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THE GROUNDHOG

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Volume 13, No. 1

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

January 1995

MACHINE GUNNER WRIGHT IN BATTLE OF THE BULGE

By John G. Chambers

Johnny M. Wright of Morrow Road on Lookout Mountain, Fort Payne, was born September 15, 1918; the year the first World War was ending. When World War II erupted with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Wright, at age 23, enlisted on September 15, 1942. He was assigned to Battery "B" 380th Field Artillery Battalion, 102nd Infantry "Ozarks" Division.

Wright was a heavy machine gunner, and in almost seven months of continuous combat, Wright's 15,000-man 102nd Infantry suffered 1,030 troops killed in action, plus another 564 were listed as missing in action, and 3,525 men were wounded.

Cpl. Wright's division reportedly killed an estimated 3,058 of the enemy and took 145,000 prisoners of war. Wright's "Ozarks" Division is believed to have set a military record with 183 consecutive days on the front lines, according to Group Historian John Emerich. As long as wars are waged, the foot soldiers will be the backbone of the ground forces. There will always be the job of holding onto territory won, and the arduous task of mopping up.

When Wright's group holds their reunion (their last was in Boston), they enjoy recalling old times and bad times--particularly The Battle of the Bulge, and the somber recollections related to one of their most horrific encounters: the sage of the "smoking barn." Wright's infantry unit came



Johnny M. Wright

upon a barn still smoking and were told that the Germans had forced 1,116 political prisoners inside a barn near Gardelegen and poured gasoline on the hay. Anyone who made it out of the fire was mowed down by machine gun bullets. "Only six survived," recalls historian Emerich.

World War II veteran Cpl. Johnny M. Wright displays the American Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal (two bronze battle stars), and the Expert Marksmanship Badge. His two battle stars are for the Rhineland and Central European campaigns.

Concerning the invasions, Wright said, "When we landed, they gave us three minutes to live, and that's not long when you want a life after the war. I came back, but there were a lot that didn't make it back. War is a bad thing to go through."

Editor's note: Johnny married Katherine Brown (Katherine is a sister of Dessie Newberry, owner of Mentone's Kountry Chef.) of Chattanooga, Tennessee, on September 10, 1949, at the home of his father, Jasper Wright. Johnny and Katherine are the parents of two children, Linda Ann Mann of Lafayette, Georgia, and Judy May Hawthorne, Morrow Road, Lookout Mountain, Ft. Payne. The Wrights have four grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Indeed, Cpl. Johnny Wright, is living the life he wanted after the war.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

•Monday - January 9, 6 p.m.
Mentone City Council Meeting, City Hall

•January 6 - February 1
Eagle Awareness Program
(See page 15 for details.)

•Beginning Saturday, January 21
Basketball Tournament
Rainsville Civic Center

•Friday, January 27
Alabama Music Hall of Fame
Von Braun Civic Center, Huntsville

•Saturday January 28
Benefit for Margie Dabney
(See notice on page 6.)

•Tuesday, February 7, 7 p.m.
MAPA Meeting, Kountry Chef

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THE GROUNDHOG

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MAPA OFFICERS

President.....Dessie Newberry
Vice President.....Bill Schwarz
Secretary.....Marie Dillenbeck
Treasurer.....Charlyne O'Rear
Parliamentarian.....Jack Jones
Member-At-Large.....Dot Crow
Member-At-Large.....Pat Seymour

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

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

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MAPA BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bill Patterson January 4
Karl Yatooma January 6
Randall Rice January 6
Charlyne O'Rear January 7
Marie Dillenbeck January 12
Pearl Stanfield January 20

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Terry Bouldin February 2



Dessie Newberry,
MAPA President



Barry Crow at the keyboard



Betty and Len Finster enjoying
the evening



MAPA MEETING

By Marie Dillenbeck



The December MAPA meeting was held at the Kountry Chef on December 6, and was a covered dish event. Amid beautiful decorations, including a large poinsettia, and candles on each table, the meeting was called to order by President Dessie Newberry. Rev. David Lett gave the opening prayer. The president read the Christmas Story from the Bible. Accompanied by her son, Barry Crow, Bernise Crow sang, O Holy Night. Barry provided the entertainment with lovely Christmas carols during the evening. George Walker lead the singing of Christmas carols, assisted by Bernise Crow, Betty Finster, Dessie Newberry, and Dot Crow. The president read, "Heaven's Grocery Store," a copy of which can be found on Page 3 of this issue. Thirty-one members and guests enjoyed the delicious food, decorations, and entertainment. (See pictures above.)

The January 1995 MAPA meeting was held on January 6, at the Kountry Chef. At the request of the president, who was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, Dot Crow presided and called the meeting to order. Chester Crowe gave the invocation. There were 18 members and one guest present--the speaker for the evening, Talmadge Butler, Superintendent of DeSoto State Park.

The minutes from the November meeting were read and approved. There was no treasurer's report as the treasurer was also absent because of illness.

Under old business, Jim Lyday requested an explanation regarding the limit of 10 copies by seniors when using the MAPA copier. The limit is 10 copies each time.

Also, Jim Lyday requested a report from Homer Crow, who had been appointed to look into the matter of the November spraying of the right-of-way by SMEC. Homer stated that the matter had been taken care of by the voluntary removal of the machines by SMEC.

Sherman Gough thanked all the workers who participated in MAPA's Adopt-A-Mile cleanup.

There being no new business, Marie Dillenbeck introduced the speaker, Talmadge Butler. Mr. Butler is the Superintendent of DeSoto State Park in Ft. Payne. He informed those present about the status of the Handicap Trail and those for whom the

trail was to be constructed. At the present time, there are not sufficient funds to begin the construction of the trail. It will be for the use of all people, including those who have mobility problems, are sight impaired, and not necessarily restricted to wheel-chair bound individuals. The park budget does not allow for construction, therefore, they must rely on donations from individuals, banks, utilities, and corporations, as well as from fund-raising projects. The money goes into a special account at a bank in Ft. Payne, Ala., for the trail. MAPA makes donations twice a year from the proceeds of the boat rides at DeSoto Falls in May and October. According to Mr. Butler, when the sum of \$30,000 is reached, construction of the trail should be able to be started. As of December, the fund is approximately \$19,000.

Also of interest to MAPA members was the replacement of the Mays Gulf stone marker at the foot of Tutwiler Gap. During the construction of the rock wall, the Alabama State Highway Department informed Mr. Butler that the sign would have to be removed. The DeSoto Park Service removed the sign and has it stored at DeSoto Falls. When it is replaced, it will be on the other side of the road from the triangle.

The DeSoto State Park received an award in 1994 from the state of Alabama for having the most improved lodge in the state system.

DeSoto State Park will continue to handle the state park area, and will not be a part of the National Preserve. According to Talmadge, in 1994, the park had the best year in camping occupancy and visitation. In October, they had days with 100% occupancy. Since 1986, they have increased occupancy from 20% to 36%.

Following the presentation, several members asked questions, and Mr. Butler responded.

There being no further business, Penny Lyday made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Marie Dillenbeck, and the meeting adjourned. Delicious refreshments were provided by Ruby Brock and Bernise Crow.

The next meeting will be the first Tuesday in February, February 7, 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

MENTONE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

On December 5, 1994, at 6 p.m. the monthly Council meeting was held at the Town Hall. Mayor Max Cash called the meeting to order and Rev. Don Brock opened with prayer.

Several motions were made and carried. They include a motion to authorize Don Brock to meet with Congressman Bevill concerning help on water improvement; motions to set aside the rules in order to vote on Ordinance 94-3; motions to set aside, pass, and adopt Ordinance 94-4; a motion to reappoint Gail Chambers, Dessie Newberry, and Leonard Shigley to the Lookout Fire District for a 4-year term; and a motion not to consider hiring a new policeman.

Also on the agenda again was the sale of the water works property. A motion was made to take the sale of the old water works property off the table in order to discuss it further. The motion was seconded and carried. Attorney Tate was present, but had not found satisfactory answers to the different deeds. Therefore, a motion to authorize Attorney Tate to further investigate the property was passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



NARFE. The next meeting of the DeKalb County Chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees will be on January 17, 1995, at 10:00 a.m. at the Western Sizzlin in Ft. Payne.

HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE Submitted By Dessie Newberry

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago,
One day I saw a sign that read, "Heaven's Grocery Store."
As I got a little closer, the door came open wide,
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.

I saw a host of angels, they were standing everywhere,
One handed me a basket and said, "My child, shop with care."
Everything a Christian needed was in that grocery store.
And all you couldn't carry, you could come back for more.

First, I got some patience, Love was in the same row,
Further down was understanding. You need that everywhere you go.

I got a box or two of wisdom, a bag or two of faith.
I just couldn't miss the Holy Ghost, for it was all over the place.
I stopped to get some strength and courage to help me run this race.

By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered, I needed some grace.
I didn't forget salvation, for salvation that was free.
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.
Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had enough to do my Master's will.

As I went up the aisle, I saw prayer and I just had to put that in.
For I know when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.
Peace and joy were plentiful, they were on the last shelf.
Song and praises were hanging near, so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the angel, "Now how much do I owe?"
He just smiled and said, "Just take them everywhere you go."
Again, I smiled at him and said, "How much now, do I really owe."
He smiled again, and said, "My child, Jesus paid your bill a long time ago."

'Twas the Night Before Jesus Came Submitted By Carol Busby of Valley Head

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house
not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were laid on the shelf without care
in hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray,
I knew in a moment this must be "The Day."

The light of His face made me cover my head.
It was Jesus! returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His hand,
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as he searched for my name,
When He said, "It's not here!" my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready, He rose without a sound
While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late,
I had waited too long, and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight,
Oh! if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem, the meaning is clear,
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life, and when comes the last call,
We'll find that the Bible was true after all.

LETTER TO GROUNDHOG

Dear Groundhog,
Thanks for publishing my article (Nostalgia of an Address Book). I can tell I wrote it when mom was 90 and now is 102. Still with us living in California. No quality life, but not hurting but amazing. Your Christmas card was cute.

I think this issue of *The Groundhog* was very diversified and included so many. When I return from my trip, I'll send you another article.

Hope you have a good 1995, and this project is a challenge.

Sincerely,
Dorothea Bankston

CHRISTMAS VALUES ALL YEAR ROUND

By Dorothea G. Bankston
Chattanooga, Tennessee

The aftermath of the holidays from my observation is that we need to live Christmas values 365 days a year, not just one day a year.

I was aware of people trying to fill a tradition or date, which is fine, but not taking time to relate to children and elderly's needs all year round.

There is so much loneliness and heartache having lived so long, but instead of bemoaning it, learn to share with a phone call, be more tolerant of others feelings, less prejudgmental when we don't know individuals' problems.

We don't always want to share, but we need to count our blessings and show the gentle side of the days ahead.

We are not promised a tomorrow. So looking back will bring memories, which should have helped us learn. Time is precious one hour at a time, and the future is a bonus.

The effort for peace is commendable, but can only be reached by inner contentment spiritually, and outreach with no required rewards. I am encouraged by the recent turn towards this goal. Let us brighten the winter months with fulfillment for others. This, too, will fulfill our need.

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From Between the Counters

By
BRUTUS



Loyal readers, I would like to report a Christmas bestowing of gifts on the great one almost worthy of his deserving! Santa left moi a Christmas stocking stuffed with toys and tributes. However, no presents from Mentone's street persons, Jack Lusk, Willis Blalock, and Ed Jones, who dash in and out of the Superette to soak up warmth from the heater. (It seems no one has heeded my plea to find these lads a home! At least Willis is faithful with the ice cream sandwich every morning.)

Fred Fuller just left the store after bringing in his adorable little grandson to wallow admiringly at the feet of the flawless one.

H.P. Goss' granddaughter, Paulette Mitchell, brought moi the most depressing news this afternoon. It seems there is an English bulldog named "Ooga" over in Henagar at Sparks Finishing Mill where Paulette works. (Brace yourselves for this, disciples!) That dog has the run of the whole mill. No harness. No leash. Just FREE and LOOSE! The mill workers hand out tidbits and treats right and left ALL DAY LONG. This news is enough to put a wrinkle of depression under moi's magnificent eyes.

I thought there was recent insult enough during Christmas when Pop's grandson Wil tried to take my place on the sacred bed in Pop's room. That lad's Blackburn hair nearly got torn out when I spotted him sneaking onto MY spot.

Some tacky tourist woman came into the store yesterday, grabbed a *Groundhog*, read my column, and said to Pop, "Mr. Blackburn, I think there's something Brutus should know--the world does not revolve around him!" Pop looked her square in the eye and replied, "If you expect to leave the Superette in one piece, lady, you'd better say you're kidding." Well said, Pop!

Only yesterday, moi was lying between the counters considering my greatness and how fortunate this little town is to have a canine of my superiority living here. Al says, "Not only am I not great, I'm the most conceited blowhard he's ever seen! (When you're great, people often mistake candor for bragging.) Eat your left-over poinsettias and Christmas trees, flower boy."

It's time for my last tootsie pop of the day, and moi must select carefully before dragging Pop over to the house. Someone said there's a cat in the dumpster, so Pop will probably have whiplash before the back door is reached.

