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THE

GROUNDHOG

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Volume 14, No. 2

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

February 1996

SNOW FUN



**Jacob Thompson
takes to the ski slopes**

**P.E. Helper, Brad Abbot instructing Stephanie Brantley which
slope to practice on, while James Peoples adjusts his skis.**

**Regina Hamilton practicing
on the slopes at Cloudmont**

Photos by Linda Ellis

The only ski resort in Alabama was the site of the ski training for the 1996 Special Olympics. On Tuesday, January 23, at Cloudmont Ski Resort, Mentone, Alabama, over 50 students from the Alabama School for the Blind, Montevallo, Mountain Brook, Gadsden, and Anniston participated in the training session for the Special Olympics held in Boone, North Carolina, February 3-7.

After practicing during the morning, heats were held in the afternoon.

The winners on the intermediate slope were:

- 1st - Mack Hugley
- 2nd - Chad Gross
- 3rd - Nathan Curtis

The winners on the beginners' slope were:

- 1st - Stephen Gentry
- 2nd - Robert Shaw
- 3rd - James Peoples

All of the students who participated in the training event enjoyed the ski slopes, some taking spills, but getting back up for more fun.

The owners of Cloudmont Ski Resort, Jack Jones and son, Gary Jones, are proud of their slopes. Now in its 26th year, they make their own snow. The resort has operated almost 60 days so far this season, with the cold temperatures and abundance of snow. During the night of January 11, there was a lot of snow accumulation on the mountain and all

over the eastern portion of the United States. Jack Jones, said "The Lord gave us 3 inches, but it didn't make skiing any better than it already was."

Continued on Page 5.

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Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Other Dates

- Tuesday, February 12, 2 p.m., Public Hearing, Mentone Town Hall (See notice pg. .)
- Wednesday, February 14, Valentine's Day
- Friday, February 16, Womanless Beauty Pageant (pg. 13)
- Monday, February 19, President's Day (Schools are out)
- Monday, March 4, 6 p.m., Mentone Council Meeting, Town Hall
- Tuesday, March 7, 7 p.m., MAPA Meeting, Town Hall

Look on Page 7 for the "Authentic Civil War Stories from the collection of Grady Hammond"

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THE GROUNDHOG

P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984



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

The deadline for all material for The Groundhog is the 22nd day of the month preceding publication. The Publication is due out by the first Tuesday of each month.

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THANK YOU

Danny and Lisa Scott would like to thank everyone for their love and concern during son Justin's recent illness. The hospital calls, cards, and prayers meant more than you can know. God bless you for caring.

Dewey Lisa Scott

BABYSITTER WANTED: Need someone to come to my home from in the Cloudland area, from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m., Mon. thru Fri., Georgia time, to take care of two boys, ages 2 and 4. Call 1-706-862-2327 after 6 p.m. Georgia Time.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAPA PRESIDENT

By Bernise Crow

February is our magical month. A month made for lovers on Valentine's Day. It's a short month, but, of course, we have 29 days this year. It's presidential election year, and each politician will tell us all the dirt he can dig up on the other candidate. I don't really relish it.

February is famous for Groundhog Day, and the old saying, that, if the groundhog sees his shadow, we have six more weeks of winter weather. We would have it anyway.

Groundhog Day is also the anniversary day for MAPA. Our first meeting to establish the community organization was held on Groundhog Day, hence, our mascot is the furry creature. The name of our paper came about because of this being founders day. I believe this is our 14th anniversary. We should have a puxatawny party. Homer was president of the organization when the owners of the Log Cabin Deli offered a free dinner for the first picture of a live groundhog. Our dog "treed" one, or ran him into a concrete block. Homer caught him, and I used my last polaroid film to capture the event. It appeared in the paper shortly afterward.

Happy Valentine Day to all of you, and don't try to catch a groundhog. He bites hard.



Rhododendron Garden Club

The February meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club will be held at the home of Penny Lyday, on Tuesday, February 13, at 2 p.m. Roll call is to name your favorite shade tree. Linda Brown has the devotional. The program is "Nationally Known Famous Trees" by Marilyn Blanton Campbell. Hostesses are Linda Brown, Penny Lyday, and Ruby Daniel.

SNOW FUN pictures

See related story on page 1, and continued on page 5. Cutlines for the two pictures below are:

(1) James Peoples preparing to go practice; P.E. helper Brad Abbot, helping Regina Hamilton with her skis; and John Hill, preparing to put on his skis.

(2) Regina Hamilton and Stephanie Brantley in the back; Yona Alexander (far right) practicing on the slopes in preparation of the Special Olympics; Steven Gentry (sitting down); and two unidentified skiers.

Photos by Linda Ellis



1



2

SPORTS ON THE SCENE

By Phil Harris

Fyffe girls and Collinsville boys win their third straight DeKalb County Tournament titles. Area tournaments begin this week.

The Fyffe Lady Red Devils made it three in a row with a thrilling 54-52 overtime victory over Plainview. The Lady Bears controlled the game throughout, until Joy Simmons sank a free throw with one second remaining, to put the game into overtime. Candace Peppers sank two free throws with four seconds left in OT to win it for the Lady Devils. Shane Ingram of Plainview was unable to get a shot off the buzzer. Fyffe defeated Valley Head 39-36 in the semi-finals, and Plainview defeated Collinsville 65-55.

It was a surprise to see Fyffe win the County Tournament again. They lost five key players off the two-time state championship team. The Lady Devils began the season at 2-7. Joy Simmons was out injured, and things were sinking fast for coach Mike Cochran's squad. Now that Simmons has returned, the team has won 12 of 14. Now, Fyffe sets their sights on Section. The Lady Lions are in the same area with Fyffe and have given the Devils both losses in the last 14 games.

Collinsville (21-6) ripped through the competition to win the county title. The Panthers blasted Ider (83-61), Plainview (95-58), and Crossville (77-56). Solomon Stanton, Billy Wayne Clanton, Delvin George, and company showed everyone in the county that they cannot be touched when they're hot.

Collinsville now sets its sights on a 1A state championship. The Panthers lost to Autaugaville in the semi finals of the state tournament last year. This year, they have a great point guard in Delvin George. He may lead Coach Neil Thrash's team to Birmingham and bring home the 1A state title.

The area tournaments are on us once again. Several teams from DeKalb County are threats to win it all once again. Some of the best girls areas in the state are right here in northeast Alabama. On the boys' side, probably Collinsville and Crossville (18-6) are the real threats.

Here is a quick preview of some of the teams around the area. 1A Area 16 girls includes Valley Head (15-8) and Collinsville (19-4). The Lady Tigers host the tournament as the number one seed. Valley Head will play the winner of Cedar Bluff and Woodville. The Lady Panthers play the winner between Paint Rock Valley and Gaylesville. Keep an eye on the Lady Tigers.

2A Area 16, Fyffe (15-9) will play Ider (4-15). The winner will play the winner between Skyline and Section for the area championship.

3A Area 14, Sylvania (8-16) will play Plainview (13-10) at North Sand Mountain. The winner takes on NSM, the number one seed in the area. Pisgah and DAR make up the rest of the field.

5A Area B Fort Payne (24-2) hosts North Jackson in the first round. If the Wildcats win, they will play the winner between Albertville and Scottsboro.

The girls area tournaments begin Feb. 8.

Boys Area Preview

1A Area 16 boys is being hosted by Collinsville. The Panthers are seeded number one. Valley Head plays Point Rock Valley, the winner gets Woodville. Collinsville plays the winner between Cedar Bluff and Gaylesville.

2A Area 13, Geraldine (10-10) will play Sand Rock. The winner gets Crossville for the area championship.

2A Area 14, Fyffe (6-13) will play Skyline, and Ider will play the number one seed, Section. The winners will meet for the area title 3A Area 14. Plainview (13-10) will take on North Sand Mountain. The winner gets Pisgah, the number one seed. Sylvania (11-9) takes on always tough DAR. 5A Area 13 Fort Payne (7-17) will play North Jackson at Albertville. The winner takes on the winner between Scottsboro and host Albertville.

The winners of each area tournament will host the substate first round. The area runner ups will travel in the substate. Survivors of the substate will go to Jacksonville State for the Northeast Regional Tournament. Two wins there, and it's on to Birmingham. Hopefully, next month will recap all the area teams and tell you about the big winners in Birmingham.

Locally, congratulations go out to Kayla Bell, Jamie Baugh, and Nikki Smith, for making the All-County Tournament team.

Jon Baggett made the team on the boys side. Also, the JV girls at Valley Head were runners-up in the DeKalb County Tournament.

Be listening to WFFA-AM 1400 for coverage of the area, substate, regional, and state tournaments. Coverage will begin somewhere around Feb. 8, and will continue as long as a DeKalb County team is in the running for a state championship.

NATIONAL SPORTS AT A GLANCE

By Phil Harris

Pro Football - The Super Bowl was finally fun and entertaining. No one gave Pittsburgh much of a chance against Dallas. The Steelers totally outgunned the Cowboys, but the Boys won the war. Look for Pittsburgh to be back again. This team has a great nucleus of young, talented, and seasoned veterans. Next year's super bowl may finally go to and AFC team.

Pro Basketball - Chicago continues to dominate the NBA. Dennis Rodman is the piece of the puzzle the Bulls have been looking for. Orlando will be the only team in the Eastern Conference to challenge Chicago. Youth against experience will be an exciting match up in the Eastern Conference Finals.

In the Western Conference, the story is the return of Magic Johnson. Can Magic wake up the Lakers? Who knows? The Houston Rockets still are the team to beat. The last two seasons the playoffs have been kind to the Rockets.

Pro Baseball - Snow and Ice have been the story for this winger. When will it ever end? Here's something to think about. Spring training begins in two weeks. This means spring is just around the corner. Get your tomahawk chops ready for the World Series again.

College Basketball - Kentucky and U-Mass are still on top of the college basketball world. Kentucky has dominated the SEC and will continue to do so. The SEC tournament in New Orleans will be the Wildcats to lose. Miss. State has the potential, but don't look for it. U-Mass is dominating the Atlantic 10 Conference. A U-Mass - Kentucky NCAA final would be too much to ask for.

College Baseball - LSU and Tennessee are ranked in the top 5 of most pre-season polls. Yes, year in and year out, LSU has a very solid baseball program. Tennessee hopes to top last year's 4th place performance in the college world series. Keep an eye on Florida, Auburn, and improving Alabama.

Finally, have you been reading about Heather Mayes (formerly of Fyffe) in the Times Journal? She is now starting for the Lady Hilltoppers. Western Kentucky has a diamond in the rough in Mayes. I cannot believe SEC schools let her get away.

Woods College Basketball - Parity in women's basketball has stretched across the country. Georgia, Connecticut, Tennessee, Louisiana Tech, Vanderbilt, Kentucky, Stanford, and Virginia could beat each other at any given time. If you get a chance, go see the women's basketball tournament in Chattanooga the first week in March. Seven SEC teams are ranked in the top 25. The tournament was exciting last year and promises even better this year.

That does it for another month. God willing, I will see you next month.

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From Between the Counters

By
BRUTUS



Grand and glorious, readers! How much longer will this hideous weather linger? Moi's loyal, devoted fans cannot brave the elements, and I'm suffering terribly from lack of local adoration. The Superette is crammed with flatlander skiers, most of whom wouldn't recognize superbness in a noble canine if he did the "select one tootsie pop trick" a dozen times!

Speaking of which, here comes the Riley and Beth Taylor ski bunch from Andalusia, Ala., now. (Not the first treat from Caroline, Katherine, Riley Hill or Reid Taylor. What do they plan to do with their money? Hearses don't have racks on the top.)

Somebody call a vet! (Not Butcher McNew who can't tell a toe nail from a vital part.) Brian and Cindy Phillips brought in some pitiful dog that had had its face smashed in. They said it was a Chinese Pug, and it was supposed to look like that. NOT! Moi knows a truck-flattened puss when moi sees one! Gross!!

Street-person Billy Cash just slipped in the door, never knowing that moi can recognize from a mile away the motor in that junk heap he drives. Cute, real cute, Billy-bum. Shoving a cancer stick in my face. How'd you like to smoke it in your ear, nicotine breath!

Can you believe people would drive all the way from Woodville, Mississippi, just to see snow?? Well, loyal subjects, Lee and Wendy White brought sons Cap, Forrest, GEB, and Semmes to Mentone to do just that: SEE SNOW! I'll show them snow--watch moi plow the way to the house through the "white stuff" between the Superette and home. These flatlanders must be a brick short of a full load--much like street person, Jack Lusk.

Do you smell something fishy in the Superette? Eddie and Peggy Hesse from Foley, Ala., just left. They run a fish company in Foley and just had to come see magnificent moi. The poor things invested in a toy poodle instead of a real dog, and now are wanting to bring it to see me. That pitiful excuse for a real canine would take its life if it saw moi and came face-to-face with what a truly splendid creature looked like. Don't do it to the little thing, people!

