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THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville

Volume 29, No. 02

"Neighbory News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

February 2010

Mentone's Sweetheart 2010

By Evelyn Graves

Amanda Elizabeth Jones was born on January 2, 1924, at Mentone, Alabama, to Hardie and Maude Colquitt Jones. Elizabeth was the second of five children, Rufus Colquitt being the oldest, then Elizabeth, Lovejoy, Mary Louise, and Edward.

Elizabeth loved her family. She and her brothers and sister were very close as children and they worked hard on the farm, but they had time to enjoy good times together, particularly their musical talents. Colquitt played the violin, Lovejoy played the mandolin. Elizabeth played both the piano and guitar, Mary Louise played the piano, and Ed, who was left-handed, did not play an instrument because they had no left-handed instruments; therefore, he sang with the group. Their father played the banjo. Saturday evenings were spent sitting on the porch playing all types of music. Crowds of people who were passing would stop to listen to the music. On Sunday afternoons they hosted a singing. Again, people came and joined in with them.

Elizabeth attended Moon Lake School and graduated from Valley Head High School. Her mother had a sister, Zula Bell Colquitt, who was a nurse in Rome, Georgia, and Elizabeth and her sister, Mary Louise, both admired the aunt and respected her for the work that she performed. They both had a desire to follow in her footsteps. Elizabeth applied for admission to the Baroness Erlanger School of Nursing upon completion of her high school curriculum. The program there was a 3-year program accommodating over three hundred students at a time. After successfully completing the required tests for admission, Elizabeth became a student in the cadet nursing program and established residency in one of the dorms. The cadets worked in the hospital in conjunction with their studies. They worked long and hard, and many times it was "lights out" by the time they reached their rooms at night. She and her roommate got in the closet with the light on to study. Their schedule began very early the next morning, which left very little time to sleep. They had vespers every day, and Elizabeth played the piano for the vespers.

The cadets wore blue dresses with white aprons and a cap with no band. In their senior year, they received a cap with a band. Their uniforms were always starched and crisp for the day's activities. The students worked according to assignments, and after Elizabeth graduated, she went to work in the operating room at Erlanger Hospital. It was not long until she was placed as supervisor of surgery. She supervised the entire surgical unit for 36 years.

Through a mutual friend, Elizabeth met Monroe Romans, a tall, dark, and handsome young man, and after a two-year courtship, they were married. Three years later, Elizabeth gave birth to William Lee (Bill), her pride and joy. She took a 6 months' leave when he was born and enjoyed every minute of being with her baby.

It was so fortunate for me when I telephoned Elizabeth for an interview that Bill and his wife, Jeanie, were visiting Elizabeth from Chattanooga, where they live. I was able to get some information from them that only they could remember. Bill relates with a great deal of pride, "She was a good mom. My day started early in the morning when she had to go in to work around five o'clock. My dad and I always took her to work from our home in the Brainerd area, and I remember how I dreaded going through the tunnels to get to the hospital. Mother always cooked our breakfast before we left, and there was still plenty of time after we had made that trip for me to get back to school at Brainerd after I was old enough to be in school. I stayed with a neighbor who had a little boy a little bit

older than I was, and I liked that. Mother, Daddy, and I spent a lot of time at the ballpark because I played some kind of ball from the time I was a little fellow - flag football, baseball, football. Mother always enjoyed watching me play. Daddy was a skilled carpenter, avid fisherman and hunter, and he took me with him a lot. Mother cooked everything Daddy killed on his hunting excursions. She was most famous for her chitterlings. All of the neighbors came in for that. Mother has always loved her family, and we have always loved her. Mother had a lot of influence with a lot of folks that she met through her work in the medical field. I remember one person who was a classmate of mine and was injured in a terrible accident. He was unconscious in the hospital for three months, and he was sent home still in a comatose state. He opened his eyes one day and recognized people. He had to learn to talk and walk again, and he began to relate that he had been able to hear everyone while he was in the hospital. Mother was a great influence on him during this time, and she was instrumental in helping him get a degree at Erlanger as an x-ray technician, and he is still employed there. He still has problems walking and talking, but he does an excellent job at the hospital. He came to see Mother recently just to thank her for her confidence in him and for her help at a time when he really needed it."

Jeanie, Elizabeth's daughter-in-law stated that Elizabeth is a good mother-in-law. She said Elizabeth does a lot for them and for the grandchildren, and that she never did have to hire a babysitter when the children were little because Elizabeth always kept them while they had to travel or whatever the occasion might be, and that they could not have been happier than to be with their grandmother.

Bill graduated from Brainerd High School and from Auburn University where he played college football. He married Jeanie Turner of Chattanooga, and they have two fine children, Priscilla Elizabeth and Cody. Priscilla is an aesthetician, and her grandmother unconsciously influenced this decision as Priscilla wears her scrubs every day and deals with patients with skin disorders. Cody followed in his father's footsteps and is on the



Elizabeth Jones Romans, Christmas 2008.

THE GROUNDHOG

PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association. MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 5, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, and is chartered as a non-profit organization by the State of Alabama.



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

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Tourist Association (Fort Payne)
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Little River Hardware
The Clip Joint
Snappy Tee's
Alabama Organics

ATTENTION

Senior lunches will begin on Wednesday, February 17th until Wednesday, April 21st. Come join us at MERF's community house. For more information or to provide lunch, call Sarah Wilcox at 634-4673.

EDITOR:

Lyn Cox
The Stained Glass Shoppe
5094 County Road 127
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Subject: 27th Annual October Colorfest

I would like to praise the Colorfest festival committee for their great effort in coordinating this festival. My business has tripled since the exposure I got from this festival. The MAPA Festival Committee was superior in their effort to make me, with my business feel welcome.

Thank you! Colorfest Committee!

Lyn Cox
The Stained Glass Shoppe

**ALL MATERIALS FOR THE
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Please call Evelyn Graves at 634-4390, or email
Ergraves37@aol.com. The Groundhog is printed

on the last day of each month.

We appreciate your cooperation and
understanding. Thank you.

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Welcome To Mentone!!



Stop by our Log Cabin in front of the Wildflower Cafe, we always look forward to a visit from our neighbors and friends.

