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Volume 20, No. 1 & 2

"Neighorly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

January/February 2002

DAVID TUCKER, MENTONE RURAL CARRIER, RECEIVES 25 YEAR SERVICE PIN



David Tucker holding his certificate commending him on 25 years service

By Marie S. Dillenbeck
In December, David Tucker of Valley Head received his service award pin and letter of commendation from the United States Postal Service for his completion of 25 years of credible service to the United States Government. David started in the postal service in December 1976 as a substitute rural carrier in Henagar. He served in that capacity for four-and-one-half years. He then was a regular carrier for Route 3, in Henagar, for five years.

Fifteen years ago, in January 1987, the position

of rural carrier was filled by the appointment of David. He had applied for and bid on the position of rural carrier that was vacant after Max Cash retired. During the interim between Max Cash retiring and David being hired, Hoyle Smith was the sub carrier who carried the route. David said he "was thrilled to get it" and that it made his life easier with the job being close to home.

David and his wife Marcia live in Valley Head. He is married to the former Marcia Freeman, and they celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary on September 30, 2001. They have two

daughters: Carla Denise Evans and Sarah JoAnn. They are the proud grandparents of three grandchildren: Kaylee (5), Grace Marie (2), and Chad (11). David and Marcia consider themselves "empty nesters" because all their children are raised and no longer live at home.

David said all the old timers in Mentone knew his grandparents, Luther Tucker and Thomas Jefferson and Melissa Earl Kirby (Jeff and Earl).

David lived in Mentone until he was six years old, at which time his parents, Gordon and Marie Tucker moved to Hammondville.

After David and his siblings were grown, his parents built a house at the foot of Sand Mountain, where they lived for 15 years. Now his parents live in Mentone in the old Fred Jones house which his father renovated.

Born on January 1, 1952, David was the first baby born in the DeKalb Hospital in Dekalb County. David has one sister, Joyce Oliver, and two brothers, Michael, who lives in Fischer, and James, who lives in Fort Payne.

David and Marcia are members of Moon Lake Baptist Church, and have been for sixteen years. David is active in working with the youth. There usually are between 15 and 24 teens and young adults on

Wednesday nights. They have a time for socializing and playing, then prayer time and devotionals.

David and Marcia live in Valley Head, and they own property in Mentone and have owned it for fourteen years. They hope some day to be able to build a house on their Mentone property.

David enjoys playing music, basketball and riding his motorcycle when he can.

In January 2002, David celebrated his 15th year with the Mentone Post Office. He said he was not planning to retire in the near future and he enjoys his route and the people. So keep looking for him to faithfully deliver your mail.

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See Page 2.**

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

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MAPA MEETING

www.MentoneAlabama.org

There is no meeting for the month of February. The next MAPA meeting will be March 5 at 7 PM at the Mentone Springs Hotel.

The MAPA telephone number is 256-634-4041. The board met on January 19 at the home of Mickey and Sherman Gough. The next proposed event is the Rhododendron Festival. Huey and Marilyn Mathews volunteered to help with the Festival in May 2002. Many questions came up and after the board meets with the North Lookout Volunteer Fire Protection District Board, answers will be forthcoming.

Dr. Bill Berry will be the speaker for the March 2002 meeting.



-PUBLIC NOTICE--

MENTONE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Meeting dates for 2002

- March 21
- June 20
- September 19
- December 19

Other special or called meetings will be posted as required.

The regular quarterly meetings are on the 3rd Thursday; and all meetings are held in the town public meeting room at 4 p.m. and are open to the public.

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Prophet of Spring

Groundhog, or woodchuck, or marmot,
Or just a newsy little 'varmint—
Whatever you are—by any name—
As a prophet, you have won acclaim.

In February, you awake—
Open wide your eyes—quake and shake—
Leave your cozy den in the ground,
Come up for air—look all around.

If your shadow should appear,
You return to your den in fear—
Six more weeks of wintry weather
Will keep us denned in together.

If the sun hides its shining face,
You won't return to hiding place,
But will remain to do your thing
With balmy breezes of early Spring.

On your special prophetic day,
Come on out and play and stay,
Groundhog proclaim that it is time
To bask in lovely Springtime clime!

—Eloise Brown



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.

[Candle-Lite Ceremonies • Music • Photographs]
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To arrange your wedding or renewing of your wedding vows, call

256-634-4181

It's a Girl!!!



Emily Jayne Roberts

Chris and Kristy Roberts of Chattanooga, TN, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Emily Jayne Roberts, on August 25, 2001, at 9:51 a.m. in East Ridge Hospital. Emily weighed 6 lbs 10 oz and was 20 inches long.

Emily's grandparents are Jim and Phyllis Roberts of Mentone, AL; Don Jackson, Cleveland, TN; and Cherrie Barber, Chattanooga, TN.

Great Grandparents are Russell and Ruby Stalvey of Mentone, AL, and the late Verlin and Jane Roberts of Pisgah, AL.

Notes from the Mayor's Office

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District, its Chief Jim Roberts, Assistant Chief Rusty Chambers, and their volunteers are to be commended for their dedication and response to the rash of fires in the past couple of months. In December, they responded to a 911 call to a fire which had been left unattended. Their response time of four minutes saved several houses from disaster.

Another night, they fought fires all night along the north brow (County Road 89), saving at least three houses. Then, recently, the Mentone Springs Hotel had a gas leak in the kitchen to which they responded in less than five minutes, saving the landmark hotel, but not before considerable damage was done to the kitchen and roof. One remark I heard was that they would have been there sooner if they had not had to wait for the air to build up on the truck.

We hope their prayers and dreams will be answered shortly. I have been told their application for an RDA loan for a brand new truck is very close to being granted. Then fund-raising and contributions will need to be a responsibility of all of us to help pay for it. This,

together with the Water Works improvement of water flows, will help them to get an improvement in our insurance rates.

Presently, our rating is as high as you can get (ten, some say nine). It does not matter; until we get an eight, our rates will not drop. A rating of eight will lower our rates by 25%. A rating of six will lower our rates by 40%. It appears with that kind of a break we should all be willing to contribute. Please: let us get behind our volunteers to help us all.

Our RDA grant/loan application for the rehabilitation of most of our old lines and new half million gallon tank is moving through the slow wheels of government. This is the other portion of our being able to get a reduction in our insurance rates. They count for 40% of the ISO rating process.

We are having to make some improvements in our water system now. You may experience outages of water in some areas over the next few days, but be assured we will not keep the water cut off longer than absolutely necessary.

If for some reason you did not receive a water bill this month, please call the office at 634-9106.

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One month of the new year has already passed. I thought this year may not go as fast as last year, but it appears it is moving even faster. There doesn't seem to be enough hours—even though we have 24 hours in each day—they just are slipping by too fast.

Please put **David Jones**, Pastor of Section United Methodist Church, and the husband of Pastor Frankie Jones, Mentone United Methodist Church, on your prayer list. David is presently in the hospital in Birmingham and needs a liver transplant. He and his family need your prayers.

Michael Stephens was here for approximately one day. He picked up his car and returned to Louisiana, where he will be residing for a period of time. He has a job and is embarking on another journey in life. For those whom he had time to visit, we know that he will do well in whatever he attempts. God is with him.

We hope **Penny Lyday** has recovered from her falls and resulting injuries. We miss seeing Penny and Jim. Their trips out are not as much as we would like. Their health and the weather have kept them in. We wish them well.

James and Betty Johnson were glad to have all their family with them for Christmas: Sue and Mickey Rickman from Clemson, SC; Stephanie R. & John Salsman from Lexington, KY; Fred and Susan Johnson and Phillip, Paige, and Peyton from Rainsville, AL; also Rev. and Mrs. Pete Millwood from Pickens, SC.

Grace Pullen had all her family on Saturday following Christmas—except one granddaughter in Texas. There were 31 present for a delicious meal.

The **Wesleyan Church-wide Christmas dinner** was held at Camp Riverview.

The **Fifty-Plusers** of the Wesleyan Church had a New Year's Eve supper and party at the home of Glen and Linda Miller.

Frances Crowe and daughter, **Lila Pettit**, from Clinton, TN, came to visit Betty and James Johnson for the first time in four months. They exchanged Christmas gifts under the Christmas tree still up in January, waiting for them to visit.

Grace Pullen, Eva Clark of Fort Payne, **Sam and Rebecca Burns** of Huntsville were recent dinner guests of Mrs. and Mrs. George Lide.

Ester Clark Ivens of Chattanooga, family of Mentone, passed away recently. Some from here visited the family at the funeral home.

Shirley Bain's daughter and granddaughter, **Cindy and Tonya Webb**, came from Ozone, Ark., to visit with family and to help care for Shirley. Shirley was in the hospital four days.

February is upon us and with it comes more cold weather, **Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day** and **President's Day**. One is a day to find out if there are six more weeks of winter, one is a day to remember loved ones, and the other is a day to celebrate the birthday of presidents.

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

•**Charlsie L. Bray**, 92, Valley Head's High Point Community, Jan. 10;

•**Wanda Mae Hall**, 61, Valley Head, Jan. 10;

•**Walter Minicus**, 74, Valley Head, Jan. 14;

Congratulations to **Cassie Hooks**, daughter of Larry and Susan Hooks of Mentone, AL, who has been accepted at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana, for the 2002 Fall Semester, and will study Communication-Arts. She is welcomed to the IWU family of over 2000 students who are preparing for their future.

The **Mentone Springs Hotel** will not be having a Valentine's Day Party as previously reported in *The Groundhog*. Due to a fire in the kitchen, the party has been cancelled. We are all so thankful that the historic Mentone Springs Hotel did not burn. They are already in the process of renovating the kitchen. The new owner, Andy Talton, and his staff, have worked very hard renovating and decorating. The new stairs in the front of the hotel are a wonderful addition. Stop by and see all the other changes that have been taking place.