Not more flatlander skiers! Sharon, Mike, and Brandon Williams; Ryan Mines; Greg, Laura, Beth, and Alex Green; Delva, Haley, and Lynn Jones--all from Clanton, Ala. They came as unbelievers of perfection and left in tears of wonder at moi's splendidness. Hate to do it to young folks, but when I stand, the muscles just automatically ripple like that.

More snow bunnies just staggered in from Chickamauga, Ga. David, Renee, and Michael Best froze in their tracks when they caught sight of the canine vision between the counters. Dazed, the three forgot what they had come into the Superette to buy and stumbled over the sweet potatoes trying to get out.

Mentone's own Marion Blanton Campbell brought a convoy of her relatives over to view the great one. Jane Blanton, Marilyn's sister of Lincolnton, N.C., was the only one of the group with the good taste to acknowledge moi's stateliness. She immediately got down on the floor and petted moi. What excellent taste the lady has! Standing around awe struck were Marilyn's mother, Mary Blanton, from Rome, Ga.; nephews Joshua Rose, Western Carolina University; Nathan Ballard, Rome, Ga.; and nieces Rachel and Erin Blanton, Rome, Ga.

Between the Blanton Clan and the flatlander skiers, moi is about adored out. Time to hang out the closed sign and mush Pop through the snow to the house.

Get those VALENTINES in the mail, and let moi know who you love BEST! Later, pilgrims.



Mentone Grapevine

By
PAT SEYMOUR

Mayor Max Cash underwent shoulder surgery on Tuesday, February 6, in Rome, Ga., to repair the rotator cuff. The operation on his other shoulder went so well that the mayor decided to have similar surgery on his other shoulder. He is now recovering at home.

Congratulations to **Frank Villalpando**, upon being named "Salesman of the Month" at Carl Gregory Ford, Fort Payne.

Betty Johnson will be going for medical tests on February 13. Good luck on the results, musical lady!

"Sou sou," **Joe Stephens'** little 14-year-old black female peek-a-poo dog disappeared Sunday, February 4, around 10 a.m., while out in the yard of Joe's home on the brow. Many friends have joined in the search for "Sou sou," but to no avail. Neighbors Linda Ellis and son, Josh, found tracks in the snow leading off the steep brow. "Sou sou" may have fallen from the rocky ledge in back of Joe's home.

Rusty Rector celebrated his 7th birthday (Dec. 28) party at McDonalds, on January 20. The children attending were: Penny McElhaney, Alisha McElhaney, Jessica Goodwin, Samantha Rhodes, Dustie Nix, Elizabeth Taylor, Turner Taylor, Kenneth Taylor, Karina Taylor, Angel Westbrook, Haley Westbrook, Ethan Lewis, Trevor Lewis, Angel Keener, and Caleb McKinsey.

In mid-January, **Milton Howard** was hospitalized for a week in Chattanooga, and it was feared he had suffered a heart attack. After many tests, the doctors traced the problem to other causes and sent him home. He and wife Grace then attended a miniature show in Atlanta. Because of the bitter cold, snow and ice, they spent extra time with son Henry Howard in Stone Mountain, Ga.

Lula McGee Blalock has been ill with the flu for over three weeks. During that time, neighbors have fed her chickens, brought her food, and generally taken charge of things. Lula sends a big "THANK YOU" to some wonderful caring people!

When a group from the Mentone Wesleyan Church went bowling recently, **Randy Addison Jr.**, (6 years old) made a strike on one of the frames. 'Atta boy, Randy!

Hoyt Potts died Feb. 3, and his many Mentone friends will miss him. Deepest sympathy goes out to his family, especially wife Naomi.

Rev. Edmund Crowe's son, **Jim**, of Modesto, Ca., was burglarized, recently, to the tune of over \$10,000. The thieves took, among many other items, Jim's car and his dog house. That has to be a first!

Speaking of **Rev. Crowe** - after a suggestion from his granddaughter, at age 82, Edmund registered at Northeast for the fall quarter and took a course in key boarding and computer literacy. His final grade was an A! The staff at Northeast was so impressed, Edmund was interviewed, and his picture will appear in the 1996 yearbook. Rev. Crowe has bought his own computer, and son Tom has given him a printer! Who knows what Rev. Crowe will accomplish now? (This brings to mind something Winston Churchill observed in one of his speeches: "Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.")

Skippy Mathis, owner of Mathis Salvage suffered what was thought to be a heart attack last week. The EKG administered by his doctors in Gadsden's Riverview Hospital did show irregularities, and Skippy was hospitalized for three days to regulate his heartbeat. He is back at home, but is restricting his activities for a while.

Congratulations to our talented local athletes who have brought recognition to their school and teammates. **Daniel Vest** was named to the special team in the 1995 All-County Football Team. **John Baggett** was selected for the 1996 DeKalb County All-County Basketball Team. **Kayla Bell**, **Jamie Baugh**, and **Nikki Smith** were placed on the 1996 DeKalb County All-Tournament Girls Basketball Team.

Clara Cash was one of the several casualties of the recent winter storm. Clara had walked across the road to get a heater from one of her trailers when she slipped and fell on the ice and snow. She could not get up, and lay there for hours until Walt Pullen and son Josh happened to drive down Clara's road. The two got her to her home and went for medical help for her badly bruised left arm. Rescue Squad member, Lisa Scott, examined the arm and determined that it was not broken. Walt later said, "Something just told me to take a drive down Clara's road." Thank goodness for that!

Friends of **Scrooge and Edna Morgan** are distressed that their son **Coley** is back in Children's Hospital in Birmingham. A tumor has been found in his brain, and the doctors operated on Feb. 5. They were able to take only 80% of the growth, so another operation has been scheduled. Coley is in room 576. Remember this wonderful family in your prayers.

Yumika Muramatsu, the teacher from Japan, has moved to the Mentone Inn for the spring semester at Moon Lake School. She will be the guest of Karl and Frances Waller, owners of the establishment. Yumika's fall semester was spent with Larry, Susan, Cassie, and Kyle Hooks, owners of Skyline Ranch Camp for Girls.

Alyce Springer was the envy of all of her Mentone friends during the recent winter storm. When the electricity went off for several days, she just took up residence in her own cozy guest house beside her home. Alyce said it was great!

Robert and Ilene Green have been confined at home for about week. Robert has had strep throat so badly that he could barely swallow his medicine. Ilene has a terrible cold and chest congestion. When calls came in for help from the Greens during the winter storm, Walt Pullen picked up the slack and answered the needs. What would we do in Mentone without the Rescue Squad??

Rev. Marlon Williamson, minister at the Mentone Revival Center, is asking Groundhog readers to remember his father **Milford Williamson** of Ider in prayer. Diagnosed recently with Lou Gehrigs disease, Milford, who celebrated his 49th birthday on Jan. 31, 1996, is a large man (6'5") and is already in a wheel chair. This disease is progressing rapidly, and Milford can now do nothing for himself. He is going to a specialist in Nashville who just may be able to help him slow or stop the development of the disease.

Friends and neighbors of **Jackie Kerby** were surprised by the news after Christmas that she and her long-time beau, **Don Wright**, were married on November 12, 1995. Congratulations to the newly weds!

Mentone resident and child counselor, **Kregg Wilhelm** should be in Ireland by now. He was to fly out on Jan. 17, if his flight did not get grounded by the Blizzard of '96. He will have a long, cold vacation in the Emerald Isle. He told friends that he should be back sometime in May.

Jeffery Bullock has made his family proud again by making the "Who's Who in American Schools" list. Congratulations to a fine young man!

Bobby and Shirley Knowles had great Thanksgiving holidays this past year, as both grown sons came home after many years in California. The older son, **Billy Jones**, was stationed in Italy before going on to California. He brought home his bride, **Amanda**, who is from Louisiana. They will present Bobby and Shirley with their second grandchild in March.

Valley Head School's Greenhouse will be selling bedding plants in March and April. All types of flowers and vegetables will be on sale. Flats of 30 to 48 plants will sell for \$6.00. L.A. Smith, agriculture teacher, said that the department might be able to deliver to the home-bound, the aged, and senior citizens. For more information, call L.A. Smith at 635-6228.

Marshall Orr was given a surprise birthday party by wife Annette on January 20, 1995, at the Rock Castle Cafe. Catered by Carol Busby, the event was decorated with balloons and crepe paper streamers. A sumptuous buffet was set up in the kitchen and the refreshments were enjoyed by a host of guests. These included Dr. Charles and Barbara Isbell, Dr. Bob and Coleen Roebuck, Dr. John B. and Mary Nell Isbell, Jenny Combs, Bill and Sheila Davis, Shirley Collins, Jewell Collins, Charlie Rogers, Nancy Rector, Rusty Rector, Donyal Rector, Robbie Collins, Marie Dillenbeck, Tommy and Christine Orr, Dr. Pat Seymour, Annette Orr, Daryl and Joan Newberry from Michigan (visiting son Mike), and Mike, Vicki and Sarah Newberry from Ringgold, Ga.

Warmest congratulations to **Judith Lollik-Anderson** and **Kaare Andersen** upon the christening of their granddaughter, **Rachael Anette Welle**. Rev. Jerry Davis, pastor of the Winston Memorial Church, conducted the service on Saturday,

December 30, 1995, at 12 noon, at the church. Special guests were Kaare's family from Norway and family and friends from Atlanta.

Annette Blalock is happy to announce that she has a new beautician associate at Shear Design. **Jennifer Davis McGee** has joined Annette at the establishment in downtown Valley Head. She was co-owner of the Clip Joint in Mentone, but Amy Kirby decided to give it a try at solo. Annette has a Valentine's special going on right now. Buy 10 tanning bed visits for \$20.00. Jennifer also found out recently that her baby is a girl! Grandmother Barbara is really excited.

The band boosters at **Valley Head** have planned their auction for Saturday, March 9, 1996. Please make plans to be there. You will be asked to donate items, so don't turn them down. It's for a good cause.

Tigers Inn now has **Cable TV** for its customers to enjoy while they eat. Now diners can watch CMT while they eat.

Adis Childers is feeling much better now. Friends are so glad to see him out and about in his old haunts. Can't keep a good man down!

Phyllis Lewis is hard at work on her new shop across from the Citizens Bank in Valley Head. She plans to open in April. Good luck to a fine business woman!

A very special January birthday needs to be noted: **Helen Bankson** was 90 years young on Jan. 30, 1996. Many, many happy returns of the day to a great lady!

Michael Stephens, 9, is having a great time riding his red 4-wheeler, while sister Abby, 11, stays busy with her drawing. (She was selected a Times-Journal weather artist.) Father Jimmy Stephens is employed at Game Time and helped construct the uprights on the shelter in Hammondville Park.

Special to the Grapevine: Seems **Annette Orr** came into the Tigers Inn the other morning for breakfast, jerked off her coat-and-revealed all! She had forgotten to button her dress and flashed all the customers, especially Dennis Lewis, who thoroughly enjoyed the show!

The word from Huntsville and **Bill Schwarz** is GOOD! His hip replacement is mending excellently, and he and Sue are looking forward to resuming their regular activities. Bill is driving now and doesn't even need his cane to walk. Having a wife who has a Master's Degree in nursing hasn't hurt Bill's recovery at all!

On Dec. 30, **Marilyn Blanton Campbell** traveled to Conyers, Ga., to attend the wedding of her cousin, Laura Upthegrove, to Jeff Palmer. Following the reception, Marilyn went home to Stone Mountain, Ga. with her cousin, Faye Wagner Eden and husband David, along with their daughter, Stephanie, to spend the night before returning to Mentone the next day.

Deepest sympathy to the families of:

- Cody Odom, infant, who died Jan. 10, 1996.
- George L. Black, 81, who died Jan. 12, 1996.
- Lois Meadows, 86, who died Jan. 16, 1996.
- Vernitice Gifford Young, 80, who died Jan. 18, 1996.
- Chester E. Crowe, 70, who died Jan. 23, 1996.
- Charles Lawton, 74, who died Jan. 24, 1996.
- Helen Pruett, 77, who died Jan. 27, 1996.
- George G. Fowler, 83, who died Jan. 27, 1996.
- Clayton D. Blansit, 69, who died Feb. 3, 1996.
- Hoyt Potts, 71, who died Feb. 3, 1996.

Happy late anniversary, Jan. 26, to **Sanford and Juanita Hartline**.

