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THE

GROUNDHOG

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By M.A.P.A.**

Volume 18, No. 1

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

January 2000

Rock Castle, Hammondville Landmark Burns



This old stone chimney and some smoke-stained rock walls are all that remain of the Rock Castle Cafe, Hammondville's best-known landmark. The building, at the intersection of Highways 11 and 117, burned despite the efforts of several local fire departments.

Times-Journal photo by Sheila Johnson

(Editors' note: We would like to thank all those who provided the following information, especially Dot Blackburn, Essie Downer, Hammondville residents, and others.)

On Monday, January 3, Hammondville's best-known landmark—the Rock Castle Cafe—was destroyed by fire. Rock Castle owners are Freda Pike, and husband, Ralph and son, Carey. Freda Pike said she closed the business around 7 p.m. that evening, as usual.

Parts of the building, Pike said, were around 100 years old. "One room was lined with old pine, and there were probably several layers of wood flooring in places. One part used to be a dance hall, and had a good wood floor."

The Pikes had owned the building for the past three years and were operating a restaurant and convenience store. "It's been here all my life, it's the landmark of Hammondville," Pike said.

The building is a total loss. High winds kept smoke and small flames whipped up for hours despite approximately 75,000 gallons of water sprayed on the building by the responding fire departments. According to Mentone Police Chief, Johnny Ferguson, one of the first officers on the scene, several fire departments fought the blaze, along with rescue squad members, and other personnel.

Hammondville Fire Chief Andy Beason said his department was on the scene within seven to eight minutes of being notified. Because of the intensity of the fire, they had to request all the assistance they could get. Units from Valley Head, Fort Payne, Sylvania, Blake, Ider, and Henagar helped battle the blaze. "We couldn't even contain (it) at all. The building was all tongue-and-groove hardwood in the inside, and had been built onto for years. We fought it nonstop for six to seven hours," Beason said.

"We were on the scene from around 9:30 until 3 a.m.," Hammondville Assistant Fire Chief Tony Edgeworth said. "We thought we might have emptied the water tank in Valley

Head, but they checked and said they were still good on water. They told us we had used around 75,000 gallons, though."

The building continued to flare up occasionally on Tuesday morning, and crime-scene tape kept onlookers at a safe distance in case the old rock walls, the only parts of the building still standing, should collapse from the strong winds.

Beason extended his appreciation to the other fire departments who came to Hammondville's assistance. "It's a lot on their part to come and help like this," he said.

"We also thank DeKalb Ambulance Service for coming to the scene; we had some smoke inhalation that they treated for us."

Wayne Wooten, Valley Head police officer, summed up the feelings of the community whose best-known landmark lay smoldering at the intersection of Highways 11 and 117. "A lot of people have very sentimental feelings about that building," he said. "We've had lots of folks coming by here crying this morning. That store WAS Hammondville. It will never be the same after this."

A smoking ruin of sandstone and ashes is all that remains of what was Hammondville's best-known landmark, the Rock Castle Cafe. Many would like to see it return again so all of the memories it held are not lost.

On Thursday, January 6, Dot Blackburn, a long-time former mayor of Hammondville, placed a simple Phoenix Bouquet at the doorway of the still-smoking ruins. By this simple and eloquent gesture, Hammondville has an expression of the Southern spirit to dream of rebuilding someday. The bouquet was donated by an onlooker saddened by the fallen landmark. He said it made him recall the fabled Phoenix bird of Egyptian mythology. After it burned in the Civil War, Atlanta used the Phoenix on its city seal to symbolize hope for rebuilding. Several people watched from behind the yellow crime-scene



Dot Blackburn places a "Phoenix Bouquet" at the doorway to the Rock Castle Cafe, which caught fire on Monday evening, Jan. 3, 2000. Its destruction has left many saddened and hoping it will be rebuilt from the ashes.

Times-Journal photo by Steven Stiefel

tape as the rubble continued to slowly burn through several layers of collapsed wood flooring. The fire has smoldered for nearly a week as people stop to see the remnants of something that has always been a large part of the history and character of their community.

The flowers are intended to represent the renewing spirit of a Phoenix bird. The Phoenix was a beautiful, lone bird which lived in the Arabian desert for about 600 years and then con-

(Continued to page 5.)

(See Schedule of Events on Back Page.)

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAPA PRESIDENT

By Marilyn Mathews

I hope each of you had a safe, happy, and quiet holiday season, and that the new year is the best one yet for you.

The December MAPA meeting was our Christmas party, and it appeared that everyone had a good time. We did not have as many people attend this year, but several were ill and others could not attend for other reasons. After a few announcements, we enjoyed a delicious holiday meal, and played "Dirty Santa". Dessie prepared the meats for the meal and the other members contributed vegetables and desserts. Dirty Santa provided lots of fun to finish the evening.

The party for the students at Moon Lake School was a huge success this year. Mickey Gough did a splendid job of planning and organizing it. Everyone enjoyed singing Christmas carols, a skit, refreshments and, of course, visiting with Santa Claus who had a gift for each student. I would like to thank Mickey and each person who helped make the party such a treat. Unfortunately, I do not have individual names, but that does not make my appreciation any less sincere.

With the beginning of a new year, we have some projects we are trying to finish, and we will begin work on our spring festival soon. We were unable to have the Rhododendron Festival last spring. Because of all the conflicts during the third weekend in May, we have decided to move our spring festival to the Saturday and Sunday of Memorial Day weekend and rename it Mountain Craft Fair. The dates this year are the 27th and 28th of May. So far, the response has been enthusiastic—we are already having dealers inquiring about space and quite a few have registered. Betty Bain was a great asset to the Colorfest as chairman and has agreed to be chairman for our Craft Fair also. We are trying to have as many dealers as possible demonstrate their craft, even give elementary lessons, if possible. We would also like to have as many local artists and craftspeople as we can. We would like to make this more a local show, but still have quality items for sale. If you are interested in a booth, please contact Betty or me and we will see that you get the necessary information.

The weather this time of year is unpredictable and January meetings have been eliminated from our schedule. We will resume our regular meetings in February and would like to invite you to attend—February 1, at 7:00 p.m. at Dessie's Kountry Chef. We hope to see you then.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR THE CHILDREN

On December 9th, M.A.P.A. held its annual Children's Christmas Party. The affair was held in the Moon Lake School gym.

At 3 PM, when the children filed in, they found one very important guest had already arrived. Santa Claus greeted the children and walked among them before sitting down to listen to Christmas Carols. After the singing, the children lined up for refreshments served by M.A.P.A. members.

The singing was led by Rev. Allen Cherbonneau of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, who was accompanied by Mrs. Randy Addison on the key board.

Before leaving, the children lined up to talk to Santa Claus and receive their gift.

Mickey Gough wants to thank all who helped to make the party a big success: the P.T.O., who co-sponsored the event; M.A.P.A. members. Marilyn and Huey Mathews and Dot Crow and Dessie Newberry for donating and baking the cookies.

Special thanks to Merle and Dee Matlock from Cloudland, Georgia, who gave their time and help with the party. Special thanks also to the Ministerial Association for the music.

Submitted by Mickey Gough

MENTONE TOWN COUNCIL

At the November 8 meeting, Resolution 99-6, a resolution to proceed with the amendment to the CDBG project to provide additional water supply further east on 117 was read and passed unanimously by the council. Resolution 99-7, a Resolution to accept the low bid of \$278,580, from Christopher Plumbing and Electric of Athens, Ala., as the contractor for the Appalachian Regional Council, Rural Development project for the installation of an 8" additional water supply line from Tutwiler Gap to Center Avenue was accepted by unanimous vote of the council.

Ordinance 99-1, Privilege License Schedule, was discussed. After approval by Pat Tate, the attorney for the town, the ordinance was read at the December 13 council meeting. Those portions of the proposed ordinance that pertained to police jurisdiction were removed by unanimous vote of the council. At the December 13 meeting, Ordinance 99-1, Privilege License Schedule, was passed by unanimous consent.

C. E. Britt, Zoning Administrator, on Dec. 13, read an amendment to Article III of the Zoning Ordinance at the Dec. council meeting. A public hearing was had on Nov. 18, at 7 PM, at which time there was no opposition to the amendment to Article III of the Zoning Ordinance of 1992, Section H - On-site Sewage Disposal System. The first reading of the amendment was accepted unanimously by the council, and the ordinance was considered and adopted on Jan. 10, 2000.

On the recommendation of Ed Disney and C.E. Britt, Zoning Administrator, Wes Griffith and John Bares were appointed to the Board of Adjustment in Dec. by unanimous decision of the council.

Steven G. Noles was unanimously re-appointed as the City Judge for Mentone.

C. E. Britt, serving as consultant to the Town of Mentone on water issues, gave a comprehensive report on several projects, with priority going to the completion of the CDBG extension on Ala. Hwy 117 and the installation of the ARC 8" water supply line from Tutwiler Gap to Wells Street/Cutler Avenue. The ultimate goal is to replace all smaller lines and galvanized lines within the city limits with 6" lines and to install fire hydrants.

Police Chief Johnny Ferguson commended John Corey and C. E. Britt for the work they did that resulted in the installation of additional lights and reflectors on Alabama 117. Greater lighting and better visibility is now provided in darkened areas, especially the "skinny bridge."

The next regular council meeting will be at 7 PM on the second Tuesday of February: February 14. The council consists of Linda Brown, John Corey, Dick Keefer, James Johnson, Jean McGhee, and Mayor Max Cash.



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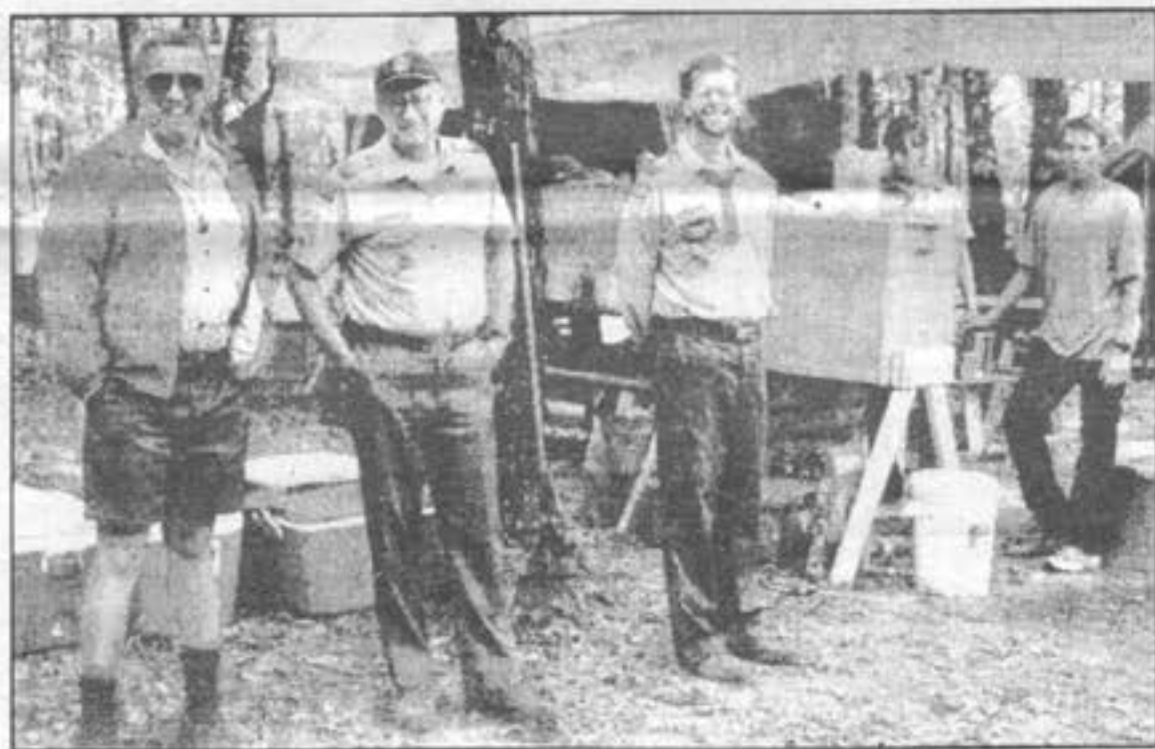
Boy Scout fall camporee celebrates winter theme

January 2000 / The Groundhog/Page 3



Jeffrey Wagner, Michael Rastall and Brent Kean (left to right), members of Troop 75 in Fischer, pull the Klondike sled they helped design and make for the Klondike Derby.

Photo courtesy of Jackie Pettit



Tom Oberge, David Gilbreath, Dr. Bill Berry, Tripp Griffin and Josh Hughes (left to right), of Troop 106 in Mentone, are shown during the camporee the troop sponsored.

Photo courtesy of Jackie Pettit

By Jackie Pettit

For The Times-Journal

This year's Sequoyah District Boy Scout Camporee was held in the fall, but it had the winter theme of Klondike Derby. Approximately 250 scouts and scouters participated in the semi-annual event held at Comer Scout Reservation in Mentone, the first weekend in December.

Each troop or patrol designed and built their own Klondike sled. The Klondike sleds were patterned after sleds from Canada and Alaska. These sleds were then raced in timed races by teams of eight scouts. The course for the race consisted of eight stops or stations, which included the boys answering questions about safety, tying knots or identifying plants or animals indigenous to the area.

The scouts from Sequoyah District, which includes both DeKalb and Cherokee counties, were joined by scouts from the Etowah District (Etowah and Blount counties). This joint camporee was held in order for the boys to have the chance to mix with scouts from other areas.

Many of the troops camped out on Friday night, December 3, but the camporee officially began Saturday morning with an opening flag ceremony. Afterwards, the scouts participated in a service project on DeSoto Scout Trail, which runs 17 miles from Camp Comer to Little River Canyon.

On Saturday afternoon, Dec. 4, the Klondike Derby was held. After the race was complete, the boys and leaders returned to their campsites to prepare food for the evening meal. Each troop or patrol cooked their specialty. All food was prepared over a campfire or in a Dutch oven. That night, everyone met together in the dining hall for a potluck dinner, which included foods such as Dutch oven corn bread and cake, fried chicken, venison stew, chili, dumplings and other delicious camp foods.



Photo courtesy of Jackie Pettit
Members of Troop 106 in Mentone are shown during the flag raising ceremony at the camporee.

After dinner, the scouts attended a campfire, where awards and ribbons were presented to the winners of the Klondike Derby. Skits were performed and enjoyed by all.

