



THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville
PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

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"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

July 2011

Homer Crow, mountain gentleman

by Charlotte Gentry

When it comes to the history and colorful characters of the Lookout Mountain area, one would be hard-pressed to surpass the knowledge held by Homer Crow of Mentone. Chances are, too, that he's kin to most of those characters. In fact, he may even be counted as one of them.

Now in his late 80's, Homer still cuts a dashing figure as he stands alongside the brow at the large mountain chalet home that he shared with his wife of nearly 60 years, Bernise Cooper Crow, until her death in 2006. "I did the rock work on this house when I was 75 years old," Homer states. "I built my own scaffold, made my own mortar, and carried it up that scaffold. Then, I'd run out [of mortar] and have to climb down and get some more." Bernise fretted he'd fall and break his neck.

Like the stone he has worked with during most of his life, Homer Crow is a natural part of the mountain, solid, firmly-fixed, weathering the storms of life, and reliable. And though his health has prevented him from being very active in the last two years, he still has a way with telling stories that captivates the listener.

"The first time I saw Bernise, she must have been nine or ten years old, and it was during an assembly. I don't think we called it that back then, but all the students were gathered there at Moon Lake School for a program. They stood her sister, Jean, who must have been five or six at the time, up in a chair, and they sang in front of the whole school. They (Bernise and her sister) didn't go to school there long, though. Her family moved around a lot. They disappeared and I didn't see her again till she was about sixteen, in church. But I never forgot her."

Homer was nineteen when he saw Bernise again. It was at the Church of God in the Bankhead area of Mentone. The church no longer exists, but the image is still very vivid to Homer. "Bernise was



good with the guitar. She had a big ole black Gibson she'd play and sing in church." When asked if her music and singing were what attracted him, Homer grins and says, "It helped."

When Homer finished high school in 1942, he left to work in the shipyards of Mobile and, subsequently, joined the Air Force. This was during World War II and he hoped to be a fighter pilot. He took the flight test and earned the highest score on that day (3/4 of those who took it failed it). He took the physical. For some inexplicable reason, he did not get called to be a pilot.

Homer still regrets not having flown in WWII. "I can just see myself flying those fighter planes," he reminisces wistfully. "I did just about everything else, though. Company clerk, ran the water works in New Guinea; ran the power plant in the Philippines. I looked after all the electrical part. We even had an ice plant and I'd pull

the ice and cut it up into 10-pound blocks.

"They just didn't keep me busy enough. I went over to the junk yard. Got a bunch of those old 3-cell batteries. Not like the ones they make now, of course. I figured out how to test the cells to see if they were good or not. Then, I started taking good cells, put them together and made new batteries. Well, they worked like new. The SeaBees were across the way and I'd trade those batteries to them for ice cream powder. Of course, I had all the ice I needed 'cause I was runnin' the plant!"

It seems that Homer could be resourceful with food as well. "The Japanese had raided our supplies and we didn't have anything to eat for two weeks but corned beef hash. I got sick of that and asked a man if there was anything else I can eat. He came out with a can of Vienna sausages. I heated them with a blow torch and thought that was the best stuff I ever ate."

He continues, "Someone had a gas-burning smoothing iron. I turned it upside down and made a stove out of it. One of the boys in my tent— it was in a coconut grove and we were right there on the beach— he got on officers' mess duty and got steaks. I cooked those steaks on that stove. That was some fine eating!"

Another time, his friend who worked in the mess got hold of a gallon of sliced pineapple. He and two of his buddies ate that entire can of pineapple.

Sometimes the dangers of war came very close to Homer's unit. "The Japs had dropped personnel bombs. Some of them exploded, but a lot of them were duds. We went around picking them up. We had an air raid warning that they were coming back again. They never showed up. Guess they got side-tracked."

During all this time, Homer and Bernise had kept up a correspondence. "I knew she was the one for me," says Homer. "She was a dandy." Homer got out of the Air Force in January of 1946. He and Bernise married in August of that same year in a

double wedding ceremony with friends James and Betty Johnson. Their marriage took place at what is now Mentone Community Church.

Homer and Bernise bought a house trailer that they moved onto "Aunt Nettie's Place." They lived in it for nearly a year while Homer built a house on Cutler Avenue in Mentone, which is owned by the Leland Cox family today.

Their oldest son, Barry, was born while



Homer and Bernise, taken on their 50th Anniversary in 1996.

they were living in the trailer, which was very small. Homer's brother, Clyde, lived on South Cool Street in Mentone, and it was there that Homer and Bernise were staying when Barry was born. They returned to the trailer shortly afterward and work continued on the Cutler Avenue house. Their second child, Coy, was born in that house. Oldest daughter, Joyce, was

Continued on page 8

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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.



THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

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MAPA OFFICERS

President.....Gerald Bailey
Vice President.....LC Moon
Secretary.....Gail Chambers
Parliamentarian.....Amelia Kirk-Lolli
Treasurer.....Ray Padgett
Members-At-Large: Lamar Bray,
Hobson Kirby

MAPA dues for the new year are:
\$10/individual and \$15/couple. Send
your dues to: MAPA, PO Box 50,
Mentone, AL 35984

In case of errors in advertisements,
The Groundhog assumes liability only
for the actual space that is incorrect
in the advertisement.

**CALL CHARLOTTE GENTRY AT
256-996-5995 for advertising.**

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



**Join MAPA today!
Help us preserve
Mentone's history
and impact its future.**

**Just \$10/year individual
\$15 for a couple
MAPA, PO Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984**

From the Editor

There is an air of "possibility" here at Mentone these days. Folks are once more looking for ways to make the community a better place to live, work and visit. It is particularly refreshing to see MAPA and MAAC making plans to see that this year's Colorfest is one of the best in the history of Mentone festivals.

Revitalization of buildings is taking place, new businesses are opening up and thriving, new leadership is taking the reins of organizations and new members and old are excited about what is "possible!"

The spirit of "What can I do to make a difference?" is growing. Are you a part of it? Is there something you can do? Yes! One way is to become a part of MAPA. The donation of \$10,000 toward a new fire truck for North Lookout Mtn Fire Department, \$5,200 toward the weather siren to be placed at Moon Lake School and many other community-related donations are just a part of what MAPA is doing.

The membership drive is now underway and it costs only \$10 per person, \$15 per couple for a year. Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month.

Thank you to all those who have already joined and who are rolling up their sleeves to work, hand-in-hand, with their neighbors to be sure future generations of folks can enjoy that which is a very special place known as Mentone, Alabama.

*"Nothing is impossible. The word
itself says 'I'm possible'!"*

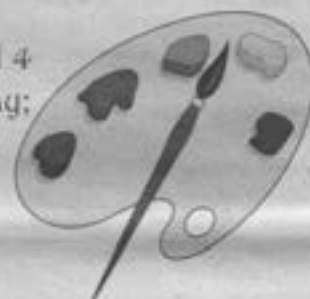
Audrey Hepburn

C.

**Lucy Mitchell
Retrospective
Portraits & Figures
Studio 117
the loft gallery
through July 31st
at the log cabin offices
of Mentone Realty**

Presented by the
Mentone Area Arts Council

Gallry hours 9 till 4
Monday thru Friday;
10 till 2 Saturdays;
Sundays by
appointment.



HELP CHUCK FIND HIS WAY HOME!

W. Chuck Groundhog is the official mascot of The Groundhog Publication. We thought it would be fun to hide Chuck somewhere in the Mentone area each month. You'll find clues as to Chuck's whereabouts hidden in the ads.

If you return Chuck to us, you'll win a prize. This month's prize is **\$25 Dollar Gift Certificate from the Forge Gallery at Mentone.**

So, look for the clues, find Chuck, and bring him home. If you find him, call 256-996-5995, or bring him by the Mentone Realty office in Mentone to claim your prize! (We'll also snap your photo to run in next month's Groundhog, if you don't mind.)



June's Winner



Brian Williams, of Little Rock, Arkansas found Chuck at the Mentone Market. Brian won dinner for 2 from Big Jim's Bama Q.



Charlotte Gentry
Broker/Owner
256-996-5995



Holly Watson
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-0552



Ben Johnston
Assoc. REALTOR®
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Bill Wise
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-273-4467



Larry Smalley
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-635-8750



Heather Nicely
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-276-8422

Welcome To Mentone!!



Stop by our Log Cabin in front of the Wildflower Cafe, we always look forward to a visit from our neighbors and friends.

LOTS and LAND

LOTS OF LOTS from which to choose. Wooded, quiet, restricted. Priced from only \$15,000 (Lot 20, 2ac), up to \$135,000 (Lot 7, 1.38 ac lot w/138' frontage on E. Fork of Little River). Hunter's Ridge, Mentone. (MLS #725702) (20921)

19 ACRES WITH LAUREL CREEK running through it. Very privately located. Beautiful trees. Nice trail areas for horses or ATVs. Build your sanctuary here. \$76,000. (21204)

62.32 ACRES WITH GREAT VIEWS of both valleys & Lookout Mtn from ridge top w/great building sites on elevated, level ground. \$299,900 (MLS #313915) (19492)

5.62 ACRES OF BEAUTIFUL, WOODED LAND in Mentone. Located on Co. Rd. 106 across from Lake Lahusage. Undisturbed land on which you can design your own home or get-away. Lots of wildlife & trees, w/ a stream that runs through a hand-built mountain stone culvert. Power & water available. Priced at \$63,500 (PLS #20850)

WALK TO TOWN OR BROW PARK from this amazing 1.5 acre lot. Boulders, nice hardwoods and easy access to city water make this a rare find & a great in town building lot. \$49,500 (PLS #21145)

CREEKSIDE LOT IN MENTONE! 1.13 ac lot with approx 200' of creek frontage in lightly-restricted area w/ underground pwr & city water. Yes, this lot has it all- trees, rocks & water. If you've been considering building a cabin, this is exactly the right place. \$29,900 (PLS #20832)

25.4 ACRES W/OVER 1000' FRONTAGE on West Fork of Little River, headwaters area, just north of Mentone. Woodland sanctuary w/ plenty of room to build your own private retreat. Land on both sides of the river. Lush vegetation along river including rhododendron, laurel & yellow root. \$175,000 (MLS #537572) (20650)

20 AC W/NICE FISHING POND & DOCK. Great place to take the family, park a camper & enjoy the weekends! Build a cabin in the woods, or several! \$115,000 (MLS #418106) (20732)

"The Natural Choice"

www.mentonerealty.com
Office: (256) 634-4767



A PLACE ON THE RIVER. Canoe to Lake Lahusage along Little River then come home to relax on the deck overlooking the river. 3.45 ac w/200' water frontage. Great room has windows & doors galore & cozy seating arrangements for TV viewing, dining or enjoying the WB fireplace. Kitchen has gas stove w/convection oven, lots of cabinets & pantry spaces. Main-level MA Suite w/walk-in closets, & huge bath. Other features: full, partially-finished basement, 2 car att. garage; breezeway. \$299,900 (MLS #956522) (21007)



LUXURIOUS LAKESIDE LIVING! This exquisitely-designed & furnished home on Mentone's secret Jewel, Lake Lahusage, is ready for you to entertain guests right from day one! Complete w/covered dock, pontoon boat & Sea Doo! Over 3,000 sq ft of living area w/ 5BR/4.5BA, open living/dining, galley kitchen w/ lots of cabinets & pantry storage areas. Split-system CH/A. Spacious screened back porch, basement garage. \$349,000. (MLS #555876) (20999)



THE JAMES PLACE on the brow with a breath-taking view of the valley below, mountains beyond and those fabulous sunsets! Over 185' brow frontage. House has 4BR/2BA, 2-car attached garage, hot tub on back deck, almost 2 acres of land. Less than a mile from downtown Mentone. Residence, retreat or rental! We've just listed this house and can't imagine it'll last long at this price for a place on the brow. Only \$275,000! Call Charlotte today for more details!



