

**Celebrating
15 Years
in Print**

THE

GROUNDHOG

•Mentone • Valley Head •Hammondville •Cloudland •Menlo

**Provided FREE
Since 1982
By M.A.P.A.**

Volume 17, No. 1

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

January 1998

A NEW BEGINNING

By Evelyn Graves

With the advent of a new year, there is always excitement as the mind anticipates what is in store for us. There are always opportunities to make positive changes, to evaluate the year that has passed and to plan for the new year - not looking back with regret at the things we have left undone or the errors we have made, but to use those failures as stepping stones to help us improve in the new year.

January always brings a lot of new things - the freshness of the first snowfall, the first ray of sunshine after a season of rain, the first time to wear our new scarves and mittens, the first day of school after Christmas vacation, the first report card after school has reopened, new deer tracks in the open field next to our house, new recipes for soup that make us warm on a cold day, a cheerful telephone call from a new friend, old movies that warm our hearts and are new to our grandchildren, new people at church, new voices in the choir, new clothes after they have gone on sale after Christmas, but the most wonderful thing is perhaps the miracle of a new birth.

As we hold that new baby for the first time and feel its warmth and look at the innocence of its tiny face, and experience the thrill we feel as it curls tiny fingers around one of our own, we know that truly it is a miracle from God.

Oh, that we might retain the innocence of childhood and that our thoughts might be pure and our hearts might hold fast to the love that is found in a child. Helen Steiner Rice began each day with this prayer.



First Baby of 1998 in DeKalb County

The first DeKalb County baby of 1998 was born on January 1, at DeKalb BMC in Fort Payne. Kim Templeton of Valley Head is the proud mother of the first baby born in 1998 in DeKalb County. Her daughter, Kylie Deonna Templeton, was born at 12:21 a.m. The baby weighed eight pounds and was 20 and a half inches long. Don L. Templeton Jr. is Kylie's father.

Bless me, Heavenly Father,
Forgive my erring ways,
Grant me strength to serve Thee,
Put purpose in my days ...
Give me understanding
Enough to make me kind
So I may judge all people
With my heart and not my mind ...
And teach me to be patient
In everything I do,
Content to trust your wisdom
And to follow after You ...
And help me when I falter
And hear me when I pray
And receive me in Thy Kingdom
To dwell with Thee some day.

May her prayer become ours, and may we be drawn closer to His Love as we go through 1998!

May we spend more time with family and less time for ourselves; may we extend our time to those around us who are lonely, or who have no family of their own in this community. May we spend more time in giving thanks for our bountiful blessings and give "unto the least of these"...



SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

- Monday, January 19, Martin Luther King Jr. Day - School is out
- Monday, February 2, GROUNDHOG DAY
- Monday, February 2, 6 p.m. Mentone Council Meeting, Town Hall
- Tuesday, February 3, 7 p.m., MAPA Meetings - Dessie's Kountry Chef
- Saturday, February 14, Valentine's Day
- Monday, February 16, President's Day (12th for Lincoln; 22nd for Washington)
- Saturday, February 21, War on Litter Day in Mentone

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See Page 2.**

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THE GROUNDHOG

P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984



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Editor.....Evelyn Graves
Associate Editor/ typesetter.....Marie Dillenbeck
Contributing Writers.....Jessica Barrier, Ovie Blalock, Ruby Brock, Linda Brown, Eloise Brown, Madeleine Bullock, Marilyn Campbell, Gail Chambers, Cheryl Crane, Bernise Crow, Marie Dillenbeck, Maurine Donahue, Dowe Clifton Foreman, Evelyn Graves, Phil Harris, Lisa Moore, Bill Schwarz, Sue Schwarz

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

The **DEADLINE** for all material for The Groundhog is the **15TH DAY OF THE MONTH** preceding publication. The Groundhog is due out by the 25th of each month.

Mentone Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting Dates for 1998

March 19 June 18
September 17 December 17

All meetings are held in the town public meeting room at 4 pm. and are open to the public.

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Moon Lake School Honor Rolls and Perfect Attendance

Perfect Attendance First Semester 1997-98	A's and B's	Matt Pollard Heather Smith Megan Smith
<u>KINDERGARTEN</u> Desiree Cash Peter Stevens Leanna Webb Paige Weber	<u>THIRD GRADE</u> All A's Melissa Crane Mark Corey Alex Hazell Drew Smith	<u>A's and B's</u> Chad Evans Thorn Rich
<u>GRADE 1</u> Lauren Addison Steven Barkley Vance Carden Fred Castleberry Nathan Jones Megan Smith	<u>A's and B's</u> Barnabas Bettis Logan Chambers Glenn Hansen Katie Herndon Julie Ingram Justin Smith Robin Stephens	<u>SECOND GRADE</u> All A's Randy Addison Tim Bain Kayla Hazell Will Scott Tom Tipton Paige Wright
<u>GRADE 2</u> Randy Addison Tim Bain	<u>FOURTH GRADE</u> All A's Jared Bare John Baxter Katie Gray Melissa Harrison Lori Hope Marie Hunt Sarah Hurt Brandy Manning Kirby McMunn Kellye Phillips Josh Pollard Emily Tipton	<u>A's and B's</u> Brittany Clark Patrick Murphy Shinice Smith Michael Streeter Sheena Tishaw
<u>GRADE 3</u> Logan Chambers Julie Ingram	<u>THIRD GRADE</u> All A's Melissa Crane Mark Corey Alex Hazell Drew Smith Robin Stephens	
<u>GRADE 4</u> Jared Bare Heather Dulaney Laura Floyd Tyler Huskey Logan Jackson Josh Pollard Emily Tipton	<u>A's and B's</u> Laura Floyd Tyler Huskey Josh Rogers Cayla Voils	<u>FOURTH GRADE</u> All A's Jared Bare John Baxter Katie Gray Melissa Harrison Lori Hope Marie Hunt Sarah Hurt Brandy Manning Kirby McMunn Josh Pollard Emily Tipton Cayla Voils
<u>GRADE 5</u> Clark Crow Paul Davis Nick Floyd Catrina Ingram Fawn Kitchens Heather Plunk Natasha Tishaw	<u>FIFTH GRADE</u> All A's Andrew McCole	<u>A's and B's</u> Kristen Addison Rachel Bryan Erica Campbell Matt Hawkins Catrina Ingram Samantha Stephens Kelly Wright
<u>GRADE 6</u> Ashley McSpadden Mason Plunk	<u>SIXTH GRADE</u> A's and B's Kim Brisendine Dustin Burt Emmy Corey Kyle Hooks Ashley Labuda Ashley McSpadden April Shelton	<u>A's and B's</u> Laura Floyd Tyler Huskey Kellye Phillips Josh Rogers
<u>FIRST SEMESTER</u> <u>FIRST GRADE</u> All A's Lauren Addison Vance Carden Patrick Coots Jessica Easler Chad Evans Brittany Hester Daniel Hughes Eric Hunt Nathan Jones Kara Miller Sierra Nicely Matt Pollard Heather Smith Megan Smith	<u>3RD SIX WEEKS</u> <u>FIRST GRADE</u> All A's Lauren Addison Steven Barkley Vance Carden Fred Castleberry Patrick Coots Jessica Easler Brittany Hester Daniel Hughes Eric Hunt Nathan Jones Kara Miller Sierra Nicely	<u>A's and B's</u> Kristen Addison Rachel Bryan Matt Hawkins Keith Miller Samantha Stephens
	<u>SECOND GRADE</u> All A's Randy Addison Tim Bain Kayla Hazell Tom Tipton Sheena Tishaw Paige Wright	<u>SIXTH GRADE</u> A's and B's Dustin Burt Emmy Corey Kyle Hooks Ashley Labuda Ashley McSpadden

Valley Head Honor Roll

ELEMENTARY ALL A'S	Crystal Gregory Ben Windom
<u>FIRST GRADE</u> Courtney Chilson Majorie Harper Katie Hicks Sydney Hixon Natasha Lewis Brittany Miller Ariana Beard Andrew Cooper	<u>SIXTH GRADE</u> Robert Brown Jeremy Edgeworth Ashley Tuxbury
<u>SECOND GRADE</u> None	<u>HIGH SCHOOL FIRST SEMESTER ALL A'S</u>
<u>THIRD GRADE</u> Dallas Manning Ethan Lewis Billy Wallace Tylor Harrison	<u>SEVENTH GRADE</u> None
<u>FOURTH GRADE</u> William Blevins Jacki Davis Chris Miller Kim Willbanks Matt Battles Sheena Combs Amber Hannah	<u>EIGHTH GRADE</u> Jerry Lee Brisendine Stacey Hyde Hilary Lawton Slade Carden
<u>SIXTH GRADE</u> Britt Heinrich Aubrey Ogle Steven Thornberry	<u>NINTH GRADE</u> Jeffrey Bullock Anna Rievlet
<u>ALL A'S & B'S</u>	<u>ELEVENTH GRADE</u> None
<u>FIRST GRADE</u> Jennifer Britton Marcus Crider Brittany Freeman Tiffany Harper Alex Johnson Chris McMahan Sara McSpadden Michael Mills Anthony Dowling Cody Atkins Amanda Carson Nicole Gass Patti Grider Cody Hughes Decker Jones Daniel Poe Coty Powell Jeremiah Robertson Jessica Templeton	<u>TWELFTH GRADE</u> Rene Brendle Teri Campbell Julia Hesselmann Hanno Perry Greg Wassom
<u>SECOND GRADE</u> None	<u>ALL A'S & B'S</u>
<u>THIRD GRADE</u> Justin Brown Amber Carrier Alan Crider Tyler Gatlin Amelia Hannah Zachary Cooper Heather Daniel Cory Dobbins Ashley Johnson Robert Kauble Ashley Tinker Amber White	<u>SEVENTH GRADE</u> Jeff Cooper Joshua Hulan Brandy Lewis Tessa McKinney Kelly Owen
<u>FOURTH GRADE</u> Christina Armstrong Dustin Davis Brandy Ellis Kyle Claude Garrett Aaron Grisham Sheena Moses Hillary Nichols Jonathan Williams Becky Terrell	<u>EIGHTH GRADE</u> Jennifer Blalock Brandy Browder Lacie Clure Andrea Grisham Eddie Manning Kayla Willbanks
<u>FIFTH GRADE</u> Matt Croxton Kyle Hicks Kory Knopps Billy McKinney Shelly Terrell Heather Freeman	<u>NINTH GRADE</u> Jessica Barrier Eric Battles Shelly Brown Derrick Durham Ashlon Jones Laura Martin Becky Mays Matt Watson
	<u>TENTH GRADE</u> Hannah Alexander Donnie Davis Candace Fuller Kerri Hale Heather Lawton Adriane Robertson Stephani Watkins
	<u>ELEVENTH GRADE</u> Matt Alexander Ashley Blalock Tabitha Brisendine Daniel Brown Valerie Chappell Selena Couch Eric Crane Toby Crider Shelley Ingram Nancy Jeffery Josh Miller Derek Talley Josh Williamson
	<u>TWELFTH GRADE</u> Justin Baugh Krisay Brown Sandra Hinders Kim McElhane Brandi Shirley Heather Smith Crystal Wright



TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM OSCAR BLACKBURN 1927-1997

William was loved and appreciated by a lot of people. He was a friend who took a personal interest in what was happening to his customers and neighbors. When one came into the Superette, William always said, "Come on back."