Til next month when valentines (and chocolates) are presented to moi--chow, baby! --



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Joyous and welcome news for the new year! Dr. James Quimby, Valley Head physician, has recovered from a blood clot in his leg and is now keeping office hours in the mornings. His two-week hospital stay was hard on everybody. Welcome back, doc!

Don Brock and Oscar Hussell, two Mentone pastors have been out of the country on educational church business for their denominations. Brother Brock accompanied by cousin Ofene Crowe, was in Puerto Rico Dec. 12-16 to see Church of God of Prophecy work in progress. Rev. Hussell traveled to Jamaica to check on dissertations at a seminary high in the hills of the country.

Van, Lisa, and Beth Moore spent New Year's weekend in Destin, Fla., and Lisa says, "So did everyone else in the state of Alabama, it seemed!" Her new nephew, Jonathan Black, spent a couple of nights with them. Jonathan is now two months old. The Moores really did enjoy getting up with him at 2 a.m. for those early morning feedings. (NOT!)

Sherry Lewis had a wonderful Christmas. She is wearing the new diamond waterfall ring that husband Dennis won when he found the hidden WQRX treasure.

Not to be outdone, Jean Clark also had a wonderful holiday with the \$5,000 she won from a Nashville radio station.

Among birthday celebrations recently were Adis Childers (Jan. 2), Mary Bell Reeves (Dec. 31), and Ed Ringer (Jan. 4). Dennis Lewis will celebrate his nativity on Jan. 25. Congratulations to all!

Retired Valley Mills employee Paul Burnett and wife Ruth recently celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. Married Nov. 23, 1933, in Sulphur Springs, the couple had been children together in Fyffe until the age of five. Years later, they re-met and dated for six or seven years, with Paul hitch hiking to see "that beautiful girl." The Burnetts are the parents of a daughter, Vivian Clark, and a son, Buddy Burnett, both of Valley Head.

John "Snake" and Bobbie Smith have moved into their recently built new home on Cove Road across from Benny Goss. The lovely house is located on a wonderfully landscaped lot, too! Welcome to the neighborhood, folks!

Take a ride by Slim and Bonnie Easler's home to see the gorgeous 1966 230S vintage Mercedes Benz Slim has restored. He bought two identical cars and is using one for parts. Can you believe this man??

Jack Coots had a real emergency recently and had to call on the DeSoto Rescue Squad. He had a bleeding ulcer rupture, but is now back at home moving around some. Wife Clara says his arthritis is still quite severe.

Speaking of the Coots family--Ida Baty, mother of Margie Coots and Cecil Baty, has been extremely sick with the flu. Margie stayed with her mother during her illness, and has nursed Ida back to health. Well done, Margie.

Milton and Grace Howard were honored with a 50th Anniversary luncheon in the private dining room at DeSoto State Park on Dec. 28. Attending were the couple's children and spouses, Mary Ann and Henry Howard with grandchildren Andrew (11) and Christy (7), Stone Mountain, Ga.; and Martha and Richard Whitaker with grandchildren Nathan (11) and Beth (9), Whitefish Bay, Wis.; sister Elizabeth Howard, Oak Ridge, Tenn.; sister-in-law, Peggy Howard, Decatur, Ga. Longtime family friend Thesee Arnold of Atlanta baked the exquisite two-tier anniversary cake; and a lovely floral center piece highlighted the table. The Howards marked 50 years of marriage on November 18, 1994. Daughter Martha and husband Richard were celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary on Dec. 28, the day of the luncheon.

Polly Chambers fixes such delicious banana pudding that she's been told, "It's gonna be served in heaven!" That's high praise, Polly. Incidentally, Polly's maiden name was "Elrod," not Gauld as I wrote in the December Grapevine. My error, Polly!

Joe Stephens had as his house guests from Penn., son Jerome and granddaughter Romie from Jan. 2 - Jan. 4. While in Mentone, the family dined with Dave and Yvonne Blalock and

John and Mickey Cooper. Joe had his 79th birthday on Dec. 30. Lots of birthdays and anniversaries:

- Tiffany Coots celebrated her BIG 21st birthday on Jan. 5. She is the daughter of Ed and Carolyn Coots, all of Mentone.
- Monica & Woody Hunt were married four years on Jan. 5.
- Jason Goss was 18 on Dec. 26. He is the son of Benny and Brenda Goss of Mentone. Father Benny is the U.S. Postmaster.
- Sandi Coots, wife of Buster Coots, will have a birthday on Jan. 24.
- George Battles was "29 again" on Dec. 17.
- Shippley Green, son of Johnny and Wanda Green, was two on Dec. 22.

Other December birthdays include: David Hunter, 10th; Joey Brown, 17th; Carolyn Smith, 26th.

Other January birthdays include: Brian McAdams, 9th; Jessica Meadows, 27th.

Darrell Mitchell, husband of Paulette Goss Mitchell, was hospitalized for a week in mid-December. He had a bad case of hepatitis, but is doing fine now.

Louise Worthy would like to thank everyone for their prayers and let friends know that she is now residing at 139 Watkins Ave. S., Ft. Payne, AL 35967.

Deepest sympathy to Jackie Kerby and her family in the loss of her step-father Bill Goodridge on Dec. 28.

John and Mary Chambers are expecting their first child on Feb. 15, but Mary says, "I just hope it decides to arrive SOONER!"

Justin Lyles will celebrate his first birthday on Jan. 29. He is the son of Joe (Ft. Payne) and Marian Lyles (Mentone). Grandparents are Leon and Cheryl Crane of Mentone.

Grant Meadows, 14, killed a 4-point buck on Christmas Eve. His parents are Anita and Treamon Meadows.

If you've missed Dessie Newberry in the Kountry Chef, it's because she has been seriously ill with pneumonia. Sister Katherine Wright has been "holding down the fort," during Dessie's absence. Thank goodness MAPA's president is back in the cafe.

Clyde Jones and Dowe Clifton took Holly and Fawn Kitchens to Chattanooga over Christmas to visit Clyde's sister Nelda and Dowe's sister Darlene.

Clint Phillips and Kristee Tillman would like to announce their engagement and upcoming wedding on June 3. Congratulations to this fine young couple.

Billy Cash Sr. has been traveling to Chattanooga daily to receive radium treatments for cancer. He asks to be lifted up in prayer by his many friends.

Mary Hall had her 26th birthday on Dec. 29. Mary's parents are James and Brenda Hall of Mentone.

Alex Easler celebrated his second birthday on Dec. 6. Alex is the son of Barbie Easler and the grandson of Slim and Bonnie Easler, all of Mentone.

Audrey Ginnery recently had a pacemaker installed. Best wishes for a speedy recovery!

Cassie "Gran" Cash, mother of Mentone's mayor, Max Cash, has been feeling poorly lately, and needs your continuing prayers. Also, Nelson Williams, friend of the Cash family, has been diagnosed as having advanced cancer.

Brit Kirby continues to suffer with emphysema and sincerely requests your prayers.

David and Rachael Lee are eagerly anticipating the birth of their baby in the near future.

Deepest sympathy to Frances E. Ferguson on the death of her sister Verna L. Ray, 51, of Ft. Payne, who died at her residence on Dec. 31.

Hershel Pruitt is extremely ill with what is referred to as the "Chattanooga It." There seems to be a virus involved (isn't there always?), and he is bedridden at home. (Why do bad things happen to good people?)

The two beautiful young women seen around JoAnn Glover's house on Cove Road are her two daughters, Berry and Eleanor, who are visiting in Mentone with their mother. Berry is taking art classes at Northeast College, and Eleanor has come home from Montana for a while.

Services for Pluma King, 96, were held on Dec. 26, 1994, from Burt Funeral Home Chapel. Several nieces and nephews survive. Pluma was famous for years on the mountain for her fresh churned butter and buttermilk. Sincere condolences to her family members.

Johnny Carr of Valley Head was a finalist in the 1994 DeKalb County Tennis League's man's division. Way to go, Johnny!

Joel and Sue King accompanied Don and Yvonne Brock to a recent performance of the nationally televised "Music City Tonight," in Nashville. The two couples stayed at a B & B in the city and received VIP backstage passes to the show. Eye witnesses report that Sue did not react to seeing Phyllis George up close, but when Hulk Hogan appeared in TIGHTS to shake hands, Sue made a grasping dive for him that was recorded on TV before 60,000,000 viewers. She did come away clutching a Hulk Hogan bandanna. Way to grab, Sue girl!

Lula Blalock spent New Years in Ft. Worth, Texas, with her daughter-in-law, Dianne McGee. Dianne arranged for her mother, Lottie Jones, to be on Lula's flight out and on the return trip. Martha Harris, another daughter in law, met Lottie and drove her home. Lula was met in Chattanooga by Mentone neighbors Paul and Myrtle Johnson.

Congratulations to Brenda Goss, wife of postmaster Benny Goss, who has opened a beauty salon at her home on Cove Road. Call her at 634-4561 for an appointment.

Odie G. Wilks, 85, grandmother of Brenda Williamson, died on Dec. 31. Deepest sympathy to Brenda and her family.

Rev. David Lett, pastor at the Mentone United Methodist Church, has undergone a series of tests to determine the cause of extreme pain in his abdomen. Rev. Lett and his friends anxiously await the results. Keep him in your prayers.

December 21, Bill and Jonathan Rutledge picked up trash on St. Joseph's Adopt-A-Mile on 117 down the mountain. Good job, guys.

Sincere condolences to Jewel Baty in the loss of her sister, Easter Stone, 63, Fyffe, who died on Dec. 10, 1993, at DeKalb BMC.

Congratulations to BreAnna Williamson for being selected a second grade peace maker at Williams Avenue School. She is the daughter of Brother Marlon and Brenda Williamson of Mentone.

The entire area was grieved to learn of the death of Gladys Magnolia Johnson Stott, 77, Valley Head, on Dec. 11, 1994. Gladys will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Way-to-go Matthew Freeman, Snead College freshman majoring in agricultural education, who recently received a \$500 Ralph McClendon Memorial Scholarship. Matt is the son of Mark and Karen Freeman of Valley Head.

Doris Chamlee of Valley Head identified the mystery person, Kathy Hall Pritchett, in the DeKalb Advertiser, and won a certificate for two steak dinners. (If you need a "friend" to eat that other steak, Doris, I'm in the book!)

Ray Lewis of Valley Head is recovering rapidly at home from triple bypass surgery. The operation was performed at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga.

Congratulations to Jane Bouldin, Mentone, who was recently named Outreach Coordinator of the Outreach Storm Counseling Center in DeKalb County. Jane holds an MA degree in counseling. The telephone number for the center is 638-8639, and help is available on Monday, Thursday, and Friday.

Rev. Dennis and Florence Mays celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary on December 21, 1994. Best wishes for another half century together from all their many friends!

December 28, John W. Campbell of Marietta, Ga., and his son, Johnny, of Marietta and Powder Springs, came to Mentone to visit stepmother, Marilyn Blanton Campbell. John and Johnny are both into all facets of "rockhounding," and they brought Marilyn a wire-wrapped cabochon brooch that they had wrapped themselves. While she was not familiar with the stone, Marilyn is quite proud of the brooch John and Johnny did especially for her. On Dec. 26, Dr. Robert W. Campbell of Warner Robins, Ga., and his friend, Robert Oliver, of Macon and Warner Robins, came to Mentone to visit his stepmother, Marilyn. They had a nice visit and lunched together before returning to Warner Robins by way of Chattanooga. On Dec. 22-25, Marilyn spent Christmas with her family at the home of her mother, Mrs. Mary A. Blanton, in Rome, Ga. Marilyn's sister, Jane Blanton, and Jane's son, Joshua B. Rose from Gaston County, N.C., joined the family fun, as did their brother, Daniel C. Blanton, and his children, Rachel, Erin, and Nathan. Mrs. Sharon Blanton, the wife of Marilyn's brother, Daniel, and visitor to Mentone every chance she gets, left Dec. 23 headed to Kettering, Ohio, to check on her mother, Mrs. Dorothy Johnson, who visited Mentone in October, and who is now in the process of recovering from heart by-pass surgery.

On Dec. 17, Joe Stephens and Marilyn Campbell made the trip to Talladega FCI to visit Joe's son, Michael. Michael's address is: Michael Stephens 24041-034, PMB 1000, Sigma B, FCI Talladega, AL 35160-8799.

Tyler Allen Gatlin, 6, Paige Beasley, 6, and Kristy Nicole Hatfield, 11, all of Valley Head are talented young artists whose weather art has been selected for "Today's Weather" in the Times-Journal. Karen Ann Potts, also of Valley Head, is featured in the "Meet Your Neighbor" slot on page one.

Tiger's Inn, Valley Head restaurant, owned by Phyllis Lewis, has been closed for remodeling, and will reopen the second week of January.

Sherman & Mickey Gough had as their house guests last week his sister Kathleen & husband, John Rogers, from N.C.

Wise advice from Mark Twain in closing--"Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great!"



The Menlo News

BY OVIE "BO" BLALOCK

•• Heartiest congratulations to Tammy Burton and Billy Gilbreath who were married recently at Faith Baptist Church, Menlo.