Take time to write someone a note for Valentine's Day and let them know you are thinking about them. Many of our older folks are alone and would appreciate being thought of. However, you don't have to have a special day to send them notes or make a phone call, just take a few minutes here and there and let them know you care.

Happy February Birthday/Anniversary wishes to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| •1- Jeff Willoughby
Micah & Michael Moore | •15- Michelle Williams
Stacy Blansit |
| •2- Karen Davis
Terry Bouldin | •16- Tommy Kilgore |
| •3- Eloise Brown | •17- Ginger Tuxbury
Trey Moore |
| •4- Alex Hazell
Ben Windom
Leslie Thornberry | •18- Gail Crider
William "Jug" Crow
Rachel Harrison |
| •7- Kayla Powell
Mack & Debbie Flannigan(anniv.) | •21- Wendy Manifold
David Ashley
Michael Stephens |
| •8- Myrtle Blansit | •22- Derek McMahan
Lisa Cordell |
| •9- Willie B. Langston | •24- Brandon Overstreet
Payton Day
Michael Chambers |
| •10- Sheila Yamada (in memory of
Sybil & Danny Hopper (anniv.) | •26- Sanford Hartline |
| •11- Kayla Vols | •27- Nancy Rector |
| •13- Craig Hall | |
| •14- J. Young
Allen & Penny Baugh (anniv.)
"Angel" Rector | |



The RECIPE CORNER

By
SUE SCHWARZ

Yesterday I found myself in the position of having a package of chicken breasts, rice, and other pantry items, and no real plan; so, I improvised. Bill really liked what I came up with and encouraged me to try to share it with you so here goes.

Microwave Chicken Surprise

- 1 Cup white rice
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 (14 oz) can chicken broth
- 1 (14 oz) can diced tomatoes
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 stalk of celery diced
- 1 Cup of frozen green peas
- 2 T dried parsley
- 2 T capers, drained
- salt and pepper to taste.

Spray a 2-1/2 quart microwave safe dish with cooking spray and layer ingredients according to the order listed above. Cover and microwave on high for 10 minutes. Uncover the casserole and microwave for 10 minutes longer on high or until chicken and rice are both cooked through.

This recipe could also be baked in a covered casserole in the oven at 350 F for 80 minutes or until chicken and rice are done.



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The Church News

By
EVELYN GRAVES



Sunday morning services at **Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church** are held at 8:15 AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Rev. Jerry Davis and Rev. L.A. Smith are alternate speakers for these services.

The **Valley Head Baptist Church** invites you to attend Sunday School at 10 AM; Worship Service at 11 AM; Sunday Evening Worship at 6 PM; Midweek Service (Wednesday) at 6 PM; Brotherhood breakfast and devotional at 8:30 AM the first Sunday of each month; Women on Mission meet at 2 PM the second Tuesday of each month at different homes. Everyone is welcome to come.

The **Valley Head United Methodist Church** prayer meeting is Wednesday night at 6 PM. Bible study Wednesday night at 6:30 PM. A prayer chain has been formed. Anyone who would like to share their prayer needs are invited to call Venna Livingston at 635-6350 or Mary Holleman at 635-6241, so the church may pray for them. Sunday School is at 9 AM each Sunday and Worship is at 10 AM.

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

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

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds mass services at 10:30 AM each Sunday; and Communion Services at 6 PM on Tuesdays.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 114 First St. SW, Fort Payne, 845-4842, has regular Sunday services at 8 AM and Sunday School at 9 AM.

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

Anyone interested in observing the **Sabbath and Holy Days**, please attend with us at 11 AM each Sabbath. Located 2 blocks on right on Hwy 85, off Highway 11, approximately 2 miles from Fort Payne. Call 845-2246 for information.

Pastor Rev. Gerhard Grau invites the public to attend the **Presbyterian Church** worship service at Cloudland, which begins at 10 AM, (EST), and the **Menlo** service which begins at 11:15 AM (EST).

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

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

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

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10 AM, Worship at 11AM, Wednesday Bible Study at 6 PM. 256-634-4137.

The **Mentone Revival Center** and Pastor Alfred Chambers and his wife Polly, invite everyone to join in worship on Sunday at 10 AM. Wednesday evening worship begins at 6:30 PM.

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

Mentone Wesleyan Community Church invites you to join us for Sunday School at 10 AM and worship service at 10:45 AM. Bible Study Wed. 7:00 -7:45 PM. Pastor Randy Addison welcomes all!

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

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to attend Sunday School at 9:45 AM each Sunday. Morning worship and Children's Church are at 11:00 AM. First Place meets in the Fellowship Hall and GAs meet at 4:30 PM. Discipleship Training and Youth Choir meet at 5:00 PM, followed by Evening Worship at 6:00 PM. On Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Children's Bible Study meets in the Fellowship Hall, the Youth have Bible Study and Recreation Time. Adults meet for Bible Study and Prayer.

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

Mt. Carmel Community Baptist Church, 1041 Yankee Rd, Cloudland, GA 30731, 706-398-7018, now offers a 24 hour Prayer Line. Need Prayer? Just call and leave your message. Other activities include: Sunday School - 10 AM, Worship Services - 11 AM & 6 PM; Monday 7-8 PM - Informal Prayer Time; Wed 7 PM- Mid-week Prayer Service; Thursday 7-8 PM -Bible Discussion. We need Piano Player, Music Director, Children for Sunday School and You!

The **Mentone United Methodist Church** services are at 11 AM each Sunday. Sunday school is at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome. The Pastor is Frankie Jones.

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church atop Lookout Mountain in Mentone, Alabama, regular services are Sunday at 10:30 AM, with a time for fellowship after the services. Sunday School is at 9:30 AM. Contact the church at 634-4476 for more information on any events or services. Everyone is welcome to join in worship services or special events.

RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB

The January meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was held January 8, 2002 at the MERF Community House. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance to the flag, led by Peggy Roark and a devotional given by Diane Kuehl. Hostesses were Jan Wilkinson, Dallyne Jones and Flo Kirby.

After refreshments were served, Jan Wilkinson entertained and informed us. She presented a beautiful slide show and recounted her visit to Longwood Gardens, which is located in Pennsylvania. Longwood Gardens is in an area which has similar climate to north Alabama, and we found the program to be very informational as to gardening in this part of the country.

Business:

Sue Schwarz read the minutes and they were approved. Diane Kuehl gave the treasurer's report and it shows that there was a beginning balance this past month of \$668.47. There were deposits equaling \$86.00 and expenditures equaling \$47.00 leaving a balance of \$664.47.

Margaret Baker gave us information concerning several seminars and workshops regarding gardening in the Southeast.

Linda Brown reported that the Partridge Peas are enjoying the Narcissus, which they planted as a club project, and are now blooming.

Dee Matlock and Mickey Gough will deliver plants to shut-ins as soon as Dee is physically able after her recent health concerns.

The meeting was adjourned.

Valentine Special

Make your plans 'Now' to take that Special Person in your life to the friendliest atmosphere and serving the 'Best' country cooking in the South. None other than Dessie's Country Chef, in downtown Mentone, Alabama.

Call and make your reservation 'NOW'!!!

Special Menu-Meat Choices:

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Call today! 256-634-4232
and make your reservations.
Dessie will be waiting.

Inspec Tech, Inc.



Inspec Tech, Inc., celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 7, in front of their new facility in Valley Head. L/R: (front row only): Dr. Charles Jenkins, Vickie Biddle, Ricky Harcrow, Jimmy Durham behind Sid Holcomb, Michael Metcalf, Annette Hall, Matt Freeman, Karen Freeman, Mark Freeman, Luke Freeman, Melissa Stephens, Lisa Brown, and Kenneth Hammond. See others listed in the guest list below.

Photo by Marie S. Dillenbeck

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

Inspec Tech, Inc. is a leader in RFID and data collection technology; and they celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony at their new 20,000 square foot state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Valley Head, Alabama, on Friday, December 7. They were joined by a host of dignitaries and friends.

Founded in 1992 by Mark Freeman, the company has grown to become an accomplished and respected leader in its field. Luke Freeman, operations manager, joined the business in 1994; and Matt Freeman, outside sales manager, came on board in 1998.

Inspec Tech, Inc. manufactures industry specific labels and tags for several vertical markets in the automotive, textile, medical and pharmaceutical industries. The company also develops tracking software that integrates into data collection systems of its clients in these industry sectors.

Achievements include J.C. Penney single source solution provider, Wal-Mart approved supplier, K-Mart approved supplier, LXE solutions partner, Scansource VIP VAR, Tharo solutions partner, limak TIER ONE VAR, Novexx and Zebra Technologies solution providers, Symbol Technologies solution partner, and Who's Who of American Businessmen.

The corporate office located at Valley Head employs 18 people with sales offices in North Carolina, South Carolina, Atlanta, Nashville and Nova Hamburgo, Brazil. For more information: www.inspectec.com or 256.635.6458.

Mark Freeman gave the visitors a tour of the new facility. On the second floor is an open room called the "family" room. At the time of the ceremony, it did not have a round table, but it will have soon. Mark said they will sit down and discuss business matters, as well as enjoy family time. The offices are decorated in blues and greens and the windows present a breathtaking view of Valley Head. Only in the facility since Tuesday, Dec. 4, they love their new workplace.