MOSSY ROCK AT MENTONE! Elegant, yet rustic, 2BR/2BA cabin w/vaulted ceiling in great room; WB Fpl; custom cabinetry; screened side porch off MABR; HW & tile floors; beamed ceilings & walk-in closets in both BRs. Claw-foot tub & sep shower in MABA. Built w/energy efficiency in mind. Wooded lot with little to no yard maintenance! \$175,000. (MLS #664604) (20416)



TAKE REFUGE FROM THE CITY.... in this 3BR/2BA log cabin situated on 2.8 acres. Open living/dining/kitchen area. Main-level Master Suite w/double vanities, cedar-lined walk-in closet & lots of extra storage. Mountain views, a wrap-around porch & in-ground pool make it a perfect place to get away & relax! Recently reduced to \$130,000 (MLS #511584) (20798)



YOU CAN OWN THE FARM.... or as much of it as you can handle! Newly-constructed rustic farmhouse with 4.5 acres, or buy the whole shebang with 15 acres, fenced, w/fishing pond & small barn. Picturesque yard w/heirloom flowering shrubs, big old trees & very pleasant views from front or back porch. Come home! \$167,500 or \$215,000. (MLS445045) (20810)



TWO FURNISHED LOG CABINS on 6 wooded acres, conveniently located on the road leading to Cloudmont Ski & Golf Resort. Both have fireplaces, hot tubs and 3/4 wraparound porches. Great boulders in woods! Both being sold fully-furnished! Currently in cabin rental. Great investment opportunity. The price is pretty doggone good, too, at an incredible \$259,900! (MLS #496392)



LITTLE RED COTTAGE IN THE MEADOW is a place to relax where it's nice & quiet. Fab screened porch w/hot tub; luxurious tile shower in bath; 2 good-sized BRs; CH/A & attic fan. Large detached garage/shop. Perfect for your private personal getaway or a rental cabin. Public water. On 2+ acres, mostly meadow, surrounded by woods. Mentone. Recently reduced to \$90,000. (MLS #611279) (20511)



THE LITTLE WHITE COTTAGE, picturesquely nestled amid the trees & oak leaf hydrangea in downtown Mentone, next door to the Mentone Springs Hotel & Village Shops. Small & cozy, 2BR/1.5BA, completely renovated w/totally new interior, appliances (incl. washer/dryer!), plumbing, CH/A & roof! Single attached carport, fenced backyard, extra-wide lot. Priced at only \$129,500. (MLS331553) (20249)



SPACIOUS, COMFORTABLE & BEAUTIFUL! Daniel Boone log cabin with upgrades like vast mountain stone WB Fpl & rich, warm wood in the spacious great room. 2 large BRs/2.5BAs; fabulous wraparound porch. Unfinished full, walkout basement partitioned into future bonus spaces for workshop & living area w/BA. In quiet Hunter's Ridge. Start enjoying your own cabin in the mountains! \$244,000 (20723) (MLS 644363)



THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST-KEPT SECRETS IN MENTONE. Immaculately kept, like new cabin in a tree & boulder strewn low maintenance setting. 4 bedrooms, 3 bath with fully finished basement that is mostly underground, which would be great as a storm shelter. \$190,000 (21161)



BEAUTIFULLY RUSTIC LOG CABIN in Hunters Ridge, on 2.06 acres. 2BR (or 3 if you decided to turn the separate dining room into a BR)/2.5BA, great covered front porch to enjoy nature's beauty around you. Small stream below the back deck gives wildlife a place to drink and humans a place to spend peaceful mornings with a cup of coffee. Stone fireplace with gas logs completes the mountain getaway atmosphere. \$149,900 (MLS #588906) (20916)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES JULY

Birthdays

- 1 - Terry Hutcheson
- 2 - Byrum Emory
- 3 - Larry Smalley, Andrew Gentry
- 4 - Gerry Disney, Orion Nicely, Charles Hicks, Ken Sanders
- 5 - Donna Smith, Nathan Jones
- 6 - Elizabeth Brown, Al Kuehl
- 7 - Jimmy Blalock, Zoe Lovechio
- 8 - Eileen Perry (in memory)
- 9 - Rhonda Blalock, Kaylee Tucker
- 10 - Caroline Baty Key
- 11 - Garrett Colins, Barbie Hester, Kanissa Smith, David Bridges
- 12 - Charles Gray
- 13 - Jolee Brown
- 14 - Bob Crow
- 15 - Jessica Green
- 16 - Cecil Baty
- 17 - Kayla Hazell, Coy Crow, Andrew Hicks, Katie Bird Cobble
- 18 - Raymond Blalock, L.C. Moon, Brenda Wisner
- 19 - Oksana Cherbonneau
- 20 - Barry Blalock, Judy Dowait
- 21 - Jody Brown
- 23 - Taylor Blalock
- 25 - Robert Brown, Alie Blalock, Dr. Bill Berry, Scott Meadows
- 26 - Allen Cherbonneau
- 27 - Marcus Sutton, Jim Gaylord (in memory)
- 28 - Jim Leftwich
- 29 - Ken Kirby, Floyd Wigley
- 30 - Rachel Collins, Brenda Green, LuJean Pierce
- 31 - Marris Pierce, Paige Wright



Anniversaries

- 1 - Mr. & Mrs. Byron Gilbreath
- 4 - Charlotte & Hollis Gentry
- 6 - Larry & Gail Smalley
- 7 - Roland & Carolyn Hendon
- 8 - Joey & Kumi Dillenbeck
- 10 - Lesa & L.A. Smith
- 16 - Walter & Lucy Fowlkes
- 20 - Amanda & Charles Gray
- 26 - Ralph & Susan Flynn, Jason & Michelle Broome

HAPPY

4th of JULY

Fort Payne • Sand Mountain • Mentone

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Alabama

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Red People Red Places

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DeKalb County Tourist Association

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

• **1st FRIDAY FISH FRY**, July 1st, 3:30-7-ish. Pavilion at Mentone Inn. Fish, hushpuppies and the trimmings. \$5 a plate. All proceeds to benefit Strong Family Initiative.

• **"STILL KICKIN" IN CONCERT** at 8:00 p.m. on the Square at Mentone, Friday, July 1, with proceeds going to benefit Mentone Area Arts Council (MAAC). Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening's entertainment. Admission \$10.

• **"MID-SUMMER IN MENTONE"** art exhibit on Saturday and Sunday July 2 & 3. The art show will be held on the grounds of the Mentone Springs Hotel and the Mentone Inn corner at Hwy 117 and 89. Mid Summer's coordinator Harry Ohme says: "This will be a firecracker event". For information go to www.mentonearts.org or call MAAC president Sandra Padgett 256 634-3001.

• **MENTONE FARMER'S MARKET** on the Square (corner of Hwy 117 & Co Rd 89 DeSoto Pkwy) each Wednesday, 3-6 pm.; Saturdays 10 am-1pm. Under the pavilion if bad weather. Buy fresh, buy local!

• **MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION** meeting every first Tuesday of the month. 6:30 p.m. Moon Lake Baptist Church. New fiscal year begins in July. Membership drive underway. Become a part of MAPA and help preserve Mentone's history and have an impact on its future!

• **NEACC THEATER PRESENTS "SYLVIA"** July 15-17th & July 22-24th. For more information, call 256-638-4418.

• **DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD** meeting has been rescheduled for July 28th, 5:00 pm at Facilities Building in Rainsville.

• **GREENER DAY AT LRC CENTER**, July 9th. The National Park Service staff and volunteers will present greener living programs on the second Saturday of each month. Topics include climate change, recycling, energy conservation, eco-gardening, exotic plants, native landscaping, pollution prevention, green energy, and more! 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Free 256-782-5697

• **GET W.E.T.!!** July 11-15; July 17-21; July 23-27. Join the Water Exploration Team for a 5-day water adventure. Backpack, rappel, camp and paddle over 5 exciting days while learning how to test water quality on wild and scenic Little River. Ages 14-18. For more information, call 256-634-8370

• **GROWIN' UP WILD!** Little River Canyon Center. Every 4th Friday of the month in summer. Fun nature and art programs for preschool-age children. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. No fee; some programs may have limited space so pre-registration is encouraged. 256-782-8010

• **RIVER RHYTHMS FAMILY FUN: ANIMAL TRACKS!** Saturday, July 23. Kids will learn about identifying creatures by looking at the tracks they leave behind. Each child will make his or her own track as a keepsake. Little River Canyon Center; 1 p.m. No fee; pre-registration is encouraged. 256-782-5697

• **25th ANNUAL WORLD'S LONGEST YARD SALE** August 4th-7th Travel the scenic byways of America for more than 630-miles of yard sales and unique treasure finds. Follow the Lookout Mountain Parkway from Gadsden, Alabama to Chattanooga, TN for the southern portion of the sale. Connect with the U.S. Highway 127 in Chattanooga for the remainder of the route to Hudson, MI. 888-805-4740

If you have announcements for the Community Bulletin Board, please email them to: editorgroundhog@yahoo.com; fax to 256-634-0027 or drop them by the Mentone Realty office.

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; Women on Mission meet at 1PM 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 Bunnell.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Mass Services at 10AM each Sunday-English; 1PM-Spanish; 6PM-English; Tuesday 6PM-English; Wednesday 4:30PM-Spanish; Thursday 6:30AM-English; Friday 9AM-English.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM Sunday. Bible class or Lent/Advent services every Wednesday at 6:30PM. 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 Hollman invite every-

one 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.

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.

Mentone United Methodist Church, 415 Cutler Avenue, Mentone, Alabama invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday, our worship service is at 11:00 a.m. and Sunday School is at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Bill Parker of Glencoe, Alabama is the pastor. He and his wife, Nancy, reside in the parsonage on weekends. The service of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month, the second Sunday is Youth Sunday and Fifth Sunday is a service of music and potluck lunch. Visitors are welcome and members are expected to attend.

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 is the 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 be in service. Sunday morning 10:45 a.m., Sunday night 5:00 p.m., Wed. Bible study 6:30 p.m. Pastor Lance Kincer invites everyone. Summit Church of God will be renting spaces for Worlds Longest Yard Sale in Aug. \$10.00 a day. For info, call 265-634-4418

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.

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd., Mentone, AL 35984 Sunday Services: Sunday School 9AM - all ages; Sunday Service 10:30AM; Bible Study Wednesday 6:00PM; Youth Services 7:00PM Sunday and 6:30PM Wednesday (Meet at Mentone Revival Center Bldg.). Pastor Fred Johns

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Roger Kvam. Bible Study Sunday at 9:00 a.m (e.s.t.) and Worship at 10:00 a.m (e.s.t.)

Since 1889 worshippers have gathered at the **Historic First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)** at 300 Grand Avenue North in Downtown Fort Payne. We invite you to join us for worship this Sunday at 10:55 AM. 256-845-2915



Pray For Our Neighbors



The Art of Loving

Erich Fromm claims in his book "The Art of Loving" that "Love is the only sane and satisfactory answer to the problem of human existence." Modern conceptions of love, he argued, tend to focus on love as a passion, something that overcomes us, just as greed, envy, or jealousy might overcome us. On this view, we "fall in love" and it is something which happens to us, almost against our will. But on Fromm's view, love is an action rather than a passion; it is the activity of giving rather than the passive receiving of something. So why is love the only sane and satisfactory answer to the problem of human existence? The problem of human existence is really a multitude of problems which coalesce around a single problem: how will we survive as a species? War, famine, the polluting of our planet and our general unwillingness to get along with each other, not to mention our proclivity for unspeakable cruelty, are all just specific examples of the overarching problem. The problem, as seen by Fromm, is that "All men are in need of help and depend on one another." The solution to this problem is simple and straightforward: actively seek to help one another, and be aware of your own need for help. Against that backdrop, love is the only game in town.

