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THE GROUNDHOG

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Volume 14, No. 6

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

June 1996

ALMA CRABTREE: MENTONE LEGEND HAS WORN MANY HATS

By Rovene Truett

Alma Ruth (Biddle) Crabtree celebrated her 90th Birthday with a party at the Fellowship Hall of the Moon Lake Baptist Church in Mentone. Over a hundred friends and family came to celebrate with her on Mother's Day, May 12, 1996.

Alma, born May 15, 1906, in Stamp, Ala., was the fifth of 10 children of Andrew Napoleon "Poley" Biddle (1874-1956) and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Durham (1879-1940). Her parents were married Oct. 24, 1896, in DeKalb County, Ala. Her siblings were: Florence Ester Biddle Edwards (deceased); James Marvin Biddle (deceased); Mattie Elizabeth Biddle Stoner (deceased); Myrtle Louella Biddle Smith, Bradford (deceased); Jesse Napoleon "Johnny" Biddle; William Judson "Bill" Biddle (deceased); Gertrude Pearl Biddle Melton; Laura Mae Biddle Clark; and Robert Archibald "Archie" Biddle.

Alma said, "We homesteaded 80 acres of land in Stamp, Ala. (the High Point Community), and grew our own food. We lived in an old log house and had a separate building where the cooking and eating was done."

At the age of 18, Alma went to work at National Yarn (later, Standard Coosa Thatcher) in Rossville, Ga. While working there, she met and married Jesse James Crabtree (March 1, 1930). Jesse was born and grew up in the Poplar Springs Community of DeKalb County, and worked at a stove foundry in Chattanooga as a grinder. To help care for Jesse's parents in Poplar Springs, they moved back to Henagar. Jesse farmed and operated an auto repair shop for a number of years. Selling the farm, the couple moved to Mentone and lived on Dr. Cantrell's farm for a few years, and finally bought the home where Alma and son, Jesse, live today.

A devoted Christian, Alma taught Sunday School for several years at Moon Lake Baptist Church, where she is a member. One of the many gifts Mrs. Crabtree received at the party was a replica of her beloved church, Moon Lake Baptist, made by Bob and Barbara Nancarrow.

Alma loves to sew, crochet, knit, and now makes items for gifts and for sale at the local arts and crafts exhibits. She also grows a number of vegetables in her garden. This year, Alma has planted turnip greens, squash, cucumbers, beans, okra, potatoes, tomatoes, and peppers. When she and Jesse got married, they started their first garden--66 years ago, and Alma has had a garden each year since.

The living children of Alma are: Rovene (Wideman) Truett; Dorthy Gene Callaham; and Jesse Napoleon Crabtree. Carleen Crabtree is deceased.

Alma has two grandchildren, of whom she is most proud. Jerry Luther "Jay" Wideman, Jr., the son of Rovene, is married to Paula Frances Brooks. Angela



(L/R) Rovene Truett, Jessie Crabtree, Alma Crabtree, and Dorthy Jean Callaham
Photo taken at Alma's 90th Birthday celebration on Mother's Day, May 12, 1996.

Photo taken by Debra Thornhill, Birmingham

Renea "Angie" Callaham Mallard, the daughter of Dorthy Gene, was married to Russell Earl Mallard, and from that union came two children, Rusty Emanuel Mallard (born 11/2/85) and Chassidy Renea Mallard (born 2/10/88). These great grandchildren bring a lot of joy into Alma's life. (Continued on P. 5.)

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SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Tuesday, June 4, 7 p.m., MAPA Meeting, at Mentone Inn | • Monday, July 1, 7 p.m., City Council Meeting, Town Hall |
| • June 9-15, June Jam Week | • Tuesday, July 2, 7 p.m., MAPA Meeting, Place To Be Announced |
| • Friday, June 14, Flag Day | • Thursday, July 4, Independence Day |
| • Sunday, June 16, Father's Day | |
| • Thursday, June 20, First Day of Summer | |

Look on Page 7 for the "Authentic Civil War Stories from the collection of Grady Hammond."

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THE GROUNDHOG

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THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

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MAPA OFFICERS

President.....Bernise Crow
Vice President.....Jim Lyday
Secretary/Treasurer.....Mickey Gough
Parliamentarian.....Homer Crow
Member-At-Large.....Ed Disney
Member-At-Large.....Donna Bouldin

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

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

The deadline for all material for The Groundhog is the 22nd day of the month preceding publication. The Publication is due out by the first Tuesday of each month.

