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Lewis, System Manager
Valley Head Water Works Board

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RAMBLIN

By Bill Crane

Let us put baseball to bed for the year. The World Series was interesting more from who played in it than from the play itself. Tampa Bay was playing in it for the first time and Philadelphia for the first time since 1980. The Phillies won their division near the last of the season even though they trailed the Mets most of the year. In my opinion, their Division was the weakest in the National League, which contained our Braves. Tampa Bay was strong in their division all year and beat the Red Sox by several games for the title. The fact that the Phillies won in 5 games in the World Series was due more from the help they got from TB than from their own expertise. For instance, the 3rd and 4th batters for TB went 0 for 31 in the first four games, and ended with 3 hits in 39 times at bat with 1 run and 4 RBI's. The three hits, 1 run and 2 RBI's all came in the last, the 5th, game. The most interesting part to me was Hamels, the Phillies ace pitcher and Most Valuable Player in the World Series, almost going into the history books as the only pitcher to win 5 post-season games in 5 starts. He and other pitchers had won 4 in 4 starts but no one has won 5 in 5 starts. Hamels started his fifth game in the World Series game 5 after having won four in four starts this post-season. He pitched for 5 1/2 innings and gave up 2 runs while the Phillies had 2. In the bottom of the sixth the Phillies scored a

run so the score was 3 to 2 in his favor when a relief pitcher was put in his place in the top of the seventh. If the Phillies had held that score through the end of the game, Hamels would have been in the history books. But, TB scored a run in the top of the seventh to make the score 3 to 3 and eliminated the history book possibility for Hamels. I predict that there will be wholesale changes in all baseball teams before next season. Some changes have already been made, and there will be many more up until the start of next season. Obviously, there are many overpaid players, most of them stars.

Have you ever seen a perfect football offense? I have seen one, and you did too if you watched the Appalachian State - Wofford college football game on a recent Friday night. Appalachian State's offense was perfect in the first half. They received the ball six times and made six touchdowns. I had never seen perfect and precise passing and receiving, and running, even in professional football, like I saw Appalachian State play during the first half to lead Wofford by 42 to 14. The passes were right on the money, the receivers were at the spots they were supposed to be to receive and catch the pass, and the runners went where the offensive line opened holes for them. I'll never forget Appalachian State's first half.

College football has almost decided which teams are the cream of the crop. As I write this, there are five unbeaten teams in Division 1, Alabama, Texas Tech, Utah, Ball State, and Boise State. Alabama survived a scare at LSU, and

Texas Tech laid it on Texas and Oklahoma State for both teams to stay undefeated and number 1 and 2, respectfully, for the third week in a row. This is as first for this season, that is, two teams to stay 1 and 2 for so long. Until now the first and second teams have been defeated almost weekly. Nick Saban is earning his eight million this year as he is unbeaten in eleven games going into the final regular season game against his nemesis, Auburn, who he'll play the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Texas Tech has to play Baylor that Saturday, and Oklahoma the week before. Oklahoma has a better chance of winning than Auburn, I think. Oklahoma has been rated in the top five in recent polls, and appear to have a good team. They are playing Texas Tech at home which makes Texas Tech behind 10 points at the start of the game, right? However, I am picking Texas Tech over Oklahoma and Baylor, and Alabama over Auburn. If that happens, the winners will be unbeaten and will meet in the college championship game. That would be a dandy of a game as each team has an outstanding quarterback! If they play, I pick Alabama more in the interest of keeping my wife happy than in the thought of which is the better team. After all, I must live with my wife each day, so I pick Alabama to win. I care more for my own safety than who wins the game! GO TIDE.

Poor Auburn. My friend Charlie Jones was right all the time. He said Auburn was not a good football team. The result of their struggling has been to

shake up the coordinators under Tuberville. This makes the coaches go back to the drawing board and start over. They almost pulled an upset over Georgia, so I look for them to give Alabama a good fight. They should be a power next year, but give them some slack to get their game together. Did you watch the LSU - Troy game in Baton Rouge? What a comeback LSU made! It was in the second half and Troy was leading 31 to 3 when I turned it off convinced that Troy had made the upset of the century. Then Troy self-destructed according to the paper the next day and LSU won 39 to 31.