Love is patient
and kind;
love is not jealous
or boastful;
it is not arrogant
or rude.
Love does not insist
on its own way;
it is not irritable
or resentful;

R.S.V. 1
Corinthians 13:4-5

Alpacas Find a Home in Mentone

by Rhea Pirch

Our decision to buy four alpacas was easy. They sold us on their charm from the moment we saw them at an alpaca farm in Wisconsin where I was doing research for an article I was writing. Once the purchase was complete, we knew two things: we'd have to find a home for them (since we were living in an apartment at the time) and that home would be in the southeast. Don was about to retire and I was about to graduate from college. It was time to move on.

In May, 2010, we began our search, traveling through North Carolina, South Carolina and northern Georgia. After three weeks and no prospects, we agreed to visit relatives in Mentone and go from there. Don was born in Valley Head, and we lived here in the 1990's. We never expected to return, but as we drove up Lookout Mountain from Menlo, we knew we were headed home. A day later, as if led by a divining rod, we found the five-acre property where Cutler Avenue meets West River Road, and named it "Moonglow Alpaca Farm." In September, after the purchase of the farm, we packed our belongings and our alpacas, moved back to Mentone, and started our new life as alpaca farmers.

Alpacas, native to Peru, are often confused with llamas. Although they are both from the camelid family, their differences are obvious. Alpacas are bred as fiber-producing animals and are half the size of their cousin llamas, bred as pack animals. Llama's ears are banana shaped, and their coats are much coarser than alpacas'. Alpacas might spit at each other in a squabble over food, but they don't spit at humans, as llamas are more prone to do.

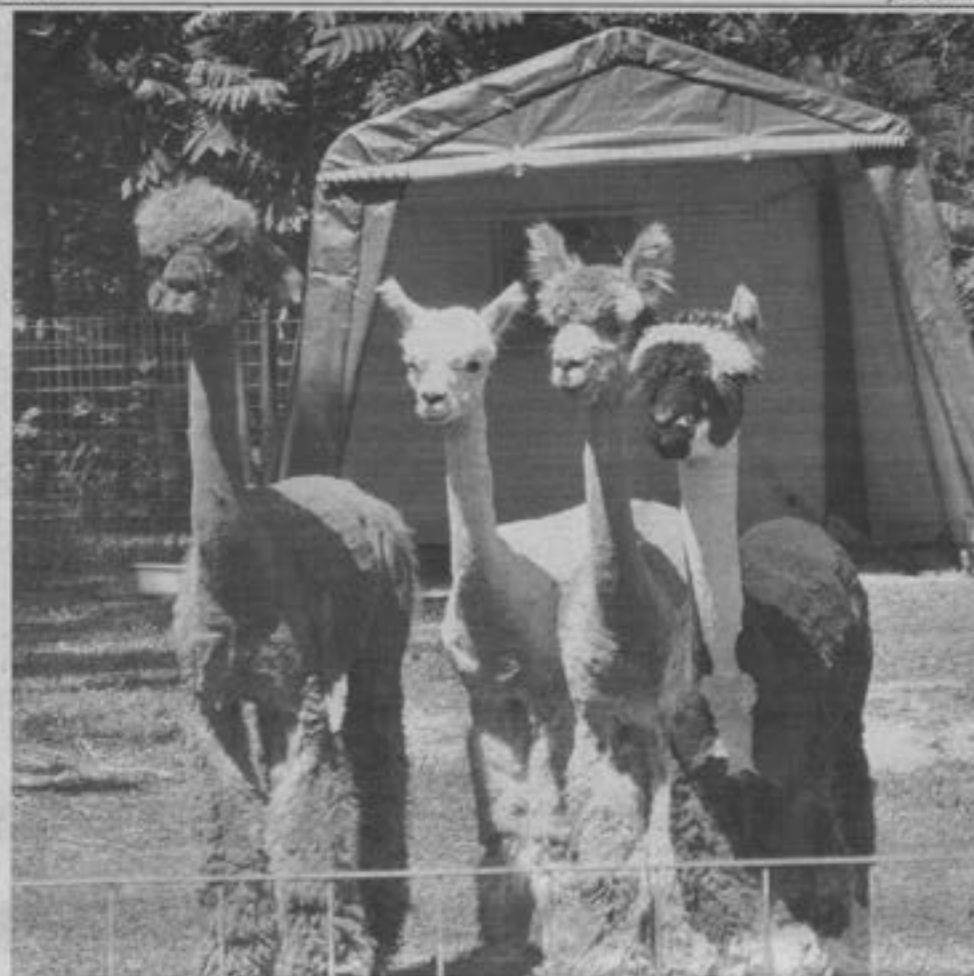
Although alpacas are most often raised for breeding, we decided for Don's retirement to make Moonglow a hobby farm, and raise them as pets. Our four "boys," Rebel, Percussion, Paramount and Diablo, are gentle and easy to care for. They graze on grass in the summer and eat hay during the winter, along with some grain twice a day. Since their upper teeth are not teeth at all, but a plate, they cannot bite. They all "go" in the same area, so clean up, twice a day, is easy. Alpaca manure, more commonly called "beans" has its own benefit. It makes quality plant and flower fertilizer. It can be used immediately without composting, doesn't burn plants or flowers, and lacks the strong smell of other livestock manure. Because their fleece is so warm, we shear them once a year, in May, before the hot summer sets in. Once sheared, they leave us with four to five pounds of fleece per alpaca.

Alpaca fleece is highly prized for its numerous qualities; it is soft as cashmere, warmer than wool, and is not prickly. It has a rich, silky sheen that can be dyed and washed without losing its luster. After the fleece is skirted and spun into yarn, it can be made into a variety of products including socks, scarves, sweaters, blankets and rugs. Last year, we sent their fleece to a fiber co-op and were able to buy alpaca products at a discounted rate. This year, we decided to support local fiber artists and donate the fleece to those who enjoy spinning, weaving or felting, and perhaps learn a new craft in the process.

We give our boys individualized attention every day, something they didn't get when they lived with over 100 other alpacas in the farm where we bought them. With this, we have been able to discover their unique personalities. We have our leader, and our baby, and also our sociable alpaca, who appreciates back rubs from humans, and our ribbon winner, who still poses as if he's in the show ring, three years after his last competition.

We invite the public to visit our alpacas at Moonglow Alpaca Farm, 164 West River Road, and discover who is who. They love company, and will melt hearts, as they did ours, with their liquid black eyes, long eyelashes and curious natures. They welcome open hands filled with grain, and always smile for the camera.

(Read more about life with alpacas on Rhea Pirch's blog at www.tranquilmeadowalpaca.blogspot.com)



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A Drought-Tolerant Flower Bed

by Susan Seago

I know it is early summer and many of you have already planted your garden, both vegetables and flowers. But, I would like to mention some annuals and perennials that are very drought tolerant and need little, if any, hand watering or care. You can plant them and sit back to enjoy.

One of the most magnificent flowers for the center or back of the flower bed is the coneflower (*echinacea*), particularly the purple, which may grow to four feet tall. Blooms up to three or four inches will last days. If you will remove the spent blooms, more blooms will follow through the summer. There are now yellow, orange, white, and red cone-



flowers to provide a bouquet within themselves. They are very drought tolerant, growing in full sun to part shade.

Yarrow is an old fashioned plant and will fill your garden in one growing season. It is so pretty with its lacey leaves and wide bright blooms. The original yarrow is yellow or white, but now it comes in shades of red, purple, and pink. It grows so well that you don't have to feel bad when you remove some to make room for other flowers. I have a large yellow plant in my big sunny garden. When it gets leggy or the blooms fade, simply cut it back so it



will bloom again. It is a great companion to the coneflower.

Bachelor's button (*centaurea*) is one of my favorite perennial flowers. Its long tapered leaves and large frilly blooms provide a great backdrop to the spreading verbena and Shasta daisies. The most common color is blue,

but there is a nice purple called Amethyst in Snow, and a white variety, also. As with most perennials, they need to be divided every couple of years, to fill another bed or share with a friend.

Cleome is a tall, wispy, colorful annual that freely self-seeds to provide flowers from year to year. Its nicknames of Cat's Whiskers and Spider Flower describe its blooms. It grows to about four feet and will provide all-summer beauty.

Last, but certainly not least, are the sedums. This is one of the larger family of succulent plants. Sedums may be groundcovers as low as two inches or tall to a height of three feet. All are extremely drought tolerant and some of the groundcovers are evergreen. Grow them on a hillside or in the garden. They will never disappoint you.

All of the plants mentioned today require daily watering if in pots, but once planted in the ground with their root system established, they need little maintenance. Plant in soil with some amendment, water when you plant them, then deeply once a week for a couple of weeks. If we have some good rainfall, there is no need to hand water. Just keep the faded blooms cut off and they will provide you with a lovely pallet of color all summer and into the fall.



This is just a very short list of drought tolerant flowers. There are many more to provide you with lots of color throughout the summer. We can have lovely gardens, even when the weather is hot and dry.

(Susan is a freelance writer and co-owner of Fine View Garden Center)



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Continued from page 1



Homer and Bernise, first date.

born in Fort Payne Hospital. (Joyce passed away in 2005.) Their youngest daughter, Doreen (or "Reenie" as Homer calls her), was born in Chattanooga.

According to Homer, all of the children

inherited their mother's way with music. "They're all musically inclined," he says. Unfortunately, Bernise's guitar wasn't one of the instruments they ever got to play. "We were getting ready to leave church and Bernise stood it up against the car. She went back in for something and then came out. It was dark. Well, I ran over that guitar." He adds, "Coy still grieves over that ole black Gibson."

He decided to move to Chattanooga in 1955 with his growing family to seek work that paid better. "I was in commercial construction as a carpenter's apprentice and I noticed the bricklayers were making more money. So, I bought me some brick and mortar and taught myself how to lay brick," Homer remembers.

He laid brick on commercial buildings all over the United States. During this whole time, though, Homer would do side jobs in and around Mentone. He and his brother, Jessie, laid the brick at what is now the Mentone General Store and at the Mentone Church of God of Prophecy. Several buildings and homes in the Mentone area have stone work done by Homer and/or his brothers.

Homer quit laying brick in the mid 60's to become general supervisor for a contrac-



Homer and Bernise, wedding day in 1946.

tor. The last commercial building he bricked was a post office in the Chattanooga area. He continued doing construction until around 1970. He decided to purchase a door company in Chattanooga, ran it for a few years and wound up selling it. "I thought I'd retire," he says with a

grin. "But, I didn't."

He and Tom Anderson started a wire harness business from scratch down in Valley Head, which became very successful. When he sold that business, Homer says he "retired for sure." Retired, perhaps, but he didn't become idle. He and Bernise bought the home on the brow where he still lives. Adding the stone façade was just one of the many projects Homer has worked on there.

He and Bernise took a very active role in MAPA from its beginnings and were instrumental in the success of its festivals and other undertakings. The entire community of Mentone owes much to their efforts in so many areas. Homer still takes an interest in The Groundhog and keeps up with what is going on and is pleased with the new life that seems to be springing up in the paper, the organization and Mentone in general.

His daughter, Doreen, is an active part of MAPA and continues to have an impact in the Mentone community just as Homer and Bernise did. It seems that Homer Crow's influence, sharing of knowledge, and work isn't done yet.