On Sunday morning, a non-denominational devotional service was held in the open-air chapel overlooking Lake Republic. Robb Small, the district chaplain, delivered the message.

Troop 106 from Mentone was the host troop for this camporee. Special thanks go to them and David Gilbreath for all their hard work and planning that made this camporee such a huge success.

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Mentone Grapevine II

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

As you can see by the lead story in this issue, the Rock Castle Cafe was destroyed by fire. The Hammondville landmark built in 1929 is no longer standing. The community is saddened by the loss and extends its deepest sympathy to the owners, Freda, Ralph, and Carey Pike, the owners.

Condolences to John Cooper, whose wife, Mickey Cooper, passed away on New Year's eve.

Condolences to Crow family. Mary Lee Crow Camp 90, of Flintstone, Ga. died on Dec. 22. She was buried in Little River Cemetery on Dec. 24. Her sister, Mabel Crow Kirk, passed away last year in San Francisco, CA., on Dec. 23.

Clara Cash is home from the hospital and recovering from a recent fall at her home. She gave everyone quite a scare. We're glad you're feeling better, Clara.

Betty Chapman, while out walking recently during a foggy afternoon, fell and broke her left arm around the elbow. Betty and Rick's daughter, Nancy, who had hip replacement surgery last year, and who lives in Florida is coming this week to help look after her mother. Betty spent several months last year looking after Nancy during her recovery. We wish you a speedy recovery, Betty.

Mildie Petersen had his tonsils out in December. He has recovered nicely and returned to school this past Monday.

Sue and Bill Schwarz, who are in the ending stages of renovating their Mentone home, spent the holidays in Clearwater, FL, visiting Sue's daughter, Chris, and granddaughters, Rachel and Gwennie, who are growing up so fast. Sue has also been to Oakland, MD, to visit her parents, Ruth and George Porter. George has been having a lot of back pain and everyone is concerned about him. Sue has also made a trip to Huntsville to visit daughter, Susan. Bill's daughter, Janet and her husband, Bob, are now living in Stockbridge, Ga., and a visit to their home was in order. Sue and Bill hope the sheet rock finishers will complete their work soon.

Bill Porter and his wife Karen, spent the weekend at the Mentone Inn Bed and Breakfast on November 13, 1999. Bill is the grandson of the late Lila VanSandt and great nephew of Vennie Pearce and the late Ralph Low of Mentone, Alabama. Along with Bill were several of his high school friends who had never been to Mentone, but had heard so much about it from Bill over the years that they wanted to visit the area. Attending with Bill were Bailey and Jean Bowline of Cumming, Georgia; Eddie and Judy Palmer of Atlanta, Georgia; Tom and Margaret Redd of Warner Robbins, Georgia; and Jack and Mary McKissack of Selma, Alabama. Staying at the Mentone Inn was a first for Bill since his family owns property in downtown Mentone. The weekend was spent enjoying the scenery of Mentone, along with a visit to DeSoto State Park, Sunset Rock, Inspiration Point, and other landmarks around the area of Mentone, Alabama.

Congratulations to young weather artists from Valley Head whose drawings appeared in the Times-Journal: Richard Williams, 11, (12/9); Jessica Roden, 10, (12/16); Adam Tuxbury, 9, (12/22); Christina Armstrong, 10, (12/28); Marjorie Harper, 9, (1/4/00); Caitlin Tanner, 9, (1/6/2000).

Happy belated wishes to Vickie Biddle who celebrated her birthday on December 21st.

Mentone United Methodist Church pastor Linda Tucker and her husband, Rev. John Tucker, of the Cedar Bluff Methodist Church, are expecting their first baby in early April. We are all looking forward to this wonderful gift from God in your lives! Linda has recently completed seminary, and we are very proud that the Lord is looking upon them with great favor.

Mary Clark, music teacher in Valley Head, is recovering from major surgery, but having complications. We wish her a complete recovery as soon as possible.

Beth Moore had all 4 wisdom teeth taken out on Dec. 20. She looked like a chipmunk and talked like Marlon Brando for a couple days, but she is back to normal, now (whatever is normal for Beth).

Congratulations to Andre Gregory Barker, son of Greg and Suzie Barker of Valley Head, who was named to the fall quarter dean's list at LaGrange College, in LaGrange, GA.

The new awning and lights on the Valley Head Town Hall look nice. They are a beautiful addition to the building.

Annette Orr has been very sick, lately. She had quite a bout with pneumonia. We are all glad that she is much better now.

Dennis Lewis and his family all had the "bug" during the holidays, as have so many others.

Ed Ringer celebrated his birthday on January 4 with a red velvet cake homemade by Billie Harper. Floyd delivered it to the Valley Head Water board and noted that Robert Ringer, Ed's brother, called and had it specially ordered. Ed shared the delicious cake with Lisa, Dennis, Anthony, and Beth, all at the Water Works office.

Barbara Johnson says, "The handwriting on the wall" means that the grandchildren have found the crayons."

Congratulations to Terra Suzann Fletcher of Valley Head and Virginia Annette Teague of Mentone, who graduated from Jacksonville State University at the 1999 Fall commencement.

Andrew Habel of Rainsville, another Troop 106 scout, will be appearing soon before the Board of Review in anticipation of receiving his Eagle Scout rank. He has worked especially hard, as have all others before him, and this is a great achievement. The scouts in Troop 106 are unique in that so many of them achieve the Eagle Scout rank. Parents, family, and friends can be proud of all their youth.

Charter Communications Cable Company recently bought out Helicon. It is planning to install fiber optics cable in the Mentone area, as well as other areas. This will mean a greater number of channels; and as Kat Johnson said recently, "assurance that when the wind blows, the cable will not go out." All cable viewers are looking forward to great programs and better service.

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

- Jerry Dale Slaton, 29, Valley Head, 12/6;
- Robert E. Lee, 96, Henagar, 12/12;
- Rayford V. Fuller, 76, Valley Head, 12/18;
- Mary Lee Crow Camp, 90, Flintstone, Ga. 12/22;
- Rev. Sherman S. Battles, 81, Henagar, 12/23;
- Minnie Davis, 79, Valley Head, 12/25;
- Ruby Ellen Thornberry Scott, 92, Chattanooga, 12/29 (native of Valley Head);
- Claudell Hall, 62, Valley Head, 1/9

Happy January 2000 Birthdays and Anniversaries to:

- 1- Scott and Linda Brubaker (anniv.); •2- Adis Childers (in memory of); •3- Freda Brandon; •4- Ed Ringer; •5- Angela Chambers; •6- Samuel G. Whatley, Ronnie Hulan; •7- Charlyne O'Rear, Karen Kay Powell, Garnett Lee Smith, Robert Brandon; •8- Stacie Worthey, Heath Miller; •9- Mayfred Clinderella Whatley, Denise Black, Marie Dillenbeck, Ted Hollenman; •10- Robert Johnston (in memory of), Lisa Shaw; •11- S.B. Stinson; •12- Barbara Blalock; •13- Judy McMahon; •14- Samuel E. Whatley, Judy Windom; •15- Ashley Tuxbury, Alyce Springer, Linda Brubaker; •16- Madison Moore; •17- Clyde Hawkins, Scott Gifford, Kent Kerby; •18- Dorothy Blansit, Tommy Harrison Jr.; •19- Dennis Lewis (THE BIG 40); •20- Dowe Foreman, Shannon Smith; •21- George Smith (in memory of); •22- Derek Whiserant (17); •23- Doy's Harcrow.

IN CASE THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE GROUNDHOG IS NOT OUT ON TIME,

Happy February Birthday/Anniversary wishes to:

- 1-Jeff Willoughby; Micah & Michael Moore; •2- Karen Davis, Terry Bouldin; •3- Eloise Brown; •4- Ben Windom, Leslie Thornberry; •5- Kayla Powell, Mack & Debbie Flannigan (anniv.); •6- Myrtle Blansit; •7- Willie B. Langston; •8- Shelia Yamada (in memory of), Sybil & Danny Hopper (anniv.); •9- Kayla Voils; •10- Craig Hall; •11- J. Young, Allen & Penny Baugh (anniv.); "Angel" Rector; •12- Michelle Williams, Stacy Blansit; •13- Tommy Kilgore; •14- Ginger Tuxbury, Trey Moore; •15- Gail Crider, William "Jug" Crow, Rachel Harrison; •16- Wendy Manifold, David Ashley, Michael Stephens; •17- Derek McMahon, Lisa Cordell; •18- Brandon Overstreet, Payton Day, Michael Chambers; •19- Thomas Moore (in memory of); •20- Sanford Hartline; •21- Nancy Rector.

Larry Brooks and his lovely wife, Maki, and their son, Kristopher, and daughter, Nicole, have recently moved to

Mentone from San Francisco, CA. Larry is the son of Amelia Lolli of San Francisco, and grandson of the late Mabel Kirk. He is also the nephew of Dot Crow and Grace Crow, of Mentone. The Brooks family is residing in the Kirk home in Mentone. Larry has returned to this area and is already working and meeting people. He said, "I am enjoying being back here. I look forward to meeting everyone." With his many talents, Larry will be a great asset to the community. His son, Kristopher, is enrolled in Moon Lake School. Larry said, "I look forward to being a part of the community." A warmest welcome is extended to Larry and his family.

Evelyn and Jimmy Graves have been having a bout with "the crud" or something similar. We hope they have a complete recovery soon. Other health problems crop up from time to time, but God is always there for them, as they overcome and deal with each problem.

Lydia Speed and daughter, Mary Jay, and husband, Bobby, had Sue and Bill Schwarz as New Year's Eve guests in their home on the east brow in Mentone. They were all helping bring in the new millennium. It worked, here we are with no glitches!

Jimmy, Barbie, Brittany, and Tyler Hester have had quite a time with the flu. No sooner does one get over the flu, and another takes up with it. Keep Barbie in your prayers, she has it ALL, to take care of.

Thank you, Marilyn Campbell, for your thoughtfulness and generosity. It made my day!

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. My wish for each of you for the year 2000--the new millennium--and beyond is:

When you're lonely, I wish you love.
When you're down, I wish you joy.
When you're troubled, I wish you peace.
When things are complicated, I wish you simple beauty.
When things are chaotic, I wish you inner silence.
When things look empty, I wish you hope.

When you make God the center of your life, you can be assured that "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" Mat 21:22



Rock Castle, Hammondville Landmark Burns

Continued from page 1.

sumed itself in fire, rising renewed from its own ashes to start another long life, thus becoming a symbol for the hope of renewal. Or so this storybook tale goes.

Rebuilding from smoking ashes is not new to the South. Following the Civil War, for example, Southern homes and factories were rebuilt from their still smoking ashes. The Eagle factory on the Chattahoochee River in Columbus, Ga., was rebuilt even before the ashes had cooled and was renamed the "Phoenix."

On the evening of January 3, the residents of Hammondville witnessed the destruction of an old landmark when the Rock Castle Cafe went up in flames. The building was destroyed, but many memories remain.

The building was built in 1929 by William Blevie Hammond, who later became the first mayor of Hammondville and served for many years in that capacity. Mr. Hammond borrowed the money for the construction of the building through Charles M. T. Sawyer II from a lawyer in Selma, Alabama. The loan was to be paid back \$100 at a time with money generated from Mr. Hammond's cotton crop.

The first renters were Monroe Ellis and John Humble who used the building for a garage, and the restaurant part of the building was rented to Carl Sloan. In the center of the building was a barber shop which was operated by John Buckles who lived in Sand Valley.

The first building was wood, and later in the early 1930s, William Blevie Hammond had it rock veneered. J. L. Downer hauled the rock from Colonel Howard's Master School after they had been dug out and selected for use by Deward Smith. Charley Crane and Deward Smith from Sand Mountain did the work. At this time, Harry Haralson "Hatchie" Hammond began the operation of the Rock Castle Cafe. Jim Hall was his partner. Hatchie later bought Jim out, and Hatchie ran the cafe until 1944. He had a profitable business with adequate room for dancing to the music from the jukebox. This, as well as the good food, attracted young couples.

Glenn and Joy DeShields ran the cafe for about two years after Hatchie gave it up. (Mr. DeShields was DeKalb County Tax Assessor for several terms.) After Mr. DeShields left, Hatchie took over the operation of the cafe, again. Later, Lester Hawkins ran the cafe, and Gordon Jones bought it from him, and it became a family venture. Mr. Jones' daughter and her husband, Kevin White, took over the operation of the cafe from Mr. Jones. It was later sold to Ralph and Freda Pike and their son, Carey Pike. They were the owners at the time the building burned.

Hammondville was incorporated as a town in 1937, and during the early to mid-forties, the town council and mayor met for town meetings at the Rock Castle because there was no town hall at that time.

The Rock Castle Cafe stands out in the minds of Hammondville, Valley Head, and Mentone residents, whether they frequented the cafe or not, because of its location and the fact that it had been standing there for so many years. It is sad to see just the hull of an old building that once was a meeting place for people to eat, laugh, and enjoy some time together.

Comments came from several employees of the Rock Castle. Sue Pumphrey of Mentone, who was one of the cooks, said, "After I heard the news, I couldn't really believe it. It's something I did not need. The Rock Castle was like my second home. I spent more time there than I did at home. It's just like losing a member of the family. I feel like I'm in a dream and when I wake up in the morning, it will be there. I love to work and I love that type of work. You get attached to the people you work with and the customers you serve--and they are family. I think the Pikes are the greatest." She said that every time she goes to the Rock Castle, now, she sees somebody there looking at the ruins. They come from all over--license plates are from out of state, too.

Nancy Rector of Valley Head, cook on Sunday, when she was called about it on Monday night, was shocked. She said, "Oh, my God! I don't believe it." Nancy said that her mother, Geneva Collins, had worked at the Rock Castle in 1959.

Waitress, Annette Orr, said "We are devastated. That was not only their best-known landmark, it was more than that."

Frances Scruggs, of Rising Fawn, Ga., another cook, said



Photo of the Rock Castle Cafe as taken from page 1 of the Hammondville Cookbook

The Groundhog staff apologizes for the lack of clarity of the photo. An actual photo was not available.



Ralph Pike, one of the owners of the Rock Castle Cafe, points to the building's smoking rubble as he talks with friends, family and Hammondville firemen about the fire that destroyed the building on Monday night.

Times-Journal photo by Sheila Johnson

"They called me late that night and told me it had burned. I couldn't believe it. I worked the 4 a.m.-1 p.m. shift. The next morning, I went down and looked at it. It was still smoldering. I am so sorry that it burned."