Inspec Tech guest list

for ribbon cutting ceremony on 12/07/01

Lane Hunter of Hunter, Walker and Assoc., Inc.
David Walker of Hunter, Walker and Assoc., Inc.
Lee Freeman
Peggy Walker, assistant branch manager, AM South Bank
Lillie Bowden
Eloise Brown The Groundhog
Billie Harper, Outback Bakery
Marty Smith, City of Valley Head
Michael Metcalf, City President, Compass Bank

Jerry Pendergrass, City President, Am South Bank
Robert Dixon, assistant Vice-president, Am South Bank
Sid Holcomb, DeKalb County Commission
Ricky Harcrow, DeKalb County Commission
Jimmy Durham, DeKalb County EDA
Vickie Biddle, City Commissioner, Town of Valley Head
Kenneth Hammond, Mayor, Town of Valley Head
Jimmie Sue Beason
Linda Stiefel, Times- Journal
Scott Gifford, City commissioner, Town of Valley Head
Georgia Hampton, Post Mistress, Town of Valley Head
Dr. Charles R. Jenkins, City commissioner, Town of Valley Head

Marie S. Dillenbeck, *The Groundhog*
Sharon Baty, DeKalb Advertiser

Mark and Karen Freeman: Owners, Inspec Tech
Employees: Luke Freeman, Matthew Freeman, Annette Blancett (inside sales rep), Lisa Brown (inside sales rep), Heath Watson, Katie Frazier, Melissa Stephens (account comptroller), Kathy Whitmire, Randy Shoney, Adrienne Allen.

Refreshments were provided by the Town of Valley Head, and prepared by Billie Harper, Outback Bakery. Financing for the new Inspec Tech facility is provided by Compass Bank.



Angela J. Wood
Owner and AL/GA Broker

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(3) FARMHOUSE WITH 1.8 ACRES, MENTONE. Oak trees outside, oak floors inside. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with tile shower and clawfoot tub, living room with stone fireplace. Open country style kitchen/dining area. Large covered front porch. Detached garage, city water, paved road. Close to Dude Ranch and State Park. \$85,000.



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

OTHER PROPERTIES

(7) 12 WOODED ACRES located on County Road 196, Mentone. Small Meadow area, paved road frontage, city water available. Lightly restricted. A good buy at \$30,000.

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

(9) ONE ROOM AND A PATH. Rustic hunting cabin. 700 sq ft. heated space, stove, frig, power, gas heat, window air. Outhouse, with 5 wooded acres at Little River Canyon National Preserve, and the Wildlife Management land. Located at Canyon View Forest. \$52,500.

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

(11) ELEVEN ROOM HOME IN VALLEY HEAD, consisting of 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, den, living, dining, laundry, kitchen, breakfast room, sun room. Also screened porch, carport, and separate garage/workshop on 3 lots. \$46,000. Reduced \$39,900.

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

(13) 50 ACRES LOCATED IN CLOUDLAND GA. Great Farm with 20x40 Barn, large workshop, 3 outbuildings, garage, 3 wells, year around spring, 3 garden areas, grape arbors, approx. 6 acres cleared, beautiful hardwoods. 12x70 mobile home with rock foundation. Many more amenities. Show by appt. ONLY! City water access. Also just added to property, a 40x60 metal carport. \$179,000.

(14) INDIAN TRAIL ESTATES. Building lots on the West Brow, above N. Ft. Payne, county road, city water access, view lots starting at \$10,000; wooded lots starting at \$6,000.

(15) 52.88 ACRES. Deer and Turkey abundant. Mostly open land, partial wooded, with portions of 2 ponds. Located Mentone area. \$59,500.

(16) WILD RIVER COMMUNITY (1 tract left) 22X300 on the East Fork Little River. Secluded and Scenic, with Pools and Rapids. \$25,000 each. One 3-acre tract \$35,000.

(17) 2 ACRE TRACT, located on Buckley Dr., Lookout Mtn. Unique with Rock formations, winter view, wooded, "overlooks" small private lake. City water, and power access. \$12,000.

(18) 12 ACRES IN THE WEST FORK SUBDIVISION, with over 1,000 ft. of river frontage. Also included is another 2.5 acres, septic, well, and 2 outbuildings. UNDER CONTRACT. A must see. \$105,000.



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



(6) UPSTREAM FROM DESOTO FALLS, on the west fork of Little River, sits a wonderful 2000 sq ft home. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, rock fireplace, kitchen with all appliances. Many other amenities. Enjoy the view from the screened porch and deck, or stroll down the walkway and fish off the dock. Call for a viewing today. \$366,000. Price slashed to \$235,000.

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American Legion Post 215 Veterans Day Meeting



Dr. Roy Smith was the speaker at the American Legion covered dish supper meeting on Saturday Nov. 10.



Following the meal and the speaker, the winners of the essay contest "Is Freedom Really Free?" each read their essays. The winners are L/R: Will Scott, 1st place; Jessie Mayhew, 2nd place; Kayla Hazel, 3rd place.

Calling All Appetites! Calling All Appetites!

by Marilyn Blanton Campbell

On Tuesday night, January 8, the ladies of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 215 had their regular monthly meeting at the Legion hall on Cove Road in Mentone. In that session, the ladies discussed the fact that it was indeed past time to have a fund raiser. Previously, there had been some discussion of other things, but, after the menfolks voted that spaghetti was what they had rather have, the ladies finally decided on a Spaghetti Supper and set the date for Friday, March 15. The ladies set the menu as spaghetti sauce with meat, pasta, tossed salad, bread sticks, the sinfully delicious and often gooey array of desserts for which they have long since been infamous, and a drink. They set the price at \$5.00 per person. The ladies plan to offer moderate sized servings with as many seconds as desired.

"It has been a long time since we had a fund raiser, and we want to appeal to everybody," President Mickey Gough stated, "so we plan to start serving early. We plan to have the extras you would expect like salad dressings, plenty of Parmesan Cheese, butter and garlic for the bread, and gallons of coffee and tea. Nobody ever thought to write it down anywhere, but a woman has to be a good cook before she can join the legion. Well, maybe it is just a coincidence, but our ladies all happen to be very good cooks as anybody, who has ever been to anything at the Legion, can attest. We should have the Legion hall decorated for St. Patrick's Day when we have our Spaghetti Supper.

"Naturally, we plan to do with the money the same things we always do. In the spring of each year, we send a rising senior girl from Valley Head High School to Girl's State where she learns more about local government in one week than she would learn in a lifetime anywhere else. We have done this for no telling how many years now. Then, all through the year, we send cards to the DeKalb County veterans who are living at the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville. In the name of keeping up the morale of this county's resident vets, we send individual cards some nine times per year-New Year's, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Fourth of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and birthdays. Twice per year-Christmas and Valentine's Day-we fix cards for the entire resident population of the Fann Home. Then, too, occasionally something comes up that has to be taken care of around the Legion hall, and we have to dip into our meager resources for that. Along that line, several years ago, our stove had to be replaced, and we had no more than accomplished that when the refrigerator followed the stove to wherever it is that failing appliances happen to go. Because what we do is so very important, we simply ask that everyone, who possibly can, please come out and support our effort to raise the money to keep up these particular endeavors."

"You will be hearing a lot more about this, but, please, go ahead, mark your calendar, and make your plans to be with us. It should be a wonderful occasion. In the past, everyone seems to have had such wonderful times at our fund raisers that we feel like we can ask again for your support."

VA KEEPS LINCOLN'S CIVIL WAR PROMISE TO WIDOWS

(NAPSA) - President Abraham Lincoln had Civil War veterans in mind in his 1865 second inaugural address when he promised "to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan." Little did he know that his pledge to serve Civil War widows would extend into the 21st Century.

Today's U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) embraces Lincoln's pledge as its mission statement on a plaque at the entrance to its Washington, D.C. headquarters. Its care for widows and widowers takes form in a variety of services including payments to more than a half-million survivors of wartime veterans.

Some of the survivor benefits administered by VA today are rooted in battles of more than a century ago. Widows on VA benefits rolls today include the survivors of veterans who served in the Civil War (one Civil War widow remains), the Spanish-American War and the Mexican civil war. Most recipients of such benefits are the surviving spouses of veterans of the world wars, conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf, or who served in peacetime eras. World War II widows and widowers comprise the largest category.

The enduring nature of VA survivor benefits often is overlooked by widows who remarry after losing their veteran husband. If the veteran's death arose in service or from a service-connected medical condition, the widow may have been receiving benefits from VA up until the time of remarriage.

What many widows don't realize is that if their subsequent marriage ends due to the husband's death or by divorce, they may be eligible to return to the VA rolls for survivor benefits under a 1998 law.

VA is working with funeral directors and veterans service organizations and developing publications to let spouses of deceased veterans know that if they lost VA survivor benefits when they remarried, they may be eligible for restored benefits if no longer married.

The current basic monthly rate for this survivor benefit, known as dependency and indemnity compensation, is \$911. It is adjusted upwards when there are dependent children or if the widow or widower has severe limitations on his/her own ability to live independently.

More information about benefits for veterans' survivors including a program for low income survivors of wartime veterans is available at <http://www.va.gov> or call VA toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.

Submitted by Commander Sherman Gough
of American Legion Post 215, Mentone, AL

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I Remember

Jan-Feb 2002 / The Groundhog/Page 9

Written By Lamar Fine/Edited By Mary Agnes Fine
I Remember is a warm, fun story of growing up. It's a story of a gentler time when every day was a new adventure; when all a boy needed to make him happy was a dog, a bicycle and a best friend with whom to explore the world. It was a time, as are all times of 'growing up,' when life's major decisions were made by someone else, and someone else took care of you, loved you and protected you from harm; when the time from one Christmas to the next seemed forever, as did the time from one summer vacation to the next... and three months away from school was never enough.

It was a time when church was a requirement, not an option, and you learned the Golden Rule before you learned your ABC's.

But more than anything else, it was endless days of fun and play and occasionally 'getting in trouble,' although for some of us 'getting in trouble' seemed to happen more than 'occasionally.'

It is a time to be remembered... and reflected upon... and cherished... because it will not come again. However, as long as it is kept in our memory, today is as yesterday. Once more we are kids, experiencing life at its best, feeling the warm sun on our backs and the cool breeze blowing in our faces, and believing that anything is possible if we set our minds to it.