(Next month, we'll take a look at Crow family history)

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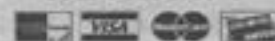
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SECLUSION AND TRANQUILITY are nestled in this Cape Cod style 3BR, 2BA cottage with finished basement a top Lookout Mtn. Cloudland. Open floor plan with kitchen/dining room, and woodburning FP. Amenities include CHA, attached carport, and separate storage/shop. All on 2.1 acres with a spectacular Eastern brow view. \$180,000 (20571)	WHIPPOORWILL FARM. 49 acres on the East Fork Little River. 2800 ft on the water with deep pools and rapids. 2BR/2BA. Rock and log home with all the comfort amenities. Rock FP. Pasture land, wood trails- horse barn w/ apt, detached double garage. Screened sleeping cabin overlooking river. Much more! \$595,000 (19355)	SOUTHLAND LOG HOME. on the E. Fork Little River. 5.5 acres. Deck, lighted walkway to lower property. 2BR/2BA, loft. Vaulted ceiling w/exposed beams. Kitchen with granite counters. Stacked stone FP. 2-story with Basement. Sep. garage, large enough for motor home. \$385,000 (19919)	FORMERLY MOUNTAIN MAMA'S CRAFT STORE AND ROCK SHOP. 4.5 wooded acres on the east fork little river, approx. 550 ft on the water. Included on the property is 2 historical Log cabins. Could be used as commercial or build that perfect place, for a relaxing mountain retreat. \$157, 500 (20799)	NATURAL SETTING ON THE WEST FORK LITTLE RIVER. 4BR suites with Baths are part of this lovely home. Open Floor Plan, Dining, Den and sitting rooms. Kitchen with Complete Appliance package. 400 ft on the water with Rock formations. Located in the only Ski Resort in Alabama. Must see. \$349,000 (20246)	STUNNING MOUNTAIN HOME and Retreat center. Features vaulted ceilings, private Hot tub. Newly renovated Kitchen. 2 living areas, and Gas FP. Open loft above the 2nd living area and open kitchen design. Master bedroom, and 2 more baths. 700 sq ft. 2 rm. guest cottage and a glassed Greenhouse/artist studio. Many possibilities with this wonderful property with seasonal views. \$299,000 (20562)
					
NICELY WOODED 5 ACRES on DeSoto Parkway with Stream. Can be Residential or Commercial. Land has old homesite and green house. Large Rock formations. Possibilities are Endless! \$100,000 (19419)	ENCHANTING COTTAGE in Laurel Creek Lakes. Access to 3 lakes for fishing & canoeing. Cypress sided 2 bedrooms, 2 baths with Stack Log and Stone Fireplace. Screened porch & Grilling deck. 1.4 acres \$142,000. (19676)	NICE LEVEL WOODED PROPERTY with partial drive and homesite cleared. Previous perk test. Easy access to the middle fork of little river. Restrictive cov. apply. Located Mountain River Estates \$77,000 (20892)	LOG CABIN KNOWN AS "KNOWUS ARK" is an artist dream of a property. Unique decor and even a separate artist studio are part of the special qualities that go with the 2BR/2BA, w/FP, covered porches and double decks. Privately located. \$225,000 (20453).	CHARMING HISTORIC FARMHOUSE on a beautiful level lot of almost 1.5 acres located within walking distance of downtown Mentone. Comfortable living areas, extra large dining room/gathering room, kitchen with walk in pantry, 2BR/2BA, one with a jetted tub. Front and rear covered porches, an outbuilding with guesthouse possibilities and a circular drive with lots of parking. \$164,900 (20951)	AN INCREDIBLE ONE OF A KIND custom designed Log and Rock Home, with breathtaking view in Cloudland Ga. 1.5 acres with 100' road and brow frontage. Approx 6000 sq ft under roof, with 3000 heated. Heart Pine floors, log walls, cedar lined closets. Two rock FP with 100 yr old chestnut mantle in living room. 3BR/2.5BA, oversized shower, antique tiled tub. Top quality appliances, furniture quality cabinets. Amenities to numerous to mention. \$487,000 (20797)
					
WALTONS MILL SITE PROPERTY. Back in the civil war there was a grist mill located on this east fork river site, a unique property with 900 ft on the water 2 building sites easy access to the water large rock overhang and flat rock bottom for easy floating down the river. A true Gem, 10 acres. \$200,000 (20451)	THREE LOTS to choose from or buy any of the combination. 5.1 to 5.6 acres on the East Brow of Lookout mtn. Gated area called Valley View Forest. Very secluded, private, power available, must put in Well. Great buy at \$45,000 each (20298)	NICE WOODED LOT WITH STREAM located in Crestline Park Subdivision. Just down the road from Cloudmont Resort and DeSoto State Park. Build your Mentone cabin for yourself or use as a rental. \$20,000. (21086)	WHAT A SPECTACULAR SUNRISE/Moonrise on the East Brow in Cloudland, GA. Wooded with 200ft on the brow. Secluded 4.36 acres. A must see!! \$85,000 (18134)	MOUNTAIN CHATEAU. Feel like you are among the trees, from this 2 story with basement, floor to ceiling windows in the great room. 2BR/2BA with whirlpool tub and separate shower in master. Loft overlooking great room and FP. Fully equipped kitchen. Secluded 4.77 acres with 250ft on the Bluff. Reduced to 245,000 (18133)	TALL MEADOW RUE CHAPEL, in Downtown Mentone. Lush landscaping. Heavenly ordained Chapel, Glass Greenhouse, Coy Pond w/fountain. Rock walls, and Iron Gates. Enjoy the peace and serenity this property gives. \$105,000

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ea. (19933)

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CO. RD. 600. City water meter in place on wooded level 3/4 acre lot. Perk tested. Minutes from Desoto State Park. Build your getaway cabin in the woods! \$25,000 (20422)

EAST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER. 5.4 acres partially cleared. 200ft on River. Secluded with private road access. Scenic with rapids and pools. \$106,000. (19673)

THE DRIVEWAY HAS BEEN STARTED to build your Mentone getaway! 5.7 wooded acres across from Lake Lahusage. Paved road frontage, city water available, perc tested. Lightly restricted. \$58,900 (19865)

7.15 ACRES WITH WEST BROW VIEW, great location between mentone and Desoto State park. Wooded with partial drive. great price at \$135,000

Old Wives Tales and Mountain Wisdom

By Charlotte Gentry

Here are a few tidbits of mountain lore I've heard all my life. I had posted these on the Groundhog Facebook page. Others were added by friends of Groundhog.

- If you open a knife, you'd better be the one to close it, or you'll have bad luck.
- Smoke blowing sideways means rain.
- Leaves turned upside down mean rain.
- Woolly worm caterpillars can predict how cold the winter will be.
- A hornet's nest built down low means a mild winter.
- Red sky at night, sailor's delight. Red sky in morning, sailors take warning!
- Plant corn when the oak leaves are the size of a squirrel's ear.

• David Ashley wrote: "When you hear your first whippoorwill, count on your calendar 165 days...and the first frost of the year will occur during that week. Amazing how well this works."

• Linda Puckett Jordan wrote: "It is time to plant corn when you hear your first dove of the year."

(If you have mountain lore, old wives' tales or folk wisdom to share, please send it to editorgroundhog@yahoo.com, post it on our Facebook page, or mail to The Groundhog PO Box 387 Mentone AL 35984)



HOME ON LEAVE Airman First Class Logan Chambers recently returned home from a one-year tour at Kunsaw AFB in South Korea where he worked as a Combat Engineer/Heavy Equipment operator. Logan is now headed to Ramstein Air Force Base in Kaiserslautern, Germany. (submitted photo)

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Walter and Lizzie Stewart - A Civil War Tale of Survival

Part 1 in a series

(Editor's Note: Greg Starnes, area Civil War history detective and writer, has graciously submitted the amazing story of Walter and Lizzie Stewart for readers of The Groundhog. We will be publishing the story in serial form in the next few issues.)

Resting quietly in Mount Vernon Cemetery on top of Lookout Mountain are a Confederate soldier and his wife. Not unusual. Many cemeteries across Alabama - indeed across all of the former Confederate States of America - have numerous such couples buried within their borders. Also, like thousands of other men in their thirties, Walter Washington Stewart left behind a wife and several children when he volunteered to fight. He was simply an ordinary man caught up in the maelstrom of an enormous conflict. Several events that occurred in the summer of 1864, however, would set Walter and his family apart as extraordinary examples of courage and survival.

Walter Stewart married Charlotte Elizabeth "Lizzie" Russell in 1851, and promptly moved from his home in Forsyth County, Georgia, to Factory Town on the banks of Sweetwater Creek in Campbell (now Douglas) County, Georgia. A five-story textile mill had been erected in 1849, and Walter went to work at the mill. He and Lizzie also began to raise a family.

In May of 1860, the superintendents of the mill, now named The New Manchester Manufacturing Company, made the fateful decision to transform operations from civilian to military. By now Walter was employed as a boss-man. With war imminent, when the Stewarts welcomed their fifth child into the world, they named him Jefferson Davis in honor of the popular politician and Mexican War hero - and soon to be newly-elected President of the Confederacy - from Mississippi.

Georgia was the fifth state to secede from the Union, and thousands of patriotic-minded southerners rushed to volunteer. Walter was not so brash. Instead, he resigned from the mill, bought a farm, and spent the rest of the year building a house and making

sure that his wife and children would be financially secure if and when he ever had to leave them. No doubt he was hoping and praying that the predictions of a short war would come true. Nevertheless, in the spring of 1862 Walter knew it was time to go.

He enlisted in company K of the forty-first Georgia infantry regiment on 4 March 1862. Known as the "Campbell Salt Springs Guards", the unit saw its first major combat at the Battle of Perryville, KY on 8 October. Positioned on the Confederate right as part of Brigadier General George Earl Maney's brigade, the forty-first opened the battle and suffered heavy casualties. In December they were ordered to Mississippi, and Walter's first Christmas away from home was spent traveling to Vicksburg.

The forty-first saw action in the battles of Chickasaw Bayou and Champion's Hill before being cut

off and forced to endure the hardships of the 47-day siege of Vicksburg during the spring and summer of 1863.

Paroled after being captured as part of Lt. Gen. John Pemberton's forces, Walter was granted a much-deserved furlough. He was able to go home for the first time in more than a year.

In remarkably good health after surviving such ordeals, Walter and the entire Stewart clan enjoyed a very happy, albeit short-lived, reunion. Lizzie probably informed Walter that the Confederate Congress had passed exemption laws from military service for bosses and specific craftsmen involved in the manufacturing of certain cotton and wool items. High-quality osnaburg, a fabric that is heavier than linen but lighter than canvas, was produced at New Manchester for the use as tents

and clothing. Had

Walter pursued it, he may have been granted an exemption. Never one to shirk duty, though, he returned to his unit. Lizzie, on the other hand, was hired as a bookkeeper. She was now an official employee of the Confederate government. As Walter was leaving for the second time, he told his family that if the Yankees ever got close to their home, he would leave the army and come protect them. Naïve, perhaps, but the words softened the goodbye.

The forty-first was placed in line of battle again at Missionary Ridge on 25 November 1863; wintered in Dalton, GA; transferred to Stovall's brigade, A.P. Stevenson's division, Hood's corps in Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee; and thence engaged in the running battles between Johnston and Union General William T. Sherman in Georgia. Walter was in the thick of the fighting at Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca and New Hope Church.

Miraculously, he survived the spring of 1864. Sadly, his youngest child did not. Little Jeff died in May and was buried in the Factory Town/New Manchester Cemetery.