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAPA PRESIDENT By Bernise Crow



It has been, and still is, the policy of M.A.P.A. to remain non-partisan and non-sectarian. We try to print good news and stay away from offensive topics. Sometimes it is hard to write one's feelings without offending someone, but be sure to know that none of it is intended to hurt anyone. Some comments have been made regarding Mr. Rice's paid ad in last month's publication. We voted at our last meeting to avoid doing material of this kind again. We were within our rights to print the two pages, but some people thought it was not in good taste. We have taken political ads, but have not done anything of this type before.

Printing a paper, however small, does have an impact and we want to produce a good one.

Many have told me how much they enjoy our paper. One man said he read every word of it before he put it down, even the ads. This is what we like to hear.



MAY MAPA MEETING

The Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) meeting was held at the Mentone Town Hall on Tuesday, May 7, at 7 p.m. President, Bernise Crow called the meeting to order and Jim Lyday gave the invocation. The minutes from the April meeting were read by Mickey Gough and approved. The financial report was given and filed. Twenty-four people were present.

The upcoming Rhododendron Festival on May 18 and 19 was discussed. Everything is ready. The beauty pageant takes place on Saturday, May 11. Jack Jones asked Homer Crow to be the parade marshal.

Dessie Newberry of the nominating committee announced that all officers had agreed to serve another year.

A motion was made and carried to give \$75 to the Valley Head Band for performing at the parade on Saturday, May 18.

There was no other old business.

Jim Lyday introduced Talmadge Butler, Superintendent of DeSoto State Park, who had the program. Mr. Butler announced that Canyon Mouth Park was now open, a lot of work having been done, such as campground and sewer system upgraded, and many areas are now ADA accessible. In order to maintain the park systems in Alabama, funds for the upkeep have been provided for in a recent five-year maintenance bill. There are many plans to upgrade DeSoto State Park and make the necessary repairs to existing structures, trails, etc. One of the projects, an ADA boardwalk trail, has received regular contributions from MAPA from the proceeds of the boat rides at DeSoto Falls. It took 4-1/2 years to begin the boardwalk, and at the time of the meeting, 100 feet of the proposed 900 feet have been done. There is a lot of work to be done and with the five-year plan, they hope to increase tourism in Alabama. Talmadge introduced Patty Tucker, the director of the DeKalb Tourist Association, who said the association had plans to purchase the Times Cafe in Fort Payne for a Tourist Bureau. It is close to the interstate and accessible to everyone. They hope to have the bureau in operation by the fall of this year.

A question and answer period followed. Talmadge Butler stated that the Gulf Mays stone would be replaced at Tutwiler Gap. It has been stored at the park since the State required its removal during the building of the rock wall.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, and refreshments served.

The next MAPA meeting is Tuesday, June 4, at 7 p.m. at the Mentone Inn. The meeting place has been changed due to the elections. The July meeting is on the first Tuesday, July 2, at 7 p.m., at the Mentone Town Hall.

MESSAGE FROM MICKEY AND SHERMAN GOUGH

Donna Hair of Ft. Payne was the lucky winner of the quilt given away at the Rhododendron Festival. The quilt, a queen size in the Log Cabin design, was raffled off at 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 19. The winning number was picked out by the 1996 Rhododendron Queen. Donna was not present at the drawing, but was very pleased when called later at home. She said she had purchased the ticket late Saturday afternoon. She picked the quilt up at the Hitching Post the next week.

We want to thank Lola Mae Blalock for the lovely quilt and all the people who supported the raffle.

CLASSIFIEDS

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age of Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

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Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

LOST DOG - Sheltie (small collie), answers to "Sheltie," lost in Mentone area. Call 634-4485 if you have seen or know anything of the whereabouts of this dog.

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NORTH LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 154, Mentone, AL 35984

"Open Letter to Community"

Due to the lack of funds taken in by the Volunteer Fire Department this past year, we find it necessary to call upon you, the members of our community, for your assistance. Even though 1995 was a good year, we didn't accomplish all that we had set out to do. Several fund-raising events were held, but attendance was low and we did not meet our goal. It is through your support and generous donations that the Volunteer Fire Department is able to keep operating.

The department is a non-profit organization that is dependent on the community for its well-being. There is a lot of hard work in keeping a volunteer fire department operational, especially in a small community such as Mentone. We are a state organization and are not subsidized by the Town of Mentone. We receive a yearly check from the Forestry Commission, which is used to pay the insurance on the vehicles. This year, we were fortunate to receive a \$500.00 donation from the DeKalb County Commission. We hope that this will become an annual contribution.

The monthly expenses for the department are utility bills, including heat to keep the pumps and tanks from freezing in the winter, and maintenance costs and repair bills on the trucks and radios. Due to the age of the trucks and radios these costs are rising each year. Because of their age, it is hard to find someone to repair them and to find parts that are needed. Insurance costs have risen substantially also.