Many, many happy returns of the day to: •1, Jeff Willoughby; •2, Karen Davis, Terry Bouldin; •3, Eloise Brown; •4, Ben Windom, Leslie Thornberry; •7, Kayla Powell, Mack and Debbie Flannigan - anniv.; •9, Willie B. Langston; •10, Sybil and Danny Hopper - anniv.; •11, Kayla Voiks; •13, Craig Hall; 14, Allen and Penny Baugh - anniv.; "Angel" Rector (1); 15, Michelle Williams, Stacy Blansit; •16, Tommy Kilgore; •18, William "Jug" Crow, Rachel Harrison; •20, Juanita Hartline; •21 David Ashley; •24, Brandon Overstreet, Payton Day (3), Michael Chambers; •26, Sanford Hartline; •27, Nancy Rector, Louise Worthey.

As we approach Valentine's Day, consider this: It is sad not to be loved, but is much sadder not to be able to love!

Happy Valentine's Day

Snow Fun (Continued from Page 1)

"Natural snow isn't as good as what we can make. It would take about 12 inches of natural snow to pack to 2 inches."

The only significant snow accumulation in north Alabama was in DeKalb and Jackson Counties. By 6 p.m., Thursday night, January 11, travel problems were reported on many mountain roads and passes. About 50 cars slid into ditches, said DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency coordinator Ricky Little. "The front arrived about eight hours earlier than forecasters predicted," Little said.

Roads were slushy, but open to Cloudmont on Friday, with more than 100 people making the trip to ski. "More than 4,000 skiers have visited the slopes this season since the resort opened," Jones said. Dec. 10 was our first day this year, and we haven't missed a day since," he said. The National Ski Patrol works at the slopes on the weekend when the maximum 300 skiers come, Jones said. Although the beginner and intermediate slopes at Cloudmont do not compare to the Colorado slopes of Vail and Copper Mountain, the convenience of being able to ski here in Alabama makes

(See also, related photos on Page 2.)

Cloudmont Ski Resort perfect. The two 1,000 foot slopes are suited for intermediates and beginners. Jones said, "We provide free lessons to beginners."

Jones and his family are carrying out the dream of his oldest son, who was killed while making snow when he first got the idea to build the resort. "Jack Jr., made history and got killed making the first snow in Alabama. He was using a primitive machine, and we went immediately to state-of-the-art safety machines," Jones said. Jones, 77, leaves the art of making snow to his son, Gary. "He was 12 years old when his brother died. He is dedicated to fulfilling his brother's dream," Jones said.

The snow is created when temperatures reach 28 degrees or lower and the air is dry, Jones said. Water is blown under pressure through small nozzles that create a mist that is pushed into the air. "Temperatures can go up to 55 degrees, and we don't lose anything," Jones said. We operated 46 days last year, and 28 days the year before that. We used to say, 'think snow,'" Jones said, "now we think cold weather and we'll make the snow."

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The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

Greetings from Sebring, Fla. We have owned a lot here on Red Lake for ten years and have never used it until this year. It's a better location than I remembered. We bought it, sight unseen, a few years ago, and really didn't expect it to be this nice. We have good neighbors on both sides of us who are friendly and helpful. Dr. Callis and his wife had just come down from New Jersey the week before we arrived. He said they left some really bad weather at home. They come in January and stay through March. Mr. Hughes on the other side of us let us connect our water tank to his line, which was a big asset to us. We visited with them the last time we came by here and found them to be very charming people.

The wonderful thing about being here is that it is warm! We usually run the air conditioner in the middle of the day, and then it cools at night, and we open the windows of the motor home and sleep well. The next best thing is that we are in the midst of beautiful orange groves. We drive down our road for about three miles, with loaded orange trees on both sides. Of course, when we buy them at the market they are more expensive than they are at home, but oh, how tasty! I had forgotten how good a big, luscious fresh juicy grapefruit could be. And we have been eating fresh strawberries, picked the same day we buy them. They come from Plant City, which is about 60 miles away, near Tampa. It is a strong temptation to stop and pick up those beautiful oranges lying on the ground, but I think they are closely guarded. It would be harder to get one of them than to steal a watermelon on Sand Mountain. We read an ad in the paper about a place where one can pick the grapefruit and oranges for like \$5.00 a bucket full. We intend to do that. I've always wanted to pick an orange right off the tree. Like any fruit or vegetable, there is nothing to compare with freshness.

My apologies to Clyde and Beverly Hoyt. We have told them for several years that we would come down in the winter and stay a week or so and visit with them again. (We did once.) Now, they have moved to Rome, Ga., right near Mentone. So, we'll see them when we return. It's good to have Beverly back with the garden club.

Homer has been working around the place, but I have been lazy—just reading all my magazines, writing, and walking. There is very little traffic on the road, so it's an excellent place for walking or riding bikes. We saw a group of men one day pedaling the bikes hard and fast, trying to outrun a shower. On first sight, I thought these fellows were practicing for the Olympics, but when we came closer, I saw that they were senior citizens like us. They were certainly in good physical shape. Now, we need bicycles to join the crowd, and maybe get in shape.

We have many varieties of birds that we love. There are doves all over the place, billing and cooing. Some make strange noises that I haven't identified. I need my field guide to birds so we can look up the ones we see. There is a lovely large, bright blue bird that looks like a Jay, but he is solid colored, with no white specks on his wings. I'm wondering if he is the Stellar Jay that we loved when visiting out west near the Grand Canyon. Our property has lake frontage, but we need to clear out a few little scrub oaks so we can get to it easier. I love the waterfowl and could sit for hours and observe them swimming, sailing, and diving for food.

We have traveled a great deal in the last twelve years, but we were going at a fast pace, trying to squeeze in all we could in a matter of two weeks. This time, we are staying in this location and being quiet, resting, and taking time to smell the orange blossoms. There are plenty of activities around us in Sebring and Avon Park, should we get bored. But when it's warm enough to be comfortable in summer clothes, I'm content to continue reading and playing Scrabble. The only prob-

lem with playing Scrabble is that Homer wins most of the time. While I'm searching for a new word to add to my vocabulary, he is working on strategy to win. He was born highly competitive and his object, in whatever he attempts, is to win. That's why he plays Chess so well, which is not one of my favorite games. But I keep playing Scrabble and sometimes learn a new word. I didn't bring a dictionary, and that's a must in order to challenge a word or to check the spelling of a word. I told Homer last night that spelling correctly was his own responsibility, and if he misspelled a word, too bad. He lost.

Wanda Simmons, Janette McCord, and Shurlee Froehler are keeping shop for me at the Hitching Post. It's good to have dear, honest people for friends on whom I can depend. I hope they sell everything while I'm away, and I can go shopping for more antiques. Buying antiques for the Crow's Nest is a pleasure because it is not taking money from our own account. Shurlee always helps me unpack, price, and place items. It's fun to see pretty pieces of China and crystal in lovely colors and patterns. She says it's like opening Christmas packages.

The sun is just going down and there is a hush in the air. The birds are even quiet. It's the time of day when the whole world eases a bit and life is more calm and sweeter.

The twilight time is a most peaceful, serene moment. The activities of the day have wound down and rest is welcomed. It's a time for reflection and evening worship. Thank God for peace in our land, and we pray for peace in Bosnia. Many of our young men would welcome a peaceful day at home.

My brother, Don Castleberry, is replacing the side porch on the Hitching Post and continuing on the end where we have a deck. This will be an improvement to be enjoyed by all who visit.

Work continues on the tearoom. They hope to be ready for customers by March. Chuck Peters, whom I haven't mentioned, has a room upstairs where he does beautiful stained glass work. He takes orders and ships pieces all over the United States.

We have some artistic people in Mentone who do beautiful things, be it food, paintings, sewing, quilts, woodwork, photography, music. It's a great place to live.

P.S. I found out that the lovely blue birds are Scrub Jays, the Florida state bird. We just went out to feed them and they eat from our hands!

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MEADOWBROOK GENERATIONS

By Evelyn Graves

(Editor's note: This portion of the story on the front page of the January 1996 issue is being reprinted because one of the family members was left out.)

Ralph and Nellie Libby have two daughters, Mary Louise Crow and Marjorie Gray. Mary married Austin Crow, who died in 1978. Mary remains at "Meadowbrook." The Crows had one daughter, Jane Kerby, and two grandchildren, Angela (Blansit) Chambers and Stacey Blansit. Angela has one son, Logan Chambers, age 6; and Stacey has one son, Tyler Blansit, age 2.

The other daughter, Marjorie Gray, lives in Chattanooga. She married Robert Gray who died in 1991. They had one son, Robert Jr., and one granddaughter, Linda Gray.

Mary and Marjorie have many pleasant memories of their time spent at Meadowbrook as they were growing up, and they remember their mother, who was a former teacher, helping them with their school work. Mr. Libby operated the farm, and the girls enjoyed a wholesome environment with a lot of outdoor space in which to play as children.

Meadowbrook is a memorable landmark to Mary and Marjorie, and an intriguing place to build memories for the grandchildren.

Footsteps in Snow

(This seasonal article and others to follow are from a scrap book belonging to long-time Mentone resident Mary Weigand. The large scrapbook of her favorite seasonal articles by various authors was found recently in a storage chest at Madaperca by Don & Yvonne Brock.)

In feathery new snow the footsteps fall
No louder than a snowflake's downy flight
Upon the consciousness, and bough and wall
Are soft with silence, and each path is bright

But when the snow grips tighter in the cold,
And its soft blanket hardens as it thins,
The footsteps on it suddenly may hold
The vibrant notes of hidden violins.

Thoughts moving on the mind have these two ways
Of coming to the door of our desire;
We know them well who brave these wintry days
And spread our grateful hands before the fire -
To think of how soft flakes had hidden scars
Or how some twig snapped, letting fall its stars.

- Glenn Ward Dresbach

Military Salute

DAN W. SMITH COMMISSIONED

Second Lieutenant Dan W. Smith received his commission in the United States Air Force on January 26, 1996, from Officer Training School located at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. Lt. Smith is the stepbrother of Tommy Orr who lives in Fort Payne with his wife, Christine. Tommy's parents are Marshall and Annette Orr of Valley Head. Lt. Smith, 34, has been in the Air Force for 13 years, attaining the rank of master sergeant. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer studies from the University of Maryland, European Division, in August 1995, graduating with honors. Lt. Smith, wife Naomi, and their 5-year-old son Russell, are assigned to Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he will work as a computer-communications systems programming officer.



Birthday Celebration

Mr. Leland Cox celebrated his recent birthday with family in the New York area over the week of January 15, 1996. Mrs. Cox and daughter, Felicia Blackwell, plus granddaughter, Elise, made the trip to Connecticut to the home of daughter, Marsha Merrell. Her husband, Prof. Ronald Merrell of Yale University, hosted the group at their historical 1830 farmhouse in Northford. Son-in-law Kenny Blackwell surprised the group by flying to Hartford and joining them for the weekend. The New York area had not recovered from the recent blizzard but that did not restrain celebration of this important birthday. Mr. Cox and the group motored by limousine to the City as guests of the Merrells for a tour of Manhattan, including the Empire State Building and then off to Broadway for a performance of "Showboat". The banks of snow and freezing temperatures could not diminish the warmth of the event. Side trips to the Norman Rockwell Museum, a tour of the University, New England seafood dinners, and quiet rides along the snowy woods of Long Island Sound completed the visit. Enroute home, they made a side trip by Hershey, Penn., taking the tour of the Hershey plant. There, the candy is never touched by hands until after packaging. Elise, the granddaughter, said Hershey Kisses were her favorite and was thrilled to see such piles of chocolates. The entire estate of Hershey is a sight to behold.

From the Collection of Grady Hammond AUTHENTICATED CIVIL WAR STORIES



The Mortal wounding of Brigadier General Samuel Garland, Jr., C.S.A.,
The Battle of South Mountain, Maryland, September 14, 1862

SOUTH MOUNTAIN

On the morning of September 14, 1862, Garland's Brigade consisting of five North Carolina regiments (5th, 12th, 13th, 20th and 23rd) and Bondurant's Alabama Battery engaged the entire Federal Kanawha Division of the IX Corps along the spine of South Mountain, Maryland, at a small crossroads known as Fox's Gap. The Federals, numbering 3,510 officers and men, struggled from about 9:00 a.m. to around noon to wrest the mountain top from the Confederate force of barely 1,000 effectives, under the command of Brigadier General Samuel Garland, Jr., C.S.A.

The central part of the fighting took place around a three acre rectangular field on the left of Garland's line known as Wise's Field. While four of his five regiments defended the right of his line, General Garland sent the 13th North Carolina (approximately 220 officers and men) into Wise's Field to keep the 30th Ohio from turning his left flank from the open fields north of the Sharpsburg Road.

A thick woods—two hundred fifty yards in width—separated the right flank of the 13th North Carolina from the 20th North Carolina, Garland's next regiment in line. The 13th North Carolina advanced fifty yards into Wise's Field. The 30th Ohio, in response to the Confederates' movement to its left, filed across the Sharpsburg Road into the woods below the North Carolinians and connected with the rest of its brigade. Part of the Ohio regiment entered the woods opposite Wise's Field as the Confederate skirmishers opened fire.