Still reeling from her loss, Lizzie and the other two hundred or so residents of New Manchester were startled to see Union cavalrymen suddenly appear on the banks of Sweetwater Creek on 2 July.

Brigadier General George Stoneman had arrived with orders from Sherman to place the town - including women and children under arrest. The charge: treason, for provid-

ing the Confederate army with supplies.

The mill, post office, company store and other buildings were doused with kerosene and set ablaze. The townspeople looked on anxiously as the



Family of 422 Synthia Catherine Stewart and Ephraim David Bass Boyd
Sedney, Texas (Comanche County)

Seated, left to right: Bertie Lee, Ephraim David Bass Boyd (father), Synthia S. Boyd (mother), Romie Washington

Yankees looted and stole whatever they wanted. Several of them even had the gall to eat a freshly-cooked chicken supper right off of the Stewart table, leaving them nothing! After this demonic escapade, Lizzie instructed her two oldest daughters to take Walter's clothes and the family silver and hide them. Stealing away into the woods behind their house, Sarah and Synthia Catherine carefully concealed the Stewart valuables in a stump and a hollow tree. The Yankees were none the wiser!

Transport wagons arrived on 9 July to take the prisoners to Marietta. Ironically, Walter had been fighting in the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain above the town just a few days earlier. Successful in repulsing three Union assaults, General Johnston nonetheless abandoned his position in an attempt to out-flank Sherman as that general maneuvered toward Atlanta. **WALTER'S UNIT WAS ORDERED TO ABANDON THE KENNESAW LINE ON THE VERY DAY THAT LIZZIE AND THE CHILDREN WERE CAPTURED!!** Now firmly in Union control, the depot was the starting point for a long train ride up the Western & Atlantic Railroad to Louisville, Kentucky, and prison.

Next month: Prisoners of war



41 Walter Washington Stewart and first wife, Charlotte Elizabeth Russell
DeKalb County, Alabama



42 Walter Washington Stewart and second wife, Martha A. Taylor
DeKalb County, Alabama
Children, left to right: Walter Taylor, Clarence Howard, Henry Lester

Great places to stay in and around Mentone

Raven Haven

By Charlotte Gentry

Off the beaten path and tucked into the shade of a verdant woodland, Raven Haven Bed and Breakfast is a truly peaceful spot where one can get away from it all. At the same time, owners Anthony and Eleanor Teverino provide all the comforts one could hope for in a homey, elegantly-rustic setting.

For Tony and Eleanor, the place is truly a home and haven. And, there was a bit of good luck involved in their finding the place. The Teverinos had originally come to Mentone in 1991 with the thought of purchasing the Mentone Springs Hotel. "He loved it, I didn't," says Eleanor. "Thank goodness we didn't buy it!" They both knew, in spite of its elegance and history, the hotel's condition made it too big a project for them to tackle.

But, once they'd seen Mentone, they fell in love with the area and started looking for another place where they could open a B&B. They talked to Sharon Barron (the original owner of Mentone Realty) and it so happened she had listed the home of Homer and Bernise Crow only two days before. As soon as they saw it, the Teverinos knew they'd found the right place. "The flow was there," says Eleanor. Tony adds, "It was a very quick deal."

It was a circuitous journey that led the Teverinos to Mentone. Tony, born in New York, was an only child whose father had emigrated from Northern Italy at the age of eighteen. His mother was of Scots-Irish descent. Eleanor was born in Northern Ireland, one of thirteen children. She knew she didn't want to marry a farmer, so she announced to her family (at the ripe old age of nineteen) that she was heading to America.

"Whatever you do, watch those Italians," Eleanor's father told her. His warning to her probably stemmed from his experiences during the time he'd spent in The Bronx as a young man learning the stone mason trade, which he had taken back to Ireland and by which he supported his family.

Eleanor went to live with an aunt in The Bronx and, in spite of her father's

dire warning, she met, fell in love with and married an Italian-American in 1966 and took him back to Ireland to meet the family in 1967. "Bless his heart," Eleanor says of her father. He took to Tony right away.

They eventually settled in the Atlanta area, where Tony worked for

Queen Anne Room.")

They bought the house in early 1991 and had it open for business by that Fall. "We thought maybe this would be a five-year deal (running a bed and breakfast)," Tony says. It seems to have agreed with them, though, because Raven Haven is celebrating its



AT&T and Eleanor raised their two sons and worked for the Marietta, GA school system. When Tony took early retirement, it was time to pursue their dream to own a B&B. This brought them to Mentone and ended with the purchase of Raven Haven.

Upon purchasing the house from the Crows, Tony and Eleanor decided to leave the structure basically unaltered on the exterior, but wanted to finish up a few things on the inside and add their own touches. Eleanor continued working in Marietta and Tony's job was to renovate and clean up what needed doing. "We finished the attic area for our living quarters and when Homer (Crow) came to see it, he said that's exactly how he'd envisioned it."

One of the largest projects Tony undertook was tearing down walls between the three small bedrooms on the West side of the house and turning it into one large bedroom. (This beautifully-appointed room is now "The

20th anniversary this year.

"The people who come here are wonderful," states Eleanor. "They always bring something with them. I don't mean material things. They feel at home here and it's not unusual to look out at the garden and see a guest sleeping there in the swing."

The beautifully-landscaped gardens of Raven Haven reflect Eleanor's special gift at making things grow. Some of the gardens are formal, such as the hidden Japanese Meditation Garden, others are a riotous mixture of flowers, herbs and vegetables such as potatoes, carrots and zucchini. "Most of our guests come from the city and can't have a garden," Eleanor says. "They come here and enjoy ours."

Tony and Eleanor's grandchildren love to come and visit, delighting in the woods and gardens. Eleanor beams when she speaks of their visits, "When they come, they look at me and say, 'Little Grandma on the Mountain, I



Queen Anne Room



Nautical Room



Casablanca Room



Prairie Room

think I'll stay here."

Raven Haven Bed & Breakfast is open year round and has been featured in several publications, including *Southern Living* and the *Atlanta*

Continued on page 13

Raven Haven - Continued from page 12



Your hosts at Raven Haven, Eleanore and Tony Teverino

Journal Constitution. Guest reviews on the Raven Haven website reward Tony and Eleanore for all their work to make the place something special.

Their motto, "Raven Haven, for the 'rest' of your life," seems to hold true for those who stay there again and again.

Each of their four, themed guest rooms is filled with charming furnishings, many of which were built by Tony. In addition to the "Queen Anne" there is the "Nautical Room," complete with portholes and a hammock (in addition to the queen-size bed); the "Casablanca Room" with tropical getaway décor accented with movie memorabilia of Bogart and Bergman; and the "Prairie Room" perfectly furnished with rustic, hand-crafted furnishings and a great stone fireplace.

Whether sitting in the kitchen enjoying a cup of coffee and pleasant conversation, strolling through the gardens, or taking a quick nap on a swing, guests of Raven Haven find that Tony and Eleanore Teverino do, indeed, offer them "the rest of their life."

(For more information, visit www.ravenhaven.com; email Teverino@aol.com or call 256-634-4310)



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Diary of a Chicken Lady

Part-three

By Kristen Emory



In case you missed the excitement over the last two months, here is a bit of a recap.

#1 My dad and I bought two laying hens and I am scared to death

of them.

#2 To help cure my fear I bought six baby chickens.

Now that you are caught up, let me share a little more of my wonderful chicken experiences.

What respectable chicken farmer only harvests two eggs a day? None, as far as I am concerned!

So, my dad, Jim, and I decided we need more laying hens. Thelma and Louise need company and the baby chicks will not begin to lay until the fall. And, least of all, we need enough eggs to make an omelet!

Dad and I bravely take off to Collinsville Trade Day. On our previous trip we took a more experienced chicken person, but today we will handle it all on our own.

Our confidence is high. We can pick out a pair of good laying hens without any help. We have read our books and have been taking care of two hens and six baby chicks for three weeks. We are now seasoned veterans of the chicken game and ready to fly solo.

We arrive at Trade Day and start walking the rows of chickens and roosters. We walk and look. Walk and look,

again. I spot a lady who looks a lot like I did the first time I came to Trade Day to buy chickens (rookie!). I overhear as the dealer is trying to sell her a pair of chickens—a rooster and a hen. She is asking all the familiar, dumb questions, and I just feel for her. I have been right where she is today.

The dealer walks away and I lean over and say "You don't have to have a rooster." "What do you mean?" she says. "How do I get eggs?"

I quickly tell her the information I have learned from my book. Chickens do not need a rooster to make and lay eggs. You only need a rooster if you want fertilized eggs and hatch baby chickens. (Mind you, I played it cool and did not reveal that I am a book-trained chicken lady.)

The dealer returns and I quickly move on. I am no rooster-hater and don't want that reputation at Trade Day, but, roosters are loud, big, and mean, I bet?

Pickings were slim on this day, but we spot a pair of black hens, Arucas (learned that in my book). "They will be laying in about a month," the man says. Dad and I whisper, "We can't go home empty-handed... We have to have at least two more hens... These look okay.... Clean, have all their feathers."

Then I say to dad, "Are you sure those are chickens?" "Yes, they are chickens, Kristen," dad says. Ok, omelet, here we come!

They bag them up. Yes, chickens get put in potato sacks and toted out of Trade Day. I tell you, a live chicken in a bag and a snow cone, what else could a girl ask for? We get them in the crate to carry them home with no trouble, we are experts at this now, remember. After all, this is our second hen-buying expedition.

As we pull off, Jim says, "You sure those aren't Buzzards? If we just bought Buzzards don't you tell any-

body." "BUZZARDS! You said they were chickens!" He is retired and therefore has more time to study and read the books! What does he do with all of his free time anyway? I think a schedule may be in order for Jim. Buzzards? Do you think they sell buzzards at Trade Day???

Our new birds (buzzards/ chickens) appear to have a bit of a poop issue. Tom says it is nothing that a little Pepto won't fix and that it was gross that I even noticed.

Anyway, instead of a book, I went to see Mr. Oliver at Oliver Feed and Seed in Henagar. I bought chicken feed and he gave me some tetracycline to give all the hens. I had stepped outside of my book and saved my chickens.

Later that week my son Sackler had a softball game and I was talking to Robbie Smith (Macy's dad) about my new birds and feeling slightly boastful that I had found a treatment for their "problem." But, before I could brag, he said, "Oh, they are about to start laying."

Fear overtook my body. I have killed my chickens! I have treated them for something that was only natural. What kind of a chicken lady am I? Robbie calmed me and said, "A little tetracycline can't hurt a chicken."

And, sure enough, my two Black Buzzards started laying the prettiest green chicken eggs you have ever seen. Thank you, Beula and May. The two eggs you give us each day make a wonderful omelet.

Chicken Lady?

Kristen Emory

(Kristen Emory and her husband, Tom, reside in Mentone and, in addition to raising chickens, are owners of Mentone Market)

RECIPE CORNER

(This recipe is supplied by Tony and Eleanor Teverino of Raven Haven B&B. Eleanor thought it would be perfect for this time of year when blueberries are in season. Metrics have been converted to Standard US measurements)

Cream Cheese and Blueberry Tart

9-inch (1x23 cm) sweet pastry tart case (crust)

4 large eggs, separated

1 c (100g) caster sugar (super fine sugar)

11.5 oz (325g) cream cheese, softened

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp vanilla extract

1 tsp ground cinnamon

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c (75g) fresh breadcrumbs

1 c (125g) fresh or frozen blueberries

Pre-heat oven to 325 degrees F. Beat egg yolks and sugar with electric mixer on med-high speed until pale and creamy. Add the cream cheese, vanilla and cinnamon, mixing until smooth. Use a wooden spoon to stir in the breadcrumbs and blueberries until incorporated. Beat the egg whites in a medium bowl with mixer on med-high speed until firm peaks form. Fold the whites into the cream cheese mixture. Spoon into the tart case (pastry shell).

