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THE

GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville

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By M.A.P.A.

Volume 27, No. 10

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

January 2009

Betty Joe Johnson

"...always exemplifying an unwavering belief in life eternal and concern for others above herself."



Betty Joe Jones Johnson
11/14/27 - 12/19/08

she rendered invaluable assistance to her husband's private accounting practice for more than fifty years.

She was a devout Christian and life-long member of the Mentone Community Church (formerly Mentone Wesleyan). She served in many leadership roles over the years, including as director of the Ladies Ministries, children's programs, and coordinator of events and programs. On a church denominational level, she served as a regional officer of the Wesleyan Women's Organization of the South Coastal District and delegate to the WW General Quadrennial Conventions. As a young girl, she began using her musical abilities to serve the community and church as a soloist, a member of several singing groups and as a favored pianist for numerous singing schools. She served faithfully as her church pianist for over 50 years.

Betty was an active member and past officer of Mentone's Rhododendron Garden Club. She was a leader in the Auxiliary Organization of the Board of Trustees of Southern Wesleyan University during the two decades in which her husband served as a trustee. She was a dedicated Red Cross Volunteer at DeKalb Regional Medical Center (and its predecessor hospitals) for 28 years. Helping patients leave the hospital was always one of her fondest roles.

In life, she beautifully modeled how to live the virtuous life, but it was in dying that she modeled so perfectly how to live to the finish line with courage and calm confidence amid challenges, always exemplifying an unwavering belief in life eternal and concern for others above herself.

Betty Joe Jones Johnson, age 81, of Mentone, Alabama passed away on December 19, 2008, after a brief time of comfort care at Collinsville Health Care Center following an extended hospitalization at UAB Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama.

Born in Mentone, Alabama, November 14, 1927, she was the daughter of Horace M. and Grace (Shigley) Jones. She attended Moon Lake and Valley Head schools and "Southern Wesleyan University (formerly Wesleyan Methodist College) in Central, South Carolina. She married her childhood sweetheart, James H. Johnson, in 1946 upon his return from Army service in WWII's European Theater of Operations. She was a devoted and supportive wife, loving mother, dedicated homemaker, culinary queen, and a proud "grandmommy". In addition to her in-home responsibilities

Doris Frances Helms Carmichael



Doris Frances Helms Carmichael
5/22/30 - 10/23/08

Hammondville and past president and member of the Valley Head Women's Club.

Mrs. Carmichael is survived by her husband of 59 years, James Pomeroy Carmichael Jr.; her daughters, Linda Thomas (Bob) and Emmy Ricketts (Mark); grandchildren, William Thomas (Katherine), Katy Thomas and Lucy Ricketts, John Ricketts and Polly Ricketts; sister Virginia Livezey.

Services were Sunday, October 26 at 2 p.m. at Burt Funeral Home Chapel in Valley Head. Burial followed in Valley Head. Dr. Pat McFadden and the Rev. Reagin Brown officiated.

The family requests in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the First Baptist Church of Fort Payne, The American Heart Association and the American Diabetes Association.

Doris Frances Helms Carmichael passed away Thursday, October 23, 2008.

Mrs. Carmichael was born on May 22, 1930 in Sand Rock, Ala. She was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence William and Frances Huff Helms; sons, James Larry and William Gary Carmichael and her grandson, James Henry Ricketts.

Mrs. Carmichael was a retired Insurance Agent from ALFA Insurance Company. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Fort Payne, the Valley Head Chapter of Eastern Star, Former city Councilwoman of

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THE GROUNDHOG

PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 5, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, and is chartered as a non-profit organization by the State of Alabama.



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SYNOPSIS OF NOVEMBER 3, 2008, MINUTES OF MENTONE TOWN COUNCIL

The Mentone Town Council met in regular session held on Monday, November 3rd, at 6PM, said meeting having been changed from the 2nd Monday to the 1st Monday, in order to swear in the new council. Circuit Judge David Rains administered the oaths of office to Rob Hammond, mayor; and council members, Wesley Griffith, Larry Sanders, Gail Chambers, John Paul Verdon, and Gerald Bailey. Others present were Chief of Police Lamar Bray. Visitors present were Page Cunningham and JP Nation.

Organizational items included the election of a Mayor Pro Tem. Larry Sanders served in that capacity for the last four years, and a unanimous vote entered to reappoint him. On reappointment of employees:

Motions were made and seconded to reappoint the following: Lamar Bray-- Chief of Police; Marie S. Dillenbeck-- Town Clerk; Jeremy Bell-- Assistant Chief of Police.

Mayor Hammond asked if the Council would stay with the present Citizens Bank as the designation of a bank for the checking and savings accounts of the Town of Mentone. A motion to keep the accounts with the Citizens Bank of Valley Head was made and seconded, which passed unanimously.

The minutes of the October 13 were reviewed. A change in the wording "the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District" should be "Volunteer Fire Department." A motion to approve the minutes as corrected, was passed unanimously.

A motion to add 5% to the present budget was made and passed by unanimous vote of the council. Mayor Hammond stated that a Procedural Ordinance had been passed four years ago and the meeting time was changed to 6PM. A motion was made and seconded to continue the council procedure with no changes. A motion to accept the checks written

for October as shown on the financial report was passed unanimously.

Under Old Business, Mayor Hammond said he needed a Resolution for a plaque inviting former residents to come back to Mentone to participate in the 2010 Year of Alabama Small Towns and Downtowns, with a date of May 15, 2010, or October 16, 2010, to coordinate with the Rhododendron Festival or the October Colorfest. Mayor Hammond said that resident historian, Ernest Smith, would be asked to assist with the wording on the plaque describing the founding of the Town of Mentone. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously that the celebration be on May 15, 2010, during the Rhododendron Festival weekend.

Police Chief Lamar Bray reported that citizens have been concerned about vandalism to property, as well as to political signs up and down the parkway. The council commended the officers for the work they did and the cases they had been handling, including looking out for the many rental cabins in this area. Zoning discussions followed. Mayor Hammond stated that any issues regarding changes in the zoning ordinance would have to go before the Planning Committee first, which would make recommendations for any changes. There would be a public hearing before the town council could adopt any changes.

Visitors, Page Cunningham, President of the Mentone Area Preservation Association and JP Nation, treasurer of MAPA, brought a \$200 check to the Town of Mentone for the 40 vendors who were at the recent Colorfest.

The council went into executive session to discuss certain matters and returned at 7:15 PM. A motion was unanimously passed to pay earnest money for an option to purchase property for a park for the youth in Mentone, and allow the mayor to sign the necessary papers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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PO BOX 50, MENTONE, AL 35984

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- The Groundhog is printed by the last Thursday of each month.
- We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. Thank you.

Linda Fay Frith



Linda Fay Frith, age 64 of Gadsden, Ala., went home to her Lord on December 2, 2008 after a courageous seven-year battle with cancer. She is survived by her loving family, including husband, Greg;

daughter, Marquetta (Mike) Thompson; granddaughters, Abbey Lee and Payton Anne Thompson; mother, Ann Haygood; brother, Rickey Haygood; two nephews and their families, Cody (Aimee) Haygood and Griffin Haygood; Ben (Niiki) Haygood, Audrey Grace and Ava Haygood. She was preceded in death by her father, Orvin Haygood.

Linda was especially blessed with a multitude of friends from whom she learned a lot and appreciated immensely. The memories made while in the company of these very special and cherished people were some of the fondest of times in her life.

The joys in Linda's life were spending time with her family and friends, dining in fine restaurants and traveling around the world. Linda took particular pride in introducing her granddaughters to international destinations and taking trips to honor special events in their lives. She was also an avid reader and student of the financial services business.

While working 28 years at Alfa Insurance, Linda became the only person in that Company's history to be named to its Hall of Fame as both a manager and an agent. In the 16 years she worked at MetLife she was equally successful and became a lifetime member of the President's Conference and a lifetime member of the Million Dollar Round Table. Her professional designations included Chartered Life

Underwriter (CLU), Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC) and Registered Health Underwriter (RHU).

Linda was particularly proud of her role in establishing the DeKalb Junior Miss Pageant in which many girls benefited immensely. She also loved decorating her homes as well as the homes of her friends. She had a remarkable flair for memorizing colors and textures and enjoyed sharing these skills with everyone she touched.