The Ohioans pressed through the woods to push the North Carolinians toward the top of the mountain. General Garland and his staff, refusing to leave Wise's Field, stayed near Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Ruffin, Jr., commander of the 13th North Carolina, despite the increased volume of fire to their front. "General," Ruffin ventured, "why do you stay here? You are in great danger." Garland replied rather curtly, "I may as

well be here as yourself." Ruffin argued, "No, it is my duty to be here with my regiment, but you could better superintend your brigade from a safer position."

At that instant, a minie ball thudded into Ruffin's hip. Knowing that he had no field grade officers to take his command, he leaned over to Garland and asked the general to find a field officer for his regiment should his wound incapacitate him. General Garland turned and yelled something to an orderly. Just then a bullet tore into the general's chest, and he toppled from his horse. In the racket, Ruffin did not know the general had been hit.

"In a moment I heard a groan," Ruffin distinctly remembered, "and looked and found him mortally wounded and writhing in pain."

White, an orderly, sped away to the right to give Colonel Duncan McRae (5th North Carolina) command of the brigade. Garland's staff snatched up the dying general and carried him north along the wood road toward the Mountain House (the Old South Mountain Inn).

Despite the lack of men, the wounded Colonel Ruffin and his 13th North Carolina withstood repeated attacks until around noon. When the right of the brigade collapsed under pressure from a concerted assault by the Federal Kanawha Division, Ruffin found himself under fire from the front and the rear. After charging first to the front then to the rear, the 13th North Carolina cut its way out of Wise's Field. Later in the day, it participated in a charge against a Federal battery, but was driven from the field. The North Carolinians lost 359 of their 954 officers and men—a cost of 38%. The Kanawha Division suffered 356 casualties, a little over 10% of its total strength.

Rick Reeves' *South Mountain* records the 13th North Carolina as it fights on following the mortal wounding of its brigade commander.



Back row: Dr. Bill Berry, Leonard Shigley, and John Corey.
Seated on the steps are the members from the Culver Academy in Culver, Indiana.

MENTONE COMMUNITY HOUSE

The Mentone Community house has come a little closer to being a reality. This past Thanksgiving, a group of students from Culver Academy in Culver, Indiana, traveled to Alabama to work on the house behind Moon Lake School. They brought eight Macintosh Computers and two printers with them that are currently on loan to Moon Lake School for the Community Center.

Camp Skyline provided accommodations for the students while they worked, and Leonard Shigley advised them about how to proceed with the house. The house was once the home of Leonard's grandfather. The Culver students landscaped the yard, and removed interior walls to open the space up for use by community citizens and groups.

The project has progressed well, but now funds are needed to finish paying for the property and to acquire building materials for the renovation of the house as a multi-purpose educational facility.

The Community House will be a place that older people may gather during the day for fellowship with each other and interaction with children at the adjacent Moon Lake School. Classes will be offered in gardening, quilting, computers, and anything else requested. A parenting class currently is being offered and is being conducted in the evenings at Moon Lake School.

The development of the property includes a walking park for exercise and nature education through carefully chosen plantings as the trail is landscaped. More information is available through the project's sponsor, the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation, P.O. Box 107, Mentone, AL 35984, or through its president, Dr. Bill Berry. The Foundation is tax exempt and all gifts are fully deductible.



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The Menlo News

BY OVIE "BO" BLALOCK

●Congratulations to a number of area residents who are among those students named to Floyd College's fall quarter Dean's List. The announcement was made by the College's Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Brady Vardamann. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a 3.4 grade point average (GPA) for the quarter or a cumulative GPA of 3.2 after completing at least 15 quarter hours at Floyd College. On the list are Lisa Jayne Dallmier, Benjamin A. Sellers, and Lisa Gale Cordell, all of Menlo, and Carla Jean DeBerry, Cloudland.

●Congratulations to Joey and Susan Ross of Menlo, on the birth of their son, Michael Brandon, at 4:47 p.m., on Jan. 24. Michael weighed 7 pounds, 4-3/4 ounces and was 20 inches long. Grandparents are Michael and Barbara Ross, Menlo, and Gary and Sue Neal, Cedar Bluff, Ala.

●The lovely new Larry Canada home sustained serious water damage during the recent winter storm. Water pipes burst between the floors causing water to be released throughout the structure.

Sincere sympathy to the families of:

●Mary Grace McDaniel, 75, who died Dec. 23, 1995; ●Charles F. Toles Sr., 72, who died Jan. 4, 1996; ●Roy L. Calvin, 81, who died Jan. 7, 1996; ●Alice Mable Stokes, 76, who died Jan. 7, 1996; ●Frank Prince Sr., 91, who died Jan. 8, 1996;

●Morene Waters, 54, who died Jan. 9, 1996; ●Timothy Mark Hall Jr., infant, who died Jan. 19, 1996; and ●Sherry Bishop, 49, who died Jan. 21, 1996.



SANTA'S HELPER

Taylor Susann Hill, daughter of Eddie and Susan Hill, Summerville, celebrated her first birthday Dec. 20. She is the granddaughter of Hazel Hill, Cloudland, and Julie Townsend, Trion.



Menlo Street Renamed

Wilmont Street in Menlo was renamed Ralph Chamblee Drive recently for Ralph Chamblee Sr. Mr. Chamblee served as a commissioner of the Menlo Housing Authority from 1966 until his death in 1995, a total of 29 years. Shown standing at the sign designating the street are family members and members of the Housing Authority staff and board of

commissioners. They are from left, Julia Chamblee, David Chamblee, Lillian Chamblee, Ralph Chamblee Jr., Martha Chamblee, Perry Vaughn, maintenance mechanic for the authority; Glenda Hamilton, Executive Director of the Menlo Housing Authority; and Joanne Christian, chairman of the commissioners.



FIVE YEARS OLD

Dakota Colorado Dooley was five years old on Dec. 10. She is the daughter of Kristy and Larry Dooley, Menlo. Her grandparents are Dottie Tucker, Menlo, and Buddy Tucker, Atlanta, and Larry Joe Dooley, Summerville, and the late Betty Dooley. She is the great-granddaughter of Willie and Sarah Smith, Menlo, Mary Tucker, Trion, and Lula Arnold, Summerville, and the great-great-granddaughter of Beulah Berry, Grove Oak, Ala. She has a sister, Stormy Dooley.



TWO YEARS OLD

Matthew Wayne Simmons, son of Ted and Eunice Simmons, Summerville, celebrated his second birthday Jan. 7. His grandparents are Lillie Sizemore, Trion, and the late John Sizemore; Lucille Moore, Mentone, Ala., and Dave Moore, Cleveland, Tenn. Great-grandparents are Delia Weaver and the late Robert Weaver; Claranetta Collins and the late John Blair, Tampa, Fla.



BIRTHDAY PARTY

Anthony Cole Edward Dennis was two years old on Dec. 31, celebrating his birthday at McDonald's. He is the son of Anthony and Dena Dennis, Cloudland, and the grandson of Eddie and Susan Hill, Summerville, Lamar and Donnie McNeese, Trion, and Jimmy and Callie Dennis, Trion. His great-grandparents are Namon and Ethel Dennis, Summerville, Hazel Hill, Cloudland, and the late Donald Searels. He is the great-great-grandson of the late Wellie Key, Menlo, and the nephew of Taylor Hill.



Miss Covington Weds James H. Mahoney III

Kelli Dawn Covington and James Henry Mahoney III were married at 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, at North Side Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.

The bride is the daughter of retired Master Sgt. and Mrs. Thomas R. Covington, Menlo. The bridegroom is the son of Mrs. James H. Mahoney Jr. and the late Mr. Mahoney, Chattanooga.



CHESTER CROWE

Chester Elmer Crowe, 70, of Mentone, died Tuesday, January 23, 1996.

Funeral services were Thursday, Jan. 25, 1996, at Wilson Funeral Home Chapel with the Revs. Don Brock and Raymond Lawson officiating. Graveside services were Friday, Jan. 26, 1996, at the Little River Cemetery in Mentone at 10 a.m.

Surviving are his wife, Ruth Lucille King Crowe; sons and daughters-in-law: Leroy and Joanne Crowe of Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Cecil and Pat Crowe of Oak Ridge, Tenn.; and Olen Crowe of Kalama, Wash.; a sister, Mildred Burgess of Allen, Texas; four brothers, Homer Crowe of Mentone, Lester Crowe of Powell, Tenn., Jesse Crowe of Mentone, and Dewey Crowe of Fort Payne; and five grandchildren: John Crowe, student at UT in Knoxville; Daniel Crowe, stationed at U.S. Navy base in Norfolk, Va.; Greg Crowe, Oliver Springs, Tenn.; Becky Crowe, Kalama, Wash.; and Christi (Crowe) Farley of Alvin, Tenn.

IN MEMORY OF CHESTER E. CROW

Chester Elmer Crowe was born on March 9, 1925, to Lee and Fannie Crow in Benham, Kentucky, along with a twin, Lester. After moving to Alabama, they soon became a permanent and prominent Mentone family. Clyde, Homer, Jesse, Dewey, and sister Mildred, rounded out the clan. Brother Crowe served the Army in 1943 and 1944 as a medic. Later, back in Mentone, on February 14, 1947, he married a young lady by the name of Ruth Lucille King. Brother Crowe joined the Church of God of Prophecy that same year and forever held sacred his allegiance to the Church. He and Lucille were blessed with three sons: Leroy Elmer, Cecil Elvis, and Olen Clyde. Brother Crowe was ordained as a Deacon in the church of God of Prophecy on December 30, 1977, and held that position faithfully until his death, receiving special honor nine different years.

Brother Crowe served the local church in Oliver Springs, Tennessee for more than 35 years, where he worked and raised a family.

After retiring, we were blessed to have him return home to Mentone where he served here as church Deacon and Director of Evangelism Ministries. He always represented the church well; the church that he loved and was so faithful to. He improved the church's community relations by serving as Chaplain of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, Chairman of the Lookout mountain volunteer Fire Association, and member of the American Legion.

At approximately 2:00 p.m. this past Tuesday, January 23, 1996, at the age of 70, God called him home for his well deserved eternal reward. He will be missed by all.

The Church of God of Prophecy
Mentone, Alabama

The Church News

By
EVELYN GRAVES



The UMW of the Valley Head United Methodist Church will be held on February 27 with Venna Livingston and Frances Longshore as hostesses. The meeting will be at Venna Livingston's home.

The Moon Lake Baptist Church pastor, Reverend Bill Russell, is on a visit to Oklahoma to visit his grandson, Seth, who is celebrating his second birthday. •On February 13-14, "Bro. Bill" and Mike Young will be attending the Promise Keepers "Fan Into Flame". •On February 14, the youth will be leading a Valentine Banquet for the entire church. •On February 29, there will be a church-wide skating party in Fort Payne. •The J.O.Y. meeting for February will be on Thursday, February 29.

On Tuesday, February 20, St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church will have Shrove Tuesday (a pancake supper before Lent) at 6 p.m. •The Ash Wednesday service is on February 21 at 7 p.m. Soup and sandwiches will be served before the service. •The women of the church will meet on Sunday, February 11, at 4:30 p.m.

On February 9-10, the youth of the Valley Head Baptist Church will be attending a Dawson McAllister conference in Birmingham. They will leave at 12 noon on Friday and will come back on Saturday. •On Sunday, February 11, Peggy Bentley will show slides of her December trip to Israel. •On February 18, there will be a Home Missions study from 5 until 7 p.m. •On Wednesday, February 21, the Valley Head Woman's Club will meet at the church for their monthly meeting.

The Union Hill Baptist Church youth choir will be participating in the DeKalb County Associational Youth Choir Festival on February 9, 6 p.m., at the First Baptist Church, Ft. Payne. •The RA boys will be serving a pancake breakfast in the fellowship hall, from 7-9 a.m., on Sunday, February 11, to raise money to attend the passion play in Atlanta, Ga., on March 29. Everyone is invited to attend. •The youth choir will be singing at the Collinsville Nursing Home on Saturday, February 17. •Jan and Russell O'Dell (youth choir director and husband), will be renewing their wedding vows on Sunday, February 18, followed by a luncheon in the fellowship hall to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. •The ordination of four new deacons: Mike Goggans, Mike Baxter, Darren Bray, and Johnny Croft, will be on Sunday evening, February 18, at 7 o'clock. Everyone is invited for this special service. •The Adult Men's Chorus and the Ladies' Ensemble will be participating in the DeKalb County Associational Adult Choir Festival on March 9, at 6 p.m., at Macedonia Church #2, Crossville, AL.

