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in Print**

THE GROUNDHOG

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by M.A.P.A.**

Volume 14, No. 1

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

January 1996

MEADOWBROOK GENERATIONS

The following was taken from an article in Landmarks News, Winter-Spring 1986 edition, page 2, entitled, "Ralph Wescott Libby, 1877-1964," and is reprinted by permission of Landmarks.

"Ralph Wescott Libby was born on July 6, 1877, in Portland, Maine, and died on April 28, 1964, at Mentone. His parents were Horatio Thomas Libby and Mary Louise Wescott Libby. He married Nellie Jane Swader on October 1, 1914, and they had two daughters, Mary Louise Crow and Marjorie Alice Gray.

"Ralph Libby's father served in the Union Army during the Civil War and decided to return to the south after the war. He homesteaded on the brow of Lookout Mountain and Ralph Libby spent his entire life as a farmer and stockman in the Mentone area. His interests included buying land, raising cattle and bees, farming, traveling, collecting arrow heads, and reading.

"Nellie Jane Swader Libby was born on September 3, 1889, in Fort Payne and died on March 15, 1981, in Chattanooga. Her parents were William Hymas Swader and Mary Ellen McNutt Swader.

"She attended schools in Fort Payne, Henagar, and Sulphur Springs, while her husband attended the schools of Mentone and Valley Head.

"Mrs. Libby was a teacher and homemaker, who enjoyed traveling, reading, and gardening, and she loved cats. She was a member of the Valley Head Woman's Club and the Rhododendron Garden Club.

"The Libbys were members of the Valley Head Methodist Church, and they were active in support of the schools and community projects in the area.

An excerpt from the 1973 *DeKalb Legend*, volume II: A steeple-shaped fieldstone base holds the bold red metal letters which announce "Libby's Meadow Brook" at Mentone. A dirt road winds through the meadows and leads eastward from the



Ralph Wescott Libby and Nellie Jane Swader Libby at their Mentone home in the late 1950s. Photo Courtesy of Landmarks

mountain brow to a large two-story white house. . . . A large volume on the history of the family lists Mrs. Libby's late husband, Ralph Wescott Libby, and family members. All the Libbys in the country, including those who founded the Libby Glass Company are descended from one John Libby who was born in England in 1602. He came to this country about 1635 and settled in Maine, where a large monument has been erected in his honor at Cape Elizabeth.

By Evelyn Graves

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

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRED?

Subscribers, please check your mailing label below to see if your subscription has expired. For all those who have expiration dates, this will be the last issue. If you would like to renew, please send your check or money order for \$10.00. See page 2 for the correct mailing address. **Happy New Year!**

EVERY VOTER

needs to complete a voter's update form, prior to the 1996 elections.

The National Voter Registration Act was enacted in 1993, and took effect Jan. 1, 1995. If you have not contacted the Board of Registrar in your county to fill out an update form, you need to do so as soon as possible. This is for everyone who is eligible to vote. *The Groundhog* ran an update form in its October 1995 issue. Look on pages 10-11 for a complete writeup and voter update form. (See also a voter update form on the back page.)

Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Other Dates

●Friday, February 2, 1996, Groundhog Day

●Monday, February 5, 6 p.m., Mentone Council Meeting, Town Hall

●Tuesday, February 6, 7 p.m., MAPA Meeting, Town Hall

●Wednesday, February 14, Valentine's Day

●Monday, February 19, President's Day

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

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THE GROUNDHOG

P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984



Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 6, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, and is chartered as a non-profit organization by the State of Alabama.

THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

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Vice President.....Jim Lyday
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Parliamentarian.....Homer Crow
Member-At-Large.....Ed Disney
Member-At-Large.....Donna Bouldin

In case of errors in advertisements, The Groundhog assumes liability only for the actual space that is incorrect in the advertisement. Call Evelyn Graves at 634-4390 for advertising.

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.

Subscription Notice

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Have The Groundhog delivered to your mailbox! Give The Groundhog for a birthday present or as a special gift for someone you love. Renew your own subscription. Still just \$10/year. Send your check payable to:
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAPA MEMBERS

Bill Patterson — January 4
Karl Yatooma — January 6
Randall Rice — January 6
Charlyne O'Rear — January 7
Marie Dillenbeck - January 12



MESSAGE FROM THE MAPA PRESIDENT

By Bernise Crow

January is a time for reflection and for renewed ideas for accomplishment. We at M.A.P.A. have not done great things last year but have tried to keep things peaceful and on an even keel.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and encourage more of you to become involved in our support and care for Mentone and the surrounding area.

Right now it seems that the Groundhog Publication is our main function, and it gains support from all organizations.

We want to review our goals and would like to invite everyone to our February meeting, February 6, at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. We welcome your opinions and your help. If you are a critic, get involved and make things better. I would like to stress the fact that we need a nice auditorium, but we also want to preserve and enhance what we have.

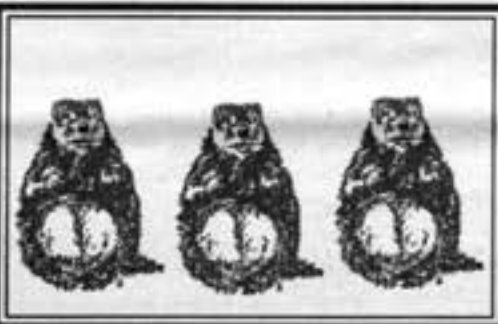
I hope to see you at our next meeting. Happy New Year!

GROUNDHOG



DAY

February 2nd is Groundhog Day



The White Elephant



Summer hours:
Mon./Tues. - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed/Thurs. - Closed
Fri./Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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FOOTBALL PLAYER IDENTIFICATION CONTEST WINNERS

In the October 1995 issue of The Groundhog, identification of the players in the 1925-26 and 1940-42 pictures was requested. The Groundhog readers who identified the players were:

W. H. "Bill" Manning, LaFayette, Ga.
Bill Emerson, Trenton, Ga.
J.P. Thornberry, Menlo, Ga.
Adelaide Biddle, Valley Head, Ala.

Each of the winners will receive gift certificates for 10 Hardees burgers and a gift subscription to The Groundhog to be sent to the person of their choice.

LETTERS TO THE GROUNDHOG

October 16, 1995

Dear Mentone Friends,

What a forgetful person I have become! Each month I look forward to the arrival of The Groundhog and now I have found that I forgot to renew my subscription. Enclosed is a check to cover membership in MAPA for two years.

My husband and I are eager to become a part of your year round population. Retirement can't come soon enough for these two Gulf Coast residents. Your mountain top community is the place to live. Our place is a place to vacation.

Dr. Baker and I would like to actively participate in community projects. Our visits to the area can be planned around those activities. Please let us know of the plans for the needy children at Christmas.

Give our best to all. A special pat for Brutus.

Margaret Baker, Orange Beach, Ala.

10/21/95

I have been picking [up] the Groundhog for a while now, and I enjoy all the news very much and sometimes I miss it. I want to subscribe for it. I am sending a check, and I thank you.

Vertie L. Wilbanks, Trion, Ga.

P.S. I used to live out there.

My husband and I recently had the pleasure of spending time in your village. We were delighted to have dinner at the Log Cabin Deli, which had been recommended to us. It was the best food we had ever put in our mouths.

We would particularly like to thank Rick who was so friendly and helpful to us "Senior Citizens." God Bless.

Mr. and Mrs. John Benzinger, Atlanta, Ga.

November 9, 1995

Thank you for the printing of the article on John William Ellis Sr. and Maria Winston Davenport Ellis—my parents. I enjoyed all the articles and especially the one concerning the Crowe's trip to China, since we have visited in the Crowe's home for a high school class reunion.

Being a native of the hills of Valley Head and Mentone, I recognize every spot mentioned in The Groundhog. My high school football picture was representative of a lot of memories. I recalled incidents concerning each of my buddies on the team.

You certainly have an effective organization. The Groundhog staff and MAPA officers are efficient and capable of producing an interesting and informative paper. I am sure that the citizens of the area look forward to each publication. I feel sure that the members of the organization are outstanding citizens who have the respect of their readers.

Thanks again for recalling the days of my parents and my childhood. I was known around Valley Head as "Chucker" Bill Ellis. I doubt if there was any place in the Mentone area that my friends and I didn't explore. We knew everybody and probably they knew those "boys from Valley Head."

Thanks for my "fifteen minutes in the sun." The family remembrance and the football picture made me think of the "great days" of my growing up.

Sincerely,

John W. Ellis Jr., "Chucker Bill", Valley Head, Ala.

Nov. 22, 1995

I've enclosed a check for \$10.00. Would you send my Mom The Groundhog for a year? She enjoys them, and we always pick [up] a copy when we are in Valley Head, but we miss a lot of them, as we are not there real often. Mail to Addie Hall in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Thanks much,

Mary E. Porter

THE MYSTERY OF THE PHANTOM MILLER

By Ernest H. Smith



Post card showing an excellent drawing of an overshot wheel by Roy Chaffee, providing power for a gristmill. The mill was built and operated by Blev Crow. (Zora Strayhorn, *Mentone, Alabama, a history*). There were other mill wheels along Little River. Some powered sawmills as well as gristmills. One such sawmill was operated by my great grandfather, Lawrence Smith, in partnership with Lewis Miller Force, during the 1850s.

Post Card courtesy of Ernest H. Smith

The inspiration for this short fictional story came from my memories of the several gristmills that once dotted the banks of Little River, near Mentone, Alabama.

The characters in this story are not intended to resemble any miller or miller's family, living or dead, nor are the particulars based on actual incidents or circumstances involving any milling operation.

In short, the characters exist only in my somewhat fertile imagination.

Thuddeus Whipple was eyeing the harvest moon as he began his after dinner stroll down to the old milldam. He was remembering the tales about Old Levi, the miller, who used to have a gristmill down there. He'd heard the yarn about Old Levi's ghost and the milling by moonlight. He allowed that it was superstitious poppycock. The only thing left down there was part of the old log milldam, holding a shallow millpond.

Old Thad could remember the miller and his son, although he was just a boy at the time. He remembered that Old Levi was milling during Civil War time. It was even claimed that he once ground some corn for the Yankee Army, when they sashayed through here on their trek to Chickamauga, to join-up with the action. If it were true, local people never held it against him. They probably figured that he had to do it or get his mill busted.

Old Levi was sometimes called, "Crip", owing to his limp, resulting from some injury sustained at the mill. Nice people didn't call him that. They considered it insensitive to make sport of a man's bodily injuries, even though they did judge Old Levi to be an ornery cuss.

The only family he had was a son who helped with the milling. The old miller called him, "Jotty", and treated him as though he were retarded. He did have the look of a dullard, as if the light of his soul had been snuffed out. Folks weren't too sure about his mental condition, but he was a hunchback. That was for sure. It was allowed that Old Levi had made him tote heavy sacks of grain when he was yet a boy. Leastwise, folks always blamed him and thought he should've been horse-whipped for it.

Old Levi and his son lived in a sideroom of the millhouse. They always had an unsavory appearance. Although they lived on the bank of a creek, they didn't seem to take to water.

Mill customers were turned-off by Old Levi continuously running his gnarled and bony hand through the grist. I suppose it was necessary for him to judge the grind, or maybe it was mostly a habit.

Another habit of Old Levi's was being such a cruel task master to his son. He was always ordering him about. It was do this, do that, load the grist, unload the turn, don't forget to take toll, etc. Jotty never seemed to take offense nor give any sass, but went at it like a mule pulling a plow. There was never any sign of enthusiasm.

It was back in 1888 when the great flood came. The old

millhouse was swaying and bobbing like a cork in the swollen creek, while the old miller and his son had set about saving some of their possessions. Suddenly, the old millhouse gave a tremendous shudder and was launched into the main current, immediately breaking-up. Jotty was cast into an eddy, near the bank, as if by some invisible hand. After circling for several times, he was able to grab onto the bank and pull himself to safety. The old miller had landed in the main current and apparently was swept over the high falls and beyond. His body was never recovered.

Jotty went to live with some of his relatives in Oklahoma and never returned to our area, even for a visit.

It was sometime later that people, living near the old gristmill site, claimed to have heard the ghostly sounds of a mill running full tilt. It seemed to be in the direction of the old milldam. Some were so disturbed by the sounds that they went near to investigate.

The only thing they observed was a small light slowly moving about the old gristmill site, accompanied by all the sounds of a running mill. They believed they could hear the current rushing through the slipped sluice gate and down the millrace to fall upon the overshot wheel, followed by the deep rumble of the great millstones. They even believed that they could hear the Old miller say, "Jotty, don't forget to take toll". When they went nearer the light would dim and then disappear and the sounds would gradually fade into silence. When they retreated sufficiently, all would be as before.

Some were certain that the old miller's spirit had, indeed, come back and was having a go at a phantom mill. Their only concern seemed to be, whether or not, the idiot son was back to help. Others were more skeptical, thinking that the whole thing might be imagined.

When they were asked to explain it, they tended to be flip-pant, suggesting that it might be a dab of foxfire, shimmering moonlight, a falling star, etc. Old MA Bishop was the most outspoken. She would say, "That Old Scamp might be a grinding corn in hell, but he ain't a doing it down on no creek. If Sister Coons were present she would usually chime in with, "Yeah, he ain't on no vacation from heaven." And so it went, back and forth.

Some thought they should bring in an exorcist to rid the community of something unholy. Others thought they should exploit it as a tourist attraction, like the sighting of a Guardian Angel, although this thing was probably the work of the devil.

There's no longer much ado about it. It's been sometime since anything strange has happened down at the old gristmill site. I reckon Old Levi has finally decided to hang it up and take his rest.

Thuddeus Whipple then felt an icy chill, as if touched by a clammy hand, as he gazed at the reflection of the moon, mirrored in the stillness of the millpond.

From Between the Counters

By
BRUTUS



Devoted and loyal readers, it is with heavy, sleep deprived eyes that moi takes pen in hand. It is difficult to compose when my lids keep closing. That inconsiderate brute, Al, took off on a trip, and Pop had to open the Superette at 5:30 a.m. dragging moi from a deep sleep. Then, as I tried to catch up on moi's ZZZs, in storms bread man Kenneth Dobbs hot for a wrestling match. It looks like the dough boy would learn—he's never won yet.