LOTS and LAND

200' FRONTAGE ON WEST FORK LITTLE RIVER. 4.84 acre lot in restricted community. Canoe, swim, fish. Mature trees, mountain laurel & yellow root in abundance. \$64,500. (19048)

A LITTLE HIGHER UP THE MOUNTAIN Almost 2 acres, across the road from the brow, only about a mile from the village of Mentone, higher in elevation. Paved road frontage, public water, level & wooded 1.9 acre lot. (Add'l land avail) \$39,900. (19034)

1.66 ACRES, PRIVATE, LIGHTLY RESTRICTED w/power, public water (and well) & septic tank already in place! You're not just "starting from scratch" on this piece of wooded land, and that's going to be a time & money saver for you. The only lot of its kind in Mentone that we know of and it can be yours for only \$23,500 (19182)

WOODED LOT IN BANKHEAD SOUTH, a development offering a wooded place to build your getaway dream cabin or permanent residence. This lot (Lot 2) offers 3.6 ac, paved road frontage, public water & power at road. One of only 2 lots remaining. \$38,000. (17865)

BEST BUY IN NORTHBEND! This 3-acre wooded lot (Lot 2) located in Mentone's highest elevation gated community provides a spot for your mountain haven. A world away, but not miles away! \$29,900 (17461)

1.69 AC LOT w/view of Rock Lake, Mentone. Add'l land avail. Lightly restricted. \$27,500 (19225)

23 ACRES IN MENTONE. Comb field & woods. Great wildlife area w/deer, turkey & bear sightings. Sm wet-weather spring in back. Unrestricted. Corner property. \$86,250. (19232)



NOSTALGIC AND NICE! 1940s charmer on 3.3 acres, right at the foot of Lookout Mtn on the way to Mentone! Freshly remodeled & updated w/4BR/2BA; formal DR; sunroom; new cabinets & counter-tops; full appl pkg. Original HW floors beautifully restored. Unf basement w/1-car gar area & tons of storage! Outbuilding; paved drive; great landscaping! Now \$109,000. (18863)



LITTLE RIVER CANYON. Stunning 3-level log cabin w/views of LRC across the road! Perfectly furnished. Active vacation rental. 3BR/2BA, finished basement w/game room & bar area w/walkout to lower hot tub deck. MABR suite w/walkout to central deck. MABA w/jacuzzi tub & sep shower & antique oak cabinet vanity. 2BR upstairs, one w/walkout to upper deck. \$239,000 (19256)



BEAUTIFUL CABIN, BEAUTIFUL VIEWS! Cedar shake-sided cabin w/views of Shinbone Valley below you, woods & boulders around you! Just 9 miles from downtown Mentone, off the scenic mountain drive of Hwy 48 Cloudland. Open great room w/double-sided stone Fpl (gas logs), remote-controlled projection TV screen in LR ceiling w/built-in speakers, lg MABR suite w/huge tiled shower, 2 huge BRs upstairs connected by dramatic catwalk balcony, guest BA w/jetted tub. Approx 2700 sq ft. Det 2-car+ garage w/bonus room. All this & great views, too! \$249,900 (19628)



THE BARN... But not like any barn you've ever seen! 2BR/2BA split design cabin w/pine floors & ceilings, fabulous w/fpl, open central great room w/17' gambrel ceiling & old tin walls. Fully-furnished. Nicely-equipped kitchen. Screened porch w/hot tub. Currently on rental program at the Settlement at Monk's Cove. Rustic luxury at a fabulous price! \$180,000. (19473)



HUNTERS RIDGE LOG CABIN. 2BR/2.5BA. Large, main-level MABR suite w/jetted tub & double vanities in BA. Upstairs BR is even more spacious w/room for 2 queen beds! Guest BA w/antique clawfoot tub, vessel lavatory, galvanized tin walls. Open LR/DR area w/b fast bar, SS appl, stone gaslog Fpl. Add'l den area opens to lg deck. Nestled in the trees on a 1.3 ac lot. \$212,000. (19587)



SPACIOUSNESS THAT IS POSITIVELY, WELL, HEAVENLY! Circa 1870 church building divinely transformed into a 2500 sq ft split 2BR/2BA home w/awe-inspiring Great Room in the middle. Original heart pine floors & walls. Custom cabinetry utilizing original church pews. Renovations retain character of original architecture. The price? Blessedly reasonable at only \$129,900 (19569)



CRISP FEBRUARY EVENINGS, on the mountain at Mentone, curled up by a warm fire in the beautiful stone fireplace. Enjoy every season in this new cabin w/just the right combination of rustic charm & elegance. 3BR/2BA cedar cabin; possible 4th BR or study; welcoming front porch; screened back porch; balcony off MABR. Sitting on 3 wooded acres w/small stream. Now \$199,900. (18887)



GREAT NEW PRICE!!! A LOG CABIN IN THE WOODS. Surprisingly spacious, with 3BR/2.5BA, approx 1400 sq ft, porch off main-level MABR, generous laundry room, gas log fireplace, CH/A, less than 4 miles from village of Mentone, higher up the mountain. Plenty of wildlife, pleasant walking areas, quiet road near Ponderosa Camp. Under construction. Now an incredibly reasonable \$119,900 (19512)



POSSIBLE OWNER FINANCING and a great price make this 3BR/2BA new cabin on 8 acres quite an attractive possibility for your retreat, rental, residence! Cedar exterior, poplar & pine interior. Great front & back porches; large side deck; stone patio w/chimenea; beautiful stone work on WB Fpl, foundation & landscaping. Gated entry & circle drive. All for only \$159,900. (19143)



PRICE DRASTICALLY REDUCED! SECLUDED CABIN ON LITTLE RIVER on 4.5 mostly-wooded acres. Approx 1600 sq ft finished as open great room, 2BR/2BA. Approx 800 sq ft add'l area in walkout basement to be finished as you please. Great frontage on the river with swimming hole, areas to put in canoe or kayak, secret spring & waterfall, plenty of privacy! Interior offers cathedral ceilings w/exposed beams, arched doorway, all appliances. Front porch, side & back decks. A buy you should not pass up for only \$185,000. (19245)



PUBLIC NOTICE

The **2010** meeting dates for the **Valley Head Water Works Board**, 101 School Street, Valley Head, AL will be as follows:

FEBRUARY 8, 2010
MARCH 8, 2010
APRIL 12, 2010
MAY 10, 2010
JUNE 14, 2010
JULY 12, 2010
AUGUST 9, 2010
SEPTEMBER 13, 2010
OCTOBER 11, 2010
NOVEMBER 8, 2010
DECEMBER 13, 2010

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

The **2010** quarterly meeting dates for the **Mentone Planning Commission**, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be on the **3rd Thursday** of the following months:

APRIL 15
JULY 15
OCTOBER 15

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

The **2010** meeting dates for the **Mentone Waterworks Board**, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL

will be at 4PM, on the 4th Thursday as follows:

FEBRUARY 25
MARCH 25
APRIL 22
MAY 27
JUNE 24
JULY 22
AUGUST 25
SEPTEMBER 22
OCTOBER 27
NOVEMBER 22
DECEMBER 22

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

The **2010** meeting dates for the **Mentone Town Council**, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6PM, as follows:

FEBRUARY 8
MARCH 8
APRIL 12
MAY 10
JUNE 14
JULY 12
AUGUST 9
SEPTEMBER 13
OCTOBER 11
NOVEMBER 8
DECEMBER 13

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

1 – Tammy Kirby
 2 – George Walker, in memory
 3 – Susan Van Apeldorn
 4 – Alex Hazell, Jamie Cameron, Zeb Kincer
 5 – Cameron Collins, Dorothy Bridges
 6 – Felicia Key, Maxine Baty
 7 – Jordan Sutton
 8 – Jimmy Hester
 9 – Cayden Collins
 10 – David Gilbreath
 11 – Shinice Smith, Cayla Voils
 14 – Ashelyn Watson
 16 – Janis J. Carter, Sharron Barron
 18 – Kaleb McMunn
 19 – Jewel Cochran
 20 – Joan Byrum
 22 – Isaac Akes, Justin Langston
 24 – Susan Collins, Tom Emory
 25 – Austin Jones, Dorothy Cyr
 26 – Margie Coots