The State Overseer of the Churches of God of Prophecy in Alabama will be visiting and ministering during the Sunday morning services February 11. Bishop Hugh Edwards has served previously as Assistant to the General Overseer of this world-wide organization. The services begin at 10:00 a.m. and the public is invited. Bishop Edwards will be ministering during the 11:00 o'clock hour. •Pastor Don Brock is planning to attend the Promise Keepers Pastors Conference in Atlanta February 13-15. •Family night is celebrated each Wednesday evening at the church beginning at 6:30 p.m. There is something for the entire family. Everyone is invited.

There will be a valentine's party for the children at the Mentone United Methodist Church on Sunday, February 11, immediately following the morning service. This will also include a spaghetti dinner for everyone. Following the meal, the Administrative Council will hold its regular February meeting.

The Mentone Revival Center is planning a 3-day teen explosion during March. Any youth (ages 10 and up) and adults interested in helping to plan it, please call 634-4247. •Brother Junior Fleming has a TV broadcast called Mentone Revival Time, on Channel 6 out of Summerville, every Saturday afternoon. •Brother Marlon Williamson has a radio broadcast at 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on WGTA out of Summerville, and in Valley Head on AM870 at 9:30 every Sunday morning.

The youth of the Mentone Wesleyan Church have planned a skating party on Saturday, Feb. 17, 1996. •Pastor Randy Addison will attend the Promise Keepers Pastors' Conference in Atlanta, Ga., during the week of Feb. 11, 1996. •Pastor Addison conducted a revival in Augusta, Ga., at the Bible Cathedral during the week of Feb. 4, 1996.

The Sunday School Department of the Mentone Church of God is conducting a contest during the month of February 1996. If Sunday School attendance is 125 or more, Doug Powell, Sunday School Superintendent, has promised to allow himself to be "syruped" and feathered. If attendance is 150 or more, Pastor Ken Shelton will get the "syrup" and feathers treatment.

The Winston Memorial Church cordially invites everyone to attend regular church services at 9 a.m. each Sunday.

North DeKalb Ministerial Association

The North DeKalb Ministerial Association will be meeting Friday, February 16, 12:00 noon, at Dessie's Kountry Chef. The Baccalaureate Service for Valley Head High School is being planned. All area ministers are invited to attend.

J.O.Y.

The Just Older Youth will meet at Moon Lake Baptist Church on Thursday, February 29, at 11:30 a.m. Bring a covered dish and join in the fellowship and fun. Everyone is invited.

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WRIGHT TWINS CHOOSE

By Evelyn



BILLY AND ANN WRIGHT

Billy Wright and Ann Blalock were high school sweethearts, seeing each other as often as possible during recesses and lunch breaks, and sharing a double seat on the school bus. They were oblivious of anyone else's presence on the bus as they engaged in conversation. They had to do a lot of talking in a short length of time because it did not take long for Ed Jones to bring the bus up the mountain; and, until the weekend when they were able to double date with friends who owned a car, there was no other communication. They began dating in tenth grade, and their dates were mostly movie dates, eating at The Snack Shop in Valley Head, house parties, and picnics at the park. Harold Wilkes' mother had parties for the football players quite often. Harold and his girl friend, Nancy Chadwick (later to become his wife), were regular dates with Billy and Ann. (Harold was coach at UTC until his retirement a few years ago). Billy says some of the local gamblers made money off the high school football games and treated the players to a steak the next week with their winnings. Valley Head had a terrific football team during those years, and the "Wright twins" certainly had their "place in the sun." They both were excellent athletes. Mrs. Brownie Clay (Tuttle) was wonderful to give parties for the high school students. None of the students owned cars to drive to school in those days, and dating was certainly limited.

Billy and Ann graduated from high school in 1950 and were married in 1951.

They have four children - David, Susan, Mark and Russell. They have nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They enjoyed their children as they grew up. They had picnics at the park, took them to drive-in movies (and Billy adds with a grin that after the children had eaten their popcorn, they fell asleep; and he and Ann enjoyed the movie together). They had family vacations twice a year to The Smokies and once or twice a year to Florida. The children all learned to swim on vacation trips to Florida. They lived close enough to the Blalock cousins that they all had wonderful times together.

Billy worked at DuPont in Chattanooga, and retired as a supervisor after 33 years of service. When Ann reached 40, she did not dye her hair or drift into depression as many women do, but she went to work at Best Manufacturing Company in Menlo, Georgia, to prove to herself that she could do it, and also to earn some money, which she said she thoroughly enjoyed spending. She and Billy were on the way to the river for a day of fishing when the thought occurred to her. She asked Billy to stop and let her file an application with the company. A few minutes later, she returned to the car with the news that she was to begin work immediately and to pick her up on the way back from fishing. Her snap deci-

sion resulted in 17 years of productive work for Ann.

Bill and Ann have a good life together. Their children have stayed well, and there have been no major crises in their lives.

Since their retirement, Bill and Ann work together in garden developing. Bill does the planning, and they work together with the developing. They have visited Bellingrath Gardens, Callaway Gardens, and other botanical gardens. Bill has always been interested in shrubbery and landscaping since his high school years in Vocational Agriculture classes under Mr. P. W. Roberts' supervision. Bill says that many mornings before Mr. Roberts became too sick to drive, he would be wandering in their gardens enjoying every tree and shrub before he and Ann had even gotten out of bed. It meant a lot to Bill, as well, to have him come and visit. Of course, Ann's mother, Mrs. Lillian Blalock, is noted for her beautiful flower gardens. She furnished flowers for churches, for weddings, for anniversary celebrations, and for many other occasions, and never charged for any of these. Her payment came in being able to share with others. Ann enjoys her work in the Rhododendron Garden Club, having served two terms as president.

Bill and Ann both agree that if they had their lives to relive, they would not change a thing. They are still as much in love as they were as sixteen-year-old sweethearts.

"RIGHT" SWEETHEARTS

Graves

February 1996 Issue/The Groundhog/Page 11



JIMMY AND MAXINE WRIGHT

While his brother had found the love of his life early in high school, Jimmy did not appear to be interested in the girls in his high school class. He was dating girls from other schools, but none of them seriously. He and a young lady from Ider High School, Maxine Craze, had met at a high school basketball game and had other casual meetings, but they did not begin dating until the summer after they had graduated from high school in 1950. Maxine had admired Jimmy while he was on the Valley Head football team because he was a star player and was popular among his associates.

Jimmy and Maxine dated for two years before Jimmy went into the U.S. Army. He served two years in the military service, 17 months of which were in Korea. During the two years he was away, he says Maxine wrote to him every day. This meant a lot to him to know that she cared about him, and he looked forward to her letters. Maxine was working in the business office at the University of Chattanooga (now UTC), and every day she saw several of Jimmy's friends from Valley Head who were students there. Harold Wilkes, especially, came by to ask about Jimmy because they were good friends. Jimmy was the best man in Harold's wedding in 1952.

When Jimmy returned from the military service, he and Maxine resumed their courtship, and during that time, they attended all the sporting events at the University of Chattanooga and many social events.

In 1957, Jimmy's and Maxine's wedding took place in a private ceremony at the home of the Reverend Willie Kirby, a lifelong friend of Maxine and her family. Maxine and he had agreed since

she was a little girl that he would perform her wedding ceremony. Jimmy was working at DuPont in Chattanooga at the time of their marriage, and Maxine was still working at U.C. She quit her job two weeks before the wedding, and they moved to Mentone to live. Jimmy already had a house, and they moved into it and then started building the home they now occupy. Maxine is so happy that she was able to be at home with Jimmy as they worked to establish their lives together, and that she could be at home with the boys as they grew up.

Jimmy's and Maxine's first son, Tim, was born in 1959. He was a very active little boy and loved the outdoors. Chris was born in 1965, and he, too, was very active, but his interests were in other areas. Jimmy and Maxine enjoyed their children to the fullest, and they included them in everything they did. With the sons, they have enjoyed fishing, hunting, hiking, sporting events, visiting museums, and especially hunting artifacts, which they still do together. They have hunted and dug for artifacts in many places across the state of Alabama. They take all day boat rides with a picnic lunch from Guntersville to Chattanooga and explore the islands and banks along the way. Jimmy says they have a lot of fun at their house and especially enjoy their family gatherings through the year. Thanksgiving and Christmas are special.

Jimmy and Maxine both agree that, if they could recall their lives together, they would not change anything. Jimmy says Maxine has been an excellent wife, a super mother, and the best friend he ever had. He says they have always had a great line of communication and that they plan everything

together, and they do everything together as far as it is possible to do so. The only times they have been apart since they married were when his middle management executive position required him to travel a lot, sometimes for a week at a time and on weekends. He retired from DuPont after 40 years of service. Since retirement, he has enjoyed being involved with all the community and civic organizations that he is a part of. The enjoyable part, he says, is being associated with so many great people. Maxine says that Jimmy and she have always been great pals and that she depends on him completely for everything. She feels she is the luckiest person in the world to have Jimmy for a husband. Jimmy adds that Maxine has a great sense of humor which has been an added asset. Maxine still enjoys being a housewife and mother, and she enjoys her involvement in the Valley Head Woman's Club.

Jimmy and Maxine love each other devotedly; life has been good for them, and they are grateful.

Eloise (Wright) Burnette was a great mother to Jimmy and Billy, rearing them mostly by herself after the untimely death of their father. She gave them her complete support in their high school activities, their career choices, and encouraged them in their endeavors. She instilled in them a strong sense of responsibility, kept them in church, and helped prepare them to be the fine husbands and fathers that they are.

A special tribute is made to this special lady!

About Our Town

By
LINDA BROWN



February is the month of love. I don't know who decided to have Valentine's Day in February, but it sure is a good idea. By now the winter is dragging on and we are all tired of the cold, wet weather. What better thing to do than have a day set aside for love?

How many kinds of love are there? As many as there are people in the world. Everyone loves in a different way. The first love most people know is parent love. That love that enables moms and dads to get out of bed at 2 AM because you have a wet diaper. That love keeps them from killing you when they get a call in the middle of the night that you have a flat tire on a road that you shouldn't be on. That love that makes them love a child when they are totally unlovable. Parents love you no matter how old you are or how far away you roam. That love is endless.

The next love that most everyone knows is love of other relatives. Your brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins all love you because you are part of the family and have the same genes that they do. You are part of their heritage and lineage. You may be the black sheep, but you are still loved. They stick up for you and protect you from the rest of the world.

Usually around the age of five or six, you know another love, the love of that favorite friend. Sometimes it is a person of the same sex and sometimes not, but that first true friendship is special. Friendships sometimes last a lifetime. A true friendship is one of the most precious relationships we can have. Someone once said that a friend is someone who knows you well, but loves you anyway.

Somewhere along the way, the love for a person of the opposite sex occurs. Maybe it's the little boy next door or the little girl who sits in front of you at school, but there seems to always be one. As you get older the relationship becomes more serious and you think you cannot live without the love of your life. If you are lucky, one of these relationships will result in marriage, a new family unit and a life of happiness.

Some people may say this is not a true love, but I believe that you can love an animal. Some dogs and cats are the source of affection for their owner. Studies have shown that persons in nursing homes and other institutions sometimes respond to an animal when nothing else has reached them for long periods of time. Some love all of nature and protect it with their time and resources. I think a living thing has to be involved for us to love. Anything else could probably be better described as being liked.

The greatest love of all is the love that God has for us. This love is an all encompassing, no judgment love that we cannot understand. If we understand this love even a little and do our best to practice it, we make the world a better place. We often slip back into our "Adam and Eve" image and forget that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

This brings us to the final love, love of ourselves. Is it selfish to love ourselves? If we don't love ourselves how can we know how to love others? I have thought a lot lately about judging others. I came to this conclusion-- the only yardstick we have to judge others by is ourselves and how we act in a situation. By the same token, the only way to measure how we love others is how we love ourselves. This does not seem selfish to me.

If you quit reading this after the first paragraph, I don't blame you and I love you anyway. If you stayed until the end, I thank you and love you, too. Think about love and how many ways you love. On Valentine's Day, do something nice for a few people and let them know that you love and care about them. Why else are you here? Why can't we have a Valentine's Week, February 11-17? That way we would have more time to love. Heck, let's just make it the whole month, it is a short one. I love you all. Happy Valentine's Day.

The Recipe Corner

By
SUE SCHWARZ



I'm sitting here at my kitchen table in Huntsville listening to the rain and wishing I were hearing it beat against my metal roof in Mentone and looking out at trees and the river. Oh, well, enough homesick musings. With the cold and rain, I decided you might enjoy a couple of soup recipes our friend Dean Breassele gave me. They are easy and so very tasty and even low fat. Enjoy and stay warm.

Southwestern Three Bean Soup

Place the following in soup pot and simmer until onions are soft.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 cans beef broth | 1 t chili powder |
| 1 can chopped tomatoes | 1 t oregano |
| 1 C chopped onions | 1 t ground cumin |
| 1 t garlic powder | 1-1/2 C finely ground tortilla chips |

Add the following and simmer 1 hour. Then adjust seasoning to taste.