•• Kelli Covington, has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She maintained a 4.0 grade-point average. Kelli is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Covington, Menlo. She is a junior at UTC, where she is a member of the Sigma Kappa sorority. Way to go, Kelli!

•• Brooke Hammonds, Shawn B. Spillman, and Jeremy Brian Hawkins of Menlo will be listed in the 28th annual edition of Who's Who Among American High Schools for 1993-94. Students are nominated based on academic achievements and involvement in extracurricular activities. Folks in Menlo are extremely proud of these young people.

•• The City of Menlo has just undergone an official 1994 audit by Williamson and Co. CPA's, Cartersville, Ga. The City lists \$2,110,892 in assets, \$27,506 less than the 1993 total of \$2,128,498.

•• Navy Seaman Recruit Stewart C. Toles, son of Stewart C. Toles of Menlo, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

•• Since the December Groundhog, many deaths have brought sadness to the Cloudland-Menlo communities. Our deepest condolences go out to the loved ones.

Shirley Temple Burrage, 56, Menlo, died Dec. 3, at her home after a brief illness. Among her survivors is her daughter, Jo Ann Toles, Menlo.

Ernest Pless, 91, Cloudland, died December 2. Survivors include his widow, Katie A. Pless; and two sons, Joe Pless, owner of the Lookout Restaurant, and Hugh L. Pless, both of Cloudland.

William "Bill" Goodridge, 79, Cloudland, died Wednesday, December 28, in Chattooga Medical Center. Among his survivors are his widow Sue Key Goodridge, Cloudland; Jackie Kerby, Mentone, Ala.; brothers James Goodridge and Bobby Goodridge, Menlo; and nephew Alfred Langston, Mentone, Ala.

Gladys Mae Huskey, 62, Cloudland, died Dec. 28, in Chattooga Medical Center. Local survivors include her widower Tom Huskey; a son and daughter-in-law, Tony and Neva Huskey; two grandchildren, Amos Huskey and Eden Huskey; a sister, Sue Smith; and a brother William "Bud" Holbrook, all of Cloudland.

•• Memorial services for Frances N. Long, 90, were held Dec. 31 in the Menlo Presbyterian Church. She died at her residence after a short illness.

•• The Menlo First Baptist Church Creative Learning Center's older and younger classes presented "The Birth of Christ" Dec. 14 to parents, church members, and other spectators. The church was decorated with a manger scene for the performance. The cast of characters included Megan Mitchell, Mary; Coty Cavin, Joseph; Cayla Burkhalter, Crystal Cordell, Melody Gideon, Blaklee Helms, Shaunda Lemming, Maci Tucker and Hannah Younce, angels; Patrick Canada, Cody Crane, Colby Helms, Perry Klouda, Colton Richardson, Blake Tucker, Levi Warner, and Shawn Younce, shepherds; and Ryan Hamilton, Jonathon Lemons, and Tyler White, kings.

BENEFIT DINNER SET FOR MARGIE DABNEY

A spaghetti dinner to benefit Margie Dabney is set for Saturday, January 28, hosted by the Cloudland Volunteer Rescue Squad. The dinner will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Cloudland Presbyterian Church. The cost is \$3. Tickets are available from members of the Rescue Squad, and will be available at the door.

Proceeds from the dinner will help defray Mrs. Dabney's medical expenses. She suffers from multiple sclerosis, and due to complications of the disease, her insurance will not cover all her expenses.

Donations may be made to Margie Dabney, c/o Cloudland Rescue Squad, HC 65 Box 1465, Cloudland, GA 30731.



Earn Eagle Scout Awards

The Eagle Scout award, the highest award in Scouting, was given recently to Joseph Culbert and Scotty Brown, both of Menlo. The Scouts, members of Troop 102 in Menlo are shown with parents in the ceremony that bestowed the award. Pictured from left, Greg Smith, Joseph Culbert, Stella Smith, Brenda Brown, Menlo, Scotty Brown, and Ray Brown, Summerville. (Special Photo)



EAGLE AWARD WINNERS WITH TROOP 102 SCOUTMASTER
(L-R) Eagle Joseph Culbert, Troop 102 Scoutmaster, and Eagle Scotty Brown



Fire Safety Poster Contest Winners

Fire Prevention Week was held recently at Menlo Elementary School. In conjunction with that a Fire Safety Poster Contest was held and the winners were announced this week. They were, first row, from left, Lori Hunter, India Jones, and Dana Yancey. Back row, from left, Principal Lynn Hall, Courtney Duke, Jana Cooper and Keri Beth Pettit. The Menlo Fire Department also provided an instructional time on fire safety during their visit to the school with the students getting a close-up look at fire fighting equipment. (Special Photo)



FIREMAN IN FULL DRESS EXPLAINS EQUIPMENT
To Menlo Elementary Students Recently



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The Church News

By
EVELYN GRAVES



The Moon Lake Baptist Church has called a new youth pastor who will be coming on the field Sunday, January 15. He is Mark Watkins from Samford University, a native of Germantown, Tennessee.

The church wants to update records and get the 911 address of all members. Please mail this address to Reverend Bill Russell, Moon Lake Baptist Church, P.O. Box 43, Mentone, AL 35984, as soon as possible.

The MAC program will begin at the church on January 10. The Release Time program will begin January 26, and will be held at Moon Lake Church every fourth Thursday. Ponderosa Bible Camp will be working in conjunction with the school and children will go off the school grounds to the church where Bible lessons will be taught. The program is legal and has been approved by the Supreme Court. Moon Lake is the fifth school in the county in which this program has been implemented. Ider, Crossville, Fyffe, and Sylvania are already involved in the program. (Watch for a feature article on this program in the February issue of *The Groundhog*.)

Winter Bible Study will be held at Valley Head Baptist Church on January 8, 15, and 22, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Adults, Youth, and Children will be included in the study.

The UMW of the Valley Head United Methodist Church, will meet at the home of Mary Holleman on January 24. Mrs. E.T. Holleman will be a co-hostess for the meeting. Jeff and Melinda Adkins are adopting the nursery at the church for redecoration, and Dael and Doug Hoyt are adopting the upstairs children's classroom for redecoration.

St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church will continue to hold communion every Wednesday at 12:10 p.m. Sunday School resumed on Sunday, January 8, at 9:30. There will be a vestry retreat on Saturday, January 21, at Cloudland for new members. Some of the members will be attending the Diocesan Convention at St. John's Episcopal Church in Montgomery February 16-18. Worship service is at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Jan. 15.

There will be a singing on Saturday, January 21, at 5:30 p.m. at the Mentone Revival Center. "Pure Truth" will be the special singers. Pastor Marlon Williamson will be celebrating a birthday on January 10, and his wife, Brenda, will be celebrating a birthday on January 11. Everyone is invited to tune in to the radio broadcast every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. on AM870.

The Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church invites you to attend their worship services each Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

The monthly Gospel Singing at the Mentone Church of God of Prophecy was Sunday night January 8, at 6:30 p.m. and featured special guests, "The Singing Skylights," from Rome. Everyone is invited to attend the Gospel Singing on the first Sunday night of every month.

Pastor Don Brock has announced a special area-wide service which will host visiting Russian Missionary John Doroshuk who will report on current conditions in Russia, Ukraine, and the Baltic States. This service will be conducted by Pastor Brock (who is also District Overseer) in the larger facilities of the Collinsville Church of God of Prophecy, Thursday evening, February 2, 1995. The church is located on Highway 68 in Collinsville, two miles West of I-59. The public is invited.

The Mentone Church would like to express a special thanks to everyone who helped make possible the addition of central heat and air conditioning throughout the Mentone facility. Thank you!

The youth of Union Hill Baptist Church attended a national youth retreat in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., December 29-31. They returned spiritually rejuvenated. The youth were in charge of the evening service on January 1, sharing their experiences from the retreat.

The church is in the process of expanding its facilities. Four new classrooms have been added, and the sanctuary is being enlarged. A baptistry is being installed, and new carpet and new covers on the pews are being purchased. The expansion is scheduled for completion by the first Sunday in February.

On Thursday, January 5, the UMW of the Mentone United Methodist Church met at 12 noon at the home of Ann Wright for a delicious luncheon. Linda Brown had the Call to prayer and self-denial program, entitled "Quiet Day Service, Love Expressed."

The spirituality class meets at 6 p.m. each Sunday night* in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

Community Christian Fellowship Church meets at the Promenade Hall in Valley Head on Sundays, with Sunday School from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m., and church services from 11 a.m. until. Sunday night services begin at 6 p.m. This is a new church organized by Ken and Carol Busby, Joey and Kay Hyde, and Opal Grissom. The public is welcome.

J.O.Y.

The January meeting of the Just Older Youth (J.O.Y.) will be held on Thursday, January 12. The group meets on the second Thursday of each month. Remember, the meetings are held at Moon Lake Baptist Church at 11:30 a.m., with a covered dish luncheon. However, you do not need to be a member of Moon Lake Baptist Church to be a member of J.O.Y. Everyone is welcome!

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January Night

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

Like a great lamp I saw the moon last night
Fixt in the heavens; and she shone so bright
That the stars backward flew
Like dark and deadened worlds,
Till she hung there, alone, against the blue.
Then, thought I, she throughout eternity
Will hang there, calm in exquisite majesty,
Year upon year in the vast ether turning,
Coldly, as the ice burns, burning.

But the years are not when they pass;
Eternity's not made of such as these.
Every faint breeze
Can bring a cloud to dim
This radiant light;
What is the moon, or what the stars to Him,
Who with a word,
Made heaven and earth
And brought to birth
His own creation, great, ineffable,
Transcending beautiful,
Formed not of matter, solely spiritual,
So hidden, save from His own children's sight?

By A. Jacqueline Shaw



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Beauty Tips

By
CHARLYNE O'REAR

So, here we are in 1995, and it's a time to think briefly about the past year and plan for the coming year with faith and hope. And, since I'm in this frame of mind, let's talk about individuality.

Each human being is a unique individual. This individuality is our most precious possession. It is what sets us apart and makes us what we are. As we grow through childhood to adulthood, we go through stages where peer group identification is extremely important. This need is very strong during the teen years (Remember all those fads?). If you don't remember, just pick up someone's old year book that is at least twenty years old, and you will quickly see that, each year, teens had their "look" that identified their year. Remember circle skirts with poodles on them, bobby sox, beehive hairdos, hippy beads, stacked hi-heeled shoes, (it was very easy to break a leg learning to walk in those things), OH! and bell bottom pants—not palazzo—real bell bottoms. All these articles of clothing will identify a certain year in any school yearbook some twenty or more years ago. The need to "fit in" or be accepted by those around you is very strong when you're in your teens; and to be ostracized, for any reason, was most painful. As we grew into adulthood, the importance of peer group identification should have lessened and more emphasis placed on individuality.

There are degrees of individual self-expression. Understanding of oneself is vital to the expression of individuality. Be able to understand yourself, that's an important part of maturity. If, in your lifetime, anyone is to understand you, it should be you, right?

Closely related to developing objectivity about oneself is the understanding of one's personality, roles, and individuality. Each person is the result of heredity, family environment, educational and emotional experiences. Because each person reacts to all the factors of life in a personal way, each one is a very exclusive human being.

Thinking about the kind of person you are and the kind of person you want others to think you are is one step toward personal awareness. A very revealing exercise is to develop a list of adjectives that you feel express the real you. Keep your own list a secret, but ask family, friends, or classmates to describe you in five adjectives. It can be very revealing to learn how others perceive you and to compare that to your list of what you think others see in you. Think of what you admire most in others. Why have you selected the friends you have? What kind of people are your friends? What is your relationship to your parents, brothers, sisters, husband, and children? How do you relate to your family? How has this family shaped you and your thinking? What do you challenge about your family's philosophy? Are there things about your life you would like to change? Are you satisfied with the person you are? Do you really like yourself? Where are you going? What kind of "senior citizen" are you going to be? If there are things about you you do not like, start to change them. The Bible says, "Love thy neighbor as thy self." That's prudent advice, yet often misinterpreted. We are to love each other as we love ourselves. This means that we must develop ourselves into the kind of person we like and admire. We must be our own best friend, for we spend a lifetime with ourselves.

The concept of self-love is vital to the presentation of oneself to the world. It must be the basis of self-confidence and poise. Each individual is composed of many parts. The physical composition of the individual is observable and can be most adequately measured and described. The nonphysical properties of the individual are much more difficult to assess as they are not observable and may only be discussed. Each individual interprets the nonphysical qualities in his own frame of reference. The sum of the physical and nonphysical qualities reveals a unique human being—one of a kind.

I hope that next month we can continue with this and talk about personality, self-concept, self-image, values, attitudes, and interests. Do you know that these are all considered in your individual tastes for clothing, style, and color preference?





RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB

By Marie Dillenbeck





Mitse Takai

Mitse Takai giving
Origami instructions

Club members making
Origami Cube, as instructed

The Rhododendron Garden Club met Tuesday, December 13, 1994, at the Mentone Town Hall for the annual Christmas covered dish luncheon. The 31 members present were: Barbara Blalock, Theresa Bosworth, Virginia Bosworth, Linda Brown, Patti Bryan, Marilyn Blanton Campbell, Betty Chapman, Bernise Crow, Mary Crow, Marie Dillenbeck, Gerry Disney, Gail Gaylord, Mickey Cough, Helen Hill, Shirley Hussell, Betty Johnson, Diane Kuehl, Hattie Lyde, Penny Lyday, Heather Nicely, Sue Schwarz, Pat Seymour, Alyce Springer, Hope Waker, Norma Williams, Ann Wright, and Mildred Wylie. The eight guests were Lydia Speed, Estie Palmer, Barbara Nancarrow, Mrs. Alma Crabtree, Frances Crow, Elizabeth Low, Marjorie Gray, and Mitse Takai, a teacher from Japan, who also was the speaker. Hostesses were Ann Wright, Linda Brown, and Virginia Bosworth. (See pictures above.)

Gail Gaylord gave the devotional—"Jesus is the reason for the Season."

After the luncheon, president Ann Wright announced that at the recent executive board meeting a proposed budget had been prepared and would be discussed fully at the January 1995 meeting. Several projects, including the Moon Lake School Ground Improvement, butterfly and bird garden, and the Fall Luncheon of the Garden Clubs of District II, were mentioned.

The door prize, a beautiful poinsettia, was won by Pat Seymour, who presented it to the guest speaker, Mitse Takai.

Marie Dillenbeck introduced Mitse Takai. Ms. Takai is 25 years old and attended the Art University in Japan, where she majored in art. (See the picture above.) She is a teacher from

Canagoa, Japan, and is presently teaching Japanese art, calligraphy, and drawing, along with Japanese cooking, to the 7th and 8th grades at the Junior High School in Adamsburg, Ala. Every six weeks, Mitse teaches another class, in addition to the 7th and 8th grades. She has taught the Kindergarten class, and then the 1st grade class. Mitse completes her teaching in Adamsburg at the end of the 1994-1995 school year, and returns to Japan in July 1995.

For the garden club program, Ms. Takai brought some of the art that her students had completed. The members and guests were given instructions in the art of origami. Six different colored square pieces of paper were used to form a beautiful and colorful cube. (See pictures above.) Mitse also showed the group how to wrap packages, using as little paper as possible.

Mitse shared with those present one of the many Japanese customs. She showed us a personal handwritten message and drawing that she had done, which is to be sent to a friend or family member on New Year's Day.

The Rhododendron Garden Club was honored to have Mitse Takai as its guest. Mitse was gracious and very patient with her art instructions, and everyone enjoyed participating in the art lesson.

The next meeting is January 10 at the home of Mrs. Oscar Hussell in Mentone, located at Taylor's Ford on Little River. The theme is "Water Trails," and Desmond Disney will present the program, "Rivers of Alabama." Betty Johnson has the devotional; and the hostesses are Barbara Blalock, Linda Brown, and Marilyn Blanton Campbell.

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If you haven't already made a list of adjectives, will you do so? Then, ask a friend or loved one what they see in you. Compare their answers with your list and see how you "fit the bill" with yourself. Hope your holidays were happy ones filled with the joy that only this past season can bring.



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

As we plant the seeds
for a prosperous New
Year, we hope that
yours is especially
wonderful in every way!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN 1995 IN SPORTS? Will we have major league baseball and/or hockey? The baseball owners have put in a salary cap, and speculation is that they will bring up minor league players to play this coming spring. I think this will be better than no baseball. I really haven't missed baseball since the strike—been too busy. Will we have new champions in football, basketball, and super heavyweight world arm wrestling? I don't know, but I would venture to say "yes" to nearly all sport types. I'm sure of one thing—it will be interesting! I hope each of you will have a happy, safe 1995 sport year!

These articles have all been one way so far. I have had some feedback from them, but much less than I thought. Maybe, I'm not in the sports hot-bed area, which I thought I was. Anyway, I would like to try something during 1995, and that is if there are any questions any of you want to throw out to the readers of *The Groundhog*, or any subject you would like to discuss in this column, please send it to me, c/o *The Groundhog*, P.O. Box 293, Mentone, AL 35984. I hope that this will spur your interest in sports.

WHAT NOTABLE THINGS HAPPENED IN 1994? There were many notable things, in my opinion, which happened in 1994, too many, in fact, for me to mention. I would like to mention a few.

The State of Alabama had two champions crowned in 1994 - North Alabama University football team and Miss America, Heather Witherspoon. My hat is off to both in congratulating them, especially Miss Witherspoon. I can identify with Heather, as we both have the same handicap.

The State of Georgia had one champion during 1994 - the super heavyweight world arm wrestling champion, who I am trying to get someone to identify. My congratulations to him.

In the September 19, 1994, issue, *Sports Illustrated* picked 39 outstanding sports people, and one horse, during the last 40 years in celebrating their 40th anniversary. The Bear was one of the 40. I agree with most of their selections. If you have not seen this issue of *Sports Illustrated*, find it somewhere, and read this article.

The State of North Carolina had one champion during 1994 - Dale Earnhardt, number 3 to you race car fans. With this win this year, he ties the King in the number of championships. He is a legend in the making! In fact, he is over halfway there now. He will be the all-time winner in NASCAR in a few years.

The world's strongest man, Paul Anderson, passed away during the year. He was the Olympic weight lifting champion in 1956, and I don't think his Olympic record lift of 413.5 pounds, and his gross lift of 6270 pounds have been surpassed. Although I did not know him personally, I heard him speak several times, and was very much impressed with him. My older son's in-laws, the F.M. Salters, live in Vidalia, Georgia, where Paul lived after establishing a school for juvenile delinquents. They knew him well and report that he was a fine, Christian person. The details of how he won the Olympic gold medal is most interesting. He had an inner-ear infection and a 103-degree temperature. He failed twice in trying to lift 413.5 pounds, but prayed to God and then went on and lifted it. His prayer is a classic!

A couple of months ago, Public Broadcasting System ran a 9-session serial on "baseball." I hope you saw this TV program, for it was most interesting. It showed the history of major league baseball, and some of the famous games and actions. If you saw it, you saw Willie Mays' catch, the home runs of the Hammer, Mickey Mantle, Bobby Thomson, and many other famous events. It was like living in the past all over again.

IF WE HAVE A SPORTS SUPER FAN OF 1994? No, we don't at this writing. However, if anyone comes in with the correct answer to the name of the super heavyweight world arm wrestling champion by the time you read this, we will recognize him/her as the **SPORTS SUPER FAN OF 1994**. If not, we'll let it rest for a while.

IF ANYONE KNOWS WHO BEAT ALABAMA ON THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 17, 1954? Willis Blalock told me that Alabama didn't play on September 17, 1954. I told him that wasn't the question. The question was who beat Alabama on the night of September 17, 1954—my and Gladys' wedding night. He showed me *The Groundhog*, and sure enough, it said 1964. I had made a typographical error (I'm famous for that). He later told me that it was Mississippi Southern who beat Alabama, 7 to 2, on my wedding night. So, Willis Blalock is the first one with the correct answer to this question. He wins, so my record now is 4 & 1. Thanks, Willis.

WHAT TEAM, OR INDIVIDUAL, IN ALL OF SPORTS HAS THE MOST CONSECUTIVE WINS? No one has correctly answered this question—and I thought I'd be covered with correct answers. Does anyone know? Please advise.

IF ANYONE KNEW WHO IS THE WINNINGEST FOOTBALL COACH? No, again, we do not have a winner, and I thought all sports-minded fans would know this answer. James Brackin of Athens, Tenn. has come close when he said Coach Eddie Robinson of Grambling.

Coach Robinson is the #1 winningest college football coach, but the #2 winningest football coach. This may be another question we'll have to let rest a while if no one comes in soon with the correct answer!

WHO IS GOING TO BE NUMBER ONE IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL? As I predicted, Nebraska is proclaimed by both major polls as being the best team in the nation at this date (December 24, 1994). But, what will happen if they lose in the Orange Bowl? With the only major undefeated, untied teams being them and Penn State, here is what I think will happen in the selection of the number 1 college team after the bowl games.

IF BOWL GAME WINNER IS	AND	THEN THE #1 TEAM WILL BE
NEBRASKA	ALL OTHER FAVORITES WIN	NEBRASKA
PENN STATE BY A BIG MARGIN	NEBRASKA LOSES BY A BIG MARGIN	PENN STATE
PENN STATE BY A BIG MARGIN	NEBRASKA SQUEAKS BY	PENN STATE
MIAMI BY A BIG MARGIN	PENN STATE SQUEAKS BY	MIAMI
MIAMI BY A BIG MARGIN	PENN STATE WINS BY A BIG MARGIN	PENN STATE
FLORIDA BY A BIG MARGIN	NEBRASKA & PENN STATE TIE	FLORIDA
FSU BY A BIG MARGIN	NEBRASKA & PENN STATE TIE	FSU

What I think will happen is that Nebraska will win big enough that it will be the top team regardless of what other teams will do. Willis Blalock thinks that Miami will win by 20 points! If so, Penn State will have to win big or Miami will be the top team. Let the games begin! By the time you read this, you will know the outcome of the bowl games. Was Willis right? Was my prediction right?

Before leaving college football, let me ask, "Why didn't Florida and Alabama go for two points on their last touchdown in the FSU and Florida games, respectfully?" I expected both to do so, and was disappointed that they didn't. I'm capping these comments by saying I don't believe I have ever seen two more exciting games than the Florida-FSU and Florida-Alabama game. FSU's second half was one for the books!

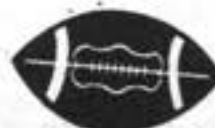
HOW I COULD PUT SHADES VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL ON SAND MOUNTAIN? I got ribbed good about this. I should have known that a valley can't be on top of a mountain! Anyway, Shades Valley lost in the playoffs, and that eliminated all Alabama high schools from the **USA TODAY** high school ratings. Just wait to next year, eh? Or, make that this year.

HOW MANY PLAYERS ON THE 1984 VALLEY HEAD STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM ARE STILL ALIVE? In the last article, I asked if anyone could name who they were and their positions. Someone (Kim Worthey?) answered that question with a listing in the December *Groundhog*. Thanks to whoever listed the team members and their positions.

WHAT IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN A PERSON, OR TEAM, WINNING IN SPORTS? I asked this question last month, and promised to discuss it from my viewpoint, this time. What do you think is the most important thing in winning in sports? Is it the talent of a player or persons? Talent helps, of course, but is not the most important element. How about the coach? It is no secret that an outstanding coach is important, but not the most important, in my opinion. What, then, is the most important thing about winning in sports? I submit for your consideration the answer to this question is the **psychology** of the person or players. In other words, the level of emotions of a person or players has more to do with winning than any other element, in my opinion. I have seen time and time again a team with mediocre players and coach rise to the occasion and win. What did it? Somehow, their emotions were lifted to the point that their performance was far superior to their opponent's. If you will think about this, I think you will remember when a person or a team did the same thing. I could cite many examples where this happened, and I may do it in future articles. But for now, and since I'm running out of space, I want to mention only one. Florida was leading Florida State 24-3 at the halftime in their recent regular season game. I had written FSU off as a bowl contender at that point of the game. In fact, I was a little ashamed of FSU for playing so poorly. The report of the game in the next day's paper explains what happened during halftime, and I quote, "When Bobby Bowden gave his halftime speech to his battered Florida State team Saturday, which at the time, trailed Florida 24-3, he found all the right words. Bowden got on his players at halftime. He told them that Florida had ridiculed us all week and came up here and whipped us in our back yard. He asked his players what were they going to do—fight back, or let them whip you in your own back yard? The kids showed what they were made of—they went out and scored 4 touchdowns to Florida's 1 to tie the game at the end." I would say the FSU players' emotions were put on high by their coach, and this was the most important thing about their tying the game.

SHALOM!

Bill Crane, Rt. 1, Box 46, Mentone, AL 35984



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NEW
BABIES

WOMACK BABY BOY

Marc Thomas Womack and Barbara Joan Womack of Fort Payne announce the birth of their son, **Cameron Marc Thomas**, at Baptist Medical Center DeKalb on Oct. 16, 1994. He weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 20 inches long. He has one brother, Wesley Womack, age 5. Grandparents are Nanette Crawford of Boaz, Ala.; Bob and Etta Dolliver of Valparaiso, In.; Sarah Stewart of Collinsville, Ala.; and Jerry Womack of Collinsville, Ala.



FIRST BIRTHDAY

Ashley Ann Willingham celebrated her 1st birthday Nov. 19 with a Sesame Street Big Bird party. She is the daughter of Tim and Julie Willingham, Menlo. She has a brother, Matthew. Ashley is the granddaughter of Wayne and Ann Pritchett, Menlo; Junior and Diane Willingham, Gaylesville, Ala.; and the late Emma Sue Willingham. She is the great-granddaughter of Roy and Wilma Patterson, Summerville; Silas and Brooksie Mitchell, Centre, Ala.; Lula Belle Atkins, Centre, Ala.; and the late Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Pritchett. She is the great-great-granddaughter of Quessie Patterson, Ft. Payne, Ala.



THIRD BIRTHDAY

Jared Hankins Nelson celebrated his 3rd birthday Dec. 24 with a Batman party at his home. He is the son of Patti Jarrett, Summerville; and John Nelson, Rome. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Guinn Hankins, Summerville, and Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Nelson, Cloudland.