Talk about two cute little lasses—sisters, Reida (6) and Tena (9) Pipenhagen just came in to adore the splendid one—moi! The girls live in Orlando and are visiting their grandmother, Annie Watkins, and great aunt, Lola Mae Blalock. It is obvious that nobody prepared the sisters for the majestic sight awaiting them. Overcome with awe, the girls just clung to each other and trembled.

Dylan Garrett (3) handled his meeting with the extraordinary one a bit differently. He got down and crawled the last six feet to the magnificent paws. What a dear little lad!

Carolyn Gold just left after a nice conversation with moi. There's something about my rippling muscular body that turns women on, that's why so many men are jealous of moi.

Street person Jack Lusk is back in the Superette today, blowing cigar smoke into my exquisite fur. Isn't there somebody out there who'll build a facility for these homeless Mentonites to keep them off the streets and out of the Superette?

Well, here comes some class finally! Homer Crow has come to see if I've lost any weight. Moi's answer to that is "Who wants to know, door man?" A lot of my weight is carried in moi's toe nails. Twenty pounds would go in a heartbeat if that Butcher McNew would do his job on my flawless feet and leave my other parts alone.

It's getting toward closing time, and I just know Pop will expect me to drag him through the snow to get home. He fell on moi the last time I acted as snow plow, and we both lay there on our back kicking. Why me, Lord?

F

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Mentone Grapevine

By
PAT SEYMOUR

An exciting piece of news in Mentone is the recent sale of the **Mentone Springs Hotel!** Claudia Lowe, of Freemont, Calif., and sister of Gary (Karen) Albrecht, will assume operation of the Mentone landmark in March. Claudia will live in the hotel with husband, Dave Wasson, who is a dentist. The new owner plans to renovate the restaurant, create "antique" rooms, and replace the roof. (An in-depth interview with Claudia Lowe will appear in the February issue of The Groundhog.)

The deadly flu virus making its rounds in the area has many folks on their backs. One of the worst cases was that of Nancy Rector. She was so ill that she did most of her Christmas shopping on the telephone from her bed! She got some better for son Rusty's 7th birthday on Dec. 28. Hang in there, Nancy!

Speaking of big birthdays--Chad Williamson, son of Marlon and Brenda, had his 10th on Dec. 11. Chad is an honor roll student at Sylvania and plays pee wee football for the Rams. His dad, Marlon, is pastor at the Mentone Revival Center.

Sincere congratulations to Jim Lyday who was sworn in Dec. 14, 1995, as the 1996 vice president for the DeKalb County AARP. The group has selected a real worker. Jim doesn't do anything half way. Incidentally, he underwent hernia surgery on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 1996.

Al and Vickie Blackburn finally got away for a brief visit to Gatlinburg, Tenn., last weekend. The winter storm descended on them and cut their stay short after one night in the mountains. Tough luck, kids!

The bright, fresh face that can be seen cashiering at Ruby's is Renee McKenzie, Jim Robert's new clerk. The ladies at that store are always attractive and helpful. Fire Chief Roberts can pick 'em!

Lester "Joey" Combs and Jenny Smith were married November 17, 1995, at Hazard, Ky. Parents are Ronnie and Donna Smith of Hazard, Joe Combs of Hazard, and Jewel Collins of Valley Head. The couple is living in the High Point community.

Ruby Brock was called to Truman, Ark., on Wed., Jan. 3, to be with her sister-in-law, Faye Henson, Ruby's late husband's youngest sister. Faye died the next morning, Jan. 4, 1996. Rev. Don Brock, pastor of the Church of God of Prophecy, accompanied his mother to Truman.

Charlyne O' Rear has sold her business, The Chrysalis, to Beverly Southern of Marietta, Ga. The dress shop will remain in its present location in the Log Cabin Village in Mentone, and Beverly will retain Jewel Collins as her sales assistant in the store.

Bill Schwarz continues to improve in Huntsville after recent hip replacement surgery. His therapist says Bill is at least two weeks ahead of schedule on his rehabilitation. Bill has had tremendous support from registered nurse wife, Sue, who is supervising his recovery. It'll be time soon to work on grape vines, and Bill will need two good legs to tend his Mentone arbor. We sure do miss you guys! Hurry home.

Malcolm Brewer is recovering from a series of nasty falls at his home. While fighting a relapse of a recent illness that required hospitalization in St. Vincent's in Birmingham, Malcolm fell and injured his shoulder. Dependable wife Maureen has been on full-time nursing duty, lately.

Mayor Max Cash is nearly fully recovered from orthoscopic surgery on his left shoulder on Dec. 21. Dr. Sidney Bell, Rome, Ga., repaired the rotator cup, treating Max as an out patient. The mayor has been back for one checkup and will see Dr. Bell once more. If all goes well, Max will have the same surgery on his right shoulder.

Shirley Collins, 17-year-old daughter of Jewel Collins, has enlisted in the Army. She will report for duty July 16, 1996,

to undergo basic training at Ft. Jackson, S.C.

John and Mickey Cooper are enjoying time spent in Birmingham after he closed his law office in Valley Head. Joy Hester has purchased the Cooper building and may expand her Tiger's Inn Restaurant to include the property. Presently, Joy is using the space for storage.

Valley Head School is sponsoring the 1996 DeKalb County Basketball Tournament, Jan. 20-17. Games will be played at the Rainsville Civic Center.

Alma Crabtree is recuperating at home after a stay in the UAB Medical Facility. She was treated for fluid around her heart and two leakages in her heart valves. Alma is feeling much better and is on her way to a full recovery.

L.A. Smith would like to thank everyone who supported the FFA fruit and poinsettia sales during the holidays. FFA projects will greatly benefit from the profits.

Phyllis Lewis has purchased the property that formerly housed Miller Auto Parts. The space lies between Cooper-Lee and Valley Hosiery across from the street from the Citizens Bank in Valley Head. Phyllis, assisted by Claudia Croxton, will operate a used items outlet. She hopes to be in full operation in February.

George and Hattie Lide are back in Mentone after a three-week stay in Pittsburgh, Pa., with their daughter Carol Aleski and her family. Carol underwent major surgery before Christmas, and her parents went to be with her. Hattie reports that Dave and grandchildren, Dana and Michael, are all doing well and that Carol is recovering nicely at home.

John and Charlyne O'Rear are grandparents again (by the time you read this)! Son Charles Kelly O'Rear and wife, Cathy, are expecting a little girl any minute now in Chattanooga. This will make four little granddaughters for John and Charlyne!

Sherman and Mickey Gough have returned home from a marathon trip visiting relatives! They spent Christmas week with daughter Linda Guerin and family in Jensen Beach, Fla. From there, the Goughs traveled to visit Mickey's sister, Isabel Gilbert, in Daytona, Fla. Several days with daughter Patricia Gough in Tallahassee followed before Sherman and Mickey returned home. Patricia is an attorney with the 1st District Court of Appeals in Tallahassee.

Clayton Blansit is seriously ill at home. New medication is easing his pain somewhat, but he needs prayers from all his many friends.

Rock Castle Cafe in Hammondville, on Highway 11, is under new management. Carol Busby (Mrs. Ken) has leased the cafe from Missy White, former manager. Hours are 5:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and Friday 5:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; also, Saturday 6 a.m.-8 p.m., with nightly specials. Closed on Sunday. Assisting Carol is a staff composed of Janice Turner, Wanda Grisham, and Debbie Brubaker. Call-ins are welcome!

Linda Villalpando has two adorable young cats to give away to good homes: one neutered male, one spayed female, both house trained and very affectionate. If interested, call Linda at 634-4544.

Jan and John Wilkinson had family coming out their ears over the holidays at their beautiful new brow home. Aunts Fruza Rogers and Clara Young, Hot Springs, Ark., were in Mentone for Clara's 80th birthday; son Ed and wife Emily came from Atlanta with sons Taylor, 5, and Chapman, 3; and son Ransom came from Lansing, Mich., where he attends the Thomas Cooley Law School. A joyous holiday was enjoyed by all, and much to Taylor's relief, Santa even found Taylor and Chapman at their grandparents' home.

Margaret Stallings fell at home recently and is slowly on the mend. Remember Margaret in your prayers.

Guess what Yvonne Blalock received as a Christmas gift from hubby Dave? A beautiful new black and tan four-door Cadillac! As if this wasn't enough Christmas "cheer" for one gal, Yvonne's girls went in together and surprised her with an exquisite strand of cultured pearls. Nobody, but nobody has been that GOOD all year!

The weekend of Dec. 9-10, Marilyn Blanton Campbell went with a tour group sponsored by Compass Bank in Fort Payne to Callaway Gardens to see the Fantasy in Lights show. While they were over there, the group toured the Little White House at Warm Springs, Ga., where Franklin Delano Roosevelt spent time working at recovering from polio. The tour group also went through the Sibley Horticulture Center, and the Day Butterfly House on the grounds at Callaway Gardens. Dec. 15, Marilyn took Joe Stephens to Talladega to visit his son, Michael, at FCI Talladega. Marilyn's mother,

Mary A. Blanton of Rome, Ga., joined Marilyn at the Community Choir's performance on Sunday, Dec. 17, of the cantata, "Come Home for Christmas" at the Mentone United Methodist Church. Dec. 21, Marilyn went home to her mother's house in Rome, to join the whole Blanton family for a Christmas celebration. Marilyn's sister, Jane Blanton, and Jane's son, Joshua Rose, arrived later that same day.

Many thanks to Clint Croxton for his generous gift of the beautiful poinsettia. It was a major highlight of the holidays.

Margie Coots has really had a bad case of sinusitis and the virus making its Mentone rounds. She said at one point her face hurt so badly she couldn't bear to touch it! She is much better now.

Nettie Smith suffered a stroke recently and, as a result, is paralyzed on one side. Concerned family members take turns staying with her, and a physical therapist is working with Nettie to restore mobility. She is in good spirits and coping well with her situation. Best wishes to a great lady!

Marie Dillenbeck is a grandmother for the tenth time. Daughter Lorelei Lauro (Mrs. John) of Alexandria, Va., gave birth on Dec. 12, to a little girl, Kristen Michelle. She was 6 lbs., 4 oz., and 19-1/4" long. Kristen has an older brother, Justin, and two older sisters, Kara and Sarah.

Desmond and Kathie Disney have bought a lovely home in Summerville, Ga., so that she can be closer to her librarian job in the school. Both Disney girls, Ragon and Ellen, attend school in Trion, Georgia.

Best wishes for a happy marriage to Kelly Dewayne Johnson and Donna Elaine Odom, who were married Dec. 30, at New Sardis Baptist Church.

Congratulations to the Valley Head football players who made the All-Area 16 Class 1A team: Daniel Vest, Nathan Alcorn, Trevor Strickland, James Cox, and Brian Bone. Daniel Vest was also named to the 1995 Times Journal Football All-Star team. Honorable mentions were Valley Head players Shaun Flannigan, Trevor Strickland, and Nathan Alcorn.

Deepest sympathy to the families of the following: •Mrs. Nina Lois Todd, 70, who died Nov. 3, 1995; •Mrs. Iness Oliver, 91, who died on Nov. 3, 1995; •Ms. Sarah Eunice Painter Moon, 89, who died Nov. 5, 1995; •Pearl Roden Thornbury, 78, who died on Dec. 6, 1995; •Winford Eugene Wilkes, 83, who died Dec. 12, 1995; •Don Moon, 76, who died Dec. 13, 1995; and •Mrs. Halie M. Brewer, 76, who died Dec. 14, 1995.

A late December 26 Happy Birthday to Jason Goss. Happy, Happy Birthday to the following:

•4, Ed Ringer; •5, Angela Chambers; •7, Charlyne O'Rear; •9, Brenda Williamson; •10, Marlon Williamson, Stacie Worthey, Heath Miller; •12, Denise Black, Marie Dillenbeck; •13, Robert Johnston; •18, Barbara Blalock; •20, Judy Windom; •21, Alyce Springer; •23, Kent Kerby; •24, Tommy Harrison Jr.; •25, Dennis Lewis; •28, Derek Whisenant.

Thought for January: As we start a new year, it is easier to say what someone else should do than it is to be what someone else should be!

Personal note: One of the most reassuring things about living on the mountain here in Mentone is the extreme concern the local men show for women. In the aftermath of the recent winter storm, over a dozen came by the house or called to be certain all was well with us and to be sure we didn't need anything. Bless all of you for being there and for caring so very much!

Dr. Pat

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A Friendly Valley View

By
ELOISE BROWN

are with them. Also, Adis Childers, and his daughter, Sheila. Sheila is in Montclair Hospital in Birmingham. Adis is at home after being in BMC-DeKalb and a hospital in Chattanooga.

Members of Hammondville Baptist Church and neighbors of Adis Childers surprised him with a covered dish birthday dinner at Rock Castle Cafe in Hammondville, Tuesday night, Jan. 2. It's good to hear that he was able to attend and enjoyed the occasion. May he have many more happy birthdays.

The Valley Head Baptist Church had Christmas parties for all ages. Dec. 6, a group from the church joined a group from the Fountains for a bus trip to Callaway Gardens. They report that the Fantasy of Lights was spectacular! They took their Cantata, on Dec. 16, to the Fountains; and to the Mentone United Methodist Church on Dec. 17; and later at their church to a "standing room only" crowd. It was under the direction of DeVann Jackson. They had a puppet presentation Dec. 20. Juanita Smith reports that everywhere they went, they had a lavish feast.

Valley Head Methodist Church had a good fifth Sunday song service. There was special music by Mark Hughes, from Birmingham, a guest of Jeff and Melinda Adkins; and solos by Melinda, and also DeVann Jackson; and a flute solo by Alison Meadows.

Melinda and Jeff Adkins have painted and redecorated the nursery. Instead of buying gifts for each other, we bought toys and supplies for the nursery. They were placed under the tree, which was beautiful with its lights and angels. Now, we need lots of children to enjoy that nursery. There, too, we must hope and be optimistic.