Bake for 45 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from the oven and let cool to room temperature in the pie tin.

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Mountain Lore—Sassafras

By Charlotte Gentry

Perhaps one of the most familiar plants in the woodland is the humble sassafras tree. At one time revered for its medicinal qualities by mountain families (many of you may remember being given sassafras tea as a spring tonic when you were children), this interesting plant has seen its share of controversy as regards its benefits versus its risks.

The tree is easily identified by its leaves. One of the most singular things about the sassafras tree's leaves is that you will find three different types of leaves on the same tree: elliptical, three-lobed and two-lobed (two-lobed leaves can be right or left-handed "mittens").

All parts of the sassafras have the distinctive, pleasant, spicy smell and taste. Leaves can be chewed right off the tree and make a nice little woodsy snack. Generally, though, it is the sassafras root and bark that is harvested, dried and then used for tea.

Some people like to grind the dry roots into a powder. This is one of the main ingredients in file' powder, used by Creole cooks to make gumbo. Most folks, though, just break or cut the root into manageable pieces and steep them in boiling water, add a little honey, and enjoy this tea for its taste, or for its medicinal qualities (the cures and remedies purported for sassafras tea, or the uses of sassafras oil externally are numerous!).

Sassafras oil is what gave Root Beer its distinctive taste. And it is the safrole oil in Sassafras that has also led to the controversial ban of sassafras as a food additive (except in file gumbo) by the FDA in the 60's. (Needless to say, if you give a lab rat sufficient quantities of most anything, it will cause adverse effects.) For those who would prefer to continue using sassafras, it may be wise to remember our grandmothers' wisdom: "All things in moderation."

Sassafras is the only North-American spice. The word "sassafras" means "stone breaker." Its wood is soft and yellowish and is used to make posts, crates, barrels and pilings. Parts of the tree are used in soap making, the oil used for perfumes, and a yellow dye is produced from its bark. Sassafras from other parts of the world is used in making camphor.

So, when you're walking through the woods and think you catch a whiff of root beer, look for a sassafras tree close by. Try to find one of each type leaf, then enjoy a leafy snack. (Personally, I think the mittens taste the best!)



IN REMEMBRANCE: PAGE CUNNINGHAM

Mr. William Page Cunningham, who was an active member of Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) and had served as MAPA President, passed away on May 6, 2011, at the age of 74.

Page was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He was a member of the Irondale Methodist Church (but attended Howard's Chapel on Lookout Mountain while living in Fort Payne) and was a 50 year member of the Irondale Masonic Lodge. Funeral services were held at Howard's Chapel and he was buried in the adjoining cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asked that contributions be made to the charity of your choice. Mr. Cunningham is survived by his wife Margaret Cunningham, sons Leslie Page Cunningham of Birmingham and Scott Patrick Cunningham of Atlanta, daughter Stacy Frazier and husband Reid of Birmingham and step-daughters Dianna Lynn (Tim) Upton, LeeAnn (Greg) Ratcliff, and Tammy (Robin) Keenon, and 12 grandchildren. (Information courtesy of Wilson Funeral Home, Fort Payne, AL)



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North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Department Open House

On Saturday June 18, 2011 there was smoke drifting in the air at the new Alpine fire station on County Road 165. It was not an emergency. It was deliciously-roasted hot dogs and hamburgers being served by our volunteer fire department to the crowd gathered to celebrate the opening of the brand new station. The afternoon was sunny and bright and the families gathered to view the very impressive new 3,000 square-foot building.



J.P. Nation, out-going treasurer of Mentone Area Preservation Association, presented Chief Joseph Lee with a donation of \$10,000 for the purchase of a new fire truck. NLMVFD Board members David Tucker, Chuck Lawley, Bob Crow and Gus Spahr were present to accept the check. MAPA parliamentarian Amelia Kirk-Lolli was also present. Mr. Nation made an impression with the four-foot-long check (of course there will be a smaller one to deposit in the bank).

The building is almost complete; and has been constructed with most labor provided by our dedicated firemen. It has three bays, storage galore and an office, bathrooms, and kitchen area that are still under construction. The project is debt-free. It will serve the community on the edge of our town, as well as the Alpine area. The property was once owned by Ms. Dorothy Crow, who sold the property at a very under market price to help the community.

This new station exemplifies the spirit of cooperation between the public servants, citizens and leaders of our community. Mentone is indeed a very unique and wonderful place to live. MAPA continues to be a viable part of that spirit. (article and photo submitted by Sandra Padgett)

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The Mentone Farmers' Market

is open all summer on Wednesday evenings from 3 PM- 6PM and Saturday mornings 10 AM - 1 PM. The non-profit market is a place for local growers to sell their produce and a resource for education on the advantages of sustainable local food production as well as providing a setting for the community to access fresh, nutritious and delicious local produce.

Local, Local, Local-you are always guaranteed locally-grown and produced products at your local year-round, producer-only market. Look for the Buy Fresh Buy Local sign. Pledge to buy local vegetables to enter the \$10 market bucks drawing. Local artists are welcome to show and sell their creations at the bi-weekly market.

New this season, EBT/SNAP benefits can be used at the farmers market. Go to the information booth for processing. Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers are accepted by most growers at the Mentone Farmers' Market. If you know a senior who needs help applying for the SFMNP vouchers on line, send them to the market for on line access.

In the month of July, there will be a lot of vegetables to choose from: squash, cucumbers, potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, egg plant, kale, corn, garlic, watermelon, cantaloupe, green beans, peaches, berries, herbs and more. Each market also offers eggs, honey, sorghum, breads, baked goods, humus, cookies, jams and jellies. Grass fed pork and beef are often at the market and you can order pasture-raised chickens.

Recipe for July:

Green Bean Salad with Feta Crumbles

3/4 cup olive oil	1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
1 clove garlic, minced	1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper	2 lbs fresh green beans, trimmed
1 small red onion, thinly sliced	4 ounce feta cheese, crumbled

In a jar add oil, vinegar, garlic, salt and pepper. Shake to emulsify & Set aside. Steam green beans for 12 minutes or until crisp-tender. Immediately place beans in cold water. Drain and pat dry. Combine beans, onions and cheese in a large bowl. Toss well. Pour on oil mixture, cover and chill for 1 hour. Yield: 8 servings.

The non profit market sponsors many events through out the summer. July will be the biggest tomato contest month. To enter, bring in the biggest tomato from your garden for weighing. The last Wednesday of July we'll announce the winner and present the \$100 prize. Tomato sandwich tasting will be part of the day. 3rd Wednesday of the month is a cooking demo, using the offerings at the market. This month there will be several ice cream socials, come join your friends for home made ice cream and other goodies.

There's cold water and coffee at the information booth. Dekalb County Master Gardeners man the booth and have gardening information, recipes and can answer gardening questions.

Come see us rain or shine in the square next to the Mentone Inn. If it's raining, we're on the pavilion behind the Inn. For additional information contact Les Rivett 256-657-7247.

Follow us on Facebook at North Sand Mountain Farmers Market and on the web at www.mountainmarket.org.

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MENTONE - Pole Cat Hollow - Remodeled 2 bedroom rustic cabin, living and dining combo has cathedral ceiling, kitchen with ceramic tile countertops, utility, CH&A, front porch, deck, wooded 1.78 acre tract. \$125,000 (20701)



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ENJOY LIFE UNINTERRUPTED in this custom built log get-away on 4 secluded acres. Loft BR and 1BA with wood floors offering a cozy atmosphere and a front rocking chair porch complete the picture. Hurry before someone buys the cabin of your dreams for only \$125,000. (20551)



COZY COUNTRY CHARM in downtown Mentone - 2/3BR-1BA with antique foot tub, living/dining combo, pine floors and walls, rock fireplace, and CH&A. (Add'l lots available.) House and Lot 11 - \$101,900 (20961)



COZY CABIN IN THE WOODS! 2BR/1BA! Log siding exterior with metal roof, wood floors and walls, rock fireplace, and bath with large jetted tub. Nice side deck with hot tub for relaxing and enjoying nature. Selling FULLY FURNISHED. \$99,500 (20992)



MOUNTAIN ROCK AND HARDWOODS surround this cozy Log Cabin on Lookout Mountain. Wood burning cast iron stove in the great room, eat-in kitchen, and loft provides a second bedroom. Master bedroom and bath on main level. Amenities to numerous to mention here. \$199,900 (20869)



INCREDIBLE BROW HOME offers three levels to enjoy the gorgeous view. Kitchen has b'fast bar and stainless appliances. MBR has private deck, fireplace and wood walls and ceilings. Outside enjoy the stacked rock FP/bog grill, patio and decks. Come see this unbelievable home today! \$589,000 (15736)



BEAR CLAU LODGE offers 3BR/3.5BA, stacked rock fireplace, vaulted ceiling, full appliance package, granite countertops, outdoor fireplace, spacious living areas with plenty of entertaining space outdoors on 2.2 acres. \$349,900 (21142)



NORTH BROW - Unique log structure that was moved from Georgia. 1BR/1BA, open living space and lots of room for entertaining. 8.3 acres +/- \$279,900 (18256)



Sold



LIVE & PLAY on the water...200' of frontage on the East Fork of Little River. 3BR/2BA, all appliances, wood burning fireplace, storage building and more. \$347,900 (18278)



CUSTOM BUILT LOG CABIN.... situated on 2 lots in Laurel Creek. 2 LARGE BR/2BA, spacious great room with cathedral ceilings, hickory floors, 2-car garage, and fishing dock. \$199,900 (18898)



RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL property located on Hwy. 117 in Mentone is now FOR SALE! Approx. 1350 +/- sq-ft. Room for expansion on this 1.36 + acre lot. ONLY \$142,500 (20377)



LAUREL CREEK.... Custom home offering 2BR/2BA, comfortable living/dining area w/cathedral ceilings, rock fireplace, over 800' of screened porches, and access to 3 lakes. \$194,500 (18918)



LOVE PEACE AND PRIVACY? Own this secluded streamside 3BR/2BA cabin with two-story family room, fireplace, kitchen w/island, appliance package, and dining area. 3.17 acre property \$259,900 (21135)



SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD... UNIQUE "round" cabin offering an open living space, 2BR/1BA, most all furnishings, 9.58 acres and SPECTACULAR views of the valley and mountains beyond. \$295,000 (20120)



THIS IS IT!!! Custom 3BR/2.5BA, BONUS room, living w/fireplace, kitchen/dining combo, above-ground pool w/deck, 1 acre, overlooking pond. \$219,000 (20051)



RED BIRD ROOST.... Less than 1 block from downtown Mentone and Brow Park, you'll find this lovely 2BR/2BA log cabin. Log and pine walls and floors throughout. Stone WB FP. Cozy screen porch with sunset views plus an outdoor grill area, 100' of brow frontage. \$289,900 (21126)



FEELS SO RIGHT! 3BR/2BA Cabin offering spacious floor plan, attic storage, soaring ceilings. Main-level master, stainless steel appliances. Laundry room, and covered porch. \$169,000 (21114)



LAKE ON THE BROW!! This 1.6 acre property is a must see! 3BR/3BA, completely remodeled kitchen with hickory cabinets & SS appliances. Dining area with exit to rear deck overlooking the lake, finished walk-out basement, and so much more! \$259,900 (20977)