FIVE YEARS OLD

Catlin Cavin celebrated her 5th birthday recently, with a party at the home of her grandmother, Barbara Cavin, Menlo. She is the daughter of Bobby and Pam Cavin, Douglasville. She also is the granddaughter of the late Robert Cavin; and Henry and Virginia Nichols, Cloudland.

SOON TO BE
FOUR YEARS OLD

Sierra Colleene Nicely will be 4 years old on Jan. 23. She is the daughter of Lyle and Heather Nicely, of Mentone, owners of the Enchanted Gardens and Gallerys. Her grandparents, Bettye Harrison and Don and Charlotte Nicely, are all of Memphis, Tenn.



LITTLE LADY

Macy Chandler Mitchell is the two-month-old daughter of Stacy and Paige Mitchell, Menlo. She was born Nov. 9 at Floyd Medical Center, weighing 8 pounds, 11 ounces. Macy has one brother, Skyler, who is six years old. She is the granddaughter of Kathy Hughes, Menlo; Winford Hughes, Chickamauga; Larry and Diane Veatch, Sublingna; and the late Kenny Mitchell. She is the great-granddaughter of Carrie Mitchell, Menlo; Silas and Brooksie Mitchell, Centre, Ala.; Ruby Hawkins, Summerville; the late Raymond Bullard and the late Sylvia Faye and John Huskey. She is the great-great-granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Coleman Woods, Menlo.



ONE YEAR OLD

Anthony "Cole" Edward Childers had his 1st birthday on Dec. 31. He is the son of Anthony Dennis and Dena Childers, Cloudland, and the grandson of Eddie and Susan Hill, Summerville; Lamar and Donnie McNeese, Trion; and Jimmy and Callie Dennis, Trion. He is the great-grandson of Hazel Hill, Cloudland; Mr. and Mrs. Namon Dennis, Summerville; and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Searles, Trion. He is the great-great-grandson of Nellie Key, Menlo.



GROWING UP

Dakota Coloroda Dooley celebrated her 4th birthday Dec. 10. She is the daughter of Kristy and Larry Dooley, Menlo. She is the granddaughter of Dottie Tucker, Menlo; Buddy Tucker, Atlanta; Larry Joe Dooley, Summerville; and the late Betty Dooley. She is the great-granddaughter of Willie G. and Sarah Smith, Menlo; Lula Arnold, Summerville; and Mary Tucker, Trion. She is the great-great-granddaughter of Beaula Berry, Grove Oak, Ala. She has a sister, Stormy.



PARTY

Brett Michael Wilson celebrated his 6th birthday Dec. 30 at a local skating rink. He is the son of Larry and Michelle Wilson, Menlo. He is the grandson of Terry and Linda Money, Summerville; Jeff and Betty Brown, Trion; and the late Grady Wilson. He is the great-grandson of Edna Parrish, Menlo; and the late Julia Money. He is the great-great-grandson of Mrs. Willie Parrish, Menlo.

Someone once asked Poet W replied, "Everyone is born a poet. The real question is--Why did o Indeed, has anyone ever know and observations did not deli happens to the child who bubb Shakespeare said, "There exists survived."

As years go by, some of us adulthood, many of us have forg who created everything. We ha born within each of us.

So it is with spirituality. Child closer to God than the rest of us- to doubt their faith.

One step at a time, if we allow find ourselves pushed into the n Creator than does a child. We a lost sight of creativity itself!

Great masters of creativity and virtues. They have slowed down and inspiration--ignoring those

They share their discoveries a the lessons of the heart, we find can, then, truly recapture our po





JIM BUNCH

79 • Offensive Tackle
Rainsville, Va. • Fork Union Academy

BAMA CAREER

79 All-American and three-time All-SEC performer, Jim is a starter the third game of his freshman year and Freshman All-SEC honors. He was Football News' best more interior lineman in the nation, and the winner of the Crane Most Improved Lineman Spring Award (1977). National championships, three SEC titles during career, of Decade '70s, Second team-team of the Century.



KELLY BUNCH

Kelly is the daughter of Jim and Leslie Bunch of Valley Head, and has a younger brother, J.E.B. She is the granddaughter of Lt. Col. and Mrs. Welborn Matthews. Last year, while attending school in High Point, N.C., Kelley maintained an All A record, and was president of her gifted class, in the Honors Chorus, the High Point (N.C.) Cotillion, an officer in the Safety Patrol, level IV in gymnastics, and placed 10th in the swimming free style in the city meet that included Greensboro, N.C., and Winston Salem (over 1,000 competed). She is a member of MENSA and the C.A.R.

Moving to Alabama in August 1994, Kelly presently attends Ft. Payne Middle School, where she is in the gifted program, maintains all A's, is in the sixth grade band (2nd chair trumpet), on the traveling soccer team "Frenzies," and was on the state recreational basketball championship team, the "Sonics."

AMERICAN HISTORY

By Kelly Bunch of Valley Head

When did American History start?
Well, they say England had a big part.
Lots of people sailed across the sea,
Because they wanted to be free.
But the king of England did not agree;
All he wanted to do was to tax people on tea.
So the people got real fed up.
All they wanted was some tea in a cup.
Then a group of men called the Whigs,
Got together with a brilliant gig.
The Boston Tea Party was the plan.
They emptied the tea out of every can.
Then they elected a president familiar to you,
His name was George W.
Then they had a war of democracy,
Where people died for you and me.
Now, that's what I call American History.
Now Bill Clinton is President of the U.S.A.
And the fight for freedom has paved the way.

SCREEN IN TIME

By Kelly Bunch of Valley Head

If I could give the world a gift,
I'd give the earth a healthy shift.
My gift wouldn't be wrapped in ribbon or string.
My gift would be a machine kind of thing.
It would be a screen across the sky
That would show everything from dinosaurs to you and I.
It would show the earth when Adam was the first resident
To when Bill Clinton is the forty-second president.
My gift would show present and past;
It would even show earth at its very, very last.
This machine could save the universe,
From being struck by a horrible curse.
Pollution could be this horrible spell
If we all work together, the earth would get well.
Maybe in reality, if a man could see
How bad the world could really be,
He would stop being a moocher,
And start helping build the future!

PAST

PRESENT

FUTURE



AN INTERVIEW WITH ROBIN HULGAN

That friendly, smiling face at Morgan Drugs in Valley Head belongs to Robin Hulgan, everyone's favorite. Robin agreed to share with our *Groundhog* readers her vital statistics. The interview follows:

Robin Elizabeth Hulgan

Born - December 7, 1961 (33 years old)

Parents - Robert Hammon (retired brick mason, Rainsville Vocational School); Ruth Hammon (will retire this year from Ft. Payne High (25 years Librarian)

Grandparents - the late Wallace and Lillie Smith (Mentone); Garnett Hammon & the late Leo B. Hammon (Ft. Payne)

Brothers - Ronnie Hammon (brick mason, lives in Hammonville); Ralph Hammon, brick mason, lives in Scottsboro, Ala.; Richard Hammon, Pharmacist and owner of C & H Drugs, lives in Ft. Payne, Ala.

Husband - Jerry Hulgan, employed Vulcraft, Ft. Payne, Ala.

Sons - Blake Wesley Hulgan, 8 years old, 3rd grade, Valley Head; Jared O'Neal Hulgan, 7 years old, 2nd grade, Valley Head

Graduated - Valley Head High School 1980 (Salutatorian)

Married - June 27, 1981

Church - Minvale Baptist, Ft. Payne, Ala.

Employed - Morgan Drugs 16-1/2 years (clerk and jack of all that needs done!) (1978 started in 10th grade, worked weekends and summers)

Boss - Donald R. Morgan (Scrooge)

I couldn't have a nicer boss to work for. Co-workers - Wendy Manifold and Christine Brooks are the best, too!

I was blessed with wonderful parents. They taught me to be independent, to be kind to others, and they kept me in church.

I married Jerry when I was 19. He was my childhood sweetheart. He is the BEST! We have been married 13-1/2 years and I hope to spend the rest of my life with him. We both enjoy camping, jet skiing, going to NASCAR races and our biggest joy is our two boys. They keep us busy, are into basketball, and love all kinds of sports. We enjoy doing things and going places as a family.

LADIES AUXILIARY

AMERICAN LEGION POST 219

Plan a soup & salad dinner and supper for

Friday, March 17,

St. Patrick's Day.

Details later!

Watch for the announcements and details,
and put this on your calendar. Let them
prepare your dinner
and/or supper.

EPT AS YE BECOME
A LITTLE CHILD

By Pat Seymour

Whitman when he decided to be a poet. Whitman just kept on doing what everyone STARTS OUT doing. "er people stop?"

a child who was not poetic? Children whose drawings it us with their originality and truthfulness? What s over with exciting, enthusiastic new ideas? William n most men a poet who died young, whom the man

low society to change the creations of our heart. By ten that creative ability is a trait of Deity--of our Maker e neglected to nourish and preserve the creative ability

en whose eyes shine bright with faith--who seem to live re soon met with sneers and arguments that cause them

it, we leave those precious, childlike traits behind. We old of grown-ups who bear far less resemblance to their low ourselves to be recreated by those adults who have

spirituality have learned the secret to preserving these to observe and ponder. They imagine, looking for ideas who would discourage them.

nd thoughts. And through sharing what we create and lost abilities coming back to life, blossoming again. We tic instinct and once again "be as a little child."



About Our Town

By
LINDA BROWN



What a year--1994!!! The top news story was a white Bronco going down a California highway with a person inside who was suspected of killing two people, and the police were trailing along at about thirty-five miles an hour! An earthquake rocked California, killing fifty-eight people and leaving thousands homeless. The Republicans won a majority of the election places, upsetting many apple carts! Baseball players went on strike for the entire season. George Foreman became the oldest boxer to ever win a championship fight. Jackie Kennedy Onassis died of cancer. Heather Witherspoon, a deaf girl from Alabama, was crowned Miss America. The rock wall up Lookout Mountain along Alabama State Highway 117 was totally rebuilt. Many citizens of Mentone applied for a certificate of compliance before building or repairing their property--most were approved. We all became a year older. So many things happened that changed so many lives--and all in the time span of a year.

Now we have a brand new year --1995!!!! What a great adventure we are all about to start! A new year to accomplish all the things we have always wanted to do. Too set right all the relationships that may not be exactly as we want them to be. To help someone who needs it. To plant a scrub. To love a kitten. To laugh more and often (especially at ourselves). To love and help a child. To build a new home. To paint a room. Did you know that the best way to make yourself do something is to tear it up so badly that you have to take some action. If you want to paint a room, try samples of paint on the walls to see what color you want. Then, you will have to paint to cover the mess. Knock out a wall you don't like, you'll have to replace it. Carpet need replacin? Rip out the old one. Get the idea? Make a quilt. Go to visit someone in a nursing home or at The Fountains. Don't cor about things that you can't change. Change things t can. Remember, that you're not nearly as important a ay think you are. You would be surprised how much you can accomplish when you realize this. Live, love, laugh, and be happy! We have three hundred and sixty-five new days to reach our potential as people who love and care about each other and our world! What more could we possibly want?

Hi, Fern! Keep all the cats warm.

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Emergency Phone #911

By Richard Douthat, Captain

On behalf of the members of the DeSoto Rescue Squad, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support and encouragement you have given during the past year. We greatly appreciate your help, and during this coming year, we hope to be able to continue to work together for the good of the community.

This year, the DeSoto Rescue Squad will mark its 30th year of service to this area, as the squad was incorporated in September 1965. We have some exciting news to tell you at the start of this 30th year. The Squad is in the process of purchasing land on which we plan to build a new meeting hall and rescue response building. With this new location, we hope to be able to expand the Squad's membership and rescue capabilities and be of greater service to the Mentone, Valley Head, and Hammondville area. It will take a lot of hard work and community support; but I know that, if we all work together, we can make it happen.

In the past month, squad members have responded to eleven emergencies. To increase our efficiency in this area, we are planning several CPR and first response classes. Many are interested in EMT training, too. Also, we want to reactivate the Search and Rescue division as an active part of the Squad. We will need some new volunteers to help with this job, and we know you are out there!

You may not be aware that some squad members have been receiving training for "High Angle" Rope Rescue. These members are continuing their training; and, at this time, have the ability and equipment to respond to an emergency. In addition, last summer, several members, along with members of other rescue squads, and fire departments, received training and certification in SCUBA diving. The squad can now respond to underwater emergencies.

The DeSoto Rescue Squad would like to thank and salute their 1993-94 co-captains, Mike Kenamer and Jim Gaylord. Mike, a certified paramedic, pushed for squad members to take specialized training, spearheaded the acquisition of new equipment, taught first responder courses and EMT classes, and personally performed at top level during all crisis calls to the squad.

Jim was always dependable, consistently on the front line at any rescue scene. His enthusiasm for the work of the squad was contagious to all the members. Jim, at his own expense, obtained his EMT rank and worked unceasingly to promote the best interests of the group.

These men are prime examples of the highest level of rescue squad members. Their co-workers would like to say, simply, "Well done!"