The Board of Directors and the Volunteer Firemen are working to raise the funds needed to update the equipment. In getting the equipment updated, it could possibly mean that the #9 rating Mentone is now under could be reduced. This would result in a better rating which would lower the cost of your home owner's insurance.

An older model Chevrolet truck was recently purchased by the department. It is to be equipped and used as a First Responder truck. This truck will have a water tank with pump and carry all emergency tools, including the Jaws-of-Life and accessories. This truck will enable the volunteers to respond more quickly in emergency situations. The department is hoping to get this truck in operation soon to take some of the wear and tear off of the older trucks. An addition to the building will also have to be made to house this truck, especially in the winter months.

An Open House will be held at the Fire Hall on Sunday, June 23 from 2-4 p.m. We would like for everyone to come by, have some refreshments, meet the members of the Board of Directors, the Volunteer Firemen, and see what we have accomplished and what we hope to accomplish. This is our way of saying, "Thank You" to the community for the support we receive.

A yard and bake sale will be held at the Fire Hall in Mentone Saturday, June 8, from 9 a.m. until all is sold. Last year's "50's Dance" was so successful that we are planning another one this year. Make your poodle skirts, get out the hula hoops and watch for the date.

If you wish to donate, please make checks payable to: North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District or NLMFPD and mail to: P.O. Box 154, Mentone, AL 35984.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

By Gail Chambers,
Chairman of the Board of Directors

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10 TIPS FOR FIRE SAFETY

1. INSTALL SMOKE DETECTORS. Smoke detectors can alert you to a fire in your home in time for you to escape, even if you are sleeping. Install detectors on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area. Test detectors every month and replace batteries once a year.

2. PLAN YOUR ESCAPE FROM FIRE. If a fire breaks out in your home, you have to get out fast. To prepare, sit down with your family and agree on an escape plan. Be sure everyone knows at least two unobstructed exits--doors and windows--from every room. Decide on a meeting place outside where everyone will meet after they escape. Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

3. KEEP AN EYE ON SMOKERS. Careless smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths in North America. Never smoke in bed or when you are drowsy. Provide smokers with large, deep, non-tip ashtrays and soak butts with water before discarding them.

4. COOK CAREFULLY. Never leave cooking unattended. Turn pot handles inward on the stove where you can't bump them and children can't grab them. If grease catches fire in a pan, slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames and turn off the heat source. Keep lid on until pan is completely cooled.

5. GIVE SPACE HEATERS SPACE. Keep portable and space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Keep children and pets away from heaters and never leave heaters on when you leave home or go to bed.

6. MATCHES AND LIGHTERS -TOOLS, NOT TOYS. In a child's hand, matches and lighters can be deadly. Buy child-resistant lighters and store all matches and lighters up high, where kids can't see or reach them, preferably in a locked cabinet.

7. COOL A BURN. Run cool water over a burn for 10 to 15 minutes. If the burned skin blisters or is charred, see a doctor immediately.

8. USE ELECTRICITY SAFELY. If an electric appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it immediately, then have it serviced before using it again. Replace any electrical cord that is cracked or frayed.

9. CRAWL LOW UNDER SMOKE. During a fire, smoke and poisonous gases rise with the heat. The air is cleaner near the floor. If you must escape through smoke, crawl on your hands and knees to the nearest exit, keeping your head 12 to 24 inches above the floor.

10. STOP, DROP AND ROLL. If your clothes catch fire, don't run. Stop where you are, drop to the ground, cover your face with your hands, and roll over and over to smother the flames.



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From Between the Counters

By
BRUTUS



Loyal, gentle readers! Great news throughout the land: Channel 31 is showing my magnificent TV piece on an on-going basis. Dearest fan, Norma Williams, beautiful lady that she is, turned on her TV at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, June 2, and there moi was in living color as part of the program, "On The Road with Pierre Kinsey." Loyal fans should look for future times to be posted in the Superette.

Street person Jack Lusk tired to tell moi that only alligators and giant mosquitoes come out of Louisiana. NOT! These adorable lasses just dashed into the Superette from Mandeville, LA. Lauren and Ashley Naquin and Charlotte Brown did a double-take when they came in view of the exquisite canine between the counters. Stricken by awe, the three could only open and close their pretty little mouths with no words coming out. A typical reaction from first-time young flatlanders!

Bill and Delilah Powell, Crawfordville, Fla., were nearly bowled over in the door of the Superette by the fleeing Louisiana belles. The handsome Powell couple had had word of the "Wonder of Mentone" (moi) and traveled afar to view for themselves the imposing figure in the Superette. (No, Al, not you--moi!)