I Remember is written through the eyes and memories of a little boy (the author) who couldn't 'sit still,' couldn't stop asking 'why' or 'why not,' and whose curiosity often got him in trouble. **I Remember** is the second book by Chickamauga, GA mother & son writing team, Lamar & Mary Agnes Fine. Their first book, **Yesterday's Gone**, has been a Regional Best Seller since its release in 1999.

www.lamarfine.com

Visit the Fine's Web Site for more information on both **I Remember** and **Yesterday's Gone**. The web site gives a synopsis on each book, as well as excerpts, readers' reviews, about the authors info, upcoming events including book signings, speaking engagements, festivals, TV appearances, release dates, upcoming books, and a full chapter excerpt from Lamar & Mary Agnes' new book, **I Remember**.

Cost: \$14.95 + 1.05 Sales Tax = \$16.00

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7 to 9 Books \$8.00

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Or Pick Up Your Copy at One of the Following Locations: **Chickamauga:** Lamar & Mary Agnes Fine, Magnolia Corner, Wanda Parrish Beauty Shop, Terri Ellis Beauty Shop; **Kensington:** Brenda Parham Beauty Shop; **Fl. Oglethorpe:** Books & Bytes, Fort Oglethorpe Gift & Gallery, Karen's Gifts (Inside Park Place Restaurant), The Hutch (Hutcheson Medical Center Gift Shop); **Rock Spring:** Reba McDaniel Beauty Shop; **LaFayette:** Mountain Company Gifts

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ENJOY THE VIEW from the top of Lookout Mountain in Cloudland, GA! Just listed, this 2-year-old custom-built mountain home! Pine board and batten blends with the view from the top of the brow that you can enjoy from your 12x34 deck! Massive mountain rock in the back yard overlooking the stream! Hike in your back yard, all 3+ acres of it, to the waterfall! In the evening, start a fire in the rock fireplace and relax in the great room that has a vaulted ceiling and overlooking loft bedroom! Two other bedrooms are located in the west wing along with one full bath! Professionally decorated, it's worth the drive to see if privacy is on your agenda! Central HVAC, satellite dish, custom kitchen cabinets and all appliances! Restricted. Reduced to \$180,000. (No. G-2)

Reduced



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The Perfect Getaway --5.76 acres w/lake. Great building site, Ft. Payne water available. (No. A-85)



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



HWY 157, VALLEY VIEW LANE - If you want privacy and mountain living, you will love this one! Situated on 16+/- acres, main level features master bedroom, full bath, kitchen, spacious great room with hardwood floors. Beautiful tile adds charm to the cozy sunroom located off kitchen, great room. Second level offers 2 large bedrooms and full bath, 3 walk-in closets. Split HVAC with wood heater & propane heaters. Price includes propane powered generator. Listed at \$157,000. (No. G-32)

LINE ADS:

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

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

•Laurawood - 8+/- AC - One in a Kind, Large Mountain Rock Formations - Very Private.



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



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1 1-lb. Breakfast Sausage	1 16 oz. Corn
4 8-oz Hamburger Steaks	8 Buttermilk Biscuits
1 12-oz Spaghetti	1 Doz. Fresh Eggs
1 24-oz Spaghetti Sauce	1 Dessert

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Mentone Church of God Host Site

The February Menu will soon be available.



WINNER OF QUILT

Karen Gonzales of Fort Payne, AL, is shown with the quilt she won in the drawing last year. The Church of God in Mentone, in a fund raiser for missions and paving, gave away this beautiful quilt. The church appreciates everyone who participated in the drawing as the funds go for a worthy cause.

(Information and photo submitted by Jane Galloway)

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SANDERS SIGNS WITH NORTH GEORGIA



L/R: (front row) North Georgia baseball coach Tom Cantrell, Clay Sanders, Gainesville baseball coach Wayne Vickery. (Back row) Gainesville assistants Mike Pruitt and Cris Carpenter, and Clay's father, Charles Sanders.

Clay Sanders, a senior shortstop for Gainesville High, recently signed a baseball scholarship with North Georgia College and State University. North Georgia was last year's GACC champions and they are currently ranked 5th in the NAIA pre-season poll. Sanders broke into the Red Elephants' starting line up as a fresh-

man and is a four-year letterman. He batted .333 with 21 RBIs last year to help Gainesville win the Class AAA State Championship in June.

Clay is the son of Charles and Sandra Smith Sanders. His grandparents are John and Bobbie Smith of Mentone. His great grandmothers are Evelyn Bain and the late Nettie Smith.

Our Founding Fathers Received Their Wisdom From God



The freedoms that we enjoy in this country today were secured for us by our great leaders in the early days when they framed the Constitution and set up our system of government that has remained in place ever since. They had many difficult decisions to make about these matters, as well as those dealing with war and peace, and although their personalities were quite different, they had one important trait in common. They relied on God's guidance for those major decisions, and so they always proved to be the right ones. For that, we should be forever grateful to these men for their wisdom and faith that shaped our destinies, and we can best pay homage to them by attending our House of Worship and thanking God for them, then doing our best to emulate them by following their exemplary footsteps.

God is above all earthly rulers, and His law above all human laws.
— James H. Fairchild

"He that shall humble himself shall be exalted."
— Matthew 23:12

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TRI-COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE/RESCUE NEWS

By Mary Alice Stout

CHILI SUPPER—Homemade chili (with or without meat), grilled cheese sandwich, sweet rolls and drinks—all will be served by the Tri-County Volunteers on **Saturday, February 9**, beginning at 4:00pm GA time. \$5 for adults \$4 for children.

Over the years, Tri-County has become known for their excellent chili. You may get bowls to go or enjoy the fellowship of eating at the Fire Hall. Profits from the supper will be used for retiring the loan on the fire truck and for supplies.

DOUGHNUT SALE—**Saturday, March 2**, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts will be sold by Tri-County. You may call assistant Chief Janet Harris (706-862-2128) to place an order. The money earned from this fund raiser will be used for Tri-County's Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Party.

EASTER EGG HUNT—is set for March 30 at Tri-County Headquarters at the GA/AL state line. More details later.

HOLIDAY DINNER—During the past holiday season, Tri-County Volunteers provided a turkey dinner with all the trimmings to senior citizens and shut-ins. Tri-County and community members cooked, boxed and delivered over 100 meals in the Cloudland area. Most of the food was donated by Menlo-Lucky's and the Lookout Restaurant, and from Summerville—Ingles, Sav-a-Lot, and Walmart. We are very grateful to all who were involved in making this dinner a part of the season of giving. (See photo below.)

"NEW" VEHICLES—Tri-County has been gifted with 2 used fire/rescue vehicles. First, Paulding County, GA, donated a 1983 Chevy Suburban with an 8000 pound wench. Second, a resident of Paulding County donated a 1977 Ford pumper truck with only 26,000 miles. It is able to carry and pump 1000 gallons. The Ford will need tires soon. Donations to the fire fund are always appreciated. For more information on these vehicles or the needed tires, call Chief Howard Durham at 706-862-6400.



Tri-County Volunteers Denise Green and Charla Huskey cook and serve Holiday meal.

(Photo by Mary Alice Stout)

UNITED GIVERS FUND HOSTS APPRECIATION RECEPTION and ADOPTS 2002 BUDGET



United Gives Fund Volunteers Celebrate "Over Goal" Campaign

Following the completion in early November of another very successful fundraising Campaign, the UGF Board and staff hosted a brief Appreciation Reception on December 4, just prior to their December Board Meeting.

Volunteers, outstanding companies, and employee groups were recognized and presented certificates of appreciation by Campaign General chairman, Linda Sterling. A total of 26 companies qualified for either the Gold or Silver Award this campaign. These Awards recognize outstanding participation by companies and their employees who support UGF through payroll-deducted contributions.

Companies receiving the Gold Award were: AmSouth Bank, C. S. Bell Hosiery, Charleston Hosiery - Fort Payne & Rainsville, Child Care Resource Network, Compass Bank, Farmer's Cellular, Henagar Hosiery, Johnson Hosiery, Ladd Environmental, Lala Ellen Knitting, Pioneer Knitting, V.I. Prewett & Son, Prewett Associated Mills, Prewett Hosiery Sales, Plainsman Hosiery, Sara Lee Bakery Group, Siemens, Times Journal, and United Parcel Service. These companies had at least 70% of their employees participating with a minimum per capita amount of \$60.

Companies receiving the Silver Award with 60% or more participation and minimum of \$40 were: The ARC of DeKalb, Conagra, Gold Kist Hatchery, The Heil Company, Johnco Hosiery, and Wee Socks.

Ferguson's and DeSoto Mills received certificates for "Outstanding 1st Time Participation." The City of Fort Payne's Administrative Dept. and Fire Department received certificates for "100% Employee Participation", as did Gold Kist Hatchery and Lala Ellen Knitting.

A new award, started just last year by UGF, recognizes the top 10 companies in the county based on total dollar amount pledged by the company and its employees. This year's "Top 10 Companies" are: Sara

Lee Bakery Group, Siemens, Johnson Hosiery, V.I. Prewett & Son, Charleston Hosiery-Fort Payne, The Heil Company, Vulcraft, Game Time, DeSoto Mills, and United Parcel Company. Each of these companies received a framed, personalized certificate.

Dr. Michael Parker, UGF President, congratulated Ms. Sterling and presented her with a certificate of appreciation for the outstanding job she has done for the second year in a row as UGF's Campaign General Chairman. He thanked the Kickoff and Report Meeting Meal sponsors, and the Lookout Mountain Homemakers Club for providing the delicious Report Meeting meals for the volunteers.

Immediately following the reception, the Board of Directors met to adopt the 2002 budget for the organization. Member agencies to be funded during the coming year from this year's campaign funds include: Alabama Easter Seals-DeKalb Co. Chapter, American Red Cross-DeKalb County Chapter, The ARC of DeKalb County, Boy Scouts of America, CASA of DeKalb County, DeKalb County Children's Advocacy Center, Fort Payne-DeKalb Rehabilitation Center, Fort Payne-DeKalb Child Development Center, Girl Scouts of North Alabama, The Salvation Army DeKalb County Service Unit and Thrift Store, Partnership For A Drug-Free DeKalb, Rose Haven, and USO.