Linda was a quiet and unpretentious Christian who served the Lord in many ways. One of her favorite ministries in recent years was reaching out to other breast cancer survivors and sharing her testimony. Many of these people Linda met via the Internet, by referral from mutual friends and medical professionals or by sitting next to them in the infusion laboratory at Kirklin Clinic. She wanted people to understand they were not alone and that they had so much to live for. In addition to this specific ministry, Linda loved her extended Church family at Broadway Baptist in Rainsville and was proud of assisting with the building program. She often spoke of the important role the late Nolan Ford played in her life.

Linda's passing will leave a tremendous void in the lives of many people - the same people whose lives were enriched by having known her. She was an incredible lady who inspired and touched others in ways they could never be the same after knowing her. She had the gift of making others feel special just by being around her for even a short period of time. She will be missed tremendously. Our loss on earth is heaven's gain.

A special thank you to Dr. John Carpenter and the staff at Kirklin Clinic for making the past seven years possible and to Lawanda Crook and Brianna Staddard for their special care during her time at home.

Howard Levoy Carson



Howard Levoy Carson
11/19/2008

Howard Levoy Carson, of Valley Head, Alabama, passed away November 19, 2008 at his home at the age of 83.

Services were held Friday, November 21, 2008 at W.T. Wilson Funeral Home in Rainsville with burial in Bankhead Cemetery in Mentone,

Alabama.

Mr. Carson was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mollie Carson; six sisters and two brothers.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Charlotte Jo O'Rear Carson; children, Janice and Charles Matthews, Tommy and Gail Carson, Lynn and Ronnie Hammon and Randy and Cathy Carson, all of Valley Head; six grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; one brother, Marsh Carson, of Fort Payne, Alabama; several nieces and nephews and his special family, The DeKalb Ambulance Service Employees.

Mr. Carson was a Naval Veteran of WWII and retired after 35 years of service from the Alabama National Guard.

He has served as an Executive Board Member of the DeKalb County Hospital Association since 1990 and served as Chairman of the Board since 1999. In 2005, the new DeKalb Ambulance Service Education Building was named in his honor.

He was an active member of the Valley Head Masonic Lodge for 48 years and a member of the American Legion. He was a member of Howard's Chapel Church at Mentone, Alabama.

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SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

JANUARY

- Monday, Jan. 5, 6PM, Fire Dept. Volunteers
- Tuesday, Jan. 6, 6:30PM, MAPA Meeting, Community House
- Monday, Jan. 12, 6PM, Mentone Town Council Meeting,
Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Tuesday, Jan. 13, 10AM, Rhododendron Garden Club
- Tuesday, Jan. 13, 6:30 PM, American Legion Hall,
Post 215 Meeting
- Thursday, Jan. 15, 10AM, Mentone Book Club
- Thursday, Jan. 15, 5PM, Mentone Planning
& Zoning Committee, Town Hall meeting room
- Monday, Jan. 19, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Thursday, Jan. 22, 4PM, Mentone Waterworks
Board Meeting, Board Room, open to the public

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Jim Byrum
- 2 - Kelly Wright; Amber Stikes;
Jan Charbonneau; David Baker;
Beverly Henry;
Elizabeth Romans
- 3 - Joe Mayhew; Bennett Crow
- 4 - Loretta McGee, in memory of;
Raymond E. Ringer
- 5 - Charles McGee, in memory of
- 6 - Gage Baker; Donnie Voils
- 7 - Sam G. Whatley; Kristen Emory;
Amanda Holaway
- 8 - Karen K. Whatley Powell;
Garnett Lee Whatley Smith;
Taylor Grace Davis
- 11 - Robert Green; Butch Jones
- 10 - Walt Dillenbeck
- 12 - Marie Dillenbeck;
Christina Wise; Scott Davis
- 13 - Jimmy Graves, in memory of;
Alayna Wright
- 15 - Joey Blalock; Micky Luck;
Kat Griffith
- 16 - Karen Holcomb
- 17 - Bill Cobble
- 18 - Barbara Blalock;

- Max Charbonneau
 - 19 - Floyd Bailey, in memory of;
Cindy Jones
 - 20 - Sam E. Whatley
 - 21 - Leland Cox, in memory of
 - 22 - Alicia Charbonneau;
Kevin Jeffery
 - 23 - Sierra Nicely; B.J. Hill
 - 25 - Sarah Wilcox
 - 26 - Martha Hicks
 - 27 - Jess Moore
 - 28 - Edna Morgan; Cynthia Wooten
 - 31 - Michelle Broome
- ### ANNIVERSARIES
- 12 - Scott & Katie Meadows
 - 16 - Mr. & Mrs. Sonny Gilbreath
 - 17 - Katie Bird & Bill Cobble



Laura Katherine Williamson Charles Clayton Sanders

James and Debra Williamson of Suwanee announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura Katherine (Katie) Williamson to Charles Clayton (Clay) Sanders, son of Charles and Sandra Sanders of Gainesville.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Alfred and Beverly Cureton of Central, South Carolina and Calvin and Laura Williamson of Pendleton, South Carolina.

She is a 2002 graduate of North Gwinnett High School in Suwanee. She graduated 2006 as valedictorian from North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega, GA with a bachelor's degree in biology. She is currently attending The Medical College of Georgia in Augusta where she is pursuing a doctorate degree in medicine.

The groom-elect is the grandson of John and Bobbie Smith of Mentone, Alabama and the late T. J. and Susie Sanders.

He is a 2002 graduate of Gainesville



High School in Gainesville. He graduated magna cum laude in 2006 from North Georgia College and State University with a degree in biology. He is currently pursuing a masters degree from National University in San Diego, California while employed as a biology teacher and assistant baseball coach at Gainesville High School.

The couple plan to wed July 11, 2009, at Saddlebrook Baptist Church in Suwanee, GA.

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All pre-arrangements are fully funded according to Alabama laws.

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

The Sunday morning services at **Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church** are held at 9AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Rev. Jerry Davis and Rev. L.A. Smith are alternate speakers for these services.

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

Lea's Chapel Baptist Church welcomes you to worship with us. 10AM Sunday Bible Study, 11AM Morning Worship, 6PM Evening Worship. Wednesday 6-8PM Awana (ages 4 to 18); 6:30PM Praise and Prayer time. Located at 4212 County Road 751, Valley Head. 635-1001.

Visitors are always welcome at the **Valley Head United Methodist Church**. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at 9AM.

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

The Harmony Grove Baptist Church located on County Road 239 invites you to attend Sunday School at 10AM and worship at 11AM. Sunday evening service is at 5PM. Thursday evening service is at 5:30PM.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Mass Services at 11AM each Sunday; Scripture and Communion Services at 6PM on Tuesdays.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM Sunday and 6:30 Wednesday. Christmas Eve service, December 24 at 6:00 PM. Steve Schrader, Pastor - 845-4314. Everyone welcome.

Walnut Grove Baptist Church, on Highway 11 North of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School at 10AM, Worship Service at 11AM, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6PM, and Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:30PM.

The Fort Payne Christian Center and Pastors Ken and Elaine Holliman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10 AM, Wednesday evening at 6PM. God Bless you.

Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA), 5760 Gault Ave., NE, Fort Payne, AL. Rev. Billy Dempsey, Pastor, Sunday School 9:45AM; Sunday Worship - 10:55AM.

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

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

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

The **Mentone Revival Center** and Pastor LeRoy Nichols and wife, Nell, invite everyone to join in worship on Sunday at 10AM and 11AM, and Sunday night at 6PM. Wednesday night 6:30PM. Homecoming is August 10. Brother Charles Elrod will be preaching and the Faith Walkers will be singing. Everyone is welcome.

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

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church - a place of prayer, thanksgiving, and celebration. Come by any time to pray and give thanks. Open 24 hours every day. Sunday service is at 10:30AM.

The Mentone United Methodist Church services are at 11AM each Sunday. Sunday School is at 10AM. Daniel Lee of Rainsville is the pastor.

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9:45AM, with classes for all ages. Morning Worship is at 11AM. The Lords Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March, and June at the morning worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 5:00PM and Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00PM. On Wednesdays, Team

Kids; Youth Bible Study and Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting are all at 6:30PM. Rev. Terry Turner has been called to be the regular pastor at Moon Lake.

