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THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville

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Volume 24, No.7

"Neighorly "News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

July 2006

More pictures from the 3rd Annual Wildflower Art Show



Sandra Comley and Ellen Spangler tend the Mentone Area Arts Council booth.



Tony Goggans, the "Mentone Troubador" entertains Harriett & George Lillich (not shown)



Sandra Comley presents the "Best of show" award to Betsy Scott

(Continued to page 5.)

The art show was held Saturday, May 20th, on the town square in Mentone. It was a beautiful sunny day on Mentone's Historic Square. A large crowd turned out to see the works of 33 artists. Sponsored by the Mentone Area Arts Council (MAAC), this was the third annual show, all held on the third Saturday in May. The show featured many area artists, from painters to potters, as well as music by Tony Goggans, the Sonny Harris Trio, and Karen Gruber. We all look forward to next year's show, as well as other events presented by MAAC. Jane Faile said "Keep an eye out for notices of upcoming activities."

The Mentone Area Arts Council (MAAC) sponsors this Art Show each year and members were there selling colorful wildflower T-shirts, mugs, mouse pads, and caps, and signing up new members. MAAC welcomes all people interested in helping provide venues for educational arts programs, shows, and performances, to get involved by becoming members. The Arts Council Board meets the 4th Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm (AL time) at the Mentone Community Center.

Those who supported this event are the members of the Mentone Area Arts Council, Mentone Realty (Neil Colbert), Gourdie Shop, Mountain Laurel Inn, Ecological Designs/Enchanted Gardens, Hummingbird House, Stone Ridge Cottage, Chestnut Tree Antiques, and Cones of Mentone.

It is the community involvement of businesses and great events like the Wildflower Art Show and music that help support the revenue and quaintness of Mentone so the town can continue to be a place that is great to live in and visit. We hope you can join us on the town square each 3rd Saturday of the month.

The three judges selected for First Place, Betsy Scott, Cloudland, GA, for her bronze sculptures and photography. These photos were in last month's issue. First Honorable Mention was wood carver Gabriel Sellers. There was a tiebreaker for Second Honorable Mention between painters Lynette McCary and Rebecca Parish, each with their own individual style, who happen to be mother and daughter. They are both from Birmingham. See other photos of the event throughout this issue.

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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.

THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

Editor.....Evelyn Graves
Associate Editor/Typesetter.....Marie Dillenbeck
Contributing Editors.....John Baty, Linda Brown, Bernise Crow, Marie Dillenbeck, Evelyn Graves, Sue Schwarz, L.C. Moon

MAPA OFFICERS

President.....Dessie Brown
Vice President.....Dot Crow
Treasurer.....Gregory Coe
Secretary.....Marie Dillenbeck
Parliamentarian.....Bernise Crow
Member at Large.....Lucille Crowe
Member at Large.....Page Cunningham
Member at Large.....Evelyn Graves

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

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

The DEADLINE for all material for The Groundhog IS THE 20TH DAY OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

MAPA MEETING JUNE 6, 2006

Opening prayer by Leroy Crowe
Treasurer's report was distributed by Leroy Crowe for review and comment.
Officer nominations were presented by the nominating committee.

President Dessie Brown read the MAPA bylaws regarding requirements for corporation officers.

An opportunity was given for nominations from the floor. No nominations were received.

New officers were elected by those present.

President — Dessie Brown

Vice President — Dot Crow

Treasurer — Leroy Crowe

Secretary — Marie Dillenbeck

Parliamentarian — Bernise Crow

Members at Large — Lucille Crowe,

Evelyn Graves, Joanne Crowe

Festival Chairman — Page Cunningham

Jerome Stephens read the duties of officers from the MAPA bylaws. New officers accepted the responsibilities as read.

Dessie talked about the new year and things that MAPA has accomplished in the past. Also, everyone was encouraged to submit new projects for



funding that are consistent with the purpose of MAPA (preservation and enhancement of the Mentone area) in writing to Dessie. She also encouraged all members to get involved in the different MAPA committees and projects.

There was discussion about the Mentone web site and whether changes need to be made. The web site should benefit Mentone area businesses and attractions. Dessie is to talk to Tom Donald about the existing Web site and whether it exactly matches what MAPA thinks it should be.

Sarah Wilcox brought up advertising for the Colorfest on the DeKalb Theater billboard. They were not able to get it for the Rhododendron Festival, and we need to reserve it now to be sure of availability. Jerome Stephens made the motion to go ahead and reserve the space for September 7, 8, and 9 for vendors and a time just before the Colorfest weekend. The motion was passed.

The next meeting is the July annual picnic. It will be the 2nd Tuesday, July 11, instead of the 1st Tuesday which falls on July 4th. The picnic will be held at the pavilion at Brow Park. In the event of rain, it will be held at the Fellowship Hall of the Mentone Church of God of Prophecy.

NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS AND INDIVIDUALS

Please e-mail your photos to composing@times-journal.com and mark it for The Groundhog. This will expedite the procedure as *The Times-Journal* prepares the photos for printing. All photos must be in by the **20th of any month**, as their new policy is that they will return the photos to us 7 days after they are received by *The Times-Journal*. The issues of *The Groundhog* are printed by the last Thursday of each month. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. Thank you.



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Readers: **DO NOT** email any articles or pictures to the website www.TheGroundhog.com as we are not receiving any items. We have removed the listing of the website from the paper.

Editor

NOTICE

We reserve the right to reject, without explanation, any ad or article submitted to The Groundhog for publication, and we reserve the right to edit the article.

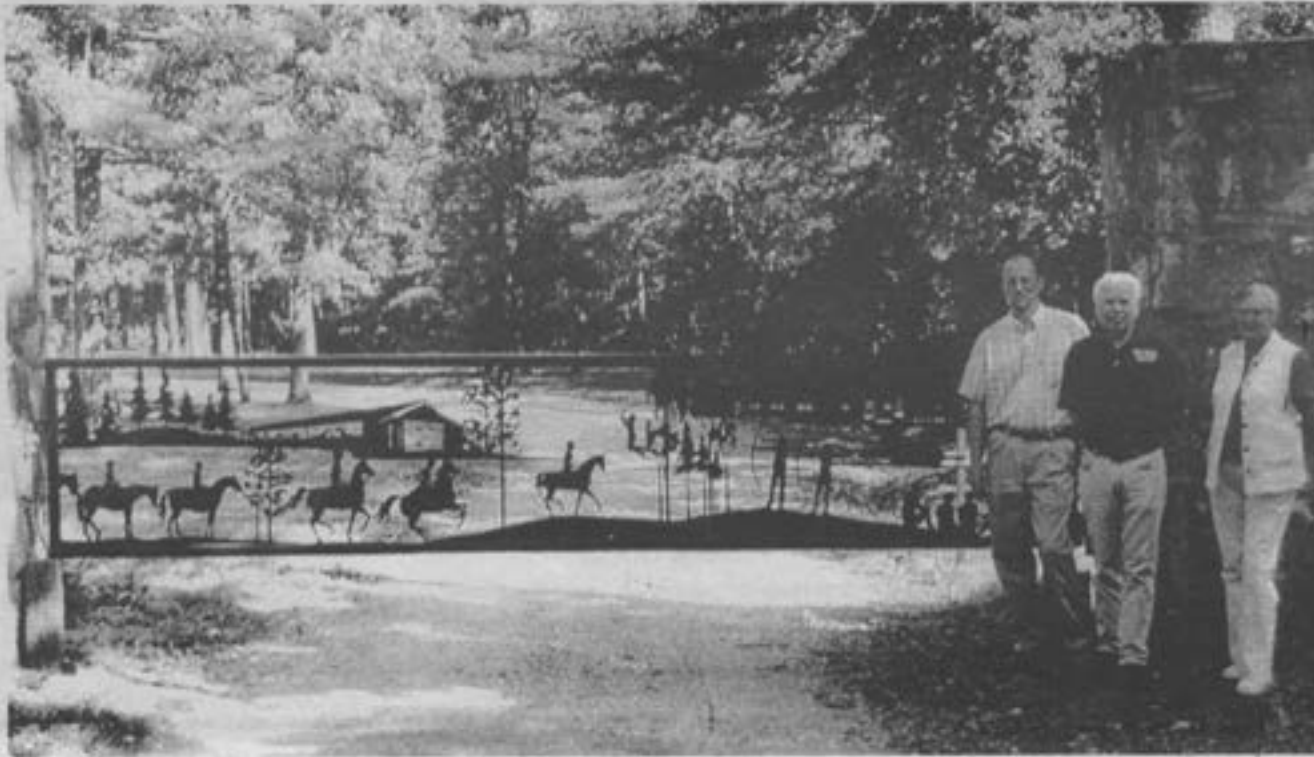
Camp Juliette Low in Cloudland, Georgia, has new gates at camp entrance

Peggy Hall Carter of Cloudland, GA, provided the above pictures of new gates at Camp Juliette Low in Cloudland. Several weeks ago the gates were installed at the camp entrance to Camp Juliette Low. "They're absolutely beautiful, she said.