There will be more ideas and information to share with you in upcoming reports and we certainly plan to keep you informed. The DeSoto Rescue Squad is your squad, and we need your help and support.

Thanks again to all who gave their time, effort, and financial support in 1994. We appreciate you! Please let us know how we can serve each other better during the coming year.

We wish each of you a happy and safe new year.

Captain: Richard Douthat-- 634-4813 or 845-2210

1st Lt.: Sue Freeman-- 635-6421

Secretary: Ilene Green-- 634-4770 or 635-6424

Treasurer: Lisa Scott-- 634-4207

For all emergencies, contact 911.



Richard Douthat
Captain of DeSoto Rescue Squad

Richard Douthat and his family have been Mentone residents since 1981, having moved here from Ft. Payne. The Douthat family moved to Ft. Payne from Miami, Florida, in 1974. Richard is a native of Huntington, West Virginia, and was raised in Tampa, Florida.

For the past fifteen years, Richard has been the owner and operator of R & S Hydraulic Repair, a business located in Ft. Payne. When not busy with work or with the DeSoto Rescue Squad, he is an avid scuba diver, having been involved with that activity since serving in the Navy in the 1950s. Richard attended Gadsden Community College, here he took a two-year course in fire science, which involved the study of flammable and hazardous chemicals.

Richard and his wife, Terry, have been married for thirty years, and have three children, Shawn, Derrick, and Gwen; and two grandchildren, Jessica and Michael. Shawn and his wife, Melissa, are Mentone residents and are also members of the DeSoto Rescue Squad.



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A Friendly— Valley View

By
ELOISE BROWN

Suddenly it's 1995.
Sometimes it's hard to survive--
but it's good to be alive!

The Sunshine Club enjoyed their Christmas party at the beautifully decorated home of Billie Harper on December 15. I read a Christmas poem and devotional, after which we had gift giving and a bountiful feast. Others present were Leona Chadwick, Carmel Gifford, Bess Bauerle, Geraldine Hawkins, Gladys Cobble, Sarah McAbee, Gwen Finster, Lillie Bowden, Marie Dillenbeck, Anna Daniel, Pat Seymour, Evelyn Clark, Charlene Kennett, Hazel Thornberry, Jewell Palmer, LaWanda Manning, Glenda Savage, and Tillie Schlicher.

Christmas was a time of family togetherness. We came together at my house on Friday evening for gift giving and refreshments and met at Emily and Barry Brown's for Christmas dinner on Saturday. I received telephone calls from the ones far away, as I'm sure everyone did.

Venna Livingston spent Christmas with her daughter, Sue Mosley and Sam and children, including Carmen, who was home from U. of A. Marilyn Mercer and children were also with them. The Mosleys live at Lilburn, Ga.

Evelyn and Samp Clark, accompanied by Anna and Hank Daniel, visited their son Loy and his wife Margaret and sons, Scott and Jeremy in Birmingham.

Frances Longshore spent Christmas with her daughter, Mary Cashion and Dr. Ben Cashion and son, Chris, at Haleyville, Ala. They attended an excellent cantata, "The Word," at the Methodist Church. The pastor is Will Garrett from near Rainsville.

Laurie Longshore is home from University of Moscow, Idaho, with her parents Helen and Larry Longshore.

Ed Ringer visited his nephew David and Susan Ringer and children Amanda, Ashley, Spencer, and Laura, Dec. 23-26, in Florence, Miss. Ed's brother Robert Ringer and Robert's wife Mert from Marianna, Fla., surprised Ed with a beautiful floral arrangement at Valley Head Methodist Church to honor him on his birthday, which was Jan. 4.

Ruth and Bert Pickett entertained 26 family members and friends at dinner the week before Christmas.

Sadie Cooper, Cora Whitkey, Louise Hammond and granddaughter, Haden Kirby and Ruth Pickett, took a lovely birthday cake and shared it and coffee with Carmel Gifford.

Ruth Pickett's grandson, Jonathan Pickett is recovering after oral surgery at Children's Hospital in Chattanooga.

Congratulations to Dennis Lewis, who won a beautiful diamond ring in the WQRX treasure hunt.

Lillie Bowden went to Sacramento, Calif., to attend her uncle, Fred Hatchett's 90th birthday celebration, which was held aboard the Delta King, river boat. 125 people were present. She also went to Reno and S. Lake Tahoe, where she enjoyed the beauty of snow. Then, she visited cousins, Ruth and George Hatchett at Incline Village, Nevada, then returned to Sacramento and spent time with Pat and Don Clark, and returned home Dec. 18.

Two days before Christmas eve, Karen and Mark Freeman and children, Matt, Luke, Ben, and Katie—and Lillie Bowden, visited Mark's parents, Mary and Bill Freeman at Pine Mountain, Ga.

For Christmas dinner, Lillie Bowden had Jo and Mike Welch from Chattanooga and their children, Jamie and Michael and Jennifer and Bob Wasilewski and daughter, Kaley from Tampa, Fla.

Tillie Schlicher spent several days with me, Jan. 1-5. Her son, James Wells came Jan. 4, and spent the night and took her home to Gulf Shores on the 5th.

I received a Christmas letter from Ann Lohr Erikson, former pastor at Valley Head and Mentone Methodist Churches. She was medically discharged Aug. 31 from the Navy because of an injury to her knee and foot, which resulted in surgery and is causing her problems. She had served seven years as a Navy Chaplain. They are now living in Elk River, Minn. Ann is currently finishing a master's thesis for Duke, working on acquiring Minnesota certification as a marriage and family counselor. Jim is working in a local company's comptroller's

office. They are involved in the local Methodist Church and have started a new Sunday School class which they team teach. They said, "We miss you all, hold you in our hearts and prayers, and invite you to visit us. We even understand if you decline until spring thaw. Be sure and bring your fishing gear if you come. This area isn't called the lake country for nothing." They are happy and love the location. Their address is 355 Evans Ave. NW, #103, Elk River, MN 55330.

There are many sick and grieved who are in our thoughts and prayers. May there be better days for all of them. May we all be blessed with happiness and peace in 1995.

GLADYS J. STOTT

A gallant and wonderful lady
has been released from sorrow and pain--
A great loss to all who knew and loved her,
but for her, great comfort and gain.
She lived life abundantly,
with all of her time and devotion--
Sharing it generously with others,
with Christian love and emotion.
In helping senior citizens,
she did more than her share--
Always there willing to help--
showing her concern and care.
So much so that she won awards,
many compliments and acclaim;
She was honored by being inducted
into the Senior Citizens' Hall of Fame.
But more important—her name is included
in God's Book of Eternal Life--
Assuring her of eternal happiness,
free from all care and strife.
Her patience and calm acceptance
of her fate and tragic situation
Was typical of her strength and faith--
a blessing that gave inspiration.
She will be sorely missed by all,
we are grieved as she departs.
We treasure all memories of her,
and she will always live in our hearts.

—Eloise M. Brown

Happy New Year.



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Daniel Crowe
SAILOR RESPONDS TO THREAT

When Iraq's president Saddam Hussein recently moved approximately 80,000 of his elite Republican Guard troops to within a few miles of Iraq's southern border with Kuwait, the U.S. responded with a tremendous show of force.

Navy Airman Apprentice Daniel Crowe, the 19-year-old son of Leroy and Joanne Crowe of Oak Ridge, Tenn., and the grandson of Chester and Lucille Crowe of Mentone, is stationed aboard the USS Tripoli, an amphibious assault ship, and was part of that force positioned off the coast of Kuwait within 24 hours of the threat.

Crowe, a 1993 graduate of Oak Ridge High School, works in the aviation supply department, where he helps to support the upkeep of the aircraft.

The Tripoli, which carries sailors and Marines, is one of four ships that comprise an amphibious ready group (ARG). The ARG includes 2,000 Marines from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and is capable of launching a powerful amphibious Marine assault, day or night, under any weather condition.

The other amphibious forces joining the Tripoli are USS Cleveland, a transport dock ship, and the USS Rushmore and USS Fort McHenry, both landing dock ships.

"We were the first of the forces that were readily available and could be mobilized to arrive in this theater," said Captain Robert F. Willard, Tripoli's commanding officer. "I think we can all be proud of the fact that we were called in to deal with this crisis."

Also joining the ARG in the Arabian Gulf area to deter the Iraqi aggression were other American warships. These included the aircraft carrier USS George Washington with its 80 tactical aircraft on board and accompanying battle group ships.

During the heightened operation, Crowe and his 1,300 fellow shipmates were visited by Secretary of Defense William R. Perry, who praised the sailors and Marines for their efforts. "The military power you represent has saved the United States and the world from war," said Perry. "I came here to thank you. You should be very proud of what you've done, and I can tell you as your Secretary of Defense, I'm proud of you, the President's proud, and the American people are thankful."

Tripoli, homeported in San Diego, left last June for its final deployment before being decommissioned. Prior to participating in the Iraqi crisis, the ship supported the U.S. humanitarian relief effort in Rwanda--Operation Support Hope.

GARDEN HINTS

By Madeleine Bullock

This month, I doubt if anyone is thinking about their gardens, gardening, or trying to attempt any of the clean-up that all the rain has made impossible. I am still smarting at the loss of my winter veggies and greens. For the first time in all my years of attempting to grow a winter garden, this year, I was successful. I had the most healthy-looking spinach, brussel sprouts, broccoli, and collards growing. The brussel sprouts were ready for picking for our Thanksgiving, and they were firm and round and had the required frost to take away the bitter taste. So, I was really looking forward to eating some fresh veggies instead of the usual frozen store-bought ones. Well, we did not get a chance to try any of it, except the spinach, as my dear hubby let the cows out to mow the lawn for him. They also enjoyed everything in my garden except the spinach. I am hoping against hope that the stalks left will survive and remake. When I saw all the stalks left, I was totally speechless—and that's unusual for me.

I noticed that the Superette is now selling the very useful Organic Gardening magazine. I still have to pay Al's Nursery a visit. I hope he has a good supply of biological gardening stuff. The gardening writer, Dean Bold, who writes for *Alabama Living*, hints and suggests that such stuff is only good for kind-of-less-than-clear-thinking people. He thinks level-headed gardeners should stick to the cancer-causing insecticides, herbicides, etc. I wonder if he read the article in *U.S. News and World Report* about all the cancer outbreaks in the northwest from the farmers using a certain herbicide in the cornfields that has contaminated the water and rivers. Well, common sense to some people is in the form of dollars, not health and lives and deformed babies being born.

I have discovered that, apart from azaleas and rhododendrons, all types of lilies and asters, and also the tall, elegant, ever-lasting astilbe loves the climate on this mountain. My oriental lilies and asters were double the stated size.

FOLKLORE GARDENING

In Alabama, I have encountered a lot of gardeners that plant or harvest according to folklore or beliefs, customs, and saying. Most of the lore is based on careful observation, common sense, myth, legends, magic, and often is seasoned with astrology. Fact and fancy mingle when it's said, "When you hear the cuckoo shout, it's time to plant your titties out." In ancient myth, the cuckoo was considered a wise bird. They are messengers of spring, but we know now it's because birds migrate and not because of their brain power. Another myth involves the moon and planting potatoes on Good Friday. In ancient times, the moon was the "White Goddess," the "Earth Mother" who had dominion over agriculture. The moon's lover or son died after each harvest and was "reborn" each spring. In the Christian world, Easter took the place of the pagan "moon festival" that marked or celebrated this event.

When the potato was brought to England in the late 1600s, pagan rituals had already been banned, but planting by the moon had not lost its grip on farmers and gardeners. Someone decided that a potato buried in the ground was a fitting symbol for the death of Christ, and the green shoots an appropriate symbol for the resurrection. So, planting potatoes on Good Friday was a way of paying homage to Christ, while still acknowledging the White Goddess. The custom also followed "moon-lore," which says that root crops should be planted during a waning moon (Easter usually falls during one). But, what happens during a waxing moon at Easter? "Tetties" are still planted. Why? Lore holds that breaking a rule now and then often enhances its strength.

PLANT LORE

Plant and weather lore merge. The sun, moon, and stars herald changes in the weather, and also affect every phase of plant culture, from sowing to harvesting. Much of it is common sense garbed in charming language. Snow is "the poor man's fertilizer." It acts as mulch protecting the plants and keeping nutrients in the soil that rain washes away. Frost is "God's plough." It breaks up the ground and kills pests.

Myth and magic lie behind most planting lore involving the sun and moon. Planting by the phases of the moon as well as by the signs of the zodiac is an age-old tradition that remains popular today. Some scientific evidence suggests planting near a full moon does encourage growth, probably because of changes in the earth's electro-magnetic field. For the most part, the moon dominates over the sun in gardening lore. But in some parts of Kentucky and Illinois, people say that above-ground crops grow best when planted in the morning as the sun rises. In some places, it is still taboo to plant on the "Sun's Day" (Sunday).

Gardening folklore is filled with magiz and superstition. Some are valid, some pure rot. Imitative magic is often at work in sayings about planting certain vegetables. For example, when planting turnip seed, one is supposed to say, "As long as my arm, as thick as my wrist." Ever wonder why children are often asked to join in when tree planting? By imitative magic, they are supposedly giving a tree their energy. The best known ceremony concerning fruit production is "WASSAILING." In Old England, WES-HAL means "in good health." Sometime between December 25th and January 18th each year, farmers carried a jug of mulled cider into their orchards and toasted their best trees.