Alpine Community Church, 115 Hwy 337, Menlo, GA. Pastor and Rev. Tommy Pledger welcome each and everyone to worship service, Sunday morning, 11AM, GA time; Sunday School 10AM GA time; Wed. Night Bible Study, 7PM GA time.

Cove Road Baptist Church, County Road 631, Mentone, Alabama. Brother Marlin Starnes, Interim Pastor, welcomes all to Sunday School - 9AM (10AM GA time); Church Services 10AM (11AM GA time); and Sunday night services 5PM (6PM GA time).

Summit Church of God invites you to attend their church. Sunday School-10AM; Morning Worship-11AM. Wednesday evening-6:30PM. Randall Beagles welcomes all.

Mentone Community Church Schedule: Sundays: Sunday School 9:30AM; Worship 10:30AM; Family Service or Small Groups 6:30PM. Wednesdays at 6:30PM; Pioneer Clubs; Youth Group; Adult Bible Study.

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy regular service times are Sunday School at 10AM, with worship at 11AM. Evening services begin at 5:30 on Sunday and 6 on Wednesday. Rev. Dean Clair invites everyone to attend.

GOD
IS EVERYWHERE

FORGIVE
AND FEEL BETTER



DEVOTIONAL

By Evelyn Graves

All of us enjoy new beginnings at some point. We tire of the old way of doing things and look forward to launching into something new that is more challenging, more innovative, more expeditious, and which produces a more appealing result.

At the beginning of each new year, we have all made our New Year's resolutions which are broken by the middle of the second week, leaving us with a feeling of failure, emptiness, and a thought that it would have been better not to have made those resolutions.

In 2 Corinthians 5: 17, we find these words: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." When we accept Christ into our lives, he transforms us from our old life and gives us newness of life, giving our lives perspective and joy.

May we embrace the new year 2009 with anticipation, enhancing our own lives and giving light to those around us.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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COZY SCENIC ROAD COTTAGE has been completely renovated with new vinyl cedar shake-look siding, metal roof, fresh interior paint, refinished hardwood floors, CH/A, new counter-tops and more! Unbeatable location! This little gem could become your mountain getaway or permanent home. Beautiful stone-work hearth & chimney as well as around the front porch area. It's like new and only \$89,000. (18553)



JUST RIGHT IN SIZE & PRICE this cabin built of hand-hewn white pine logs is the sweetest little hideaway you could ever want to snuggle up in! Not too big, but just enough of every amenity you could possibly desire. Cradled in the woods, great front and back porches, 1.4 acres of land, 2BR/1BA with warm wood interior. All appliances to remain, including the stacked washer/dryer. Perfectly set up for a cabin rental. \$125,000 (18457)



VALLEY BELOW, MOUNTAIN BEYOND. There is nothing like the Mentone brow. Winter evenings spent basking in the hot tub, then snuggling up by the mountain stone woodburning fireplace. Dozing on the unique hanging bed on the screened backporch. Sitting around the backyard firepit watching the sun set over the distant hills. This 1.5 story cabin has the cozy, mtn rustic look and feel, and has all the right stuff to make time spent here nothing short of perfect. Comes complete with all furnishings, custom linens, appliances and accessories. Currently active in cabin rental program. Attractively priced at \$375,000. (18144)



STRAIGHT OUT OF A MAGAZINE! This hand-hewn log cabin could easily have been the subject of a write-up on great log homes of the mountains! Craftsmanship, beauty of design, quality amenities, creativity, and so much WOOD! Maple floors, stairs & cabinetry; hand-sanded & finished box elder wood counters; Appalachian log interior walls; unique stone "cave" shower; jetted tub w/stone surround & floors in MA BA; handcrafted true wagon wheel light fixtures; hand-peeled pine post handrails. Built-to-last hand-notched, dovetail design. 3BR/2.5BA, 1820 sq ft w/loft balcony and 3rd-level bonus room. Over 1400 sq ft porch area, 2 fireplaces. All appliances. \$278,500 (17537)



AN ACRE OF LAND W/VINTAGE AIRSTREAM Land Yacht travel trailer included! Mildly-restricted lot with a great rural Mentone location, minutes from DeSoto State Park, Ft Payne, village of Mentone. A very economical getaway now, a place to build a more permanent structure in future! Partially cleared, many larger trees remain. 210' road frontage; power & public water at road. RV & lot priced at \$25,000 (17127)



WATERFRONT BIG REDUCTION! If you have ever dreamed of having a cabin on the lake, then now's the perfect opportunity to buy this great stone mountain lake cabin. 70' frontage on E Fork of Little River at Lake Lahusage, 2BR/1BA, woodburning stone fireplace, stone patio off MA BR (a place for a hot tub?). Sun porch on lake side. Would make a great cabin rental. Now priced at only \$225,000! (16448)



MENTONE IF YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION is to make time to relax, this spacious new cabin, under construction, could be your getaway in the mountains! This place is solidly built with beautiful wood, craftsmanship & imaginative design throughout. 1850+ sq ft, 3BR/2BA, huge loft area for recreation, office, or add'l bed room, wraparound porch, stone woodburning fireplace, all appliances. 1.5-acre lot. \$169,900. (18548)



A MENTONE ORIGINAL. Classic Mentone 2-story farm-style built back when mountain vacation homes always included a sleeping porch. Full, screened front porch welcomes you inside to the open kitchen/living, 2 lg BRs, 2 BAs (one w/claw-foot tub), back porch, huge laundry & storage room. The yard offers grape arbor, peach trees, rhododendrons, forsythia, oak leaf hydrangea, witch hazel...and more! \$115,000 (18502)



LOOKOUT MTN FULLY-FURNISHED CABIN. Just bring the groceries when you want to get away for the holidays or the weekend! Extra nice 2BD/1BA cabin atop Lookout Mountain in the area of Little River Canyon National Preserve and the new JSU Park. School! View wildlife from your balcony. Just minutes from Fort Payne and DeSoto State Park. Great location for cabin rental! \$129,000 (18459)



VALLEY HEAD SPACIOUS BRICK HOME ON 6 ACRES w/more acreage available. Small pond, fenced, year-round spring, 2-story traditional-style home features 5BR/3.5BA; main-level Master BR; large pantry; amazing kitchen w/tons of cabinets, planning ctr, cook's island, double ovens; 2-car att gar; screened back porch w/view of pond; oversized laundry room; fireplace; hardwood & new ceramic floors. You'll love coming home! \$249,000. (17838)



LOTS and LAND



DESOTO STATE PARK AREA 19 acres of scenic beauty featuring large trees, interesting rock formations, wildlife & creek. Your own nature preserve, camp or homestead. Peace & quiet for only \$123,500 (17521)

LOTS and LAND

DESOTO STATE PARK AREA 19 acres of scenic beauty featuring large trees, interesting rock formations, wildlife & creek. Your own nature preserve, camp or homestead. Peace & quiet for only \$123,500 (17521)

4.42 AC LOT WITH STREAM offers peaceful areas to hike, watch abundant wildlife, or just get away. Perfectly located at end of quiet lane. Only \$37,000 (16824)

ONE ACRE mildly-restricted lot w/great rural Mentone location between DeSoto St Park & Mentone. 210' road frontage; power & public water @ road. \$20,000 (17127)

PICK ONE, or pick them all. 3 lots from which to choose, each with great woods, light restrictions. Mentone. Priced at \$30,000 to \$40,000 ea. (17868)

AWESOME SUNSETS FROM THE BROW Park at Mentone are just a few steps away. Beautifully-wooded 0.5 ac lot w/150' paved frontage & public water. (Up to 1.5 ac total available.) \$45,000. (18277)

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Mentone Wedding Chapel



Located in the woods atop Lookout Mountain, near Mentone, Alabama, this quaint little chapel is surrounded by ferns, forest and flowers. The chapel is a red version of traditional Appalachian churches of the past. Stained glass windows filtering soft for sunrises and soft organ music accent an ambience for the wedding ceremony. Inside wooden pews will seat approximately 60 guests.

Pat Patterson, owner of the chapel, said the idea began with a bell, and now that bell rings as guests exit the door of the chapel.