In the November 1986 issue of *The Groundhog*, in an article written by Mickey Strickland, William was featured. He was in the grocery store business most of his life. His parents, J.O. and Naomi, began Blackburn's General Store in the early

1920s and ran it until 1950.

The store was unique in that it took its goods to the people of the county in a Rolling Store or Peddler Wagon. For about ten years, the Rolling Store was pulled by horses. Then, J.O. Blackburn and his sons (there were two boys and five girls) built a wooden structure on the back of a truck, and the store became motorized.

Their route took him through Ider to Shiloh, out through high Point to Henagar, North to Sulphur Springs, up the Valley Head Highway to the area of Mentone. The wagon had shelves on the inside which held non perishables, such as yard goods and sewing notions, groceries, mercantile goods, candles, and garden seeds. The Blackburns took a lot of items in trade, especially in the 1930s, when cash was very hard to come by. The chickens, eggs, feed, and seed corn were then taken to Chattanooga once a week and sold to stores there.

William bought the Superette in 1962. He raised two sons and a daughter who "carried on the Blackburn tradition of a family owned and operated business. In 1971, William married Willo Mae Williamson and added not only a helpmate but a lady with a sense of humor and witty personality that gave the Mentone Superette a special charm."

Mentone Superette was and is a meeting place for old friends and new—a place to leave or pick up a message, to post bulletins of impending activities, and to just visit and enjoy the company of others. William liked meeting and talking to folks from all over. He appreciated his customers and friends and made sure they knew how he felt.

The 1986 article ended with this:

"A lot of people love and appreciate William Blackburn, too. He offers something the superslick markets cannot: he is a friend who takes a personal interest, who goes far beyond mere service in providing a familiar, dependable place that is the hub of a wheel of friendship that represents the best of our community. You can count on William, and trust him—what better measure of a man."

When his son, Al, a third generation grocer, took over the operation of the Superette in 1994, in a feature article about the change in ownership written by Dr. Pat Seymour, William was quick to say, "I would miss the store and my customers too much if I just 'walked away.' I plan to be in and out on a regular basis." And he was, every day, along with his faithful companion, Brutus. Brutus turned six years old last year, and he was "between the counters" for most of that time.

The community will miss William Blackburn, he was more than a businessman, he was a friend who truly cared for others and went out of his way to be of help wherever he could.

Brutus' regular column will not appear in this issue as it is our sad task to let the readers know that William Blackburn, a/k/a Pop died December 20, 1997, at his home in Mentone. He was buried in the Valley Head Cemetery. Funeral services were held at Burt Funeral Home in Valley Head, with Rev. Randy Addison officiating on Sunday, Dec. 21.

William was a native of DeKalb County, born Nov. 24, 1927, to Joseph O. and Naomi Blackburn. He was a member of the Baptist church and the owner of the Mentone Superette.

Survivors include two sons: Albert Blackburn of Mentone, and Byron Blackburn of Acworth, Ga.; a daughter: Fay Smith of Mentone; a brother, Henry "Bill" Blackburn of Hammondville, four sisters: Naomi Mince of Fort Payne, Mary Crabtree of Cullman, and Ruby Humble and Larru Rhudy, both of Chattanooga; and five grandchildren.

"Thank You!"

Greetings for the New Year to all of you and deep gratitude of thanks to all of you who sent me Holiday greetings, 91st birthday, also get well cards—Beautiful, caring, loving thoughts all have been a strength to me, especially during the month of December, while the bed was my best resting place.

Strength is better, and I am now waiting for "Kemo."

The Presbyterian Hospital gave me the best of care in December. Amelia and Andy have been my angels of care. I could not have asked for more doctors—7 gave me undivided attention. Nurses in perfect unison every 15 minutes for five days. God has shown me loving mercy and brought me into 1998.

Mabel Kirk

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Ruby Daniel brought the picture of her mother and father, Frank and Melissa Shigley, to the Mentone Community House and hung it above the mantle. She donated the picture during a community covered dish event in October/November of last year held at the new Community House. This is the picture that was on front page of the July 1997 issue of *The Groundhog*, when The Frank Shigley family was featured.



Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Ronald Dodson

Rebecca Lynn Crowe and Kevin Ronald Dodson were married on Saturday, November 1, 1997, at Woodfin Church of God in Woodfin, NC.

The bride's parents are Olin C. Crowe and Katie Crowe. Lucille Crowe of Mentone is Rebecca's grandmother.

The groom's parents are Mrs. and Mrs. Ronald Dodson.

The bride's sister, Christy Farley was bridesmaid and Mack Farley was the groomsman.

The couple reside at Weaverville, NC.

Mentone Grapevine 11

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

Our beloved William Blackburn of the Mentone Superettes—and Pop to Brutus—died on December 20, while fighting a battle with cancer. Keep his family in your prayers. William was loved by many. He will be missed.

Charles Flannigan is building a cabin on his property. It's beginning to come together. Charles: We're all waiting for a view when it is finished.

This is a little late, as the Christmas season has passed. But the individual families who put out Christmas lights really made Mentone look great. This year, due to scheduling problems, the decorations for the town were not able to be put up. Look out for them next year.

Malcolm Brewer continues to have good and bad days, but knows better than to go out in bad weather. He is an inspiration to many of us. Hang in there, Malcolm, we love you, and keep those phone calls coming, they pick up our spirits.

Jean Matthews is doing so much better, she's attended church, is feeling a whole lot better, and her doctor has recently given her some great news. Success stories like that give everyone hope.

Jim and Penny Lyday had their 20th anniversary celebration on December 21. Congratulations on your 20th. See their picture and watchup elsewhere.

The Valley Head Christmas Parade had a lot of participants. See some of the photos elsewhere in this issue. It was real COLD, but the sun was shining brightly.

Clara Cogh turned 85 on Dec. 4. Her celebration party was held at the Moon Lake Baptist Church fellowship hall. See pictures in this issue.

Jeffrey Bullock celebrated his 10th birthday on the 28th December. Happy belated birthday wishes, Jeffrey.

Mildred Linder passed away January 7 in Birmingham. Her Mentone friends and neighbors were saddened to hear of her death. The funeral and burial took place in Birmingham.

Congratulations to Alex Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. L.N. "Bud" Jones of Valley Head who was recently inducted into the Golden Key National Honor Society of the University of Alabama. This organization recognizes outstanding achievement of students who rank in the top 14% of their junior or senior class.

Lisa and Beth Moore are getting excited about a new visitor they are expecting soon. Adriana Miranda, who lives in Sao Paulo, Brazil, will come to live with them until the end of the school year. Adriana is a foreign exchange student who will go to school at Valley Head High School for the remainder of the 1998 school year. Many people are very excited about her visit and anxious to meet her.

Speaking of foreign exchange students, the recent snow was an exciting event for the one and only "JUAN." Juan is from Colombia, and he is staying with Kent, Carol, Keady, Alisha, and Chris Busby. Carol said it was almost as exciting for Juan to see snow for the first time, as it was for her to watch Juan see snow for the first time.

Beth Moore along with her cousins Jon and Thann and Aunt Tricia made the biggest snowman ever. They had lots of fun playing in the snow and it was Jon's first time to ever make a snowman.

Valley Head 9th graders visited the Dekalb Theater to watch a performance of the classic "Romeo & Juliet." After the play, they had a wonderful lunch at the Western Sizzlin' Steak House. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the play.

Judy Windom didn't have much of a good Thanksgiving, since she spent it in the hospital. Judy fell ill and spent 2 weeks in the hospital. She is feeling much better now and is back to work, and we are all very happy to see her healthy again.

Our sympathy is extended to the Brewer family and the Adams family. They both lost loved ones over the holidays. We know that nothing can ever replace their loss.

The Valley Head Band was unable to perform their Christmas concert for the students at Moon Lake because Mr.

Smith wasn't feeling very well. He was a bit under the weather but is feeling much better now. The band was able to perform for the Valley Head P.T.O. Both the beginners and the high school band performed. They both did a wonderful job. The Valley Head Woman's Club decorated the auditorium for the event and everything looked lovely.

Lisa Moore was the winner of the Valley Head Quilt given away by the band. The next fund raiser to be held by the band will be the annual auction. Keep watch for the date and time.

The Valley Head Christmas parade was a huge success. Vickie and her crew did a great job organizing the event. A very special "THANK YOU" goes out to all who helped with the parade and to all who participated in it. It couldn't have been done without you.

Our deepest sympathies to the families who have lost loved ones.

•Julia Adams, 32, Valley Head, who died on Dec. 9
•Gwendolyn Wood, 65, Valley Head, who died on Dec. 20
•Ruth Barnett, 75, Valley Head, who died on Dec. 23

Congratulations to Lisa Hope of Mentone and Chad Chancey of Valley Head, who made the Presidents list during the fall quarter at Northeast, also Christy Ferguson and Gail Smalley, who made the Deans List at Northeast.

Doys, Sharlie, Andy, and Karen Harcrow had a wonderful holiday. Their daughter and sister, Ann, came to visit for a whole week. Ann lives in Missouri with her husband, Rodney, and two sons, Justin and Ian Pelletier. They were kind enough to let her have a wonderful vacation alone to visit with her other family.

Get-well wishes to Ryan Wrigley who was rushed to the hospital in December with a ruptured appendix. He was able to come home just in time for Christmas day. He is recovering well.

Several local students are listed in the latest Who's Who, Mentone: Tim Biddle, Teri Campbell, Anna Crow, Christy Ferguson, Ginger Gray, Rebecca Hunt, Johnathan Tate, Adam Turner and Greg Wasson, Valley Head: Justin Baugh, Gina Locklear and Brandi Shirley. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Quenby C. Zeller who earned a bachelor's degree from Jacksonville State University.

Gene Bullock's daughter Carol Denis Lee tied the matrimonial knot on the first day of November. Carol resides in Plainview, Texas.

Carla Dawn Knowles and Robert Newcome were recently married. Congratulations Carla and Robert.

Sue and Bill Schwarz returned from a visit to Clearwater, FL, to see their daughter Chris and grandchildren Rachel and Given. While they were there, daughter Chris got married to Russell Randal on Dec. 31. Also, Chris graduated from St. Petersburg Junior College with an associates degree in Science. Congratulations. Sue and Bill also were able to visit with Hope and George Walker in Oldsmar during the holidays.

Frances Rosario sends her love to all her friends in Mentone. She's doing fine, according to a report from Mickey Gough.

Belated Birthday wishes to •6- Ellen Thompson, •24- Jason Goss.

Happy January Birthday/Anniversary wishes to •1- Scott and Linda Brubaker (anniv), •2- Adis Childers, •3- Freda Brandon, Dean, •4- Ed Ringer, •5- Angela Chambers, •7- Ronnie Hulgren, •7- Charlyne O'Rear, •9- Stacey Worthey, Heath Miller, •12- Denise Black, Marie Dillerbeck, •13- Robert Johnston, Lisa Shaw, •14- S.B. Strawn, •19- Barbara Blalock, Judy McMahon, •20- Judy Windom, •21- Ashley Tuxbury, Alyce Springer, Linda Brubaker, •22- Madison Moore, •23- Kent Kerby, •24- Dorothy Blansit, Tommy Harrison Jr., •25- Dennis Lewis, •28- Derek Wiseman, •29- Doys Harcrow.