Jewell Rogers of Mentone who was a frequent customer said "I am so sorry that something like that happened. Everybody will miss it. The community doesn't look right. It's not there!"

Max Cash, Mayor of Mentone, said that members of his church met there every Wednesday night after prayer meeting for food and fellowship. They are really going to miss it.

One of the owners, Freda Pike, when asked to comment on the events, said, "We don't really know what to do yet. It's been the most devastating thing. I still don't have all my senses together. I've never been through a fire of any kind before. It has been a very bad experience. We never saw anything burn like that. It was horrible! Customers have come up to us crying like they were family. The only way we can describe it is the Rock Castle was family."

Freda said it was the sweetest gesture when Landmarks Judy Brown and Valley Head's former mayor, Dot Blackburn, called them about being allowed to put the flowers and the information about the Phoenix Bird at the ruins of the Rock Castle. She said, "It meant so much to us."

Freda asked that a thank you be given. She said, "Thank you to everyone who has helped us, called us, and cried with us, and especially to all those who responded. They did an outstanding job in containing the fire."



Blevie Hammond in front of his home



A Friendly— *Valley View*

By
ELOISE BROWN

Hard to believe, but another year has flown by—not only that—but we begin a new century!

I hope everyone had a happy Christmas.

The **Sunshine Club** had their Christmas party at the home of Billie Harper, Dec. 16. Her home was very beautifully decorated. I believe she has over a hundred Santa Clauses—all shapes and sizes and states of mobility. Those enjoying the occasion were Lillie Bowden, Susie Clark, Ruth Pickett, Gladys Cobble, Ann Wright, Verence Cooper, Treva McElhane, Louise Whitten, and myself. Each one took a toy for a child, and we had a bountiful covered dish luncheon.

My grandson-in-law, **Ray Darby**, came for me on Thurs., Dec. 23, and took me to his home in Collierville, Tn., to spend Christmas with his family—my granddaughter, **Robin**, and girls, **Sharon** and **Kirsten**. Collierville is a nice town of big mansions, all beautifully decorated with Christmas lighting. The houses have high peaked roofs because their heating and cooling systems and water heaters are in the attic. They don't have basements. There are fences everywhere—especially, back yards are fences with cedar boards. We toured Memphis, which is near, saw Graceland, and drove by the famous Peabody Hotel where the famous four ducks swim in the fountain in the lobby. (I didn't go in to see them, as I have lots of ducks swimming on my lake.) They did everything to make my Christmas very special, and Santa Clause was extravagantly too good to me. Robin and Ray brought me home on Tues., Dec. 28.

All of **Barry** and **Emily Brown's** family (except me) had their Christmas dinner at **Robert D. and Michell's** new house.

Evelyn Clark enjoyed a week's visit with her sister, **Violet Barker**, in DeLand, Fla. They were joined by their sister, **Anna Daniel**, from Colorado. She said that the Christmas parade of boats on the St. John's River was a beautiful sight.

Lillie Bowden had all her children, grandchildren and great grands (fifteen in all) for the day, Dec. 26.

John Roberts brought his mother, **Olene Roberts**, from Cullman, to spend a few days at home. Everyone was delighted to see her at Valley Head Baptist Church on

Sunday and doing so well. They spent the day with **Sadie Cooper** and were joined by **Betty** and **Robert Bradford** from Atlanta. They had dinner at Western Sizzlin. **Olene** had to return to Morningside Assisted Living at Cullman for more tests and eye surgery. We hope she will soon be able to return home and be completely well.

Mary and **Ted Holleman** had their Christmas dinner on Dec. 19. They had as their guests, **Betty**, "Red" and **Michelle Adams**, from Gadsden; **Adelaide Biddle** from Dallas, Ga.; **Allen Biddle** and **Edwina Towers** from Gadsden; **John Holleman** from Huntsville; **Elizabeth** and **Nelson Ellis** from Rainsville, and **Doc** and **Elizabeth Coleman**, **Laura D. Allison**, and **E.T. Holleman** from Valley Head. **Mary** and **Ted** spent Christmas day with **Nelson** and **Elizabeth Ellis** and family. They had also attended the silver anniversary wedding reception of **David** and **Mary Lou Carmichael** on Dec. 12, at Dallas, Ga.

Venna Livingston's family spent Christmas with **Sue** and **Sam Mosley** and family at Loganville, Ga. They went to Lake Lanier and saw the beautiful Christmas lights.

Mary Taylor's granddaughter, **Leslie Taylor**, from Washington, D.C., spent a few days with her.

Peachie and **David Cearley** came from Alpharetta, Ga., and spent Christmas with her mother, **Laura Margaret Allison**. **Ansley** and **John McGinnis**, from Florence, S.C., are with her for several days at this time.

Joseph and **Ginger Watters** are proud of their baby boy, born Oct. 26. His name is **Jacob Muddy Watters**. Grandparents are **Jerry** and **Sarah Barnhill** of NC, and **Joe** and **Helen Watters** of Valley Head.

I am so sorry that the **Rock Castle Cafe** was destroyed by fire Monday night, Jan. 3. It was a Hammondville landmark and will be missed by many people.

Ed Ringer, accompanied by **Lewis Barker**, visited **David** and **Susan Ringer** and family in Florence, Miss., on Dec. 23, for a few days. They were joined by **Dr. Robert** and **Myrtice Ringer** from Marianna, Fla. **Ed** attended church on Sunday at **Marvin Methodist Church**.

Charles and **Louise Hammond**, **Sadie Cooper**, **Willard** and **Priscilla Monroe**, and **Carl** and **Estelle Hale**, saw the new year in at a party at the home of **Peggy Bentley**.

Jimmy and **Sadie Cooper** went to Ringgold and brought their aunt, **Hazel Johnston**, home with them to spend a few days. While here, she and **Sadie** visited **Virginia Adams** at Ider and ate lunch at the Cabbage Bowl. They also visited **Melvin Smith**.

May we all enter the new millennium with strong resolutions to make it the best year ever, not only for ourselves, but for everyone we can reach, and with a deeper appreciation for the blessings we have and could have lost. To be able to live from one century to another is a most marvelous thing!

THE NEW MILLENNIUM

It is the beginning of a new millennium!
Its preparation cost hundreds of billions
And caused doubts and fears and panic for some—
No one knew what might happen or come.
Some people sold their homes and ran far away,
And built fortresses for protection—come what may.
The world feared terrorists bombs might employ
With their satanic lust to kill and destroy—
Many bought generators for electricity,
Some stocked up on supplies
to the point of eccentricity.

Everyone awaited January first with dread,
Of the outcome of the future days ahead—
No one knew—only time could tell.
Many prayed for assurance that all would be well.
Clocks were watched with bated breath,
Would 12:01 A.M. bring life or death?
When it came—what a blessed relief!
Once more we were spared destruction and grief!

Electricity still glowed!
Sweet water still flowed!
There was peace in the land!

Now, mankind can you understand
That this was a test and proof,
That you should realize the truth?
Computers are wonderful, helpful tools,
But men should not be their fools,
And allow them to completely control
For they can exact a paralyzing toll.
We have been threatened and observed it—
And altho this sinful world may not have deserved it,
Once more we have taken and passed the test,
And once more we have been spared and richly blest,
With a chance for a new beginning
with more appreciation,
And stronger faith and hope,
and priorities right in any situation.
May greater wisdom bring assurance and serenity
To a beautiful and peaceful world as it was meant to be!

—Eloise Brown

It's a
Brand New
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American Legion Post 215 Enjoys Christmas Sing-Along

By Marilyn Blanton Campbell

Tuesday evening, December 14, the gentlemen of American Legion Post 215 and the ladies of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 215 met together at 6:30 p.m. at the Legion Hall on Cove Road in Mentone for the regularly scheduled December monthly meeting, in addition to a celebratory meal marking the holiday season. The weather was clear and cold, and lots of people were at home sick, but a small to medium crowd of some 25 people were on hand for the occasion. Post Commander Sherman Gough called the meeting to order and asked Post Chaplain Howard Carson to return thanks. After the Pledge of Allegiance, a buffet style potluck supper was served, and the food—as usual—was wonderful. It never fails. The food at every legion event is always good, and the variety of it never ceases to be a source of amazement to the entire crowd.

After the meal, Post Commander Sherman Gough handed out song sheets to the assemblage, and the Brothers Crow—Barry (on keyboard) and Coy (on guitar)—sons of Homer and Bernice Crow of Mentone—proceeded to play for the Christmas carol sing-along that followed. George Walker led the singing, "Silent Night," "What Child Is This?" "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear," "O Little Town Of Bethlehem?" "Joy To The World," "O Come All Ye Faithful," and "Jingle Bells" were all enjoyed by the group using song sheets. Then the Brothers Crow began playing a lot less formally and did "We Wish You A Merry Christmas," "White Christmas," "Blue Christmas," "The Christmas Song," "Here Comes Santa Claus," "Silver Bells," and "Pretty Ribbons Of Blue," with various ones in the crowd joining in to sing where they remembered the words. After that diversion, the group returned to their song sheets to sing "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "The First Noel." In view of the fact that "America The Beautiful" and "Amazing Grace" are two of George Walker's favorites, those were suddenly added to the list of songs the crowd sang without the printed words. In spite of their amateur standing, the group's singing sounded remarkably good.

Post 215 Commander Sherman Gough then stood to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and thanked the Brothers Crow for playing the music for the occasion. While the ladies were clearing up, the Brothers Crow played the perpetual favorite "Danny Boy," "Last Dale," and "Behind Closed Doors."

Post 215 Commander Sherman Gough then called the meeting to order. Ed Ringer, Post 215 Adjutant, read the minutes of the November meeting at which Veterans Day was observed and a lovely Thanksgiving meal was served. Then, Post Adjutant Ringer proceeded to give the financial reports for Post 215.

Post Chaplain Howard Carson reported on the recent District 13 meeting that took place at the Valley Head Post. Alabama Department Commander J. T. Gore was in attendance at that meeting, and the in-house bluegrass band played for the occasion.

Post 215 Commander Sherman Gough thanked the ladies for the food that really was good, thanked the Brothers Crow again for the music, and wished everybody a Merry Christmas again.

The ladies of American Legion Unit 215 did not have an

official meeting as such, but Mrs. Syble Tipton, Unit 215's President, did, however, issue an explanation to the effect that it is the long established policy of that group to do "what we can when we can." The ladies like to make a visit each season to the DeKalb County residents who live at the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville, but those visits do not always come to fruition due to illness and other complicating factors. The active numbers for Unit 215 are small anyway; and, when the ranks are thinned by illness, that leaves almost nobody to make a trip or do anything else for that matter.

Unit 215's ladies do, however, manage to send lots of cards to the resident vets from DeKalb County who live at the Fann Home. Nine times each year—New Year's, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Fourth of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and birthdays—the resident vets from DeKalb County each receive a card from the ladies. At Christmastime, the ladies send individual cards to the four local resident vets, and they like to take Christmas cards for entire resident population of the Fann Home.

This year, there has been so much sickness that the committee handling the detail concerning Christmas cards for the general populace of the Fann Home simply packed said cards into a box, took them to the post office, and mailed them to Mrs. Angela Shirley, the Activities Director at the Fann Home. That committee also sent a letter to Mrs. Shirley explaining that they were doing a deed in the public service by keeping their germs at home and asking her to distribute those cards along with their very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. So many people have been deathly sick suffering from the universal respiratory affliction that has been going around, and our ladies are no different. The official medical ruling on what to call this particular strain of bodily contagion amounts to little more than "You've got the same thing everybody else has."

The ladies of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 215 are generally of the opinion that keeping their universal respiratory affliction germs away from frail, older people and persons whose health is not particularly good in the first place is a worthwhile policy in general. Furthermore, the ladies feared they would not even be allowed to enter the Fann Home, if they went over there, purely because of their perpetual coughing like consumptives and continuous honking, snorting, puffing, and blowing to say nothing of their potential for spreading contagion. It was with that situation in mind that the ladies opted for what they usually refer to as "Plan B" and sent their cards to the general resident population of the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home by post.

The general population of the Fann Home is, for the most part, made up of people who are beyond home health care. Some of the residents are more aware and more rational than others. The ladies of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 215 would like to encourage everybody to remember the resident vets this holiday season and keep them in your thoughts and prayers. The ladies also want to thank the people who responded to their appeal to the world at large to send holiday cards to resident vets. The families of the vets truly appreciate the fact that their loved ones are remembered.

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The Little River Hardware has agreed to be available to accept patron donations. Those wishing to make a donation to the library fund in the name of a loved one, will be able to do so through patron cards that will be available soon. Anyone wishing to make a donation may do so by sending it to Moon Lake School, New Library Fund, P.O. Box 166, Mentone, AL 35984.

The committee is excited about this project and hope that you will be, too. Your contributions of money, supplies, ideas, are needed.



Moon Lake / Mentone
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ALMOST EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SPIDERS, BUT DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO ASK!

The first meeting of the Rhododendron Garden club in the new millennium took place on January 11, 2000, at the Mentone Community Center. President Dallyne Jones called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Jan Wilkinson was asked to be "substitute secretary," as Christina Wise has not recovered from her broken wrist.

Bernise Crow delivered the devotional quoting from Psalm 134. She talked about God's creation, including snakes and spiders—all things created have a special place on Earth. God gave us the right to care for and protect it.

The hostesses were Dorothy Cyr, Bernise Crow, and Betty Chapman who was unable to attend. The members enjoyed a buffet lunch of soup, cornbread, and several dessert selections.

There were several members absent from the meeting due to illness or injury. Betty Chapman was absent. After she finished making soup for the meeting, and while she was out walking, she fell and broke her left arm.

Mickey Gough introduced the "guest speaker"—one of the club's past presidents and a master gardener—Ann Wright. The program was on spiders.

Ann passed out handouts showing pictures of different spiders and egg cocoons. Spiders are part of the animal kingdom. They are arachnids, not insects, and belong to the major division of the animal kingdom called the Arthropoda. Arthropods have jointed legs.

There are differences between spiders and insects. Arachnids have 2 body parts (abdomen and the thorax—consisting of head and thorax joined together), no wings, 4 pairs of 7-segmented legs, and no antennae. Most spiders have 8 simple eyes. Insects have 3 body parts (head, abdomen, and thorax), wings, 3 pairs of legs, and antennae. Insects have compound eyes.

Below the eyes of a spider are 2 small jaws that end in fangs. Venom is used to paralyze or kill prey. Spiders are the fiercest cannibals in the animal kingdom. The males are sometimes eaten by the females. Baby spiders, called spiderlings, are the ones that produce the small webs we see on plants early in the morning. Female spiders are larger than males and do most all of the web work.