Pro Football is well underway. There are some new kids in the block there. The Titans of Nashville, Tennessee are unbeaten, and the New York Jets with their new quarterback Favre is near the top of their division. America's Team, the Cowboys, are so so this year. They have three outstanding players in Owens, Barber, and Romo, but lack team chemistry to make them a great team. The New England patriots, who were unbeaten during the regular season last year, are another so so team. They lost Brady, their quarterback and heart of their offense, to injuries and he has missed several games.

College and professional basketball have started, and I don't look for any changes in the top teams this year. NASCAR has finished another year with Johnson winning for the third straight year. Edwards was the hottest at the end.

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LAKE FRONT LIVING... Walk right out the back door to custom built wooden decks and walkways to your own boat dock on Lake Lahusage. This 2 bedroom, 2 bath cottage with pine floors, wood burning fireplace and screened porch, 2-story 2-car garage with apartment possibilities can be yours for only \$369,900. (16822)



IN-TOWN CHARMER - Walk to downtown Mentone from this 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath cottage featuring wood floors, cathedral ceiling and gazebo all on 1 acre with more available. Call today! \$149,900 (16659)



LAKEFRONT PROPERTY ON LOOKOUT MTN FOR ONLY \$189,900! Don't miss your chance to own this BRAND NEW cabin with over 150' of waterfront, 2BR/2BA, kitchen/dining combination, spacious living area with fireplace, and deck to relax and enjoy the view. Dock already in place, so grab your fishing gear and call now! (18272)



LOOKING FOR A MOUNTAIN GET-A-WAY? 3BR/1BA home just minutes from Mentone. Completely remodeled, this home is move-in ready! New kitchen appliances include range, refrigerator, microwave, and washer/dryer. Updated wiring, new CH&A, fresh interior paint, and rock fireplace. Sitting on two lots with a covered back deck, nice mature trees and outbuilding. \$116,000 (17931)



A HIDEAWAY HEAVEN on Lake Windmill! Reward yourself with this BRAND NEW 2BR/2BA cabin situated on 2 +/- acres with approx. 80' of lake frontage and a dock already in place. Pine floors, walls and ceilings, custom cabinetry with granite countertops, stone front gas fireplace, covered deck, and best of all it's move-in ready. Grab your fishing gear and suitcase! \$179,900 (17909)



LOOKING FOR A WEEKEND GET-AWAY or a great starter home? Features a front glassed-in porch, cozy living room, formal dining room, kitchen, original hardwood floors, 2/3BR, bath, plus a separate guest cottage with a bedroom and bath. Out back are 3 marble terraces for entertaining and outdoor dining. This unique charmer has unlimited possibilities. \$149,900 (18042)



LOCATED ON LAKE LAHUSAGE you will find this 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage home. Positioned on a treed lot with boat dock in place. Pack your bags and bring your canoe. \$149,900 (17906)



GREAT residential property at corner of 117 and 641 in Mentone. High visibility for a business or convert back to a 2 bedroom cottage with fenced yard. Call today to see. \$49,900 (16818)



YOUR OWN PRIVATE SANCTUARY...FOUND! This 36+/- acres featuring a pond and small cabin with 2 bedrooms and 1 bath may be just what you've been waiting for. This wooded acreage offers you lots of privacy and activity. Call today. \$219,000 (18238)



THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE MANY, BUT PROPERTIES LIKE THIS ARE FEW!! This beautiful traditional 5 bedroom, 4 bath brick home on over 40 rolling acres has ceramic kitchen with island and all the extras. Approximately 18 acres cleared, nice large barn and livestock pond. \$429,000 (14651)



MENTONE - Over 200' of breathtaking brow view of mountains and valley located within walking distance to Historic Mentone. Put your special touch on this partially finished cabin with 2 rock fireplaces and a 2-car carport. \$325,000 (18270)



MENTONE TREASURE! Over 300' of the most private and panoramic brow frontage in downtown Mentone with impressive rock entrance, retainer walls and century old trees. Restore this 3BR/2BA home to its original splendor which features a living room w/rock fireplace, Florida room, dining room and screened sleeping porch all overlooking a fabulous view. Also included is an in-ground pool and pavilion. Walking distance to Downtown Historic Mentone. \$650,000 (18271)