Happy February Birthday wishes to: •1-Jeff Wiloughby, Michael & Michael Moore, •2- Karen Davis, Terry Bouldin, •3- Ekorse Brown, •4- Ben Windom, Leslie Thornberry, •7- Kayla Powell, Mack & Debbie Flanagan (anniv), •8- Myrtle Blansit, •9- Willie B. Langston, •10- Shelia Yamada (in memory of) Sybil & Danny Hopper (anniv), •11- Kayla Voss, •13- Craig Hall, •14- J. Young, Allen & Penny Baugh (anniv), "Angel" Rector (21), •15- Michelle Williams, Stacy Blansit, •16- Tommy Kalgore, •17- Ginger Tuxbury, Trey Moore, •18- William "Jug" Crow, Rachel Harrison, •20- Juanita Hartline, •21- Wendy Maruloid, David Ashley, •22- Derek McMahon, Lisa Cordell, •24- Brandon Overstreet, Payton Day, (4), Michael Chambers, •25- Thomas Moore (in

memory of), •26- Sanford Hartline, •27- Nancy Rector

WHOLESALE TREASURES

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The Church News By EVELYN GRAVES



The Valley Head Baptist Church will have its regular fourth Sunday hymn sing on January 25, at 6 PM. The pastor will be gone to the Pastors' Conference in Jacksonville, FL, January 30-February 3. Women on Mission will meet at 10 AM on February 10. On February 14, the Brotherhood will meet at 8 AM for breakfast and devotional. There will be a Home Mission study conducted by Martha Stanley on February 15, from 5-7 PM.

Sunday morning services at Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church are held at 9 o'clock each Sunday. Reverend Jerry Davis and Reverend L. A. Smith are alternate speakers at these services.

The Valley Head United Methodist Church is beginning a study of the church heritage in January. The first month the pastor will tell about his upbringing in the church. Then the rest of the church will participate in the local church's heritage. Sunday School is at 9 AM each Sunday, and Worship is at 10 AM.

Moon Lake Baptist Church meets for Sunday School each Sunday at 9:45 AM. Worship and Children's Church is at 11:00 AM. Youth Choir meets at 4 PM. Discipleship Training is at 5 PM, and Evening Worship is at 6 PM. •There will be a Youth Winter Retreat January 16-19, beginning with a "True Love Waits - God's Way" seminar at Shocco Springs on Friday, January 16, and Saturday, January 17, returning to the Mentone host homes on Saturday, at 5 PM. The group will attend church together on Sunday, January 18, which will be Sanctity of Life Sunday. Sunday evening after church there will be an incredible fellowship. There will be skiing at Cloudmont on January 19 to climax the retreat weekend. Bring a lunch for this event. •The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will meet at the church at 6:30 PM on January 19. •Men's Prayer Time is at 6:45 AM each Wednesday at the church. •Team Kid meets on Wednesday evenings 6-7:30 PM. •Adult and Youth Bible Study is at 6:30 PM each Wednesday. •On January 24, there will be a Children's Festival at Ponderosa. Please call the church for details. •There will be a Winter Bible Study January 25-28, taught by Dr. John Hambricht. The first session on January 25 will be at 5 PM, the second session on the same date will be at 6 PM, the third session will be on January 26, at 6:30 PM, and the following sessions on January 27 and 28 will be at 6:30 PM also. •JOY will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 AM, January 29.

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

The Mentone Revival Center invites everyone to join in worship on Sunday at 10 AM. Wednesday evening worship begins at 6:30 PM.

The Church of God of Prophecy invites you to attend worship services at 11 AM each Sunday. Youth Services are held every third Sunday night.

Mentone United Methodist Church held a Reaffirmation of Baptismal Covenant service on Jan. 11. Regular services are at 11 AM each Sunday, with Sunday School at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bible study on the book of Hebrews continues each Wednesday at 11 AM in the fellowship hall. Following the study, a light lunch is served.

Harmony Grove has been experiencing many changes in the New Year. Mr. Sampy and Gladis Lea donated a gas Heater to their Church. Mr. Lea celebrated his 98th birthday on the 24th of January. Happy Birthday from all the members of Harmony Grove.

We welcome our newest members: Julia Ames, Jerry Garner, Van Jagoe Sr., and Darlene Boyd.

In January, three children were dedicated to God: Jonie and Shenna Mooneyham, and Anna Easler.

On February 1st, Harmony Grove will have a special installation service. The Sunday School Teachers will be installed on this Sunday Morning, as well as the Officers of The Church.

God has blessed this Church. From the re-opening in April of only one active member, God has placed 33 more Church Members into the House that God has built. We are currently in the process of renovating Harmony Grove back to its former beauty. We know that it will take some time to accomplish this, and we ask for your prayers.

Listen to our Radio Broadcast as you get ready for Church on Sunday Morning on WQRX 870 AM station from 8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. If you don't have a Home Church, we invite you to come to Harmony Grove, a Church where those that have been hurt find help, those that have been rejected find acceptance, and those that have been cast aside find the life line...JESUS CHRIST. Schedule of Services are: Hour Of Power 9:45 a.m. 10:45 a.m., Morning Worship 10:50 a.m., Sunday Evening Service and Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting 6:00 p.m. Young Christian Bible Study on Wednesday Nights 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

N-O-T-I-C-E: I will not continue to call every month to get your church news. If you have something you wish to have printed in the Church News column, please mail the information to me c/o The Groundhog, P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984; or telephone me at 634-4390 by the 15th of each month for the following month's issue. Thank you. Evelyn Graves, Editor.

JOY

JOY will meet in the Moon Lake Baptist Church Fellowship Hall at 11:30 AM. on Thursday, January 29. Everyone is welcome.

MOON LAKE SCHOOL NEWS

By Evelyn Graves

During the Christmas holidays, new floor tile was installed in most of the classrooms. Now all classrooms have new floor covering.

The annual spelling bee was held on January 13, and the winner was Andrew McCole.

On Monday, January 19, the school will be out for Martin Luther King Day.

The school welcomes Physical Education teacher, Andrea Kirby, who will be working at the school this semester.

In the most recent Health Department inspection, the Moon Lake cafeteria earned 100.

The next PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10, at 6:30 PM, and the next Athletic Club meeting will be on Thursday, February 12, at 6:30 PM. Both meetings will be held in the school cafeteria.

VALLEY HEAD 4-H NAMES NEW OFFICERS

By Kimberly Wilbanks

The Valley Head Fifth Grade 4-H Club recently met and elected officers. The club elected Ben Windom, president Stacey Ogle, vice president

Jacklyn Davis, secretary

Kimberly Wilbanks, reporter and

Kimberly Pritchett and William Blevins, song leaders.

The club sang "Deck the Halls" and said the 4-H pledge. The club also went over important tips on cooking food without getting shocked or burnt. The club also talked a little about the Beekeeping Essay and the Magazine Rack Project.



MRS. CORRINE BERRY WOLCOTT, Mother, Missionary, and Teacher dies at 82

Mrs. Corrine Berry Wolcott, resident of Mentone, Alabama, and widow of the Reverend Richard Drew Wolcott, Missionary to Mexico, and Minister in the United Methodist Church of the North Alabama conference, died Friday morning, January 9, in Fort Payne, Alabama.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Mrs. Corrine Wolcott dedicated a great part of her life in service to the church and in missionary work in Mexico with her husband. Corrine lovingly served children as an elementary school teacher for more than 20 years in both Mexico and the United States.

The funeral was held at 3 p.m., Sunday, January 11th, at Moon Lake Baptist Church. Her sons, Roger T. Wolcott and Robert W. Wolcott, as well as her brother-in-law, Leonard T. Wolcott, officiated at the service. Burial was held in Jones Cemetery in Mentone, Alabama.

Corrine was a devoted mother of six children, three sons: Richard Drew Wolcott Jr., Roger T. Wolcott, and Robert W. Wolcott; and three daughters: Corinne C. Wolcott Beauchamp, Carolyn B. Wolcott Hendon, and Cathleen A. Wolcott Barrett. She was blessed, as well, with 14 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Her Christian example and sincere loving spirit touched the lives of many with whom she came in contact. It was her desire that all mankind would come to know the Lord as their personal Savior. She left instructions that any donations made in her memory be given to purchase Bibles to be used in spreading the Word of God.

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Tinsel Quiz and Christmas Greenery are topics of Rhododendron Garden Club Christmas Party

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

On December 9th, the Rhododendron Garden Club met at the fellowship hall of the Mentone United Methodist Church for their annual Christmas covered dish luncheon. President Jan Wilkinson called the meeting to order. There were 22 present at the luncheon: Barbara Blalock, Virginia Bosworth, Linda Brown, Betty Chapman, Bernice Crow, Mary Crow, Dorothy Cyr, Marie Dillenbeck, Gerry Disney, Mickey Gough, Marjorie Gray, Shirley Hussell, Flo Kirby, Dianne Kuehl, Alyce Springer, Hope Walker, Jan Wilkinson, Ann Wright, and guests Rylene Truett (Alma Crabtree's daughter) and Mary Jane Hunt (Ginny Bosworth's daughter) and friend, Judy Grimins, friend of Ginny who lives in Mentone.

Barbara, Ann, Linda and Marilyn were in charge of decorating the fellowship hall for the luncheon. On the table was greenery and candles—a very festive look. A Christmas tree in the corner brightened the room. The covered dish luncheon was delicious, as usual—lots of casseroles, salads, vegetables, and desserts.

After the dinner, we "played some games." Ann Wright had a left/right game in which we were each supposed to pass a cup containing a chocolate mint, either to the left or the right, as she read the directions. Of course, you know what happened, some of us ended up with no cup and others had two and three. It was really a lot of fun, although Ann purposely read it VERY QUICKLY so that we would not have much time to contemplate left or right.

Another game was called "Tinsel Trivia Quiz." The quiz is on this page, but the answers are somewhere else in this issue. So you, the reader, can "take the quiz, too." (This was found in the Dec. 1994 issue of the *Chattanooga Free Press*.)

Ann's program was entitled "What's the story behind Christmas Greenery." The seasonal greenery has a history and a symbolic meaning that is much older than the holiday we celebrate Dec. 25. Plants that stayed green in winter, when everything else was dormant or dead, held magic for the ancients. The Romans and the Norse said they were symbols of life itself and brought boughs and sprigs into their homes for winter to ensure the return of life in the spring.

The Christmas tree came from Germanic culture and was a custom as early as A.D. 900 or 1000. Many of those original trees were hung upside down from the ceiling.

Our more modern tree tradition is not even 200 years old and comes from England. The Christmas tree as we know it was used by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in their Christmas celebration in 1841. Their tree was decorated with candles, tinsel and ornaments, including lights and silver spheres that represented the moon and stars.