Each agency will be notified before the end of the year of the amount of their annual allocation for 2002. Allocation checks will then be sent to the agencies on a monthly basis beginning in January.

UGF-funded agencies provide many worthwhile services throughout the year and touch the lives of thousands of DeKalb County residents. The services and programs provided by these agencies are many and varied. Each of the 13 agencies has a "heartwarming" story to tell. These stories will be featured in a UGF news release in the coming weeks.



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(1) LOOKING FOR A FARM? Picture yourself there in this 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home featuring living-dining combo, den, large utility room, 2-car garage and full basement with kitchen. All situated on 16 acres surrounded by dogwoods overlooking the pasture and ponds. A must see at \$150,000.



(2) OWN A NEW HOME WITHOUT THE HASSLE OF BUILDING-- Perched on the edge of the mountain, this 2 bedroom, 2 bath all wood cottage with stacked stone fireplace can be a weekend get-a-way or permanent residence. A must see for \$169,000.



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



(4) WHAT A MOUNTAIN RETREAT SHOULD BE! Three bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 sitting rooms, sunroom, dining room and kitchen with breakfast nook, pine floors and walls. All this on more than 2 acres of elite brow front property. \$250,000.



(5) ALL THE SPACE YOU NEED is right here! This custom built home offers 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, large eat-in area kitchen, entertaining sized living room with fireplace and a multi-purpose basement that could serve as a guest room, office or hobby room. The rock and wood construction blend home and nature all on 2.9 acres. Once you see it, you'll want to own it. Call today for your showing. \$225,000.



(6) GET-AWAY TO THE CANYON! Located just 600' from the rim of the canyon, this would make a perfect get-away property. Featuring 1 bedroom, 1 large bath, eat-in kitchen, rock fireplace, central heat and air, metal roof, screened wrap-around deck and nice landscaping including brick entrance columns. Don't wait, call today! \$74,500.



(7) WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS? Why not buy the Little River Cafe? A well-known and established business featuring a fully equipped kitchen and dining room with large porch for outside eating, stage for entertainment, and a rustic atmosphere in a charming renovated old home. Located between DeSoto State Park and Little River Canyon, and only 10 minutes from Fort Payne and Mentone. What a steal for only \$169,500.

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(8) 160 ACRES OF NATURAL BEAUTY on Lookout Mountain—just minutes from DeSoto State Park and Mentone. Ready for your dreams—hunting club—week-end retreat or development. \$2,150 per acre. Will sell in larger tracts.

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

(10) LAKE ON THE BR... We have a lake lot that is over an acre and is **SOLD** for \$100,000. If you're interested, call us today.

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

(12) WEEKEND OR WEEKLY RENTAL AVAILABLE - 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, will accommodate 8 people. For more information, call Susan Collins.



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A Friendly— Valley View

By
ELOISE BROWN

Another year flew by on the wings of time. Those wings are growing swifter with each passing week. Despite all the tragedy and trouble, I hope everyone had a happy Christmas, as I did.

My granddaughter, Laurie Dell, sent me a ticket insisting I spend Christmas with her and her husband, Andrew, in Pasadena, Maryland. Robert D., Michelle Brown and Little John Bob took me to Birmingham where I boarded the plane for Baltimore, Washington International Airport. Robert was able to get a pass and go with me to the plane. This was Sat., Dec. 22. I went to church with them on Sunday and received a warm welcome. After church, fourteen friends from the church joined us for dinner at the Texas Roadhouse—where one of the members presented her performance of "The Littlest Angel" for us, delightfully, that she had done for their Christmas program. Monday evening, Laurie and Andy were hosts for a dinner for eight and exchanging of gifts. Tuesday (Christmas Day) Eleanor Bunko (a long-time friend of my daughter Eldonna and family) invited us to her family dinner and gift exchanging, which was delightful. Wednesday, we went shopping and to lunch. On Thursday, Shirley Darby, mother of my grandson-in-law, Ray Darby, took me to lunch at a nice restaurant. It was so good to see these friends I hadn't seen in so long. One night, we went to Annapolis Bay Bridge which was miles of lights representing meaningful things—a wondrous sight—then drove to Baltimore to see the famous block of 34th Street that people come from everywhere to see the lights. We put a lot of living into a week's time. When I returned Saturday, Dec. 29, they made an exception and allowed Laurie to go with me to the admitting place where you board the plane, although they had told her by phone that she could not, since it is an international airport. I did not feel the least uneasy, although, it was strange to see heavily armed guards, but one even pushed my wheel chair and everyone was very nice.

The Sunshine Club had the Christmas meeting at Billie Harper's beautifully decorated home on Dec. 12, with a bountiful covered dish feast. There were only very few there as it was a busy time.

Venna Livingston called me and told me about her little great granddaughter, Allison Reed, (five weeks old) having her picture made with a snowman on Nov. 30, in Atlanta, where she lives—good way to record their big snow fall. She is the daughter of Carmen and James Reed.

Mark and Emmy Ricketts, from Tuscaloosa, Bob, Linda, and Katy Thomas from Fort Payne, spent New Year's day with Doris and Jim Carmichael. Doris received a call from Irene Kukler Henry, from Valencia, CA, with the bad news that her husband, Don, had died from pancreatic cancer on Oct. 4. Irene will be remembered here as a graduate of Valley Head High

School.

Linda Blackburn and Betty Jo Lewis, from Orange Park, FL, spent Christmas week with Linda's parents, Dot and Bill Blackburn.

Kelly Stinson and her husband Doug, from Calhoun, GA, visited Leedell Lawman and Louise Bullard and her grandfather, S.B. Stinson recently.

Sadie Cooper had all of her family, including grandsons, Patrick and Tyler, who were home from college, for Christmas dinner. Sadie visited her uncle, Melvin Smith, at Ider recently. He is 96 years old.

Christine and Walter Brooks had most of their family on Christmas eve, including grandson, Jamey Hulan and family from Danville, KY.

Fid Clark was honored by daughter, Brenda Traffansteadt and son, Dwight Clark, with a 90th birthday celebration on Sunday, Dec. 30, as a big crowd enjoyed the nice event at Violet Hill Baptist Church.

Members of Mrs. Wisner's 4th grade class and Mrs. Crider's 4th grade class of Valley Head School did a very nice thing for Christmas. Each member adopted a resident of Crowne Health Care Center and visited them Dec. 17, singing carols and presenting gifts to them.

I spent New Year's Day with Beverly and Shane Wright and the Meadows family at Valley View.

Jamie Lynn Welch, Lillie Bowden's granddaughter, graduated from Middle Tenn. State University at Murfreesboro, TN, with a masters degree in Human Sciences, on Dec. 15. She is the daughter of Jo and Mike Welch of Chattanooga, and sister of Michael Welch. Karen, Mark, and Katie Freeman, and Lillie Bowden attended the graduation, and afterwards all celebrated together with dinner at a Mexican restaurant.

Karen and Mark Freeman attended Karen's class reunion at Ramada Inn at Warner Robins, GA. It was the 1971 graduating class of Peach County High School of Fort Valley, GA. Lillie Bowden went on to visit her sister, Maxine Forehand, in Perry, GA., and other family members in that area.

Evelyn Clark and Anna Daniels spent Christmas with Loy and Margaret Clark in Birmingham, and their son Jeremy from Washington, DC.

Mozell Crow had Christmas eve dinner with Brenda and Tim Traffansteadt.

Jan and Bob Pullen and children from Austin, TX, visited Mozell, "Jug" and Dot Crow and Grace Pullen and family, for the Christmas holidays.

Welcome to Valley Head to Dael and Doug Hoyt, who have bought the Lora Brown Hulan house.

Dinner guests of Mary and Ted Holleman, Dec. 22, were Adelaide Biddle from Dallas, GA; Julia Hickey from Daisy, TN; Betty, Jimmy and Michelle Adams, from Gadsden; Nelson and Elizabeth Ellis from Rainsville; Laura Margaret Allison and Elizabeth Coleman from Valley Head; and John Holleman from Huntsville. Ted, Mary and John spent Christmas Day with Nelson and Elizabeth Ellis.

E.T. Holleman spent Christmas day with his granddaughter Abby and Eric Ward and other family members at Greenville, SC.

Juanita Smith had heart surgery and had a rough time with severe complications and a long stay in the hospital. It is so good to hear that she is much better now. She will be in rehab in Gadsden for three weeks and hopefully will come home good as new.

Melanie Horton (Don Morgan's niece) is recovering from serious surgery in Huntsville.

Jimmie Clements (Christine Brooks' sister) is also recovering from surgery.

Debbie Padgett, also, has had surgery.

The old Brown house burned recently, and Mr. Heinrich the owner, lost everything. Keep him and all the others on your prayer list.

May 2002 be good to each of you and to me, too!

Happy New Year

Hope opens the door of a new year,
Achievements of the past are secure,
Prosperity promises future reward
Peace, 'tho elusive, we must guard.
Youth sought anew—age to discard!

New time to use wisely for full worth,
Ecology to protect and preserve the earth,
Wisdom to bring from death a new birth.

Yielding only to the beautiful and good,
Embraced by a world of brotherhood,
Abundance for all may this year bring,
Reverence for God and each living thing.

—Eloise Brown

"New Year's Resolution"

I resolve that this shall be a special year,
Filled with happiness, health and joyful cheer,
I shall not groan, complain, nor even grunt—
I shall present an optimistic front.
I shall keep my spirit up—flying high—
I shall laugh and smile with no frown nor sigh
I shall be dauntless, brave and very strong
And keep all priorities where they belong—
Each moment I shall gainfully employ
Each moment I shall completely enjoy.
I shall strive to encourage all I meet
And with love and kindness each person greet.
The Bible says "As we think, so we are"
I shall hitch my thoughts and dreams to a star.
For these years are dwindling to a very few.
Each one must be special for me and you.
I shall be better to my self and then—
This shall be the best year that's ever been.
Now if only I could keep this resolution—
I would need complete strength without confusion
I fear it will be like most resolutions—
And result in more bad disillusion—
At least, I shall do the best I can do
To make it a very special two thousand and two!