27 – Livvy Griffith, David Hilliard
 28 – Frances Gilbreath, Elizabeth Perry

Anniversaries

8 – Dave & Yvonne Blalock
 14 – Mr. & Mrs. Huey Matthews
 16 – Nelson & Cynthia Kerby
 22 – Andy & Susan Akes, Kathy & Dick Casler
 24 – Ed & Gerry Disney
 28 – George & Harriett Lillich



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SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

The Sunday morning services at **Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church** are held at 9AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Rev. Jerry Davis and Rev. L.A. Smith are alternate speakers for these services.

The Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to attend Sunday School at 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM; Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM; Midweek Service (Wednesday) at 6PM; Women on Mission meet at 1PM the second Tuesday of each month at different homes. Everyone is welcome to come.

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

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

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

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

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

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM Sunday. Bible class or Lent/Advent services every Wednesday at 6:30PM. Steve Schrader, Pastor - 845-4314. Everyone welcome.

Walnut Grove Baptist Church, on Highway 11 North of Fort Payne, welcomes

everyone at Sunday School at 10AM, Worship Service at 11AM, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6PM, and Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:30PM.

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

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

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

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

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

The Mentone Revival Center and Pastor LeRoy Nichols and wife, Nell, invite everyone to join in worship on Sunday morning at 10AM and 11AM, and Sunday night and Thursday night at 6PM.

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

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

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

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9:45AM, with classes for all ages. Morning Worship is at 11AM. The Lords Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March, and June at the morning worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 5:00PM and Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00PM. On Wednesdays, Team Kids; Youth Bible Study and Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting are all at 6:30PM. Rev. Terry Turner is the regular pastor at Moon Lake.

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

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

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

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

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd., Mentone, AL 35984 Sunday Services: 9 am and 10:30 am

Adult Sunday School: Sundays @ 9:30 am
Teen and Adult Sunday School: Sundays @ 5:30
Tuesday Night Prayer Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday Nights @ 6:30 pm: Children's Pioneer Clubs & Youth Group



DEVOTIONAL

By Evelyn Graves

There is much in the Bible about love. There are different types of love, but the one that we need to concentrate on for the month of February is the one where we are commanded to love the Lord our God with all our might and our neighbor as ourselves. Do we really love our neighbor? Who is our neighbor? It is defined in religious areas as anyone who is in need.

Let us accept the challenge to love our neighbor. Let us search out the need that our neighbor has - whether it is a physical need or a spiritual need. If it is a physical need, let us take whatever steps are necessary to see that the need is met. It is impossible to talk to a person about his spiritual needs if he is hungry or cold. After we have met the physical need, then we need to exercise that love that God has bestowed upon us in telling the neighbor that we love him and that God does too.

Has It Really Been 60 Years?

By Kenneth Chambers

Moon Lake School began for me in 1949-1950, and for a while I was thinking how I would rather be home playing with my brother. My first grade teacher was Mrs. Foye Jones, and I, along with others at school, thought she was a bear or some other larger than life creature. It was the difference in home life and the structured environment of school that was the culprit of those thoughts in my head.

My second grade teacher was my first love, or my idea of love, and Mrs. Kathryn Jones was her name. She still has her place of honor in my history as Number 1. Mrs. Edith Lyday was another of my teachers at Moon Lake, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Adams, and Mrs. Betty Jo Johnson did substitute duty at times. Many of the first grade class became graduates at Valley Head High School in May of 1961.

I remember Mr. Frank Green as the janitor and the lunchroom ladies, Mrs. Nina Mae Crow and Mrs. Winnie Mae Shigley. I used to help sweep the floor of the lunchroom for a little extra of the chipped beef and gravy. That lunchroom was huge in my eyes. The county health nurse came often to school, and without a word spoken, just by observation, it was announced that she was coming. She always came after lunch, as it turned out, every time we had hominy.

There were many good times had while in school at Moon Lake back in the days of my youth.

The children born to me and my wife attended school there with Charles Bell, Debbie Sizemore, Joyce Smith, and Mrs. Kathryn Jones leading the way for them to have good memories. Moon Lake School is still leading the way for today's students to have those good memories.

There were some tragedies in some of the students' families over the years at Moon Lake School, even some of our classmates' lives ended tragically.

So many changes over time have made this community school to continue to educate the children in attendance, so that when they go on to high school, many become tops in their class work. Several members attained the honor of valedictorian or salutatorian at the end of their senior year of high school.

The area that is now covered with the gym used to be a good portion of our play area. Many of us left some skin, and even a few drops of blood, on that soil. Among all the games being played - jump rope, jacks, dodge ball, May 1, Red Rover, Hide and Seek, marbles, unorganized football and softball, we all made it without serious physical harm.

Sixty years have made a lot of changes for Moon Lake School and for former students that attended classes there; yet, much remains unchanged. The determination of the teachers, principals, support of the community, and I include past as well as present day, is the driving force that keeps this school on the move. Kudos to all that have worked to keep Moon Lake School open, and have kept it thriving, instead of just being a place of memories where I used to attend.

Got Any Old Indian Proverbs in Your Memory Bank?

By Kenneth Chambers

Having had the good fortune to meet and become friends with some of the Cherokees of North Carolina, I have learned a kinship that made me to feel I had been introduced to family. I mention my acquaintance with those peoples to pose the question to all that may read and try to answer. Do you recall having heard something in a phrase from times past like, "If it rains before 7 o'clock, it will be gone by 11 o'clock?" I am not sure if it is A.M. or P.M., but I have seen it work that way.

It would be interesting to get input from others in and around DeKalb County, Alabama, because of the documented teachings at the "Council Tree" in front of the Winston Place in Valley Head, and at the caverns named for this leader.

I would really like to have a response to this question so we might compile a list.

Please send your replies to The Groundhog so we will have input to share with all. This question is offered by Kenneth Chambers and Evelyn Graves.

MASSAGE THERAPY

Kerry Breithaupt LMT
National Instructor AL#456

- HOT STONE MASSAGE
- DEEP TISSUE THERAPY
- SWEDISH MASSAGE
- GIFT CERTIFICATES
- CABIN/HOUSE CALLS

Offices in
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Tony Blansit...Outsider Artist

By Charlotte Gentry

Quirky. Odd. Fun. Unusual. Interesting.

Adjectives describing both the artist and the work of Tony Blansit...and most of these descriptives are from the artist himself. He is the first to admit his imagination and the art it inspires are sometimes hard to categorize. He is best described as an Outsider Artist.

Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, raised in Fort Payne and Valley Head, Alabama, Tony's life has been just as interesting and varied as his art.

He describes himself as a "retired iron worker, bartender, taxidermist and textile plant machine fixer." But his travels and adventures have taken him all over the world to work, live, and drink in the subject matter for his art.

Tony is a self-taught artist, though the skills he utilizes in creating his one-of-a-kind pieces were honed while working in steel mills, working sheet metal, doing taxidermy, fixing machines in hosiery mills and remodeling buildings.

He has lived in Hawaii, Los Angeles, New York, New Orleans and Atlanta, doing everything from bartending to snowmaking at a ski resort; from window washing to carpentry.

Tony spent a month in Europe to see the places and art of the old Masters in Florence, Venice and Rome, Italy (where he saw the Vatican and the Pope). Then he traveled to Switzerland and to Paris. From there he toured the southern coast of Italy, taking in the legendary city of Pompeii. He found the small fishing village of Positano,

Italy to be one of the most beautiful cities he visited and painted a series of scenes from his stay there. He finished up his European tour by visiting Barcelona, Spain.

In between his travels, Tony often returned to his roots in Fort Payne. He worked with his father for about year doing plumbing work. He bought a home in Mentone and traveled back and forth between Atlanta and Fort Payne to help care for his parents when their health began to fail.

After his parents passed away, Tony sold his house in Mentone and moved back to Atlanta and started a renovation and landscaping business. He did this for five years, then decided it was time to return to the mountain. He moved back to Mentone in 2007.

Tony works in oils, chalk and oil pastels, watercolors, acrylic, charcoal, pencil, pen and ink, metal etching, wood carving, collages, metal and "found objects" sculpture and porcelain clay sculpture.

His work has been shown and sold in several galleries in Atlanta, where he still has a few pieces at the Outsider-Inside Art Gallery. He has also done consignment work in New York.

Now, most of Tony's work is on display at Studio 117, the art gallery in the loft upstairs at Mentone Realty's log cabin office in downtown Mentone, in front of the Wildflower Café. It can be seen any time during office hours, or other times by appointment.

As for Tony, he still does landscaping and remodeling for folks in the area, and he is always working on a new art project. He gets excited when he runs across a "found" object that he can transform into a work of art. One could say he puts a bit of a twist to the old proverb: "One man's trash is another man's Outsider Art."

(Charlotte Gentry is an artist and freelance writer in addition to being Owner/Broker of Mentone Realty)



Artist Tony Blansit, above left and a few of his works which can be found in the Gallery above Meotone Realty.

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Mentone Wedding Chapel



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

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

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



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY is found in this log cabin. Featuring 2BR/1BA on main floor, L-shaped living/dining/kitchen combo with wood flooring throughout. Upstairs has 2 sleeping areas and bath with unique footed maids tub. Cozy front and back porches. This cabin is sold turn key. Make your appointment today. \$239,000 (18871)



LOOKING FOR A MOUNTAIN GET-AWAY? 3BR/1BA home just minutes from Mentone. Completely remodeled, this home is move-in ready! New kitchen appliances include range, refrigerator, microwave, and washer/dryer. Updated wiring, new CH&A, fresh interior paint, and rock FP. On two lots with a covered back deck, mature trees and outbuilding. \$99,500 (17931)



MOVE UP TO RIVERFRONT! Get an open and airy feeling throughout this 3BR/3.5BA home. Features include an oversized state-of-the-art kitchen with eating area, stone FP, wood and tile floors, oversized back porch and boat dock. Appealing landscaping with large native stones. Many windows to soak up the views. A must see for \$495,000. (17781)



IN-TOWN PRIVACY! Sit on the screened porch of this 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage and listen to the squirrels play. Completely remodeled kitchen and only a short distance from downtown Mentone. \$139,900 (19082)



THIS WARM & COZY 2 bedroom, 2 bath cabin nestled in the woods offers seclusion, privacy & tranquility in an artful setting. Some features include gorgeous pine wood floors, wood burning fireplace, vaulted ceilings with exposed beams & a covered front and back porch. \$174,900 (19524)



SPECTACULAR VIEWS!! You will call it home when you walk in! Classic Mentone Brow house, c.1955, situated on a beautiful wooded lot...Great room, gourmet kitchen, custom cabinetry, granite countertops, vaulted ceilings, wood floors, FP... Large deck... Guest House... basement workshop... all you've wanted in a Mountain home. \$445,000 (19460)



IT IS NOT OFTEN we find a house to sell nestled among the trees surrounded by mountain rocks. This hand-hewn log cabin offers large great room and cozy sleeping loft. You will appreciate the attention to detail in the woodwork, upstairs deck, front porch and backyard gazebo. Sure to go quick at only \$92,500! (19508)



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



HANDCRAFTED woodwork is found throughout this 2BR/2BA mountain home. Features include a great room with cathedral ceiling, full front and back porch, large utility room all situated on a wooded lot. Located in Laurel Creek Lakes with access to 3 lakes and walking trails. Call today for your viewing. \$184,500 (19135)



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



NATIVE MOUNTAIN FOLIAGE creates a level of privacy for this 3 BR/ 2BA brick house overlooking the West Fork of Little River from the back yard. Split BR design, large family room with cathedral ceiling and mountain stone wood-burning fireplace, screened porch, 2 storage sheds, (1 with electricity), an attached 2-car garage and CH&A. \$219,000 (16371)



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



LIVE ON THE WATERS EDGE in this custom built log cabin. Features include 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, spacious great room with cathedral ceilings, hickory floors and oversized windows, large utility room, 2-car garage and fishing dock situated on 2 lots. Set up your appointment today! \$229,000 (18898)



CABIN AND FURNISHINGS! This almost new 1 bedroom, 1 bath frame cabin has 640 sq. ft. and features a rock fireplace and foundation, wood floors and walls, central heat and air, front and back porches and sits on 1.19 acres. \$148,000 (18990)

PRISTINE RIVER LOT with 150' +/- frontage. \$195,000 (17782)

3 +/- ACRES on the E. Fork of Little River. \$150,000 (17568)

LAND and LAKE! 40 +/- ac with a 5 +/- ac lake with Brush Creek running through it. \$225,000 (18869)

2 LOTS on the middle fork of Little River near Lake Lahusage. \$69,900 Each (18627)

OAKWOOD SD - Great building lot offering 3.5 +/- ac. with possible owner-finance or trade to qualified buyer. Mild restrictions. \$29,900 (18770)

43 +/- ACRES IN MENTONE! 800' on Brush Creek. Possible Owner financing available to qualified buyer. \$259,000 (18729)

HIDDEN LAKE SUBDIVISION bordering LRNP offers a gated community for people of like interests. \$89,000 (18406)

BEAUTIFUL BUILDING SITE - MENTONE! 3.22 ac. tract offers Lots of Hardwoods, Level Building Site, Pwr and water at CR 648! Priced at \$44,900. (18037)

MENTONE - Minutes from Downtown Mentone and DeSoto State Park! Foundation already on property with paved road frontage and city water. 4.55 acres. \$59,900 (18989)

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ON THE BROW COMMUNITY! 104 feet of water frontage! Mild Restrictions in File. Great for a Vacation Home or Primary Residence. Only \$69,900! (18038)

5.62 ACRES Beautiful wooded building lot with stream located on CoRd 106 (Lahusage Drive) in desirable Mentone. Minimum square footage per dwelling is 1200 sqft heated. \$63,500 (18827)

WATERFRONT LOT AWAITS YOU!! 3.06

acre lot in West Fork Subdivision in Mentone. Call for all the details. \$52,500 (19183)

8 +/- ACRES. No restrictions. Pond on property. \$49,900 (16393)

BUILD YOUR CABIN HERE on this beautiful, wooded level lot located in a restricted subdivision near downtown Mentone. \$39,900 (19426)

ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1809-1865)

Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809, near Hodgenville, Kentucky; his parents were Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. An older sister, Sarah, has been born in 1807.