Mistletoe, a parasitic, woody plant, has been used and respected since the ancient Druids of pre-Roman Britain, for medicine, for magic, and for luck. Ancient Norsemen called it a plant of peace. Enemies who met by chance under a tree that had mistletoe put down their arms and held a truce through the night. The Celtic Druids gathered it after the winter solstice and distributed it to the people, who hung it on their homes as protection from lightning, thunder, and evil spells. A sprig worn around the neck was thought to keep witches away. Mistletoe was used in medicine to treat toothache, epilepsy, heart disease, and animal bites.

So why do people kiss under a sprig of mistletoe? Americans learned it from our English ancestors, but their custom may have been passed down through centuries from Norse Legend. The story tells of Balder, a well-loved god who was immune to almost all harm. But the evil god Loki knew mistletoe could harm Balder. In a spirit of mischief and spite, he crafted an arrow of mistletoe and manipulated Balder's brother into shooting it into the young god's heart, killing him.

Balder's heartbroken mother, Frigga, wept, and her tears became the white berries of the mistletoe. She was the goddess of love and

beauty, and when Balder was magically restored to life, the grateful Frigga declared the mistletoe a symbol of love and promised a kiss to anyone who passed under it.

Holly, with its blood-red berries and evergreen leaves, symbolizes eternal life. A powerful medicine for rheumatism, gout, fever, and asthma (especially if picked on Christmas Day), it was also thought a holly tree outside a home protected it from thunder and fire, and the prickly leaves were thought to either ward off or snag and capture evil spirits when hung around doors, windows, and fireplaces.

But folklore had it that holly had power for bad, as well. The ancient Welsh believed that bringing holly boughs in before Christmas would lead to family quarrels, and burning a green holly or bringing the flowers in the house during summer would bring the worst of bad luck.

Ivy, a feminine life symbol, is shown in how it clings and twines around a more sturdy support to grow. In folklore, it's known as a kindly plant. Combined with holly, it would bring fertility to the household. Let it grow up the wall of the house and you were safe from witches. But beware: if the plant should wither, disaster would strike.

Many medical treatments were ivy-based. Wearing an ivy wreath would keep your hair from falling out, some believed; others said food or drink taken from an ivy-wood bowl cured whooping cough. Poultices of leaves were used to treat abscesses, sores, skin ulcers, and corns.

Frankincense and myrrh are aromatic resins from plants, prized since ancient days for their aromas and medicinal powers. We know that they were gifts to the Baby Jesus, along with gold.

Frankincense grows in the Middle East, Africa, and China; myrrh is native to Arabia and Somalia. Both are collected in gumlike balls from resins exuded from the living plants. The Egyptians burned frankincense during religious rituals—as some Catholic and Orthodox churches still do. The ancient Israelites associated it with pure offerings to the almighty.

Beginning with the Egyptians, frankincense was used in cosmetics to keep skin soft and supple. It's been used to treat everything from sore muscles to syphilis.

Myrrh was pulverized and mixed in ointments and oils, or carried in a small bag around the neck for fragrance. It was added to wine as a spice (the Bible says Jesus was offered such a drink on the cross).

Myrrh was mixed in a mouthwash for sores in the mouth and irritated gums. It is said to soothe irritated bronchial passages, relieve cold symptoms and boost the immune system.

And both frankincense and myrrh were principal ingredients in embalming fluids.

This article was in *The Chattanooga Times*.

We missed several of the members who were ill, and unable to attend.

Ann announced that we have four junior garden clubs at the Moon Lake School: Kindergarten - Rhodies; 1st grade - Moon Lake; 2nd grade - Moon Beams; 3rd grade - Little River Ecoteers. The earlier they get started thinking about gardening, the better our world will be when they "take over."

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 the DeKalb-Cherokee Federation of Garden Clubs.

LADIES, PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING PLACE. February 8 is the next meeting date, and the meeting will be held at the Mentone Community House located behind Moon Lake School.

TINSEL TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Who alone among the four Gospel writers told the story of the Three Wise Men? _____
2. What navigational aid guided The Wise Men to Bethlehem? _____
3. What instrument accompanied the first singing of "Silent Night"? _____
4. "Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat, please to _____
5. Who wrote "White Christmas"? _____
6. Which singing cowboy popularized "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"? _____
7. Name the boy and girl in "The Nutcracker." _____
8. What was Scrooge's wish for Christmas well wishers? _____
9. Whose name was on the weed overgrown tombstone in the desolate churchyard where the "Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come" led Scrooge? _____
10. In Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory," what gifts did Buddy and his favorite cousin exchange each Christmas morning? _____
11. What was True Love's gift on the fifth day of Christmas? _____
12. What gifts did the young couple exchange in O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi"? _____
13. In a word, what was the American general's reply to the German panzer kommandant demanding the surrender of Bastogne that bleak Christmastide 50 years ago? _____
14. What was the peculiar thing about the Christmas goose Sherlock Holmes investigated in "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"? _____
15. What possible connection can there be between Christmas and the three gold balls hanging outside a pawnshop? _____
16. Which competing department stores altered their marketing methods because of the "Miracle on 34th Street" _____ and _____
17. How many ships came sailing in "On Christmas Day in the Morning"? _____
18. Queen Victoria is credited with popularizing what Christmas custom in England? _____
19. Who assured Virginia that, indeed, there was a Santa Claus? (Give title and name, if known) _____ of the *New York Sun*
20. When Santa whistled up his team in Clement Clarke Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas," what names did he shout? _____

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- (10) PLENTY OF PRIVACY is yours on these beautifully wooded 8 acres located on East Lake Drive. Ready to build on and convenient both to Menlo and Mentone. \$27,600.
- (11) 10 ACRE TRACTS - gently rolling-heavily wooded-with creek. Close to downtown Mentone on private road. "Lightly" restricted. \$25,000.
- (12) BROW LOT ON NORTH BROW ABOVE MENTONE - approx. 200' of brow frontage with a fantastic view. \$25,000. **SOLD**
- (13) A MILLION DOLLAR VIEW from the South Brow of Mentone goes with this 2 bedroom 2 bath home offering the comfort & convenience of full-time living. Call for more details. \$179,500. (SOLD)
- (14) OVER 6 ACRES on DeSoto Parkway - greatly rolling with beautiful landscaping and great building sites. \$35,000.
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I don't believe many people read this column or I would have been bombarded and lambasted for the mistake I made last month by putting the father, **Kenneth Hammond**, in the sports Hall of Fame instead of the son, **Ken Hammond**. I'm sorry about that! I knew better, my brain was just not in the right gear.

Our family came together for Christmas eve dinner at the home of **Emily and Barry Brown**. We were glad that Emily's sister, **Pauline Wright**, was able to be with us. She spent several days with Emily and Barry.

Venna Livingston and her family spent Christmas with her daughter, **Sue Mosley**, and **Sam** and children, at Lilburn, Ga. They went to the Christmas eve service at White Oak Baptist Church.

Ruth Pickett had about twenty members of her family for Christmas dinner. Ruth is not feeling well at this time. She and **Dot Blackburn** have the flu (?) bug that seems to be going around. We hope they (and all who are sick) will soon be well, also **Opal Tatum**, **Geneva Smith**, **Ted Holleman**, and **Little Amelia Adkins**.

Martha and Herbert Stanley and **Ellen, Evelyn Clark, Violet Barker, Ann and Hank Daniel**, took a birthday cake, refreshments, and cards to Collinsville Nursing home to make a **Happy 84th Birthday** for **Carmel Gifford**.

Geneva Smith had all her family with her on Christmas day.

Anita Young is spending several days with **Velma Hammond** and **Vesta Hawkins**.

Velma Hammond spent Christmas day with her son **Al Hammond** and **Judith** and **Matt**. **Dena Crane** was also a guest.

Mary Lou Carmichael came and took her mother **Adelaide Biddle** home with her to spend the night with her

family in Dallas, Ga. All the family went to Chattanooga to **Julia Hickey's** home for Christmas dinner and to exchange gifts on Christmas day.

Vesta Hawkins spent Christmas week with **Nancy Hawkins** and family in Birmingham.

Mary and Ted Holleman had their Christmas dinner, Dec. 21, with the following present: **John Ellis, Frances Ellis, Betty and Red Adams, Michelle and Jim Adams, E.T. Holleman** and **Adelaide Biddle**. **Ted and Mary** spent Christmas day with **Nelson and Elizabeth Ellis** and family.

We had a sumptuous Christmas dinner, Dec. 21, at the **Valley Head Methodist Church**. We also enjoyed the lovely concert by the North East College Chorus at the Baptist Church and the wonderful refreshments.

Edward Ringer visited the **David Ringer** family in Florence, Miss., during the holidays.

Erskin Davenport, son of **Ted and Mary H. Davenport**, died Dec. 22. He has many friends and relatives in Valley Head. He worked for years in the records department at the courthouse and was always so friendly and helpful, and such a nice person!

Evelyn Clark spent Christmas week with her son, **Loy Clark, Jr.**, and family in Birmingham.

Brenda and Buddy Burnett had a nice dinner on Saturday before Christmas with the following present: **Bill and Mollie Ruth Anderson** from Tuscaloosa; **Phoebe, Kelly and Dean Chamlee** from Florida; **Kim and Anson Keller**, from Tuscaloosa; **Mary C. and Clyde Barnett, Vivian Clark**, and **Paul and Ruth Burnett**. Alas, it ended badly--as **Paul** started home, he fell and injured his hip and had to be taken to Erlanger Hospital for surgery. He is now at Siskin Rehab Center, recovering nicely. He reports that he is "turning cart-wheels"--you know **Paul**--he still has that wonderful sense of humor!

Lillie Bowden had her dinner on the Saturday after Christmas, with **Jo and Mike Welch**, and **Michael and Jamie**, from Chattanooga; **Jennifer, Bob, Kaley and Will Waseloski** from Land of Lakes, Fla.; **Karen, Mark, Luke** (and friend **Leigh** from Fort Payne), **Ben and Katie Freeman**.

Venna Livingston spent last Sunday afternoon with her brother, **Woodrow Young** and his wife, **Lois**, in Gadsden.

The **Sunshine Club** had their Christmas party, on Dec. 11, at the home of **Billie Harper**, which was lavishly and beautifully decorated with so many clever ornaments. It was a covered dish luncheon; and, instead of exchanging gifts, each one took a gift for a needy child. I gave a Christmas devotional.

Those present to enjoy this nice occasion were: **Ruth Pickett, Elizabeth Bauerle, Gladys Cobble, Evelyn Clark, Lillie Bowden, Anna Daniel, Sue Clark, Sarah McAbee, Jean Jones, and Eloise Brown**.

Pat and Don Eberhart had their family present on Christmas Day.

Congratulations to the 45 students from DeKalb County who were included in the 20th annual Edition of the National Dean's List 1996-97, including **Chad Chaney, Glenda Haney, James Morgan, Andrew Phillips, and Julia Yates** from Valley Head.

Also, congratulations to **Alan Hawkins**, as his drawing was included in the September issue of *Highlights for Children*.

Congratulations to **Kim and Don Templeton Jr.**, of Valley Head, for producing the first baby of 1998 at BMC-DeKalb. Her name is **Kylie Deonna Templeton**.

Laura Margaret Allison was visited by her children at different intervals during Christmas.