Welcome 1996, we greet you with hope! The festivities are over—now, we must get back in the groove or rut—depends on how you look at it.

The Sunshine Club had their Christmas party in the form of a covered dish luncheon at the home of Billie Harper. Her house and tree were lavishly decorated. She has the talent of turning ordinary things into beautiful, unusual crafts. Those present were Sue Cooper, Sue Clark, Charlene Kennett, Ruth Pickett, Evelyn Clark, Lillie Bowden, Glenda Savage, Heather Harper, Gladys Cobble, and Eloise Brown. We were surprised by a visit from Santa Claus—A.K.A. - Gladys Cobble.

Laurie Longshore is home for the holidays with her parents, Helen and Larry Longshore. She attends University of Idaho, in Moscow, Idaho.

Frances Longshore spent Christmas with her daughter, Mary, Ben Cashion and Chris, in Haleyville, Alabama.

Ed Ringer spent Christmas weekend with his nephew, David Ringer, and family in Florence, Miss. His sister, Joyce, and her husband, Harold Allen, from Centre, Alabama, spent New Year's Day with him.

Mary, Ted, and John Holleman and Nelson and Elizabeth Ellis went to San Destin, Florida, the day after Christmas for a few days. Mary and Ted, E.T. and Gladola Holleman, John Holleman, and Adelaide Biddle had Christmas Eve dinner with Bill, Becky, Amy, and Abby Holleman in Fort Payne. On Dec. 19th, E.T. and Gladola Holleman had 17 family members visit them. Marsha and Marty Biddle had about 18 family members to eat Christmas dinner with them. Then, on Thursday night, Dec. 28, the Biddle family had supper at the home of Wanda and Buman Hulsey at High Point.

Martha and Hobson Kirby from Mentone; their son Preston and his wife Amy and daughter, Caitlin, also from Mentone; and Tammy Blackwell and son, Ethan from Fort Payne, spent Christmas day with Amanda and Charles Henry Gray.

Eighteen members of my family met at Emily and Barry Brown's house on Christmas day for a covered dish luncheon.

Sue and Foyl Cooper had most of their family with them Dec. 17. Their grandson, Brian Lee, his wife, Donna, and her sons, Rusty and Nick, from Hixson, Tennessee, spent Christmas day with them.

Venna Livingston and her daughter, Marilyn Mercer, and children, spent Christmas weekend with Venna's daughter, Sue Mosley, and family in Atlanta. Sue's daughter, Carmen was home from the University of Alabama.

Phoebe and Bill Anderson and little daughter, Molly, from Tuscaloosa, visited Phoebe's grandparents, Ruth and Paul Burnett recently. Eugene Smith took Paul and Buddy Burnett to Birmingham, on Dec. 19, to visit Paul's brother, Claud, in the nursing home. They were joined there by Paul's sister, Mildred Burnett, and had a good visit.

Juanita and Eugene Smith visited Juanita's sister, Florence Caddis, and family at Brent, Alabama, on Dec. 30. There were about forty present for a nice reunion. On New Year's Day, they had a reunion with about thirty members of Eugene's family in Birmingham.

I had a call from Jewell Palmer recently. She has returned to her apartment in Fort Payne, after a visit with her daughter in Montgomery, and her granddaughter in Philadelphia. She said that she is recovering well from her wreck injuries. Eloise Morgan, who was also injured in that wreck, is also able to be back home. Sadly, Carmel Gifford is not much better. She is in the nursing home at Collinsville.

Leslie Thornbury is at home after a stay at BMC-DeKalb. Clayton Blansit is seriously ill at his home.

Randall Hawkins, son of Geraldine and Howard Hawkins, has had surgery on his leg twice and is facing another one. For all these and any others who are ill, our prayers and thoughts

PRESS RELEASE - December 18, 1995
UNITED GIVERS FUND OF DEKALB COUNTY, NC.
CONTACT: BARBARA TURNER 845-4006

UNITED GIVERS FUND ADOPTS 1996 BUDGET

Following the successful completion of this year's UGF Campaign, the Board of Directors of United Givers Fund of DeKalb County, Inc. met on December 7 to adopt the 1996 budget for the organization.

The fourteen agencies to be funded with UGF dollars during the coming year are: Alabama Easter Seal Society, American Red Cross, Boy Scouts, The Bridge, CASA, ARC of DeKalb County, DeKalb County Children's Advocacy Center, Fort Payne-DeKalb Rehabilitation Center, Fort Payne-DeKalb Child Development Center, Girl Scouts, Hospice of Northeast Alabama, Mental Health Association, Salvation Army, and USO.

UGF member agencies have been notified of their allocation amount for 1996 and have received their new Membership Agreement for the year. The Membership Agreement is a formal agreement between the agency and United Givers Fund which states the basic obligations of both parties. Each member agency's continued compliance to the membership agreement is a condition to payment. Agency allocation checks are mailed monthly from the UGF office.

The UGF organization has a strong commitment to act as a responsible steward of funds publicly contributed. UGF submits annually all its financial records to an audit by an independent certified public accountant and maintains an active volunteer board which assumes and fulfills the responsibility of managing its affairs according to its respective by-laws.

Because of the success of this year's fundraising campaign, UGF agencies will be able to provide a wide range of services and programs during the coming year—programs which will make a meaningful impact on the entire county.

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Wedding



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bryan Goss

Payne-Goss

Tammy Payne and Michael Goss were united in marriage on Wednesday, November 22, 1995 at 5 p.m. at Unity Baptist Church in Sylvania.

Rev. Jerry Kirby performed the double ring ceremony. Pianist was Karan Johnston of Rainsville.

Parents of the bride are Wayne and Barbra Payne of Sylvania. Grandmother is Lucille Goolesby.

Parents of the groom are Kevin and Annette Evett of Fort Payne. Grandparents are Robert and Betty Turner of Valley Head and H.P. and Gladys Goss of Mentone.

The bride was given in mar-

riage by her parents and escorted by her father.

Maid of honor was Chris McCamy of Pisgah. Flower girl was Kendra McCamy of Pisgah.

Best man was Kevin Gregory of Valley Head. Ringbearer was Brett Ballenger of Fort Payne. Usher was Matthew Payne of Sylvania.

A reception followed in the church fellowship hall. Servers were Tina Barnes of Valley Head, Misty Johnson of Scottsboro, Priscilla Byrum of Powell, Karan Clardy of Henagar and Keri Carroll of Fort Payne.

Karan Clardy kept the bride's book.



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The Orphans, II

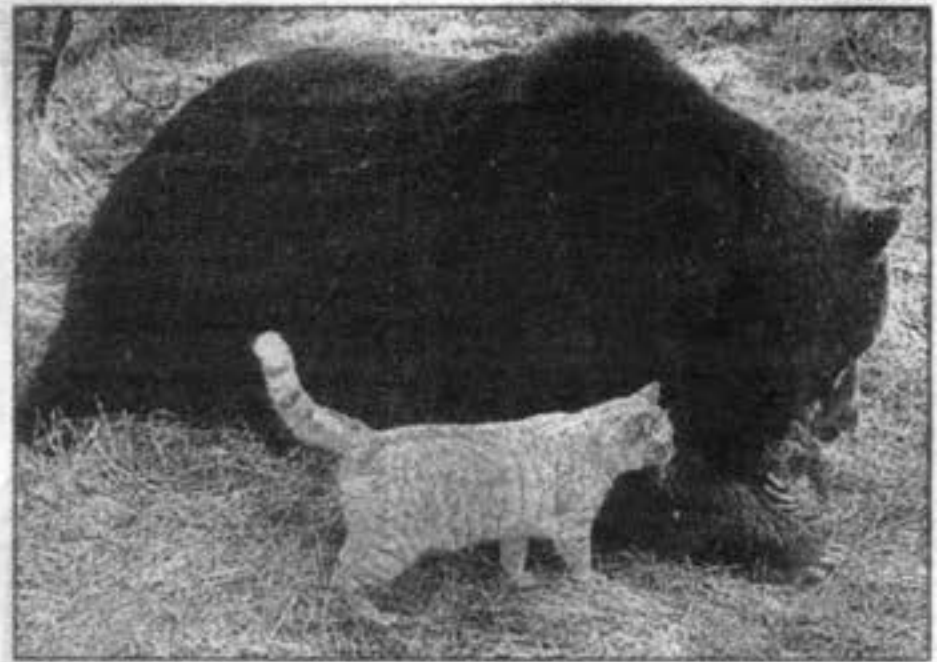
Editor's note: Grady Hammond of Ft. Payne started in 1988 collecting Civil War stories. His interest in the Civil War prompted him to become a collector of Civil War Art. He is the largest private collector of Rick Reeves' Civil War Art, having 22 prints in his collection. This is the fifth article. Look for other prints and their stories in future issues of The Groundhog.

"The border states, Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland, provided the free lance warriors of the south. They joined the fortunes of the Confederacy with the purest motives and fought with the highest ideals." So writes Joseph Crute, Jr. in his book *Units of the Confederate Army*. In the second of his three print series "The Orphans," a title given to troops from the border states, Rick Reeves pays tribute to the grand state of Maryland and its valiant sons in the service of the Confederacy.

The Second Maryland Infantry Regiment was organized at Winchester, Virginia in September 1862. This new unit was originally called the 1st Maryland Battalion and was raised by veterans of the recently disbanded 1st Maryland Infantry, but in March 1864, it was redesignated the 2nd Maryland Infantry with a strength of eight full companies. At Gettysburg, with 400 engaged, the 2nd lost a third of their strength due to its repeated assaults on Culp's Hill. It had 286 effectives in May 1864 and surrendered 3 officers and 59 men at Appomattox.

The Maryland troops were well known for their neat and soldierly appearance and a preference for kepis. As late as April 1864, they were mistaken for newly drafted militia due to their sharp and uniform appearance. The battle flag portrayed in the print is a Type II Army of Northern Virginia bunting issue and was made at the Richmond Depot. It was issued in September 1863 with the 2nd's then correct unit designation. The flag was captured at Hatcher's Run, Virginia, on April 2, 1865, by the 123rd Ohio Regiment. Rick Reeves has portrayed most of the soldiers wearing the Richmond Depot Types II and III uniform jackets adorned with the cross bonnet. The pins were copied from the cross on the Maryland coat-of-arms and were used as ID pins to show Maryland affiliation.

The Army of Northern Virginia's Orphan Brigade from the state of Maryland contributed greatly to the history of that great army under Gen. Robert E. Lee. The 2nd Maryland was truly one of its finest fighting units.



FURRY FRIENDS: This 500-pound grizzly bear that lives at Wildlife Images in Grants Pass, Ore., plays with his 7-month-old kitten friend

PROPHECY OF HOPE

Four little kittens, about six weeks old were dumped near a wildlife rehabilitation center in Grants Pass, Oregon. Volunteers captured and adopted three of them, but one escaped in fear. It roamed the wild until it was so hungry and nearly starved. Then, one day, it found a hole in the fence that corralled a 500 pound Grizzly Bear, and squeezed thru the hole and approached the bear while he was eating, and begged for food.

A spectator said in horror, "That Grizzly will have that kitten for lunch in one gulp!" He did have the kitten for lunch, but—in an amazing way. Slowly and deliberately, he removed a morsel of chicken from his bucket of food, and placed it by his front paw where the kitten ate it. Ever since, they have been inseparable pals—eating, sleeping, and playing together.

Chapter 11 of Isaiah tells us that the cow and the bear shall feed together. It seems this part has been fulfilled by a kitten.

To go to your dentist with a sore, painful tooth—he relieves the pressure; says, "No charge, have a Merry Christmas;" to get a Christmas card from a neighbor that says, "I have enjoyed having you for a dear friend;" to get a call from a distant friend, who says, "I'll never forget you;" to get a call from a long unheard of cousin who says, "I love you;" a visit from a neighbor who brings cookies and does thoughtful things; a nice meal brought by a granddaughter on New Year's day; to receive other greetings and expressions of love—in a world rampant with senseless, calloused cruelty—each expression of love and appreciation, each encouraging news item, becomes a seed of faith that blooms into a blossom of hope for a brighter and happier year in a more sensible, more peaceful world.

**Wise men still follow the star's leading ray
knowing it is the only rightful way
of hope for love and peace, God's love to repay
and insure for the world the promise of a better day
when faith nurtures hope to constantly remind
God has the power to control and bind
the forces of evil in heart, soul and mind,
into bonds of love to unite all mankind.**

Isaiah also prophesied, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the seas."

**So, lift up your spirit, and continue to pray
for our leaders to follow the star's leading ray,
that God may guide us all in the right way
to a prosperous, peaceful and happier day!**

This is my wish for everyone in 1996!

—Eloise Brown

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Anniversaries



Golden anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Chapman (Betty and Rick) celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in July. Their children, Mr. and Mrs. John Hyland and David, Ms. Nancy Ulrich, Chase and Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. Blake Hyland, Patrick and Melissa, entertained them at their home with a reception, after repeating their vows. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Jerry Davis. There were over 60 family and close friends on hand to join in the celebration. A two week trip to the Greek Isles in September and October was enjoyed by the Chapmans, with Col. and Mrs. George Walker joining them for this joyous trip.



Sixtieth anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Ferral G. Smith of East Ridge, Tenn. were honored by their sons, Arlyn and Alton Smith on the occasion of their sixtieth wedding anniversary. The celebration was held at the Woodhaven Bed and Breakfast Inn in Valley Head.



George Beaube

Beaube named to new position

Jack Lacey, chairman of the DeKalb County Republican Party, recently announced the appointment of George Beaube as senior's coordinator.

Mr. Beaube is a 1953 graduate of the University of Tennessee and earned a Masters Degree in Engineering Management from the University of Alaska in 1969 while serving there as an army officer.

He retired from Gadsden State Community College in 1988 after 16 years of service as teacher, administrator, Dean of Instruction at Alabama Technical College, and Dean of the technical division at Gadsden State.

He and his wife, Jo, live on Lookout Mountain near DeSoto State Park.