These predators live almost everywhere. They can be found on the ground, under rocks, among grasses, on plants, in tree branches, in underground caves, in dark places, and even on the water.

According to fossil remains, the spider has been around for millions of years. Although not all spiders spin webs, they all spin silk. Spider silk is so strong that a rope of spider's silk 1"-thick would hold up 74 tons. It would be three times as

strong as a one-inch rope made of iron. All spiders have at least three kinds of silk glands, and most have five. Some silk glands produce a liquid silk that becomes dry outside the body. Other glands produce a sticky silk that stays sticky. The spider spinning the web produces an oil from its mouth to cover its legs to prevent it from sticking to its own web.

The spiders' worst enemy is the wasp. It stings them and puts them in cells for the wasp larvae to eat.

Ann described several spiders for the group. The **Trap-Door Spider** looks like a Tarantula and lives in the southwest US. The female's lifespan is almost 20 years. The female is much larger and stronger than the male. The female makes a 6"-8" deep burrow in the ground, lines it with silk, and lays about 300 eggs in a silk egg sac spun in the bottom of the burrow. It builds a trap door on the top of the burrow that fits like a cork and is hinged on one side. The door is made of silk, dirt, and grass. The spider is a night hunter and waits for its prey inside the burrow. When it hears it near, it pops the lid up and grabs the prey. The smaller sized trap doors tell the ages of the spiders. Full-grown spiders require wider burrows.

The **Wolf Spider** lives in the southwest US. It doesn't spin a web to catch its food—it stalks the prey like a cat does a mouse. The mother Wolf Spider carries its young on her back until they are able to take care of themselves. It also makes a burrow in the ground.

The **Crab Spider** lives on flowers and does not spin a web. It waits for its victims. They can change color of their bodies to match the color of the flower blossom, but they are mostly yellow and white.

The **Black Widow Spider** lives in the southeast US. It is shiny black with a red hourglass marking. The spider's body is about the size of a pea. The male is about 1/4 the size of the female, and often is dinner for the female. Black Widow Spiders build an irregular web and like dark, dusty, undisturbed corners. Their bite is poisonous to humans and can result in illness and/or death.

The **Brown Recluse Spider** lives in the southeast US and likes sheltered corners among loose debris in the outdoors, and on the floor and behind furniture in houses and outbuildings. It has a violin-shaped body. The poisonous venom bite can cause deep necrotic flesh. It is important to get to a doctor as soon after a bite in order that antibiotics and steroids can be administered to prevent the further loss of skin tissue as the wound does not heal quickly.

Tarantulas are the largest spider, normally 2-1/2" big, and in South America can reach 8". They are found in the southwestern part of the US and live in the ground in little wells

lined with silk. Tarantulas are not poisonous. They are jumpers and catch their prey by grasping.

Garden spiders are good examples of **Orb Weavers** and one of the best spiders. They are black with yellow and are nocturnal workers. Their webs are something to behold! Each night, the female replaces the old web with a new one, spun in complete darkness by touch alone. They use the wind to blow them from one area to another to attach the strands of the web to different spots. Then they build the web around the strands. The web is sticky, but the female has an oily substance that she produces from her mouth to coat her legs so she doesn't get caught in the web.

An interesting note: Hummingbirds use the silk of the spider webs to line their own nests.

There were no minutes to be read from the previous meeting. Peggy Roark gave the treasurer's report, which was accepted. The door prize—a decorative pillow—was won by Hattie Lide.

Under old business, it was reported that Russell Wright had gotten the plants in at the triangle at Tutwiler Gap. Special projects were discussed as needing to begin within the next few weeks: Moon Lake School—pruning, redoing the herb garden, as well as scheduling a day to clean up Mason Park and taking time for garden therapy.

President Jones announced that the club had been invited to hold the Feb. 8th meeting at the new Scout Hut that is located on Dempsey behind the Little River Hardware. The telephone committee will contact each member and inform them of the change in the meeting place.

Under new business, members were asked to think about something to do as a club. Planning the next year's programs will be taking place and new ideas are welcome.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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 Federated Garden Clubs.

The next Rhododendron Garden Club meeting is Feb. 8, 12:30, and will be held at the new Scout Hut on Dempsey Avenue behind the Little River Hardware. The hostesses will be Marie Dillenbeck, Gethryn Giles, and Dallyne Jones. The speaker will be Ann Wright and

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GARDEN HINTS

By Madeleine Bullock

My family and I hope that all had a very happy holiday and enjoyed some of the bounties of the land during that very special time of the year. We would also like to wish all a very happy and prosperous New Millennium Year!

Now that all the hustle and bustle of getting ready for the holidays are over, what do we do? Well, maybe we could spend some time checking out all those gifts of fresh potted flowers we maybe have been given! Here are some important guide lines to keeping them healthy.

Many people enjoy house plants; in fact, raising them is one of the fastest growing indoor hobbies. Caring for house plants offers opportunities for people who like to work with living things and watch them develop. Today, house plants are an integral part of indoor decor - especially in winter.

An artificial indoor environment often hinders plant development. High temperatures, low humidity, lack of sunlight, poor soil conditions, and improper watering contribute to most houseplant problems. In addition, insects or plant diseases occasionally damage house plants.

While plants last indefinitely, proper care extends their lives. Most house plants eventually become unattractive, but before discarding, use them for cuttings or divisions for new plants.

CONDITIONING: You can condition newly obtained plants as follows: •Initially expose your plants to the maximum amount of available light. This is usually a site close to a south window. •Over a period of four weeks, reduce the available light to the intensity of the location selected for the plant. •Next, leach the soil mixture by allowing water to filter down through the soil and escape through the drainage hole. Repeat this leaching process four or five times. This removes excess fertilizer or salts that can cause leaf drop when light intensities are low. •Avoid moisture stress by maintaining the suggested relative humidity and soil moisture content. Greenhouses are more humid than most living areas. While you cannot duplicate that environment in your home, using a humidifier benefits both you and your plants. •Most homes are not well lighted for plants requiring lots of light. Select plants requiring medium to low light unless you can provide supplementary light. Plants such as Chinese evergreen, cast iron plant, philodendrons, Boston fern and Sansevieria tolerate very low light intensities. When plants are located in low light areas (less than the 75-foot candles necessary for reading), use the minimum recommended day-night temperature. •Homes vary in the amount of available light for plant growth. Generally, the brightest location in any home is near a south window, while the darkest is across the room at a north window. Approximately the same amount of light is received by a houseplant located by an east or west window. However, plants with a western exposure are exposed to a much higher temperature. •Seasonal variations in light intensity occur within a home. Plants located in an east window during the summer may require a south exposure in winter. •To avoid sun scorch, condition your plants to the higher outdoor light intensities. Do this by initially placing the plant in the shade and then, over a four or five week period, gradually expose the plant to increased light intensity. •Light usually strikes the plant from only one side. Rotate the plant to maintain an upright growth habit. Symptoms of insufficient light include small leaves, long, thin stems, and a lighter than normal color. •Where light is limiting for plant growth or desired quality, supplement the natural light with fluorescent lamps. Plants that barely existed indoors will thrive with 12 to 16 hours daily of supplemental light.

TEMPERATURE: •Plants vary in their temperature requirements. Most foliage house plants tolerate day temperatures of between 65 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Night temperatures should be 10 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit lower. •Avoid rapid changes in temperature from cold or hot air drafts. Plants on window ledges may be exposed to freezing temperatures in winter. Be especially careful of foliage plants, such as African violet, croton, and prayer plants, which prefer warm night temperatures. •Plants grown at warmer temperatures than recommended produce weak, spindly growth; glassy and translucent leaves that yellow and fall off suddenly may indicate too low a temperature.

HUMIDITY: The amount of moisture in the air affects plant growth. With the exception of succulents, most foliage plants are injured when the humidity is less than 15 to 20 percent. Symptoms of low humidity are leaf drying and curling. •During the winter, when the home is heated, humidities reach very low levels. Some means of increasing the humidity should be used. The best way is to use a home or room humidifier. •Syringing (spraying plants with clean water) removes dirt from the leaves and increases humidity to a degree. Be sure to syringe plants early in the day to allow the leaf surface to dry. Leaf disease can develop if the leaf surface remains wet overnight. •High humidity areas such as bathrooms and kitchens often are ideal for plants.

ROOTING MEDIA: Plants obtain water, oxygen, and nutrients from rooting media. With few exceptions, a well-drained media is important. Most foliage plants thrive in a 1:3:2 mix of sandy loam: organic matter (peat, bark chips, leaf mold, compost): perlite. Mixtures for succulents and cacti require additional coarse-textured material, such as sharp sand.

FERTILIZING: •The amount and frequency of fertilizing depends on the type of plant, desired growth rate, available sunlight, media mix, frequency of watering, and type of fertilizer. For actively growing plants, fertilize every two months. Don't fertilize dormant plants. •Avoid over fertilizing - plants require less fertilizer under low light intensity. Burned or dried leaf margins and wilted plants often are a sign of excess fertilizer application.

WATERING: •No exact recommendations can be given for watering plants, but there are some general guidelines. Thoroughly wet the soil at each watering - water should drain out the bottom of the pot after watering. Frequency of watering depends on many factors, including plant types or species. •Don't water more frequently than required; wet soils can lead to root rot problems. Excessively wet soils lack the oxygen required for root growth. Yellowing foliage results from poor soil aeration. •Water plants with room temperature water. If possible, use rain water for plants sensitive to fluorides, such as Dracaenas, Cordylines, and Chlorophytum.

INSECTS AND RELATED PESTS: •Insects, mites, and a number of other related pests occasionally damage the flowers and foliage of house plants. The most common are aphids, mealy bugs, white flies, scale insects and spider mites. Pests such as fungus gnats, caterpillars, ants, millipedes and slugs usually cause more alarm than they do damage. •The best way to prevent pest damage to house plants is to avoid the initial infestation. Carefully inspect leaves, stems, and soil of newly acquired plants for the presence of insects, mites, and other unwanted guests. •Similar inspections should be carried out before moving plants back into your home for the winter. Always isolate these plants for a week or two and watch them closely for signs of developing pest infestations. •If plants are to be re-potted, use a commercially prepared, pasteurized pot-

ting soil to avoid introducing sow bugs, fungus gnats, spring tails, and other soil inhabitants. Removing dead leaves and debris from plants and pots helps eliminate hiding places used by many pests. When handling infested plants, be extremely careful not to accidentally transfer insects and mites from one plant to another. •There are a number of non-chemical ways to eliminate unwanted pests. If only a few leaves or stems are infested, remove and discard them. Soil insects are effectively eliminated by re-potting plants, using a pasteurized potting soil. Large pests such as beetles, caterpillars and slugs can be picked off by hand and destroyed. •Gently wiping the leaves and stems with cotton swabs dipped in rubbing alcohol is an effective means of controlling aphids or mealy bugs, especially if they are not too abundant. •Another useful technique involves washing plants with soapy water. Always rinse the plants a few minutes after treatment to avoid soap injury to the foliage. For best results, repeat the washing procedure two or three times at five- to seven-day intervals to destroy any pests (especially eggs) missed during earlier washings. •When plants have extremely heavy pest infestations, disposal may be the best solution. If possible, take a cutting and start over again. •In many cases, pesticide sprays offer the most practical way to control pests on house plants. When treating plants, be certain the product is specifically labeled for both the pest and plant species. This is important because not all pesticides kill all insects, and some materials can damage plants.

DISEASES: •The diseases of house plants can be frustrating problems to overcome. In spite of proper care, house plants are subject to numerous plant diseases. The four major groups of pathogens causing plant diseases are fungi, bacteria, viruses, and nematodes. Fortunately, the dry home or office environment is usually not favorable to many diseases that plague foliage and flowering plants grown in a more humid greenhouse environment. •Many house plants already are infected with disease causing pathogens when they are purchased. Poor management at the home or office often aggravates the pre-existing disease problem. Some diseases are introduced at the home or office. Over watering, excessive misting, and insect injury often provide the necessary conditions for disease to develop. •One helpful way to distinguish between disease and cultural or chemical injury is to look at the line between healthy and diseased tissue. Usually, if this line is sharply delineated, the cause is of a nonpathogenic nature. •House plant diseases caused by bacteria usually produce angular lesions frequently surrounded by yellow halos w water soaked areas. Fungi produce a wide variety of symptoms including root rots, stem lesions, leaf spots, mildews and rusts. Diseases caused by viruses often appear as abnormal or distorted growth. •Nematodes are microscopic worms that mostly feed on roots, causing the plant to become stunted, yellowed, and generally unthrifty. •Most diseases of house plants in the home or office can be prevented or, at least, the effect minimized, by following a few simple precautions: •Know and observe the proper growing conditions for that plant. •Do not over-water or over fertilize; this stimulates root rot diseases. •Avoid over-misting to prevent powdery mildew and leaf spots. •Grow house plants in clean containers and in well-drained and "pasteurized" or "sterilized" commercial potting media. •Purchase healthy, vigorous appearing plants. •Beware of bargain plants.

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Katie McDonough to participate in the January 30, 2000, Super Bowl Half-Time Show



Katie McDonough

Katie McDonough has been selected by the Walt Disney Organization to participate in the January 30, 2000, Super Bowl Halftime Show at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Ga. Katie will be part of an orchestra formed by selected members of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra of Atlanta (MYSO) and the Cobb County Orchestra. Katie is a student from Roswell High School, Roswell, Ga., and is in MYSO. Katie is the principal in the second violin section of MYSO.

One of the practice sessions for the Super Bowl Show will be held during school hours (Thursday, January 27, 2:00 PM - 10:00 PM) and one will start at 5:00 PM (Friday, January 21, 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM). This is a unique musical experience for these young musicians—a once-in-a-lifetime event!

This production will involve hundreds of cast members like Katie. The Special Events Team at Walt Disney World has completed all the logistics necessary to produce such a colossal event. Every performer is valued and essential to the success of the production.

Katie is an honor student and the daughter of John McDonough & Juanita Galloway. Katie's grandparents are Jane Galloway of Mentone, and Max and Annette Galloway of Cloudland, Ga.



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Happy Birthdays



Jessica Nolen (Huskey)

Jessica Nolen (Huskey) celebrated her 5th birthday on October 17, 1999. Her mother is Jennifer Huskey. Father is Allen Huskey. Grandparents are Brenda Nolen of Henagar, Otis Nolen of Piedmont, and R.B. and Joyce Huskey of Mentone.