When I reached this point in my article, I had an unexpected visitor. **Bill Brown** brought **Dr. William Kaiser**, a psychologist and long lost Brown cousin from Thousand Oaks, Ca., by to see me. He is here searching records of his ancestry and was very interesting.

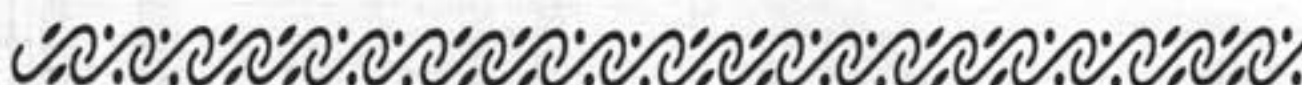
Dot, Bill and Linda Blackburn, Martha and Hoot Gibson, Mark and Jane Gibson and children, had a wonderful five day vacation in Tuscon, Az., at the Ventana Canyon Resort in the foothills of the Catalina Mountains. There were two eighteen hole P.G.A. golf courses, where **Bill, Linda and Mark** spent two days playing golf; while **Martha, Jane and Dot** enjoyed the Lakeside Spa and Tennis Club. There was plenty of wildlife on the grounds--birds and large rattlesnakes. **Mark** saw a huge one sunning on one of his walks on the grounds. The lake in front of the resort was fed by an 80 foot waterfall cascading down from the Catalina Mountains. They visited the Desert Museum, which is a world renowned zoo, also a Limestone Cave, and saw a beautiful collection of regional minerals and gem stones. They also viewed the Cactus natural display with cactus as tall as two story buildings and some over 200 years old. **Dot** reported it was a beautiful, yet different experience.

Bob and Jan Pullen of Austin, Tx., visited **Jug and Dot Crow** and **Bill and Grace Pullen** and **Mozelle Crow** during the Christmas holidays.

Deepest sympathy to the family of **Horace Maxwell Hulan**, who passed away recently. His poem, "Mentone - A Garden Sport of Summer" was submitted by **Bernice Crow** in the December 1997 issue. **Horace** graduated in the first class at Valley Head High School in 1927.

Sympathy, also, to the family of **Kernie Wright**. She was the aunt of **John Jones**.

Another year has flown swiftly by. I hope 1998 brings good health and peace and plenty to the whole world.





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Goodbye Old Year

Good bye, old year, good bye,
I'm glad to see you go!
You were a bad old guy,
Now I can tell you so!

You brought much trouble and grief,
Great loss and devastation.
There was no hope nor relief,
No cause for joy nor celebration.

You brought floods, quakes, calamities,
Wars and rumours of more wars,
Men's cruelties and inhumanities,
Leaving permanent ugly scars!

You upset children in their schools,
Caused disruption thru out the land,
Turned wise men into fools,
With so much they can not understand.

Surely this will be a better year--
It surely can not be as bad--
We must look forward with hope and cheer,
That it will be the best everyone has had!

--Eloise Brown

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OTHER PROPERTIES

GA. BROW - 2.36 acres located in Outlook Properties Subdivision, 151 ft of scenic frontage, private and restricted with easy access to Hwy. 157.

HWY 157 - 10 Ac. 300+ ft. road frontage. Owner financing - great investment opportunity.

HWY 117 - MENTONE, Ala. - Mountain River Estates-3.48 +/- acres with road frontage, and 400+ ft. of river frontage overlooking the middle fork of Little River. Approx. 1500 sq. ft. cabin style home under construction. Beautiful natural foliage, rhododendron, and mt. laurel provide the quiet setting and privacy of this mountain home. \$125,000. (No. A-50)

MENTONE - Great Potential - Multi Usage - "A Heart IN THE RIVER" - 60+/- ac. located on Hwy 117 just south of Mentone Church of God. Property offers - 3 BR-2 Ba. House - Large Commercial Building - 770 ft. of Hwy frontage - 1200 ± ft. of river frontage - offered as a whole or will subdivide. Once in a lifetime opportunity. River lots very soon.



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Mentone Town Hall Gets Flag and Flagpole from Woodmen of the World, Lodge #436

Ovie Blalock, Woodmen of the World member, and, in his own words, "a professional flag pole setter," came to present the pole and flag to Marie Dillenbeck, representing the Town of Mentone as its Town Clerk, recently. Ovie and his wife, Barbara, are shown putting up the flag, after they had installed the pole. When you go by the Town Hall, notice how great it looks. Thanks, Ovie! Thanks, Barbara! and Thanks, Woodmen of the World, for all you do for others.



Lookout Mountain Cloggers at the Opryland Hotel during National Clogging Convention. (L/R) Christine Ashley, Karen Wright, Sherryl Lewis, Wanda Henderson, Debbie Daniel

Clogging Lessons

Started Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 5:45 p.m.
at Lookout Valley, Inc., in Valley Head.

The first lesson is free.

Lots of fun, great exercise,

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Approximately 85 children
Sherman and Mickey Go
ed by Rev. Al Cherbonne
While the children we
Richard Powell led the ch
refreshments were provid



NEW YEAR'S EVE GOSPEL SINGING AT DESSIE'S KOUNTRY CHEF

From 8 p.m. until midnight, gospel music was sung and enjoyed by all those who attended the festivities at the Kountry Chef. Featured were the Melody Men (Al Malone, Milford Cushion, Dennis George, and F.L. Pierce). Several others volunteered to sing: Buddy Burton, his wife, Janet, and daughter, Mara Ruth, from Austin, Texas, and Janet's parents, Robert and Mary Wiser, from Rainsville; Clyde Phillips; Rev. Randy Addison; Stacy Bertram, Charlyne O'Rear and Jim Lyday; Wanda Foskey, from Dublin, S. Georgia; and L.M. Flannigan (singing, "I'll Fly Away", accompanied by the audience. It was a beautiful way to bring in the new year.

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Children attended this year's party held at the Community House located behind the Moon Lake School. MAPA workers included Jim and Penny Lyday, Lucille Crow, Ruby Brock, Bernise Crow, Marie Dillenbeck. Gifts for the children were provided by MAPA, and handed out by Mickey and Sherman Gough. The Ministerial Association, represented by Pastor Kenneth Shelton, handed out stockings provided by the association. While waiting for their parents to come pick them up, Pastor Kenneth Shelton told the Christmas Story, with the children helping out by filling in the blanks in places in the story. Children in a version of the 12 days of Christmas, with the children selecting the items for each of the days. Santa's helper, Nakia Reynosa, listened to each child's wishes. Delicious food was served by MAPA.



1997 MAPA Christmas Dinner

New member, Rovene Truett, brought a beautiful sheet cake to add to the plentiful covered dish event held at Dessie's Kountry Chef this year on December 9th. Among the "entertainers" for the evening, George Walker, accompanied by Dessie Newberry on the keyboard, led singing of Christmas carols; Bernise Crow and Doreen Waters sang a duet; Nakia Reynosa, an employee of the Kountry Chef, played the keyboard. The members were having such a good time, they found it hard to leave when it came time to go home.

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The Country Journal
 By
BERNISE CROW

Christmas is past and we are entering another year--"so goes the days of our lives." As usual, the year 1997 brought many trials, tribulations, and heartbreaks to many; but it also was a healthy year and a prosperous one for others. We gently close the door on another year and open a new one that those of us who are optimistic and are wearing our rose-colored glasses will look for more and better things. May we count our blessings and give praise to our heavenly father for what we have: peace in our land; a strong economy; the freedoms upon which our country was founded--freedom of the press; the right to worship to the dictates of our own conscience as we please; and freedom of speech. We live in a great country. Many people live in ease without fear. Many ugly things happen daily; but many more wonderful things coincide with these and make our lives worthwhile. If we could live our lives over with the knowledge we have gleaned from past experiences, it would be wonderful. We who are parents do not know where we made our mistakes until it is too late. We try hard, but errors of judgment are made and we would like to redo some things. Alas--the errors are made and we cannot undo them. Here we are at the time for resolutions and my mind is blank! I still hope to be a better parent, grandparent and great grandparent. That's a big order and about the only resolution I've adopted so far. And that takes about all my time. I would like to visit more with those who are ill, especially those without family. Our family is so very special to us that we cannot imagine how it would feel to be alone, with no parents, brothers and sisters, no children.

Our Christmas Eve was very special because of having our grandson, Alexander Whatley, open his gifts and enjoy them. We have our main holiday meal Christmas Eve. Then, we sing carols, read scripture and open our gifts a minute after midnight, which is Christmas Day. This year, more of us went to church at St. Joseph's for the lesson and festival of Carols. It was a beautiful service, well attended. The church was beautifully decorated with fresh wreaths and many bright poinsettias. Much appreciation goes to those who work a whole day making wreaths and putting poinsettias and candles in place.

Homer finished the rock on our house. We cleaned away most of the debris, and the place looks better.

MAPA had the children's Christmas party at MERF House this year, and it made it easier for the children to walk right to the house, which is adjacent to the school. Our jolly Santa, who is usually with us had a business appointment, and could not do his job. Bill Patterson was as disappointed as we were. Dessie Newberry arranged for one of her workers to be Santa's helper, and he did well. The Hurts from Camp DeSoto loaned him a suit. The Ministerial Association made up over a hundred filled stockings for each one, and MAPA did the refreshments and packages for each child. It was a fun-filled afternoon. Those who helped serve refreshments were: Mickey & Sherman Gough; Lucille and Bernise Crow, Ruby Brock and Jim and Penny Lyday. Members of the Ministerial Association helped chaperone the children, and tell them Christmas stories.

Our first Christmas party was what we dubbed "A Christmas Musical birthday party." It was Homer's 75th. My sister, Jean Matthews, is doing much better, and was able to join in singing carols. Marsha Hurt furnished copies of songs, Barry Crow played piano, Al Cherbonneau and Don Phillips played guitars; Joe Elrod bass guitar; and Don Phillips sang a beautiful Christmas song he had written. All this followed a covered dish meal, with me doing turkey and ham. We also had the newlyweds, Clyde and Jean Phillips. Clyde says they eloped on Thanksgiving day to Collinsville, where Rev. Don Brock performed the ceremony. Our best wishes are for their happiness.

Then a few days before Christmas, our daughter, Doreen Waters, secured tickets to the Christmas Concert by the Chattanooga Symphony at the Tivoli Theater. My sister, Jean, went with us, and we had a delightful evening. And who do you suppose we met at the lobby at intermission? Tony and Dana Goggans.

Then, our hearts were saddened by the death of our beloved William Blackburn. He has served the community at the Mentone Superette for many years. He was the most kind, soft spoken, accommodating person I ever knew. He will be missed terribly, but will be kindly remembered by everyone in this area. May God bless his family and sustain them in their loss.

Nine members of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church are going to the Holy Land the 28th of December and returning the 9th of January. I am happy to be one of the nine. Rev. Al Cherbonneau and wife Jan, are going, and taking Hanno Perry, the exchange student from Germany. Lynette McCary and Helen Longshore, and Annette Shugart will be making the tour. Just pray that it will be peaceful there during our stay.