Harriett DeWitt O'Rear of Iron Age Crafters also of Cloudland designed the gates. Harriett is a former camper at Camp Juliette Low. The steel for the design

and the laser cutting were generously donated by The Gas House in Ft. Payne, Alabama, by owners Don Stout, Edwin Stanley, and Alan Kilgo. Manufacturing engineer Brad Barksdale engineered the laser work. The gates were made by Jesse Crabtree of Mentone, Alabama, and the laser work welded into the gates by Mr. Crabtree and Steve O'Rear of Iron Age Crafters. Camp Juliette Low is a place of immense beauty

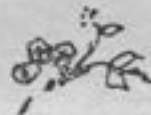
that is steeped in history and tradition. Founded in 1922 by Juliette Gordon Low, it was used as a training center for Girl Scout leaders in conjunction with a camp for girls. No longer affiliated with the Girl Scouts, Camp Juliette Low is now a non-profit camp for all girls and is managed by a board of dedicated volunteers, many of whom are former campers.



L/R: Steve O'Rear of Iron Age Crafters
Don Stout of The Gas House and
Harriett DeWitt O'Rear of Iron Age Crafters

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(Continued from Page 1.)

More pictures from the 3rd Annual Wildflower Art Show



The Padme Potters, Ashlee Cowan and Elizabeth Moore, display wheel thrown mugs and vases



Gabriel Sellers wins "First Honorable Mention" at the Wildflower Art Show



Rebecca Parish and Lynette McCary share the "Second Honorable Mention" at the Wildflower Art Show

Many thanks also goes to the owner of the Mentone Inn - Mike Campbell for his support. He graciously allows the Mentone Area Arts Council to use the lawn for the Art Show.

For more information call Sandra Comley
256-634-3334, or e-mail
MAAC35984@aol.com

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It's a PARTY!! at Mountain Mamas

By Ellen Spangler

Mountain Mamas Crafts and Rock Shop is inviting everyone! There will be lots of Birthday Cake, cold herbal tea, and Door Prizes on the hour. We are honored to have our cake cut by Nichole Dyer, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce of Chattooga County, GA. This will happen at 1:30pm. **Come and celebrate our 12th Birthday with us Saturday, July 22nd, 1 to 5pm (GA time)!**

Several women artists will be demonstrating their art. Three potters are coming from Carrollton, GA, **Kate McAninch, Melanie Drew,** and a young artist, **April Hanahan, 8 years old.**

Glass and mosaic artist, **Linda Munoz** from Mentone, AL, will be creating a new mosaic piece. A retired registered nurse, she now spends some time every day making mosaic pieces and stained glass. Also from Mentone, potter **Katie Byrd Cobble** will be working with clay.

Liz Nunan from Decatur, GA, with a cabin in Cloudland, is an artist working in many mediums, pottery, journals, and cards. She will be creating some of her unique cards.

As well as the work of these artists, Mountain Mamas has handmade items from more than 60 women artists-local and regional. We're located in Cloudland, GA, on GA Hwy 48, 1/2 mile east of the GA/AL state line where AL Hwy 117 ends. Come and celebrate with us!

For more information call Mary Alice at 706-862-2142. Check out www.mountainmamas.com.

Mountain Mamas-"How Does Your Garden Grow???" "with a lot of help from Fine View Garden Center in Menlo, GA." At your next visit to Mountain Mamas, pause to enjoy the plants in the front garden. The staff from Fine View turned a jungle into an Eve's Garden. Sit under a shade tree on a natural stone bench from Fine View and listen to the birds.

World's Longest Yard Sale at Mountain Mamas--The Yard Sale will be held **Thursday, August 3, through Sunday, August 6.** The yard sale trail stretches from Gadsden, AL, to Cincinnati, OH. The path goes on Lookout Mountain Parkway, right in front of Mountain Mamas, and we will be open every day with extended hours.

The Mountain Mamas will be selling donated items for Tri-County Volunteer Fire/Rescue. If you have items to donate, you may drop them off at Mountain Mamas. We also have **yard sale spots for rent at \$5 a day.** Call Mary Alice for more information-706-862-2142.

Lookout Mountain Natural Healing

By L.C. Moon

In the month of June I had the opportunity to give a wild plant walk at Heartwood Sanctuary and Retreat center. Cathy Haven Howard organized an amazing weekend of natural therapy, soul searching and teaching ways to find balance whether through learning how to practice forgiveness or through other means such as Tai Chi.

Much of my soul searching and balance is discovered during my journey of getting to know the plants. The further I deepen my connection with nature- whether through reveling at its beauty and life sustaining qualities or through applying it to practical uses such as food and medicine- the more I am learning and growing in my deeper connection to become at one and renewed. I will share a few of the plants I shared on the wild plant walk- these are some of my favorite plants that have brought the concept of simplicity closer to my heart.

I've always heard that everything happens for a reason. Now I truly believe it. The briars of the woods have brought new meaning to that understanding. Walking through the woods I used to wonder why there had to be briars to rip my clothes and cut up my skin. Now I am enlightened to the practical purpose of the briars.

Smilax is the species of briars that is home to the saw briar and cat briar/green briar. The deer eat the briars and small animals such as rabbits find a safe haven in the briar patch. Many of us have heard the story of Br'er Rabbit where he begs "Please do not throw me in the briar patch." Then he is thrown in and he laughs and laughs because the briar patch is where he knows he will be safe. I find much safety in being in the woods where I have briars all around. The briars have taught me to walk through the woods with caution more aware of my surroundings or else...

The smilax are also nourishing as a source of food for humans. You can eat the tendrils and young leaves. Sometimes they may be a bit bitter later in the season though in spring they are quite palatable. The smilax root can be dried and then powdered to make a mild sweetener or made into jam. Peterson's Field Guide of Medicinal Plants reminds us that the Native Americans used the root tea to expel afterbirth, the leaf & stem have been used as a folk remedy for stomach ailments & rheumatism and the wilted leaves poulticed to treat boils.

Blackberry also will get your attention quite quickly if you are not respectful of its piercing curved prickles. Blackberry is in the Rubus species and all of these are edible. The most commonly seen on Lookout is the Blackberry. My favorite of the species is the Dewberry. The Dewberry has fatter, juicier berries that are much sweeter. The dew berry grows on a vine winding across the ground with smaller prickles

whereas the blackberry is upright. The root is very astringent in the rubus species and like all astringents it is good for diarrhea. Peterson's Field Guide briefly describes other uses of the root tea such as for stomach pain, back pain, female tonic, blood tonic, boils and as a wash for sores. I have never used the Blackberry leaf in place of Red Raspberry leaf though I would should I not have the Red Raspberry handy. While I was pregnant and breast feeding I made a tea of the red raspberry for nourishment as well as to balance my female body and for upset stomach. I also have had great success in treating pink eye and styes by making a tea of the leaf and applying a warm compress to the eye.

Holly leaves are not growing on a vine though the prickles of the leaves demand your attention. I often take to walking through the woods barefoot. I am cautious about where I step so as not to miss a new plant I have not yet seen, so I do not step on a delicate plant and also for my own safety. Nothing quite gets your attention so much as treading on holly leaves with bare feet. The holly leaves have taught me to step lightly. The leaves do detect a hint of the respect that you should also have for the fruit. I was always told to beware of the Holly berries. The truth is that eating 10 or more of the berries can cause severe vomiting. In smaller doses the berries have been chewed for colic and indigestion. The leaf tea has folk history of being used for colds, flu, pneumonia and measles.

Nature reflects to us the respect that should be held with in our own lives for our surroundings. As with the smilax, something so simple and abundant, a plant that some may want to wish away teaches us to be aware on our journey and grateful for even those things that may cause us to take another path or bring us pain. The rubus reminds us that even the sweet juicy fruit bearing moments need to be harvested with caution. The Holly (Ilex species) teaches us to be cautious of those things in life that are vibrant with color and beauty. I stand in awe of my surroundings on Lookout Mountain- ever so grateful for the abundance of nourishment, medicine and growth that comes from nature.

It is necessary to state that it is wise to consult your healthcare provider before incorporating new treatments into your healthcare routine. I have to say for myself that I feel my body is much better able to balance ingesting the gifts of nature. The plants of the woods are not so scary if you realize how few among the many are poisonous. It is as with anything to become wise to the knowledge handed down through the generations can absolve the fear and transform it into a healthy respect.