Rheanna Lane Patterson

Rheanna Lane Patterson celebrated her 2nd birthday on Oct. 4, 1999. Her parents are Steven and Lisa Patterson, of Hermitage, Tenn.

Grandparents are R.B. and Joyce Huskey of Mentone; Charles and Marie Hampton of Dickson, Tenn.; and the late Dr. Stephen Patterson.

Rheanna has a little brother, Bryce.



Kristen Lauro

Kristen Lauro celebrated her 3rd birthday on December 23. Her father and mother are John and Lorelei Lauro, from Springfield, Virginia. She has two sisters, Kara and Samh, and one brother, Justin. Grandparents are Marie Dillenbeck, Mentone, AL; Walter and Arlene Dillenbeck, Belding, MI; and the late Frederick and Patricia Lauro. Her great grandmother is Dorothy Shelden, Las Cruces, NM. **Kristen, we love you!**



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Alta L. Millican, Anniston, and Addie Hall, Chattanooga, at the reception given in their honor by Mona and Richard Mellon at Winston Place, Oct. 10, 1999. Alta gave her life to teaching at Jacksonville University. She is now retired and living at Anniston. Addie will be 98 in March.

They are two gracious and wonderful ladies!

"Welcome Addie, Alta, and cousins, Valley Head 10/10/99.



Most of Kenneth and Judy Millican's family at the Millican-Hall reception at Winston Place on 10/10/99. (Justin's youngest son) Mona Sibert Mellon (Kenneth's cousins) and Dirk Sibert at top right.

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• **Hwy 157** - 10 acres backs to State property on two sides. \$3,000 per acre. Sold as a whole.

• **Hwy 157** - 3 AC, 200 ft of Brow. Easy Access. \$47,500. **Sold**

• **31.5 acres** on Hwy. 48 near Menlo. Creek, pasture, and planted pines.

• **Cooper Ridge** - Teloga Creek traverses northern boundary of this 92± acre tract of rolling hills with beautiful view of Lookout Mountain. Private entrance, county water available. No subdividing. (No. 0-44) **Reduced**

• **Cloudland** - 1175 - State Line Road; T-2 - 44± AC - small lake open to wooded - Some frontage on Hwy 117. \$2000 per acre.

• **Lake Lausanne** - T-1 - 7.8 AC with lake frontage; T-2 - 6 AC with lake frontage. **UNDER CONTRACT**

• **PRISTINE HIGH IN THE CLOUDS** - Gadsden Avenue/Cloudland. You have always admired it. You have imagined yourself living there in its quiet serenity. **PRIME** is proud to offer this beautiful brick rancher with 2.5± acres of majestic beauty. Home features living room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, 1-1/2 bath, sun room, utility room, 2 car garage, outdoor pool, and more. **Contract Pending** Cloudland water system. Additional 7± acres available. Convenient to park and restaurant. (No. 27)



GET AWAY FROM IT ALL - 80± acres - Panoramic view from 1800 sq. ft. Mountain Home and full basement. Two fireplaces, hardwood floors, much more, private and secluded - Chattooga County - \$210,000.00.



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Barry Kay, Evelyn Graves, President, Edna Morgan
The Valley Head Woman's Club

By Flo Kirby

The Christmas celebration of the Valley Head Woman's Club took place on December 10th at the Mentone Springs Hotel, Caldwell's Restaurant. The dining room was very festive with white poinsettias on each table, a twinkling Christmas tree in the corner of the room, and numerous other decorations throughout. Our Entertainment Committee (Dot Blackburn, Edna Morgan, Sadie Cooper, and Dallyne Jones) did a beautiful job.

Members, their spouses and special guests had a delicious dinner with a choice of meat (fried chicken or prime rib), a large array of vegetables, plus salad and soup. The service was very good and we appreciate all the efforts of the owners and staff. There were approximately 52 present.

A truly wonderful musical program was presented by Mr. Barry Kay, an acoustic and classical guitarist/vocalist. He and his family live in Valley Head, and he teaches music classes part time at Nature's Classroom (Riverview Camp) and is music director for the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Madison. He is an accomplished musician and everyone thoroughly enjoyed his music. We concluded the evening by joining Barry in the singing of Christmas carols—a lot of old favorites, plus a few new ones.



The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

Another year has slipped by and we have entered another century without a hitch—exactly as I believed we would. The only thing that disturbed me a little was that terrorists would take advantage of the amount of tension created by those who predicted a woeful situation and do something destructive, but thanks to our men who defend our country, the year 2000 came in beautifully and peacefully. It was most interesting to see the greetings of the new year celebrated in many other countries with impressive shows of lovely fireworks: Moscow, Paris, London, Sydney, New Zealand, Shanghai, and then switch to New York and Washington. The Washington monument was spectacular with lights glowing all the way to the top, more than 500 feet.

We stayed home New Year's Eve and had a quiet dinner with our good friends, Jim and Penny Lyday, and our son Barry. We had been celebrating Christmas for a week with all our family but three grandchildren and it was time to relax and just sit by the fireplace and talk. Jim is a good conversationalist and we love to hear him tell about fox hunting here in Mentone in the thirties and early forties. It was interesting to hear them blow the "fox horns" calling the dogs in early in the morning. When the Glovers operated the Hitching Post, they fed the hunters breakfast at 5:00 o'clock, as they arrived after hunting all night. He remembered Dr. Floyd, who was the main doctor of this area for many years, (he delivered Jim), coming to hunt in the woods near where Jim's family lived. He said the doctor lost his dogs one night and had to hunt for them the next day. Mrs. Edith Lyday, Jim's mother, cooked ham, eggs and biscuits for the doctor at their home. They also had the fox hunters convention at Mentone when the hunters came from miles around with their dogs and stayed for several days hunting at night and sleeping very little during the day. They did not want to kill the fox but only liked to hear the dogs baying as they ran the fox, while the local people hunted squirrels, rabbits, and most any other wild animals for food.

My grandmother made delicious squirrel dumplings when I was young, but now I would have to be starving to eat one. They are such beautiful little animals that we love to watch as they steal the bird feed. There are so many nuts that the squirrels have let up on eating the bird seed this fall.

After we discussed these activities of by-gone times, I wish I had used the video camera to record them. Jim has some of these stories in his book, which will preserve them for posterity. So soon, those of us who are older, will be gone and these interesting stories are forever silenced. That's why I keep a daily journal for my children and grandchildren. Even just our lifestyle now will be like a fascinating tale in a few years if things continue to progress at the same rate of speed of the 1900s. Food will be very differently prepared and may even be served in capsule form, heaven forbid. But it seems, with all the modern technology, we get busier and busier, and have less time to spend in the kitchen. I am already way behind most modern cooks because I do potatoes the old way, using real potatoes, peeled, sliced, and stewed until soft, mashed with a potato masher and creamed with butter, milk, and salt. The young girls cannot imagine spending that much time when they could pour dried granules from a box, add hot milk and serve.

A built-in vacuum system is now included in many homes. That would be nice, since dragging a machine around is not one of my favorite tasks.

In this past century, we saw progress from the first automobile, airplane, advanced home appliances, television, computers, space travel—even to the moon, and technology beyond my imagination. I have not understood electricity yet, but I know it works! And how happy we were to have it in our home for the first time in 1949. Mentone had it in the incorporated area much earlier, but those in the outlying areas were the last ones to receive power. What a wonderful thing it was to have an electric refrigerator, stove, and washing machine, and electric iron.

We loved having our daughter, Joyce Cooper, and her son Lee, stay a week with us during the holidays. Usually, it is just a week-end visit, but this time Joyce came to work with Doreen at the Package Store during the rush time. It was a pleasure to prepare dinner for them in the evening and have more time to visit. Joyce's husband, Gregg, came later and stayed five days. He had built a glider-type swing for us and delivered it to us for our Christmas present. It is lovely. Gregg is a perfectionist and had to have everything done exactly right and had spent a lot of time building it. He is a computer programmer by profession, and he had to be back in South Carolina in order to be there if there was a problem on New Year's Day. We haven't heard from him, so we presume everything functioned properly.

The Crows' Nest Antique shop will be closed during January and we plan to stay in Chattanooga most of the month for a rest. If you make resolutions be sure to keep them. I make mental ones and most always break them, but at least they can be a goal and just maybe can be accomplished. Happy New Year!

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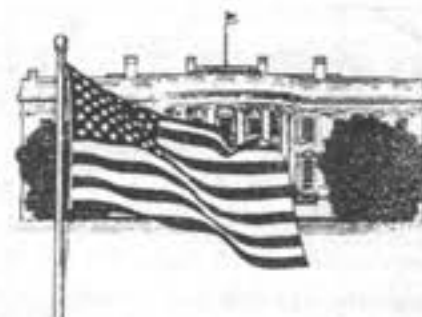
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L/R: Back: Jessie Mayhew and Officer Bray; Middle: Marjorie Harper, Tiffany Crane, Patti Grider, Samantha Rhodes, Savanna Weller, Megan Gregory, Tiffany Harper; Bottom: Samantha Weller, Dustie Nix, Jessica Thornberry

Girl Scout Troop 1012 Visits Valley Head City Hall and Fire Station

Working on the badge, My Home Town, Troop 1012 visited the Valley Head City Hall and Fire Station in December.

According to scout leader, April Nix, Troop 1012 did great on the cookie sales. They sold 1019 boxes of cookies. On Thursday, January 13, the scouts will be delivering the cookies. Don't miss the delivery!

Other money making projects in which Troop 1012 will be participating include booth sales in February. Girl Scout cookies—Samoas, Thin Mints, Do-si-dos, Tagalongs, Striped Chocolate Clup, Trefoils, Reduced Fat Apple Cinnamon, and Lemon Drop—will be available, on February 5, for those who did not purchase them through the cookie sale, and for those who wish to purchase more.

On Saturday, February 5, from 12-4, Troop 1012 will be at the Foodland Plus store located at the North Y, on North Gault and Hwy 11 in Fort Payne. They will be manning the booth to sell additional cookies. Other troops from Unit 1 will be participating during the remaining times of the day. Remember, Girl Scout cookies also make wonderful gifts.

On February 19, all the scouts of Unit 1, including Troop 1012, will meet at the Fort Payne Middle School lunch room from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. This celebration is called "Thinking Day." International friendship is the emphasis. Each troop picked a country and will bring samples of food from the countries selected.

The history of Girl Scouting began with Mrs. Juliette Gordon Low who established it in the United States in 1912. March 12, 1912, was the first troop meeting in the home of Mrs. Low in Savannah, Ga. A charter was issued to the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. in 1950, by the U.S. Congress. Girl Scout Sunday is March 12. Girl Scout week will be March 12 through March 18. This will be their 88th celebration year.

Troop 1012 is a very new troop, and welcomes any support that the readers can offer, whether it be a monetary donation, or participation in the cookie sales or other money making projects.

Remember, the booth sales are on Saturday, February 5, at Foodland Plus at the North Y, all day.

TEACHER'S JOB LARGER THAN LIFE "Let me see if I've got this right."

Submitted by Dick Keefer from a Web site

You want me to go into that room with all those kids, and fill their every waking moment with a love for learning. Not only that, but I'm to instill a sense of pride in their ethnicity, behaviorally modify disruptive behavior, and observe them for signs of abuse, drugs and T-shirt messages.

I am to fight the war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, check their backpacks for guns and raise their self-esteem.

I'm to teach them patriotism, good citizenship...and fair play, how and where to register to vote, how to balance a checkbook and how to apply for a job—but I am never to ask if they are in this country illegally.

I am to check their heads occasionally for lice, maintain a safe environment, recognize signs of potential antisocial behavior...write letters of recommendation for student employment and scholarships, encourage respect for the cultural diversity of others and—oh, yeah—always make sure that I give the girls in my class 50 percent of my attention.

In order to qualify for a substantial raise, I'm required by my contract to be working—on my own time, summer, and evenings, and at my own expense—toward additional certification, advance certification, and a master's degree. I may have to sponsor the cheerleaders or the junior class, and after school I am required to attend PFP committee and faculty meetings and participate in staff development training to maintain my current certification and employment status.

I am to collect data and maintain all records to support and document our building's progress in the selected state mandated program and to "assess and upgrade educational excellence in the public schools."

I am to be a paragon of virtue larger than life, such that my very presence will awe my students into being obedient and respectful of authority. I am to pledge allegiance to supporting family values, a return to the basics, and my current administration.

I am to incorporate technology into the learning, but monitor all Web sites for appropriateness, all the while providing a personal one-on-one relationship with each student. I am to decide who might be potentially dangerous and/or liable to commit crimes in school, or who is possibly being abused, not forgetting that I can be sent to jail for not mentioning these suspicions to those in authority.

I am to make sure ALL students pass the county, state and national tests, and all their classes, to check whether or not they attend school on a regular basis and make sure they complete any of the work assigned that they missed while they were AWOL or in ISS (in-school suspension).

I am to communicate frequently with each student's parent by letter, phone, newsletter, and grade reports. I'm to do all of this with a piece of chalk, a computer, a few books, a bulletin board, a 45-minute-or-less planning period, and a big smile on my face, doing all on a starting salary that qualifies my family for food stamps in many states.

Is that all?



UGF ADOPTS 2000 BUDGET

The Board of Directors of United Givers Fund of DeKalb County met in early December to adopt the organization's budget for the coming year. Following the completion of each year's campaign, UGF's Budget Committee meets to finalize the tentative budget as adopted prior to the campaign. Terry Gillis, Budget Committee Chairman, presented the Proposed 2000 Budget to the board.

Member agencies to be funded during 2000 from the proceeds of this year's campaign are: Alabama Easter Seal, The American Red Cross, The ARC of DeKalb County, Boy Scouts, CASA of DeKalb County, DeKalb County Children's Advocacy Center, Fort Payne-DeKalb Child Development Center, Fort Payne-DeKalb Rehabilitation Center, Girl Scouts, Hospice of Northeast Alabama, The Salvation Army-DeKalb County Service Center and Thrift Store, and USO.

Following the approval of the budget by the UGF board, each agency was notified of the amount of their annual allocation for 2000. UGF-funded agencies will be able to provide many needed programs and services during the coming year for DeKalb County residents.