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Kilgore Express Pharmacy a locally operated business

There is just something about a hometown pharmacy that puts people at ease. The home-owned and operated pharmacy allows people to feel comfortable about their prescription needs. They know they are getting quality, professional work from somebody they know.

Few things fit that description better than Kilgore Express Pharmacy, Inc., which has been meeting the needs of people in DeKalb County for 33 years.

Kilgore Express Pharmacy opened its Fort Payne location three years ago at 103 Greenhill Boulevard NW., but the business began years ago as part of the vision of Lotha Lee Kilgore.

After graduating from Auburn University in 1969, Lotha Lee Kilgore opened his first store in Fort Payne in the old Hurley's Shopping Center. But that was just the beginning.

Lotha Kilgore went on to open a store in his hometown of Rainsville in 1975. As the years progressed, he started two more stores in Fort Payne – one in the old Piggly Wiggly Shopping Center and another located on North Gault Avenue.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, he sold all three stores and briefly went into manufacturing hosiery. After operating two hosiery mills and realizing that production was being sent overseas, he went back to what came naturally – pharmaceuticals.

He opened a new store in Rainsville in 2004 and another in Fort Payne in 2005. Most recently, Kilgore opened a third store in Collinsville.

Lotha Kilgore is the first to point out it is the wonderful, professional and dedicated staff at each of the three Kilgore Express Pharmacy locations that makes things work so well. That staff is hardworking and dedicated to serving each of their communities and meeting the individual needs of each of their customers.

Lotha Kilgore's daughter, Trish, works alongside her father, seeing that all aspects of the business runs smoothly, and she manages all three locations.

"We are an independent home-owned pharmacy that offers friendly service, affordable prescriptions and

are always willing to take time for our customers," Lotha Kilgore said.

Kilgore Express Pharmacy offers affordable prescription drugs, along with a full line of durable medical equipment such as lift chairs, electric and standard wheelchairs, hospital beds, C-Pap machines, nebulizers, oxygen, walkers, rollators, canes and much, much more.

At Kilgore Express Pharmacy, more than 300 generic prescriptions drugs are offered for less than \$4 each, while 3,000 over the counter items have their prices rolled back.

Still, it all comes down to the staff at each location to provide that friendly hometown service DeKalb County has come to know and love at Kilgore Pharmacy Express. Let's take a look at those who make Kilgore Pharmacy so special:

Rainsville Staff

- Brad Haymon, pharmacist
- Ashley Wigley, pharmacy tech
- Stephanie Wigley, pharmacy tech
- Misty Kirtland, pharmacy tech

Fort Payne Staff

- Lotha Kilgore, owner, pharmacist
- Trish Kilgore, daughter, manager
- Janice Day, pharmacy tech supervisor
- Lisa Davis, pharmacy tech
- Alicia Bynum, pharmacy tech
- Matika Kilgore, granddaughter, pharmacy tech
- Pamela Mitchell, customer service

Collinsville Staff

- Brandon Boswell, pharmacist
- Whitney Pearce, pharmacy tech
- Johnna Traffanstedt, pharmacy tech
- Andrew Poe, pharmacy tech

Gurley Staff

- Thomas Kennelly, pharmacist
- Freda Johnson, pharmacy tech
- Stephanie Brown, pharmacy tech
- Wyness Dunn, pharmacy tech
- Candy Setzer, pharmacy tech
- Karen Knight, Cashier

Stop by any of Kilgore Express Pharmacy's three locations or give them a call at the Fort Payne pharmacy at (256) 845-6640.

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THE CHRISTMAS DESK

Submitted by John Baty

In 1998, Robert Baty, known to his many friends as Bob, was logging some Pine timber in Chattooga County, Georgia, south of Menlo when the crew came upon a blowdown Hackberry tree.

Since the tree was in the range of the Georgia Hackberry, *Celtis georgiana* it was more likely of that species. The common Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*, was not ruled out, but its range is commonly some further north.

The tree was sawn into boards and dried for ten years.

Recently, Mentone's multitalented Policeman, Lamar Bray, using the Hackberry lumber, built the desk pictured above in his workshop. Bob presented the desk to his granddaughter, Caroline, as a Christmas gift. The work is superb and the wood pattern and grain somewhat resemble young Walnut, but lighter in color.

The picture hardly does justice to Lamar's work.

In Memory SSG Jonathan W. Dean

SSG Jonathan W. Dean served his country with pride and dignity and gave his life in the pursuit of Freedom. The family of SSG Jonathan W. Dean deeply appreciates your kind expressions of Sympathy in our great loss.

Perhaps you sent a lovely
card,
or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a funeral
spray,
if so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the
kindest words.
As any friend could say,
Perhaps you were not
there at all,
Just thought of us that
day.

Whatever you did to con-
sole our hearts,
We thank you so very much,
whatever the part.
Thank you for keeping us in
your thoughts and prayers.
The Family of SSG Jonathan
Wayne Dean.



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LAKE FRONT LIVING... Walk right out the back door to custom built wooden decks and walkways to your own boat dock on Lake Lahusage. This 2 bedroom, 2 bath cottage with pine floors, wood burning fireplace and screened porch, 2-story 2-car garage with apartment possibilities can be yours for only \$369,900. (16822)



IN-TOWN CHARMER - Walk to downtown Mentone from this 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath cottage featuring wood floors, cathedral ceiling and gazebo all on 1 acre with more available. Call today! \$149,900 (16659)



LAKEFRONT PROPERTY ON LOOKOUT MTN FOR ONLY \$189,900! Don't miss your chance to own this BRAND NEW cabin with over 150' of waterfront, 2BR/2BA, kitchen/dining combination, spacious living area with fireplace, and deck to relax and enjoy the view. Dock already in place, so grab your fishing gear and call now! (18272)



LOOKING FOR A MOUNTAIN GET-A-WAY? 3BR/1BA home just minutes from Mentone. Completely remodeled, this home is move-in ready! New kitchen appliances include range, refrigerator, microwave, and washer/dryer. Updated wiring, new CH&A, fresh interior paint, and rock fireplace. Sitting on two lots with a covered back deck, nice mature trees and outbuilding. \$116,000 (17931)



A HIDEAWAY HEAVEN on Lake Windmill! Reward yourself with this BRAND NEW 2BR/2BA cabin situated on 2 +/- acres with approx. 80' of lake frontage and a dock already in place. Pine floors, walls and ceilings, custom cabinetry with granite countertops, stone front gas fireplace, covered deck, and best of all it's move-in ready. Grab your fishing gear and suitcase! \$179,900 (17909)



INSPIRED 3BR/2.5BA FRENCH CHATEAU in Mentone. This magnificent stone residence features 11 ft. v-groove pine ceilings, slate tiling, copper plumbing, and 100 yr old hardwood flooring from the Mentone Springs Hotel Billiard House. Formal dining, breakfast room, living room, laundry room with shower, mudroom, and unfinished space on the third floor! Sited on 3 acres. \$349,000 (18526)



LOCATED ON LAKE LAHUSAGE you will find this 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage home. Positioned on a treed lot with boat dock in place. Pack your bags and bring your canoe. \$149,900 (17906)



WATERFRONT IN MENTONE! Enjoy your leisure in this mountain home with 4.5 acres, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, cathedral ceiling, all kitchen appliances to remain, and you can finish the bottom floor for more space. \$325,000 (18474)



YOUR OWN PRIVATE SANCTUARY...FOUND! This 36+/- acres featuring a pond and small cabin with 2 bedrooms and 1 bath may be just what you've been waiting for. This wooded acreage offers you lots of privacy and activity. Call today. \$219,000 (18238)



THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE MANY, BUT PROPERTIES LIKE THIS ARE FEW!! This beautiful traditional 5 bedroom, 4 bath brick home on over 40 rolling acres has ceramic kitchen with island and all the extras. Approximately 18 acres cleared, nice large barn and livestock pond. \$429,000 (14651)



MENTONE - Over 200' of breathtaking brow view of mountains and valley located within walking distance to Historic Mentone. Put your special touch on this partially finished cabin with 2 rock fireplaces and a 2-car carport. \$325,000 (18270)