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Lottie and Charlie Ingle GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Lottie and Charlie Ingle were honored with a lovely reception at their home on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. It was given by their nieces, Scarlett Maze of Boatz, and Charlotte Kennedy of Nashville, assisted by Amanda Gray. A host of neighbors and friends came by to wish this nice couple many, many more years of happiness together.





The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

Happy New Year to all of you! It is like a new fresh start on the road of life. Every year, I think this one is going to be better than the last one, or at least I am going to be better. Last year had its good days like any year, and it had its share of heartache and disappointments for many people. Most of our troubles could be avoided if we learned to focus on the better things and dismiss the negative approach to problems. Its been said many times, but is worth repeating like the old song we sang in the forties: "You gotta accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative, latch on to the affirmative, and don't mess with Mr. In-Between". We should correct the things that we can and forget about the things we cannot amend. Nobody should blissfully sail through life completely oblivious to those who are suffering from poverty, illness, or the loss of a loved one. We should do what we can to help and then move on. We may have dark days but there is joy in the morning.

I said last year that I would make no resolutions, but this is another year, and I shall try. Have you ever thought of it as a clean new book with three hundred and sixty-five blank pages waiting to be filled? Oh, and this is Leap Year, and we get an extra page. I have resolved to make each page count. Some days may seem useless, but they are not. Each day holds golden promises and are just what we tend to make of them.

1. There are books to be read, songs to be sung, words to be said. May I speak them more softly and kindly. There are flowers, birds, trees, and animals to make life interesting, not to mention all the beautiful people who we know are friends of ours.

2. I resolve to be more tolerant and understanding--to speak less and listen more. (Now, that's a big order for one who loves to talk.)

3. To improve my speaking voice, which is a bit rough and harsh. Improve my vocabulary.

4. To observe the needs of others, both physically and spiritually.

5. To learn something every day. There is so much knowledge to be gained through reading and observing.

6. To relax more. My life has been one of "hurry and get this job done-hurry, hurry". Overachievement plagues me. Every night, I count to see what I have accomplished.

7. To take time to examine my thoughts. Are they sound ones? Are they important ones? To think on those things that are lovely.

8. To finish some projects already started, without being anxious about them.

9. To be more aware of eating habits--eat less and better foods containing less fat.

10. Get our will completed. Things can be complicated for our four children without a certified will. Everyone should complete one, regardless of age. They can always be amended.

So much for resolutions. I've always maintained that resolutions are only made to be broken, but they could be an incentive for improvement.

The Christmas season was a good one for us. Our little town was brightly lit and decorated in a festive way. Homer and Jim Lyday put up the community Christmas tree on the vacant lot at the Mentone Inn, and Jim and Penny Lyday, Frances Waller, Ms Rogers, and I added decorations.

The Ministerial Association furnished filled stockings for the children of the neighborhood. M.A.P.A. members wrapped packages for them, and a party was held at the town meeting hall. Our jolly Santa Claus was the best, as usual. Bill Patterson makes a good Santa's helper. He loves children and wins their confidence easily. I only saw one child who was afraid of him. Refreshments were served by M.A.P.A. members, Mickey and Sherman Gough, Jim and Penny Lyday. Gail Gaylord assisted Santa in giving out the presents to the children. It was so much pleasure to watch the happy faces of the children opening gifts

and talking to Santa.

Rev. Randy Addison, pastor of the Mentone Wesleyan Church, presented the Christmas story to the children in terms they could understand.

From there, we went to the Square to light the tree and sing carols. It was pouring rain, and Frances Waller invited us inside the Mentone Inn where she had Open House with all sorts of goodies set out for us to enjoy. Marsha Hurt led us in singing carols, and we did it from the lobby of the Inn. Barry Crow furnished piano accompaniment. Homer splashed through the rain to light the tree, and we observed and cheered from the porch of the Inn.

Bill and Dorothy Cyr, George Walker, Alyce Springer, and I, sang with the community choir who presented the Christmas Cantata under the direction of DeVann Jackson. It was presented at the Fountains, the Mentone United Methodist, and Valley Head Baptist.

Work is progressing on the tearoom at the Hitching Post. It should be ready for operation in the spring. Joe Hines and Terrence McCabe are working on the kitchen and are adding another bathroom. Joe is a wonderful cook, and you will certainly enjoy the variety of excellent foods he will serve. This is something we have wanted for a long time, and I hope it will be well received.

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Master Gardener Course Graduation

The DeKalb County Extension office, under the direction of Terry Shackelford, County Agent, held its first Master Gardener's Course at the DeKalb County Activities Building in Fort Payne. The course was from September 22 through December 20, and 17 students completed the course. On December 20, in the Blue Room at the Best Western Restaurant, a luncheon was given for the members of the beginning class of Master Gardeners. The extension office gave the luncheon for the graduates. Professors from Auburn University and extension agents taught the classes. Others also assisting Mr. Shackelford were Harriet Turner, a master gardener from Etowah County, now residing in DeKalb County, and Eddie Wheeler.

Those members of the beginning class are Brad Anderson, Mimi Anderson, Karen Boyd, Barbara Burgess, Ed Campbell, Celestine Darnell, Lelia Downing, Flora Duncan, Vicky Goforth, Ann Houston, Dodie Marquard, Treby Miller, Kristie Rastall, Pat Shippey, Linda Stephens, Ann Wright, and Tisha Young.

On January 4, 1996, at the DeKalb County Activities Building, the graduating members elected officers. Mimi Anderson is President; Linda Stephens is Vice President, and Ann Houston is Secretary-Treasurer.

RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB

The December meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was a covered dish dinner at the annual Christmas meeting, which was held at the Mentone town hall, on December 12, at 12:00 noon. The hostesses were Marie Dillenbeck, Dr. Pat Seymour, and Mildred Wylie. Also assisting was Marilyn Blanton Campbell, who provided the lovely tablecloths that decorated the tables and helped arrange the tables. Poinsettias decorated each table and were used as the door prizes for the event. The Community Christmas tree at the Mentone Hall was donated by Al Blackburn (Mentone Superette/Blackburn's Nursery). Dr. Pat Seymour brought the tree to the city hall, Sanford Hartline brought the tree inside the hall, Ann Wright decorated the tree with the decorations, including the butterflies made by the kindergarten class - Rhododendron Ecoteers.

Marie Dillenbeck, president, called the meeting to order. Betty Johnson gave the devotional, reading "Streams in the Desert," and passages from Matthew and Isaiah. The devotional was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States. Those present were Catherine Bailey (guest), Jo Beube, Barbara Blalock, Virginia Bosworth, Patti Bryan, Marilyn Blanton Campbell, Barry Crow (guest/program), Bernise Crow, Mary Crow, Dorothy Cyr, Marie Dillenbeck, Marjorie Gray (assoc. member), Mickey Gough, Beverly Hoyt, Betty Johnson, Flo Kirby, Mabel Kirk, Diane Kuehl, Hattie Lide, Heather Nicely, Dr. Pat Seymour, Alyce Springer, Frances Waller (guest and new member), Hope Walker, Ann Wright, and Mildred Wylie.

Barry Crow provided "Christmas Music" throughout the meeting. He was accompanied by Alyce Springer, Dot Cyr, and Bernise Crow for some Christmas carols.

A short business meeting was held following the meal. There was no reading of the minutes or treasurer's report. Marilyn Blanton Campbell, corresponding secretary, stated that she had sent cards to Bill Schwarz, Gladys Crane, and Betty and Rick Chapman. Ann Wright, special projects, gave a report on the butterfly garden project at Moon Lake School. She said that the garden club had hired Russell Wright, Wright Nursery, Mentone, to do the work. Down the side of the gym, in a 100' x 12' area, he set out 82 plants and shrubs that bloom for butterflies and birds, such as azaleas, rhododendron, honeysuckle, hydrangeas, nandinas, and iris. Spruce shrubs were also planted to provide shelter for the birds and butterflies. At the bottom of the sloping area, railroad ties were put in place and top soil spread for the beds the children will plant. Boy Scout Troop 106 is building bird houses to place in the garden.

The president thanked everyone for their help in making the covered dish dinner meeting such a success.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The January meeting was canceled due to the 1996 winter storm that brought snow, freezing weather, and icy roads.

The February's meeting will be held at the Mentone Town Hall, with hostesses Linda Brown, Betty Johnson, and Ruby Daniel. Linda Brown has the devotional. "Nationally Known Famous Trees" is the title of the program to be presented by Marilyn Blanton Campbell.

The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.; Deep South Region; The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.; Garden Clubs of District II; and DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs.

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National Voter Registration Act of 1993

Compiled by M

FORT PAYNE—The Board of Registrars is readying DeKalb County to become part of a statewide identification system. In order for this to become a reality, **voters must update their information with the office.**

Some voters think this does not apply to them, since they have never before experienced difficulties at the voting booth. However, if these updates are not made, the next election could be more time consuming than necessary.

"Our computer is now putting a star beside the names of those who have updated," says Board of Registrar member Emma Jordan. "At the next election, those with a star by their name will go straight to the polling booth to cast their vote." Those who have not updated will be asked to complete an update form before voting, she explains. They will not be taken off the voting list, but they have to update and verify their information.

Correct information is necessary for DeKalb to become part of the Alabama Voter Identification Network. As part of this computerized system, **a person's Social Security number will also become their Voter ID Number.** However, the social security number is confidential and will not be printed on the voter list and will never be given out to anyone other than to be used for identification at polling time.

"Some 30 counties are already on this network," says Jordan, "but DeKalb County is a long way from it."

In fact, Jordan says DeKalb is the second-worst county in the state in regard to the condition of the voters' list. It has been determined, she says, that the list contains some 6,000 more names than there are people of voting age living in the county. This is a result of registered voters' names remaining on the roll who are dead or have moved.

Fraud is not the problem, according to Jordan. The list contains many individuals more than one time. Often they are listed under variations of their first and middle names, as well as under both maiden and married names.

Mrs. Jordan said, "If you marry, remarry, move, change your name, you need to give the registrar the name and address change so it will be correct on the rolls." The new voter list needs to be completed by April 1996, she said, "and the voter list will be

printed in May for use at the polls at the next election." **All the older voters need to update their voter information.** "If you know a person is deceased, you can also fill out the portion of the Voter's Update Form found on the right hand side of the form that is at the end of this article, or on the back page of this issue of *The Groundhog*.

The major change requiring the update is the readdressing brought about by the E-911 system. DeKalb County has installed the emergency phone call system and a majority of residents now have different addresses.

Everyone who has not filled out one of the Voter's Update Forms needs to do so as soon as possible. When you have it completed, all you need to do is take or send it to the **Board of Registrar's Office, 111 Grand Avenue South, at the DeKalb County Activities Building, Fort Payne, AL 36967. Their phone number is 845-8598.** "It takes about 20 minutes for us to update the form on our computer after we receive the Voter's Update Form," Emma Jordan said. A Voter Registration I.D. Card will be issued, which the voter should sign and keep in his/her wallet/purse for future reference.

This is a voter uniformity procedure that needs to be done as a result of the **National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA)**, which went into effect on January 1, 1995. Under the Act, Congress established three new programs for registering eligible citizens to vote in Alabama **and** other states.

Voters now have the opportunity of registering to vote at a wider variety of places.

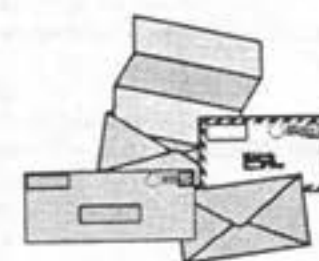
(1) Motor Voter: The NVRA was commonly referred to as the "Motor Voter" bill because one part of the new law allows you to apply to reg-



ister to vote when you apply for your State of Alabama driver's license or identification card. You may also apply to register to vote when you renew your State of Alabama driver's license or your identification card. Please check with your local probate office or license commissioner's office for further details. **(2) Agency-Based Voter Registration.** Under the NVRA, the State of Alabama has also made voter registration available at selected state and local

government offices. You may apply to register to vote when you apply for services or recertify for services at any of these offices:

- Department of Human Resources (Food Stamp and AFDC programs); ●Department of Public Health (WIC program); ●Department of Rehabilitation Services; ●Alabama Medicaid Agency; ●County and select Municipal public libraries; and ●Armed Forces recruiting stations. **(3) Postcard Voter Registration.** Starting in



1995, for the first time in Alabama's history, one could apply to register to vote through the mail. For your convenience,

Alabama's new postcard voter registration form is available at the following locations:

- Probate judges' office; ●License commissioners' offices; ●All of the offices listed under the Agency-Based Voter Registration program; ●All public four-year universities and colleges; ●Select private four-year universities and colleges; and ●Public Schools.

To apply to register to vote by mail, pick up a postcard voter registration form at any of the participating locations, **fill it out completely**, and mail it back to your county's Board of Registrars. In Alabama, **you can use the Postcard Voter Registration Form to ●register to vote, and to ●change your name and/or address, if there is a change since you last voted. To register you must ●be a United States Citizen, ●reside in Alabama, ●be at least 18 years old, ●have not been convicted of a felony, and ●have not been legally declared "mentally incompetent" by a court. Deadline information:** registration and updating voter records cut off ten days prior to each election in Alabama.

MONTGOMERY—The state Republican Party, buoyed by increased voter registration under the National Voter Registration Act enacted in 1993, plans a massive vote drive before the 1996 elections.

Len Gavin, the GOP's political director, said the so-called "motor voter" law of 1993, which took effect Jan. 1, 1995, includes postcard registration. "I suddenly realized we are a mail-in voter registration state," said Gavin, who wants to turn the fact into an advantage. "I'm seriously thinking about



EVERY VOTER NEEDS TO COMPLETE AN UPDATE FORM

rie Dillenbeck

having the party have a major vote drive this spring and print these postcards at party expense and hand them out at churches and other places," Gavin said.

Not to be outdone, Democrats are thinking up ways to utilize "motor voter" more effectively, party Chairman Joe Turnham said. "We have a committee that is going to study it," he said.