- 1 can Black Beans (washed and drained)
- 1 can White Beans (washed and drained)
- 1 can Pinto Beans (undrained)
- 1/2 C Salsa

Tuesday Soup

- 2 cans beef broth
- 1 11 oz. can Mexicorn drained
- 1 can small lima beans drained
- 1 can stewed tomatoes
- 1 can Bush's Blackeyed Peas with Bacon and Jalapeno
- 1 T dry parsley
- 1 T seafood seasoning
- 1 T Bacon Bits (real bacon)

Combine all ingredients and simmer for 1-1/2 hours.



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VALLEY HEAD WOMAN'S CLUB

By Maurine B. Donahue

High on Little Ridge overlooking Wills Valley with Lookout Mountain in the distance, the home of Sadie Cooper was the setting for the January meeting of the Valley Head Woman's Club. The president, Dot Blackburn, presided. Jan Wilkinson was presented as a new member.

Inell Hurt gave the devotional based upon Psalm 150:6, "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord." She read a passage from Jerry Clower stating that God is so good--so good to me. We are thankful for our country, family and friends. During this club year we have celebrated Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, and Epiphany. To celebrate, what does it mean? It means to be joyful, to commemorate, to praise.

You may be thankful for odd things. Two kings were at war with each other. The first king ran into a cave. The second king pursued, came to the cave, but a spider web was over the entrance, so he passed on.

Corrie Ten boom started a Bible study in the concentration camp. She wondered why the guards did not bother them. Fleas were extremely bad in their sector. Her sister, Bessie, said the guards had not bothered them because they did not want to get fleas on them.

At one time, cotton was the main crop of farmers in Alabama. Then the boll weevil came in destroying the cotton boll, so growing cotton was no longer profitable, and agriculture became diversified into peanuts, soybeans, corn and cattle. Enterprise erected a monument to the boll weevil.

In conclusion, she said we celebrate God's goodness, inspiration, and reassurance to us.

Evelyn Graves, of the program committee, introduced the speaker, Ben Shurett, publisher of *The Fort Payne Times-Journal*. He is a native of Tuscaloosa and Journalism graduate of the University of Alabama. He is married to Mary Igou, a Fort Payne native, and has two sons. Mr. Shurett's subject was "Journalism, Yesterday and Today." He said he loved women's clubs as his mother was a devoted member of one and he squired her to their social functions.

He was manager of the basketball teams at the University of Alabama on which Tom Jones played and was a friend of Tom and Buzz Jones.

There has been a tremendous change in the newspaper business in recent times. *The Groundhog* is more like the old time newspapers.

He said the best thing going for him in his present job is being married to a local girl. He was editor of a church newspaper and met his future wife at a church chili social. Perseverance paid off as he had to ask for a date several times before she relented, dated him and finally married him.

The Times-Journal is published five days a week. Its purpose is to be entertaining and informative. Although its purpose is to cover local news, not to cover state, national or world news, he is given freedom on political candidates. His business is to make money for the owners. They have put a lot of money into the lovely, new building in Fort Payne.

In the past, papers were usually owned by local families, but in the present they are owned by a large group. Big papers are all alike, deal with the same subjects. Computers have changed everything about newspaper publishing.

Mr. Shurett covered eighth grade football games last year. They use stringers to cover the many football games during the season. In his weekly column, he writes so you feel like you know him. The personal flavor of the past will be part of our future.

The price of newsprint has doubled in the past year. Thus they are using a single sheet TV guide instead of a TV magazine.

Many people put the newspaper together. They prefer black and white pictures. Although they cannot be all things to all people, they try to serve what you want. The printed word is permanent, an awesome responsibility.

As Mr. Shurett often does, he quoted his dad saying, "The power of the press is a wonderful, powerful thing and should be responsible."

From a beautifully appointed table, the hostesses, Sadie Cooper, Teresa Cooper, Evelyn Graves, and Susan Hooks, served a bountiful array of delicious tidbits.



Six finalists in the 1995 DeSoto Rescue Squad Womanless Beauty Pageant: Marcie, Christina, Chantilly Lace, Ronalda Walls, Judy Mae Darlin' (the winner), and Fast Frankie; with master of ceremonies, the Blues Brothers: Merle Stokes and Gail Smalley

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LOT ON LAKE LAHUSAGE (middle) - level building lot on river, dimensions 100' x 100'. **SALE PENDING** with driveway. \$10,000.

78 ACRES- ON THE WEST BROW minutes from DeSoto State Park. Great investment property with over 1,000 ft. of brow frontage. Rocks, Creeks and a beautiful view, all one could ask for at a great buy of \$100,000. Call to see.

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•THE BEST PLACE to gather live bait for stream or river fishing is right along the bank close to where you will be fishing. Rolling over logs and stones will uncover exactly the kinds of worms, grubs, and nymphs that fish in that locality are accustomed to seeing and feeding on.

•WHEN RIGGING a tarp overhead as a cooking fly, tie strong ropes between trees in front of and behind your cooking site, as high as you can reach. Then, tie cords from grommet holes on the tarp to the overhead ropes and pull the tarp taut. Tying the tarp to flexible overhead ropes rather than to rigid trees will protect it from being torn by wind.

•WHEN TOWING another boat, never tie the tow rope directly to the boat that is under power. Instead, tie a large loop in the towline and place the loop over a fixture (such as a cleat or motor clamp) on the stern of the powered boat. If there is an emergency, you can slacken the towline by reducing power then lift the loop free.

•HOW TO SMELL SMART--A sportsman's guide to nature's fragrances: Strip a handful of leaves or needles from aromatic plants or weeds while walking to your stand. Rub them onto your sleeves and pantlegs and put another handful in your pocket. After settling into your stand, rub some more onto your tree and scatter some on the ground. The natural scent will help cover your own, and because it comes from the habitat of the game you're seeking, it will be less likely to alarm your quarry than some of the commercial cover scents. Balsam, cedar, pine, and a wide variety of plants offer their aromas to you—and they're free for the taking.



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Interesting Facts

•A female armadillo always gives birth to quadruplets, and all four are always the same gender.

•Kentucky has more miles of man-made shoreline than any other state.

•Proportionate to size and weight, birds are about 75% stronger than humans.

•Neither foxes, raccoons nor domestic dogs are the most frequent carriers of rabies. That dubious honor belongs to the striped skunk.

Chasing Tails

•The alligator is ungainly on land, but a quick lash of its powerful tail catapults his prey into the water. An alligator's slashing tail can easily break a person's legs.

•The domestic dog doesn't seem to have much use for its tail except to express pleasure. On the other hand, wolves, coyotes and Alaskan huskies use their tails to cover their muzzles while sleeping in the snow.

•It seems as if all birds depend on their tails in flight, yet the tailless chimney swift can soar with the grace of a swallow. Grouse and turkeys display their tails in courtship, while the woodpecker uses his spiny tail to lean on while pecking at a tree.

Keeping The World Safe From Field Mice

HOW THE OWL DOES ITS DUTY

One pair of field mice can produce as many as 17 litters a year. If five of each litter were to survive and start reproducing, within three to four generations the original pair will have produced 1 million mice! Enter the great horned owl. According to scientists, it has been around for about 36 million years, and has helped to keep rodent populations in check.

The great horned owl will stalk and eat poisonous snakes, skunks, and animals much larger than itself. Very little of its diet includes song-and-gamebirds or small domestic animals. An owl's vision is 100 times as acute as humans', and the bird requires one-tenth the amount of light to see. Its eardrums are the largest of any bird's, giving it such keen and precise hearing it can capture prey in total darkness.

The great horned owl stakes out territory before mating season, sometimes occupying an area six miles square. He will hoot at and attack any invaders. When mating season starts, the male performs many of the antics of other birds, including aerial acrobatics, and once he finds the right lady, he mates for life.

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GARDEN HINTS

By Madeleine Bullock

If you have been spending the snowy and rainy days going through the seed catalogues, you may have noticed all the new types of flowers and vegetables that are being offered—the new genetically altered produce, bred to resist diseases and having pleasing qualities.

It was reported in the news that all the deaths last year were researched by the center for disease control, and they found that 58% of those deaths were due to infectious diseases, water, and food contamination. So, maybe these new genetically altered seeds will produce plants that don't need to be sprayed with deadly chemicals all the time. Now, it would also be nice to be able to eat meat, fish, and poultry that have not been injected by steroids and chemicals and have been fed natural foods instead of all the cheap mass-produced feed-like chicken litter that is being fed to cattle now-a-days to supplement their diet and make them gain weight for the scales and dollar amount per pound.

In the first years of raising cattle for beef, my husband was sorely tempted to feed his cattle with the cheap chicken litter, but after doing some research and listening to his conscience, he decided against it, and that was music to me.

First comes the potato/onion planting here in Northeast Alabama in mid-to-late February, and I have found that there are a few new ones to try out. Once you have decided which type of potato you would prefer, then it's time to pick the best for taste and disease resistance. There are three major groups: Russets—best for baking; waxy reds—boiling; and firm whites—best for frying.

Gurney's Nurseries is my favorite mail order nursery because I have always gotten good stock from them and they give a guarantee on all their produce. They have always promptly replaced—free of charges—all produce that did not perform as stated—and, of course, I am not being paid to write about them, it's just my own experience with them compared to other nurseries.

Gurney's has the largest stock of certified potato seeds—so many that it makes it hard to choose. Here are a few names to hit your favorite nurseries with: **Kennebec** - thin skin, late, good for creaming or baking. Very resistant to early/late blight and mosaic virus. **Improved Butte (Frontier)** - 20% more protein, ideal baker, resists disease. **Yukon Gold** - early golden fleshed, classed as one of the best eating potato sprout virus resistant, upright plant. **Red Norland** - huge yields early, round, excellent scab tolerance. **Viking** - jumbo red hybrid, 70 days to maturity, if left longer, produces huge potatoes, very prolific and extremely drought resistant. **Norgold Russet** - baking, early-to-mid season, brown skin. **Red Pontiac** - America's favorite red, thin skin, mid-to-late season maturity, does extremely well in heavy soils. **Beltsville** - most popular mid-season white potato, bred to withstand golden nematodes potato scab and verticillium wilt. Big round tubers, crisp texture, good for boiling, baking, frying and storage. **Red La Soda** - large yields, rosy skin, waxy white texture, stands cold, heat and drought. Good boiled, baked, fried. **Irish Cobbler** - earliest whites creaming/frying, oblong. **All Blue** - attention getter! good mashed/fried.

Sweet Potatoes: **Jewell** - very disease resistant, vigorous, huge crops of top quality copper-colored meaty tubers, 100 days to maturity, stores well. **Centennial** - American favorite, large early yields with orange skin and bright orange flesh, 100 days, stores well. **Vardaman** - space saving, golden-skinned, record yields, compact foliage and purple-tipped stems, 100 days. **Porto Rico** - most popular short runner bush-type, carrot colored, rich flavored flesh, 100 days. **Georgia Jet** - noted for huge quality harvests, produces heavy yields in all parts of the country, sweet deep-orange flesh, 100 days.

From another catalogue (*Seeds For The World*), I found some more varieties of sweet potatoes, and they list the **Georgia Jet** as a highly recommended sweet potato for the Northern part of America. **Centennial**, they listed as particularly known as a favorite mashed sweet potato. **Vardaman**, they listed as recently released by the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. They also list it as "baby bakers" in 90 days and "jumbo bakers" in a few more days. The sweet potato seeds from them include the above list plus: **White Bunch** - also known as **Triumph**, **Southern Queen**, **Poplar Root** or **Choker**. It is "white as cotton" inside and out and "sweet as sugar," 120 days. **Nancy Halls** - the **Yellow Yams** of the 30's - 40's, light skin, yellow flesh, juicy, waxy and sweet, known more for taste than beauty.

TIPS: If you're not willing to give up precious garden space for potatoes/sweet potatoes, try growing them intensively above ground. Lynn Coody, an organic gardening consultant in Oregon, has refined a system that yields 60 pounds or more of potatoes in a 3'x3' area. It's done by using inexpensive circular plastic compost bins that have two and a half inch holes punched out of their sides. Position the bin where you want it, put a layer of straw over the soil that the bin rests on, then add a layer of soil or compost or rotted manure, then place your seed pieces in the bin near the bottom holes. The vines grow right out of the holes as well as toward the top. Add soil or compost as the plants grow. The plant will form tubers all along the length of the covered stems. The bin will resemble a big pot of green foliage as the potato vines crawl out all the holes and eventually over the top. (See illustrations below.)

To harvest, undo the bin along the side, and the fully matured pota-

toes will just fall out, no digging, no splitting the tubers with a fork. From my husband's digest as a farmer's son, he also suggests using old used tires as bins. Somehow we have to get the holes punched out.