Over the centuries, farmers and gardeners saw that some substances promoted growth or repelled insects. The idea of appeasing the gods or destroying evil spirits disappeared, but the traditions survived because of their favorable effects, like TANNIN is good fertilizer, so spreading tea leaves around plants does help their growth, as does the Ozark custom of burying old leather boots near fruit trees.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL!



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Richard "Epp" Meadows and Jayne Meadows taken by James Ray Kuykendall of Ft. Payne, Ala., during a visit to Gulf Shores over the holidays.

GETTING "INSTRUMENTAL" AT VALLEY HEAD SCHOOL

By Kay Johnson
The Times-Journal

These second grade students at Valley Head are learning how instruments make sounds. They started studying sound in their science class and their teacher, Trena Benefield, helped them learn more by having them make instruments out of any household items they could use. The end result was pretty impressive. They made anything from harps and drums to tambourines and guitars.

Pictured are: Front (l-r): Billy McKinney, Chris Richardson, Heather Carr, Johnny Ferguson, Tracy Haney, Kory Knopps. Back row (l-r): Ms. Benefield, Ben Windom, Kimberly Willbanks, Derek Payne, Kevin Jeffery, Jacklyn Davis, Kyle Hicks, and Jared Hulan.



Staff photos by
Kay Johnson

Kevin Jeffery, shows off his guitar

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DOUBLE LOT on brow (approximately 850' of brow frontage) in Creekside On Lookout Subdivision. This beautiful wooded lot with panoramic view contains approximately 8.79 acres and is priced at \$85,000.

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WHERE HAVE ALL THE GRANDMAS GONE?

In the dim and distant past,
When life's tempo wasn't fast,
Grandma used to read and knit,
Crochet, Tat, and babysit.
When the kids were in a jam,
They could always call on GRAM.
In that day of gracious living,
Grandma was the gal for giving.

BUT today she's in the gym,
Exercising to keep slim.
She's off touring with a bunch,
or taking a client out to lunch.
Going north to ski or curl,
All her days are in a whirl.
Nothing seems to stop or block her,
Now that GRANDMA'S off her rocker!!!!

---Submitted by Lula Blalock, Mentone

MOON LAKE SCHOOL NEWS

By Evelyn Graves

A Christmas concert was presented at Moon Lake School in December by the Valley Head High School Band. It was very entertaining.

A Moon Lake Hero Award was presented in December to the library volunteers. The volunteers are: Amelia Baxter, Connie Hughes, Karen Wright, Linda Miller, Patti Bryan, Kathy Addison, Jean Corey, Carol Hazel, Sandra Gray, Sandra Rogers, Marilyn Campbell, and Terri Childers.

Marsha Hurt hosted the Moon Lake faculty on Monday before Christmas with a dinner at her home. She was assisted by Susan Hooks, Connie Hughes, Karen Wright, Ann Wright, and Inelle Hurt.

Moon Lake School has been adopted through the Adopt-A-School program by the Citizens Bank and Fort Payne Best Western. This is a national program where businesses adopt schools, and they have interactive relationships. They assist the schools either monetarily or in some other way, and the children do what they can for the businesses, such as inviting them to come to school to eat lunch with them and in other ways. Best Western has already given the school a modular desk for the office, which is really nice. It gives the secretary more working space. The Citizens Bank will be assisting with citizenship awards.

The spelling bee is coming up on January 19 for grades 3-6. The winner will go to the County Spelling Bee.

The PTO meeting for January will be held on Tuesday, January 10, at 6:30 p.m.

The Moon Lake After School Club (M.A.C.) will begin on Tuesday, January 10, through Tuesday, February 21. On Sunday night, February 26, M.A.C. will be presenting a play. All the churches will be participating in the M.A.C. program again this year, and the meetings will be held again at Moon Lake Baptist Church.

Mary Clark, piano teacher, held a Student Performance Day, and all of her piano students performed at that time.

"STUDENT PERFORMANCE DAY"

By Mary Hartline Clark

On December 17, 1994, the piano students taking from Mary Clark held a "Student Performance Day" at Godfrey Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Payne. A wide variety of selections were played from hymns, to classic and modern. A reception followed the recital.



Front row: Andrew McCole, Kristen Addison, Sarah Hurt, Hali Johnson from Moon Lake School (ML); Lisa Allen, Ft. Payne (FP); Ashley Tuxbury, Adam Tuxbury from Valley Head (VH)

Second row: Ben Windom, VH; Ben Corey, Emmy Corey, Stuart Hurt (ML); David Allen (FP); Marie Dillenbeck, Mentone; Peter Hurt (ML)

Third row: Kayla Richey, Anna Richey, Jordan McWilliams (FP); Kiley Young (ML)

Fourth row: Mary Clark (teacher from Valley Head); J.L. Gibson (VH); Brooke Baker (FP); April Aldridge (VH); Angie Hartline, Sharon Lawman (FP)

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Brynda Hopper, Assistant Manager, Annette Chappell, Cashier, Becky Blalock, Manager of the Moon Lake School Lunchroom. The lunchroom scored a 100 on its last health inspection.



Campbell Smith, band director, Valley Head High School, preparing to direct the band on December 15, as it performed the Christmas Concert at Moon Lake School for the entire student body. This will become an annual event for the Valley Head High School Band.

MOON LAKE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB (MAC)

The MAC Program has adopted as its philosophy, "Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not for status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the children around us, asking ourselves, 'How can I help?'"

AFTERNOON SCHEDULE

3:00 - 3:30 Tutoring/Homework by grades
3:30 - 3:45 Snacks 1-3
Assembly 4-6
3:45 - 4:00 Snack 4-6
Assembly 1-3
4:00 - 4:45 Bible Study/Everybody
4:45 - 5:20 Choir 4-6
Dinner 1-3
5:20 - 6:00 Choir 1-3
Dinner 4-6

MAC Dates

January 10, January 17, January 24
January 31, February 7, February 14, February 21
MAC will conclude with a program
on Sunday night, February 26.

EIGHTH ANNUAL EAGLE AWARENESS PROGRAM AT LAKE GUNTERVILLE STATE PARK

The bald eagle is once again the object of special attention at Lake Guntersville State Park. Eagles from the Great Lakes area start trickling in during October, but most arrive in November. Some 50 to 100 bald eagles will make the park their winter resort until their departure in February. They build nests in a secluded area on Town Creek. The park is hosting the eighth annual eagle awareness program.

The schedule is:

WEEKENDS:

Jan. 6-8, 13-15, 20-22 and 27-29

MID-WEEK:

Jan. 10-11, 17-18, 24-25,

and Jan. 31-Feb. 1

Throughout January, weekend gatherings start every Friday evening with a social hour at Lake Guntersville Lodge. Participants get acquainted, sip apple cider, and see a slide program on eagles, hawks, owls, and other raptors. Then, it's early to bed because the first eagle sighting takes place at dawn's early light, and the participants gather in the lobby for coffee and a 5:30 a.m. Saturday departure.

For those who wish to participate in the program, contact the Nature Center at Lake Guntersville, AL 35976, or call (205) 571-5445 or (205) 571-5444. You can also contact the Marshall County Tourism Commission at 200 Gunter Avenue, Guntersville, AL 35957, or call (205) 582-7015. For reservations at Lake Guntersville State Park, call (205) 571-5440, and book early.

Participants need warm clothes, hat, muffler, boots, and gloves, as well as binoculars or a spotting scope, if possible.

Each weekend offers a different program, plus a similar but abbreviated mid-week version. One highlight, the Saturday afternoon birding seminar, usually staged in the Lodge's Goldenrod Room, attracts a crowd and features live raptors, often previously-injured birds that have recovered with the help of individual volunteers and such groups as Auburn's Southeastern Raptor Rehabilitation Center and the Alabama Wildlife Rescue Service.

The agenda includes programs on various birds of prey and their mating, nesting, migration, and feeding habits. There are dawn and dusk eagle-watching expeditions for participants. "Morning is feeding time, and afternoons are for play," says Ken Thomas, DeSoto State Park naturalist who helps with the Guntersville Eagle Awareness programs. "Then, it's home to the roost at dusk."

The watchers regroup at twilight for another view of the eagles setting into their roosts. Before retiring, the birds preen and strike regal poses as if they know an appreciative audience is training binoculars in their direction. Some people set up telescopes and generously invite others to enjoy the view.



The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

It's time to put away all the glitter, tinsel, holly, and Christmas trees. The gala season has ended, and we enter into a fresh, new year with anticipation. Good things will happen to us. We must believe that in order to live healthy, normal lives.

The holidays were quiet at our house. We didn't have all our family together at one time. Coy came a week early, and Joyce and Gregg and Lee came for New Year's weekend. Barry, Doreen, Jerry, and Derek were with us. And we had Lisa and Sam Whatley on Christmas Eve. We missed having the little ones, and, of course, will always miss Jennifer.

Even our grandchildren are growing up, and the interesting little toys are not needed anymore. The dear, sweet children are the reason for Santa's visits, but we still hang our stockings, and pretend we are children, and they are the most fun of all. The little ones do not need a great deal to make their eyes sparkle with delight. Just a few small things will be enough to entertain them for hours. Now, when they reach teen years, they are more definite about what they want, and it costs more to satisfy these desires.

The holiday season began for us with a potluck dinner for MAPA at the Kountry Chef Restaurant. Dessie Newberry, president of MAPA and owner of the restaurant, had the place decorated tastefully, and the tables were set with lovely red and green Christmas decorations. A covered dish dinner is always the best because everyone tries to bring their best recipe, one that has been tried and tested. And it never ceases to amaze me to see the variety of foods when it is an unplanned event. MAPA furnished the ham and turkey, and Dessie prepared them well. I made lemon meringue and chocolate pies (the chocolate for Pat Seymour). Pies seem to be my specialty for take-out, and I seldom make one for us at home.

We had a fun time with music by Barry Crow, and songs by George Walker, Dorothy Crow, Dessie Newberry, Betty Finster, and Bernise Crow. George led the group in singing carols.

We had many wrapped and numbered door prizes. Homer drew number one and everyone tried to get it. Someone said Homer was lucky, and he knew it had to be a good one. The person who drew number two could take number one, and so on till the last number. This is always fun. Good food, good fellowship, and clean fun. Nothing surpasses that.

Then, the next week the Rhododendron Garden club met at the town meeting hall at noon for another covered dish luncheon. We were again the recipients of delightful food fit for a king. Tables were set up for a sit-down lunch, and they were beautifully decorated. I was happy to see my sister-in-law, Frances Crowe, there. She is the sister of Betty Johnson and was her guest. Lydia Speed and Marjorie Gray were also guests. More about this in garden club news.

The Christmas party given for children of the Mentone area was held at the town hall meeting room. This was one of the highlights of the Christmas season, to me. This event is co-sponsored by MAPA and the North DeKalb Ministerial Association. The Ministerial Association furnished filled stockings for the children, and MAPA gave wrapped presents to each child. Bill Patterson was Santa Claus, as usual, and he played the part well with his hearty HO-HO-HOs! I did nothing to help, but did drop by to observe. Many workers were there: Rev. Don Brock, and his mother, Ruby Brock; Marilyn Campbell; Donna Bouldin; Rev. David Lett; Gail Gaylord; Sherman and Mickey Gough. If I missed someone, it was not intentional. I could not keep tears from my eyes as I watched the children sitting in the middle of the floor emptying their stockings, unwrapping presents, playing with toys, and enjoying the refreshments served to them by the helpers of Santa. They were having such a good time that we forgot the hassle of shopping and baking for a little while. The true spirit of Christmas seems to be exemplified in the happy, loving face of a child.

It was a pleasure for me to sing with the community choir, directed by DeVann Jackson. The music was beautiful, entitled, "He's The Reason For The Season." The cantata was performed at the Fountains in Ft. Payne on the 17th, and at

Moon Lake and Valley Head Baptist Churches on the 18th. The ladies of the Mentone United Methodist Church furnished refreshments for residents and singers at the Fountains, and the ladies of both Baptist churches furnished refreshments at their respective churches. What a treat for us, and at a very busy time for them to do it. It was good to see several friends at the Fountains: Doyle Benefield, Corinne Walcott, Mrs. Ethel Adams, and others.

Now, it's quiet time--a time for relaxing, reflecting, and dieting to lose all those pounds we gained during the holidays. It seems that we ate continually from Thanksgiving through Christmas, and on to the New Year. Forget those resolutions. They never are kept anyway, so I decided it's better not to make resolutions than to make them and break them. It's like making strong statements: we eat our words as much as we eat our food. As much as I talk, that's a lot of word eating!

The gardening catalogs are arriving, and my mind envisions a beautifully landscaped area with beds of all kinds of blooming plants. The catalogs give me wonderful ideas that I can dream about, even if I never complete the task. It takes many hours of hard work to make the dreams a reality. Homer has officially retired, and maybe, he will help me this year.