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WE'VE COME A LONG WAY!

by Marilyn Blanton Campbell

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District's Board of Directors and the volunteer firefighters of that organization met Thursday, December 16, at 7 p.m. at Dessie's Kountry Chef on Alabama Highway 117 in Mentone to evaluate and celebrate their group's progress thus far. Ken Kirby rose, as the spokesman for the Board of Directors, and told about the new truck that has been ordered and will be arriving here in Mentone after the first of the year. There has been a hitch in the delivery of parts for the pump, so the whole process of acquiring the new truck is taking longer than had first been speculated, but the new truck is definitely on its way to Mentone.

Pictures of a similar truck were passed around, and Ken Kirby made the point that nobody should expect the new truck, which will be coming, to look like the big, fancy, sleek, and impressive fire apparatus that we are used to seeing in parades on television. This truck is designed for Mentone's specific fire suppression needs as opposed to being intended to impress the rest of the world. It is an established fact that, here at Mentone, the supply of water for firefighting is minimal at best, so the fire truck is compelled to carry its own water supply, and the new truck will about triple the water supply of the previously used apparatus. While the new truck will not have lots of the optionals that Mentone does not need in the first place, it really should serve the area long and well as a piece of equipment that was designed as a workhorse to fulfill our needs as opposed to looking good in a parade.

It should also be noted that, when the new truck goes into service after the first of the year, plans have been made for the most pitiful of the old trucks--the one that has, so far, been unable to outrun obsolescence, dilapidation, and decrepitude--to be readily dispatched to the happy hunting ground for fire apparatus. This is purely because it is beyond the point of resurrection simply by virtue of the fact that replacement parts are no longer obtainable.

All of that discussion about the new truck was of great interest to the volunteer firefighters. From the point of view of their own personal safety, the word that Ken Kirby was able to give about new insurance coverage for men, equipment, facilities, etc., was of particular concern to everybody.

Naturally, the Board of Directors of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District is thankful to everybody who has ever contributed in any way, shape, or form to their fund raising efforts this year, as well as in the past. With new equipment and better training for volunteer firefighters, it is the sincere hope of the board that, in time, the NLMFPD's ISO rating can be lowered from its current 9. When that comes about, you the public will be directly benefited in the financial sense that your insurance premiums will be lowered considerably. That literally means money will stay in your pocket as opposed to going out to the fire insurance company for coverage on your home and/or other buildings.

There was no formal program as such. The occasion was used primarily to thank the volunteer firefighters for their service and bring those men up to date in a face to face setting on the status of the new truck and the new insurance coverage. All in attendance enjoyed a fine meal of fresh garden salad with a choice of dressings, prime rib with sauce on the side, baked potato, green beans, and hot rolls served with coffee, tea, and ice water, and coconut pie for dessert. They seemingly all had a good time as they celebrated the progress of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District.

Perfectly beautiful potted poinsettias were given away as door prizes. Board Chairman, Gail Chambers stood to welcome each person and thank them all for being present. In an effort to introduce all the people who did not know each other, Linda Brown stood and asked each person to introduce himself, his date, and tell how he fit into the organization. After that was completed, a list was passed, and those present were asked to print their names. Anybody, who failed to put himself on the list, is not included in the group of those attending. The group consisted of: Dale Kirby, Christy Ferguson, Rusty Chambers, Angela Chambers, Logan Chambers, Donnie Voils, Cayla Voils, Samuel G. Whatley, Kevin Worthey, Christy Voils, Phil Harris, Krissey Harris, Eric Kirby, Misty Ferguson, Linda Brown, Bobby Brown, Ken Kirby, Flo Kirby, Frank Hill, Linda Hill, Reggie Tate, Eleanor Tate, Marilyn Blanton Campbell, John Johnson, Kim Worthey Johnson, Jim Roberts, Milton Chambers, Gail Chambers, and Sanford Hartline.

When you make your resolutions for the new year, it is the sincere hope of the Board of Directors of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District that you faithfully resolve to be extremely careful in your use of fire in any form. While we have had some rain, conditions are still dry enough to promote fires, so please be extra careful. It is also hoped that you will contribute to this organization as much as you can over the coming year. The upgrading in the form of better equipment and training of personnel that they will be able to do with more money will benefit each and every citizen in the Mentone area by increasing the firefighting capabilities. This will make everyone safer in his home and anywhere else he might happen to find himself.

If you would like to make a contribution to the NLMFPD, you may make your checks payable to:

North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District and
mail to: P.O. 154, Mentone, AL 35984.

When making a donation, please enclose your mailing address, as well as your 911 address. This helps insure that the volunteer fire department can respond to the correct location in case of an emergency or fire. As always, thank you for your generous, tax-deductible donations.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN NATURAL HEALING: VALERIAN

By Laura Katherine AKA Moon

Valerian, also known as All-Heal, is a non-addictive herb that should always be kept on hand. The name valerian is derived from the Latin word *valere*, which means "to be well" or "to be strong," according to *Herbal Healing for Women*, by Rosemary Gladstar. Valerian is an herb well known for its sedative properties, but it has many other uses.

Valerian's sedative properties are beneficial for many different causes of stress or distress. It should be used if ever you are having problems sleeping. Valerian helps in cases of insomnia and any sleep disorder whether it is due to stress, anxiety, nervousness, hysteria, premenstrual syndrome, fatigue or pain. It will also help any of these conditions without putting you to sleep if you take a smaller dose. However, you should never drive while taking this herb.

The sedative benefits of valerian make it helpful in reducing high blood pressure because it so significantly lowers the stress level. It is helpful in preventing and treating stomach ulcers as well as fermentation and gas in the stomach. Valerian is beneficial for joint and muscle spasms and pain. It reduces fevers and mucous--as a result helps clear up common cold and flu symptoms. Valerian is beneficial for a spastic cough especially in combination with mullein. It is beneficial for treating heart palpitations. Valerian has also been known to be helpful for relieving altitude sickness symptoms. It will help clear up acne and sores if applied externally as well as taken internally. Valerian is also helpful in relieving headaches.

Valerian has also been called "moon root" according to *Herbal Healing for Women* by Rosemary Gladstar. It acquired this name because of the many benefits it brings to women of all ages. Valerian promotes menstruation. It is beneficial for menstrual cramps, as well as the mood swings that accompany premenstrual syndrome and menopause.

A very small portion of people's digestive systems do not digest valerian's active ingredients of valerician acid and iso-valerician acid so as to make it act like a sedative, but it actually acts as a stimulant. Should this occur, I would recommend discontinuing use.

Valerian grows well on Lookout Mountain. It is beneficial planted as a border around your full sun garden because the root attracts earthworms. Valerian does not germinate easily, so it is best to try to start the plant in the garden by division of another plant.

The root of valerian is the only medicinal part of the plant. It should be harvested in fall when the sap has run into the root, or any time before the new shoots appear in spring. Many people consider the root to have an offensive odor. However, my husband has grown to like the smell after it has cured him of sleepless nights due to toothache pain. The more pungent the odor, the stronger the medicine; but the odor will not be as prevalent until the root is dry. To dry the root, you should quickly dry it over heat, preferably 120 degrees Fahrenheit, until the root is brittle. Do not use too hot of a heat or boil the root because you could damage the volatile oils.

Valerian is found at most any store that carries herb products. Capsule form is often more convenient to take, but the tincture works more quickly, as well as keeps its potency longer. Every person reacts differently to the dose of the herb. It is best to take a quarter of a teaspoonful of tincture and work your way up to desired effectiveness. In capsule form, start out with one capsule. Another drawback to capsules is that it is harder to control the dose. You should be careful when taking large amounts of valerian for more than two weeks at a time because poisoning may result.

As always, consult your healthcare provider before making changes in your health regimen.

Words to live by: Happiness is the best way to maintain health and relieve illness. Happiness is a choice.

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(1) 2-STORY BRICK HOME ON CORNER LOT IN VALLEY HEAD - This 3 bedroom, 2 bath house has an enclosed porch, pine and hardwood floors, a rock patio, storage basement, detached garage, fruit trees, and many other extras. \$69,900.



(2) WHAT A MOUNTAIN RETREAT SHOULD BE! Three bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 sitting rooms, sunroom, dining room and kitchen with breakfast nook, pine floors and walls. All this on more than 2 acres of elite brow front property. \$249,900.



(3) COMMERCIAL PROPERTY IN MENTONE Great location, building offers 5 rooms, a kitchen, bath and glassed-in porch with plenty of room for parking. \$65,000.



(4) MAKE YOUR MOVE into this beautiful home with acreage. Only 2 1/2 years old with 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, full basement, Pella windows, pine floors, deck, cathedral ceiling and so much more. If you've been looking for just the right house at the right price-look no further. \$142,500.



(5) SECLUSION JUST OFF DESOTO PARKWAY. 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths - mountain stone fireplace - CHIA - 1.8 acres of woods, wonderful rock formations. \$137,900.



(6) COUNTRY SOPHISTICATED! One look is all it will take for you to fall in love with this custom built home in the mountains. Only 4 years old with 3 BR, 2 baths, CHSA, 2 car garage, deck, built-in appliances, custom made cabinets and much more! Call today - Only \$125,000.



(7) EVERYTHING YOU COULD WANT IN A MOUNTAIN HOME! You'll fall in love with this house at first sight. Beautiful pine floors, Mountain rock fireplace, screened sleeping porch, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, central heat and air, and lighted decks going all the way down to the river. Don't miss your chance! Reduced \$165,000.



(8) ALMOST NEW CHALET - 2 bdrms - 2 baths detached garage - cable, just minutes from Valley Head School. \$53,500.

OTHER LISTINGS

(14) WEEKEND OR WEEKLY RENTAL available. 3 bdrms and 2 baths will accommodate 8 people. For more information, call Susan Collins.

(15) 10 ACRE TRACTS - gently rolling-heavily wooded-with creek. Close to downtown Mentone on private road. "Lightly" restricted. \$25,000.

(16) PRIME PROPERTY - 6 acres on DeSoto Parkway ready for developing. Almost 600 feet of road frontage. Great opportunity! \$65,000.

(17) LAKE ON BROW - two great building lots. Over 1 acre Lake lot \$37,500. 1.4 acre Brow lot \$45,000.

(18) TWO - 3 1/2 ACRE BROW LOTS just minutes from DeSoto State Park. \$40,000 each.

(19) CANYON VIEW FOREST - 3 1/2 acres on the rim of Little River Canyon - Creek - trail on property. \$34,500.

(20) 1.75+ ACRES IN WEST FORK SUBDIVISION. \$28,500.

(21) WEST FORK SUBDIVISION - Over 3 acres in West Fork Subdivision. This property is wooded and has a spring. Lightly restricted. \$15,000.

(22) BROW PROPERTY - 2.64 +/- acres on the West Brow of Lookout Mountain. Located less than one mile from downtown Mentone. \$45,000.

(23) OVER 3 ACRES IN DOWNTOWN MENTONE with access to city water. \$15,000.

•Southern Properties has buyers looking for building lots, brow property, River property, farms and acreage.

•If you are considering selling your property in DeKalb County, please call us today.

Susan Collins Residence - 634-4695, Broker, GRI - CRS

Sara Quinn Residence - 845-1881, Broker, GRI - CRS



(9) CHECK YOUR OPTIONS in this 3 bedroom, 3 bath home featuring living room, dining room, 3 dens, sunroom overlooking U-shaped in-ground pool and 3 car garage with storage room, and fenced yard. Attractively priced at \$150,000.



(10) ANY WAY YOU LOOK, it's hard to miss the stunning view from this post and beam, 2-bedroom retreat. Situated on over 5 acres on the West Brow of Lookout Mountain. \$149,900.

SOLD



(11) COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES ON HWY 117. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath modular home comes with a fully equipped kitchen, living room, dining room, sunroom, central heat and air, 20x30 shed/garage and a nice landscaped yard on over 1 acre. Call today for more details. \$85,000.



(12) MENTONE SPRINGS HOTEL AND CALDWELL'S RESTAURANT. Historical Landmark in downtown Mentone currently being run as a bed and breakfast. Restaurant seats 100+ people. Great for weddings, receptions, conferences-endless possibilities. For more information, please call 256-845-6000. \$650,000.



(13) PARADISE FOUND-Privately situated on 26 acres, this rustic home has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, a beautiful in-ground pool, rock fireplace, screened porches, large basement, a three-car garage with spacious garage apartment, and gorgeous landscaping. Close to Little River Canyon-the property has a creek running through it and plenty of places for hiking and enjoying nature. \$175,000.



Benny Goss, Mentone Postmaster, handing a certificate for 22 years service to Martha Kirby who retired on December 31, due to medical reasons

MARTHA KIRBY RETIRES FROM POSTAL SERVICE WITH OVER 22 YEARS SERVICE

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

Mentone Postmaster, Benny Goss, although smiling in the picture, was saddened by the necessary retirement of his co-worker, Martha Kirby, upon whom he relied for many years. As a result of a damaged rotary cuff in her shoulder, Martha was required by her doctors to retire from the postal business. Her job involved raising her arms above her shoulders to sort mail into the boxes. Martha is not very tall, in fact, in her words, "I'm short." Her disability will eventually require surgery. She was acting postmaster when Benny was not there.

Martha started working on April 23, 1977, when the post office was located in what is presently the Mentone Town Hall. She retired on Dec. 31, 1999, with a total of 22 years and 8 months service. She said she misses the work and the people—"big time! When you do something for 22 years and then find you can't continue, it's like losing a member of your family."

Martha had worked for seven different post offices in the area, and called

herself a "part-time flexible clerk." She worked in Geraldine for four years until J.B. Whitehead retired. She was an extra clerk. Martha also worked with the present Mayor Max Cash when he was with the post office and up until he retired. She said, "There has always been a good bunch of people working at the post office."

Martha said, "I enjoyed my job—I loved my job. I especially loved working with the people. I wish I didn't have to leave, but the post office has no other position for me that doesn't require my having to reach above my shoulders."

Martha said she had gone to school and took training to be a postal employee. She would continue if she could, but when her shoulder started hurting all the time as she sorted mail, her doctor told her she would have to retire from this line of work.

She presently is co-owner of the Mentone Superette and the Catalog Store, along with her husband, Hobson.

Birth Announcements

It's A Girl!



Morgan Faith Blalock

Heath and Jamie Blalock are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Morgan Faith Blalock. She was born on May 2, 1999, at Women's East Pavilion in Chattanooga, TN. Morgan weighed 6 lbs, 7 oz, and was 20 inches long. Her grandparents are Jimmy and Adele Phillips of Valley Head, and Dave and Yvonne Blalock of Mentone. Her proud aunts and uncles are Jim Phillips of Valley Head, Rayford and Cindy Bethune of Rosalie, and Ralph and Susan Flynn of Henagar, Scott and Sherri Steventon of Chattanooga, TN, and Clay and Charlotte Dennis of Chattanooga, TN.