Thomas and Nancy lived for 18 months in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, after their marriage in 1806. Sarah was born there in 1807.

Then Thomas decided to buy a farm on the south fork of the Nolin River. Abraham was born on this farm in 1809. The family lived there for two years.

A new home to which the family moved was another farm, about 10 miles away on Knob Creek. A third child, Thomas, was born here but died in infancy.

In 1816, Thomas Lincoln decided to buy a farm in southwestern Indiana. They moved to the new home in early winter and built a 3-sided structure, called a "half-faced camp."

A fire on the open side burned day and night and provided a temporary structure. Thomas and young Abraham(Abe) built a log cabin for the family and moved into it in February, 1817.

Young Abe grew from a boy of seven years to a man of 21 on the Indiana Frontier. He probably never had more than a year of formal education. He could read, write, and cipher to the Rule of Three. Abe sometimes borrowed books to read from neighbors. Some of these were ROBINSON CRUSOE, PILGRIM'S PROGRESS, and AESOP'S FABLES. A BIBLE was probably the only book the family owned. Another book was Weems' LIFE OF WASHINGTON, a book that influenced him greatly.

In October, 1818, Abe's mother died from "milk sickness." This sickness is caused by poison in the milk of cows that have eaten snakeroot. Abe was 9 years old.

Thomas made a visit back to Kentucky. While there, he married a widow, Sarah Bush Johnston, on December 2, 1819. The new stepmother of Sarah and Abe had three children of her own, ages 12, 8, and 5. She brought with her a wagon load of nice furniture.

At age 21, Abe was 6 feet, 4 inches tall. He was lanky, big-boned, and strong. Work was plentiful; he could plow, split logs for fence rails, cut and husk corn and thresh wheat. In 1828

he helped take a flatboat of farm produce to New Orleans.

Thomas, in 1830, decided to move to Illinois. He had heard of the rich, black soil on the plains. This attracted him, and the family settled near Decatur, Illinois, on the banks of the Sangamon River.

In the spring of 1831, a trader, Denton Offutt, hired Abe and two other young men to take a flatboat to New Orleans. On his return from the trip, Mr. Offutt hired Abe to be a clerk in his new store in New Salem, Illinois, about 20 miles northwest of Springfield, Illinois. Now he was on his own.

The next six years (1831-1837) of his life were spent in New Salem. Abe slept in a room at the back of the store. But the business failed in 1832, and he was out of a job.

The Black Hawk War began in the spring of 1832. The governor called

out the militia, and Abe volunteered. He enlisted for three 30-day terms but saw no action. He had been elected as captain of his group.

Friends suggested he run for the state legislature. He announced his candidacy in March, 1832, but was defeated.

Abe needed a job, and he discovered that a store in New Salem was for sale. He and a friend, William F. Berry, joined in partnership of this business, but it soon failed.

Lincoln was appointed postmaster of New Salem in May, 1832. Then the

Continued on page 12

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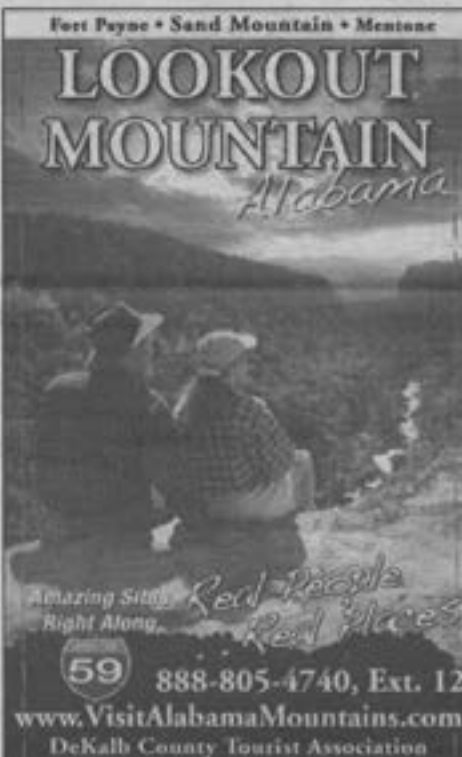
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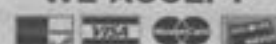
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Sweetheart: Continued from page 1

football team at UTC.

It is now my time to relate some of the reasons why I chose Elizabeth to be "Mentone's Sweetheart" this February. When her brother, Colquitt, passed away several years ago, I wrote his obituary, and Elizabeth was touched very deeply. She said, "I wish Colquitt could read this." She then added, "I want you to write my obituary when I go but I won't be able to know about it." I assured her that if I indeed outlived her I would do just that. Since life is uncertain, and we never know who will go first, I decided there was no reason to wait for an obituary - why not give the roses while we are living?

My remembrance of Elizabeth goes back to my childhood when my family would visit on Sunday afternoons and enjoy the music her family played. They were wonderful musicians! Those of you who can remember those times I am sure will agree with what I am saying.

After Elizabeth moved to Chattanooga to go to nursing school and to work, we always felt a great deal of relief when we knew that she would be in the operating room with our family when they required surgery. As one of the surgeons who remembers her quite well told me recently,

"She is a legend in her own time." Others have told me when they realized that I was from Mentone that "Romans" was the best supervisor the OR had ever had and that they wished she could be back just one day and straighten the place up. One doctor told me that Elizabeth was the supervisor when he did his first surgery and that he showed up late. When Elizabeth got through with him, he was never late again.

Seated L-R: Jeanie, Elizabeth, and Priscilla Romans. Standing are Cody and Bill Romans. Christmas 2008

He said, "she taught me a valuable lesson and a good work ethic which I have never forgotten and which I have taught to my children." The respect that medical staff felt for Elizabeth is evidenced in the fact that she still has frequent visits from staff members to her home.