Both Gavin and Turnham said they recognize that easier registration this year has meant greater numbers of blacks than whites registering in proportion to their population.

According to numbers supplied by the Office of Voter Registration, whites accounted for 67 percent of the 102,386 who registered to vote between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, 1995, and blacks accounted for 31 percent. The 31 percent registration rate is slightly higher than the state's black population ratio of 25 percent. "I would think you would have to extrapolate that the Democratic Party would benefit" from those registrations, Turnham said. "The African-American vote is one of the most loyal components of the Democratic Party, especially in state elections."

Voter registration applications are now available at social welfare agencies, driver's license bureaus, college campuses, and many other public buildings; and the ease of registering has not gone unnoticed.

"Some of our constituency groups already have been utilizing it," Turnham said. One of the flaws in "motor voter" registration has been that no one is required to show an identification either to register to vote or to vote. Both Gavin and Turnham said they would not object to a voter identification system,

but Turnham said he doesn't want one that would disenfranchise voters.

"We made overtures to Secretary of State (Jim) Bennett to work with him on legislation that would be fair," Turnham said. "The Democratic Party is committed to reforms that are not prohibitive, but which guarantee fair elections."

(UPDATE)—Part of Bennett's legislative package, effective during the middle of December 1995, is a voter file cleanup program called the "Voter File Maintenance Reform Act."

DEKALB COUNTY—DeKalb County's Board of Registrars has been working diligently to comply with the Voter File Maintenance Reform Act," but this is not the only reason the local Board has been working on the problem. They were already aware of a 1988 Act of Legislature requiring updating of voter rolls to have an inactive list to be published every year. "The only thing ever published in DeKalb County was a purge list," said Emma Jordan of the DeKalb County Board of Registrars. As of Monday, December 18, the local Board had updated about 9,000 voters cards, and "We have about 35,000 to go," she said.

Bennett's "Voter File Maintenance Reform Act" enforces the 1988 Act of Legislature by establishing a postcard voter update every four years starting in January 1997. It requires registrars to mail a non-forwardable notice to the last known address of all registered voters in their counties to help identify those who have died or moved.

After the first notice, registrars then mail a forwardable postcard to those whose first notices were returned undeliverable. Voters

can use the second notice to update their addresses and other voter information. Voters whose second notices are returned undeliverable, or who do not respond to the notice, will be placed in the inactive file. After being placed in the inactive file, a voter who does not appear to vote in any elections during the next four years is removed from the rolls.

"At the end of the first four year cycle," said Bennett, "we should see a significant cleanup in the voting rolls."

All DeKalb residents should write (using the form found on this or the back page of this issue) or call the DeKalb County Board of Registrars with this information: **new 911 mailing address, full name, birthdate, and social security number**, which is the voter's ID number.

The Board of Registrars' office is located on the main floor of the DeKalb County Activities Building, 111 Grand Avenue South, Fort Payne, Alabama 35967. The phone number is 845-8598.



The Groundhog staff challenges the voting precincts in Mentone, Hammondville, and Valley Head to have the most complete updated boxes in DeKalb County. Get your Voter's Update Form in today!

STATE OF ALABAMA
DEKALB COUNTY
BOARD OF REGISTRARS
DeKalb County Activities Building
111 Grand Ave. S.
Fort Payne, AL 35967
Tel: 845-8598
Registration Name & Residential Address
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP CODE _____
PROPERTY LIMITS _____ IN ☐ OUT ☐
DATE OF BIRTH _____
MIDNIGHT NAME/FORMER NAMES _____
P.O. Box—Give street address also
Route #—Give exact location of house on back of form
SOCIAL SECURITY NO. _____
RACE ☐ CAUCASIAN ☐ BLACK ☐ ASIAN
☐ AMERICAN INDIAN ☐ OTHER ☐ HISPANIC
SIGNATURE _____
PHONE: HOME _____ BUSINESS _____

VOTER'S UPDATE FORM

111-033

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO REMOVE A VOTER'S NAME

VOTER'S NAME _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

CHECK ONE:

☐ VOTER IS DECEASED

☐ VOTER IS A NONRESIDENT. ADDRESS IF KNOWN: _____

YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO VOTER _____

YOUR SIGNATURE _____

YOUR PHONE _____

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SPORTS ON THE SCENE

By Phil Harris

The Sylvania Rams (12-1) finished short of a state championship once again. The Rams fell to Lauderdale Co. 16-12 in the quarter finals of 3-A. Sylvania had the better team, but the Tigers forced the Rams into mistakes unseen all season. Three defense breakdowns and three offense turnovers spelled doom. Coach Paul Benefield's seniors finish with a 32-5 record over the past three years.

Plainview (9-4) did themselves proud after a 48-7 loss to Sylvania the final week of the regular season. The Bears defeated Danville and Glencoe, before falling to state champion, Cordova.

In 2-A action, Crossville (10-2) defeated Lexington before losing to Oakman in the second round. Ider (7-5) beat Warrior and lost to Tanner. Geraldine (6-5) lost at Tanner and Fyffe (5-6) lost to Oakman in the first round.

In 1-A, Collinsville (9-2) was surprised by Meek in the opening round.

All in all, a great season for DeKalb County football once again. Seven of the nine teams enjoyed playoff births. Next season, look for Crossville, Sylvania, and Fyffe to be the teams to beat.

The Lady Tigers of Valley Head are at it again. Coach Bobby Hollaway has another state championship caliber team. Jamie Baugh and Kayla Bell lead an experienced group. Speed and quickness are the strengths of the team once again. Rebounding has been a weakness. Hopefully, that will change the second half of the season. Heather Jackson and Nikki Smith must help control the boards. Even with the injury to Renae Brendle, the Tigers are still eight or nine deep. Newcomer, Freshman Ashley Blalock must continue to take the pressure off guards Jamie Baugh and Kayla Bell.

The Lady Tigers are off to a fantastic 5-1 start. They are looking over their shoulder at arch foe Collinsville. The Lady Panthers are 11-1, with the long loss coming to Valley Head. Valley Head has to consistently defeat Collinsville to have a chance to go to Birmingham in March.

Folks, try to go see these young ladies play. They are exciting to watch and a pleasure to support. Coach Hollaway is very excited about this team. When he's excited, then the Lady Tigers must have something special.

Coach John Tidmore's hard luck youngsters started the season at 0-7. Now the tigers are 5-11 and have shown improvement. Valley Head must overcome the loss of team leader Daniel Vest. Jon Baggett, Tim Harrison, Heath Watson, Shaun Flannigan, Seth Norman and Jim Phillips lead a gritty bunch of Tigers. Inside scoring and rebounding (other than Baggett) is a problem for this team. They should still be competitive against anyone they play.

Boys teams around the county will be looking up to Collinsville and Sylvania. These two will probably be the most talented teams. The Panthers return top players, Billy Wayne Clanton and Solomon Stanton. The Rams are very athletic, though they lack inside scoring punch. Plainview, Crossville, and Geraldine will be sleepers to watch out for. The rest of the county will depend highly on youth and inexperience.

Girls action will be as fun to watch as ever. Valley Head, Collinsville, and Plainview are probably the best bets for a county tournament championship. The Bears returned key starters Jana Ingram and Shana Phippen. Collinsville has improved since the first of the season. The dark horses will be Fyffe and Geraldine. The Red Devils lost five starters off back-to-back state championship teams. Geraldine and Coach Steve Simpson returned the nucleus of last year's team.

Finally, two former girl's basketball players are enjoying college life. Jamie Blalock (Phillips) is a starting guard for Chattanooga State Community College. Jamie is in her sophomore year, and hopefully will move on to a four-year school. Heather Mayes is a freshman at Western Kentucky. Mayes is listed as one of four freshmen, who will contribute to the Lady Hilltoppers team this year.

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



NATIONAL SPORTS AT A GLANCE

By Phil Harris

College Football: Nebraska reigned supreme as the number one team in the nation for the second year in a row. The Huskers blasted Florida in the Fiesta Bowl. Tommy Frasier showed why he should have won the Heisman Trophy.

The big question is whether Steve Spurrier will stay at Florida or move on to the pro ranks. Most SEC fans hope that he leaves. The Gators have won four of the last five Southeastern Conference Championships. If Spurrier stays, Florida may continue to dominate.

The Southeastern Conference had a rather disappointing bowl season over all. Auburn was waxed by Penn State, Arkansas fell to North Carolina, Georgia was nipped by Virginia, and Florida had a lack-luster performance against Nebraska. On the positive side, Tennessee surprised Ohio State and Heisman Trophy winner, Eddie George. LSU bombed Michigan State in the Independence Bowl. Watch out for the Tigers next season.

How about those North Alabama Lions? UNA won the NCAA division II championship for the third straight time. Cody Gross and Ronald McKinon played a huge part in something that has never been done before in college football.

Men's College Basketball: Kentucky has more raw talent than anyone in college basketball. If this team continues to gel the SEC will be easy pickins for the Wildcats. Mississippi State will be the only team to contest them for SEC supremacy. Auburn may be good enough for an NCAA Tournament bid. Alabama is close, but a NIT bid is probable for the Tide. On a national level, Kentucky, Kansas, Villanova, U-Mass, Memphis, and Cincinnati are currently the front runners in college basketball, though.

Women's College Basketball: Connecticut hopes to repeat as National Champions. Louisiana Tech, Tennessee, Georgia, Vanderbilt, and Virginia will test the Huskies all season long. Women's basketball is really growing in popularity. With pre-season tournaments and television contracts, the fans support will continue to grow. The SEC Women's Basketball Tournament in Chattanooga is a great chance to get in on the excitement.

Pro-Football: The San Francisco 49ers have fallen. The Green Bay Packers ended the niners chances of repeating as Super Bowl Champions. The door has been opened for the Dallas Cowboys. The Indianapolis Colts and Pittsburgh Steelers look to become the first AFC Super Bowl champ in a long while.

Pro Basketball: The Houston Rockets and either the Orlando Magic or Chicago Bears are on course to meet in the NBA finals. The Bulls have the best overall record. They lack a dominating center. This could spell doom for Chicago in the Eastern Conference finals against Orlando. The Western Conference is Houston's to take. Phoenix and Utah are strong, though not strong enough to stop Houston from a shot at a three-peat.

Baseball season is just around the corner with the Braves resigning Fred McGriff. It will be World Series time before you know it.

Trivia Question: When was the last time Alabama stayed home for the holiday bowl season?

Ans. 1983, when Alabama finished with a 3-6 record under Ray Perkins.

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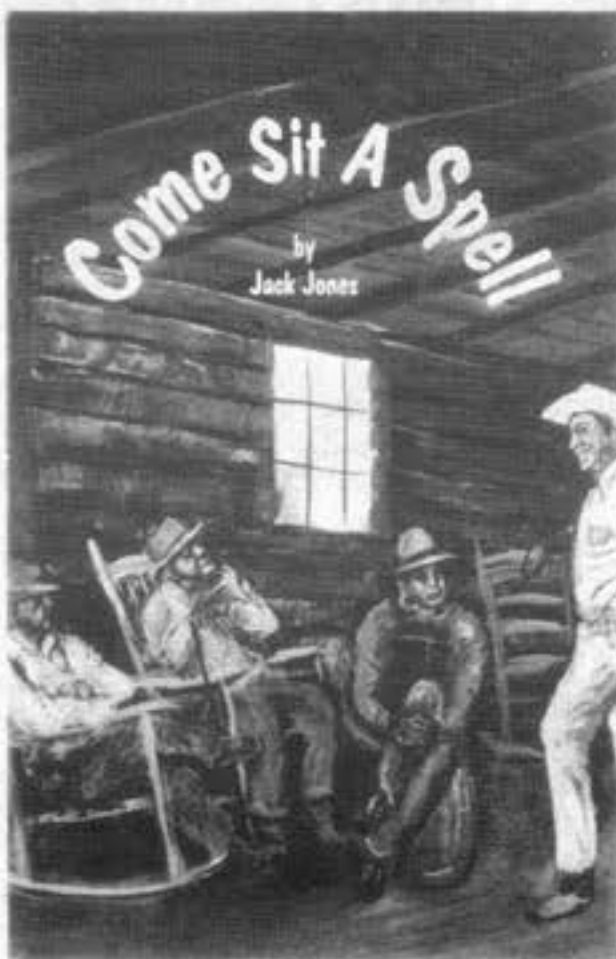
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The painting on the front of the book was done by Bill Roberts

Come, Sit a Spell New book out by Jack Jones

Jack Jones of Mentone, has recently had a book published by Heritage Publishing Company, which is a partial autobiography of his life. In the introduction, he says, "I tell a lot of stories, you know. Folks come and sit on my porch at my Shady Grove Dude Ranch in Mentone, Alabama, or they sit around campfires and listen to my stories. I've got stories for everybody. So, I'm calling this book *Come, Sit a Spell*."

"These stories I'm telling here are all about chasin' a lot of dreams. I'm still chasing. But the dream has always been ahead of me and that's what keeps me goin'."

"This is a story of a man who has led a totally unbelievably, but true, life. Jack Jones has danced with snakes, flown his own planes, raced ocean-going boats, built golf courses, and built the southernmost ski resort in the United States. People come from all over to stay at his resorts in Mentone, Alabama, especially Cloudmont Ski Resort.

"There is gold on Lookout Mountain. The gold is what you feel in your heart. It's in the smiling faces and the glow of campfires. The gold is the result of following a dream."

Jack dedicated his book to "my ever-loving and patient wife, Olive; our eight children: Jack Jr., Nancy, Oliver, Marsha, Janis, Michael, Gary and Angela; and especially for Billie, my sweet, dear little Mother, because, even our memory of her has blessed us all. Thanks to the many thousands of campers whom I've had the pleasure of meeting; to everybody for making a 'forever young' man happy by reading about my life. Thanks to E.A. DeNero, my collaborator, who, as I sit and talk, puts it all down on paper and helps me get this thing together."

"Life has been good to me and I'm still living it to its fullest."

In his Epilogue, he says, "Over three score and fifteen years. Twenty Seven Thousand days to remember at least one satisfying experience each day!"