It's A Boy!



Bryce Steven Patterson

Steve and Lisa Patterson of Hermitage, Tenn., wish to announce the birth of their son, Bryce Steven Patterson. Bryce was born on Oct. 19, 1999. He weighed 8 lbs and 15 oz, and was 21 inches long. He was born at Summit Medical Center.

Grandparents are R.B. and Joyce Huskey of Mentone; Charles and Marie Hampton, of Dickson, Tenn.; and the late Dr. Stephen Patterson.

He has a sister, Rheanna.

It's A Boy!

Austin Luke Huskey

Allen and Jennifer Huskey of Mentone wish to announce the birth of their son, Austin Luke Huskey. Austin was born on October 21, 1999. He weighed 7 pounds and 8 ounces and was 20 inches long. He was born at the Baptist Medical Center in Fort Payne.

Grandparents are R.B. and Joyce Huskey of Mentone; Brenda Nolen of Henagar; and Otis Nolen of Piedmont.

He has a sister named Jessica.



Valley Head Radio Station Joins Christian Broadcast Network

An AM radio station in Valley Head will soon be revived, joining 14 other Christian radio stations owned by the Good News Network.

The station, formerly WQRX 870, will broadcast a combination of "teaching, music, and talk," according to Clarence Barinowski, president of the Good News Network based in Augusta, Ga. He learned of the station's availability after buying WSAF in Trion, Ga., which offers the same type of content for Hispanic listeners. The new 870 AM, however, will be in English.

Most of the network's stations are in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina, he said. "Our mission is teaching the word," Barinowski said.

In the beginning, at least, the station will broadcast content from outside sources, including religion-

based talk shows where listeners can call in with questions about Biblical, spiritual, financial, or marriage issues, and get answers from a Christian perspective.

Saturday mornings will be dedicated to programming aimed at children.

The music portion of the content will alternate between inspirational music and Southern Gospel cuts.

The radio station will broadcast only during the daytime hours. "We knew with a 10,000-watt station, we would be able to cover 25 counties surrounding Valley Head," Barinowski said.

For more information, write to the Good News Network, Box 16520, Augusta, Ga.; or you may call 1-800-926-4669.



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The

Church News

By
EVELYN GRAVES

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

The **Valley Head United Methodist Church** Sunday School is at 9 AM each Sunday and Worship is at 10 AM.

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.

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

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

The **Harmony Grove Baptist Church** invites everyone to come and worship with them. God's Country Church is located on Co. Road 259 (Hawkins Road). Sunday School is at 9:45 AM; Morning Worship is at 11 AM; Evening Worship is at 6 PM; Wednesday Night Prayer Service is at 6 PM.

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

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 114 First St. SW, Fort Payne, has regular Sunday services at 8 AM and Sunday School at 9 AM. We welcome the community to join us.

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

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

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, is currently holding services in the Woodmen of the World building in Valley Head. Everyone is welcome to attend! Song Service & Sabbath School 9:30 - 10:45 AM; Worship Service - 11:00 - 12:00. Pastor: Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastor: Michael Schnabelhner. Every Wednesday night at 6:30 Bible Study.

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

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

The **Mentone United Methodist Church** services are at 11 AM each Sunday. Sunday school is at 10 AM. Pastor Linda Tucker invites everyone to attend.

Mount Calvary Baptist Church pastor, James Braddy, welcomes everyone to services every Sunday morning -- Sunday School begins at 10 AM, followed by worship hour at 11 AM, evening services at 6 PM, and Wednesday services are at 7 PM. All times are EST. All visitors are welcome and we encourage you to come worship our Lord, Jesus Christ, every opportunity available. Mount Calvary is located behind the Lookout Restaurant at Cloudland.

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church services are Sunday at 10:30 AM, with Sunday School at 9:30 AM. Small groups meeting on Sun., Tue, and Wed. nights. A "Super Saturday" event -- a mini-Vacation Bible School with a circus theme, is planned for one Saturday each month. A prayer and praise service is held one Sunday night each month. Contact the church at 634-4476 for more information on any of their events or services. Everyone is welcome.

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

The whole church family had a wonderful Christmas season with many gatherings and beautiful music and decorations as we celebrated the birth of the Savior. We ask that everyone continue to be in prayer for our Interim Pastor, **Rev. Nolan Ford**, he had surgery for a brain aneurysm on November 18th and is recovering slowly. He has had several complications and an extended hospital stay.

Rev. Bill Russell, former pastor, has accepted the church's call to return as pastor, effective February 6. Everyone is excited to have Bro. Bill and Gloria come back home!

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

Union Hill Baptist Church Sunday School is at 10 AM, Worship is at 11 AM, Adult Choir practice is at 4:30 PM, Discipleship Training is at 6 PM, and Evening Worship is at 7 PM. Wednesday evening at 5 PM is Youth Choir practice. Each 2nd Sunday evening, the church has a singing at 6 PM. Everyone is invited for the singing.

Mentone Wesleyan Church invites you to join us for Sunday School at 10 AM and worship service at 10:45 AM. We are now using a full multi-media presentation system for Sunday morning worship service. Adult Bible classes dealing with living the Christian life meets Wed. evening, 7:00 - 7:45. We've recently started a ladies' Bible study/low-impact aerobics in the fellowship hall on Wed., 7:00 - 7:45. Nursery provided for ages 1-6 years. If you are looking for a church where you want to feel loved, accepted, and forgiven come and check us out. All are welcome. Pastor Randy Addison, 634-4210.



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About

Our Town

By
LINDA BROWN

We have survived the Y2K bug's bite!!! We know now that almost everything is going to operate without interruptions. There have been a few isolated cases of things going a little haywire. I heard one news story where every statement for a gas company was dated January 1900. The legal system has declared that you must pay a bill on time and that you cannot be charged a late fee, if the problem is Y2K related.

Now, to move into a new century and a new millennium. This is so exciting!! When you look back at the last 1000 years and realize the amazing things that have happened, can you imagine what will happen in the next 1000 years? The human mind is such a wonderful thing, if only we knew how to use it to its full potential.

One thing we are going to have to learn is to take care of our planet. We only have so much land and will never have any more, perhaps even less. If you have watched the mud slides in California on TV, have you thought how many of these would not have happened if humans had not altered the landscape? I frequently hear people complaining of OSHA and other regulations that control what can and cannot be put into the air and water. I realize that this is a big hassle for companies, but have they ever stopped to think what would happen if everyone could do exactly what they wanted to? Do you think some big industry in Tennessee cares if our drinking water is pure? Without these regulations, the Tennessee River could be so polluted that it could not be used for drinking. Or, if it could, the cost of cleaning it up would raise the price of water so high that most people could not afford to use it.

Speaking of water, the town of Mentone is working on plans to run water lines a little further over Highway 117. There is also a plan to run a large line to supply water to most of Mentone without using the storage tank. We are about to tax our system to the limit and must do some upkeep before we get into big trouble. No use having all of these new lines if there is no water to run through them. The town of Fort Payne is coming up on two sides of Mentone with water lines. They are picking up some customers that Mentone could not possibly run lines to, and we are glad that these people have water. All of the new lines have been outside the town limits of Mentone, and the residents inside the town limits who have low water pressure and other problems are surely starting to feel left out. It is so much easier to plant a garden than to keep it watered, weeded, and fertilized.

A new idea was planted in the minds of some Mentone residents, recently. Much more will come out about this if the idea materializes. This would be a fun weekend and one that some of our organizations could make a profit on. I will write more about this if it is going to happen.

Not much going on in Mentone right now. We all know how Mentone hibernates in the winter. I have heard this comment many times recently, "Well, I'd like to do that, but it is happening at night and I just don't want to get out." This is one of the good points of living here, you can say that and we all understand. We can take this time to read books, clean out closets, write a letter to a friend, and a thousand other things.

I'm sure that you have read the many poems and readings about the New Year by now. All of them have been great, but one of the best images to me is still the clean slate. You have 366 (leap year, you know) days to write anything you want to on that slate. You can write a story of joy and happiness or you can write your story as a tragedy. What you write is entirely up to you, but remember you will have to read your story on December 31.

I read this somewhere recently. Life is given to us in a wonderful box, the problem is that many of us never take the time to read the instructions.



I wish everyone a very good and healthy new year now that we have crossed over the year 2000 line and our biggest problem seems to be writing 2000 instead of 19-- I have found a couple of my favorite kinds of recipes--good and easy. I especially like the Cowboy Stew, which mainly consists of opening cans. The Blueberry Coffee Cake is quick and good--warm or cold.

Cowboy Stew

1½ lb ground beef
1 med. onion, chopped
4 med. potatoes, cubed
2 C water

1 16 oz can whole tomatoes
1 16 oz can ranch style beans
1 12 oz can tomato soup
1 4 oz can green chilies
Salt & pepper to taste
Tabasco sauce to taste (optional)

Brown beef and onion. Add remainder of ingredients and simmer one hour. Good served with tortilla chips and garnished with sour cream and chopped green onions.

Blueberry Coffee Cake - Cooking Light

Vegetable cooking spray
½ C (½ stick) margarine, softened
4 oz nonfat creamed cheese
1 C, plus 2 T sugar, divided
1 egg
1 C all-purpose flour
1 t baking powder
¼ t salt
1 t vanilla extract
2 C fresh or frozen blueberries
1 t ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350°. Lightly coat a 9-inch round cake pan with vegetable spray. Beat margarine and cream cheese at medium speed until creamy, about 3 minutes. Gradually add 1 C sugar, beating well. Add egg, beat well.

In another bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt; stir into margarine mixture. Stir in vanilla, fold in berries. Pour batter into prepared pan. Combine 2 T sugar and cinnamon, sprinkle over batter. Bake for 1 hour.

MOON LAKE SCHOOL NEWS

There will be **no school** on Monday, January 17, in observance of Martin Luther King's birthday.

There will be an **Animal Show** on Friday, January 28, at 1:40 PM, in the gym. The admission is \$2.00 per person. The public is invited.

The next **PTO meeting** is Tuesday, February 8, at 6:30 PM in the gym.

Kindergarten-3rd grade will participate in **Jump Rope for Heart** February 14-18.

Skyler King, a fifth grader, is this year's spelling bee winner.

In addition to the \$50,000 matching pledge given for the **New Library Fund**, \$30,000 more has been received in donations.

HONOR ROLL STUDENTS FROM MOON LAKE SCHOOL

First Nine Weeks

GRADE 1	GRADE 4
All A's	All A's
Brittany Bain	Kayla Hazell
Akela Barkley	All A's and B's
Colleen Castleberry	Randy Addison
All A's and B's	Clint Gray
Tyler Blansit	Sarah Petersen
Starla Cash	Tom Tipton
Katie Crabtree	Sheena Tishaw
Trey Kincer	Paige Wright
Chaz McSpadden	GRADE 5
Hunter Stone	All A's
Abby Underwood	Mark Corey
GRADE 2	All A's and B's
All A's	Barnabas Bettis
Ethan Crider	Logan Chambers
Chloe Griffith	Melissa Crane
All A's and B's	Kayla Green
Desiree Cash	Livvy Griffith
Michael Harrison	Alex Hazell
Michael Norman	Katie Herndon
Rachel Pollard	Jolie Ingram
Keisha Powell	Skyler King
Daniel Scott	Angel Wesley
Jason Tishaw	GRADE 6
GRADE 3	All A's
All A's	Sarah Hurt
Vance Carden	All A's and B's
Jessica Easter	Jared Bare
Ashley Henry	John Baxter
Brittany Hester	Kira Goodwin
Kara Miller	Melissa Harrison
All A's and B's	Lori Hope
Lauren Addison	Brandy Manning
Sierra Nicely	Kirby McMunn
Heather Smith	Emily Tipton
Megan Smith	Cayla Voils

Valley Head School News

By Lisa Moore

The Valley Head Band would like to thank Carol Busby for cleaning the carpet in the band room during the Christmas holiday. She did a wonderful job and is greatly appreciated. She also cleaned some of the carpet in the high school building.

Annie and Effia Harrison and Hella Skak-Nielsen are practicing very hard to attend All State Band, which will be held at Southside on January 29th. Good luck to these girls.

The Valley Head School is now receiving a new roof. Work began during the Christmas holiday and is still being done.

The Valley Head Band held its Christmas concert on December 17. Before the concert, they were treated to lunch by the Valley Head Baptist Church. The band and the band boosters would like to thank the Baptist church members who helped with this lunch. It was very thoughtful of you to do this for the band, and we all appreciate it.

Valley Head had its "Christmas in the Park" on Saturday, Dec. 18. Many people enjoyed the pretty lights and fireworks display, despite a little rain and cool weather.

HONOR ROLL STUDENTS FROM VALLEY HEAD

FIRST NINE WEEKS

SEVENTH GRADE

All A's: Matt Battles, Amber Hannah, Chris Miller, Ben Windom, Kelly Wright

A's & B's: Mandy Brown, Amanda Burt, Erica Campbell, Matt Croxton, Jacklyn Davis, Heather Freeman, Kyle Hicks, Catrina Ingram, Amanda Johnson, Amy Kitchens, Jessica Meadows, Kim Pritchett, Brittney Turner, Kim Willbanks

EIGHTH GRADE

All A's: None

A's & B's: Kim Brisendine, Robert Brown, Jonathan Mathew, Ashley McSpadden, Donny Meacham, April Shelton, Steven Thornberry

NINTH GRADE

All A's: None

A's & B's: Derek Crane, Ashley Deering, Thomas Dodd, Beth Easter, Thad Heinrich, Brittney Johnson, Corey Kirby, Tessa McKinney, Kelly Owen, Stephanie Plemmons

TENTH GRADE

All A's: Audrey Byrd, Jerrylee Brisendine, Lacie Clure, Kayla Willbanks

A's & B's: Tessica Baty, Jennifer Blalock, Brandy Browder, Brittany Crane, Lena Frank, Stacey Hyde, Aaron Knowles, Hilary Lawton, Shane Ramsey

ELEVENTH GRADE

All A's: Slade Carden, Ashley Foster, Helle Skak-Nielsen

A's & B's: Jessica Barrier, Maren Butz, David Chaney, Nick King, Laura Martin, Beth Moore

TWELFTH GRADE

All A's: Donnie Davis, Kerri Hale, Anna Rievley, Adriane Robertson, Bjorn Scharfenberger

A's & B's: Thomas Brendle, Jeffrey Bullock, Candace Fuller, Jakus Gajowniczek, Amanda Hall, Katharina Perrey, Amanda Stewart, Crystal Valentine

LOCAL STUDENTS IN 'WHO'S WHO'

"Who's Who," published by Educational Communications, Inc., Lake Forest, Illinois, is the largest recognition program and publication in the nation honoring high achieving high school students. Students are nominated by high school principals and guidance counselors, national youth groups, churches and educational organizations based upon students' academic achievement and involvement in extracurricular activities. Traditionally, 99% of "Who's Who" students have a grade point average of 'B' or better and 97% are college bound.