MOUNTAIN MAGIC! Enjoy the comforts of this magnificent Heritage log home currently under construction in Northbend. Property offers 2 bedrooms plus an open loft for possible 3rd bedroom, 2-1/2 baths, pine floors, covered front porch and side deck all situated on a 3.32 acre wooded lot. \$285,900 (16884)

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ENJOY THE GORGEOUS VIEW OF THE LAKE from this NEW construction in Mentone offering 2BR/2BA, large open living room with fireplace, spacious kitchen with dining area, master bath with garden tub and more. Call for your appointment today. \$169,900 (15985)



IF WALLS COULD TALK you could hear all the great stories this family and home has shared for over 50 years. Now this comfort and warmth is offered to you with 3 bedrooms, pine floors, den and storage basement in downtown Mentone. \$119,000 (16803)



BREATHTAKING VIEW! You can enjoy the view year round from this one-level brick home. This property is situated on DeSoto Parkway and is "just around the corner" from DeSoto State Park and Mentone. 3BR/2BA, living and dining combination, wood burning fireplace, spacious kitchen with breakfast bar, sunroom and large deck. \$475,000 (17082)



LOOKING FOR PEACE AND QUIET? We've got it! This immaculately kept 4BR/2BA home is surrounded by 3 +/- acres of nature's abundance, yet is within walking distance to downtown Mentone. Kitchen and dining combination, 546' square feet of finished basement, CH&A, ceramic and laminate wood-grain floors, and more. Additional acreage available. \$174,900 (16376)



YOU WILL FALL IN LOVE with this custom built log home situated on a private, wooded lot of over 2 acres in Mentone. This unique property offers log and pine walls, great room with wood burning stone fireplace, dining area, sleeping porch, kitchen with hard rock maple countertops, open front cabinets. 2BR/2BA complete the downstairs. Upstairs, an open loft with built-in beds and space enough for extra guests. Offered for \$325,000. (16773)



YOU'LL FEEL RIGHT AT HOME in this charming farmhouse on a beautiful level lot of over one acre. Wood floors and wood walls, comfortable living area, large dining room, kitchen with walk-in pantry, 2 bedrooms and a lovely bath with whirlpool tub, and more. Major renovations have been completed on much of the house. \$159,900 (17131)



COME SEE THIS BROW LOT in Mentone featuring a unique log structure that you can use to get away from it all. The log structure has been moved to this site and offers an open living space with 1 bedroom and a bath. You'll have plenty of acreage to build something new or just enjoy the atmosphere of days gone by. \$279,900 (18256)



NATIVE MOUNTAIN FOLIAGE creates a level of privacy for this 3BR/2BA brick house on 3 lots with 300' on the West Fork of Little River. Split BR design, large family room with cathedral ceiling and mountain stone wood-burning fireplace, screened porch overlooking a walkway to the river. 2 storage sheds (1 with electricity), an attached 2-car garage, and CH/A. \$269,000 (16371)



MOVE UP TO RIVERFRONT! Get an open and airy feeling throughout this 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home. Features include an oversized state-of-the-art kitchen with eating area, stone fireplace, wood and tile floors, oversized back porch and boat dock. Appealing landscaping with large native stones. Many windows to soak up the views. A must see for \$579,000. (17781)



NORTHBEND... A gated subdivision. Your family will love this rustic cabin under construction nestled in a wooded 1.8 acre tract featuring great room with vaulted beamed ceiling and fireplace. There are 2 bedrooms each with walk-in closets, 2-1/2 baths and loft/den. Bring your rockers and enjoy the front porch and rear grilling deck. \$165,000 (16721)



LIVE AND PLAY ON THE WATER! Enjoy 200' of frontage on the East Fork of Little River in this waterfront home featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, rock floors as well as some carpet, all appliances, wood burning fireplace, and storage building. Call for more details. \$347,900 (18278)



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEWS! Custom log home with vaulted ceiling great room, stacked rock fireplace, large kitchen/dining, spacious loft for extra living/sleeping/storage, walkout basement/game room, separate basement storage. Enjoy year-round unsurpassed views, large deck and screened-in porch. Private location in a restricted subdivision near Little River Canyon. \$349,000 (18235)

4 ACRES with 300' of brow frontage and gorgeous rock formations. \$265,000 (17175)

10 ACRES WITH 300' ON LITTLE RIVER with lovely views, nice timber and natural landscaping. Co-broke with Prime Realty. \$100,000 (16843)

11.8 ACRES WITH 500' ON LITTLE RIVER with lovely views and natural landscaping. Co-broke with Prime Realty. \$120,000 (16844)

LOOKING FOR THE MENTONE GET-A-WAY?