If you have any questions you can come see me at Mountain Life/L.C. Moon Herbs in the heart of Mentone. You can write me at P.O. Box 224 Mentone, AL 35984 or contact me through my website www.LCMoon.com

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LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY by Linda Brown

The volunteers who keep the library are so excited! You are using the library! We are having more and more people come in and either use the computers or check out books. Some of the staff at both Camp DeSoto and Camp Skyline have been checking out books to read while they are here in Mentone. Rather than give each of them a library card, we have made the decision to use the same cards that are used for the Senior Lunch participants. This is working fine but I do need to tell all of the volunteers to write the names of those checking out books and the name of the books that they are getting on a list that is posted at the desk. This will give us the means to contact them if we need to.

After reviewing the Moon Lake Elementary School yearbooks that are in the library, I found that we do not have as many as I thought. If you have some that you would like to donate to the library we would be glad to have them. We will do everything we can to be sure that they stay on the shelves for everyone to enjoy. Any of the books that are not available for check out are stamped with the library name on several pages. Bring them by the library on any of our open days.

Mickey Luck is now the chair of the program that we call, "Meet the Author". Mickey is hoping that the next featured author can be a local one or at least one from this general area. He will be doing more research on this subject. He will be in charge of putting this program in place this fall, probably during the month of October.

Remember that the dates for the Moon Lake Library Book Sale are Thursday, August 3, Friday, August 4 and Saturday, August 5, 2006. This sale will be during the Longest Yard Sale which be set up along Alabama Highway #117. The library is directly on Highway #117. Look for our signs just past the Mentone Town Limit sign if you are traveling west and just past the Moon Lake Baptist Church if you are traveling east. We will have some very good books for everyone. We have fiction (hardback and paperback), biographies, books on travel, history, science and other subjects, self-help books and even school text books. We hope that those of you who home school your children will come by and look at the text books. The times will be 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on Saturday. The place will be under the cover of the front porch of the Moon Lake Library.

Another thing to remember is that the members of the Board of Directors will be starting to sell ads and take orders for the fourth issue of our annual calendar very soon. If you want to have your birthdays and anniversaries included in the 2007 calendar, contact a member of the board or mail them to the address at the end of this column. This will also serve as your order for a calendar next year and it will be delivered to you well before Christmas. You can always call me with this information at 634-8006.

Our gift to the graduates of Moon Lake Elementary School this year was their own library card. This means that they can check out four books from either side of the library. Several of the graduates have used their card and we urge

the other members of the graduating class to come in and use theirs. Also, remember that you can use the computer in the library during the open hours.

We would like to urge you to become a **FRIEND OF THE LIBRARY**. You can do this by sending a donation of twenty (\$20.00) or more to the address below. You will receive a book bag and you will be placed on the list to receive our newsletters and other notices. Your donations will be used for the many expenses of keeping the library open on a volunteer basis. One of the things that we do during the summer months is to make a donation to Moon Lake Elementary School to help with the bill for electricity. This enables us to keep the library at a constant temperature which in turn keeps the books free from mildew and mold.

At our most recent meeting, we discussed several programs that we may offer to the community. Currently, we are looking at an adult reading program and a jewelry making class. If you are interested in these subjects contact us at the address below. The only charge will be for any materials that would be required. If you know of anyone who might participate in the adult reading program, please talk to them and see if they are interested in such a program. We are open to the need, anything from teaching reading by using a one on one schedule to helping with reading skills. We are only going to offer this if we determine that there is a need and that people will attend. At this time, we will not offer teaching English as a second language. If we find someone who is qualified to teach this and there is a need, then we will consider doing this.

Many of you have expressed the need for programs to teach computer skills. Here again we have not found anyone who will teach this and we cannot use the computers in the computer lab. If anyone is interested in teaching the basics of computers, please let us know and we will see if we can at least use the six that are in the library itself. This would limit the size of the class, but it would be a start.

Come and check out our new selections that are on the shelves and displayed on the shelf marked, New Arrivals, at the check out desk. We have many of the most recent best sellers. If you are interested in finding a certain book that we don't have, tell the volunteer on duty. The committee will be traveling to McKay's Bookstore soon and they like to know what to look for.

The meetings of the Board of Directors are open to the public. Our next meeting will be July 17, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. and we meet in the library.

To become a **FRIEND**, a volunteer in the library or to make a suggestion, you may write to us at this address: Moon Lake Community Library
Post Office Box 481
Mentone AL 35984

MOON LAKE LIBRARY CLOSED, JULY 4TH

OPEN HOURS
TUESDAY, 3:00 - 7:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, 3:00 - 7:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON

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CLOSED
Moon Lake Community Library
July 4, 2006

AUGUST 2006			
		BOOK SALE!	
		AUGUST 3, AUGUST 4 AND	
		AUGUST 5	
		MOON LAKE LIBRARY	
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E.T. YORK RECEIVES SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD



Be inspired by some great American words...

*"I only regret I have but
one life to give for my
country."*

--Nathan Hale

*"I have not yet begun to
fight."* -- John Paul Jones

*"Give me liberty or give
me death."* - Patrick Henry

*"One if by land, two if by
sea."* - Paul Revere

American Phrases

- Live with integrity.
- Define your personal principles.
- Stand up for your principles.
- Take responsibility for your actions.
- Hold others responsible for their actions.
 - Respect others.
 - Respect yourself.
 - Be tolerant.
 - Be accepting.
- Understand the difference between tolerating and accepting the beliefs of others.
- Expect the best of others.
- Give the best of yourself.



GAINESVILLE, Fla. --- In the 1960s and '70s, E.T. York led the effort to establish the state's first veterinary college. The result was the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine, which recently expressed its appreciation by presenting York with one of its highest honors, the Special Service Award.

York is a native of Mentone. He has a storied career that includes posts as chancellor of Florida's State University System, UF interim president and UF vice president for agricultural affairs.

York received the Special Service Award at the veterinary college's commencement ceremony May 27 at UF's Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. It was presented by Julio Ibanez, a member of the college's first graduating class and president of its alumni council.

James Thompson, interim dean of the college, called York the person most responsible for creating the college, which opened its doors in September 1976.

"It's because of Dr. York that the college exists today," Thompson said. "Everybody here recognizes that when they hear his name. We wanted to show our gratitude, and this was a fitting way to do it."

The Special Service Award is one of three equally presti-



E.T. York, left, chancellor emeritus of Florida's State University System, shakes hands with Julio Ibanez, president of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine Alum Council, as York receives the 2006 Special Service Award from the college at its commencement ceremony in Gainesville, May 27, 2006. (Photo by William Castleman, UF College of Veterinary Medicine)

gious honors that comprise the college's Distinguished Awards Program, established by its alumni council in 2000, Thompson said. The Special Service Award is the only award in the trio that may be presented to individuals who have not been directly involved in veterinary practice or trained at the college.

York's work to establish the college dates back to 1963, when he arrived at UF to serve as provost for agriculture. As York recounted in his

memoirs, "A Wonderful Journey," he soon became aware that throughout the state there was great concern over the need for a veterinary college.

In 1967, York was appointed to represent UF in matters related to the creation of a state veterinary college. Thanks in part to his efforts, in 1969, the Florida Legislature designated UF as the location of the college, and appropriated funding sufficient to start the planning process and hire

a few key personnel, including a dean.

In early 1972, newly inaugurated Gov. Reubin Askew stated his intention to halt funding to develop the college, which led to a daring--and ultimately successful--effort by York to persuade legislators to approve the funding by a margin so great that the governor could not exercise his veto power.

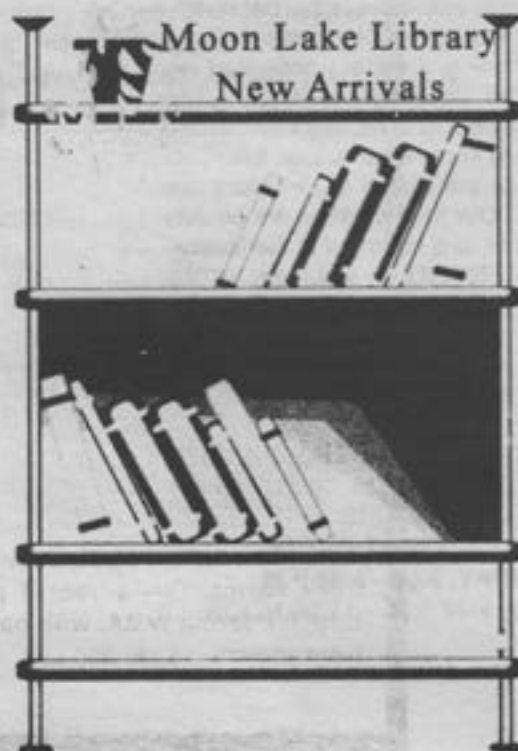
The bill passed with more than 90 percent support from both houses. Months later Gov. Askew encountered York on the UF campus during homecoming festivities.