VALLEY HEAD CLASS OF 1957 REUNION

Front row (L/R) Eleanor McCurdy, Donald McSpadden, Doris Blalock Wilson, Amanda Kirby Gray; **2nd row (L/R)** Rovene Crabtree Truett, Faye Martin Huber, Ozell Thornberry, Treva Windom McElhaney, Merle Turner Haney; **Back row (L/R)** Johnny Blansit, Benny Palmer, Donald Pope, Jimmy Gifford, Lois Lowery Dilbeck, Ruth Craig Terrell, Morris Ray Pierce



New Generation Dancers performed during a pep rally at Moon Lake School. (L/R) Vicki Stinson, Angel Wesley, Paige Wright, Katie Herndon, Megan Smith, Shinice Smith, Whitney LaBuda, Kayla Hazel, Brittany Hester

dish

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gardens of paradise. They are long forgotten items from another time gone by. Walk around the old gallery and view the Reverend's original people mural, a favorite of reporters and photographers. The breathtaking cement sculptured bed of roses and flowering plants holds a majestic Mosaic cross. Layered like a huge cake in the sky, you will never forget the World's Folk Art Church Museum. After your tour, roam around the Finster Folk Art Gallery and view the folk art and collectables of the Reverend Howard Finster and other notable artists. It will be difficult to leave without one. You may stumble on a group of students, a wedding, or even a baby dedication. You may even meet the Reverend Howard Finster himself on a Sunday from 2 til 5 PM. He has never met a person that he didn't love. A trip to Paradise Gardens is a memory you will treasure forever.

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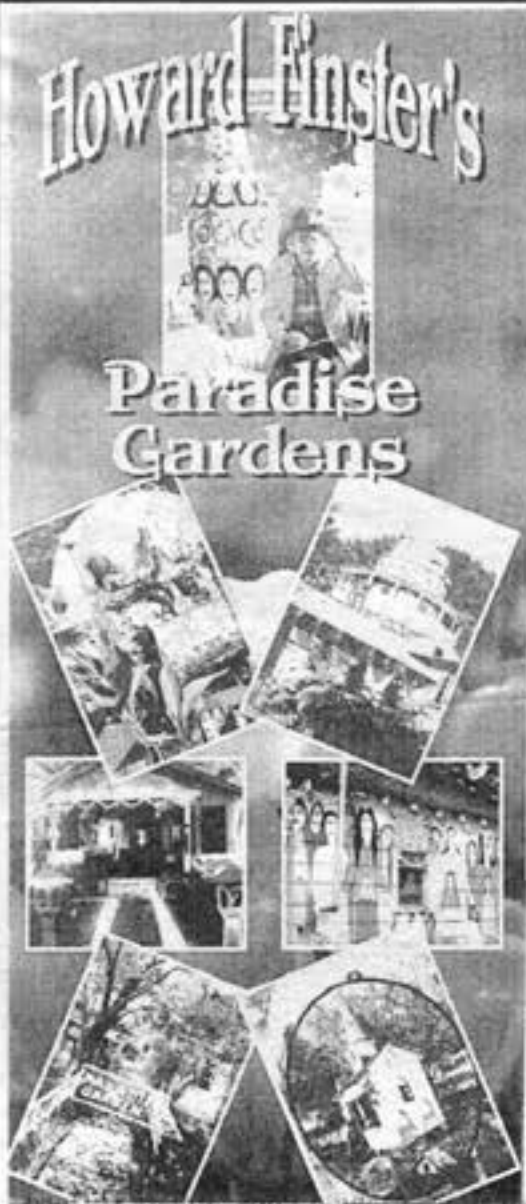
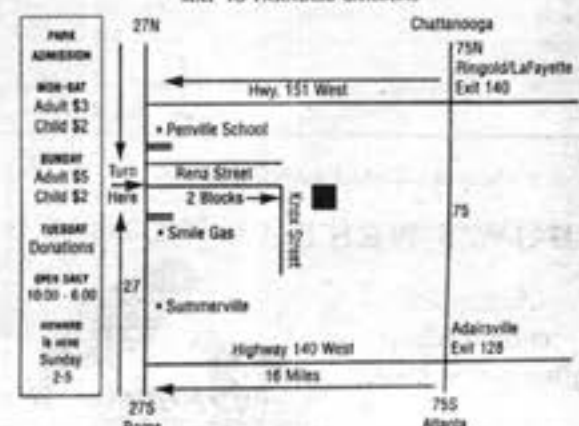
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MAP TO PARADISE GARDENS



50 YEARS OF LOVE



**Jim and Penny Lyday
on their Golden Anniversary Celebration
December 21, 1997 at The Cliffs, in Mentone**

Fifty years ago on December 21, 1947, two graduating seniors at the University of Georgia, Mellie Brown (Penny) Pennington and Jim Lyday, were married at the Baptist Student Union Center in Athens, Georgia. On December 21, 1997, The Cliffs, a lovely restaurant near Mentone, Alabama, provided a beautiful setting for their golden wedding celebrations. The party was hosted by their daughter, Mellanie Tuttle, husband Kendall, and children Kenda and Kaylon of Jacksonville, Florida, and their son Beau Lyday, wife Kathy, and daughters, Sarah Skye and Amalie of Lenoir, North Carolina.

A unique feature was a concert given by the "Singing Seniors" of Fort Payne led by Bob Thacker and the "Joy Bells" under the direction of Barbara Keith. Dorothy Crow sang, "I Love You Truly" accompanied by Elizabeth Romans at the keyboard. During the party, a video, playing continuously, provided by Kathy Lyday, showed Penny and Jim's lives from tiny tots to the present.

The delicious and beautiful food was catered by The Cliffs' staff. One interesting table had five mouth-watering cakes, including a two-tiered wedding cake, which Penny and Jim cut during the party. The punch bowl was surrounded by yellow lights, giving it a golden glow.

Approximately 150 guests helped the Lydays celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. Many who attended were from out-of-town. One couple and their three children drove from Indiana just for the occasion.

It was a lovely affair, even on a rainy Sunday afternoon. When someone mentioned the rain, Penny remarked, "It rained fifty years ago when we were married, so I think it's appropriate to have rain today."



GIRL SCOUT TROOP #1012 TO MEET AT MOON LAKE HEAD START SITE

Herman B. Kerley, Director of Project Head Start of Northeast Alabama, is happy to announce the Family/Community Partnership Agreement with Girl Scout Troop #1012. Mr. Kerley has agreed to allow Moon Lake Head Start site to be the bi-weekly meeting facility for the girls of Troop #1012 consisting of girls from the Moon Lake and Valley Head areas. This provision will assist with training in community service and participation, honoring the Girl Scout Promise, Girl Scout Law and the 5 Worlds of Interest.

Project Head Start of Northeast Alabama desires

to assist in building better quality of life in all DeKalb, Jackson, Marshall and Cherokee county communities.

Sharon Swindall is the Leader, Karen Prestwood, Co-Leader, Becky Easler, Assistant.

Joining the girls for their first meeting at Moon Lake Head Start were: Bessie McSpadden, sharing her expertise with crafts, Cathey Holder, parent, Nicolet Harper, Parent, Phyllis Bailey, Head Start Teacher, Candice Stinson, Parent/Head Start Teacher Assistant.



Moon Lake Cheerleaders (L/R) Ashley Clark, Julie Ingram, Melissa Harrison, Emily Tipton, Lauren Kean, Katie Gray, Erica Campbell, Kelly Wright, Brandy Manning, Kayla Voils, and Sara Dodd holding up Katrina Ingram, Captain. A special thanks to Cindy Harrison for her time and dedication to the Moon Lake Cheerleaders.



Clara Cash on the occasion of her 85th birthday celebration at Moon Lake Baptist Church fellowship hall on the Sunday following her 85th Birthday, which was on December 4th.



THE TATTLE TALE - VALLEY HEAD SCHOOL NEWS

By Jessica Barrier

ELEMENTARY

The 4th, 5th, and 6th grade boys, and the 5th and 6th grade girls have formed basketball teams for each grade. These future basketball players look very prospective. We hope they have a great season.

SPACE CAMP

Mrs. Camp's 6th grade class has been working long and hard for a trip to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. The students will participate in a program called Astrotrek. Astrotrek is an educational adventure that allows students and teachers a hands-on aerospace experience. They will be leaving on Monday, April 20, spending the night, and returning on Tuesday, April 21. The students started raising money in 5th grade by selling donuts, taking donations, and setting up a road block. The cost is \$140.00 per child. Mrs. Camp and her class would like to recognize and thank Fritz Steel and Shaw Industries for their contributions. They each donated \$200.00.

HIGH SCHOOL

FFA

During December, students prepared for Christmas by selling fruit and producing poinsettias. Recently, they returned from the sunbelt Farm Expo in Moultrie, Ga. Their next project is to build a canopy over the sidewalk that leads to the high school building.

The FFA officers for the 1997-98 school year are:

President-Tricia Goodman
Vice-president-Nick Brown
Secretary-Nathan Owen
Reporter-Amanda Goss
Sentinel-Dennis McDonald
Treasurer-Thomas Brendle

FHA

Valley Head students are moving out (but only on paper)! This year students in FHA classes learned what keeping under the budget really means. They created a poster where they selected furnishings for a three room apartment. The furnishings that were cut out of magazines included the real prices. They then added the prices together. The hard part was keeping the total under the budget. "The students were surprised most by the cost of a mattress and box spring," said Mrs. Hixon. This project gave them a little taste of how important money is in the future.

The FFA officers for the 1997-98 school year are:

President-Stephanie Worthey
Vice-President-Alisha McElhany
Secretary-Laura Pullen
Reporter-Alisha McElhany
Artist/Historian-Jerry Lee Brisendine
Rec. Leader-Laura Martin
County Officer-Kelly Spencer

TIGER BALL

On December 13, students from 9th through 12th grade attended the annual Tiger Ball. The Tiger Ball is put together every year by the Student Council. As a tradition the students elect a girl and boy representative from each class. The representatives for the Freshman class are Nathan Owen and Virginia Hatfield, the Sophomore class representatives are Thomas Brendle and Candace Fuller, and the Junior class representatives are Derek Talley and Tabitha Brisendine. The Tiger Ball King and Queen are Richard Fuller, and Teri Campbell.

PTO

The Valley Head PTO hosted a Christmas Concert on December 1. Mrs. Coots and Mrs. Carroll's first graders sang "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and "Jingle Bells." The Beginning Band held their first concert. They performed "Jolly Ole St. Nicholas," "Good King Wenceslaus," and "Jingle Bells." The High School Band performed "Festive Christmas Overture," "Jingle Bell Rock," "The Christmas Song," and "Sounds of the Season." At the end of the program, Jolly Ole St. Nick appeared and passed out candy to all the children.

On February 2, the Valley head PTO will be hosting the Elementary Science Fair. The classes that are participating are fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. Also there will be an art show featuring the artwork of Mrs. Judith Crider's art students. Rebecca Barrier, President of the PTO, said, "I would like to encourage everyone to attend the February 2 meeting, so they can see for themselves the hardworking and creative minds of the Valley Head students." The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. "Be there or be square."

BAND

The Valley Head Band Boosters gave away a quilt at the home

game on Tuesday, December 2. The winner was Lisa Moore.