This new development offers only 4 lots with gorgeous trees. Located off Co. Rd. 106 close to Desoto State Park and Desoto Falls. (17585)

Get your blue prints ready and start building your cabin today! Lots are priced at \$35,000 each. (17060/17061)

IT'S BETTER THAN GOLD! Attention subdividers - here's your opportunity! Great layout with this 22 +/- acre parcel of property near Lake Lahusage in Mentone. Lots have already been surveyed or you can keep as a whole. \$179,900 (17399)

LOOKOUT MTN. NURSERY offers 9 greenhouses with inventory! \$69,900 (16393)

NATURE LOVERS DREAM! HIDDEN LAKES SUBDIVISION - Lot listed at \$59,900 (17585)

LAKE ON THE BROW - 1 acre lot on the lake. \$59,500 (17384)

BROKEN DAM @ LAKE LAHUSAGE! Waterfront lots starting at \$66,000 (17334)

3 +/- ACRES on the E. Fork of Little River. \$165,000 (17568)

NO MORE DAYDREAMING about living on Little River! Pristine river lot with 150 +/- feet frontage. You can put in a boat from your private dock, ride for 10 minutes and have a 104' waterfall to view. \$195,000 (17782)

WATERFRONT LOT in Lake on the Brow Sub. \$85,000 (18038)

WEST FORK SUB. - 3.22 acre tract with hardwoods. \$49,900 (18037)

THE OUTDOORS IS CALLING YOU! Hidden Lake Subdivision bordering Little River National Preserve offers a gated community for people of like interests. Great building lot on the lake. For more information, go to www.hidden-lake.com \$95,000 (18406)

OVERLOOKING THE VALLEY! You'll want to hurry and pick just the right spot on this 100' brow lot off Scenic Drive in Mentone. Hurry, the price is right and they won't last long. Two lots to choose from. \$149,900 (18311)

LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

by Linda Brown

President Jan Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. on November 20, 2008. After the necessary reports, she asked for the reports of committee chairs. The report that the 2009 Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library calendars are printed and here was well received. The members will soon be delivering to those who have placed an order and a few extras are available for sale. If you do not have your birthdays and anniversaries in this one, you can give us the information now and it will be in the 2010 calendar. The cost is \$5.00 per calendar and the local phone numbers which are shown in the ads are priceless! Get yours today.

Jan reported that the program "Reading for Pizza" has ended and the winner is the First Grade class taught by Mrs. Jennifer Gorham. They will be receiving a pizza party in their room soon. They had the most stars on the board. This meant that their parents and friends have been checking books and DVD's out of the library and telling the Librarian, Beverly Ashley, that they have a child in first grade. This is a lot of fun and the competition can become fierce toward the end of the program, as it did this year.

The tribute to veterans of World War

II on Saturday, November 15, 2005, beginning at 10:00 a.m. was one of the best programs we have offered. Robert Moehr began the program with his explanation of how the book, A History of World War II Veterans, came to be. He stated that several people realized that the personal stories of this war will soon be lost if they are not preserved in some way. Therefore, with the help of Don Wood, Julia Brown and many others, veterans were interviewed and their stories were put into a book. This is a large book because along with each story is a picture of the veteran. He has these books available for sale. He then presented Don Wood who has a collection of memorabilia of World War II which is unbelievable. Don told how he has acquired some of the collection and that he started "saving" these artifacts when he was eight years old, he brought a small portion of his items for display. This was most interesting to those present. Refreshments were available throughout the morning.