My contact with Elizabeth during those years she was away from Mentone was limited. Since she moved back to Mentone and I have retired from my career job, there is

hardly a day that we don't have a few minutes on the telephone. I admire her loyalties to her family, her friends, and to her church. She did not quit caring for people who



L-R: Lovejoy Jones, Mary Louise Jones, Colquitt Jones, Elizabeth Romans, Edward Jones, 1959.

are hurting when she left the medical profession. I hear people say all the time, "I went by to check on Elizabeth." What they really mean is, "I needed some encouragement; I needed a smile and a friendly welcome, and I needed someone to lend an ear to my problems and I while I was there, I enjoyed a good cup of coffee." Elizabeth is never too busy to take time for and enjoy

her neighbors and friends. She is sympathetic to their sorrows, and she always leaves them with the assurance that everything is going to be all right.

She does not stop there. She follows up the next day to see if things are going better, and she always offers her help if she is needed. Elizabeth has a wonderful sense of humor. She can find something funny in most situations which makes them much more bearable. Nothing pleases her more than a visit from her pastor. She learned as a child a strong reverence for the church and her pastor, and it is always a welcoming visit.

I am reminded of two poems that I learned as a child when I think about Elizabeth. One of them is, "It takes a heap o' living in a house to make it home." There was a heap of living in the house where she grew up, and she enjoys living in that same house with some modifications. She has a small sitting area off the kitchen where she visits with friends and family. It is a warm, cozy area where you can stay too long without realizing it. The other poem is, "The House By the Side of the Road," a long poem with many verses whose final line reads: "Let me live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend to man." Elizabeth's house is geographically located by the side of two roads in the corner. It can't be missed, and it seems to callout to the passerby. Elizabeth long ago unconsciously adopted the last line of this poem, and her heart's desire is to live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend to man.

Moon Lake School News

By Alicia Chitwood

The PTA would like to thank everyone who participated in the Harvest Festival.

Approximately \$9,936.00 was raised. The support and generosity of the community are overwhelming.

The Athletic Club would like to extend their appreciation to everyone who supported the basketball players and cheerleaders. News of the sports banquet will follow soon.

Thanks for your support and hope to see you next year.

There will be no school on February 15, Presidents' Day. This year's homecoming court is: Ashley Privett, escorted by Ethan Meadows Mrs. Owen's kindergarten class:

Autumn Owen, escorted by Ayden Brown

Mrs. Long's kindergarten class: Taylor Watson, escorted by Austin Elkins

First Grade: Kallie Ingram, escorted by Ian Roberts

Second Grade: Kandis Lawton, escorted by Devitt Crow

Third Grade: Lily Cash, escorted by Bennett Crow

Fourth Grade: Emily Hilliard, escorted by Logan Bloyer

Fifth Grade: Sierra Chambers (2nd runner up), escorted by Dylan Bloyer

Elizabeth Meadows (1st runner up), escorted by Dawson Kincer

Homecoming Queen: Mackenzie Willingham, escorted by Justin Easler

Congratulations to Mackenzie Willingham and her court!

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THREE MENTONE BROW LOTS! Some of the nicest properties of it's kind with beautiful views. Each lot individually priced at \$149,900 (18230)

REDUCED!! Brow lot with creek on Lookout Mountain! Clear out the perfect spot for your home and enjoy the sounds of the bubbling creek and scenic mountains beyond!! Only 2 1/2 miles from the west entrance of Desoto State Park. Call today to purchase your own piece of tranquility. Only \$52,000!! (19133)

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN - 41.65 wooded acres located high atop Lookout Mountain within the Fort Payne City Limits. Back side of property borders Yellow Creek \$149,900 (19238)

ENJOY seasonal views from this Brow Lot atop Lookout Mountain! No building size too large or too Small! City water, natural gas available. Or cut your view for a more beautiful sunset! Call today! Only \$24,900. (18070)

NOW ONLY \$39,900 For this 3 ACRE TRACT located between DeSoto State Park and Mentone. Take a winding country road back into this secluded, scenic area where spectacular log homes and rustic cabins are tucked back into the woods. MORE ACREAGE AVAILABLE! \$39,900 (17412)

BIG PRICE CHANGE! 77 acres! ATV trails in place! County Water available. Ridge and Wildlife abundant! Near to I-59 access located in the valley! \$129,900. (18713)



LUXURY & CHARACTER! FURNISHED! Custom, spotless 3BR/3+BA Contempo. This magnificent two-story provides fireplace, hardwood flooring and custom touches. Striking beamed, volume ceilings, big bedrooms, and jetted tub. Metal-roofed. Call today! \$425,000. (19239)



CONNOR'S COTTAGE! Currently weekend rental! 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, living room, laundry, Kitchen OR 3 offices/ 1 bedroom/Reception Area. Many talents offered! Zoned B-1 Furnished! Agent/Owner \$129,900 (18598)



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REDUCED! Get Away From It All! Lookout Mountain on two acres. Renovated 3BR/2BA wood-and-view Ranch on a tranquil street. Private drive, Fireplace. Vaulted ceilings. Bright & airy plan. Move right in. Home warranty! \$94,900. (18981)



LOVELY COUNTRY RETREAT! Live sumptuously in this 4BR/3+BA mountain-view brick Traditional-style located on hill-top on 40 acres. Private drive, 2 fireplaces, pool, Formal LR/DR, crown moldings. Decks. Custom. Beautiful Views! \$649,900. (19605)



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 3300 sq ft. Features a Loft/TV Room, Separate Great Room For Entertaining, Large Yard, and Workshop With Power, Water, and Bathroom. \$189,900! (19200)



COUNTRY SETTING NEAR LITTLE RIVER CANYON! 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open living room and kitchen with high ceilings, all wood floors and wood walls, oversized basement double car garage. Owner may consider lease purchase. \$129,500 (19607)



PRIVATE SETTING WITH ACREAGE! Extra bonus for this listing is a mountain home and a rustic cabin on 5 acres in Mentone. Detached garage, garden spot, screened porches and covered porch. Reduced to \$185,000 (18331)



PANORAMIC VIEWS! Lookout Mountain brick home. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room with fireplace, hardwood floors, breakfast nook and separate dining, alarm system, in-ground swimming pool, spacious deck overlooking downtown Fort Payne. \$239,900 (19364)



YOU GOT to SEE IT! Brow View, Near to Downtown Mentone, 2B/2B, Jenn-aire pkg. Wood burning F/P, cozy loft, nice deck! Hot Tub! Great Rental History. FURNISHED! \$289,000. Agent/Owner (18440)



TURN OFF THE WORLD! Enjoy a scenario for serenity on two acres. Enchanting 3BR/2+BA Contempo. Sparkling, metal-roofed two-story complemented by high ceilings, double master suites, plus a large view deck. FURNISHED! \$349,900 (18872)



CHARMING CABIN ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN You'll love this one of a kind retreat with pine walls, exposed beams, a fireplace, maple cabinets, open floor plan, and two large porches! Minutes from the Little River Management Area, you can enjoy the fun and beauty that Lookout Mountain has to offer! Only \$110,000 (17020)

Abraham Lincoln: Continued from page 9

county surveyor offered to make him a deputy. Lincoln earned a living from these two jobs: postmaster and surveyor. However, his partner in surveying, died in 1835, and Lincoln was left with an indebtedness of \$1,100. This he paid for several years.