CUSTOM BUILT, 2 BR/2BA Log Cabin situated on shaded, woodland acres. Two stone fireplaces, luxurious loft, 3 season sleeping porch, detached storage, additional small cabin, lily pond, kitchen with 5 Star six burner gas range, Ambiance/quality/privacy/dramatic flair. \$299,500 (20272)



A PLACE FOR YOUR OWN CANOE! Border the West Fork of Little River. Large kitchen with pantry, b'fast bar, and sitting area adjacent to indoor and outdoor dining rooms. 6BR/3.5BA, 2 living areas, laundry, sleeping porches, outside shower, mtn stone FP and more. A MUST SEE! \$799,000 (16467)



HANDCRAFTED WOODWORK is found throughout this 2BR/2BA mountain home. Features great room with cathedral ceiling, full front and back porch, & large utility room. Located in Laurel Creek Lakes with access to 3 lakes and walking trails. \$179,500 (19135)

BUILDING LOT (.59) on DeSoto Parkway near The Cliffs. \$25,900 (21143)

BROW LOT! Gorgeous views all around from this beautiful 1 +/- acre lot in Mentone. \$158,900 (21131)

3 +/- ACRES on the East Fork of Little River. \$142,500 (17568)

GREAT BUILDING LOT situated inside the city limits of Mentone. Property has an existing storage building and split rail fence. \$79,900 (19860)

BROKEN DAM @ LAHUSAGE! Located atop Lookout Mountain on Little River - River tracts offering fantastic year round mountain water, swimming, canoe to Little River Canyon. Private, gated and restricted. (17327)

BREATHTAKING SUNSETS and views await you on this 6.5 acres w/300' of brow frontage. \$345,900 (17268)

START YOUR NEW HOME HERE IN MENTONE, ALABAMA! The possibilities are endless as you explore these 3 acres. The entire rear of the property rests on Little River, adding to the features of the

land. Come see all that Mentone has to offer as you plan to build your getaway! \$64,900 each (20577/20578)

43 +/- ACRES IN MENTONE! 800' on Brush Creek. Possible Owner financing available to qualified buyer. \$199,000. (Additional 42 acres available. Purchase both parcels for a total of 85 acres for only \$379,000.) (18729)

TIME WILL STAND STILL when you see this view! 106' of prime brow view with paved road frontage. Walking distance to downtown Mentone - walk to dinner or have an ice cream cone. Level and ready to build. All Mentone city services available. \$109,500 (21055)

Salute To Camp - Camp Riverview A Letter From A Camp Mom

Dear Susan,

I wanted to take a moment and share with you my heart in regards to Riverview; the counselors and the impact they have made in the lives of my three girls.

Let me start with a short story. Many (11) years ago when we were trying to determine where to send our children to school we attended an open house at the school we ultimately chose. While there, one of the Dads gave an analogy of a child being a three legged stool and in order for that stool to be stable each leg had to be strong. Those legs are one: home, two: church and three: school. When I share with others about Riverview I explain that my girls' lives are composed of a four legged stool and the fourth leg is Camp Riverview. My girls are strong and confident not just from what they have learned from me or their daddy, not just from what they have learned at their Christian school and not just from what they have learned at church. My girls are also strong and confident because of how you and the counselors at Riverview pour into them every summer. I don't know how you pour into them, I only know you do. They come home stronger, more confident, and wiser. Basically, just more amazing than when they left for camp.

My oldest is 16 and, sadly, this is her last year as a camper but hopefully, not her last year at camp. When she stops and thinks about this being her last year, she literally tears up. She LOVES camp. She LOVES the people at camp. She LOVES everything about camp. Camp is where she goes to be free — free from being a teenager, free from me and her dad and our expectations, free from peer pressure, free from stress — simply put, FREE from LIFE and all that comes with it. For her, camp is the happiest place on earth, not Disney World.

You have counselors who have impacted her (as well as my other girls) in such amazingly positive ways. You have counselors who no longer work at camp, who have basically aged out (so to speak) who continue to pour into her, continue to mentor her, continue loving her and have been doing it beautifully for 6-7 years. As a Mom there aren't too many places I can go to find good Godly young women I can hold up as role models for my girls. Girls that I would be proud to lead my daughters, advise them, guide them, basically help grow them into good Godly young women. As a Mom, I have found that

at Riverview. I don't know if your counselors have any idea of the impact they make each day they hug one of those girls, each day they help someone not be so homesick, each day they brush wet hair, each day they shake their head in dismay, each day they have to intervene in some girl drama, or each day they pour out God's love. The impact they make is HUGE!! I believe God uses the hands and hearts of those at Riverview to touch my girls in ways indescribable by mere words.

I LOVE YOU ALL, those I know and those I don't. Each of you is incredibly special. Each of you is a gift from God. Thank You for being there for them, 24/7 and I don't just mean when they are AT camp. Thank you for the Love. Thank you for the guidance, Thank you for the good advice. Thank you for the text messages. Thank you for the phone calls. Thank you for the prayers. Thank you for the encouragement. Thank you for the journey, it has been and continues to be AMAZING!!

All my Love and then some J

Tammy Robinson
A Mom from Atlanta



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Salute To Camps - Skyline and Laney

The Bridge To Mentone

By Joy Clark Langley

Last fall, while standing on the bridge that crosses Little River connecting senior campers and owners to Camp Skyline property, my thirteen-year-old grandson posed the question, "Meme, when you were a camper at Skyline did you ever think that one day you would have a house in Mentone?"

I had to admit real estate would not have been first and foremost in my preteen brain. In those days I had other pressing issues to consider such as whether or not my partners-in-crime and I could row our canoe fast enough to sneak-a-peek at the boys of Camp Laney AND manage to return before the ringing of the next activity bell.



Or, I might have been deep in thought, speculating about possible places of concealment for the famed "golden horseshoe". The horseshoe was hidden by counselors at the beginning of each session. The person who found it gained instant camp-wide notoriety and 1000 bonus points for their club: the Mounties, Rangers or Troopers.

As an adult, I have been blessed to be able to return to those memories and to Mentone. In 2009, my husband and I invested in this mountain mecca and completed our own cabin by the river, aptly named "Riverbend." Our grandson attends Camp Laney annually and holds the prestigious pedigree of being a third-generation camper. This strengthens our connection with, and love for, this corner of Alabama.

This connection with Lookout Mountain began in the 1950's as my family fled the polio epidemic in our hometown of Montgomery. Children and elderly were deemed more susceptible to

polio. As a result, my grandmother chaperoned the children of our family to Mentone. We were refugees from the South seeking asylum and cooler weather in a disease-free environment.

Then, as now, the summers in Montgomery were filled with oppressive humidity, thick enough for you to run a knife through. Because of this and the lack of any qualitative data about how polio was spread, doctors and city officials made attempts to close all possible pathogen vents in hopes of blocking exposure and the further spread of the disease. There was no air conditioning and Montgomery officials enforced mandatory closure of local swimming pools and recommended daily rest periods for all children and elderly citizens.

My parents complied with these guidelines while I, as a ten-year-old student seeking summer fun, self-righteously fumed with disappointment at these seemingly-senseless rules. I even went so far as to voice my frustration to Mother and confidently proclaimed, "I have decided I would rather be back in school than follow these rules!" My mother probably felt the exact same way!

That summer, my grandmother and her sister made the fortuitous decision to head north to "The Mountain" to escape the horrid heat and any lingering viruses in Montgomery. These visits became tradition and it was on one of these that my family discovered the summer camps in the Mentone area.

The grandmothers vacationed at several quaint hotels located on the mountain: The Mentone Springs Hotel, Mentone Inn, Nippersink and Riverside. The latter, Riverside, stood proudly across the river from Camp Skyline, (eventually this hotel

was absorbed by the camp and still remains the perfect place to cater and/or corral senior campers.)

Being the oldest grandchild, I was given the honor of going to camp first in our family. Proudly, my friends and I would parade to Skyline and stay for a month without looking back. My younger cousins had to wait with envy and listen to all our enhanced camp stories until they were "of age." The girls in my family eventually followed me to Camp Skyline while their brothers were dropped off at the boys' camps, Laney and Alpine.

Our family camp adventures have become legend and have made indelible marks upon the collective chapters of our memories.

I must admit, though, my favorite summer took place after my freshman year in college when I returned to spend yet another summer in Mentone. I was finally an official, card-carrying, *Camp Skyline Counselor*, Nightrider, assigned to mentor and care for the girls of Brookwood and Roundhouse cabins. I never felt taller that summer than the session my younger cousins returned to Skyline as lowly campers. I had made it full circle and the elevated status of "counselor" lived up to my every expectation.

The experience of going away to summer camp was a vital part in my life that molded my confidence and nurtured my independence as a young woman. I am convinced the ritual opened doors for me to feel secure in selecting to attend college in Memphis, where I didn't know a soul.

Over the years I have been reacquainted with people from all over the South who went to camp in Mentone, Alabama. Often, someone will overhear a conversation where I mention going to Mentone and their reaction is, "I went to camp in Mentone and I loved it!"

As my two children came "of age" for camp, I reconnected with Camp Skyline and Camp Laney. They continued the summer tradition and both spent several seasons enjoying the same activities I did as a camper. They would anxiously await the summer and another session at camp. Like myself, long after their camper days were over and both were in college, alumni from their camp days would resurface and often friendships were ignited from a shared camp memory as the spark.

So, now our grandson carries forth our tradition and at the age of thirteen will return to Camp Laney for his fifth summer. He has friends he looks forward to seeing each summer. He keeps up with them throughout the school year and even runs into them (literally) at Auburn games with their families.

To deepen our family's Mentone roots, our son (from Charlotte, NC) has bought the lot next to ours and is building his own cabin by the River with the help of local craftsmen. The peaceful environment of Lookout Mountain, the healthy culture of music and community in Mentone, still appeals to him as an adult.

In response to the original question, it is true, I did have other things on my mind as a young girl. But standing there on that familiar camp bridge I knew the warm memories drew me back to this familiar Mentone life year after year. I feel as if a part of me did know that some day I would return to this mountain and stand on that bridge, that was and continues to be held as vital to generations of women and men. At this time in my life, I may be standing on the opposite shore, but I will always be able to see the other side of that bridge through my memories, my children and my grandchildren.

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Out And About - MENTONE

Camp Moon Lake at the Library



(photo by Heather Nicely)

Have you noticed the new Wildflower Café sign? It took quite a lot of doing, but the huge logs were finally put into place with a crane and the result is perfect! Congratulations, Wildflower, on your new sign!



"BREAKING NEWS"

By Patricia Shavers

Don't you just love cable news? It's such an improvement over the old dull kind. You know what I mean. Old Huntley and Brinkley and Cronkite, they were so bland, no emotion in their voices when telling us what happened that day. You couldn't even tell what their opinion was of whatever news event they were covering. B-O-R-I-N-G.

Now with all these cable news stations, you can just pick out the one that sees things your way, reinforcing what you already figured, what your instincts already told you. Sometimes, if you're like me, you probably say to yourself, "I just knew thus-and-so was going to happen if things kept going along like they have been going."

And here's another thing about the way the cable delivers the news these days. Their body language tells you right off how they feel about a subject. Not like the old school boys. Nowadays the folks that deliver the news have very noticeable facial expressions. For example, if they frown or have a furrowed brow their body language tells you right off how they feel about the story. They can have a sad look, a happy, a surprised look, a disgusted look and gosh knows how many more.

And there's another thing that's different from that boring old news we used to get. The old news guys were very stingy with their adjectives and adverbs. They hardly ever said, "always" or "never" or "scary" or any of those words that let you know up front in the newscast what the viewer's appropriate response should be. Someone once said, "You can tell a lot about a man by the adjectives and adverbs he uses."