The Holiday Season is here and the members of the Board of Directors have made plans to enjoy the season in several ways. Once again, the Holiday Train will be on display in the library. We try very hard to give everyone a chance to enjoy the library and to educate them to what we have available. In light of this, members of the board will be on hand in the library on Wednesday,

December 18 to welcome each class of Moon Lake Elementary School to view the train and other decorations of the season. Each student will be given an ornament to take home as a reminder of the library. On Thursday, December 18, Open House will be held in the library from 3:00 until 6:00 p.m. This is a time for everyone to stop by the library and meet the members of the board, see the decorations, and have some light refreshments.

The members of the board have already started to plan for next year. Watch for the date of another program of "Meet the Author" in the spring. The guest of honor will be Hank Willett who has published a book, In the Spirit:

Alabama's Sacred Music Traditions. Also on the planning board is the Winter Book Sale in February. Watch for information on this event.

Come visit the library and we still need volunteers to help in many different ways. Leave your name and a phone number with the librarian and someone will contact you. Our meetings are always open to the public and you are welcome to attend to see what we are doing. To be on the agenda for a meeting, call Jan Wilkinson.

Next meeting of Board of Directors: January 15, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in library. Write to us: Moon Lake Community Library, P.O. Box 481, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

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TIPS ON TREES

Hello Readers, the time of year is upon us all where we are getting busy with our holiday planning; but our trees are approaching the sleeping stage of the season.

In most cases, this is a perfect time to get rid of all those unwanted branches and deadwood. This also may help in the near future with rumors of a bad winter coming.

As you are preparing for the months ahead, please take this time to look at your trees and prepare them for a possible icy winter. This also can prevent more costly damage to homes and other structures.

And last, but not least, remember to check your chimney before you begin to burn your fireplaces on a regular basis. I recommend you have your chimney inspected once a year, as well as your dryer vents.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your friendship and support in making this year such a success. I look forward to continue serving you all and the surrounding communities.

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PARKS?

John Baty

Theodore Roosevelt, President, on seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time, was relieved to hear that plans to build a hotel at Rowe's Point had been rejected. "Leave it as it is, you cannot improve on it. The ages have been at work on it, and Man can only mar it."

Something of the attitude of the first "modern" environmentalist has cascaded down across the subsequent century forming the essence of our sometimes-distorted concept of Nature. After the work of Aldo Leopold, more reclamation than preservation, the fate of things natural has waxed and waned in the eternal struggle between exploiters and preservers of the vestigial remnants of what once existed.

While no one can ever completely understand the mind of another, it seems intuitively valid that at least some germ of the original inspiration which catalyzed the formation of the great National and State Parks still exists in the plans and establishment of city parks, both large and small.

The concept of "park" which I grew up with was one of trees, shade, water, picnics, camaraderie, relaxation in an environment removed from the tensions of our conventional existence. There is a certain subtle transition of mood, analogous to stepping from an auditorium of cheering people into the solitude of night, which one experiences upon entering the natural atmosphere of a park. It is our belief that the essence of any park is escape from the chaos of artificiality into the world of reality.

There is opportunity there. Every blade of grass, every pebble, every tree has a story to tell, an education for every age, especially the young. A park is living proof of the existence of something not made by man. A park is not an appropriate place for restaurants, for vending machines. It should not be a place where special interest groups advertise their wares; their

philosophies. Lights and nativity stalls detract from the original image of nature, preservation, escape.

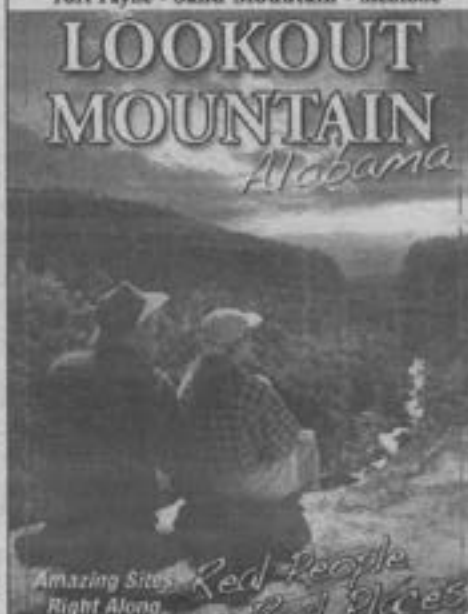
The most insidious violation of the park concept, however, is the installation of the monstrous, plastic things purported to be play facilities. One is led to wonder if the real purpose of the incongruous aberrations is the desire of mothers to be relieved of the 'tasks' of helping their children experience something of substance, helping them to develop the awe and respect which nature never fails to provide when requested.