The 33rd Annual Edition of "Who's Who Among American High School Students, 1998-99," published in 18

regional volumes, features over 750,000 students or just 5% of the nation's 14,000,000 high school students. They represent approximately 20,000 of the 24,000 public, private and parochial high schools in the country.

"Who's Who" students also compete for \$200,000 in scholarship awards. The book is distributed to up to 15,000 high schools, colleges, universities and public libraries throughout the country.

Congratulations to the following students who were included in the 33rd Annual Edition of "Who's Who Among American High School Students, 1998-1999".

MENTONE: Tabitha Brisendine, David C. Chaney, Chrissy A. Drake, Millicent A. Elrod, and Shelley Gray.

VALLEY HEAD: Hanna C. Alexander, Sarah J. Barrier, John E. Battles, Gerald Lee Bowman, Jr., Shelly N. Brown, Jennifer R. Brubaker, Slade K. Carden, Brandy Nichole Clure, Patrick Cooper, Clint M. Croxton, Jonathan W. Dean, Kerri M. Hale, Annie M. Harrison, Effia M. Harrison, Paul A. Hawkins, Josh M. Horton, Mandy R. Horton Robert Horton, Heather M. Lawton, Melissa N. Lewis, Laura T. Martin, Alisha E. McElhaney, Amanda B. Moore, Anna Rievley, and Jonathan L. Shugart Jr.

6090 Highway 117, South
P.O. Box 44
Lookout Mountain Parkway
Mentone, Alabama 35984

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Preferred Realty, LLC

L M P R

Angela J. Wood
Owner and AL/GA Broker

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1-888-256-1276

Cell: (256) 997-8138

Fax: (256) 634-4702

Website - WWW.DeKalbRealestateGuide.com/LMPR



(1) **ADORABLE FURNISHED COTTAGE, MENTONE.** 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath, Pine Floors, Rock Fireplace, 2 wood-ed lots. Just bring your overnight bag, and stay awhile. Located on Hwy 117, Downtown Mentone. \$78,500.



(2) **REMODELED FARMHOUSE AND 3 ACRES.** Seven rooms plus screened porch. Paved road, Large Garden areas. Wooden 2-bay Garage. Storage shed. \$41,900.



(3) **WILD RIVER COMMUNITY.** 100x300 ft lots on the East Fork Little River. Secluded and Scenic. \$10,000 each. ALSO AVAILABLE: 3 acre tracts-EAST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER, secluded, with natural deep swimming hole and rapids. Wild and Scenic beauty surrounds you. \$30,000 each.



(4) **WEST BROW, MENTONE (89) NORTH.** Two 5-acre tracts. Great for recreational activities (Rock Climbing, Hang gliding, etc.) Unobstructed view. -\$47,500 each. Reduced \$15,000 each.



(5) **50 ACRES, LOCATED IN CLOUDLAND, GA.** Great Farm with 20x40 Barn, Large Workshop, 3 outbuildings, Garage, 4 wells, year around spring, 3 garden areas, Grape Arbors, Approx. 5 acres cleared. Beautiful Hardwoods. 12x70 Mobile Home with Rock Foundation. Many more amenities. \$169,000. Show by APPT. Only.



(6) **PICTURE YOURSELF ON THE COVERED PORCH,** overlooking the large pond stocked with fish, small creek lined with perennial beds, and immaculate 2 Bdrm 2 bath cedar home with C/H/A, large open Living and Kitchen, with all updated appliances. All this, plus 8 acres of pasture, woods, and garden area with fruit trees. Reduced to \$155,000.



(7) **THE BIG WOODS, EAST FORK RIVER.** 75 acres ML available with access from Paved Road, and County Water. Over 600 ft. of River, 3 springs, wet weather cascading water fall. Also, part of the Historical Dinky Line Railway. \$245,000.



(8) **THREE STATES CAN BE SEEN,** from these Tracts located on the West Brow, in Dade County, Ga. Minutes from Chattanooga. (1) 13 acres \$70,000; (2) 19 acres \$70,000, Hwy 189, Lookout Mtn. Parkway.



(9) **DOWNTOWN Cloudland** built in 1926, 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, Two story Home with Tin roof, living with fireplace, screened porch, all new wiring, city water. \$65,000.



(10) **INDIAN TRAILS NOW OPEN.** Over 3 acre tracts available on West Brow overlooking North Ft. Payne, and as far as the eye can see. Restricted covenants and owner financing available. Starting at \$35,000 and wooded acreage minimum 3 acres \$5,000 an acre. City Water available. APPT ONLY, GATED AREA.



(11) **LOG CABIN IN THE WOODS.** 10 acres, 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, Rock Fireplace, City water, C/H/A. A place to stay while one finishes the 200 year old - 2 story Log Shell. With water, septic, underground power. Building Plans included for completion. Large Hardwoods and underground springs. \$110,000.



OTHER PROPERTIES

(15) **WEEKEND WEEKLY RENTALS,** available on the Brow and Downtown Mentone. 1,2,3 Bedrooms. \$85.00 and \$125.00 nightly. Call Angela Wood for more info.

(16) **COUNTY ROAD 633, WOODED TRACTS** from 10 acres and up, ranging \$2,000 to \$2,500 an acre. Owner Financing to qualified buyers.

(17) **OAKWOOD ESTATES** - 3 plus acre wooded and Pasture tracts available. Located in Mentone, County Road 106. Restricted Covenants. For permanent or Vacation Residential Homes. \$12,500 each.

(18) **ALPINE AREA, RIVERSIDE DR., 2 WEST FORK** Riverview lots, city water available. Access to deep water for canoeing. \$35,000.

(19) **VALLEY VIEW FOREST.** 5 to 17 acre tracts on East Brow overlooking Pleasant Valley and Weiss Lake; adjoins National Preserve. \$10,000 to \$35,000.

(20) **R. LEE CROW SUBDIVISION** - 8 lots (approx. 4 acres) UNRESTRICTED, with Lake frontage. \$15,000.

(21) **DESOTO PARKWAY, 3 ACRE BROW TRACT.** City water available, rock bluffs, level for building. Minutes from DeSoto State Park. \$90,000.

(22) **4.87 acres OF OPEN LAND,** paved road frontage **SOLD** restricted. \$13,500.

(23) **SPREAD OUT SPREAD YOUR WINGS** in this roomy, 2700 sq. ft. almost new, 4 Bdrm 3 Bath home on 9 acres, atop Lookout Mtn. Double walled construction. Greatroom w/FP, Dining, C/H/A, City Water, Screened and open porches—too many amenities to list them all. Plus a 26x40 Garage Shop. \$265,000.

(24) **SPECTACULAR VIEW AND PRIVACY,** call Angela Wood for more info. from the Multi-Decks of this 2 Bdrm 2 bath contemporary home. Large Greatroom with fireplace, C/H/A. Over 2 acres with 389 ft. of East Brow Frontage. \$144,500. **SOLD**

TOO MANY PROPERTIES TO LIST THEM ALL.

If L.M.P.R. doesn't have it, L.M.P.R. will find what you're looking for.

L.M.P.R. is licensed in Georgia, as well as Alabama.

L.M.P.R. covers more of Lookout Mountain, to offer a wider range to choose from.

Want to sell or looking to buy that special place in the mountains?

Call Angela J. Wood. Multi-state Broker.



(12) **MOUNTAIN RIVER ESTATES** Direct access from Lookout Mountain Parkway on Hwy 117. 3 to 7 acre riverfront tracts starting at \$27,500. 5 to 15 stream tracts from \$17,500. Restricted covenants apply.



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



(14) **ADIRONDACK STYLE (1899'S) LOG LODGE** sitting on 2 private acres in downtown Mentone. Complete with Dog Trot separating the Kitchen with Fireplace and Living Area with Fireplace. Unique 4 Bdrm, 2 Bath. Screened Breezeways, and Porches. Wood Floors, and Tin Roof. Separate Guest Cottage. City Water, along with Hand pump Well. Step back in time with this One-of-a-kind FURNISHED HOME. Reduced to \$210,000.

Real Reason for the Season

Christmas pageant told story of birth of Christ

Fort Payne's Community Christmas Pageant, complete with live animals, was held at the VFW Fairgrounds on Dec. 17, and 18. It was the first year for the pageant, which was directed by Christina Wise. We hope it will become an annual event. The cast included Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds and their flocks, the Wise Men who arrived in a camel train featuring three real camels, and a "crowd of the faithful" in the native dress of 20 different nations and nationalities.

The event was free, and the public was invited to bundle up in plenty of good warm clothing and bring the whole family to enjoy the reenactment of the story of the first Christmas.

The pageant was narrated by Christina Wise, with a choir under the direction of Van Pruett singing Christmas and Christian music.

As the event unfolded, Mary was seen traveling to the stable on a donkey. Joseph was at her side. Goats and sheep were part of the scene, along with shepherds keeping watch over their flock by night. The three wise men arrived by camel train as they followed the star, illustrating the birth.

The grand finale was very impressive as the cast and a crowd of the faithful, 20 people dressed in national dress representing 20 different countries from around the world, came together to form a semicircle. They sang together, "O Come All Ye Faithful," and then the giant Christmas tree was illuminated. Friday night the tree was lit by Adrian Gibson of Channel 31, and on Saturday by Robert Reeve of Channel 19.

The event was free to the public and was held under the shelter at the back of the metal VFW Fair building.

Pageant director Christina Wise was the one instrumental in seeing this event brought to life. Wise relocated from the Sinai Desert. She and her husband, Bill, own and operate the Summer Haven Bed & Breakfast Cabin Rentals located at

DeSoto Falls in Mentone. Summer Haven is the original home of Bill's grandparents, the Arthur Abernathy Millers. A.A. Miller was the one who saw to the construction of the dam at DeSoto Falls in the 1920s, and harnessed the power of Little River to supply hydroelectricity to Mentone and other towns in the area.

Christina and Bill met while each was working independently in Saudi Arabia, she as a Professor of Nursing and he as Project Director and Maintenance Contractor for an engineering firm, Holmes & Nover. Bill also serves as Vice-President of that company. Although retired from the Army, his position has him working with them on many projects.

Christina had always admired the beautiful photo of DeSoto Falls hanging on Bill's office wall in Saudi, but had no idea he owned the perch from which the photo was taken. The couple married in 1989, and moved to the Sinai Desert where each assumed a position with the Multi-National Force as Civilian Observers, monitoring peace between Egypt and Israel.

During the time Wise was with the MFO, they produced this pageant in respect for the birth of our Savior and to experience the true spirit of Christmas. We are pleased she brought her talents to America and that the VFW Fairgrounds in Fort Payne hosted this dramatic event.

The Community Christmas Pageant, hosted by different churches in the county, did not depict any one religion and all denominations were welcome to attend. Fort Payne's Ministerial Association joined forces to bring the Christmas story to life, with help from members of their many churches, as well as from others who worked long hours to present the pageant as a special Christmas gift to the city and to the area.



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.

Jonah 2:9

The new year came in with great joy, and all the fear we had experienced is gone. I think it's time to sacrifice thanksgiving unto the Lord, also time to pay our vows that we have not paid, looking forward to a great new year with all its changes. Remember, God is still in charge.

Happy New Year!

\$\$ REWARD \$\$ FOR RETURN OF LOST DOG

Bobbette Rokus is missing her cross bred cattle dog. He is wearing no collar. He was in good health prior to going missing in December. He is a mixture of Australian shepherd, border collie, bulldog and some blue heeler. He is brown and with black spots, and white under his chest. Has small white and black spots on the back of his neck.

If you have any information, please call Bobbette at 634-3648.

Thanks

We would like to send a special thanks to God for giving us another year with our mother, Joyce Huskey. She was in a bad accident December 13, 1999. A big transfer truck hit her in the back end of her car. She is doing OK. We are glad to have our mom around.

We love you, Mom.
Love: Allen, Lisa, Tyler, and
all of your grandbabies

Thank You!

Becky and Dudley Easler and family wish to express their sincere thanks to everyone who supported them in any way after Dudley was burned while he was in his truck working out of town. Your support and prayers are greatly appreciated.

The Easler Family

N.A.R.F.E

(National Assn. of Retired
Federal Employees)

Chapter 1868

January 18, 2000

10:00 a.m.

Western Sizzlin'

Ft. Payne

Followed by Lunch

-Dutch Treat-

Mentone Community House Book Club

Thurs., Jan. 20, 10 a.m.

Read and discuss:
"At Home in Mitford"
by Jan Karon

J.O.Y.
(Just Older Youth)

January 27, 2000
at 11:30 a.m.

If you are 55 or older,
bring a covered dish
and join us for Food,
Fun and Fellowship!

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

January:

- No MAPA Meeting in January
- Monday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m., Mentone Town Council
- Tuesday, Jan. 11, 12:30 p.m., Rhododendron Garden Club, Mentone Community House
- Tuesday, Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m. American Legion Meeting, American Legion Hall, Mentone
- Monday, Jan. 17, schools out in observance of Martin Luther King's Birthday

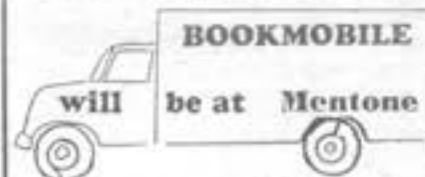
February:

- Tuesday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m. MAPA meeting, Dessie's Kountry Chef

- Wednesday, Feb. 2, GROUNDHOG DAY

- Saturday, Feb. 5, 12 to 4, Girl Scout 1012 Cookie Booth (See info on back page.)
- Monday, Feb. 14 - VALENTINE'S DAY ♥
- Tuesday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m., Mentone Town Council
- Monday, Feb. 21-school out in observance of President's Day
- Tuesday, Feb. 29, Leap Year

The DeKalb County



Every other Wednesday
from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

January - 19
February - 2, 16
March - 1, 15, 29