—Eloise Brown

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Day or week rental • Mentone, Alabama
Large 3 bedroom cabin, pond, barn.
We are a family lodge, where 30 acres are
exclusively yours for rental time,
hiking, fishing, recreation



R/L: (front row) holding the checks at right, Wolf Cub Gage Foster of Pack 106, and on the left, his brother Robert Baker, and Cheryl Baker; (back row) David Baker, David Gilbreath, Mike Bare, and Bill Berry

FUND RAISER FOR CUB SCOUT PACK 106 A HUGE SUCCESS

The Shed is pleased to announce that the fund-raiser we held for Cub Scout Pack 106 benefiting Mentone Green was successful. The fund-raiser was planned to provide funds to make the Mentone Green buildings handicap accessible. The proceeds came from The Shed's holiday sales. Three dollars was donated for every Christmas tree that was sold, and for every poinsettia that was sold, a donation of one dollar was made.

Two checks, one gift from an individual for \$100, and a check for \$250 from owners David and Cheryl Baker were presented to Scoutmaster David Gilbreath, Assistant Scoutmaster Dr. Bill Berry, and Cubmaster Michael Bare on January 4, 2002, at The Shed. A wheelchair ramp has already been installed at Jim Berry Hall and the new building under construction will be made handicap accessible as well. In addition, handrails will be added to the restroom facilities. It took many people to make this hap-

pen. We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all the people and organizations who graciously helped us raise money for those little guys in Scouting by devoting far beyond the usual efforts: Cub Scout leaders Connie Hughes and Michael Bare; Joan Farrell, Dr. Bill Berry, Joseph Churrath, Mentone Springs Hotel, Lookout Mountain Lodge, Camp Laney, Virginia and Alex Cooley, Dottie Kirkland, Milline Johnson, Attalla Florist, Valhalla Luxury Cottages, Linda Stiefel of The Times-Journal, and John Dersham of Fort Payne. Thank you all for supporting our little guys. These are very special youngsters.

David and I thought that since we were already doing a benefit for Gage with proceeds going to install a wheelchair accessible elevator at our home, we should also add this fund-raiser to help Mentone Green become handicap accessible as well. The benefit for Gage's elevator will be ongoing throughout 2002. You may contact David or myself for

more information about this at (256) 634-4038. We will be happy to discuss this with you personally at any time.

If you are ever in need of your own fund-raiser or benefit, you may call The Shed and ask to speak to Cheryl Baker. We are more than happy to help people who desire and need fundraising or benefit efforts. We support our community 100% and we know that there are so many caring people here who support something so important as providing handicap accessibility for area disabled persons.

The Shed will be closed from January 7th to the end of the month for remodeling and inventory, and for the Tennessee Landscaping Association Plant Show, January 19th through the 21st. If you should need us, feel free to call us at the above number and we'll help any way we can. The Shed will reopen February 1st with new Valentine's Day flowers and gifts.

DeKalb Realty, Inc.

400 Grand Avenue South, Fort Payne, Alabama 35967
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CHARM AND CHARISMA IS WAITING FOR YOUR INSPECTION. This 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath in Mentone has central heat and air, and is situated on 3.6 acres. Call for your appointment today! Priced at only \$79,900.00

CHOICE INVESTMENT PROPERTY LOCATED ATOP LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN! This 69 acres of choice property has paved road frontage, water available, a road runs through the property. Excellent for subdividing. Your calls are welcome for the bargain. \$302,500.

TOUR MENTONE FROM YOUR OWN AFFORDABLE HOME WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF RESTAURANTS, SHOPPING AND PARK ACTIVITIES! This 3 bedroom home located in the middle of downtown Mentone is calling you. This property is perfect for those first-time home buyers at a very affordable price. It would also make a lovely gift or antique shop. Well worth your call! Priced at \$70,000.

OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN THE RUSTIC MENTONE AREA! Lovely gift shop with greenhouses and landscape business. Turn key business including 3 greenhouses, 3 water gardens, and a 3-bedroom residence. This is a successful business for that special person with the required GREEN THUMB. Don't miss this opportunity! \$275,000.

ALMOST LIKE LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE! Excellent for those weekend getaways and vacations, located in Mentone. Rustic log home offers 1 bedroom, 1 bath, open kitchen and living area, freshly painted interior. Includes storage building, and 1 acre. How could anyone go wrong with a price like \$43,500.

THIS IS A MUST SEE FOR EVERYONE who wants the comforts of the country and a nice sized home. This home sits on 1.5 acres and offers 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, open kitchen and dining area, central heat and air, unfinished basement. Beautiful view. Call now to schedule time for your tour. \$110,000.

THIS WOULD ALMOST REMIND YOU OF ROCK CITY! You can choose from 2 tracts located on Lookout Mountain in Valley View Forest. Both tracts have a view. Excellent for permanent residence or get away home. Tracts start at \$10,900. It doesn't cost anything to call!

A MAJESTIC CUSTOM HOME IS AWAITING AS YOU ASCEND SCENIC LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN! This showplace has both a great room and den with vaulted ceilings and fireplaces. French doors lead to an expansive wrap around porch. A panoramic view of the valley can be seen poolside. Three luxurious bedroom suites with baths abound. We welcome your calls. Priced at \$435,000.

WE HAVE SEVERAL BUILDING LOTS IN MENTONE AVAILABLE! Laurel Creek Lake Subdivision features three lakes, hiking trails, restrictive covenants, common area, and much more. Some lots have water available. Prices start at \$9,500.

Neil Colbert — 997-9059

Brenda Taylor -845-7755

Joyce Williams - 845-4589

Ron Waits - 634-4693

Ronnie Campbell - 845-0412

THE REALITY: PEACE ON EARTH

Wherever serenity exists,
Wherever harmony is heard,
Wherever tranquility is felt,
There, Peace Prevails on Earth.

Whenever the oneness of all is recognized,
Whenever One's heart accepts love,
Whenever One's mind allows the thought to exist,
Then, Peace Prevails on Earth.

Let our Minds accept the reality of One
Let our Hearts send forth One's love.
Let our Souls recognize the One Source of All.
Let Peace Prevail on Earth.

Rev. Alisha Henri

Reiki Master

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Moon Lake Elementary School News

(from The Moon Lake Memo, The Newsletter of Moon Lake Elementary School, Vol. 2, Number 3, Jan 14, 2002)

Fresh faces and fresh ideas have arrived at Moon Lake Elementary School in the form of three student teachers from Jacksonville State University. This marks the first time Moon Lake has hosted practice teachers.

Julie Ash works alongside teacher Phyllis Sarratt in kindergarten. A resident of Summerville, she enjoys reading, listening to music, traveling (with Italy being her favorite place), and preparing special desserts (such as hot fudge cake). "Miss Julie" gained inspiration from a seventh-grade social studies teacher who "made learning fun." Her mother, the former Myra Burnette, grew up in Mentone.

Misty Crowe is assigned to teacher Jennifer Gorham in fifth grade. She lives in Chickamauga. Having worked with young children through babysitting and in Sunday school and children's music ministry, she's anxious to "teach and teach and teach!" Miss Crowe enjoys sports; snow skiing, tennis, and soft ball are among her favorites. She also loves animals and has had many pets including squirrels, dogs, cats, fish, a rabbit, and a pig named "Wiggie".

Allison Smith, also a resident of Chickamauga, is experiencing first grade with teacher Karen Prestwood. She has always felt called to be a teacher; as a child, she loved to play school. Miss Smith feels she is a good listener who likes to help friends solve their problems, and she hopes to help children become better citizens and create a better world. She enjoys singing and church activities and wants eventually to become a principal.

The three ladies will complete their student teaching activities on Monday, April 15. We trust their Moon Lake experiences will provide good preparation for future positions in the world of education!

Upcoming School Events

Monday, Feb. 4: monthly assembly @ 7:45 a.m.
 Monday, Feb. 11, mid term reports go home
 Thurs., Feb. 14, PTO meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
 Friday, Feb. 15, Weather Day Holiday
 Monday, Feb. 18, Presidents Day holiday
 Friday, March 1, spring school pictures
 and cap-and-gown pictures
 Monday, March 4: monthly assembly @ 7:45 a.m.
 Monday, March 22: end of third grading period
 Thurs., March 14: PTO meeting at @ 6:30 pm.
 Monday, March 18: Report cards go home

a "rustic touch of class"

Mountain Laurel Inn

(Formerly Blossom Hill Bed & Breakfast)

Innkeeper: Sarah Wilcox

For Reservations, Call (256) 654-4675 or (800) 889-4244
 or write P.O. Box 443, Mentone, AL 35984

ON THE ROAD TO READING SUCCESS

By Lynne Wagner, Reading Specialist

It's hard to believe that half of this school year is already behind us! The faculty and staff have been working hard to use the ideas and information we obtained from our Alabama Reading Initiative training this past summer and we are very proud of the results we are seeing.

In August, the second through sixth grade classes were given a Qualitative Reading Inventory (QRI) test in order to find each individual student's reading level. This helped the classroom teachers and the reading specialist give explicit instruction to these students on their level in order to increase their reading ability. Tremendous gains have been made in the grades that have been targeted as having "struggling readers". If you would like to look at the results, you may go to the school and look at the graphs to see the results of the students' instructional level in August and the student's instructional level in December.

We need your valuable support in our ongoing implementation of Alabama Reading Initiative activities. You can make a difference in a student's reading success by coming to Moon Lake Elementary School to (a) read to students, (b) listen to student readers, (c) time fluency readings with students, or (d) perform other beneficial tasks.