As York wrote, "... the governor saw me, came over and put his arm around my shoulder and said, 'Well, E.T., we're going to have our veterinary college, aren't we?' I replied, 'Yes, Governor, we surely are.'"

In the 30 years the college has been operational, York has remained involved in its activities, serving on various advisory committees.

Thompson said York's energy and dedication to UF should serve as an inspiration to all the university's supporters.

"I'm very proud for him, and I'm glad I was present to see him honored this way," Thompson said. "To our college, he's truly a hero."



Time's Eye by Arthur C. Clark
Weave-World by Clive Barker
The Civil War by Shelby Foote
(9 issue collection)
Heat Wave by Penelope Lively
A Common Life by Jan Karon
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VALLEY HEAD TO HAVE NEW GROCERY STORE A & J GROCERY

Tuesday, June 20, A & J Grocery announced its groundbreaking in Valley Head. The owners are Alan Smith from Rainsville and Jerry Smith from Higdon, owners of A & J Grocery. The projected opening date is expected to be in late October.

On hand for the groundbreaking were local officials, Valley Head Mayor Harold Carden; former Valley Head Mayor Ed Ringer; State Senator Lowell Barron; Valley Head Council members: Liz Donovan and James Young; Barbie Hester, previous landowner; Mentone Town Clerk Marie Dillenbeck; Terry Gillis, attorney for the owners; Roy Smith, Valley Head Industrial Development.

The grocery store will be located at the corner of 4th avenue and Alabama Highway 117 across from the Dollar General and near Shaw Industries. Senator Barron has assisted with funding for a turn lane off 117. The owners said they would have a full-service operation with fresh produce, meats, dairy, and canned goods.

There will be more about this in later issues of *The Groundhog*.

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Rhododendron Garden Club News

By Linda Brown, Secretary

The members of the club had a party last month and this month we had to work! On June 13, 2006, Gethryn Giles, president, called the business meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Linda Brown gave the inspirational moment using the theme, *What is a Gardener?* Refreshments were served to the sixteen members present by Lucy Fowlkes, Shirley Hussel and Jenny Rogers.

President Giles stated that she placed an exhibit of green and white balloons and other pertinent material in the Moon Lake Library to commemorate National Garden Week, June 3 - 9. The reading of the minutes were dispensed with and no treasurer's report was available. The members of the club were informed that Sue Anne Jones, treasurer, had an accident recently and has some broken bones. The members expressed best wishes to her for a speedy recovery.

Jan Wilkinson, Chair of Environmental Concerns, stated that sediment is washing into Little River because of the building boom along the tributaries of the river. Also, much of the time, the native plants are being destroyed by the excavation for building sites. She suggested that the club sponsor a brochure advising builders and contractors of the native plants and suggesting that they preserve them when preparing sites for building. The club will consider this proposal and take some action at a later meeting.

Litter Control Chair, Virginia Setze, reported that she will be picking up litter along the rights-of-way of Alabama Highway #117 today. She stated that there was an unusual amount of litter thrown out during the past week-end and the mowers had mowed over much of it. She urged everyone to do their part in stopping the unsightly habit of littering.

Margaret Baker, Special Projects Chair, reported that Jason Powell, of *Petals from the Past*, will be a guest of the club on August 8, 2006. The meeting place will be the Woodmen of the World Building in Valley Head, Alabama and the meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Powell will be speaking and will have his plants available to buy. All clubs in the area are invited to attend at no charge. Lucette Dix was the recipient of the door prize.

The business meeting was adjourned for the members to go outside and work in the Heritage Gardens of the M.E.R.F. Community House. These are the original gardens planted by Paralee Bell when she lived there. The club has preserved and maintained the gardens since beginning to hold their meetings there.

As with any gardens, these were filled with weeds that needed to be cleared away. Several of the members set to doing this while some members pruned and cut the dead wood and overgrowth from the scrubs. The box woods were especially out of control. However one boxwood could not be trimmed. As some of the limbs were being removed, it was noticed that a Brown Thrasher was becoming very upset. Upon closer inspection, it was found that the mother bird was protecting a nest holding three or more baby birds inside the scrub. Those wielding the loppers quickly left the site and will return at a later date when the babies have flown from the nest.

Much work was done in a very short time as the old adage, "Many hands make light work," proved once again to be true.

This poem sums up another kind of garden that everyone should tend. It was used as part of the inspirational minute.

The Garden

Plant three rows of peas:

Peas of mind
Peas of heart
Peas of soul.

Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be happy
Lettuce love one another.

And no garden should be without turnips:

Turnip for service when needed
Turnip to help one another
Turnip the music and dance.

Then water freely with patience

And cultivate with love;
There will be much fruit in your garden
When you take guidance from above.

Shirlee Vos of Paducah, Kentucky
Birds and Blooms Daily Planner, 2002

The next meeting will be at the M.E.R.F. Community House on July 11 at 10:00 a.m. A program defining the merits of container gardening will be presented by Tom Roark. Considering the dry weather conditions we are having, this may be the best way to garden this year. You are invited to come and join us.

The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of Northeast Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs; The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.; District II; National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Region.

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Best-Selling Author Calls Mentone, Alabama Home

By John Lee

It was love at first sight. I'd grown up in Northwest Alabama, but had never seen anything like Mentone. For my wife, Susan, Mentone grew on her gradually, or should I say she grew on Mentone. Now both of us enthusiastically call it "home".

I found this magical place back in 1983 when you could buy a house on the brow for a song. There were no signs on the interstate pointing passersby to it and if I remember correctly, it wasn't even on the Rand McNally map.

But the rhododendrons were here, the azaleas, and the interesting, eccentric and really nice people were here too. Though I lived in Austin, Texas at the time, I knew I'd be here full-time someday.

After my first book, *The Flying Boy*, became a best-seller (thanks to three appearances on Oprah) I started renting cottages on the brow to write my second and third books. I kept coming here for the views and the quiet. Back then, I especially loved Mentone in the winter when I was the only one staring into the Log Cabin Deli's great fireplace, warming my body and soul or eating with the local folks at Dessies.

Finally in 1991, I decided that I was going to have a second home somewhere. I looked at Asheville's majestic blue mountains, Santa Fe's other-worldly landscape, San Francisco's beauty and culture and Boulder's healthy lifestyle, and settled instead in Mentone, Alabama, which is majestic, other-worldly, beautiful and now the center of my world.

I found a little cottage close to Alpine Boys Camp situated on the top of a hill where the wind finds its way to the chimneys on my porch many times a day and the view of pastures, valleys and farther south—mountains—makes my spirit soar, my mind rest and my body refreshed and rejuvenated.

It is here that I have written part, if not all, of my sixteen books. In Mentone, I've held a national men's conference with my friend, Robert Bly, for thirteen years, conducted writers' workshops at the Mentone Springs Hotel, and seen clients from all over the country at my studio. Those who visit rave about the hospitality that Mark and Andy provide at the hotel and Dave and Claudia offer at the Crystal

Lake Lodge and they think Little River Canyon is too beautiful to be kept such a secret.

About ten years ago, I met Ms. Susan, a Miami girl who had never lived in—or thought she could ever live in—the country. She knew how much I loved Mentone and when I asked her where she would like to get married, she quickly replied, "There is only one place - Sally Howard's Chapel." Now we live less than a mile from that beautiful church.

Gradually, and very slowly at first, Susan went from barely feeling comfortable at the cottage to feeling at home here. We would stay in Mentone during long weekends while we called our main home Atlanta. Susan brought her writers' group for a retreat here each year and fell in love with the area. We finally agreed to sell our cosmopolitan residence and moved to Mentone for a six-month trial period. The rest of the year we would live in Fairhope, Alabama, or Austin, Texas. I thought this compromise was fair and generous of her.

A couple of months of crickets, cicadas and long walks in the country, she said, "How about we live somewhere else for four months out of the year and here eight?" That sounded great to me.

A few weeks later we had a new breakfast new kitchen, and bathroom. Susan made new friends and we got satellite internet (important for her work as a graphic designer). She suggested we rent a city place for just two months each year. "That would really work for me," she said. That worked for me too.

Less than three months in the mountains, she said, "Mentone is our home. I love this place, but could we go to the beach a couple of weeks out of the year?" "You bet we can," I said.