On Saturday, December 8, the Band performed "Hark the Herald Angel Sings," while marching through the streets of Valley Head for the Christmas Parade. (See photo of band above.)

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Here it is, another year. I'm writing this from Clearwater, Florida, where Bill and I are visiting with my daughter Chris and grandchildren, Rachel and Gwen. The weather has been raining and raining and raining, so we are staying in a lot. Here are a couple recipes I thought were good--a tested soup recipe from our friend Dean Breasseale, Knoxville, TN, and another one (tested by me) that is quick and easy, which I found in a newspaper.

Dean's "Good Luck" New Year's Day Soup

- 3 cans Sweet Sue chicken broth
- 3 cans Bush brand black-eyed peas-drained
- 1/2 medium red onion, chopped
- 2 T fine chopped garlic
- 1 leek white only, sliced thin
- 1 stalk celery, diced
- 1 can Hunts brand roasted garlic diced tomatoes
- 3 T olive oil
- 1 Jalapeno pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 orange/red/or yellow pepper
- 1 T Hormel brand "real bacon" pieces
- salt & pepper to taste

Saute onion, leek, celery, peppers in oil in soup pot. Add tomatoes (undrained), broth and bacon bits and bring to a slow boil. Add peas and simmer covered for one hour.

Country Chicken

- 1 T flour
- 1 can (14.5 oz) stewed tomatoes
- 1/4 C raisins, if desired
- 2 T packed brown sugar
- 1 t curry powder
- 1 t salt
- 1 pound skinless boneless chicken breast halves, cut in 1 inch pieces.

Preheat oven to 350° F. Shake flour in Reynolds oven bag; place in 13x9x2-inch baking pan. Add tomatoes, raisins, brown sugar, curry powder, and salt to oven bag. Add chicken to oven bag. Turn oven bag to coat chicken with sauce. Arrange ingredients in an even layer in oven bag. Close bag with nylon tie; cut six 1/2-inch slits in top. Bake until chicken is tender, 35-40 minutes. Serve over hot, cooked rice. Makes 4 servings.

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GARDEN HINTS

By Madeleine Bullock

(Member of the National Home Gardening Club)

As I write this, the local meteorologist is promising us a white Christmas, which some of us enjoy and look forward to. But, then, there are people like me who do not welcome that, especially since I come from a tropical country and Christmas time is warm and sunny. The upside of the promise of snow is that it is natural nitrate and good for the soil.

I dug up a tip that might help next years greens and this is a good time to pass it on as you could include it in your seed search that we all do at this time of the year. Apparently, earwigs love mulch and become active at night. They seem to be the culprits that chew holes in the basil, Swiss chard, spinach, lettuce, and the various other greens that we grow here in the South. It was found that where English pennyroyal grew there was no damage. So, one could either plant them between the greens or grow a patch. Then collect the spent blooms and leaves, dry them and crush them, and use it as a natural pesticide by sprinkling it around the plants. According to Master Gardener, Jerry Baker, the best organic cure for nematodes is plain sugar. One could use corn syrup or dissolve sugar crystals in water and treat the area. This past year, I had a bit of trouble with webworms--to control them use Bt. For spider mites on tomatoes, use Sevin and baby shampoo. For spider mites on non-edibles, replace the Sevin with chewing tobacco--use one tablespoon of the mixture, plus one tablespoon of baby shampoo to one gallon of water. To steep the chewing tobacco, you could put the stuff in a knee-high tight and put it in the water to steep.

From my family and me, to you all, have a wonderful New Year, and don't forget to eat the black-eyed peas and hog jowls before sunset for good luck and wealth.

(MadeleineCircleBRanch@juno.com)

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Edward Jones



DESOTO RESCUE SQUAD GETS NEW HOME!!

By Jennifer Smith

It is the beginning of a New Year, 1998. A time to begin anew, a time to make resolutions, a time to work on ourselves and a time to make a difference, both in our personal lives and in the lives of others. As each New Year begins, it is almost as if we have been handed a clean slate. It is a chance to make a change for the better or to continue to strive in a direction already chosen.

As young as 1998 is, it is already been a wonderful year for the DeSoto Rescue Squad. We have a new home. As of January 1, the old garage behind the Community House has been provided by M.E.R.F. to the Rescue Squad for the housing of equipment, the response truck, and an office. We will renovate the building by running electricity, painting, repairing and re-roofing. The opportunity to have a central location again is something we have worked on for a while--truthfully, it is a dream come true! The past several years have had their ups and downs and we, as a volunteer organization, have learned many lessons. The only way we are now looking is forward!

We have many ideas and plans in the works. Fund raising is always a necessity, especially now with the new building and the much needed renovations. So any donations of money, building materials, paint, manual labor etc. will be GREATLY appreciated. We are also actively seeking new members. Any interested persons over the age of 18 may call any of the numbers listed below. By being back "home" again, we hope to be able to offer more services to the community like 1st responders and CPR courses, basic 1st aid, and classroom safety demonstrations for the schools. Hopefully, by early spring we will have some courses organized.

Right now, our top priorities are the renovation of our new building and seeking new members. Feel free to come sit in on a meeting and see what we are all about. We are an all-volunteer Emergency Response organization with EMT and 1st Responder trained members. We are supported solely by donations from the communities we serve, Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville, and Sulphur Springs. Donations and fund raisers enable us to receive better training and much needed equipment such as radios, medical supplies, etc., in order to serve our communities better, more efficiently, and more effectively. Our special thanks go out to everyone for your continued support, especially to the M.E.R.F. foundation for their trust and the opportunity to make this building our home. THANK YOU!

Anyone interested in membership, the donation of building materials, labor, and/or money, or questions and concerns may contact:

Richard Douthat, Capt. - 634-4813 or wk. 845-2210

Jennifer Smith, 1st Lieut. -634-4577 or wk. 635-0040

Lisa Scott -Assistant Secretary - 634-4207

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(3) **CLOUDLAND, GA. EAST BROW**, what a view from these 2 1/2 to 3 acre tracts, located on Valley View Lane. Large Rock formations, wooded, private, with over 100 ft. of breath-taking edge of the world view. Starting at \$32,000. **LOTS 2 & 3 SOLD**



(4) **LAUREL CREEK LAKES**. Wooded lots, starting at \$6000. Lakeside and pasture lots starting at \$9500. Combination lots for more acreage. Mentone area, County Road 106. Restrictive covenants. Owner financing available.



(5) **GREAT BUSINESS LOCATION AND OPPORTUNITY** - two commercial buildings recently used as retail shops, Mobile Home and 1 acre, Mt., just across the Ga. Line, Cloudland Hwy 48, Lookout Mountain Parkway. High Traffic location, and close to Mentone area. \$52,900.



(6) **2 acre tracts at MOUNTAIN RIVER ESTATES** available, prices starting at \$27,500. **ALSO** available 3 acre Tracts on the East Fork of Little River, \$30,000. Restrictions apply for River protection.



(7) **WALK TO MENTONE** from this darling 2 bdrm, 1 bath cottage located on South Cool Street. Large deck on back, CH/A, new carpet and vinyl. Will consider owner financing or Lease Purchase. **REDUCED** to \$67,000.



(8) **ATTENTION LARGE FAMILIES, EXTRA** Large Brick Home, with 4 Bedrooms, 3 full Baths, Separate Dining, Living room and Den. Central H/A, full basement, 3 Fireplaces and too many amenities to mention. Located on Pea Ridge, Henagar, 1.7 acres, City Water. \$169,000.



(9) **CASCADING WATERFALL** - flows into the River on this 5.9 acre tract of Gilreath Mill Rd., Cloudland, Ga. Paved road frontage, 200 ft. river, wooded and a Waterfall. All this for \$35,000.

SALE PENDING



(10) **DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE** and fun with two homes in one. Close to Lake Lahusage with access to water. This 2 story home has new carpet and vinyl, 2 fully equipped kitchens, 2 dens, 2 bedrooms, 21x31 Ala. room, 2 car garage. 1 acre. \$90,000. **Reduced For Quick Sale \$80,000.**



(11) **CUSTOM DESIGN AND BUILT HOME**, Mentone, 3 Bedroom 2 Bath, formal Dining with Tray ceiling. Living Room has a Stack Rock Fireplace. 12x24 deck, CH/A. Lots of Cabinets in Kitchen with top of the line Appliances, and many appealing Extras.



(12) **INDIAN TRAILS** over 3 acre tracts on the highest point on the Brow overlooking North Ft. Payne Valley, to the Cumberland Plateau. city water available, access to and overlooking private lakes. Private access, off of Citadel Rock Road. Restrictive covenants. \$50,000 each.

OTHER PROPERTIES

- (13) **MENTONE** - Wooded lot off DeSoto Parkway, Road 933, city water available. Cleared, ready for building. \$12,500.
- (14) **WALK THE NATURE TRAIL THROUGH HUGE ROCK FORMATIONS**, on this 76 acres of woods with 1/2 mile of Yellow Creek, and water branches running through it. Also included, Brand new 3 bdrm home with C/H/A, Greatroom open to kitchen. Ft. Payne, 1/4 mile off of Hwy 35 South. \$255,000. May divide.
- (15) **MENTONE - WOODED LOT** off of DeSoto Parkway, 2 miles from State Park. City water available. \$13,500.
- (16) **AVAILABLE WOODED ACREAGE**, Secluded with private access, 10 acres and up. \$1,500 to \$2,500 an acre. Owner financing available to qualified buyers. Restrictions apply.
- (17) **ROCKY TOP ESTATES**, Brow and wooded lots for sale. New addition now open with new road and underground power. Property joins DeSoto State Park at back entrance, Co. Rd. 66. Prices start (wooded) \$14,500. Brow \$25,000 to \$35,000. Selling Fast.
- (18) **30 ACRES ON THE WEST BROW**, Old scenic road, minutes from State Park. Enjoy the privacy, peaceful woodlands, and panoramic view. Priced at only \$135,000.
- (19) **OAKWOOD SUBDIVISION** - 3 plus acre wooded and Pasture tracts available. Located in Mentone, County Road 106. Restricted Covenants. For permanent or Vacation Residential Homes. \$11,000 to \$12,500.

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"HAPPY BIRTHDAY"



Trey Breyden Moore

Trey turns 4 years old February 17th. His parents are John and Lisa Moore of Valley Head. Grandparents are Douglas and Julia McMahan of Hammondville. Mary Moore of Hammondville, and Clinton Moore of Houston, Texas. Happy Birthday, Trey, Baby!



Derek Tyler McMahan

Derek will turn 6 years old on February 22. His mom, dad, and brother would like to wish him a very Happy Birthday!

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CAN'T DECIDE, LAKE OR BROW PROPERTY? We have lake and brow homesites with common areas to each at Lake on the Brow Subdivision. Protective and Restrictive Covenants. Special Feature: adjoins the 14,000 ac. Little River National Wildlife Preserve! Provides hunting, fly-fishing, white water rafting, and beautiful mountain hiking, to mention a few recreational activities! NOW OPEN, Phase II.

WEST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER - 3 ac. tracts, 150' to 300' River frontage on the Pristine Little River. Choose from gentle flowing to the ever so soothing effect of the white water rapids! Protective & Restrictive Covenants.