MENTONE TREASURE! Over 300' of the most private and panoramic brow frontage in downtown Mentone with impressive rock entrance, retainer walls and century old trees. Restore this 3BR/2BA home to its original splendor which features a living room w/rock fireplace, Florida room, dining room and screened sleeping porch all overlooking a fabulous view. Also included is an in-ground pool and pavilion. Walking distance to Downtown Historic Mentone. \$650,000 (18271)



MOUNTAIN MAGIC! Enjoy the comforts of this magnificent Heritage log home currently under construction in Northbend. Property offers 2 bedrooms plus an open loft for possible 3rd bedroom, 2-1/2 baths, pine floors, covered front porch and side deck all situated on a 3.32 acre wooded lot. \$285,900 (16884)

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ENJOY THE GORGEOUS VIEW OF THE LAKE on this NEW construction in Mentone offering 2BR/2BA, large open living room with fireplace, spacious kitchen with dining area, master bath with garden tub and more. Call for your appointment today. \$149,000 (15985)



IF WALLS COULD TALK you could hear all the great stories this family and home has shared for over 50 years. Now this comfort and warmth is offered to you with 3 bedrooms, pine floors, den and storage basement in downtown Mentone. \$119,000 (16803)



BREATHTAKING VIEW! You can enjoy the view year round from this one-level brick home. This property is situated on DeSoto Parkway and is "just around the corner" from DeSoto State Park and Mentone. 3BR/2BA, living and dining combination, wood burning fireplace, spacious kitchen with breakfast bar, sunroom and large deck. \$475,000 (17082)



LOOKING FOR PEACE AND QUIET? We've got it! This immaculately kept 4BR/2BA home is surrounded by 3 +/- acres of nature's abundance, yet is within walking distance to downtown Mentone. Kitchen and dining combination, 546" square feet of finished basement, CH&A, ceramic and laminate wood-grain floors, and more. Additional acreage available. \$174,900 (16376)



YOU WILL FALL IN LOVE with this custom built log home located on a private, wooded lot of over 2 acres in Mentone. This unique property offers log and pine walls, living room with wood burning stone fireplace, dining area, sleeping porch, kitchen with hard rock maple counter-tops, open front cabinets. 2BR/2BA complete the downstairs. Upstairs, an open loft with built-in beds and space for extra guests. Offered for \$325,000. (16773)



YOU'LL FEEL RIGHT AT HOME in this charming farmhouse on a beautiful level lot of over one acre. Wood floors and wood walls, comfortable living area, large dining room, kitchen with walk-in pantry, 2 bedrooms and a lovely bath with whirlpool tub, and more. Major renovations have been completed on much of the house. \$159,900 (17131)



COME SEE THIS BROW LOT in Mentone featuring a unique log structure that you can use to get-away from it all. The log structure has been moved to this site and offers an open living space with 1 bedroom and a bath. You'll have plenty of acreage to build something new or just enjoy the atmosphere of days gone by. \$279,900 (18256)



NATIVE MOUNTAIN FOLIAGE creates a level of privacy for this 3BR/2BA brick house on 3 lots with 300' on the West Fork of Little River. Split BR design, large family room with cathedral ceiling and mountain stone wood-burning fireplace, screened porch overlooking a walkway to the river. 2 storage sheds (1 with electricity), an attached 2-car garage, and CH/A. \$249,000 (16371)



MOVE UP TO RIVERFRONT! Get an open and airy feeling throughout this 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home. Features include an oversized state-of-the-art kitchen with eating area, stone fireplace, wood and tile floors, oversized back porch and boat dock. Appealing landscaping with large native trees. Many windows to soak up the views. A must see for \$579,000. (17781)



NORTHBEND... A gated subdivision. Your family will love this rustic cabin under construction nestled in a wooded 1.8 acre tract featuring great room with vaulted beamed ceiling and fireplace. There are 2 bedrooms each with walk-in closets, 2-1/2 baths and loft/den. Bring your rockers and enjoy the front porch and rear grilling deck. \$165,000 (16721)



LIVE AND PLAY ON THE WATER! Enjoy 200' of frontage on the East Fork of Little River in this waterfront home featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, rock floors as well as some carpet, all appliances, wood burning fireplace, and storage building. Call for more details. \$347,900 (18278)



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEWS! Custom log home with vaulted ceiling great room, stacked rock fireplace, large kitchen/dining, spacious loft for extra living/sleeping/storage, walkout basement/game room, separate basement storage. Enjoy year-round unsurpassed views, large deck and screened-in porch. Private location in a restricted subdivision near Little River Canyon. \$349,000 (18235)

2 ACRES with 300' of brow frontage and gorgeous rock formations. \$265,000 (7175)

2 ACRES WITH 300' ON LITTLE RIVER with lovely views, nice timber and natural landscaping. Co-broke with Prime Realty. \$100,000 (16843)

1.8 ACRES WITH 500' ON LITTLE RIVER with lovely views and natural landscaping. Co-broke with Prime Realty. \$120,000 (6844)

LOOKING FOR THE MENTONE GET-A-WAY? BROKEN DAM @ LAKE LAHUSAGE! This new development offers only 4 lots with gorgeous trees. Located off Co. Rd. 106

close to Desoto State Park and Desoto Falls. Get your blue prints ready and start building your cabin today! Lots are priced at \$35,000 each. (17060/17061)

LOOKOUT MTN. NURSERY offers 9 greenhouses with inventory! \$69,900 (16393)

NATURE LOVERS DREAM! HIDDEN LAKES SUBDIVISION - Lot listed at \$59,900 (17585)

LAKE ON THE BROW - 1 acre lot on the lake. \$59,500 (17384)

3 +/- ACRES on the E. Fork of Little River. Waterfront lots starting at \$66,000 (17334)

\$165,000 (17568)

NO MORE DAYDREAMING about living on Little River! Pristine river lot with 150 +/- feet frontage. You can put in a boat from your private dock, ride for 10 minutes and have a 104' waterfall to view. \$195,000 (17782)

WATERFRONT LOT in Lake on the Brow Sub. \$85,000 (18038)

WEST FORK SUB. - 3.22 acre tract with hardwoods. \$49,900 (18037)

THE OUTDOORS IS CALLING YOU! Hidden

Lake Subdivision bordering Little River National Preserve offers a gated community for people of like interests. Great building lot on the lake. For more information, go to www.hidden-lake.com \$95,000 (18406)

OVERLOOKING THE VALLEY! You'll want to hurry and pick just the right spot on this 100' brow lot off Scenic Drive in Mentone. Hurry, the price is right and they won't last long. Two lots to choose from. \$149,900 (18311)

ONE-ARMED GHOSTS

John Baty

It has been said by some that they were wary of retirement for fear that there would not be sufficient objectives to keep them busy. Others have voiced in mild frustration the feeling that there was not sufficient time to do all the things on their immediate agenda. Some have put it in simpler terms by noting that "since retirement, they work harder than when they were on the work force." Still others put it more succinctly when asked about certain tasks and their reply suggests that they have let their mouth overload some other part of the anatomy.

We all have tasks which we put off and stall by creating rationalizations. There are also innumerable creative pastimes which are pure pleasure in the doing. Someone, some obscure writer perhaps, once expressed the thought that man was born to do and only reaches the zenith of his potential in the doing.

Potential is the key word in the above. Most live and "expire" (as one lady put it) without ever reaching full potential. Potential always stays just out of reach in that gray area about which we are never so sure. Maybe

something like entering an emergency room with pain: When asked to rate the pain 1 to 10, one is afraid to say "ten" because he/she don't know what the potential might be.

My Daddy liked to build things; mostly buildings. He was always stymied by the fact that a large family used up most of his assets. With severely limited "free money," his constructions were often crude. I've heard the expression "within his/her means."

I saw that sign in the waiting room, pushing some insurance, read something like:

"Are you on a limited income?" Well, I don't recall ever knowing anyone with an unlimited income.

Well, like him, I like to create simple things with my hands; buildings and things requiring only minimal talent and expertise. I don't know if I learned it from my Daddy, inherited it, or feel it as a need to substitute for some other repressed or otherwise impractical desire or wish. (Never did care much for the theories of Freud.) Whatever the case, I am almost happy when I have a screwdriver drill, a saw and some boards around me.

Anyone of sufficient years to be free for such idleness will know about

the need for gloves. We, she and I, like to buy a pack of the inexpensive cloth gloves at the flea market and have them on hand for rough jobs.