"My thanks to my lovely family, all of you through our last little grandson, Austin, at this date, for your love, patience and endurance in staying with me."

"Can't forget all business associates, club affiliates, the 10,000 girls, boys and staffers in our summer camp years."

"It's too much to remember, so if you get a copy of this book, *Come, Sit a Spell*, please do just that and let's talk about your part in this every day of our following a dream."

Jack's book can be bought at several places in this area: Mentone Inn, Dessie's Kountry Chef, The Dude Ranch, Cloudmont Ski Resort, Big Mill in Ft. Payne, and DeSoto State Park. He has several signings scheduled in various stores. The price is \$14.95. You will enjoy his book, so, get a copy; and as he says, "read it and 'come, sit a spell' with him at the Dude Ranch and talk."



Menlo Recreation Dept. Gets Check

The Alpine Lodge F&AM 211 presented the Menlo Recreation Department with a check for \$500 to help with the Tillotson Sports Complex. Shown receiving the

check is, front left, Pam Hegwood. Shown making the presentation is Robert Yarbrough with Lodge members looking on at the ceremony. (Special Photo).



The Menlo News

BY OVIE "BO" BLALOCK

•The Chattooga County Jail will continue to get meals prepared by Maxwell's Restaurant. In recently opened bids in Chattooga County Commissioner Jim Parker's office, the contract was awarded to Maxwell's. The Menlo restaurant's bid of \$7.50 a day per inmate was the only one received.

•Deepest sympathy to the families of Nellie Mae Key, 72, who died Dec. 16, in a Rome Hospital; and Mary Grace McDaniel, 75, who died Dec. 23, at her home.

•Mrs. Suzanne Knox's fourth grade at Menlo Elementary decorated and exhibited a Christmas tree at the Festival of Trees in Summerville. The group designed and made their decorations. Kathy Kerce assisted the group in the project.

•Amber McDaniel won the giant Christmas stocking given away by the Golden Gallon located on North Commerce Street in Summerville. She is the daughter of Sheryl and Bobby McDaniel of Menlo.

•The Christmas play, "For Unto Us A Savior Is Born," was performed at the Menlo First Baptist Church during the holidays. Students participating in the play were Cayla Burkhalter as Mary; Ryan Hamilton as Joseph; Levi Warner, Cody Crane and Seth Edwards as the three kings; Mason Gilbreath, Cassidy Houser, Chase Hamilton, and Brandon Hunter as the shepherds; and Hillary Hall, Nina Ballenger, Keribeth Allison, Ashley Jackson, Shoni Lawrence, Haley Murray, and Hope Mitchell as angels.

•Congratulations to the Floyd College Dean's List scholars! They are Carla Jean DeBerry, Cloudland; Lisa Gale Cordell, Lisa Jayne Dallmier, and Benjamin A. Sellers, Menlo.



2½ MONTHS OLD

Courtney McKayla King is the 2½-month-old daughter of Wayne and Joanna King, Menlo. Grandparents are JoAnn Clements, Margie Rose, Stan Clements, all of Trion, Mr. and Mrs. Doyle King, Summerville. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clements, Neva Hawkins, Trion. Great-great-grandparents are Dot Hankins and Lula Mae Wilbanks, Trion.



TWO YEARS OLD

Cody Jared Vaughn is the two-year-old son of Jason and Heather Vaughn. He is the grandson of Joe and Glenda Norton, Summerville, Sheila Hill, Lyerly, Tony Hughes, Menlo, and Pete and Cindi Vaughn, Lyerly.



FIRST BIRTHDAY

Tyler Lee Bailey, son of Chris Bailey and Sunshine Holbrook, Summerville, will celebrate his first birthday, Dec. 9. His grandparents are Ricky and Shirley Smith, Gary and Brenda Bailey, Summerville, Dalmous and Mona Holbrook, Trion. His great-grandparents are Lester and Dorothy Rogers, Summerville, Mary Bailey and the late Guy Bailey, Trion, Nell Foster, Trion, and Bessie Durham, Cloudland. His great-great-grandparents are Polly Ferguson and Odie Ferguson, Myrtle, Miss.



SECOND BIRTHDAY

Ashley Willingham celebrated her second birthday Nov. 29. She had a Barney and Baby Bop party. She is the daughter of Tim and Julie Willingham, Menlo. Her grandparents are Wayne and Ann Pritchett, Menlo, Junior and Diane Willingham, Gaylesville, Ala., and the late Emma Sue Willingham. Her great-grandparents are Roy and Wilma Patterson, Summerville, Brooksie and Silas Mitchell, Centre, Ala., Lula Belle Atkins, Centre, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Pritchett. Her great-great-grandmother is Quessie Patterson, Fort Payne, Ala.



2½ YEARS OLD

Michael Clifford Hibbs is the 2½-year-old son of Bill and Sherry (Compton) Hibbs, Smyrna, Tenn. His grandparents are Bill and Sharon Hibbs, Brush Prairie, Wash., John and Patty Compton, Cloudland and Jimmy and Joan Hitchcock, Rome. His great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Compton, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Hughes Jr., all of Gaylesville, Ala., Mr. and Mrs. William C. Hibbs Sr., Akron, Ohio, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Dodson. His great-great-grandmother is Evelyn Mitchell, LaFayette.



SIX MONTHS OLD

Dustin Wayne Levi Smith is the six-month-old son of Wayne and Lisa Smith. He has two sisters, Carrie Patty, Cloudland, and Mary Smith, LaFayette. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Hampton, Cloudland, Betty Hunter, Summerville, and the late Billy Smith, Summerville.





I hope everyone had a holiday season that was as good as mine! I really enjoyed the Advent and Christmas Season this year. The New Year week-end is just sort of a winding down period for me, but I enjoy that too. We had many parties and family celebrations where I saw a lot of people that I don't see on an every day basis. It is always fun to see how people have changed from time to time. I was in Citizen's Bank in Valley Head recently and one of the ladies asked me how my holiday was. I told her it was great, but I had too many parties where I had to prepare food to take. She replied that I was attending the wrong kind of parties. Wonder what she meant by that?

During the holidays, we had two visitors who were in Mentone for the first time. Both of them were so excited about this place and the fact that they did not know it was there. Both (they were men) were interested in buying property here. This shows what we have and really don't know it. They were excited about the rocks and the water and things that we take for granted. I'll be very honest, I did not do much to encourage either of them moving here. We only have so much space and if that space gets as crowded as where they are now, then what has been gained? Some people have a bumper sticker that states, "Mentone, the world's best kept secret." Think about it.

Everyone seems to be trying to keep body and soul together lately. The weather has been so changeable that a lot of people have been sick with a respiratory type sickness. Others have had a stomach virus that is not good company. I hope that all are much better by now.

As I write this, the weather is changing again. Part of the week was in the 60's then some snow flurries and suddenly we're in the 20's. This may be the kind of winter we are in for. More snow may be on the way, according to the weather stations.

Signs continue to be erected that are not in compliance with the zoning laws. All businesses need to go to the city hall and get a certificate, fill it out and return it. Then, if the sign is not in compliance, they will be notified and can adjust accordingly. We must all work together to keep Mentone the beautiful little town that so many people are fond of. This is our home, and you don't trash your home.

Moon Lake School is continuing to grow by leaps and bounds. Soon we will have to elect a mayor for that little village. I'm not really sure how all of this came to be, but I give Dr. Bill Berry a lot of the credit. Good job, Bill!

Find someone who is lonely this winter and go to visit them. So many people in Mentone are alone or sick and could use a visit. Sometimes it is easier to visit if you carry them something. A paper plate of homemade cookies is a great winter gift. A bowl of soup is also good. If you know they can have sugar, a hot chocolate mix is good. One of the best ideas I've seen lately is a pretty book marker. Ruth Bathurst made some beautiful ones from plastic canvas and yarn. The possibilities are endless. The children from the Mentone United Methodist Church went caroling during the Christmas holidays. They carried each person a small poinsettia and a plate of cookies. This seemed to be appreciated by all. You have always heard that it's the thought that counts. This is so true!

Happy 1996 to everyone!!



WLS IN CHICAGO

By Bill Bryant

I would guess that it's been at least 25 or 30 years since I've last heard the jingle "WLS in Chicago, radar weather eye, da, da, da, da, da," that would announce the weather report over whichever radio that I was listening to. And, as I think back, it seems to have always been a warm, muggy summer's night that the jingle brings to memory. WLS and my late childhood—early teen years are inseparable.

WLS, as you might have surmised, was a radio station in Chicago, a very distant and strange (maybe not even real) place to a young boy growing up in rural Georgia. I was fascinated by the weather report. It invariably followed this pattern: "The temperature at Midway is 32, O'Hare is 35, and it's 33 downtown." I can even recall the tone and inflection of the announcer's voice. After the weather report would come the traffic update: "Traffic on the Dan Ryan expressway is light and the loop is moving nicely."

The Dan Ryan expressway—in my mind an image would form (and still does today) of a wide road, at least eight to ten lanes, full of cars bumper to bumper speeding into and out of Chicago. Who was Dan Ryan? Why was the expressway named for him? Was he a benefactor of Chicago in some form or fashion? I don't know the answers. And, of course, the "loop." I could see a road going in almost a complete circle, funneling traffic to some distant point. Dan Ryan, O'Hare, Midway, the loop—these were magical names to me. (O'Hare and Midway are, of course, airports.)

WLS was located at 890 on the AM radio dial. This was in the days before listening to FM stations was in vogue. Reception of AM stations was better at night—especially distant stations such as WLS. Therefore, WLS was even more intriguing because you couldn't receive it during the daytime. (Did Chicago exist during the daylight hours?)

My friends and I camped out a lot during those long-ago summers, and it seems that everyone had a small transistor radio. We would select the radio with the best reception until it was good 'n dark; but, after that, the signal was strong until the early morning hours.

It was a big deal if we got to stay up as long as we wanted to, and we took full advantage. I remember being in that state of almost sleep and in a dream-like way listening to WLS fade away in the early morning hours as the sun was just beginning to come up, and, if I turned on the radio during the day without changing the stations, all I received was static and the garbled sounds of other stations.

I remember that one of the disk jockey's name was Art Roberts, and he "spun the top forty hits" from maybe 8:00 p.m. until midnight. Larry Lujack came on after that (as I remember); and if you were awake to listen to him, you were really big-time! I'm sure that there were other disk jockeys during the years that I listened, but only these two names have withstood the test of time in my memory.

Not long ago, I turned on the radio in my truck, and tuned the dial to 890, and there it was—WLS in Chicago! It's now a "talk" radio station. (What became of Art and Larry?) I listened for a few moments and turned the dial, content to remember the weather jingle and recall those magical names—O'Hare, Midway, Dan Ryan Expressway, and, of course, the LOOP.

PS: I have learned from two of my neighbors on the mountain (Mr. DeWain Sparks and Mrs. Loretta Sparks, who used to live in Batavia, a suburb of Chicago), that the "loop" is an elevated railroad. However, in the clash of reality versus romanticism in my mind, the "loop" will always be a roadway spewing cars into the Chicago night—with all the radios tuned to WLS.

GARDEN HINTS

By Madeleine Bullock

January here in NE Alabama is considered the coldest month and, of course - unless we have unseasonal weather - hardly any work will be done in the gardens. For me, it's the time to catch up on all the reading and catching up on the latest seed catalogues, and make lists of seeds and plants we want to order or get in early orders in case they run out and I have to wait or order an alternative. And, with that on my mind, as I read everything that's in my sight and reach (my mother always said that was what caused me to get short-sighted), I started noticing how the world of high-tech has been playing a major role in gardening, specifically in the seed department.

Advanced technology is now making it possible to develop new strains of plants and seeds from old that are pest- and disease-resistant and suitable to the locale. How many of us would equate DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) with the new and future hybridizing of all types of seeds and plants instead of with the O. J. Simpson trial, Jurassic Park, and paternal suits? It is a phenomenal tool that has revolutionized our understanding from human diseases to matching up pieces of the 2,000-year-old Dead Sea Scrolls, which were written on animal skins. Now, it's playing a big role in genetically engineered seeds.

Genetics means the study of molecular life and the genetic patterns obtained by DNA. Survival in the future depends on delving into the past, genetically speaking. The University of Agriculture in Nebraska is involved in reviving the ancient genes in corn, beans, and squash—they are all being kept in the "Gene Bank for Seeds."

Scientists are now delving into the genes of seeds and plants to extract, maintain, and add to the best qualities of the seed or plant. They are also developing new strains in old plants. The squash was used by the Indians to bake fish in. They would scoop out the seeds and set the fish in the shell; then, bake it in a stone-lined ground oven. The soldiers adopted the vegetable to ward off scurvy—they grew them in their yards.

Now, for the same reasons, scientists at the U.S. Agricultural Research Service (ARS) have developed a cucumber that has green skin but is orange inside. It packs higher levels of beta carotene than the regular cucumber. Planet Vision/Pure Organic of Las Vegas, Nevada, is in partnership with small family farmers in the southwest who are growing a naturally bred colored cotton, the colors are green, brown, red, and mocha. They also produce eleven differently styled shirts that was made from their organically grown cotton. If you would like more information, you could call them at 1-800-35-PANDA.

Several familiar feed grain corn seed brands and their companies have folded into one company known as Mycogen Plant Sciences, the seed development arm of Mycogen Corp., which markets biopesticides. Mycogen has already released its first seed product, Mycogen 5150cb, a corn hybrid that is resistant to first brood European corn borers. The next to be released are the hybrids resistant to second generation borers and root worms. The company is mapping genes found naturally in plants that are resistant to insects; also, it is inserting genes from Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), a natural bacterium that is deadly to some insects.



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



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OUTDOOR TIPS

compiled by Dr. Pat Seymour

HOW TO FIGHT HYPOTHERMIA: Hypothermia is one of the principle causes of death—among outdoorsmen. It can strike anyone not adequately clothed for cold, wind, rain or snow. A person's normal core, or inner body, temperature is 98.6°. When the body begins to lose heat, early stages of hypothermia begin to appear. The victim will start to shiver and stamp his feet as his body tries to raise its temperature through increased exertion. When these signs are ignored, or are insufficient to increase body temperature, the next stage begins: uncontrollable shivering, slurred speech, and drowsiness.