For Susan, it is love at every sight "the town, the canyons and valleys, her women's group, her friends and her garden.

And me? Mentone is home and in the words of John Cougar Mellencamp, "I was born in a small town, that's where they'll bury me." But until then, even though I still make most of my living traveling to big cities to lecture and teach, Mentone is where my wife and I call *Home Sweet Home*.

(Editor's note: The last 5 paragraphs were omitted from the article in the June issue. The Groundhog is reprinting the article at the request of Mr. Lee.)

FIVE VANN-MCCARY SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Five persons from the Mentone/Valley Head area have been awarded scholarships from the Vann-McCary Scholarship Fund. This year's recipients are Marie Hunt, Amanda Johnson, Kayla Smith, Cayla Voils, and Nichole C. Williams.

This fund was established at St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in 1988 and has awarded many scholarships to local students during the last 18 years. The purpose of the scholarships is to assist Mentone area high school graduates continue their education at a school of their choice. Priority is given based on financial need and academic record. The scholarship is available for a maximum of four years for each recipient. The student must maintain a course load of 8 credits per semester and must maintain the equivalent of a 2.8 grade point average on a scale of 4 in order to qualify for the succeeding years.



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Touring the M

By J. P.



Mt. Rushmore, North Dakota



Grand Canyon, Arizona

My companion and I began our trip at 6:10 AM on May 9th with breakfast at Valley Head, Alabama.

Our first stop for the day was Harrah's Hotel and Casino in St. Louis, Mo. We had originally planned to see the Arch there and continue our trip west, but due to inclement weather, we did not get to go up into the Arch. Not to be outdone, we did tour the Anheuser Busch brewery. We learned that our country's first interstate roads were in or near St. Louis, Mo.

One of our stops was Kearney, Nebraska. After driving and driving, we finally made it out of Nebraska into South Dakota. While there, we visited Mt. Rushmore, Chief Crazy Horse Monument, and Custer State Park. When we were near the end of the first tour, we saw a group of wild donkeys in the field, and one of them was being fed by a tourist along the road. We had taken chocolate chip cookies just for this time (I had seen the donkeys on my last trip through South Dakota). One car parked near us had six donkeys feeding out of it.

Next we toured Devil's Tower in Crook County, Wyoming, which was

our first national r Tower was first cl 1893. This was the up to this point.

From Devil's Tow Horn National Fc Junction, Wyomin Arrowhead Ski Loc snow on the groun evening, other gue spent a lovely ever and visiting with Germany.

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Cook County, Wyoming



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Leaving Jackson Hole, we had decided that our next stop would be Cedar City, Utah, where we dined at a Sizzler Steak House. It was the best meal we had enjoyed since we left home, and as it turned out, it was the best meal of the entire trip.

We traveled parts of old Route 66 to Albuquerque, New Mexico. After leaving Albuquerque the next morning, we decided to drive to Elk City, Ok. Arriving in Elk City late afternoon, we were only interested in food and sleep.

Our next to the last day out we made an effort to make West Memphis, Tn. We finally arrived back in Mentone after two weeks, 5,060 miles, and 18 different states.

It is a wonderful feeling to look back and realize you have just seen so much history of our country, and that one is free to travel where and when they choose, and to realize also that you live in a country that has so much to offer each of us, and to be thankful that we have the pleasure of living in this wonderful country called "The United States of America."



Van Houten
e background



Wild donkeys eating from a car in Custer State
Park, South Dakota



Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming



Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming

UNITED GIVERS FUND OF DEKALB COUNTY-UGF SPOTLIGHT ROSE HAVEN INTRODUCES THE S.A.I.L. PROJECT

The Special Assessment and Intervention Liaison Program (S.A.I.L.) has employed Crissy Dowdey as their Specialist for the Project. This program is a partnership between the Alabama Coalition against Domestic Violence, Rose Haven and the Department of Human Resources.

The first and foremost goal of the S.A.I.L. Project is to provide domestic violence victims the resources they need, in order to assist them in overcoming any barriers they have which prohibit them from living in a safe environment. Resources are provided to enable clients to maintain a violent free life for themselves and their children, providing these resources also decreases their risk of welfare dependency.

Ms. Dowdey serves Cherokee, DeKalb and Etowah Counties; her office is located at the local DHR office.

She says, "My heart is saddened every day by the women and children that I come in contact with. Each one has a different story, but all have one thing in common; they are abused. Each day they live in fear of many things; the fear of losing everything they have acquired for themselves and their children, the fear of being beaten and many times the fear of death. But there is **HOPE!** Rose Haven can offer hope to battered and abused women."

Through DHR, Ms. Dowdey can refer clients to the needed resources such as food stamps, family assistance, the Jobs Program, child support and Child Protective Services. Through Rose Haven, she directs clients to support groups, temporary emergency shelter, and individual crisis counseling, as well as gives clients referrals to community agencies that can provide resources.

Each story may be different, but each need is the same. In America, men, women, and children are entitled to the right to live in a safe, violent free environment. With the support from the community and local resource providers, in a combined effort, we can give those in need the hope and chance to be free from all that prohibits them from being productive citizens in DeKalb County.

Cub Scout Uniforms Needed

In an effort to provide every Cub Scout from pack 106 with a proper uniform, we are making this appeal to the public. Please, if you have a Cub Scout uniform that you or your child has out-grown or is not using, consider donating it to the Pack 106 uniform closet. The closet has been implemented in order to make uniforms available at an affordable price to any one who needs them. A proper uniform is important for a number of reasons. Most importantly, the uniform identifies the boy as a part of the Boy Scout movement. A proper uniform also gives the boy a sense of pride and belonging. Cub Scout uniforms are never technically out-of-date, so even if your uniform is several years old, it can still be used. In order to donate your uniform, or if you would like to donate funds to purchase uniforms, please contact: **Connie Hughes 634-4428, Kathy McMunn 634-4575 or Mike Bare 634-4566 or mail a check to Cub Scout Pack 106, P.O. Box 223, Mentone, AL 35984.**

GLOOM, DESPAIR, AGONY and Mac BULL

John Baty

Alas! Tomorrow and tomorrow
and tomorrow inexorably the
Pounds creep on from day to day
To the largest sizes in the department stores,
And all our yesterdays have
seen Goodwill swallow up our throwaways.
Gone, gone our multiple resolutions,
Life is but an unmitigated binge;
A fatted calf who struts and
Frets his hour upon the track
and then is seen no more.
It is a bad dream, wished
upon us by Coke and Pepsi
Ever chasing the eternal frogskin
Preparing a place for us
Down -- and out!

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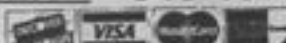
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Linda Patterson, owner of the chapel, said the idea for it began with a bell, and now that bell rings as newlyweds exit the door of the chapel.

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(1) and (2) **SPEND WEEKENDS ON THE LAKE.** Choose to stay outdoors on the many decks and pavilion or come and enjoy the inside of the cottage with open living/kitchen with rock fireplace. 3 bdms, 1 bath. All pine floors, C/H/A, Great Boating, canoeing, or go for a swim. \$269,500



(3 & 4) **COTTAGE ON LAKE:** Cottage on Lake Lahusage, Mentone. 3 bdms 2 bath, open Great Room design. Double sided stack Rock Fireplace. Large screened porch. 2 Decks, one with Hot Tub, walkway to the Dock. Float, Boat, or Fish from this wonderful Home. \$399,900.



(5) **MENTONE LIVING.** Historical Martha Berry Home in downtown. This unique 6 bedroom 7 bath home. Four Fireplaces, dining room 2 living areas, and two Large Relaxing Porches. This home also features a recently remodeled Kitchen and a Hot Tub with Wood Deck. Fully furnished on 1.3 acres with Native Foliage. Much more amenities. \$375,000. Check Out photos on www.mentoneliving.com
 Photo to the left



(6) **SECLUDED EAST BROW VIEW TRACTS:** Great view of the valley below. 3 to choose from or buy combination for more privacy. Over 5 acres each. \$37,000.



(7) **CANYON VIEW FOREST** on the East rim of Little River Canyon. 5 acres wooded with Canyon View and access. private Gated area. A must see. \$70,000.