Now, so far, I haven't said anything about ghosts, especially those with missing limbs. I have heard of one-armed bandits. But ghosts? But you know, some may be skeptical, but - - we have a ghost here at our place - - and it has only one arm. I know, you think I am funning, but this ghost has only one arm and it is the left arm. The right one is missing!

I might offer any number of different arguments to substantiate the claim, but the evidence is here, plain, incontestable.

Yesterday it was cold and there was frost, early on. I searched for a pair of gloves - She says I just drop them wherever I am when the need for gloves ends. I found a sizeable pile of the brown cloth ones on the patio table, each in its own state of wear or soil. I found a decent right hand one first thing, then searched for a mate. I went through either seven or eight gloves and each of them was for the right hand. There were no lefthanded ones. A short search, interspersed with some interesting verbal reflecting, yielded no left-handed specimens.

Now that bothered me some. There are a lot of things I don't believe in, due to lack of proof. But, you know, there is a ghost around here. And it is left-handed. I know that is not proof as might be required by some scientist or mathematicians, but it is as good or better than that required by others I know of, concerning more weighty matters. I believe there is a ghost here! It could be like my Mother's wooden spoon - - Each spring at jelly-making time she would hunt for her long-handled wooden spoon to stir the boiling cauldron. Most times it was hard to find since it had not been used since the previous summer. Finally, and in all seriousness, Mother would sit down in frustration and say: "Well, someone has stolen my spoon!"

A while ago, maybe 2:15 A.M., a solution presented itself. If you have ever tried to start a dry-wall screw while holding it with a gloved hand you may agree that other reasons than ghosts might be the answer.

Ah, but a ghost with just one arm, a left one, is somehow easy to visualize. I can see it! Can you? - I thought so!



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THOMAS ALVA EDISON (1847-1931)

John Whitaker

He would be a great man someday. His parental influences, his childhood personality, and his persistent energy all combined to indicate that greatness would come. To him would be granted 1,098 patents for his inventions, and one more was granted posthumously for a total of 1,099. The French government would appoint him to the Legion of Honor; the USA the Distinguished Service Medal and the Congressional Medal of Honor. In 1960 he was elected to the Hall of Fame for Great Americans. His name is Thomas Alva Edison.

Born in Milan, Ohio, February 11, 1847, the seventh and youngest child of Samuel Ogden Edison, Jr., and Nancy Elliott Edison, his ancestors were of Dutch, Scotch, and English descent. They spelled this name "Edeson" and pronounced the initial e long a.

Milan, Ohio, in 1847 was a growing canal village. Some thought that it would be bigger than Chicago.

Young Thomas spent the first seven years of his life here in Milan. One day his father found him setting on a nest of eggs.

"Son, what are you doing?" asked his father. "I'm hatching out chickens," replied Thomas.

This sense of imagination and curiosity were life long traits. However, when Thomas built a fire in the barn and the barn burnt down, he received a public spanking by his father.

When Thomas was seven years of age, the family moved to Port Huron, Michigan in 1854. Father Edison knew that when the town council voted for the railroad to bypass Milan, the town would not grow.

In Port Huron, Thomas was placed in a public school. He was not a good student, and the teacher said he was "addled." His mother immediately withdrew her son from the school and said she would be his teacher. This three-month term was the only formal education of young Thomas, yet he was well-schooled by his mother, and even occasionally by his father.

Thomas began selling vegetables

in Port Huron. As business grew, he bought fruits and sold them also. One year his profits were six hundred dollars.

Thomas had a great interest in chemistry and set up his first laboratory in the cellar of his home. Two hundred bottles were set up on the crude wooden shelves in the lab.

When Thomas became twelve years old, he begged his parents to let him be a newsboy on the Grand Trunk Railway. His parents, reluctantly, agreed. Thus, he became a good salesboy and added his own newspaper to his sales items. In addition, Thomas set up his laboratory in a baggage car, thus making the world's first laboratory on wheels.

At the Smith Creek station, young Thomas was endeavoring, but with little success, to board a train. With an armload of papers, he was unsuccessful. A well-meaning conductor took hold of both of Thomas' ears and lifted him into the car. Thomas said that something snapped in his head, and he soon began to be deaf. This handicap endured throughout his life.

However, he felt that the noises of

everyday life were shut out, and he could concentrate much better on his work.

Trouble developed in the baggage car when a fire began by a stick of phosphorus falling to the floor. Young Thomas was having trouble extinguishing the fire, but a conductor doused the fire with a bucket of water.

When the train rolled into the Mt. Clemens station, the conductor threw all of Thomas' goods unto the station platform. Thus was ended the rolling laboratory and newspaper.

Maybe there's a turning point in each life. After making peace with the conductor, Thomas resumed his job of hawking newspapers. One day Thomas was standing on the platform at the Mt. Clemens station. Suddenly, he saw an on-rushing box-car rolling rapidly down the rails toward two-and-a-half years old Jimmie Mackenzie, son the station-master, James Mackenzie. Thomas raced, grabbed little Jimmie, and saved him from certain death. The

Continued on page 14

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grateful stationmaster said, "Thomas, I have no money to repay you. However, I can teach you to be a telegraph operator." Accepting the kind offer, and for four days a week for three months, Thomas quickly learned to be a telegrapher. This was quite a change in the life of one so young. Soon, Thomas took his first paying job as a telegrapher in Port Huron, 1862-63; he was close to his sixteenth birthday.

Thomas became a rambling telegrapher for the next five years. He traveled from Port Huron to New Orleans, up and down the Mississippi Valley, and finally arrived in Boston in 1868. Here he invented a vote recorder for Congress; he applied for a patent on October 11, 1868, and the patent was granted on June 1, 1869. Congress did not want such a device. Consequently, Thomas vowed never to invent something that people did not want or that was not useful.

TAE (Thomas Alva Edison) decided to quit his job as a telegrapher and devote his time and energies to his inventions. A friend advised him to go to New York City. "I know you will make good there," he said.

TAE took a night boat from Boston to New York City and arrived there penniless. In New York City there occurred another turning point for the young inventor. On his third day in the big city TAE heard a commotion on the floor of the Gold Exchange and learned that the transmitter had stopped. He said he could fix it, and he did. The next morning he was interviewed by S.S. Laws, vice president of the Gold Exchange. He came to work the next morning at a salary of \$300 a month. He was placed in charge of the whole plant. And he couldn't believe it.

TAE, along with two fellow workers, set up a small firm of electrical engineers. The first invention was Edison's Universal Printer. He sold it to Western Union for \$40,000; he nearly fainted by the offer from General Marshall Lefferts. He used the money to start a small shop.

TAE once remarked, "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." How true this was of the great inventor, for he often worked day and night, and sometimes even years on an invention. He had a long list of inventions: vote recorder (his first), a stock ticker or universal printer, mimeograph machine, paraffin paper, transmitter for the Bell telephone, improved the Remington typewriter, microphone, incandescent light bulb, first commercial light bulb, phonograph, tasimeter (a heat-seeking device), first practical motion picture

camera, electric railways, modern megaphone, first electric motor, storage battery, odorscope, fluoroscope, wireless telegraphy, and rubber from the goldenrod plant (the last invention/discovery).

His many inventions led to wealth in the USA estimated to be worth \$25,000,000,000 (perhaps even more).

The storage battery was invented after nearly 50,000 experiments spread over a ten-year period and a cost of \$3,000,000. Someone had to perspire in all this work.

The incandescent light bulb left a labor of 40,000 pages of notes, expenses of more than \$43,000, and many sleepless nights. This required perspiration. More work continued in a world-wide search for the perfect filament for the bulb. Bamboo from Japan worked well; however, TAE made a "squirreled" filament of a cellulose mixture and ended the search. The search for rubber involved an examination of 15,000 plants, trees, and shrubs growing in the USA.

Perspiration? Yes, and some might even call it sweat. Death came for Thomas Alva Edison after a brief illness of approximately one and half months. At 3:24 a.m.,

October 18, 1931, the "grand old man," and America's greatest inventor slipped quietly away from time to eternity.

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Editorial

As we grow older, we tend to take life more seriously. As I look over the past two months in the Mentone-Valley Head area, I am reminded just how fragile life really is. Five beautiful persons have been taken from our midst.