Lincoln ran again for the state legislature in 1834 and won on the Whig Party. He served four terms in the lower house of the Illinois General Assembly.

John T. Stuart encouraged Lincoln to study to become a lawyer. So for a period of about two years, 1834 to 1836, Lincoln studied law. On September 9, 1836, he received his license to practice law.

Lincoln was an opportunist. He decided to move to Springfield, the new state capital of Illinois, and became a junior partner in the law firm of Stuart and Lincoln in 1837. This partnership lasted until 1841 when he became a junior partner of Stephen T. Logan until 1844. Then Lincoln asked William H. Herndon to be his partner.

After moving to Springfield, Lincoln met Mary Todd (1818-1882). They were married on November 4, 1842. He was 33 and Mary was 23.

Lincoln became a circuit-riding lawyer for six months of each year. He greatly enjoyed this and made a good reputation for himself.

In 1846 Lincoln won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. This term began in 1847 and ended in 1849. He returned to Springfield and began again to ride the circuit. He, however, was beginning to handle more important cases.

The debates with Stephen A. Douglas flung Lincoln into the national spotlight. There was a total of seven debates in 1858. Each man spoke for an hour and a half on his ideologies of slavery. Douglas' defended popular sovereignty: that each state or territory could determine its own policies about slavery. On the other hand, Lincoln regarded slavery as morally, socially, and politically evil. Both men were also opposing each other in the race for Senator in the U.S. Senate. Douglas won by a narrow majority, but Lincoln had become a national figure in political issues facing the United States.

The new anti-slavery party, the Republican Party, selected Lincoln as their candidate for president of the United States in May, 1860. However, the Democratic Party split into two factions: Northern Democrats and Southern Democrats. A fourth party, the Constitutional Union Party, added to the divided nation. These factions only made it easier for the Republican Party to win the election and to make Abraham Lincoln to be the sixteenth president of the United States.

Events moved rapidly with the election of the new president. South Carolina seceded from the Union of December 20, 1860, and then six more states seceded before Lincoln's inauguration on March 4, 1861. Four more followed making a total of eleven states.

Feelings had been strong in the North and in the South about states' rights and slavery. When the Civil War began on April 12, 1861, Lincoln was determined to keep the states together: one people, one union, one country without factions. As the war progressed, slavery became the dominant issue. Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. News of this important document spread slowly, but eventually all the slaves knew about their freedom.

The cost of the war was enormous: tremendous destruction of property and over 600,000 people killed. (My paternal grandmother said the Union Army (Yankees) took their horses as they worked their way through the South.)

The election in 1864 was won easily by Lincoln for a second term. He took the oath of office on March 4, 1865.

Then on April 9, 1865, the war ended. But tragically Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865, by John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln was watching a play in Ford's Theater when Booth stepped up behind him and delivered the fatal shot. President Lincoln was unconscious after the fatal shot and died the next morning at 7:22, April 15.

He became the first American president to be assassinated while in office. Yet the Union was preserved without division, and all slaves were released from the cruel bonds of slavery. President Lincoln continues, and will continue to be remembered, as one on the greatest presidents in the history of America.

RAMBLIN: A STRANGE COLLEGE FOOTBALL SEASON!

By Bill Crane

The college football season has ended, and in summary I think it has been a strange season. A lot of the expected happened, but more of the unexpected happened too. Alabama won the national championship game, as expected, by walloping Texas as I predicted. Ingram was superb again. He is a great one, and it'll be interesting to see if he is as good in the 2010 season as he was last season. He will be if Alabama's offensive line is back intact for the 2010 season. I know I sound like a broken record talking about that offensive line, but did you see the holes Ingram had to run through? I could have run through many of them! It is a shame that McCoy of Texas got hurt in the first quarter. How long did he play? 2 or 3 minutes? He left with Texas ahead, and never returned. The Texas players played best when he was in there running the team. I don't think Alabama would have had such an easy time if McCoy had not got injured. Only Alabama and Boise State ended the season undefeated. Boise State had a good football team and there are some who say they are the best. It just goes to prove that we need a playoff system in college football.

There is one sure thing about the coming college football season, and that is Alabama's opponents will set their defense to contain Ingram. But I think Texas did and look what happened. The same thing will happen to many of Bama's opponents next season. We can really look forward to this.

The professional football teams are in a playoff. America's Team, as the Cowboys have been called, is the surprise so far. They finally won a playoff game, and who knows, they may end up in the super bowl. I doubt it for I still expect the Saints and Colts to face each other in the super bowl. The two were unbeaten when I wrote last, but relaxed and lost a game or two at the end of the season. Peyton Manning, the Colts quarterback, won his fourth MVP recently, so expect a super performance from him in the playoffs. The Colts and Saints performance during the season was part of the professional league having a strange season like college football. The defending champion was out of it early in the season. The New England Patriots, usually a good team year in and year out, didn't look like themselves, and their quarterback Tom Brady, one of the best, was just another thrower.

Professional basketball is nearing the end of its season and will soon begin playoffs. There is no more surprises than those mentioned in my last article. It is still strange to see the Atlanta team in position to make the playoffs, and to see the New Jersey Nets with such a dismal record.

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LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

by Linda Brown

Good News!! The members of the Moon Lake Community Library Board of Directors have announced another one of our famous Book Sales!! Why has this become the place to be? Because we have such good buys on our books and because you see people you haven't seen in some time. The sale will be Thursday, February 18th, 9 am until 4 pm, Friday, February 19th 9-4 and Saturday, February 20th 9-12 am. Plan to come and see what we have this time. Once again, we have books on every subject and books within everyone's budget. We plan to have everything set up by the first Senior Luncheon of the season, which will be Wednesday, February 17. We will have the sale open and this will give our golden citizens a chance to look and buy before the big rush. Mark your calendar!!

Also, we have another, "Meet the Author" in the planning stage. We have set Saturday, April 17 or 24 for this event. We will let you know when all of the plans are finalized.

At our recent meeting the regular reports showed that we have fifty-two FRIENDS of the Library. This is a chance to help support the library and also be included in some wonderful events during the year. We have made so many friends with this program. If you would like to become a FRIEND, you can fill in a form at the library and give Beverly a \$20.00 or more donation or you can send you basic information with a check for twenty dollars to the address at the bottom of this column.

One of the reports given was not good. It was reported by all members that the calendar sales were off this year. We have not had the community response we usually get. [If you would like to have one and be able to note the birthdays and anniversaries of several hundred people and also have the phone numbers and locations of many of the businesses in Mentone, Valley Head, and Fort Payne, the calendars are available at the library and also from any member of the board. They were regularly \$5.00 each, but if you don't want to pay that since part of the year is already gone, negotiate with Beverly or the board member. We would like to know if some of the local real estate companies would like to have several to give to new customers. We will give a good price on multiples. I don't want this to sound too dismal so I will tell you that we have sold the same number as for the 2009 calendar, but we ordered a few more in anticipation of reaching more people. The sale of the calendars is vital to our making a profit on this project.