(8) **5.7 ACRES WITH A VIEW OF LAKE LAHUSAGE.** Driveway and partially Cleared for Homesite. Paved road and city water available. \$58,000. (PLS15068)



(9) **VALLEY VIEW FOREST.** 7.3 acres on the East Brow of Lookout Mountain. Private, wooded and adjoins Wild Life Management and Little River Canyon just minutes away. \$65,000. (PLS 15117)



(10) **NEW LISTING - WHAT A HORSEFARM THIS WOULD MAKE -** 21 acres nice level to rolling pasture 2 lake sites. Small corral, and in addition, 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage, with garage, living, kitchen. Great to stay while building that dream home. All this and more. \$259,000 (PLS 13989)



(11) **CUSTOM BUILT CHALET STYLE COTTAGE,** large wrap-around porch with woodland views and sunset vistas. 2BR/2BA, open great room with 19 foot rock fireplace. Tung and groove walls and ceilings. Much more, all on 3.25 private acres. \$220,000. (PLS #15131)



(12) **WILD RIVER COMMUNITY,** (1 tract left) 220x300 on the East Fork Little River. Secluded and Scenic, with pools and rapids. \$60,000. (PLS 10250)

OTHER PROPERTIES

(13) **WOODED RECREATIONAL LOT** in Mentone. \$9,500

(14) **WHAT A FIND ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN.** 62 acres with 3,000 ft on Bear Creek. The Homesite has been cleared. Gravel drive. Lots of trails and wildlife in abundance. A must see. \$310,000.

(15) **WILD RIVER COMMUNITY,** 1 tract left) 220x300 on the East Fork Little River. Secluded and scenic, with Pools and Rapids. \$60,000.

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OAKHILL-ALPINE ROAD, MENLO-Country living conveniently located between Menlo & Lyerly. 8+/- acres of ground wiremodeled farm house, barn & pond. House offers entrance, living room w/sunroom, kitchen w/large pantry, 2 bedrooms & 1 bath. Completely remodeled & new roof; features pine flooring & CHVAC. Shown by appt. \$129,000



GADSDEN AVE, CLOUDLAND - Lots of space - Some Remodel work completed, needs finishing. Living room, large kitchen, dining room, three bedrooms, 1 full bath. Room for additional bedroom/bath. Large lot - great location near park @ Cloudland. Listed for \$76,000.



OLD STATE ROAD, CLOUDLAND-Investment property. Built in 1993, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath. Rural area, 4.62 -acre lot. Proof of funds/earnest money required by seller. \$99,750



ANNOUNCING "CREST VIEW" - private 7 tract development- Co Rd 103 - Water and Power - Brow, great views of Shinbone Valley.



HIGHWAY 48, MENLO-COMMERCIAL PROPERTY--Excellent opportunity! Building w/front office area & shop area w/5bays. Nice paved lot, 2 storage trailers & 20 storage units. Listed at \$175,000.



EAST FORK LITTLE RIVER ESTATES Custom home approximately 8+/- acres... country-style home features spacious wraparound porch & private lot. downstairs offers living room w/fireplace, custom kitchen, dining room, laundry room, half bath, master bedroom & master bath w/walk-in shower & whirlpool tub. Upstairs offers family area, 2 bedrooms-each w/private bath. Priced at \$219,000.



LYERLY DAM ROAD, LYERLY-Lovely period home sits on approx. 3.5 sheltered acres of ground and offers the charm of another era. An abundance of space, this home features downstairs entrance foyer, front parlor, formal dining room, living room, casual dining room, kitchen, laundry, downstairs master bed/bath w/sitting room. Upstairs offers 3 add'l bedrooms/sitting areas, family room & full bath. CHVAC, hardwood floors and many extras. Convenient to town & complete w/city sewage, this home would be ideal for a B&B. Shown by appt. No. G-027



HIGHWAY 117, MENTONE - Country Cottage w/old Mentone charm. Convenient to everything-walk or bike to downtown. Nestled on lovely lot shaded by huge trees & landscaped 2 w/rhododendrons, this getaway offers a garden spot, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath & furnishings. Call Susan Heape for appt. at 256-996-2309

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This month I'll finish giving the history of the Hitching Post, as far as I know. I skipped the month of June in my journal, and have not kept all the details in proper sequence, as to ownership, etc., but at least there will be a written record for those who are interested.

I am not sure when the Post Office first moved into the Hitching Post, in the area now occupied by the Gourdie Shop. People used to park in front of the building and wait for mail, which was delivered twice a day! I believe Stella Shigley was postmistress during the 1920's. Then Evelyn Jones Selmon operated it, and Leland Cox was postmaster during the 1940's, after which the Post Office was moved to the City Hall building.

N. B. Haston worked in the drugstore of the Hitching Post when the owners were men from Fort Payne. He sent information about it some years ago, but he asked me to return it, which I did without making copies, and he is now deceased.

There was a period of time when slot machines were in use in the building, but I don't know when. It sounds so far off that it had to be in the early years.

The second floor of the building was added in the late 1920's and was built to serve as a dance hall. Every Saturday night for many years, square dances were held there. The Saturday night dances became a little rough (probably due to the intake of moonshine!), and the town closed down the dances.

During the early 1940's, a parade was held for the annual Rhododendron Festival, which began its route in Fort Payne, went up the mountain with a stop at DeSoto State Park, and continued on to Mentone. A dance was held at the Hitching Post after the parade, and the Rhododendron Queen was crowned.

Guy Burgess owned the Hitching Post in 1912, according to his sisters who told me this a few years ago. Guy was an uncle of the Jones boys, who are now bankers at Citizens' Bank in Valley Head.

Ed Mason was the original owner of the property on which the building sits, but we were unable to find any documentation regarding the building itself at the county courthouse. Judge Paul Thomas helped us locate the original deed for the property, but there was no mention of a building on the deed.

John Graham owned the property in the 1940's, when the Glovers were operating their business there. Alec Glover said he was only 16 years old when he helped pump gas there, and performed other odd jobs. The drugstore was still in operation then, and at the marble bar they sold ice cream, sandwiches, fountain drinks and snacks. Alec's mother, Eleanor, was John Graham's niece.

The Hitching Post was closed for a few years after the 1940's, and it looked sad and neglected. I'm not sure exactly when it closed, but I am grateful to Joann, George and Hope Walker's daughter, and her husband, for recognizing the need to revive the old place.

They worked hard getting it up and running again, but it looked good and they had a successful business there, selling antiques. It was sold to Doc and Kyle Long, from whom my sister, Jean, and I bought it. I later bought out Jean's share. The rest is history! Lots of good times and plenty of fun. I have been in business there since 1978. It's a fun place to gather and visit, as it always was.

We had what we called The Hitching Post Club in the 1980's. We met once a month at the building. Everyone would bring a covered dish for dinner, and we always had live music of some kind. We organized a debate team and had fun with that; no matter what subject we chose to debate, there were always two sides of opinions.

We also revived the Rhododendron Queen contest for several years, and had a great time with that. It was a small pageant, held upstairs; but we decorated the big rustic room and it looked beautiful. It was hard for me to give up the pageant, and I hope someone will take it up again. It added some interest to our Rhododendron Festival.

There is still life in the old Hitching Post, and Doreen will give it added appeal, with different merchandise and decor.

I have never enjoyed anything more than having my own business. It's not a booming success, but I made enough to pay for the building and to try to keep it in good condition. There is plenty more to do, as with any old structure, but we are preserving history in a beautiful little country village, and I hope it continues for many more years.

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Laura Hope Elaine Floyd

Laura Hope Elaine Floyd of Mentone has been awarded a Leadership Scholarship to Northeast Alabama Community College where she will major in English Education. Laura is a 2006 graduate of Valley Head High School where she was Class Valedictorian. She was a member of the Beta club, Yearbook Staff (editor), marching band (woodwind captain), concert band, color guard, Future Career and Community Leaders of America, Teens for a Brighter Future county representative), Students Against Destructive Decisions (county representative), and Drama club (president, performed lead role in "Snow White"). Laura is the daughter of Darlene and Jerry Floyd.

Haley Monley

(no photo)

Haley Monley of Mentone has been awarded a two-year Presidential Scholarship to Northeast Alabama Community College where she will major in English/creative writing. Haley is a 2006 graduate of Fort Payne where she was in the top 10 of the senior class. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Sigma Kappa Delta, and Phi Theta Kappa. She is a member of the Etowah Youth Orchestra and principal flutist at the Alabama All-State Orchestra. She assisted in raising money for her high school library. Haley is the daughter of Charlotte and James Monley.





HAVE YOU SEEN THIS SIGN? Just A Prank? Think Again.....

Dr. David C. Wassom

We have lived in Mentone going on 11 years now, and I must agree with those who told us that "Mentone was a safe place to live". However, I cannot ignore some goings on that are very disturbing...Mail Boxes!... The deliberate ruining of Mail Boxes!...Seems to occur every summer. It almost seems like it must be some local "Rite of Passage" for certain individuals to attack our citizens Mail Boxes. My mail box on more than one occasion has been smashed. One occasion was reparable, the other required replacement. I personally know of several Mentone residents who have given up the idea of maintaining a Mail Box because of the repeated destruction their boxes have received. Some irresponsible individuals out there consider this destructive behavior to be a "Prank". "Boys will be boys". Well, it's not!! It is vandalism!!! The county D.A. considers such acts of malice as "3rd degree criminal mischief" with penalties of up to 6 Months in jail and up to a \$1,000.00 Fine.