I would just like to pass on some information I read in *U.S. News and World Report*. The latest is that the Agriculture Department research suggests that plowing at night reduces certain types of weed by as much as 50-60%. As stated, some weed plants need a short flash of light to break their dormancy, tilling in the dark prevents buried weed seeds from sprouting. But not everyone is pleased by the experiment, as one farmer complained to the government agronomist "Those ___ want us to work 24 hours a day." Well, I have nothing to say!



First Birthday!



Michael Austin Chambers

Michael Austin Chambers will celebrate his first birthday on February 24! Proud parents are John and Mary Chambers. Grandparents are Sanford and Juanita Hartline and Milton and Gail Chambers, all of Mentone, and Robert and Delora Johnston of Hammondville. Great Grandparents are Polly and Alfred Chambers of Mentone and Mary Beatrice Campbell from Shelby, N.C.

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Births



Megan Kelly O'Rear

was born on January 8, 1996, to Chuck and Kathy O'Rear in Chattanooga. Grandparents are Charlyne and John O'Rear, Mentone; and Ines Allen, Chattanooga. Megan has a sister, Sara, who was two years old October 23.

Ashley Morgan McKee

was born on November 22, 1995, to Wanda and Darryl McKee of Fyffe. Ashley weighed 7 lbs., 3 oz. and was 22-1/2" long. Her great great grandmother is Ira Johnson; great grandmother is Bertha Robinson; grand parents are Frances and Herman Johnson, all of Mentone. Ashley has a brother Derek, age 2-1/2.



Laurelle Brook Miles

was born May 6, 1995, to her proud parents, Walt and Julie Miles. She and her parents live in Hoover, Alabama, with a home in Mentone. Julie and Walt own Miles and Miles Realty.



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Jane Kerby, Sidney Jackson, Carol Gray, and Melodye Fry

Coach Gene Stallings
and Jane Kerby

"Great Traditions in College Football" Sweepstakes Winner

On October 14, 1995, the traditional game between Alabama and Tennessee took place in Birmingham. Coca-Cola offered a "Great Traditions in College Football" sweepstakes, including 4 tickets, hotel accommodations, autographed football, expense money, and a pre-game press box tour given by Steve Sikes of Collegiate Sports Partners, LTD. The contest was won by Carol Gray, who, with her husband, Bobby, spend weekends in Mentone at their cabin, "Valley View" on the brow. Carol chose two co-workers: Sidney Jackson and Melodye Fry of Chattanooga, and Jane Kerby, cousin of the Grays, to accompany her.



The Log Cabin Deli in Mentone on January 12, 1996,
after the snow fell on Thursday night, January 11, 1996.



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Moon Lake School Honor Roll

3rd Six Weeks

ALL A's

1st Grade

Melissa Crane
Mark Corey
Alex Hazell
Katie Herndon
Julie Ingram
Chad Newell
Justin Smith
Angel Wesley

2nd Grade

Jared Bare
John Baxter
Katie Gray
Lori Hope
Sarah Hurt
Brandy Manning
Kirby McMunn
Kellye Phillips
Emily Tipton

3rd Grade

Matt Hawkins
Amanda Johnson
Fawn Kitchens
Kelly Wright

4th Grade

Emmy Corey
Kyle Hooks
Ashley McSpadden

5th Grade

Tiffany Bare
Stuart Hurt
Kerri McMunn
Kiley Young

6th Grade

Jana Goss

A'S AND B'S

1st Grade

Barnabas Bettis
Logan Chambers
Erica Cryer
Michael Hawkins
D. J. Howard
Whitney LaBuda
Phillip McNutt
Jacob Meadows
Jed Platt
Justin Scott
Kelly Swindall

2nd Grade

Laura Floyd
Melissa Harrison
Marie Hunt
Tyler Huskey
Joshua Rogers
Cayla Voils
Phillip Waller

3rd Grade

Kristen Addison
Colby Baty

Rachel Bryan

Paul Davis

Andrew McCole

Jessica Meadows

Emily Platt

Josh Smith

4th Grade

Kim Brisendine
Donna Daniel
Ashley LaBuda
Adam Manning
April Shelton

5th Grade

J.R. Patterson
Beth Easler
Corey Kirby
Kelly Owen

6th Grade

Tessie Baty
Jennifer Blalock
Jerry Lee Brisendine
Brandy Browder
Ben Corey
Jared Fischer
Alan Hawkins
Cassie Hooks
Peter Hurt
Eddie Manning

First Semester

ALL A'S

1st Grade

Logan Chambers
Melissa Crane
Erica Cryer
Michael Hawkins
Alex Hazell
Katie Herndon
Julie Ingram
Whitney LaBuda
Chad Newell
Justin Smith
Angel Wesley

2nd Grade

Jared Bare
John Baxter
Katie Gray
Lori Hope
Sarah Hurt
Brandy Manning
Kellye Phillips
Emily Tipton

3rd Grade

Kristen Addison
Rachel Bryan
Matt Hawkins
Amanda Johnson
Fawn Kitchens
Andrew McCole
Kelly Wright

4th Grade

Emmy Corey
Kyle Hooks

5th Grade

Tiffany Bare

Stuart Hurt

Kerri McMunn

Kiley Young

6th Grade

Jana Goss

A'S AND B'S

1st Grade

Barnabas Bettis
Mark Corey
D. J. Howard
Loren Kean
Phillip McNutt
Jacob Meadows
Jed Platt
Justin Scott
Kelly Swindall

2nd Grade

Laura Floyd
Melissa Harrison
Marie Hunt
Kirby McMunn
Joshua Rogers
Cayla Voils
Phillip Waller

3rd Grade

Colby Baty
Paul Davis
Nick Floyd
Jessica Meadows
Keith Miller
Emily Platt
Josh Smith

4th Grade

Kim Brisendine
Donna Daniel
Niki Johnson
Ashley LaBuda
Ashley McSpadden
April Shelton

5th Grade

Justin Dingler
Beth Easler
Joshua Hughes
Corey Kirby
Kelly Owen

6th Grade

Tessie Baty
Jennifer Blalock
Jerry Lee Brisendine
Brandy Browder
Ben Corey
Alan Hawkins
Matt Hilliard
Cassie Hooks
Peter Hurt
Eddie Manning

MOON LAKE SCHOOL NEWS

By Evelyn Graves

The Moon Lake students are currently doing Jump Rope for Heart, and Dr. Berry is appreciative of the excellent cooperation from the people who contributed to support this campaign which ended on February 2.

Spring photos will be done on February 13. This will include individual pictures, class pictures, and sports pictures for the yearbook.

Presidents' Day will be observed as a holiday on February 19, and there will be no school that day.

Sissy Crider will begin teaching art lessons to students on February 26. She will be at Moon Lake for two weeks.

The Parenting Class will be continuing each Monday evening through March 4. Anyone can come any time. Even if you have missed the previous classes, you will still benefit from one or all of the classes. The classes are from 6:30 to 8:30, and are taught by Dot Burke of the DeKalb County Children's Advocacy Center, supported by the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation. There will be no meeting on February 19, however, because of the holiday.

The lunchroom is nearing completion and should be in use in a few weeks. The school appreciates the generous support of Superintendent Weldon Parrish and the DeKalb County Board of Education and the fine craftsmanship of Lowell McKenzie, Gary McKenzie, and Ricky McKenzie who built the very beautiful and much needed addition to the campus.

The Moon Lake After School Club (M.A.C.) will begin February 6 and will end March 12, at Moon Lake Baptist Church. All the other community churches will be participating again this year. If you have not yet signed the form for your child (or children) to participate in this program, please do so. Jean Corey will be in charge of the program this year.

GIRLS

ALL-TOURNAMENT

1996 DeKalb County All-Tournament Team members are: **Front:** Jana Ingram (Plainview), Andrea Williams-MVP (Plainview), Misty Rhodes (Crossville). **Back:** Jennifer Gray (Collinsville), Amanda Pope and Joy Simmons (Fyffe), Jamie Baugh and Kayla Bell (Valley Head). **Not pictured:** Nikki Smith (Valley Head), Nicole Crowley (Geraldine), Emily Maxwell (Sylvania).

Good Citizen Winner

The Phillip Hamman chapter again sponsored the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen program, which recognizes outstanding seniors in the nation's high schools. Each high school in DeKalb County was asked to nominate a student who best exemplifies those qualities of leadership, dependability, service, and patriotism, as well as academic excellence.

Valley Head High School's Good Citizen winner is Jennifer Amanda Robertson, daughter of Ronnie and Kathy Robertson.

Jennifer is senior class president, and is president of the Senior Beta Club. She is also the band's drum major and is a member of the student council.

She plays basketball and volleyball and is a member of the Bible Club. She was also named to the Who's Who and was voted Most Likely To Succeed and ranks among the Top Ten seniors.

Jennifer served as a homecoming attendant and won scholastic awards in English, American History, typing and math team.

Jennifer has an A+ average and plans to study pharmacy at Auburn University.



Jennifer Amanda Robertson



Lady Tigers To Host 1A, Area 16 Tourney

The Valley Head Lady Tigers will get a little home cooking come February when area tournaments begin. The Lady Tigers picked the No. 1 seed and the right to host the Class 1A, Area 16 tournament at a drawing recently at Collinsville. Valley Head won the drawing with Collinsville and Paint Rock Valley after three finished, tied for first place and will

host the tournament, which begins Feb. 8. The Lady Tigers play the winner of Cedar Bluff and Woodville.

"Being the No. 1 seed helps us a lot because it puts us in the opposite side of the bracket from Collinsville and Paint Rock Valley," Valley Head coach Bobby Holloway said. "We'll have to play Cedar Bluff or Woodville to get to substate.

Woodville led us in the first quarter and, if we don't play well, we'll get beat."

Collinsville will host the boys varsity Class 1A, Area 16 tournament. Valley Head is the No. 6 seed and plays Paint Rock Valley on Feb. 9.



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(1) OWN YOUR OWN WEEK-END PARADISE with 150 feet on the East Fork of Little River. 3 bedroom, 1 bath cottage, and detached garage with upstairs room. Fish from your own private dock or canoe down Little River. Co-Broke with Cloudland Realty. \$75,500.



(2) LIKE NEW-LOW MAINTENANCE BRICK HOME with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large eat-in kitchen, and fireplace with insert. Room for expansion in this 3/4 basement with full bath. Sitting on a low maintenance lot with adjoining land available. \$75,000.



(3) 3-bdrm, 1 bath FARMHOUSE on 40 acres. Hardwood & Pine Floors, Rock Fireplace - 2 car garage - equipment shed & Greenhouse. \$78,500.



(4) MENTONE BROW - Spectacular View-Beautiful, unique, unusual describes this finished home which offers three bedrooms, one full bath (with Jacuzzi), two one-half baths, great room with wet bar and fireplace, kitchen area features ceramic counter-tops and an island with custom hood, range, disposal, dishwasher and refrigerator. A two-car garage, glass-enclosed octagon-shaped casual pool with patio overlooking pool, sauna, shower area, recreation room with pool table, hot tub, and decks are just some of the amenities. All this and approximately 700' of brow frontage! Shown by appointment only to qualified buyers. Great for a restaurant. \$295,000.



(5) LOFTY CONTEMPORARY on the Brow of Mentone. Offering 3 or 4 bedrooms - 2 baths. Fully equipped kitchen-pine floors-dressing room, and solar room. Floor to ceiling glass in the 2-story living room produces a feeling of openness to the outside from both floors. Appointment only. \$225,000.



(6) TAKE A HEALTHY LOOK AT COUNTRY LIVING and breathe the clean air at this 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 year old home on 4 acres. Front porch, screened back porch, a single car garage, barn, and gazebo. All appliances and furniture to remain with house. A must see at only \$72,500.



(7) COZY COUNTRY COTTAGE - 1 acre wooded lot on East Lake Drive. Less than 2 years old. 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, large living, dining & kitchen. Fireplace. Front & Back porches, 2 car carport & detached garage. REDUCED to \$82,500.

OTHER LISTINGS



(8) WATCH THE SEASON CHANGE IN THE VALLEY BELOW from in front of the rock fireplace of this 3 bedroom, 2 bath, custom log home. Fully equipped kitchen, pine floors, exposed beams in living room, and central heat and air on a 7.2 acre brow lot above Mentone. Ready to move into and start enjoying the fantastic view from the large deck where you can spend many lazy afternoons. \$145,000.

(9) THE WEST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER flows quietly by these 3-acre wooded lots with 300 feet of River Frontage. Restricted for property owner's protection. Prices starting at \$20,000.

(10) 13 BROW LOTS with additional acreage across the road for a mini-farm. Just over the Georgia line. Restricted. Co-Broke with Cloudland Realty.

(11) OVERLOOK THE BREATHTAKING GEORGIA VALLEY from this 3.76 acre West Brow lot, about 10 miles north of Mentone. Lightly restricted. Co-Broke with Cloudland Realty. Only \$22,000.