If body temperature drops below 78°, hypothermia is often fatal unless treated within 90 minutes. If you detect signs of hypothermia, get the victim to shelter and warmth as soon as possible. Get him out of wet clothing and apply heat to the head, neck, chest, and groin. Use chemical heat packs if available. If you have a sleeping bag, put the victim inside with another person. Give him warm liquids and chocolate or any other high-sugar-content food. Do not give a hypothermia victim alcohol, which dilates blood vessels and impairs shivering—the body's principle means of producing heat.

WEATHER: If you want to know what the weather will be like on your next hunting or fishing trip, you don't necessarily have to rely on the latest television or radio forecast. Some centuries-old sayings, most of which appeared in farmer's almanacs, can help you figure out if you'll need your rain gear or not.

Wind is probably the most-often mentioned weather indicator in early-American weather folklore, probably because a weathervane was usually a farmer's only forecasting tool. For example, this bit of wisdom comes from the 19th century:

**A weathercock that swings to the west,
Proclaims the weather to be the best.
A weathercock that swings to the east,
Proclaims no good to man or beast.**

In other words, wind that blows from the west usually brings dry weather, and wind that comes from the east typically brings rain.

According to the next saying, a Colonial New England farmer didn't even need a weathervane:

**A cow with its tail to the west,
makes weather the best;
A cow with its tail to the east,
makes weather the least.**

Cows naturally graze with their tails to the wind so they can face and see any intruders they can't scent. A cow with its tail to the west, then, would be an indication of fair weather ahead.

WHO LEADS? The leading bird in a "V" formation is usually an adult, unless the flock is on a routine flight (such as to a nighttime roost), in which case, a young bird may take the lead.

ANIMALS from cold regions usually have shorter ears, tails, and legs than their warm-climate relatives. This reduces the amount of body surface through which heat can be lost.

SINCE THE EXPLOSION of the white-tailed deer population in Alabama, small-game hunting has taken a back seat. However, many first-time hunters must endure cold temperatures and little activity while waiting in a tree stand for a deer to walk into a grass patch. Often these experiences will discourage young hunters from the sport of hunting.

You can rekindle a youngster's interest in hunting by taking him on a small-game hunt. Whether you kick briar patches for rabbits or take a dog out to tree squirrels, you'll find a small-game hunt provides a day of fun and action.

DEER MORE DANGEROUS THAN BEARS, RATTLESNAKES. According to statistics released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, an average of 130 deer-related fatalities occur in the United States each year. Most of these are deer-auto collisions, but whitetails still rank as the most dangerous animal for humans.

Bees ranked second on the list with an average of 43 fatalities annually, most caused by allergic reactions. Dogs cause an average of 14 deaths per year, rattlesnakes 10, and spiders four.

VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS: You are required to carry both day and night visual distress signals if your boat is over 16 feet in length and you are operating on waters more than 2 miles wide. You must also have them aboard any size boat if you operate after dark. Only flares, hand/fuse type or aerial, meet both day and night requirements.

Aerial flares can be seen at far greater distances, and their meaning is obvious. Aerial flares come in two forms: pistol with shells, and hand-launched with self-contained tubes (you must have at least three of either). For small boats, the hand variety makes a lot of sense, because they take up so little space and are easy to carry.

A WOODEN TRAY with shallow sides can be built of old boards to make a good wildlife feeding station. Erect the tray on sturdy legs or mount it between trees about 6 feet off the ground. An 8-inch-diameter tree trunk leaned at a shallow angle from the ground to the tray will enable wild animals to climb to the tray but will foil dogs. Load the tray with tablescraps and bones and scraps from big game carcasses to attract many species of birds and small furbearers.

THE COLORS OF THE SUN and moon are quite reliable weather forecasters. A white or silver moon means continued clear weather. A red moon indicates rain. A halo around the moon means rain or snow within 24 hours. A yellow or greenish sunset indicates rain or snow the next day. A red sunset predicts clear weather. A red sun at dawn signifies precipitation later that morning.

WHEN DOING strenuous work outdoors, don't wear the coat you plan to use for warmth later, because moisture will gather in the garment and make it damp and cold. A coat kept dry will capture body warmth and retain it long after our exertions have been completed.

THE ALABAMA DEER SEASON is still going strong this month, and blackpowder hunters in particular have excellent chances of collecting venison late in the season.

Seven wildlife management areas (WMAs) offer special hunts for primitive weapons only. Hunters can shoot both bucks and does on the hunts. The muzzleloader hunts offer some of the best opportunity all season to collect venison on public land.

The schedule of the hunts is as follows: Jan. 5-6—Barbour, Covington, and Scotch; Jan. 8-9—Oakmulgee; Jan. 19-20—Coosa; Jan. 25-27—Boykin; and Jan. 26-27—Lauderdale.

Each of those WMAs was in the top 11 of Alabama's 22 WMAs in number of deer killed last season. Barbour and Oakmulgee are perennial deer producers.

Muzzleloaders on state WMAs should keep in mind that scopes are not allowed on their rifles, hunter orange is required, and safety belts must be worn at all times when in a tree stand.

If muzzleloading on public land doesn't interest you, keep in mind that the muzzleloader season statewide runs Jan. 25-31. It allows hunters to shoot either sex deer on private lands the last week of the season. It went over pretty well and that is why they are having it again.

For more information on Alabama muzzleloading opportunities, contact the Game & Fish Division, Wildlife Section, at (334) 242-3469.

SAFETY FIRST! Riding a mountain bike is one of the safest activities you can enjoy; falling off a mountain can be extremely dangerous.

Don't get shot: It wouldn't be hard to mistake a cycling hunter for a deer, since his profile is horizontal instead of vertical. The way bike tires push aside leaves even sounds like a whitetail. To keep from surprising another hunter, cover yourself with hunter orange, even when it isn't mandatory. If other hunters are in the area, let them know you're coming. Whistle, sing or talk, and get quickly out of their way.

Helmets: Any helmet sold by a reputable retailer will meet all necessary safety specifications. They can reduce the severity of the worst fall. If you can't find a helmet in hunter orange or fluorescent green, cover it with a hunter orange stocking cap. Don't spray paint a helmet, as the paint chemicals may weaken the shell and/or foam liner.

Handlebars: Most mountain bikes come with straight handlebars, but these are designed for speed, not stability. By stretching the rider over the length of the frame, they concentrate his weight over the front wheel. This provides maximum control over the front wheel but virtually no control over the rest of the bike, so they're more likely to fling you overboard. High-rise, swept-back handlebars sacrifice speed, but provide superior control by putting the rider in a more upright position.

Firearms: Never mount a bike while carrying a loaded firearm. Bowhunters might consider removing broadheads from arrow shafts until they reach their desired location.

Fitness: If you're severely overweight or otherwise at risk for a heart attack, consult your physician before taking a bike into the woods.

Share Your Plans: Tell your friends or family where you're going and when you plan to return.

GROUNDHOG DAY



AS THE STARS

By Jean Gauld

Since returning from a wonderful white Christmas with my family in Indiana, I have heard so often, "Well, I'm glad Christmas is over." It is easy to fall into pressure, I know, but I'm going to keep Christmas in my heart every day in '96! Every day is a new day in which Christ is born in me—let the day star arise!

In preparing, as well, for our Lord's soon return, let us take heed to His warning found in Matt. 24:4—"Take heed that no man deceive you." And again in Verse 11—"And many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many." Lying false signs shall deceive many...and we must not follow after signs, but true signs will follow believers. We will heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. Why don't we see this often? For this kind cometh out with much fasting and prayer. Will we pay the price or settle for compromise in a church denying the power of God? You will not be persecuted for the name of your church...only for the name of Jesus! In Luke 14:26, it says, "If any man come to me and hate not his father and mother and wife and children and brethren, and sisters and his own life, also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple." That is a hard saying—Jesus means we must love Him before our families. Often, it is a good thing that keeps us from God's best—He wants all our love! Jesus states, "My Kingdom is not of this world." Then, why, dear heart, do we try so hard to conform to it? We are rather to be like Salmon swimming up stream against the tides of evil rising in America! Often, we are cut and bruised in the process!

Only recently I received word from China stating that a faithful carrier of Bibles to a hidden church had been brutally beaten and taken to jail. So often we are so totally involved with ourselves and our six and no more. Do we care at all? We are to "remember those in bonds as bound with them" (Heb. 13:3). We are given power to become Sons of God for one reason—"to become witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth: Acts 2:8. So often we simply go home as usual! We pray for the sick in the hospitals and eventually the get better. But, aren't you hungry to see the lunatic, or palsied, or deaf healed by God's great spirit of might (Isa. 35) by the faith of the Son of God abiding in us in all fullness? Jesus' glory is manifest in almost all Third World countries today! Why not in America? Because our so-called prosperity (maybe it's the prosperity of fools) [Prov. 1:32] has lulled us to sleep—into a false sense of security! It may disappear over night, and then what? Even today, doctors admit many diseases today are so strong the medications scarcely touch them or result in dangerous side effects...often worse than the disease itself! Let's awake out of our slumber and realize we are in the very end of time and so ill prepared to endure until the end. (Matt. 24:13)

In order to escape the mark of the Beast, "the just will live by faith." (Isa. 52) "Awake, awake, and put on thy strength oh Zion."

Dan. 2:3 "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever."



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The Church News

By
EVELYN GRAVES



The Valley Head Baptist Church will have January Bible Study from the book of Amos on January 7 and January 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. On January 28, in the evening service, the McClure Family from Chattanooga will be singing at 6 p.m.

On Friday, January 19, at 7 p.m., the Mentone Wesleyan Church will be hosting a Southern Gospel Concert with Van Houten. The admission is free, and the community is invited. The church had an excellent Christmas season with a wonderful cantata and good fellowship throughout the season.

The Mentone Church of God will have Friend Day on January 28. In the morning service that day, there will be a special speaker, Brian Barnett, from Cleveland, Tennessee.

The time for Sunday School at St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church has been changed to 9 o'clock. At 10 o'clock there will be a fellowship period with worship and communion at 10:30 a.m. On January 14, there will be a healing service at 7 p.m. The men's prayer group meets each Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m. at Little River Hardware. Communion service is at 12:05 p.m. on Wednesdays. Choir practice is at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.

The Valley Head United Methodist Church WMU will meet at the home of Mrs. Ted Holleman on January 30 at 3 p.m., with Mrs. E. T. Holleman as co-hostess. Sunday School is at 9 a.m. each Sunday and Worship Service is at 10:00 a.m.

The youth of Union Hill Baptist Church have just returned from a youth convention in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The Christmas play presented by the youth at the DeKalb Theatre was a huge success, and the pastor received a letter of commendation from the mayor of Fort Payne concerning the youth and their leaders and the church as a whole. The church continues to grow. New families are coming into the church regularly, and exciting things are happening. Sunday School is at 10 a.m., Morning Worship is at 11 a.m., Discipleship Training is at 6 p.m., and Evening Worship is at 7 p.m. each Sunday. Every second Sunday evening is singing night at 6 p.m. Wednesday prayer service is at 6:30, preceded by Youth Choir practice, RAs, Acteens, and GAs at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend any or all of these services or activities.

Moon Lake Baptist Church will have a fellowship supper Wednesday evening, Jan. 10, at 6 p.m.

The youth at the Mentone United Methodist Church have a ski trip scheduled for this month and they are finalizing their plans. The Administrative Board meeting will be Sunday, January 14. UMW meets on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 2 p.m., at Ann Wright's house.

The J.O.Y meeting will be the last Thursday in the month, January 25.

The Mentone Revival Center is having a Men's Fellowship Breakfast on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 7 a.m. at Shoney's in Fort Payne. All men are invited to attend. Brenda Williamson's class will host a special guest speaker on Sun. Jan. 14, at 10 a.m. The topic will be "Coping with the loss of a child." Everyone is invited. "Secret Sisters" have been drawn by all the ladies of the church. A dinner will be held at the end of the year to reveal the identities.

Funds are being raised to put new carpet in the sanctuary and classrooms at the Church of God of Prophecy. Bids are being taken to complete the project by the close of the church year.

1995 COMMUNITY CHOIR PRESENTATION A SUCCESS

For the 1995 Christmas season, the community choir presented "Come Home For Christmas." The Fountains, The Mentone United Methodist Church, and The Valley Head Baptist Church were the places to be this past season as the choir sang songs from "Come Home For Christmas," written by Dave Clark and Russell Mauldin, arranged by Russell Mauldin, and directed by DeVann Jackson. Sheree Crisp was the pianist; Juanita Smith, the organist; and Eugene Smith the narrator. Sopranos: Tina Bong, Shirley Call, Sadie Cooper, Barbara Gifford, Louise Hammonds, Norma Jones, Dedra Mathews, Priscilla Monroe, Lillian Pickett, Alyce Springer, Nancy Tcherneshoff, and Barbara Terrell. Altos: Janet Cooper, Teresa Cooper, Bernise Crow, Dorothy Cyr, Suzan Gifford, Barbara Isbell, Jean Jones; Tenors: Peggy Bentley, Ken Call, Don Crisp, DeVann Jackson, Joe Pickett. Basses: Jerry Bong, Bill Cyr, John Jones, George Walker.

If you like to sing and want to be a part of the next production of the Community Choir, you may contact DeVann Jackson at the Valley Head Baptist Church.

BE

Be understanding to your enemies, but be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day, but be weak enough to know you can't do everything.

Be frugal with what you need yourself, but be generous with those who need your help.

Be wise enough to know that you don't know everything, but be foolish enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys, but be willing to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed, but be a follower when you are surrounded by the mists of uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds, but be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be sure where your next step will fall, so that you won't stumble.

Be sure of your destination, for you may be going the wrong way.

Be loving to those who love you, but be loving to those who don't, for they may change.

Above all, be true to God
and be yourself.