Additional consideration should also be made for the following. This act of vandalism disrupts the mail service to the individuals home, this causes huge inconvenience, especially to the elderly who may not be able to go down to the post office and pick up their mail. Additionally, consider the cost of a new mail box... I did my research and found the following....:

- cheap mail box \$12.00
- expensive mail box....\$75.00
- Pressure treated 4x4 post.... \$7.00
- Cement \$4.00; Address numbers \$5.00

Cost of hiring someone to purchase, transport and install said items ...at least 3 hours at \$10.00 per hour... You do the math \$58.00 for the cheap box. If you are on a fixed income, that is quite a bit of money. Next time you consider destroying a Mail Box or condoning the actions of your "Boys will be Boys," Please think again!!! You may be next. Whatever happened to the Golden Rule?

Now for additional consideration... The same kind of "ilk" who destroy mail boxes are also destroying business owners signs! I personally know a long-time Mentone resident that has had his business sign vandalized so often that he finally had to have a stencil made up so that he could replace his sign on short notice. Our business sign here at "Crystal Lake Lodge" was just stolen. I had to drop what I had planned to do for the day and make up an "emergency sign" so customers who have never been here could identify that they had

indeed found "Crystal Lake Lodge" The missing sign cost me in excess of \$300.00.

The D.A. considers this to be 3rd degree theft...punishable by up to 1 year in prison, a \$2,000.00 fine, and full restitution! Again...this is no place to make "Excuses for the perpetrators' actions." Whatever happened to the 3 R's...Reason, Respect, and Responsibility? I am personally offering a \$300 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of these vandals. The citizens of this community deserve to have their personal property respected!

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Bob Johnston CAMPAIGN GENERAL CHAIRMAN SELECTED FOR 2006-2007 CAMPAIGN

Bob Johnston has been elected to spear-head the 2006-2007 United Givers Fund Campaign scheduled to Kickoff on September 13th. Johnston, who is originally from Crossville, AL, is a graduate of Auburn University and The University of Alabama, School of Law. He has served as Rotary Club President, Partnership for a Drug Free DeKalb County Mentor. He is also on the "Family Tie" Board of Directors. The Way Home Board and DeKalb County Council on Domestic Violence. He and his wife, Jill, moved back to the DeKalb County area in March of 1997. The Johnstons currently live in Fort Payne and are active members of The First Baptist Church. They have two children, Joshua and Abigail.

Mr. Johnston is an Assistant District Attorney for DeKalb & Cherokee Counties. Some of his duties include working with child abuse cases, child support division, and he is the Domestic Violence Prosecutor.

Mr. Johnston attended the UGF Board Meeting in June and spoke to the Board about some of the campaign plans already in place. He talked about having concern for human needs and providing leadership to serve the needs of others in DeKalb County. He quoted Mother Teresa and read her poem "Do It Anyway." The poem was written on the wall of Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta, and is widely attributed to her. Some sources say that the words were written on the wall of Mother Teresa's own room. In any case, their association with Mother Teresa expresses the very essences of the spirit we need to have in serving others. Mr. Johnston read the poem to the board. He said the last sentence summed it up by stating "In the final analysis, it is between you and God." Johnston said "UGF uplifts other charities and these charities help others and encourages a ministry of helping and serving others who are less fortunate." He said, "It is an honor to be working with UGF and looking forward to meeting this year's goal of \$295,000.00."



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COM

July 2006 / The Groundhog/Page 21



(1) On the Parkway! Most recently known as Little River Café and minutes from Fort Payne and Mentone. Building offers a fully equipped kitchen, dining room and large porch, stage for entertainment and a rustic atmosphere in a charming renovated old home. \$168,000 (14532)



(2) Nestled amongst the trees you'll find this cozy and comfortable NE/V cabin waiting for a new owner. Two bedrooms, 2 baths, large family room with gas log fireplace, spacious kitchen/dining combo, screened front porch, side deck w/ Jacuzzi and lots more on a 1.23 acre wooded lot. \$188,000 (14394)



(3) Located on 2 1/2 lots with walking distance of Brow Park and downtown Mentone, you can have a retail business or a weekend rental in this 3 BR, 1 BA cottage with new CH&A, metal roof and storage building. \$97,500 (15023)



(4) Looking for country living? This 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home offers hardwood and carpet, family room with fireplace, fully equipped kitchen, front and side porch and is surrounded by 8 acres in a restricted subdivision could be 4. \$219,000 (14536)



(5) So much room in this tri-level home! Features include built-in bookshelves, fireplace, completely remodeled kitchen/dining room, 3 BR, 2 BA, basement den, and possible 4th BR and additional bath. \$112,500 (14647)



(6) The commercial potential is endless in this great location at Frasier's Crossroads. Most recently known as The Barnyard, this rustic building sits on .67 acres and has 2 public bathrooms. Located inside Ft. Payne city limits. \$115,000 (14216)



(7) Tucked away in downtown Mentone - This home offers 4 BR, 2 BA, fully equipped kitchen with granite countertops, antique mantel, RV carport, large storage/hobby building, garage and a Sauna. \$159,500 (14671)



(8) Comfortable 3 BR, 2 BA home with a cathedral ceiling, gas log fireplace with built-in TV cabinet and bookcases, 12" pine flooring, paved drive, storage building and is situated on 2 beautiful wooded acres in Mentone. \$137,500 (14999)



(9) Take a recess from the rat race in this very private and authentic log cabin with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, living/dining/kitchen combo and front porch all on 1.66 heavily wooded acres on a private road. \$99,500 (14345)



(10) The perfect first investment! Rustic cabin in Hunter's Ridge featuring 2 BR, 2 BA, Columbian cedar walls and ceilings, hardwood floors, front and back porches and a stacked rock fireplace. \$182,500 (14670)



(11) Walking convenience! This quaint in-town bungalow is located in downtown Valley Head and offers 1 bedroom, 1 bath on a 1/2 acre lot. \$28,000 (15018)



(12) 62.32 acres with a beautiful view of Lookout Mountain on one side and adjacent to and overlooking 'The Highlands' on the other. Nice building site for that dream home or great property for future development with paved road frontage. \$396,000 (15022)



(13) Beautiful Traditional brick home and farm with 5 BR and 4 BA. This one-of-a-kind is situated on 40 rolling acres with gorgeous views, picture windows and gorgeous pond also on property. \$429,000 (14601)



(14) On DeSoto Parkway - 3 BR, 3 1/2 BA home with 2 lofts, wood floors, screened porch, deck with hot tub, 1 BR guest cottage, greenhouse and spacious great room for relaxing. MUST SEE! \$429,000 (14449)



(15) Enjoy the sounds of nature on this private 7 acres in Valley Head with quick access to Interstate 59. This property offers a 3 BR, 1 BA frame home with room to grow. There is also a storage building on the property. \$52,900 (14899)



(16) Near downtown Mentone, this renovated farmhouse offers 2 BR, 1 BA and can be used as a weekend/vacation home or rental. Looks great and has lots of potential. \$168,900 (15185)



(17) Now that you've conquered the world, separate yourself from it! Brick Colonial w/4BR, 3.5 BA, 200 year heart pine floors, wood burning FP, picket fence, deck & detached 2-car garage with upstairs apartment. \$495,500 (15196)



(18) Be the first to own this new construction on the West End of Mentone. Features include 3 BR, 2 BA, large living area with stacked rock fireplace and vaulted ceiling, pine floors throughout, screened porch and deck. \$299,000 (14715)



(19) Native mountain foliage creates a level of privacy for this 3 BR, 2 BA brick home sitting on 3 acres with 300' on the West Fork of Little River. Mountain stone wood-burning fireplace, screened porch overlooking a walkway shaded by mature rhododendrons to river. \$285,000 (14035)



(20) Mountain cottage offering relaxation on a gorgeous back deck with a spectacular view or from your very own screened porch you can enjoy nature at its best. 3 BR, 2 BA, pine walls and floors, wood burning stove and lots more. \$146,900 (13696)



(21) The builder is putting on the finishing touches! Be the first to live in this 3 BR, 2 BA home with cathedral ceilings, hardwood floors, stacked rock wood burning fireplace, custom kitchen with Hickory cabinets and more on a 1 acre lot. \$179,500 (14763)