But I must admit there is one thing that bugs me about the cable news. It's when they flash up a banner meant to stop you in your tracks. When the words, "BREAKING NEWS" flashes across the screen I used to assume they meant, "Hey guys, this is a big deal! LISTEN UP!"

But seems to me that over the years the standard for what I used to think was "BREAKING NEWS" has become a little lax. For example when I see "BREAKING NEWS" - CELEBRITY SO-AND-SO HAS DONE THUS-AND-SUCH, or "BREAKING NEWS" - POLITICIAN WHAT'S-HIS-NAME HAS DONE SOMETHING STUPID OR CRAZY," implying because of what he did we are all going to h--- in a hand basket, I, for one, don't think of this as "BREAKING NEWS" since some of this happens pretty near every day. I dare say some of it would not even have made it into the old-timey thirty minutes a day we used to get before cable news.

What bothers me the most about how low the bar has been set for "BREAKING NEWS" is sort of like the problem of the little boy who loved to cry, "WOLF! WOLF!" all the time just to see the townspeople come-a running when there was really no wolf at all. The townspeople got tired of his tricks and started ignoring his cries. So when he really saw a wolf and cried "WOLF! WOLF!" nobody came to rescue him 'cause they figured it was just another one of his tricks. As you know, the story did not end well.

So if anybody knows anybody in charge of cable news you might want to suggest they start making sure when the banner flashes "BREAKING NEWS" across the screen, it better be important or else we all might start flipping to the Weather Channel 'cause that's at least a little piece of information we might find helpful, like finding out if we need to take our umbrella when we go to the store.

Farewell Kathryn Tucker Windham

Kathryn Tucker Windham, master storyteller, author of 25 books, and public radio personality, died June 12, 2011 at her home in Selma, AL. She was 93.

Mrs. Windham's weekly commentary on Alabama Public Radio was a favorite with our family each Saturday morning. One of our favorite phrases is a quote from Mrs. Windham, "No real Southern cook evah puts sugah in her cornbread." Of course, one has to be listening to Ms. Windham to catch that delightful drawl.

She is probably best known for her collections of ghost stories, aimed particularly at young readers, but enjoyed by readers of all ages. The first one was 13 Alabama Ghosts and Jeffery, published in 1969.

Mrs. Windham was born in Selma on June 2, 1918 to a banker father and teacher mother and grew up in Thomasville. In 1946, she married Amasa Benjamin Windham, and they had three children.

She is survived by her son, Amasa Benjamin, Jr. and daughter Dilcy Hilley. Her husband and daughter Kathryn (Kitt) Windham preceded her in death. She was buried in Selma.



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Hats off to MERF to "Leave Me In Mentone"!

The style quota has been reached in Mentone with the great new "Leave Me in Mentone" baseball caps to complement the "Leave Me in Mentone" t-shirts. Many cars are looking cool too with the "Mentone on the Mountain" car tags now available. The MERF (Mentone Educational Resources Foundation) board is so excited about their new sale items and hope that everyone will agree.

Why should you support MERF?

Confident that a committed group of individuals can make a difference, local citizens established the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF) in 1993 with the first project being the purchase of the community house. As a non-profit, MERF continues to honor its mission statement, which is "To enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." The community house is used by many for special occasions, for meetings, for piano lessons and for the community Easter egg hunt. Some of the main programs offered by MERF include free tutoring after school, senior lunches at the MERF house, scholarships for college and technical degrees, teacher workshops, in house field trips and an Arts program at Moon Lake School. The MERF board is so appreciative of the rich and varied support offered by others in the community through their time, expertise and even finances. To supplement its one fundraising letter distributed in December, the MERF board sells "Mentone on the Mountain" auto tags as well as "Leave Me In Mentone" t-shirts and baseball caps in an assortment of colors. For those who want to support MERF's desire to build a healthy, vital community, these items can be purchased at Little River Hardware, Mentone Market, the Forge Gallery, DeSoto State Park country store and Mountain Laurel Inn Bed and Breakfast. Also, become a fan of MERF on facebook. For more information, contact MERF at www.merf.mentone@gmail.com or call Sarah Wilcox at 256-634-4673.



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A Birday Party by Patricia Shavers

Hello Mr. Chickadee.
I see you, do you see me?
Come on by and have some seed.
I've got plenty, all you need.

With your black cap, prim and neat
So distinguished, head to feet,
You're a pleasure on my deck.
Rest a minute. What the heck?

Hello titmouse. How are you?
When you're in my field of view
Makes me smile and makes me happy.
You're a sight, so quick and scrappy.

With your feathers soft and thick,
You're so crafty, you're so quick.
You will get your share, no doubt.
You will never do without.

Nuthatch you are such a clown,
Always walking upside down.
It would make me awful dizzy.
I would get in such a tizzy!

Wonder why you walk like that?
And as quiet as a cat,
Upside down is quite a trick.
Once I saw you eat a tick!

My son called me on the phone,
Worried I was all alone.
No, Dear Son, I'm hale and hearty.
Come on down and join the party!



July 1-3 - Art Gallery @ Mentone Grand Opening



Joyce and Robert Hoffman invite you to the Art Gallery @ Mentone, in the cabin across from the Post Office. Open every Friday through Sunday from noon to 5PM through the summer. Grand Opening this weekend, with a bunch of new art and artists (and refreshments). See website ArtGallery.Mentone.com.

might need a ladder

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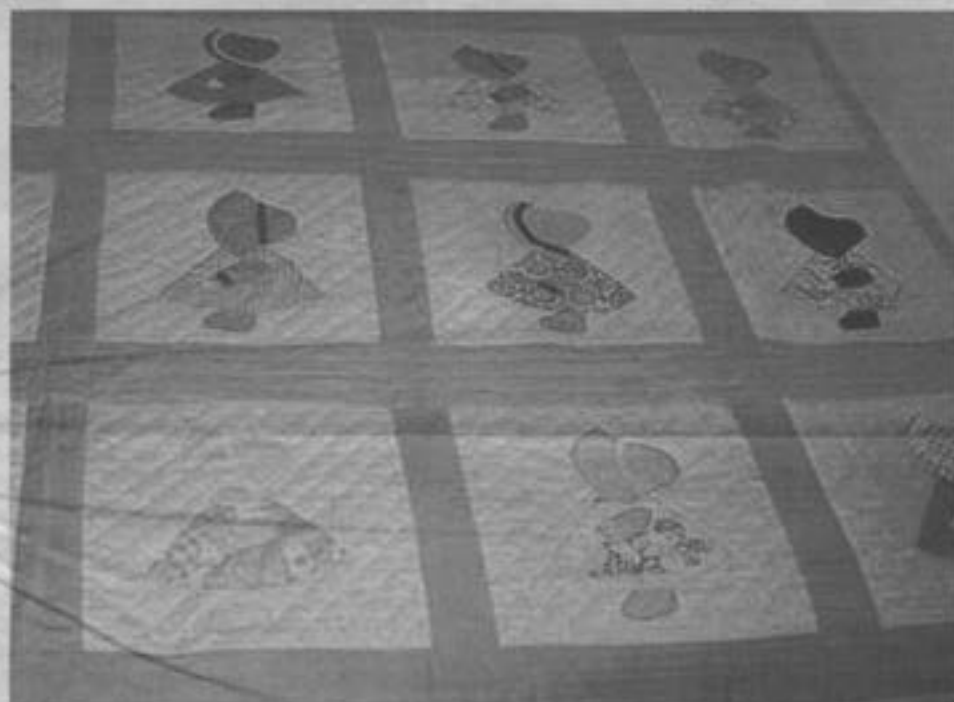
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PUBLIC NOTICE

THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL urge all businesses in Mentone to maintain the sidewalk and walkway areas near their businesses. Keeping the areas neat will not only beautify their businesses, but it will also serve to lower risk of accidents that may occur when views are obstructed for drivers and pedestrians. This will also serve to remove weeds where snakes may take shelter.

Business owners are also urged to remind their customers (especially those with children) that Hwy 117 is a major highway and to use caution when crossing or walking along the roadway. Notices have been posted in some area businesses, but reminders won't hurt.

We want to keep Mentone beautiful and make it a pleasant, safe experience for our visitors.



QUILT TRADITION TO CONTINUE AT COLORFEST 2011

A hand-made "Dutch Doll" quilt will be given away at this year's Mentone Colorfest, October 15th-17th, 2011. Mrs. Clara Bridgeman, of Valley Head, is currently working on the quilt. Chances will be sold prior to and during Colorfest, which is always the third weekend in October. Tickets will be for sale in the coming months. Check the upcoming Groundhog for ticket information. (Photo for illustration only. Actual quilt will vary.)

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By Charlotte Gentry

Rhonda Howell was looking for a place to showcase the creative iron-work of her husband Walter Howell, blacksmith. Doreen Waters had begun to feel overwhelmed with maintaining the Crows Nest antique business and the Hitchin' Post building.

An idea was formulated, a space was found and The Forge Gallery became a reality. Through the efforts of these two creative, energetic and intelligent women, Mentone now has a venue for some of the region's most sought-after artisans.

On the advice of Mark Elacqua (formerly of the Mentone Springs Hotel), Rhonda approached Doreen about renting the vacant space in the back of the Hitchin' Post (where The Dish restaurant had been) just to have a storefront for Walter's work.

"Well, when we moved in back there, I asked four or five people who I had worked with if they wanted to put

more artisans wanted to have their work in the gallery. It quickly became apparent they were going to need more space. Doreen invited Rhonda to extend The Forge Gallery into the Crows Nest.

Doreen, youngest daughter of Homer and Bernise Crow, says she never actually intended to have a gallery in the Crows Nest. "It was an emotional decision," she says. "I think it was meant to be. Rhonda was an answer to prayer."

Crow passed away in 2006. "I think I kept it going in her memory. It's like my flowers, every time I work with them I think of her. She was a Master Gardener."

Rhonda sees the impact the gallery has had on her husband's business. "Walter's work is progressing in ways he'd never considered." She believes it has had the same effect on some of the other artists, too. "They're excited about their



She has injected fresh energy into this building and me. Our strengths and weaknesses balance each other. She has experience in areas I know nothing about and she is always coming up with creative marketing ideas."

"This (the Crows Nest) was my mother's passion. It was hers; the one thing in her life that was just hers." Beatrise



work again." "I see this place as a stepping stone for the artists," Rhonda says. "Young, potential artists, growing on what was already here. Established artists mentoring young ones. I want to hold classes here. I see it growing and evolving."

It seems to have rejuvenated Doreen's love for the antiques business as well. "I am enjoying it again. I don't feel like I'm tied to it. I can work with my flowers if I feel like it, or I can do target buying for that special item someone has been looking for."

She adds, "We're finding more and more of a connection between our markets. People who appreciate antiques also appreciate handmade arts."

Rhonda has added extra touches such as gift wrapping, shipping and a bridal registry. She feels very strongly about customer service and goes out of her way to be sure



customers are satisfied, even if it means meeting them at odd hours for that last-minute wedding gift.

The Forge Gallery provides endless gift possibilities with its perfect blend of interesting antiques and a wide variety of art. It's easy to find (right there at the corner of Hwy 117 and Scenic DeSoto Parkway), has great parking (behind the building), the place is beautifully landscaped (Doreen's handiwork) and you never know what you'll discover when you take the time to shop locally. It's good for everyone.

theforgegallery.com
256-634-4548

some stuff in there," says Rhonda. "It was like shootin' fish in a barrel up here!" she adds, referring to the number of artists and craftsmen in the area. Walter's business, in Rhonda's words, "blossomed and bloomed." More and