Doris Carmichael was known and loved by many people. Her personality allowed her to meet new people everywhere she went, and within a few minutes' time, she had made friends. She wore a sparkling smile and always had something pleasant to say to everyone she met. I did not have the opportunity to know Doris in high school because she graduated the year before I enrolled at Valley Head. I heard her name mentioned quite frequently among students, and it was always, "Doris Helms is such a sweet person. I miss her a lot." Doris attended the University of Alabama, and later married Jim Carmichael. They operated the Greyhound bus station in Hammondville. It was there that I really got to know Doris. She and her father, Mr. Helms, were usually there every day. I took some extra courses one summer when I was attending college in Chattanooga. Because I was not old enough to drive at that time, I rode the bus to and from Chattanooga and had a wait before bus time in the mornings, and I had about three hours to wait in the afternoons before someone picked me up. Jim and I were cousins, but we got to know each other much better during that summer. After Doris had retired from her job in the Valley Head High School office years later, she came into the State Unemployment Office where I was manager. This was at the time that the unemployment rate was at its highest - in 1973 and 1974. I was hiring people off the street to work as clerks in the unemployment office. When Doris came in I asked her immediately about coming to work with me. I was so pleased to find someone I knew something about.

She agreed to accept the job, took the required examination, passed it, and I put her to work immediately. There was no end to her energy and her ability to turn out a large amount of work. She stayed with me about a year, and the economy began to improve somewhat and she was offered a job as an insurance salesman with Alfa Insurance Company. We kept in touch regularly, and then I was invited to join the Valley Head Woman's Club. Doris was also a member. We worked on many committees together, one of which was the projects committee. Doris was the top salesperson in our annual pecan sales project every year. She worked as diligently selling pecans as she did on any other job she had held, even though there was no money in it for her. Jim had helped Doris with this project for several years after her health began to fail, and this year after Doris' death, he and daughter Linda volunteered to do her part of the pecan sales.

Doris was a strong person who accepted her lot in life with a great deal of grace and dignity. She and Jim lost both sons, Larry and Gary, to tragic deaths, and Doris accepted their deaths with a smile and held to life with an unflinching hope. There is a lot that we may learn from knowing Doris and watching her sweet spirit working among us.

The loss of **Howard Carson** was a tremendous loss for many people. Howard was a kind, generous, loving person who was involved wherever there was a need. As his obituary states, he was involved in many capacities as board member or other official position.

My earliest recollection of Howard was seeing him at Moon Lake School with a family member. They had just moved into the community. I remember that he was a very friendly person with a big smile. He soon began dating Charlotte Jo O'Rear, and they married before too long. As their children began to grow up, Howard was always involved in PTA and other organizations pertaining to his children. He was an intelligent person with the ability to accomplish many things. Howard worked hard and was a good provider for his family.

I had the privilege to serve on the board of the Bankhead Cemetery Memorial Association with both Howard and Jo, and I found them to be very knowledgeable and cooperative. He loved to sing, and it was his duty to plan the annual programs for Decoration Day at Bankhead. This was just one of the hats that he wore. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Howard was a military retiree, and one thing that we know for sure is that when taps were played for him here, reveille was being played in Heaven.

I did not have the honor to know **Linda Frith** as well as I would have liked to know her. I have heard many wonderful things about her. I do know that she fought a long, hard battle with cancer, and that she was a beautiful person inwardly and outwardly. Our prayers are with the family in their sorrow.

Betty Joe Jones Johnson was a lifelong resident of Mentone. She loved Mentone and lived in one of the most beautiful parts of Mentone on what is known as "Sunset Brow". Betty was a beautifully talented person in many ways. Her unusual music talent was God-given. Not many months ago before Betty became so ill, I told her that I would like for her to play the piano at my funeral. She graciously agreed. I was a little bit surprised because she had not been playing or singing as much as usual in her last few months. Since she agreed to play at my funeral, I pressed my luck a little bit farther and asked her to sing also. She declined.

Betty had a great sense of humor. The only problem was that she many times found things to be funny at an inappropriate time. I have the same problem, and we have laughed together about things that nobody else found humor in. Betty possessed so many talents that it is impossible to name them all. She has served on numerous boards in many different capacities, and only her family was aware of all that she did. She was not a person to brag about anything she did. She served the Lord and gave him the credit for it all. She was a wonderful wife and mother and grandmother. She loved her family and cared for all of their needs diligently.

I visited Betty at DeKalb General Hospital the day before she was transferred to Birmingham for surgery. I have never seen her more beautiful than she was that day. I was impressed that even though she was in intensive care she had her personal bible there with her where she could reach

it. This is the kind of life she lived - a sacrificial life serving others and serving her Lord. Her husband, James, told me on one occasion that Betty had never expressed a desire for anything. He said he had to insist that she needed a new car or that the house needed some renovation. She was just happy with whatever she had. Would it not be wonderful to be like the apostle Paul expressed it, "Whatever state I am in there-with to be content." Betty had adopted this philosophy as well.

James Robertus (Jim) Ellis, 89, passed away at his residence in Rossville, Georgia, on December 26, 2008, following a battle with brain cancer. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Holland Ellis; son, James Robertus (Robin) Ellis, Jr., daughter-in-law, Sherry Ellis; two grandchildren, James



Robertus (Jamie) Ellis, III and Julie Ellis Beavers, and four great-grandchildren. His funeral was held at Heritage Funeral Home in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, on December 29, 2008, at 11 a.m. A eulogy was given by granddaughter, Julie Beavers, and the message was presented by grandson Jamie Ellis.

The following is the eulogy given by Julie Ellis Beavers in memory of her grandfather, Jim Ellis:

My Grandfather was born in Walker County Georgia in 1919. During his lifetime the world changed so much. The population of our country went from 106 million people to over 305 million. The culture went from being primarily agricultural to what we know today. He had to adapt to technology like telephones, airplanes, cars, computers....

During his childhood the average American farm family had a cash income of between \$200. and \$400. per year. By the year 1939 many families didn't have any income at all. Life was hard, but these strong families never gave up.

Grandad's mother was a school teacher and saw the value of an education. She encouraged him to finish High School. He worked hard, graduated 2nd in his class and was offered a college scholarship, but He chose to join the Civilian Conservation Corp and was assigned to work at Crater Lake National Park in Oregon. This program was designed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to help stimulate the economy and rebuild our nation. Grandad took this job seriously and from then on was a Roosevelt Democrat.

Grandad served our country in World War II, he was gone for 4 1/2 years and was among the troops who saw their fellow soldiers raise the flag at Iwo Jima.

When he came back home, he met my Grandmother and 6 weeks later, they got married. They were married for 63 amazing years and had one child, my father. He knew that marriage was the hardest job he would ever have, and worked hard every day. I think he got it right.

Grandad worked for 43 years at Franklin Processing Co. He started out sweeping floors and when he retired he was the Assistant Plant Manager. For

many years after retirement, he was still called upon as a consultant.

I, of course didn't know him during this time period. I do want to share with you a little bit about the man that I did know.

When I was a little girl my Grandparents lived in Greenville, SC. They would make it home to Rossville, GA as often as possible to have Sunday dinner at my Great Grandparents house. The effort involved in this seemingly small activity taught me a love and value for my family.

As children Jamie and I often went to visit them in South Carolina and - after they retired - in Mentone, AL. So many of my childhood memories are from the times that I spent with them. As a child, I loved him simply because he was my Grandad.

He worked hard to make our visits fun. I can remember "painting" his old blue truck with water everyday for a couple weeks. He never seemed to get tired of filling up our buckets or "washing out" our paint brushes. He taught me to work in the garden and build squash hills. I can remember helping him in the yard.

Over the years, I started watching him. I saw that people in his church came to him when they had problems or just needed a sounding board. I watched him as he listened and never judged... no matter what he was told. Grandad would tell them his opinion even if it wasn't what they wanted to hear and then lovingly support them in their choices. He taught me that we are first to love people, then we are to pray with them and for them. It is never our place to judge or criticize.

Through the years I have made my share of mistakes and bad choices. My Grandfather was always there with outstretched arms for support. Sometimes he told me that I needed a swift kick in the rear... but he always loved me. I always knew that no matter what mistake I made, he would be there for me.