(22) Enjoy the view of Little River Canyon from the decks of this 3 BR, 2 BA cabin with wood floors and walls, fireplace, central heat & air, finished basement and more. A world away awaits you in this home away from home. \$269,500 (14730)



(23) Stressed for morning time? This in-town home offers walking convenience and 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, formal dining room/den and 3 finished room upstairs. Relax on the large screened porch under huge shade trees. \$59,900 (14772)



(24) Tranquility Acres... 47-acre country estate with an 80' waterfall, 2800 square foot Southern Yellow Pine log home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, formal gardens with a gazebo and water garden, 1200 sq ft barn with 2 horse stalls, greenhouse, tool shed and a smoke house, 2 wooden bridges and so much more. Call for more details. (15007)



(25) Gorgeous 4.4 acre tract with a fabulous view of the valley below. This property is ready to build with its existing septic system and well. Located on the North Brow in Mentone, this lot has unique rock formations that will capture your eye from all angles. \$299,000 (14998)



(26) Be CAR FREE in this convenient in-town get-a-way or full-time residence. This 3 BR, 2 BA home with formal living room and large eat-in kitchen sits on a large 1.1 acre lot with barn and view of pasture behind. \$99,500 (15157)

- (27) 1.56 acres on the brow near DeSoto State Park. \$55,000 (10133)
- (28) Highland Springs - New subdivision located in the heart of Mentone off Cove Road. Several lots to choose from with mild restrictions. Prices starting at \$28,000.
- (29) Build your Mentone cabin on this beautiful wooded building site with gorgeous brow view! Approx. 1 1/2 acres for \$159,000. (14681)
- (30) Ready for development or to build your dream home. Gently rolling pastures, water and 571' of road frontage on Hwy. 11 and Wills Creek is the back property line. \$382,000 (10149)
- (31) Approximately 100' brow front per lot. Located at the intersection of Tutwiler Gap and County Road 89 with 2 additional lots available. \$97,000 per lot. (14598)
- (32) Wooded 2 acre building lot in established area of Mentone. \$35,000 (14563)
- (33) 3.32 +/- acres just outside the Mentone City Limits. This property has no restrictions so you can build or have a mobile home. \$28,500 (14350 & 14351)
- (34) Just minutes from historic Mentone, you'll find 2 gorgeous building lots. Common areas include a stocked lake and 2 parks. These lots are located near the golf course. (15014 and 15015)
- (35) 12 acres of gently rolling, heavily wooded paradise. Great for getting close to nature with city water available. \$79,900 (14534)
- (36) On the golf course and just minutes from downtown Mentone. Restricted building lots are now available in Rock Bluff. Common areas include a stocked lake, two parks with rental cabins available for your out-of-town guests. Each wooded lot is approx. 1.5 (+/-) acres and will have public water and power. \$100,000 (15016)

For other listings, please call our office at 256-845-6000



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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Water Works Board of
The Town of Mentone
Meeting dates for the remainder of
fiscal year 2005-2006 are:

JULY 27, 2006
AUGUST 24, 2006
SEPTEMBER 28, 2006

Any changes will be posted 7 days prior to
any scheduled meeting shown above.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mentone Town Council
Meeting Dates for the Remainder
of Fiscal Year 2005-2006 are:

JULY 10, 2006
AUGUST 14, 2006
SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

Any changes will be posted 7 days prior to
any scheduled meeting shown above.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Planning Commission
of the Town of Mentone
Meeting dates for the remainder of
2006 are:

JULY 20, 2006
October 19, 2006

Any changes will be posted 7 days prior to
any scheduled meeting shown above.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Valley Head
Water Works Board
Meeting dates for the remainder of
fiscal year 2005-2006 are:

JULY 10, 2006
AUGUST 14, 2006
SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

Any changes will be posted 7 days prior to
any scheduled meeting shown above.

The

Church News

By Evelyn Graves



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. 635-2002.

Visitors are always welcome at the **Valley Head United Methodist Church**. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at our new time: 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 Bunnell.

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 11:00AM 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 and Sunday School at 9AM. Steve Schrader, Pastor - 845-4314. All are 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 Pastor Ken and Elaine Holleman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10AM, 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.

Anyone interested in observing the **Sabbath and Holy Days**, call 845-2246 for time and location.

Alpine Community Church, 1115 Hwy 337, Menlo, GA. Pastor Rev. Tommy Pledger.

Presbyterian Church Worship Service at Cloudland begins at 10AM (EST), and the **Menlo** Worship Service begins at 11:15AM (EST).

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. 256-634-4147.

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. Everyone is welcome.

(See May 6 Yard Sale info this page.)

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.

Mentone Community Church Services are from 10-11 AM throughout the summer. No evening services except for the youth. Wednesday evening services remain at 6:30PM.

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

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

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 new pastor.

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites everyone to attend Sunday School at 9:45AM, Sunday Worship at 11AM., Discipleship Training at 5PM, and Sunday evening worship at 6PM. Sunday evening Bible Study for children and youth is at 5PM, and an Adult special studies class is being taught for those who prefer the study to Discipleship Training at 5PM. A membership class is also available at 5PM, taught by Dr. Bill Russell, Pastor. Wednesday evening prayer service is at 6:30PM, with children and youth activities at 6:30PM, also.

Dial-a-Devotional

634-0103

is provided daily by Evelyn Graves as an extended ministry of the Moon Lake Baptist Church. Feel free to call any time of the day or night.

Become a FRIEND of
Moon Lake Library
Write us at:
Post Office Box 481
Mentone AL 35984



CLASSIFIED

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE

Located in Auburn, AL. 2 bdrm, 1 bath, living room, kitchen w/refrigerator, stove, washer & dryer. ALL NEW FLOORS. For more information, call 256-634-4274.

First Federal Bank

F	Fort Payne 845-1077	Rainsville 638-6342	Ider 657-6255
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F "We're more than bankers,
"We're your neighbors and friends."

B



**NORTH LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**
P.O. BOX 154
MENTONE AL 35984

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Amount of Donation \$ _____

**The Town Council
of Mentone would
like to thank the
Phoebe Class
and their
counselors at
Camp DeSoto for
the new flower
beds in
Mason Park.**

North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District

The Volunteer Firefighters based in Mentone respond to the following types of calls at personal risk and without compensation:

- Structure Fire
- Brush Fire
- Vehicle Accident
- Natural Disaster
- Residential Medical Alert

Ready and Willing

Our financial assistance is needed to support the activities and maintain the equipment of our local Fire Hall. Your donations are appreciated. No amount is too small.

Donations are tax deductible and may be mailed to:

North Lookout Mountain
Fire Protection District
PO Box 154
Mentone, AL 35984



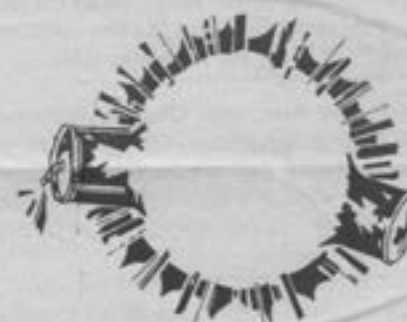
DEVOTIONAL

And He said unto them, therefore render unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's and unto God the things which be God's.

Luke 20:25 (KJ)

God is the ultimate authority in our lives. However, we are bound to uphold the statutes and obey the laws of our land, not only by the written law, but by the instructions of God's word.

If we are in doubt about what is right to do in any situation, we can find the answer by searching the scriptures.



SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER

- Saturday, July 1, 6:30PM Fireworks display and music by Tony Goggans on the Mentone Square
- Tuesday, July 4, INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY
- Monday, July 10, 6PM, Town Council Meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Tuesday, July 11, Mapa Picnic on the Brow (see page 2)
- Tuesday, July 11, 10:30 A.M., Rhododendron Garden Club, Mentone Community House
- Tuesday, July 11, 6:30 pm. American Legion meeting, American Legion Hall
- Thursday, July 20, Mentone Book Club, 10AM, Mentone Community House.
- Thursday, July 27, 4PM, Waterworks Board Meeting, Mentone Waterworks Board Room, open to the public

MENTONE POST OFFICE NOTICE (SEE BELOW)

Mail Delivery Schedule to Change Soon

Due to the increase in our population, the Postal Service has added many new customers to the primary delivery route in Mentone. The growth along Route One has also brought about several extensions in the route, with the longest extension going out to Camp Ponderosa along the north brow. To accommodate these changes, the route will be completely reworked in the next few weeks. Please watch for your carriers, David Tucker or Jennifer Davis, as these changes take place and note that the time of your mail delivery may change significantly. Thank you for your cooperation and please feel free to call 634-4588 if you have any questions.

Benny Goss, Postmaster