Fifth-grade parent, Connie Hughes, has faithfully supported student readers by timing their oral reading and thereby assisting with increased fluency. We appreciate her dedication, and we invite you to join her efforts.

If you're interested in becoming a part of the exciting teamwork behind the Alabama Reading Initiative, please contact our reading specialist, Lynne Wagner.

Second 9-Weeks Honor Roll

<u>GRADE 1, All A's</u>	Casey Green
Beth Durham	Dillion Kean
Lily Harrison	Trey Kincer
Jill Hope	Chaz McSpadden
Danielle Powell	Josh Whitaker
<u>GRADE 1, All A's & B's</u>	<u>GRADE 4, All A's</u>
Landon Crowe	NONE
Taylor Poff	<u>GRADE 4, All A's & B's</u>
<u>GRADE 2, All A's</u>	Ethan Crider
Megan Addison	Kaleb McMunn
Jessica Battles	Keisha Powell
Raven Brown	Jacob Tweedell
Brandon Davis	Kattie Wade
Tiffany Easler	Brandon Willingham
Alexis Hatfield	<u>GRADE 5, All A's</u>
Christian Henry	Vance Carden
Caitlin Kirby	Jessica Easler
Kaylee McMunn	Ashley Henry
Brandi Miller	Brittany Hester
Daniel Phillips	Daniel Hughes
Haley Saferite	Kara Miller
<u>GRADE 2 All A's & B's</u>	Jamie Sherwood
Hope Carden	<u>GRADE 5, All A's & B's</u>
Jessica Howard	Lauren Addison
Savannah Pinegar	Max Cherbonneau
Jeffery Smith	Maggie Hollis
Morgan Webb	Nathan Jones
<u>GRADE 3, All A's</u>	Avery Kaltwasser
Brittany Bain	John Whitaker
Tyler Blansit	<u>GRADE 6, All A's</u>
Colleen Castleberry	JEB Bunch
Hunter Stone	<u>GRADE 6, All A's & B's</u>
<u>GRADE 3, All A's & B's</u>	Kayla Hazell
Starla Cash	Paige Wright
Katie Crabtree	



Karen Wright and Moon Lake Head Start Students Moon Lake Head Start Celebrates National Family Literacy Day

During the last few weeks, Moon Lake Head Start has been participating in several activities linked to National Family Literacy Day on November 1, 2001. Our center has had the privilege of several guest readers including Linda Brown (community volun-

teer), Karen Wright (head start parent), and even students from the local elementary school. Reading is a vital part of our curriculum. We appreciate our "special readers" and what they contribute to our program.



The
**Country
Journal**
By
BERNISE CROW

Christmas has passed with all the busy things one gets caught up with, and the slower pace has returned with the advent of a new year.

After the tree is stripped of lights and ornaments, and all decorations removed, stored and labeled for another holiday season, my mind turns to thoughts of spring, cleaning and redecorating, gardening. It's a fresh beginning and I would like to start with a clean swept house, freed from a lot of things not used last year. The old adage is "If you have not used something during a whole year, it's pretty sure you won't need it this year." So—out goes about half of my wardrobe! Maybe someone can use the ones I've kept pushing farther back in the closet. One dressy frock, complete with sequins, I'll save in case we go on another cruise. The last time we went on the Alaskan cruise, everyone wore beautiful cocktail dresses and the men wore tuxedos to the formal banquet, and all I had was a simple dress—not very elaborate.

We have had some very cold days since the first of the month and we are staying inside, just thinking about food. So we are trying to clean out the pantry. If I can come up with some new recipes for old staples. We enjoyed our turnip greens, black-eyed peas, and cornbread New Year's Day, and today we are having white beans, potato salad, and ham left from Christmas. We will have a green salad or slaw and fill us for one more day. But what are we having tomorrow? Maybe beef stew and green peas.

Everyone planned for snow the first week of the month and stocked heavily on foods. Doreen said there wasn't a loaf of bread in Fort Payne Friday—the snow was expected Sunday following.

Joyce and I have been working jigsaw puzzles and having fun. Bill and Dorothy Cyr gave us a nice one—a picture of the twin towers at the World Trade Center in New York. The pieces are a new kind with foam backing and when we finally finished it, it would hold together without glue. So we are planning to frame it. That landmark is gone due to the September 11 terrorist attacks. Who knows; it may be a collectible item for our great, great grand children.

The birds are our colorful addition to an otherwise bland garden area. There are three feeders close together and all of them are covered with gold finch, purple finch, black-capped chickadees, nuthatch, cardinals, titmice, and other unidentified feathered friends. They are so busy eating they don't mind the cold.

Our flowers bloomed until two days before Christmas when the freeze finally ended the colorful Impatiens, Snapdragons, and Geraniums. I have never had them bloom that late outside. One bright pink Impatiens is in a pot and giving us bright color in the kitchen. With a little patience and care one can enjoy blooming plants indoors all winter.

The squirrels have stopped eating at the bird feeders since Doreen and Jerry gave Homer one with a battery attached to the bottom section that gave the little animal a slight shock when he landed on it. It was not harmful to him, but he preferred to find food elsewhere. It did work! We had tried all kinds of things that didn't work. Now, I miss those little fellows. We may have to get a squirrel feeder.

We put left-over bread out for the Crows (the feathered kind!); and they make their loud noises to scare the little birds away and then feast on the bread. We won't see them any more during the day.

Bird watching is a favorite pastime for me any time of year, but especially in winter months when we are inside and can watch them from the window.

This is the month for reflection, planning, corresponding, and doing all those little things we haven't time for in other months. I plan to spend some time in Chattanooga, build a good fire in the fireplace, read a good book or two, eat popcorn, and watch old movies on television. And I want to visit some friends and go to an auction or estate sales.

The Crow's Nest Antique Shop is closed for January, but Phil Faircloth's shop of hand-made rustic furniture will be open weekends; and Donna will be glad to let anyone in my shop who is interested in a purchase. This gives me some time off.

As you probably know, Cloudmont Ski Resort is having plenty of visitors during the cold weather, which is perfect for making snow. If you don't ski, it would be fun to be a spectator and watch the beginners.

In 1949, we were 49s on a trip to California. It was one of the most exciting trips we ever made!—even when we have traveled to many foreign countries. I wrote about it in one of my articles, and Alfred Chambers said "Why didn't you tell all of it!" Maybe next month we can hear his version. Some people wanted to see a picture of the old Chevrolet in which we traveled and the trailer we pulled for sleeping and eating, so I am enclosing a photo. This trip was really an adventure.

When the ground thaws, I'll plant my bulbs. If I had planted them in November, they would have bloomed before January. Last year, we planted some in January, and they did well.

My resolutions for the year are not any different from years past—just want to read more, learn something every day, do a good deed each day, and pray more for peace and safety.

God Bless America.

Stop by & chat with Bernise at

CROW'S NEST ANTIQUES

Antiques,
collectibles,
glassware, books

(256) 634-4548



L/R: Homer and Bernise Crow, Jackie and Lawrence Magnusson; and Alfred Chambers



Girl Scouts.
Where Girls Grow Strong.

Girl Scout Cookies are Here!

Girl Scouts from DeKalb and Jackson Counties have delivered cookies from their pre-sale orders. If you didn't get a chance to place your order in November, don't worry! You still have a chance to buy those delicious cookies that "Make Dreams Come True", they're only \$3.00 a box. Every weekend, troops will be selling all your favorite Girl Scout cookies: Thin Mints, Samoas, Trefoils, Do-Si-Dos, Aloha Chips, and Tagalongs, plus two new varieties: All Abouts and Reduced Fat Oie Oie, at booth sales in your community.

Girl Scouts thank Wal-Mart, K Mart, Food Land, Bi-Lo and other local businesses for supporting our girls and volunteers. All the cookies are preservative-free and can be stored in your freezer for months. They will still keep that freshness which makes them "soooooo good". Proceeds help fund all troop activities and support Girl Scout of North Alabama's camps and programs. Girl Scouts learn marketing, money and goal setting skills that allow them to earn badges.

For information on Girl Scouting or Girl Scout cookies, you may call JoAnn Pearson, Membership Director at 256-582-0093 or your local Girl Scout Cookie Chair: Ft. Payne/Lookout Mountain 523-3778, South Sand Mountain- 659-4542, North Sand Mountain - 632-6148, Scottsboro/Skyline-587-6003, Stevenson/Bridgeport-437-1992. Girl Scouts of North Alabama, serving 14 counties in Alabama and Tennessee, is a member agency of United Givers of DeKalb and Jackson Counties.

Mentone Troop 1012

Mentone Troop 1012 meets every Tuesday from 3:30 PM to 4PM at the Mentone United Methodist Church on Cutler Avenue. During the months of February, March, and April, they will meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at the same time. The troop's leader is Michelle Nelson and her assistant is Lisa Strickland.

Troop 1012 has 24 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to sell. They will be at Bruce's Food Land at the North Y in Ft. Payne, at 9AM on Saturday, February 2nd, until sold.

There are nine girls in the troop: Jillian Hope, Savannah Pinegar, Amber Tackett, Danielle Powell, Colleen Castleberry, Tiffany Easler, Jessica Howard, Megan Petersen, and Kayla Powell, and honorary Brownie Mikie Petersen. The investiture service and a covered dish supper was held on January 18. Look for a write-up with pictures in the next issue of *The Groundhog*.

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**MOON LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HARVEST FESTIVAL 2001**



L/R: 1ST RUNNER UP - Paige Wright -- 6th Grade
QUEEN: Keisha Powell - 4th Grade
2ND RUNNER UP: Tristan Smith & Amber Crow - Kindergarten

THANK YOU!!



Marjorie Harper
Valley Head Elementary
Homecoming Queen Marjorie
Harper would like to thank
Ta-Ta Zanon, Billie Harper,
Jessica Barrier, the Robertson
family, Dylan and Wanda Lewis,
and everyone who contributed
to her campaign.