The rock wall on Highway 117, leading to Mentone, is completed. It's truly a work of art, using natural native stone that we love. They used the stone that was dismantled, as long as it lasted. I just hope drivers will be careful and not run into it. It is well constructed with steel reinforcement in concrete, and then covered with stone for beauty. Homer's father, Lee Crow, supervised the work in the original wall in 1927. Many others from Mentone worked on it, but I do not have names of all of them. Max Cash's father, Albert Cash, worked on it, and so did Roy Crowe. I believe they would approve of the fine work done by the department of transportation.

1995 has a good ring to it. Many changes will be made this year, and let's hope they will be for the betterment of us all.

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

JUST OFF DESOTO PARKWAY on 1.3 acres, this renovated log cabin has pine floors, fireplace, and full front porch. All for \$79,500.

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HUNTIN' & FISHIN'

By Dr. Pat Seymour

TREATING SNAKEBITES. If a viper strikes, quickly make a move to get medical help. Two small puncture wounds are the distinctive fang marks of a pit viper, one of the two types of poisonous snakes found in North America. The family of pit vipers includes rattlesnakes, copperheads, and cottonmouths. Their characteristics include vertical pupils and a triangular-shaped head that's wider than their neck, with a pit (which is really a sense organ) on either side between the eye and nose. Pit vipers inject venom into their prey through fangs, which are long, thin, and relatively weak, and frequently shed or are broken. When this happens, they are immediately replaced by new fangs, which grow one behind another. Therefore, a firm strike may leave one, two, or occasionally three neat puncture wounds in the skin. Nonpoisonous snakes can also strike and leave tooth marks, but the distinct puncture wounds of the fangs are absent. If there is any doubt about the kind of snake that made a bite, assume it was poisonous. Exact identification of pit vipers is not necessary, because all North American pit vipers have a similar type of venom, which can be treated with the same type of antivenom, which—along with antibiotics and careful observation—is the only effective way for treating poisonous snakebites. And the only place for that is in a doctor's office or hospital emergency room, because of the potential for an allergic reaction and the need for administering the precise dosage of antivenom.

SUET FOR WILD BIRDS. Wild birds can find most of their own food during the summer, but when winter comes, some of them need help. Feeding should continue until the spring, when the need for help is past.

Bird diets vary—some eat insects or seeds; others eat both. The best substitute for insects is suet, which is nourishing and will not freeze.

Suet is the hard fat that surrounds the kidneys in cattle and sheep. If your butcher does not have true suet, beef fat is a good substitute. Here are a couple of recipes:

MIX #1: Heat to boiling 1 part suet to 6 parts water. Add 2 parts cornmeal, 1/2 part flour, 1 part brown sugar. Cook, pour into cupcake molds, and allow to harden. Serve in appropriate feeder.

MIX #2: Twice melt 2 parts suet. Blend in 1 part yellow cornmeal and 1 part peanut butter. Allow to thicken, pour into molds, if available. Serve in appropriate feeder.

Suet should always be tied down to prevent other animals (such as cats, dogs, or mice) from carrying it away. You can cut it into small pieces, and place it in tree holes. Or, pour a melted mixture into tiny holes in trees or posts.

HOLE UP FOR WINTER. Have you ever wondered what happens to many animals and insects during the winter in cold climates? Some creatures migrate to warmer areas, but a surprising number hibernate (from the Latin word *hibernare*, which means "to spend the winter").

•Frogs and snakes, woodchucks and squirrels, bees and beetles, bats, opossums, and raccoons all spend some part of the winter curled in a deep sleep.

•These critters know it's time to search out safe wintering spots by the seasonal changes in daylight, air temperature, precipitation, and available food supplies. Rattlesnakes ball up together by the hundreds in dens. Box turtles burrow as deep as 5 feet into soft earth. Bears curl up in dens or caves or under uprooted trees, where they slumber for months. But, unlike other animals, they even get up and move around sometimes.

•Native American lore says that bears get their nourishment during this time by sucking the soles of their feet. The belief arose from the fact that bears shed their leathery footpads during hibernation and then lick the tender skin underneath.

•To keep from freezing, insects, snails, and worms produce their own anti-freeze—a natural form of alcohol—that circulates through their bodies during hibernation. Many frogs, on the other hand, get frozen stiff and still survive to hop around come spring.

During hibernation, animals such as woodchucks and ground squirrels lower their normal body temperature from 95 degrees to near freezing. Their hearts beat only two or three times a minute. And they may stop breathing altogether for up to an hour. In fact, you could use a ground squirrel to play catch with in this state of deep hibernation, and it wouldn't wake up.

•Even though the body functions are slowed way down, they use energy, which comes from the hibernator's own stored body fat. Over the winter, a bat may lose 30 percent of its body weight, and a squirrel may lose as much as 80 percent!

•When air temperatures begin to warm, animals arouse themselves from hibernation by shivering violently. This brings their breathing, heart rate, and body temperature back to normal. And they hop, slither, or fly into spring as if their bodies had never gone through the amazing changes involved in hibernation.

REVENGE OF THE RUNT. Small dogs became popular in the British Isles when laws were enacted to control the bigger poaching pooches. In the 11th century, King Canute decreed that all dogs kept within 10 miles of the king's forest preserve must have their knee joints cut to keep them from chasing his game. Exceptions were made for any dog that could fit through a "dog gauge," a ring seven inches wide and five inches high. Poaching was a serious offense in the 11th century, even for dogs.

COLD DICKEY. Turtleneck sweaters have been popular among outdoorsmen for decades because of their ability to trap warm air and protect the neck from cold. Unfortunately, this same quality can work against the wearer during warmer temperatures or after exertion. The answer is a neck dickey. Dickeys can easily be pulled on or off as the temperature and your comfort level dictate. They are light and easy to stuff into a pocket or fannypack. Available at many outdoor clothing stores, they usually cost about the same as a pair of socks. You can even make your own by simply cutting the top seams of an inexpensive watch cap. Pull it over your head and around your neck for a collar that stops the cold.

HUNTERS ADD BILLIONS TO THE NATION'S ECONOMY. By the time you've finished reading this, the hunting and shooting sports market will have generated about \$45,000 for the nation's economy. That translates into about \$2 million an hour, \$48 million a day, and \$18 billion a year, according to a recent study by the National Shooting Sports Foundation. Most hunters, and certainly most anti-hunters, will be surprised to learn that the sport of hunting pumps more into the U.S. economy each year than such corporate giants as Coca-Cola, Nabisco, and Anheuser-Busch. Last year, the hunting and shooting sports market generated enough money to run a small country.

THE RACCOON'S REASON FOR WASHING. The word raccoon originated from the Indian word *aroughcan* or *arakun*, which roughly translates as "he who scratches with his hand." Its Latin name, *Procyon lotor*, means "the washer" and is derived from the animal's apparent obsession with washing its food before eating. Some theorize the raccoon dunks its prey in water to rid it of unpalatable skin secretions. But other scientific literature says the food washing is nothing more than reflex action that has nothing to do with meal preparation or food moistening.

CHECK YOUR HOT SPOTS!



With proper use, portable heaters can provide warmth and comfort. But they need to be used correctly, remember:

- Keep blankets, clothing, curtains, furniture and anything that could catch fire at least three feet away from portable heaters.
- Plug heaters directly into the wall socket and unplug them when they are not in use.

For free fire safety tips, write:
Fire Safety
P.O. Box 34386
Washington, DC 20043



National
SAFE
KIDS
CAMPAIGN



**DEKALB COUNTY
LIBRARY
HOURS:**
Monday: 10:00 - 8:00
Tuesday-Friday:
10:00 - 6:00
Saturday:
10:00 - 3:00





The River Watch

By
BILL SCHWARZ

WHERE HAS IT GONE?

Where has it gone? I don't know. I didn't lose it, at least not on purpose. What do you suppose happened to it? Did you lose it? If you did, why not search for it? Please find it before we all suffer. If you didn't lose it, obviously someone else did. Anyway, it's not my fault, and you say it is not your fault that it's lost. Therefore, it's got to be someone else's fault that it cannot be found anywhere. Maybe it's (are you ready for this?) society's fault. That way, no one is to blame. Isn't it convenient! What are we looking for...responsibility for your own actions and destiny.

Read the newspaper, listen to the radio and TV, and what are you bombarded with day after sickening day? Society's ills and ails, and how "society" is responsible for all the trials and tribulations of making your way in the world. No matter what tragedy may befall, large or small, somehow the press will lay the blame on "society" or some corporate entity.

One recent occurrence really amazed me. Several weeks ago, there was a report of a trial concerning a twelve-year-old boy who was killed by a train while he played on the railroad tracks. The lawyer for the plaintiff argued that the railroad company should have put up a fence to keep people off their tracks. He won the case. For the life of me, I don't understand the thought process that brought that decision. I understand the lawyer that argued the case—because he won, it meant big bucks for him.

What happened to responsibility for your own actions? Since when does a corporation have to assume the role of parent and tell children, "Don't play on the railroad tracks, particularly, when a train is coming."

When I was growing up, my mother laid down the rules and they turned out to be good rules for life. First and foremost among them was a rule to the effect...do something dumb and you will pay the price. Not that society will pay the price, but you, the individual, will pay. You are responsible for what you do, not society, not the federal government, not a large corporate entity, not the folks down the street, not the teacher, not the school principal.

Something else was made quite clear to me as a child. Responsibility for your actions and your destiny was absolute, and there was no way to dodge that responsibility. There was no way to shift your self-made problems to someone else. That seems to be a totally foreign concept these days.

I wish I knew what happened to the concept of individual responsibility and what caused its demise. Too many lawyers with too little business, too easy to sue, too many sociologists, too many bleeding hearts in the media, too much government, too many politicians trying to buy votes with social programs?

As I see it, the only way back to social sanity is through intense individual effort to re-establish individual responsibility. That will also make for a better society.

Thanks, friends, for sitting through my periodic tirades. I appreciate your time. See you next month.



MENTONE WALL FINISHED

The Alabama Department of Transportation completed the rock wall project on Highway 117 in Mentone. Southeastern Landscape, Inc. of Huntsville, Ala., reconstructed the wall using the original native rock reinforced with a core of steel set in concrete. The original wall was constructed by Lee Crow and others in 1927. With the completion of this beautiful wall, the highway was reopened to two-way traffic early in December 1994. The residents of Mentone thank the Alabama Department of Transportation, Southeastern Landscape, Inc., and all the workers who labored to reconstruct the wall and leave a landmark that will be appreciated for many, many years to come. Thanks, again!



DEKALB COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS OFFICERS

Recently the DeKalb County Association of Realtors installed the new officers for this year. They are (L-R) Sara Quinn, Outgoing President; Angela Wilson, Vice President; Susan Collins, President; Lynn Crow, Treasurer, and Becky Zak, Secretary. There are 45 members and associate members of the association.

Little River Hardware

and Miscellaneous Mercantile

HWY 117 Mentone, AL 35984

(205) 634-4757

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DEKALB COUNTY LIBRARY

HOURS:

Monday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday: 10:00 - 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



MAPA CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR THE CHILDREN

On Friday, December 9, after 3 p.m. at the Mentone Town Hall, the Christmas party for the children took place. There were refreshments, gifts, and stockings for each child who attended. The refreshments and gifts were provided by MAPA, and the MAPA members who were present were Mickey and Sherman Gough, Marilyn Blanton Campbell, Bernise Crow, Bill Patterson. The stockings were provided by the North DeKalb Ministerial Association, under the direction of Charles Jenkins, president. Those ministers attending were Rev. Don Brock, Rev. Marlon Williamson, and Rev. David Lett.

The children who attended, as shown by the pictures on this page, had a great time, and the adults were blessed with the joy of watching the children as they talked with Santa Claus, received their gifts, enjoyed the refreshments, and opened their gifts.

All those involved in making this the success it was are greatly appreciated. Thanks for all you did to make the party a great event.



God's Minute

By RUBY BROCK

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Col. 1:10

Most people make New Year's Resolutions, few really live up to them.

Paul was praying for those he loved that they would walk worthy of the Lord, being fruitful in good works and increasing in the knowledge of God.

If we would all practice these things, 1995 would be a great year. Happy New Year!



I WANT TO BE JUST LIKE YOU

He climbs in my lap for a goodnight hug.
He calls me Dad and I call him Bub.
With his faded old pillow and a bear named Pooh,
He snuggles up close and says, "I want to be like you."

I tuck him in bed and I kiss him goodnight,
Trippin' over the toys as I turn out the light,
And I whisper a prayer that someday he'll see
He's got a father in God, 'cause he's seen Jesus in me.

Lord, I want to be just like You
'Cause he wants to be just like me.
I want to be a holy example
For his innocent eyes to see.
Help me be a living Bible, Lord,
That my little boy can read.
I want to be just like You
'Cause he wants to be like me.



Got to admit I've got so far to go
Makes so many mistakes and I'm sure that you know
Sometimes it seems no matter how hard I try
With all the pressures in life, I just can't get it all right.

But I'm trying so hard to learn from the best
Being patient and kind, filled with Your tenderness,
'Cause I know that he'll learn from the things that he sees,
And the Jesus he finds will be the Jesus in me.

Right now from where he stands, I may seem mighty tall
But it's only 'cause I'm learning from
the best Father of them all.

Submitted by Brenda Williamson