The library has installed a new computer system. It seems that it is much better and

faster for retrieving and entering information. But, it is like the little girl who had a curl, "There was a little girl who had a little curl right in the middle of her forehead and when she was good, she was very, very good but when she was bad, she was horrid." The program likes to go down without any warning. Hopefully this is just because all of the bugs aren't worked out yet and things will improve soon. If you have been to the library and had this happen please be patient with Beverly and the volunteer. They are doing the best they can and it is no fault of theirs.

Speaking of volunteers, they continue to be wonderful!! They are a great group of people to work with.

When a change needs to be made, they call me and we arrive at a solution which is right for all concerned. I have several who tell me that I can call on short notice and this is really a plus in the system. Thank you to all of the volunteers who work at the library on a regular basis.

The open days of the Moon Lake Community Library are: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

To be on the agenda for a meeting, call Jan Wilkinson. Write to us: Moon Lake Community Library, PO Box 481, Mentone, Alabama 35984.



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RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Linda Brown, Secretary

Happy New Year to Everyone!! Aren't you glad that the cold weather has finally moved out to sea? I know that a lot of my shrubs have been damaged, especially those away from the protection of trees. I don't think they will die. I expect them to lose the damaged leaves and look ragged for a while. For ten days the temperature did not get above freezing and that is what did the damage. Ann Wright and I used to talk about this and she always told me that it wasn't the low temperature that damaged plants, it was the amount of time that it stayed that way.

On January 12, 2010, ten members of the Rhododendron Garden Club met in the M.E.R.F. Community House for the regular meeting. President, Dianne Kuehl called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Jan Wilkinson led the Meditation for the Day. Refreshments were served by Dianne Kuehl and Jill Whitten. The regular monthly reports were made and approved.

Dianne stated that members of the club have planted fifty daffodil bulbs under the Community House sign in memory of Betty Jo Johnson. They should be a beauty spot this spring.

The program consisted of a video of Country Gardens. This was very entertaining and informative. It seems that the way to have a country garden is to plant native species and let them seed and multiply where they will. A country garden can include shrubs, flowers, vegetables, herbs. Streams, bridges, walkways, and statuary are sometimes used to increase the interest of a country garden. Most of the gardens shown were in England. Many herbs were grown to add a fragrance to the area and to be used in cooking. It seemed to me that a lot of the flowers were pink and purple with some yellow thrown in. I could recognize many of the flowers as being the same as those that grow in my yard. I followed the path of least resistance and planted flowers where trees were removed to build our house. This gives me three or four places to keep adding plants to. I am trying to get all of them to the place where there is not much maintenance by mulching and planting native or hardy varieties of plants.

The next meeting will be February 9, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the M.E.R.F. Community House. Everyone is welcome to come and visit with us.

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

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Travels close to home

Nessa's — Collinsville, Alabama

By Sarah Jacoway Chastain

First in the 2010 series of travels close to home.

I promised a trip that is really close to home and Collinsville certainly qualifies. Collinsville may not seem like an exciting destination for a "trip" but don't write it off too soon. If Collinsville didn't have anything else to offer, a meal at Nessa's would be a good enough reason to go and there's more of an incentive to go to Nessa's than just the outstanding food.

It is housed upstairs in a building with a lot of history some of which Nessa has not yet been able to uncover. What she does know is that it is a pre-1900 building and it is one of two that survived the fire of 1900 the other being the building that houses the new library. Originally the lower part was a mercantile store and the top floor was a boarding house. It was also the first place that DeKalb Boy Scouts met. The staircase where you now enter was added by Nessa. The downstairs part has had a varied history. It has been a game room, pool hall, parts store, video store, pawn shop among others.

When Nessa bought the building nothing had been done to the upstairs since the 1950s and it showed. "We had to hire someone to clean it out before we could begin to tear out," Nessa explained. "Some of the windows were out and others were boarded up. It was both a pigeon haven and graveyard."

Finally it was ready to call in the contractors and Matthew Barksdale and his father, Donnie, began what would be a one-year project. Renovations included redoing all the plumbing and electrical. Matthew explained that there is now more than two miles of wiring and cable in the upstairs alone. The cement had to be dug up to redo the plumbing. It took a year to complete everything that needed to be done. When Matthew was asked how it looked when they began the renovations, he just shook his head being at a loss for words.

As much as possible of the former glory long

buried in dirt and debris has been retained. When it was a boarding house, each room had a coal burning stove and you can still see where the flues were throughout the two rooms that constitute the restaurant. Running water was added in 1905 and each room had a sink and an out-



side spigot. An original support post, now highly polished, shows in one of the rooms. A bit of exposed brick



surrounds each flue site. The bricks were handmade. A brick mason pointed out to Nessa that the proof of this is that you can see fingerprints in some of the bricks.

When Nessa got the building there were still three sinks and a bathtub from boarding house days. Since they couldn't get the bathtub out, it was refinished as was one of the sinks. They now occupy a bathroom adjacent to a bedroom furnished in period pieces. Nessa sometimes makes it

available to visiting missionaries or featured guests at her downstairs quilting shop, "A Time 2 Sew". There is a cozy sitting room across from the bedroom that is available for intimate romantic dinners for two.

The interior is furnished in an eclectic style with several antique tables, an antique hall tree and sideboard. The restaurant seats 70 and tables can be combined for larger groups.

The menu has a decided Greek influence with such favorites as Greek Salad and Moussaka on the menu. Greek appetizers include Spanikopita (a spinach pie) and Tzatziki (a yogurt and cucumber garlic dip with pita bread). Baklava, a favorite Greek dessert is always on the menu. None of the food

is fried. "When we set up the kitchen, we didn't even make any provisions for frying," Nessa stated.

Nessa's is opened for lunch Tuesday-Saturday from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and for dinner on Thursday – Saturday from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Nessa also caters parties, bridal teas, wedding dinners, family reunions, etc. going all over to cater from Gulf Shores, Atlanta, Birmingham, Montgomery and Huntsville. She began five years ago with catering and private parties in the restaurant. It opened for lunch and dinner to the general public two years ago.

Others reasons to visit Collinsville include the Collinsville Historical Society Museum housed in the old armory. It is open on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning and other times by appointment. Collinsville also has a new library that its residents are deservedly proud of. A recent grant will afford them opportunity to install an elevator to the second floor. Nessa's quilt shop is housed in the old city hall and jail underneath the restaurant. An original jail cell remains. It is a great place to have your picture made to send to your friends who always suspected that you would end up in jail. There is a chair lift to the restaurant from the downstairs staircase making it handicapped accessible.

It's sometimes easy to forget what DeKalb County offers when looking for something fun or interesting to do but a trip to Collinsville is worth your time. Winshape Retreat in Rome, GA will be next month's feature.