We can have the restaurants, the burgers, the Danishes, the sports (which belong in the gym or stadium), those gaudily painted aberrations in plastic and thirty thousand distracting lights. We can have those things. And if that is what the majority wants, then in the American way, I guess I would be for it. But let us not despoil the dreams, the ambitions, the hopes of those first preservers, those sincere lovers of things natural by calling it a Park!

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Grandparents are Bobby and Mary Ann Clines, of Sylvania and the late Jerl Clines Sr.

Colby's great-grandmother is Essie Clines Ferguson.

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Remember When?

These photos were given to the editor by Richard Sisson, Jones family geneologist from Charlotte, NC, to be used in The Groundhog. (Herman Jones is editor Evelyn Graves' father.) The Jones boys, Carl and Herman, and the Culberson boys, John, Lee, and Benton were good friends. The pictures were given to Richard by Bamalean Culberson.

If our readers have old photos you would like to share with The Groundhog, please send them to us and we will make Remember When? a regular column.



Mr. Davenport had Davenport General Store underneath the Hitching Post. This picture was made about 1918. Ed Culberson is the customer.

The Wigwam, one time tea room was located where Mentone City Park is now located. This picture was made in 1925.



The Jones and Culberson brothers had free range at Mentone. Pictured about 1924-25 are Herman Jones, Lee Culberson and an unidentified young man. If anyone can identify him, please let The Groundhog know.

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3rd Place: Mack Flannigan, Shawn Flannigan, Michael Flannigan, and John Kincer



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A HISTORY OF WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Compiled by Julia Brown

This book was the center of attention when Mr. Robert Moehr and Mr. Don Wood came to the Moon Lake Community Library on the morning of November 15, 2008. The books were on display and available for purchase. This is a very impressive book. It is a large book and contains many stories and pictures of the veterans of World War II who enlisted from DeKalb County. Many of the thirty-five persons present realized that they knew of others who were not included in the book and forms, were available for this information if the printing of another book is considered.

Jan Wilkinson introduced Mr. Moehr who explained how the book came to be. He said it all started when he accompanied a bus load of WW II veterans on a trip to visit the World War II Monument and other points of interest in Washington, D.C. His stories of keeping up with this many "older" people were inter-

esting and sometimes funny. He said that the first eye-opener was when the bus driver said, "Did you count them?" He replied, "What do you mean, count them?" The bus driver explained that you always count the number of people who get on the bus and if that is not the number you are supposed to have, you find the missing persons. Mr. Moehr said that this was an invaluable lesson many times throughout the trip. Sometimes someone was delayed, lost or just forgot to come back to the bus on time.

This was a most interesting trip for Mr. Moehr and he realized the need to preserve the stories that the veterans started to tell. Most of them have kept these stories hidden from even their families, but the sight of the monument and the emotions felt when reading the list of names renewed these memories. After the trip Mr. Moehr set up interviews with some of the veterans and made a set of DVD's. Each DVD has one veteran's story on it.

This project started the need for a book. Mr. Moehr, along with Julia Brown, Don Wood and many others, worked long and hard to get all the information on many veterans and to

make sure that this information was correct. Each story includes a picture of the veteran, usually in his uniform. The Moon Lake Community Library has the complete set of these DVD's, given by Wayne Gautreau and Jane Faile. These can be checked out for one week. The library also has a copy of the book, given by Martha and Pete Wood. The book is in Special Collections and cannot be checked out, but you can look at it while in the library and make copies of any information you would like to have.

Mr. Moehr introduced Mr. Wood

who told how he has collected WW II memorabilia since he was eight years old. He told of how information can be obtained on any veteran. Each star, stripe or bar on the uniform has a special meaning. He had a part of his vast collection on display and explained what each item was and the significance of each.

Refreshments were available throughout the morning and many people stayed and talked with Mr. Moehr and Mr. Wood. This was one of the most interesting programs that has been presented by the Board of Directors of the library.



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