**SHELBY
CHEYANNE
JACKSON**

Happy Birthday

Shelby turned 1 year old on January 10. She is the daughter of Darren and Heather Jackson of Ft. Payne. Her grandparents are Floyd and Billie Harper of Valley Head, Tony Jackson and Ann Ervin of Ft. Payne.

Shelby shares a birthday with her grandfather, Floyd, who turned 70 the same day. They celebrated their birthday together.

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118 Commerce Street,
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on Saturday - January 24th
1:00 - 4:00

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Answers to Tinsel Trivia, Christmas Traditions

1. Matthew
2. "The star which they saw in the east went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was." - Matt. 3:9
3. The guitar, mice, you may recall, gnawed holes in the bellows of the church organ.
4. "Put a penny in the old man's hat."
5. Words and music by Irving Berlin
6. Gene Autry
7. Fritz and Clara in Tchaikovsky's ballet, Fritz and Maria in E.T.A. Hoffmann's original tale, "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King."
8. "If I could work my will, every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through his heart."
9. Ebenezer Scrooge
10. They gave each other homemade kites.
11. Five gold rings
12. Della sold her luxuriant brown hair to a wig maker to buy a platinum fob chain for the gold watch Jim sold to buy her a set of tortoise-shell combs for her shorn locks.
13. "Nuts"
14. In the words of the great detective himself: "It laid an egg after it was dead, the bonniest, brightest little blue egg that ever was seen." The egg, of course, was that valuable gem, the blue carbuncle, hidden in the crop of the goose.
15. Three gold balls are the emblem of St. Nicholas. In addition to bringing gifts to good little girls and boys, Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, pawnbrokers, and newlyweds. The gold balls symbolize the bags of gold the good bishop tossed through the windows of three impoverished virgins who were facing a life of prostitution for want of a wedding dowry.
16. Macy's and Gimbels
17. Three
18. Coaxed by her husband, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg, the queen adopted the German custom of decorating a fir tree at Christmas and helped make it a British tradition. With the advent of the penny post early in her reign, she also encouraged the sending of Christmas cards.

19. Editor Frank Church of the New York Sun

20. "Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen."

SCORING: Award one point for each correct answer and assess your yuletide aptitude according to this scale:
20 - A perfect score merits you (and your team members) an honorary D.T.T. degree, Doctor of Tinsel Trivia

16-19 - Pin your own stars atop the tree, accompanied by spirited huzzas and an occasional "bah, humbug" from your less-gifted opponents.

11-15 - You rate an extra dollop of brandy sauce on your plum pudding for an above-average performance

6-10 - Let nothing you dismay; perhaps you excel at charades, pin the tail on the donkey or some other holiday parlor game.

1-5 - Better luck with the Easter Egg hunt.

0 - Santa's team never got off the ground. If available and not in conflict with local ecological codes, a lump of coal should be included in the stockings you hung by the chimney with care.

About Our Town

By
LINDA BROWN



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!! Another new year, a new start, another chance to get it right this time, a beginning; no matter how you describe it, the new year is a good place to start with fresh ideas and the promise to do better. This is probably the reason that the custom of making (and breaking) new year's resolutions was started. Notice the symbol of a new year, it is a baby in diapers with a banner across its chest proclaiming the year. What is newer than a baby and what holds more promise? Let's all make a new year's resolution to visit more, write more cards and letters and care for each other more.

I watched part of the movie, Oh, God, on television during the holidays. The central theme was that God wanted humans to care for each other. He didn't seem to care what color people were, what religion they professed, whether they were rich or poor, how they dressed or what language they spoke, all were the same in His eyes and all needed nurturing and caring for. Can we spread the same message? John Denver was the human charged with this task, and he had a very hard time doing it. He lost his job and had to move from his home town.

This is the time of year that activities seem to slow down in Mentone. This sometimes is a case of looks being deceiving. Many things are planned and thought of during the winter months. I know that the town council and the fire department are making many long range plans.

The Mentone Planning and Zoning Commission met in December and what we all knew would happen at some point, happened. Jimmy Wright stated that he had served six years on the commission and all six as chairman. He further stated that he would no longer be available to serve on this commission. Jimmy has done a wonderful job with this and all of the members appreciate his efforts so much. He would sometimes take an entire day with a land owner, explaining the options and helping them to work out a solution that would be best for the owner and the town of Mentone. Jimmy truly has the best interest of Mentone at heart. I hope that he will continue to serve in an advisory capacity for this commission and continue to serve his community in any way he sees fit. We did not appoint any one for this position because the town council must make some appointments before we can finalize this. I will keep you updated on this matter. Thank you, Jimmy Wright!!

As I write this article, snow is falling fast and has already turned the mountain into a winter wonder land. If the weather forecasters can be believed, we will probably have several more of these snow storms this winter. Please, plan ahead and be prepared for a power outage and many days of not being able to travel on the roads. If you need help moving a heater, or need a heater or other necessary items, you can call any of the members of the DeSoto Rescue Squad or the North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Firefighters.

Another good source to call is any minister of Mentone churches, they always have many resources at their disposal and if they don't have what you need, they know how to contact someone who does. If you need help, please call someone, we do not want to have a tragedy this winter that could have been avoided. National statistics show that most deaths due to weather conditions could have been prevented.

I am always amazed at the number of people who read *The Groundhog*. No matter where I go, someone says, "Oh, I saw your article in the Mentone newspaper, what's the name of it again?" Who knew when the first issue came out that it would become so popular? I know of one couple who almost fight over who gets to read it first. I send it to several persons who live in care facilities. They do not always have access to a copy and I find that this is something I can do for them. I just give the cost of a subscription (or membership)



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Congratulations

to John Wayne Moore of
Valley Head for successfully
completing nursing school
exams. John is a student at
Northeast College and a mem-
ber of Phi Beta Kappa.

Best of Luck,
Your wife Lisa

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to Marie once a year, and they receive twelve contacts with their hometown of Mentone. This might be something you want to consider doing.

Hello to Uncle Carlton and Aunt Laura in Richmond, Virginia. They read *The Groundhog*!!



1997 King and Queen
Keith Miller and Samantha Stevens.

Moon Lake School Harvest Festival

The participants in the 1997 festival raised a total of \$5,572.53 by working, working, working.

1st place was won by the 5th grade, with a total of \$1,984.12.

The 1997 King and Queen were Keith Miller and Samantha Stevens.

2nd place - Kindergarten representatives were James Hawk and Paige Weber, with \$1,129.66.

3rd place - 1st grade was a class effort bringing in \$904.05.

4th place - 4th grade, representative Kirby McMunn - \$757.55.

5th place - 3rd grade, representative Kimberly Wells - \$557.49.

6th place - 2nd grade was also a class effort - \$208.66.

Thank You

Thanks to everyone who made my 85th birthday such a wonderful event. I appreciated all the cards, presents, and good wishes that I received. For those who planned the event, prepared the food, and came to help me celebrate, my thanks go to you, too.

Clara Cash

IN MEMORY OF CHESTER A. AND LILLIAN CROW BLANSIT, MY PARENTS

By Dorothy Blansit Holcomb

As I go back home to visit Mom and Pop, and go up to the door, I can't see Mom or Pop now or hear them saying, "Come on in."

They are not there any more, and the old home place is so lonely without them, but I stand there and remember their faces and smiles when the family was all there, saying, "Children, come on in for a while."

Now, I go to their graves and sit for a while and talk to them. It is I doing all the talking now, but I know they hear me.

I will never forget their smiles and hearing them say, "Come back soon."

They were the best parents a child could ever have. Thank God they were mine.



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Tamale Corn & Bean Casserole

1 1-pound can salt free (or regular) cream style corn
1/2 C skim milk (or soy milk)
1 T veg. oil
1 C yellow cornmeal
1 t sugar
1 t baking powder
1/2 t dried oregano
1/4 t salt
1 4-ounce can whole green chilies (hot or mild), rinsed and drained, and cut lengthwise into 1/2" strips
3/4 cup reduced-fat cheddar cheese (3 oz) or soy cheese
1 1-pound can pinto beans, rinsed and drained (or 2 cups of cooked beans)
1 1-pound can salt-free (or regular) stewed tomatoes
Preheat oven to 350°.
Lightly oil a 1-quart casserole or spray with nonstick cooking spray. Combine corn, milk and oil. Mix well. In a smaller bowl, combine cornmeal, sugar, baking powder, oregano, and salt. Mix well. Add to corn mixture, mixing until all ingredients are moistened. Place half corn mixture into prepared casserole. Arrange chilies over corn mixture. Spread cheese evenly over chilies and top with beans. Top with remaining corn mixture.
Bake uncovered, 1 hour.
While casserole is baking, heat stewed tomatoes. To serve, top each casserole serving with a generous helping of stewed tomatoes.

Submitted by Jennifer Smith
Mother's Market
635-0040
from the "Meatless Gourmet"

"WAR ON LITTER"

The Rhododendron Garden Club has declared "War On Litter." Ambitious plans for an on-going, community litter control project are in the works. Community suggestions, ideas, and volunteers may call Lois Pearl 634-3097 or call the Mentone Town Hall 634-4444 to volunteer in any way to help win this war on litter. Individuals and groups are needed—churches, scouts, clubs, all are welcome to help with this effort. Let's clean up Mentone.

More information will be forthcoming. Check the bulletin board at the Post Office or the bulletin board at the Mentone Town Hall. Spring cleanup goal: Kick off and Major Clean-up day is February 21. Individual Home Clean up - March 7.

Let's be proud to call Mentone home, volunteer in any way you can. All offers to help will be welcome. Thanks for your help!



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Matt. 6:24.

As we enter into a new year, it would be a good time to ask yourself, "Who is my Master? Who do I love? Who do I want to serve?" Since you can not serve two masters, make sure you choose the right one.

Happy New Year.

A RECIPE FOR THE NEW YEAR

One Cup of Contentment

Contentment is very rare. Neither the rich nor the poor are content. And so being thankful is rare, as well. A contented person recognizes that God knows best. Whether God has chosen to give him much or little, it is the right amount from a wise and loving Father. Such contentment must be learned.

I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation. Philippians 4:11-12

Ten Tablespoons of Thoughtfulness

Thinking of God's many blessings will lead to thankfulness. So, times of meditation are needed: short ones at mealtimes, longer ones on rising and retiring, and regular ones in the Lord's house. If you think, you'll thank.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Psalms 103:2

Six Teaspoons of Self-knowledge

Only when we recognize that we have no claim to anything at all will we be grateful for whatever God gives us. Those who presume that they deserve much do not give thanks but give vent to bitterness, envy, jealousy, and greed. These consume and destroy, but thanksgiving brings joy and enrichment of character and courage for the days ahead.

For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

1 Corinthians 4:7

All in a New Heart

All of these ingredients are related. A thoughtful person will be contented, a contented person has faith in God's wisdom: a wise man knows both how small and how great he is. And these graces will be developed best when Jesus rules the heart, turning it from greed and envy to service and thankfulness.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since, as members of one body, you were called to peace. And be thankful. --Colossians 3:15

(Note: This was submitted for the November issue. However, I felt it would be appropriate for the new year, as we do have so much to be thankful for. Marie S. Dillenbeck, Associate Editor)