Mandi Browder Goza

Mandi is one of our Mentone young ladies who graduated from college recently with honors. She is Mandi Browder Goza. We wish her success in her Elementary teaching career. She is now beginning work on her masters degree.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
VALLEY HEAD ELEMENTARY
HOMECOMING KING AND QUEEN**



**Marjorie Harper and
Jeremiah Robertson**



Our Town

By

LINDA BROWN



Here we are already into the second month of a new year. January was a very good month. The month had almost any kind of weather you could ask for and ended with very nice warm, albeit wet, days. We use January to celebrate the beginning of a new year, a time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. January was named for Janus, a mythological god who had two faces, gazing in opposite directions.

Now comes the month of February. Sometimes the only good thing you can say about it is that it has President's Day, Valentine's Day and it is short, only twenty-eight days this year. February can have some nasty weather, so be forewarned. February was named from the Latin word *Februa*, signifying the festivals celebrated in ancient Rome during this month. At one time February was at the end of the year. It was placed as the second month in the Roman calendar in 452 BC.

Hopefully, the year 2002 will be a much better one for our nation. Maybe we will not have to see a part of our country destroyed this year. We will not have to mourn again with the thousands who have lost loved ones, some never to be found. Hopefully, we will not have to hate an entire country because a few of its citizens have chosen to harm Americans. Maybe, just maybe, this will be a more peaceful year and we will not end the year in the turmoil that we felt at the end of 2001.

The Town of Mentone usually spends the winters just keeping body and soul together. This year so much was already in progress that it is a busier winter than usual. Many of the agencies are still waiting for grants or loans before much needed work can be done or purchases made.

The members of the Board of Directors of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District have learned that the loan for a new fire truck is in a stack on a desk waiting to be considered. Mayor Britt and Ken Kirby have both been in contact with the agency and urged that "our" loan be moved closer to the top of the stack. When your request is midway of the stack, there is a chance that the money will run out before the request is considered. Everyone is hoping to hear that the loan has been approved before the end of January. Perhaps we will hear by the time this issue of *The Groundhog* hits the press. New trucks have been inspected and a tentative order has been placed, this should speed the purchase along when the loan is approved. Keep thinking positively, the volunteers have to have a new truck to continue the good work that they are doing.

The Volunteer Firefighters are certainly to be commended for the good work they did during the recent dry weather. I understand that several houses were saved from burning because of their quick action in fighting the forest fires. Also, one of the largest struc-

tures in Mentone had an in-house fire. The story I heard was that the volunteers were on the scene within minutes of the call. The structure was saved, but I understand a refurbishing job may be in order for the kitchen. None of the volunteers will toot their own horn, so I have to listen very carefully to find out about any of their activities. They just crank up the truck, go fight the fire and that's the end of it. I can hardly wait to see if we get the loan for a new truck, if anyone ever deserved one, our volunteers do. They deserve a break. They have struggled with insufficient equipment and made do with what they had for long enough.

While we are talking about fires, let me urge everyone to be very careful with fire and also clean up around your houses. If you have a home in Mentone that you do not live in year round, call someone to rake the leaves away from your house. Leaves do have a way of piling up and they are good fuel for a forest fire. Also, be sure that your kitchen is free from any grease or other material that could cause a fire. Check the vent and fan over your stove. Check the wiring in your house and be sure that you have smoke detectors installed and that the batteries are in working order. In the words of a very old television show, "Let's be careful out there."

Recently, I was asked by the Wolf Cub Pack of Boy Scout Troop 106 of Mentone to talk to them about the way things were long ago. Of course, eight year old boys could not possibly comprehend that milk came from anywhere except a plastic jug or a cardboard box. They were very attentive and asked such questions as: where was the oldest house in Mentone, how the first people settled here, and who was the oldest Mentonian still living here? I answered all to the best of my knowledge, but it started me thinking about recording some of Mentone's history. Maybe I will record some of the memories of our wonderful older generation. I'm not committing yet, just an idea. If you are interested in such a project, let me know.

Everyone connected with the Mentone Water Works is really struggling to find water leaks and repair them. Some of the leaks are almost impossible to locate because the lines are so old and go in so many different directions. The old lines are starting to break down. They are hoping to replace many of these lines soon. You may start seeing some of the work in progress as you go around town. If you see an abundance of water where none was before, consider that it might be a leak on a water line and give them a call. The office of the Water Works is in the Town Hall of Mentone.

The Partridge Peas Junior Garden Club met on January 24. Of course, all of our meetings are in the Kindergarten Room of Moon Lake School. This time we had another wonderful helper, Julie Ash, who is the granddaughter of Eloise Burnett, is doing her practice teaching with the kindergarten class. She was a great help with this month's project. Mrs. Sarratt and Mrs. Owens are always so helpful and a joy to work with. Our project was a collage showing the structure of an ecosystem. We started with blue construction paper, a bed of green grass and a Valentine tulip, red and pink, no less. From this beginning, the members were free to continue placing paper butterflies, dragonflies and more flowers anywhere they wanted them to be. To complete the collage, we used sticks for stems, sequins and even pipe cleaners for worms. Each worm had a "wiggly eye". The children did a great job and carried their creation home to show their family.

The progress on the new library at Moon Lake School is slow but sure. It is going to be a beautiful place when it is completed. Now if we can just convince the "powers that be" that a new school is needed right behind it, we would all be walking on cloud nine.

The tutoring program, sponsored by the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation, will begin again in February. This is a program of an adult helping a student for one hour per week with their schoolwork. This may not seem like much, but I have found that it gives the young people confidence in themselves and the teachers say that they can tell a difference in the student's performance.

Since February is the month of love, let's all do our part. Love the unlovable. I've often heard that a child needs love when they are the most unlovable. This could apply to any situation. Love the lonely. Send someone a Valentine's Day card who will not expect it. Call a friend who is having a hard time right now. Let them know that you care. Love the sick. If they are in the hospital, make a visit, if appropriate. If they are homebound, find out their favorite food, make it and carry it to them. Love the lovable. Love those people who make your life easier and more joyful. One who always comes to my mind is, Mrs. Ruby Brock. She is truly a lovely and lovable person. Another is Mrs. Polly Chambers, who is always a joy to be around. If I had the space I would probably name all of Mentone. And love yourself. Not to the point of being selfish and having to always have your way, but know that you are a person of worth and there is a reason for your being where you are.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
AND LOVE SOMEONE!

Paper Hearts

Valentines are paper hearts
Frothy with ribbons and lace,
Eloquent of lovers' arts,
Speaking of beauty and grace.

Bringing joys to hearts of youth
Causing dreams for just a while,
May be toys without the truth—
Just to deceive and beguile.

Only time is proof of love—
Companionship of sharing—
United by God above
Into circle of real caring.

Paper hearts are nice to see
But give me hearts that are real,
always true, whatever may be,
To reach, to give and to feel!
—Eloise Brown



A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Civettes Rummage Sale

March 16, 7 - 11 a.m.

National Guard Armory
4300 Gault Ave. N
Ft. Payne, AL
Proceeds to fund Club projects.

American Legion Post 215

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Friday, March 15,

(starting early)

American Legion Hall

Plates \$5.00 each

Menu: spaghetti sauce with meat, pasta, tossed salad, bread sticks, choice of desserts, and drink.

Chili Supper

- with meat or vegetarian, includes grilled cheese or peanut butter sandwich, sweet roll, and drink

TRI-COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE/RESCUE FUND RAISER

Saturday, February 9, 4:00 to 7:30 pm GA Time
at the Fire Hall on the GA/AL state line
where AL 117 meets GA 40

\$5 adults \$4 children

For tickets or information, call Assistant Chief
Janet Harris at 706-862-2128.

Mentone Tourist Committee

Meets 1st Monday
of each month
at 6 p.m.

at The Mentone Inn.
All are welcome.

KAOLIN GARDEN CLUB

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



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

For God is our refuge and strength, a very
present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

The Bible tells us that in the last days there would be trouble such as we have never seen before, but what we have seen and heard this past year is beyond my thinking. If God was not my refuge, strength and help, my heart would sore be troubled. But Jesus said, for the elect's sake these days shall be shortened.
Is God your refuge?

NOTICE

MAPA's web site, www.MentoneAlabama.org, has a "Directory" to help visitors to our community find the places, things, and services they might want—much like the Yellow Pages in the phone book. If you have any information for the Directory, please submit it via e-mail to Listings@MentoneAlabama.org.

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

The Groundhog staff regrets that the email address in the November and December issues was incorrect. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused anyone.

The DeKalb County Library Bookmobile Schedule for 2002

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

- January 30, • February 13, 27
- March 13, 27 • April 10, 24
- May 8, 22 • June 5, *
- July *, 17, 31

The Bookmobile is in
VALLEY HEAD

on the same days from 1:15 to 2:15

and in HAMMONDVILLE
on the same days from 2:30 to 3:30

* = Bookmobile's Vacation

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

• Saturday, Feb. 9, 4:00-7:30 PM GA time,
Fire Hall GA/AL state line, CHILI SUPPER
FUND RAISER

• Monday, Feb. 11, 6 P.M., Town Council meeting,
Mentone Town Hall meeting room,
open to the public

• Tuesday, Feb. 12, 12:30 P.M., Rhododendron
Garden Club, Mentone Community House

• Tuesday, Feb. 12, 6:30 P.M., American Legion
Post 215 Meeting, American Legion Hall

• Thursday, Feb. 14, Valentine's Day

• Monday, Feb. 18, President's Day, school closed

• Thursday, Feb. 28, 4:00 pm., Waterworks Board
Meeting, Town Hall meeting room,
open to the public

• Friday, March 15, SPAGHETTI SUPPER at the
American Legion Hall, Mentone. Plates will be
\$5.00 each. (See box elsewhere.)