(12) LAKE ON THE BROW - Where else can you find magnificent sunrise and lake view in the same place? Only at Lake on the Brow. Restricted building lots 10 minutes from town. NOW OPEN-PHASE II - Look now while the choice is prime-starting at only \$12,500.

(13) OAKWOOD IS NOW OPEN and already selling. At least 3 acres in each tract. Wooded, cleared, great pond sites, lightly restricted. Prices starting at only \$9,950. Make your appointment to see now.

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Happy Valentine's Day



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A Friendly Valley View

By
ELOISE BROWN

February, quite contrary, how do your breezes blow? You hint of spring, robins dance and sing, flowers start to grow, then you bring ice and snow! We have been on a see-saw, weatherwise--up and down.

The Sunshine Club met Thursday, Jan. 25, at the home of Evelyn Clark. It was a beautiful day, so attendance was good. Evelyn served lovely refreshments to the following: Sue Clark, Bess Bauerle, Leona Chadwick, Anna Daniel, Gladys Cobble, Glenda Savage, Lillie Bowden, Ruth Pickett, Sue Cooper, Jewel Palmer, Violet Barker, and Eloise Brown. I, as chairman of the nominating committee, reported that the same officers were nominated for another year, which was accepted, and I was appointed devotional chairman. Bess Bauerle gave an inspiring devotional, and I read a joke. Leona Chadwick showed a lovely cook book that she had compiled. She also announced that she is now a great grandmother. Her granddaughter, Aaron Mahon, and husband, Ryan, have a son, Eli, who was born in Sept. They live in Raleigh, N.C. Sue Clark will be hostess for the club meeting in February.

Karen and Mark Freeman joined her sister Jo Welch and Jo's husband, Mike, and a group from Chattanooga for a five-day trip to Cancun, Mexico. They enjoyed it very much, although it was not very warm.

Elizabeth Coleman suffered a broken leg in a fall at her home. Tommy Allison came from Ashville, N.C., Peachie Cearly from Irvine, Ga., and Ansley McGinnis from Florence, S.C., to visit their mother, Laura Margaret Allison and their Aunt Elizabeth and to help.

Carmel Gifford is at the Collinsville Nursing Home and seems to be a little better.

Geraldine Hawkins spent several days at BMC DeKalb. She has a broken arm as the result of a fall at her home. We wish for everyone who has fallen or is ill, a speedy and complete recovery--also for Paul Burnett, who was bruised in a car accident.

Lois and Woodrow Young from Gadsden, visited his sister, Venna Livingston, recently.

Clayton Blansit passed away Saturday, Feb. 3, at his home. Clayton loved flowers and his yard was always full of flowers. He planted a bed of flowers at the intersection of Highway 11 and Carmichael Road. It was a spot of beauty for everyone to enjoy. sincere sympathy to his family. Also to the families of Vernitice Young and Charles Lawton who passed away recently.

Opal Tatum was injured in a fall at her home.

Thanks to Mary Holleman for this item: Historic Winston Place in Valley Head was the setting for a lovely dinner party hosted by Ralph Hammond, of Arab, for local relatives on Saturday night, Jan. 27. Among those enjoying this delightful occasion were: Laura Margaret Allison, Adelaide and Marty Biddle, Kenneth Hammond, Elizabeth and Nelson Ellis, Mary and John Holleman, Jean and Welborn Matthews, and Leslie and Jim Bunch of Winston Place.

It was an evening of remembering happy times, lots of laughter, and entertainment by the host, who read some poetry from his latest award winning book, "Crossing Many Rivers--Poems Along the Way." Each couple was presented an autographed copy of the book, which they will treasure.

Although Ralph has traveled extensively and accomplished much in his long and fruitful life, he has always remembered his roots and the place of his birth. Many of his stories and poems have been about places and people he grew up with.

A wonderful meal was enjoyed at the beautifully appointed table with silver candelabra and red roses as the centerpiece. Jean gave the red roses to honor Ralph's birthday, and each lady received a rose at evening's end.

All of his friends and relatives are proud of the accomplishments of this charming and modest man. Among his many

honors are an honorary doctorate bestowed on him by Livingston University for his work in compiling an Anthology of Alabama Poets for Livingston Press. He is Poet Laureate Emeritus of Alabama and is currently serving as President of the National Poetry Society.

Ted Holleman was unable to attend the dinner. He has been ill for some time now at his home. We are hoping his problem will be solved, and he will soon be well. He is so much help and so dependable to serve our church and community.

I wrote this a year ago, after my birthday and my gift: "Tomorrow is my birthday," I thought as I prepared for bed. "No one will probably remember, why should they, it is just another day?" Then I scolded myself--"You know there are those who always remember and never forget!" With complacent acceptance, I lay down and was soon asleep.

I was standing on the porch of a house. There were two women with me. There was a long fence row on the right side of the lawn. It was completely covered with a blanket of gorgeous pink roses with some large, perfect red rose buds scattered through them. Each rose was perfectly formed, each petal like lustrous satin, and their fragrance perfumed the incredibly beautiful scene. We shouted with joy, wonder, and awe. I was reminded of words from a poem I had written years ago. "In the heart of a rose, in gentle repose, lies all the mystery of life's history." We gathered armloads of the roses, but they were not diminished. Across the way, I discovered a large bed of yellow roses--each one gorgeous, each one perfect. I walked across to share them with a man who stood there, but he was stoic and unaware. A panoramic vista of a landscape was spread out around us with luscious colors of rosy russet and gold and all shades of green, softened by purple and lavender shadows beneath an azure blue sky--a breathtaking view! I said, "I adore color." He asked, "Why?" I replied, "Because it is beauty. Don't you enjoy this lovely view, doesn't it thrill your soul?" He only shrugged and turned away. I said to myself, "Poor man, he is surrounded by beauty--food for the soul--but he has created for himself--a desert." I was reminded of the scripture lesson of Ezekiel 37 and the valley of "dry bones." I returned to the porch. Where the roses had grown was now bare, as if they had never been. We exclaimed together, "It was a miracle!" The beauty and fragrance of the bouquet I had hugged to my breast will always live in my mind and heart for God had sent me a rose garden to remind me that he is always near and always remembers. When I awoke the next morning, my spirit was still lifted up, floating on a sea of ecstasy, and I said, "I must share my beautiful birthday gift with others."

The night before this birthday was quite different. The electricity was off, and I was cold and hungry for warm food, but I was brought a wonderful hot breakfast and birthday cake and visits and calls, friends and family showed their love and concern, and made it a wonderful day despite the fact that it was record-breaking cold outside.

Everyone stay warm and safe--just about six more weeks until wonderful, beautiful spring! We hope that Groundhog (that marmot) didn't see his shadow. This Groundhog doesn't stay in one place long enough to make a shadow. It really gets around!

Crystal Beauty Land

Winter waves her magic breezes
Then all earth in splendor freezes,
Into a crystal beauty land
Marvels of nature's lavish hand.

Mountains sparkle with diamond gleams
Kissed to life by sunshine's beams;
Paths beckon 'neath the canopies
Formed by ice encrusted trees.

Blades of grass are blue sapphire stems;
Weeds are crowned with bright diadems;
Bushes drooping like silent fountains,
Sculptured wonders fill the mountains.

Fences are woven works of art--
Loveliness to thrill ev'ry heart--
Shrubbery tinkling like chandelier,
Musical carillon so clear.

Glittering glamour ev'rywhere
Shattering splinters fill the air--
Brittle, shimmering to the ground,
Opaline pebbles there abound.

All earth with icicles gaily hung,
Fantastic scene is tinsel strung
Miracle of nature's wintry hand--
Wonderful, crystal beauty land!

--Eloise Brown

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Edward Jones

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FORT PAYNE CULTURE CLUB'S "GOING FOR THE GOLD"



ANNUAL DEKALB COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S SPRING SALE

This is the year of the Olympics. The DeKalb Public Library is also "Going for the Gold" at their Spring Sale, March 2-March 6. During the month of February, donated items will be sorted and set up for the Spring Sale by Culture Club members.

Begin now to look for the gold in your own homes. Search in your closets and storage places and on your tables and shelves to find items you would like to share with others. All kinds of books, fiction or non-fiction are in demand. Games, puzzles and video tapes are always popular. Selected magazines in good condition can be sold. Since a large number of children can use the library, it is hoped that many donations will make possible an interesting children's display.

Each year has seen increased revenue from the sale which is used to purchase items which are not in the budget. In 1995, over \$5,000 income from the sale was used to purchase large-print books, a video cleaner, books on tape and other materials.

Special needs arise each year. For 1996, the Health and Medical section needs to be updated. A reader-printer is needed for the History-Genealogy room to help students and genealogists in their research. This would benefit the history buffs in the area.

Sale donations can be dropped off at the library, 504 Grand Avenue North, during library hours, during the month of February.

Join the real fun when you can "Go for the Gold" during the Spring Sale, March 2-March 6.

"50th" Wedding Anniversary Celebration

The children and grandchildren of
Jim and Elizabeth Ellis
invite you to share in the celebration of their
50th Wedding Anniversary.

A reception will be held Sunday, the
3rd of March, 1995,
from 2:30 to 4:30 in the afternoon, Central
Standard Time, at DeSoto State Park Lodge,
Fort Payne, Alabama.

In the Death of Chester Crowe

A special "Thank you"

- to Jesse Crow, Joel and Sue King, who were with me at our Mentone home before the ambulance arrived;
- to the ambulance attendants;
- to the BMC Emergency Room attendants;
- to the Wilson Funeral Home and its staff;
- to the many, many friends who brought food and sent beautiful flowers;
- to the visitors at home and the countless phone callers;
- to those who lifted prayers on our behalf;
- to the ministers and the singers;
- to the American Legion Post, the Board of the Fire Department, the Volunteer Firemen.

Thanks to all of you. May God richly bless you all.

Lucille Crowe, children, and grandchildren

REWARD FOR LOST DOG

"Sou sou," Joe Stephens' little 14-year-old black female peek-a-poo dog disappeared Sunday, February 4, around 10 a.m., while out in the yard of Joe's home on the brow. Many friends have joined in the search for "Sou sou," but to no avail.

A reward is being offered by Joe Stephens for any information concerning "Sou sou's" whereabouts, dead or alive. Call Joe Stephens at 634-4138 or Yvonne Blalock at 634-4375.



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it; if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned. Songs of Solomon 8:7

February 14th is the time we express our love to those around us. But do we really know the value of love--can we love our enemies? Those who treat us unkind? Or do we have the kind of love that makes us a friend that loves at all times, bad times and good times?

Happy Valentines Day. I love you!

Public Hearing

There will be a Public Hearing at Mentone Town Hall on February 12, 1996, 2 p.m., to discuss funding for a Water Supply Line. Mayor Cash said funding will be sought from RECD.

EVERY VOTER

needs to complete a voter's update form, prior to the 1996 elections. The *National Voter Registration Act* was enacted in 1993, and took effect Jan. 1, 1995. If you have not contacted the Board of Registrar in your county to fill out an update form, you need to do so as soon as possible. This is for everyone who is eligible to vote. There was a comprehensive article in the January 1996 issue of *The Groundhog*.

A recent letter to *The Groundhog* from Gail Buttram, Chairman, DeKalb County Board of Registrars said, "The DeKalb County Board of Registrars sincerely thank you for the excellent article pointing out the need for DeKalb County voters to update their records. The article was both accurate and informative."

"Updating these records is a huge task, but one made a lot easier when the public understands and is cooperative. We are getting an excellent response from the Mentone, Valley Head, and Hammondville area. Your paper, along with some civic-minded individuals, are responsible for this; and we say 'Thank you!'"

VOTER'S UPDATE FORM

111-003

STATE OF ALABAMA
DEKALB COUNTY
BOARD OF REGISTRARS
DeKalb County Activities Building
111 Grand Ave. S.
Fort Payne, AL 35967
Office Phone: 845-8598
Registration Name & Residential Address

NAME _____

* ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP CODE _____

CITY LIMITS _____ IN ☐ OUT ☐

DATE OF BIRTH _____

MAIDEN NAME/FORMER NAMES _____

*If P.O. Box--Give street address also.
*If Route #--Give exact location of house on back of form.

SOCIAL SECURITY NO. _____

RACE ☐ CAUCASIAN ☐ BLACK ☐ ASIAN
☐ AMERICAN INDIAN ☐ OTHER ☐ HISPANIC

SIGNATURE _____

PHONE: HOME _____ BUSINESS _____

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO REMOVE A VOTER'S NAME

VOTER'S NAME _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

CHECK ONE:

☐ VOTER IS DECEASED

☐ VOTER IS A NONRESIDENT. ADDRESS IF KNOWN: _____

YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO VOTER _____

YOUR SIGNATURE _____

YOUR PHONE _____