When I was in high school, I wasn't the best student but my Grandfather always encouraged me to do my best and that as long as I did, that was good enough. He also taught me that everyone isn't good at the same things. We just have to keep searching until we find our place, mine was in music.

My daughter Kathryn was born when I was a junior in college. Most people would have had to stop going to school and be a mommy. I went and talked to my Grandparents before I decided what to do. They agreed completely that they would do whatever they could to help me complete my education. When Kathryn was 3 weeks old I started back to school. From that day until I graduated 18 months later my Grandparents did what might be unthinkable to some people. Every Wednesday night they left Mentone, Alabama and came to stay with my parents. They watched the baby every Thursday and Friday so I could go to school. Without their help, I never could have graduated.

I wasn't the only person to benefit from this arrangement. The relationship that

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AUTHENTIC LOG CABIN in the Woods. 1BR with large loft and catwalk to 2d story porch, among the trees. Living kitchen area with hand crafted cabinets, tile counters, Cedar twig railings, custom wood doors, 1.5 bath with claw foot tub. All on 1.75 acres at Cherokee Hills. Walking distance to Eberhart Point, Little River Canyon. \$122,000 (18044)



CEDAR SIDED CABIN in nice development called Hunters Ridge. Common access to Little River. Great room with Columbian cedar walls and stairs. Nice aroma when you enter the 2 bdrm 2 bath. Stacked Stone Fireplace, Oak Hardwood floors. Private screen porch, and covered front porch. Great getaway to the mountains. \$174,000 (18541)



WHAT A VIEW. 11.2 acres with over 600 ft. on the brow with 2 Rock bluff points. Power, water, septic installed. The mobile home is a bonus. Place to stay while you build that dream home. Nicely wooded. \$265,000 (18543)



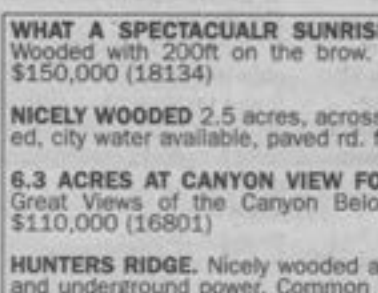
THE PAWNEE - is a modified Daniel Boone log home package. located on 0.6 acres, this newly built log home is a lot to offer. Situated on a lot next to the future covered bridge, the owners have access to the Little River and a property owner's soc, with mild restrictions. The cabin features covered front porch and spacious back deck with a running stream below. The amenities are endless and the setting price is. \$172,000 (17778)



GREAT INVESTMENT in Valley Head. Triplex in very good condition Apt A: 2BR/1BA, kitchen, living area laundry room, stove, frig, window unit, side deck. Apt (occupied) Apt B: 1BR/1BA w/shower. Efficiency kitchen, small living room, large room with washer and dryer area and storage. Apt C: 2BR/1BA, large open family room and kitchen. DW, stove, lots of cabinets. Back deck and C/HA. A must see at 95,000 (17189)



MOUNTAIN CHATEAU. Feel like you are among the trees, from this 2-story with basement. Floor to ceiling windows surround the great room, Hickory floors. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, both with whirlpool tubs and separate shower in master. Loft overlooking great room and fireplace. Fully equipped kitchen. Walk-in pantry. Spectacular view for miles and miles. Secluded 4.77 acres with 250ft on the Bluff. \$345,000 (18133)



WHAT A SPECTACULAR SUNRISE/ MOONRISE EAST BROW VIEW. Wooded with 200ft on the brow. Secluded 4.36 acres. A must see. \$150,000 (18134)

NICELY WOODED 2.5 acres, across from Lake Lahusage. Lightly restricted, city water available, paved rd. frontage. \$35,000 Owner/Broker

6.3 ACRES AT CANYON VIEW FOREST, east rim Little River Canyon. Great Views of the Canyon Below, Rock Formations. Private Gated \$110,000 (16801)

HUNTERS RIDGE. Nicely wooded acreage tracts available. county water and underground power. Common area access to the little river. Lightly restricted, and POA \$100.00 a year. 7 tracts available. Priced from \$30,000 to \$44,000. 1.6 to 2.9 acres (17779)

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NEW 2 BR, 2 BA LOG HOME with loft, hardwood floors, deck overlooking lake. A wonderful RETREAT

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OWN PART OF A BROW HOME. Need 3rd investor to purchase Mentone vacation home on 1 acre west brow/spectacular large deck sunset views. The buy-in cost is \$100k for 4 months of time per year. Would consider 2 investors at \$50k each for 2 months per year. Call 256-634-3055.

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Continued from page 16:

developed between them and my daughter is one that most Great Grandparents would envy.

Almost ten years ago, my parents were involved in a motorcycle accident. After they were released from the hospital my Grandparents closed up their home and moved in with my parents for several months to help take care of my parents. When Grandad was growing up, the women were the primary caregiver... but I think that someone forgot to tell this to him. He rolled up his sleeves and did whatever was needed of him. He always chose the worst tasks for himself so that the rest of us didn't have to do them.

Through the years I have watched him play with my children. Watching I knew how lucky they were. It was not uncommon to find Grandad in the floor paying Old Maid with my children or watching Barney. He was always willing to meet any of us where ever we were.

The last few years were a trial for him. His body started to betray him first with Parkinson's Disease and then with the tumor that finally ended his life. I never one time heard an angry word from him. He would just smile and tell me that he'd had an amazing life. Everyone here today helped to make that

life special to him. I just want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to each of you for loving him.

Many times we attend the funeral of an older person without really knowing who they were. Some of us may have known them when they were young, others may have known them when they were "middle aged" while some only met them as they lived out their retirement. "And the king said, Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?" (2 Samuel 3:38) This is the way I feel today. As I stand over his casket and look down into my uncle Jim's face, I want to touch him, I want to tell him how much he meant to me. I want to tell him what a great man he was. I ask myself, "Who can I turn to now when I have a problem. Who will give me the advice that Jim would give me?" I turn from his casket and walk through the crowd of people gathered here, and I hear over and over these words as I pass through the crowd, "He was the best man I ever knew."

What made him such a good man? Because he accepted Jesus Christ as his savior a long time ago and lived for him daily. He was serious about serving God.

I had a wonderful visit with Jim a few days before he died. His mind was so clear, and he knew that it was only a short time until he would be gone. Hospice was already with him, and it

seems that most of their conversations were directed toward the time when he would be leaving. He explained that to me, and he was having such a good time reminiscing about things from the past. He stopped shortly and said, "You know, I had much rather be here talking and having fun like this than to just be sitting here waiting to die." He talked with each family member privately and told them how much he loved them. In the course of his conversation with some of the family members, he said with a smile on his face, "I am going to be taking a journey, and it is going to be smooth sailing all the way." What a blessed assurance!

Jim and I had always had a very special relationship. As far back as I can remember, he was my friend. He talked to me like I was an adult, and I loved that. Jim was in the heat of World War II in Iwo Jima, Midway, and other of the big battles. He lived in a foxhole for 4 1/2 years and never came home during that time. I was a little girl (three years old when he left home), but I could read and write quite well. I wrote letters to Jim regularly, and he never failed to answer them. This correspondence that we enjoyed kept his memory alive in my heart. I shall never forget the day he came home. He opened his footlocker in the living room and there in a corner of the footlocker was

a stack of my letters tied neatly. He held them up so we could all see and said, "These are what kept me alive." This special bond that we had remained intact through the years. I grew up and got married and had a busy life raising a daughter, and Jim and Lib moved to the Chattanooga area to be closer to their doctors in the last few years, but we never stopped loving each other. I was not able to visit them as much as I would have liked, but my thoughts drifted to those days when we were all together and my mother, who was so much like Jim in so many ways, was alive and cooking big meals to entertain Jim and his friends when they would come to the mountain. He loved the mountain, and he was able to buy a home at Mentone, and lived here until his health failed. He loved Moon Lake Baptist Church, and his membership is still here. Many of the people from Mentone visited him in his last days and came to his funeral. Yes, he was truly a good man and one who is happy in his new home. He got a glimpse of heaven the day before he died, and he saw old friends he had known here. What a happy day for all of us when we are united again! May I challenge you to keep the faith. The best is yet to be!



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