(Author Unknown)

"If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him."
(James 1:5, Living Bible)

EMOTIONAL PAIN AFTER ABORTIONS IS REAL

but there is hope and there is healing. Pregnancy Test Center, an affiliate of Save-A-Life, has support groups Bible Studies beginning soon. If interested, please call for confidential information:

Jean Jones at 205-635-6682 or

Pregnancy Test Center at 205-845-0383

Common effects of abortion:

- emotional numbness
- anger
- depression and guilt
- self destructive behaviors:
 - *drug and alcohol abuse
 - *eating disorders
 - *Sexual problems
 - *avoidance of babies or pregnant women
 - *fear others will find out

MOON LAKE SCHOOL NEWS

By Evelyn Graves

The students will be doing the American Heart Association Jump Rope for Heart during January.

There will be two special programs coming up at Moon Lake on Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 beginning January 22. The dates are Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 26, and Mar. 4. One is a parenting class, which is being taught by Dot Burke. She is with The Children's Advocacy Center. The program is free to any parents and is sponsored by the Mentone Education Resources Foundation. The other program will be a Japanese culture and language class taught by Moon Lake's visiting Japanese teacher, Yumika Muramatsu. This program will be \$20 per person. Anyone can attend—adults or children. For these programs, anyone may sign up by contacting Roberta Kirby, school secretary or Dr. Bill Berry, principal, at 634-4113.

Moon Lake will be getting a Head Start program beginning in August. Everything will be getting set up during the summer, and registration will be announced later, as well as specifics on the program.

Moon Lake School 4-H Club

The enrolling 4-H meeting was held Tuesday, Nov. 21, 1996, at the Moon Lake gym with grades 4-6 present. These officers were elected.

President - Peter Hurt
Vice President - Stephanie Plemmons
Secretary - Stuart Hurt
Reporter - Benjamin Corey
Devotional leader - Corey Kirby
Publicity chairperson - Cassie Hooks
Helper - Jared Fisher
Song leaders - Johnnie Wesley, Ashley McSpadden, Michael Bradford, Mason Plunk, Coby Harrison, Ashley LaBuda, Emmy Corey
 The meeting was adjourned until January.

**DeKalb County School Calendar
for Remainder of School Year 1995-1996**

JANUARY	3	School resumes/2nd semester
	15	Holiday (Martin Luther King Day)
	26	Fifth Month ends
FEBRUARY	9	End of Fourth Grading Period (27 days)
	19	Presidents' Day Holiday
	26	Sixth Month ends
MARCH	25-29	Spring Holidays (AEA)
APRIL	1	Seventh Month ends
	4	End of Fifth Grading Period (33 days)
	5-8	Easter Holidays
MAY	1	Eighth Month ends
	6	Weather Day Holiday
	23	Ninth Month ends
	23	End of Sixth Grading Period (32 days)
	23	Last Day for Students
	24	Teacher Work Day

**"Firmly planted, forward moving."**

Slogan of Moon Lake School

**A LOOK AT MOON LAKE
SCHOOL'S GROWTH**

By Dr. Bill Berry

Local ventures have made this a year of quiet miracles. I have been especially amazed and thrilled by the metamorphosis of Moon Lake Elementary School. Although the pace is hectic, it is made easier by the support of an excellent staff and a generous community. Events of this year have clearly reflected the school's recently adopted slogan "Firmly planted, forward moving."

Two point one acres of adjacent land purchased during the summer by the county school board effectively doubled the campus. The additional acreage allowed the construction of a kindergarten building, and a cafeteria and provided a natural outdoor amphitheater and space for future growth. During the Christmas Holidays, a headstart building was brought to the school grounds and put in place. More information will be available later.

An equal number of neighboring acres and an existing house were purchased by the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation for the purpose of enrichment opportunities for local citizens of all ages. This marks the genesis of community education that will be developed and shared by the school and the foundation.

This year Moon Lake Elementary School employs a teacher for each grade level for the first time in its history, thus eliminating split classes. Other firsts include a librarian, an instructional aide, and two part-time special education personnel. The school became international with the mid-October arrival of Yumika Muramatsu from Nagoya, Japan, who will teach Japanese language and culture until the end of school next May.

Moon Lake Elementary School is "Firmly planted, forward moving."

**VALLEY HEAD
HONOR ROLL****SIX WEEKS****ALL A**

12th Grade
 Kayla Bell
 Rhonda Owens
 Jennifer Robertson
 Ingrid Vik
 Coley Morgan
 Jonathan Peace

11th Grade

Wendy Hyde

10th Grade

Terri Campbell

9th Grade

Ashley Blalock
 Nancy Jeffrey

8th Grade -- None**7th Grade**

Becky Mays
 Laura Pullen
 Leanne Wooten
 Eric Battles
 Slade Carden

ALL A & B

12th Grade
 Julie Christian
 Karen Davis
 Christina Fitzgerald
 Alison Meadows
 Chrissy Terrell
 Shaunathan Bell
 Lyndall Elkins
 Lewis Ramsey

11th Grade

Summers' Blansit
 Christy Ferguson
 Tina Hester
 Angela Hunt
 Haley Johnson
 Nikki Smith
 Brian Bone
 DeWayne Grisham
 Josh Woods

10th Grade

Rene Brendle
 Amy Izell
 Kim McElhaney
 Brandi Shirley
 Justin Baugh
 Daniel Carr

9th Grade

Tabitha Brisendine
 Shelly Ingram
 Jason Owen
 Michael Scruggs
 Derek Talley

8th Grade

Jennifer Brubaker
 Adriane Robertson
 Jeff Bullock
 Donnie Davis
 Josh Johnson

7th Grade

Shelly Brown
 Virginia Hatfield
 Ashley Langston

Laura Martin
 Jill Wampler
 Will Shanklin
 Matt Watson

SEMESTER**ALL A**

12th Grade
 Rhonda Owens
 Ingrid Vik

11th Grade

Christy Ferguson
 Wendy Hyde
 Nikki Smith

10th Grade

Terri Campbell

9th Grade

Nancy Jeffrey

ALL A & B

12th Grade
 Kayla Bell
 Julie Christian
 Karen Davis
 Christina Fitzgerald
 Alison Meadows
 Jennifer Robertson
 Chrissy Terrell
 Shaunathan Bell
 Lyndall Elkins
 Coley Morgan
 Jonathan Peace
 Lewis Ramsey

11th Grade

Kerry Blalock
 Misty Ferguson
 Angela Hunt
 Haley Johnson
 Tonya Turgeon
 Brian Bone
 DeWayne Grisham
 Matthew Hulan
 Josh Smalley
 Josh Woods

10th Grade

Rene Brendle
 Amy Izell
 Jana Reddish
 Brandi Shirley
 Justin Baugh

9th Grade

Ashley Blalock
 Tabitha Brisendine
 Valerie Chappell
 Shelly Ingram
 Jake Easler
 Jason Owen
 Derek Talley

8th Grade -- None**7th Grade**

Becky Mays
 Laura Pullen

8th Grade

Alisha Busby
 Adriane Robertson
 Jeff Bullock

7th Grade

Jessica Barrier
 Shelly Brown

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Happy Birthday!



**MELISSA
DANIELLE
HARRISON**

celebrated her **8th** birthday December 27.

She is the daughter of Tommy and Cindy Harrison of Mentone.

Her grandparents are Linda and the late Ellis Clark of Mentone, Jimmy & Betty Pullen of Valley Head and Tommy & Joan Harrison of Mentone.



**TABITHA LEIGH
LACEY**

celebrated her **5th** birthday on December 18.

Her grandparents are Ruby & Gary Davis of Valley Head and Susie & Ernest Smith of Fort Payne, AL.



Tammy Lynn Green



Brian Anthony Green

Happy Birthday to

Tammy, who had her 8th birthday on Nov. 24th, and Brian, who had his 12th birthday on Dec. 1. Their parents are Randy and Brenda Green of Brenham, Texas, and they celebrated their 16th Wedding Anniversary on Dec. 29th.

From Grandma Dillenbeck, with all my love!



**Joshua Stephen Rogers
Happy Birthday**

to Joshua Stephen Rogers, age 8, on December 23. His parents are Darryl and Sandra Rogers of Mentone.

Grandparents are Frank and Lorene Rogers of Cloudland, Ga.; Myrtis Brown of Ft. Payne; and Joe Dude Brown of Mentone. The great grandmothers are Gertrude Rogers of Summerville and the late Tressie Head Thomas of Mentone.

And also Happy Birthday to •Sandra Rogers on December 24--she is now 27 years young; to •Joe Dude Brown who has a birthday on January 15--he's too young to tell his age!; and •Troy Brown on January 20th.

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Chicken Finger Plate.\$4.95

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Baked Potato, French Fries or Onion Rings
Rolls

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Friday Evenings



MENTONE PUBLICITY

An article entitled, "BAMA BOUND" was submitted to The Groundhog by Donnie Voils. In a note attached to the article, Donnie said, "This was sent to me from my first cousin. It was in her newspaper in Grand Rapids Michigan. Thought you might like it, since it's about Mentone." The article did not show the name of the newspaper, but the part that pertains to Mentone is set out below.

The article begins, "For several generations, the corner where Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee converge has welcomed folks seeking relaxation and entertainment ranging from camping to crafts."

"The picturesque turn-of-the century community of Mentone lies a few miles down a paved road that winds through cool green woodland. This has been a summer retreat for generations, and visitors will hear about the area's favorite old-timer, Granny Dollar, who folks claim was half Cherokee and 100 percent mountain—the perfect combination of myth and legend for first-class storytelling."

"At lunchtime, Mentone's Log Cabin Deli serves up gourmet country-style food, with cornbread and special ginger tea. Fancier fare can be found less than a block away at Ye Ole Heritage House Restaurant in the vintage Mentone Springs Hotel."

"Tucked into woodsy hollows in and around Mentone are bed and breakfast operations, mansions, and modest country houses adapted for 1990s guests. Quaint wooden Mentone Wedding Chapel promises weddings daily by appointment, and steeple bells chime as bride and groom exit the little church and step into the path of matrimony."

"Special events on Mentone's calendar: May - Rhododendron Festival; July - Crafts on the Brow (*Groundhog Editor's note: This is no longer an event in Mentone*); October - Fall Colorfest; December - Musical Mountain Christmas."

"Jack Jones owns and operates the only ski resort (Cloudmont) and dude ranch (Shady Grove) in Alabama. During warm seasons, the foot of the ski slope is a velvety nine-hole golf course. Horseback riding trails wind through thicket blanketed hills, and hayrides can be arranged."

"Sequoyah Caverns near Valley Head is named for the renowned Cherokee who worked out an alphabet for his peoples' spoken language. Rumor has it that Sequoyah himself actually lived for a time in this cavern. Fireplace soot and artifacts found make it certain that at least some of his people once dwell here."

"With a constant temperature that of an early spring day, the underground stalagmite-pillared rooms of this wet cave shelter hundreds of fantasy formations and thousands of fossils, but are best known for their 'Looking Glass Lakes.'"

"These reflecting pools are so transparent that observers are never sure where the water begins and drip-built formations stop. On the grounds around the cave entrance, campers park their rigs while they explore the country."

North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Protection District

By Gail Worthey

For the many readers who were unable to attend the "50's Dance," held at the Valley Head Promenade Hall on Dec. 9, by the North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Protection District, you missed a chance to chase away holiday blues and escape to an era gone by filled with wholesome fun. Matt Cordell and Priscilla Luvon, (a mother and son duo known as the Cordell's in this area) from Soddy Daisy, Tenn., provided the terrific music and emceed the event.

There were prizes awarded for hoola-hoop contests, "the twist" dance contest, and door prizes. Winners of the hoola-hoop contests were: Angela Chambers, Phyllis Lewis, and Clint Croxton. Logan Chambers and Matthew Croxton were given honorable mentions. Stacey Blalock and Krissy Harris won the "Most Original 50's Dress" contest. The winners of the dance contest were Phil and Krissy Harris. (See photos in next month's issue.)

The Promenade Hall was decorated in 50's style, with '55 and '57 Chevy's—lighted juke box, 45 records, and music notes. The concession served cherry cokes, coke floats, and chili dogs.

A raffle was held for chances with Matt Cordell. Many ladies participated—even Dr. Pat.

Although the crowd was not what we anticipated, the Fire Department is one step closer to paying for the First Responder Truck. We still lack about \$4,000 having it paid for.

Thanks to everyone who donated door prizes for the fund raiser. And a very special thanks to Matt Cordell and Priscilla Luvon for the entertainment they provided.



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me; thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

Psalm 138:7.

We cannot know what 1996 holds for us. Maybe many blessings, maybe trouble, maybe heartache, but we have this assurance, God has promised to be with us, to revive us, and to save us from our enemies.

Happy New Year!

GROUNDHOG DAY February 2nd



THANK YOU!

I would like to commend the staff at BMC DeKalb Hospital for the care of my husband, Buck Ellis, during his long illness and death, especially the Emergency Room Nurses who were so kind and who made the trip there each week more pleasant. I also want to thank Dr. Walker for his concern and care. I also want to thank the Revs. Don Brock and Bill Russell for their words of comfort and to all who sent flowers and brought food.

Sincerely,
Geraldine Ellis

Thanks to a lot of great citizens of Mentone!

The family of R.B. Huskey would like to thank everyone for the Turkey and Ham Shoot on December 2d. We greatly appreciate the donations. It was a Big Success! The donations of turkeys were from Lorene Rogers, Eric Rogers, Winn Dixie, and Foodland Plus. The hams were from Diane and Joan Cox, Shaw Industries, Sandra and Darryl Rogers, Steve and Lisa Patterson. A **Big Thank You** to all who took part in this event.

To list a few big winners, they were: Fulton Burnette and friends, Joe Dude Brown, Roy Bain, Jerry Lewis, Frank and Charles Rogers, Darryl Rogers, Michael Shrader, Coney Mack Altrey, and Mike Lee!

The family would also like to thank Sandra and Darryl Rogers for letting us use their place for the event. The donations were used to pay the electric bill and to purchase food, medicine, etc. for Robert Huskey.

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