Oh, why moi, Lord. Street Person Willis Blalock is in the Superette begging free coffee again. When will somebody build us a facility for these homeless drifters in Mentone? Perhaps moi could do a fund raiser this summer for such a home.

Look who's back after two years! Wanda and Larry Pettis who came in from Portland, Tenn., to view moi in '94 and came back to see if time had diminished moi's gloriousness. Of course not! If anything, full blown canineness has set in, and moi is more superb than ever with inch-long toe nails.

This is the best time of the day! After enduring adoring slack-mouthed flatlanders all day, it's the children's hour. Megan Smith (5) and Keisha Powell (4) have tip toed into the store with starry eyes to view and give sugar to moi. Only the children are open and guileless enough to show true awe and affection for moi. Bless them.

Pop is having to carry the little ones to their truck since both Megan and Keisha are too glazed eyed to find the door. Like moi always says: true elegance strikes the wee ones hardest of all!

July 4th is coming up. "Remember to purchase your fireworks from the Superette," Al made me say.

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Mentone Grapevine

By
PAT SEYMOUR

Karen Prestwood and Christy Voils, Girl Scout Troop #1012, Mentone, are saluted for their dedication to the young women in our area. They are a part of over 350 girls and 102 adults who participate in Girl Scouting in DeKalb County.

More academic honors for our area scholars: Northeast State's Mu Alpha Theta, the mathematics honor society, inducted Erica Davis, Valley Head, as a new spring member; James Leroy Morgan, Valley Head, was named to the dean's list at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; Lisa McSpadden Shrader, Valley Head, was awarded a Masters Degree from the University of Alabama; Margaret V. Williams, Mentone, Carrie Lee Hixon, Valley Head; Sandra Kay Hulan, Valley Head, and Leroy G. Lacey, Valley Head, were named to the deans list at Jacksonville State; and Carri Lee Hixon was awarded her diploma from Jacksonville State during spring graduation ceremonies. Congratulations all around!

George and Hattie Lide are excited that their daughter Carol Aleski and family will be visiting in Mentone soon. The Aleskis live in Pittsburg, Pa.

Desmond Disney and family have completed their move to Summerville, GA. They will be maintaining two homes: Mentone and Summerville.

Rick Chapman continues to recuperate at home under the watchful eye of son Rick from New Mexico. Betty is on a brief visit to North Carolina, where a grandchild is graduating.

Fraser Cochran, father of Linda Brown, and Jewel Jones were married on Sunday, May 19, 1996, at Howard's Chapel. Grandchildren were the attendants. All the best wishes of the community go with this fine couple!

Bill and JoAnne Cash, celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary on April 19. Congratulations to a super couple.

Cassie "Granny" Cash, mother of Mentone Mayor Max Cash, is in Collinsville Nursing Home, Inc., where she is receiving excellent rehabilitation sessions. Mayor Cash reports that Cassie is quite pleased with the facility and its staff.

The John O'Rear family held its "Under The Big Oak Tree" get together on Sunday, June 2. Friends and family met to "eat and greet" all afternoon.

If you see Bill and Sue Schwarz, you need to know why they're grinning "like a mule that's been eating briars!" Granddaughter Rachel Hamilton from Florida is in Mentone for a long visit with her grandparents at their home on the river.

Buddy and Barbara Vetzal have their lovely home in Mentone for sale. They are moving to Haines City, Fla. to live in Sweetwater Retirement Village in a quiet country setting. Golf, lake fishing, etc., are the things Buddy is looking forward to after his hectic daily life for years. A yard sale Saturday, June 1, netted the couple over \$8,000 to help with the move. We are gonna miss you two!

Norma Williams is responding really well to her three times per week home care nurses. The therapy is helping put her back in great shape, and she's feeling much, much better. Hang in there, pretty lady!

George and Hope Walker have returned from a 10-day tour of England. The trip was a gift from their oldest daughter, JoAnne and her husband, Charles Phillips, of Maine. It was a 46th wedding anniversary gift, and Hope and George stayed in the Barnesdale County Club in Oakham, England. They arrived on a Saturday, and their granddaughter, Gay Gatlin, arrived on a Monday. It was her first trip to England. The countryside was beautiful, and they went into London for a day and toured.

If you ever attend a party with Marshall Orr when cocktail weiners are being served, go EARLY! If you are even 5 min-

utes late, he will have gobbled them all up. Take it from "one who knows."

Deepest sympathy to Hattie and George Lide upon the death of her mother, Mae C. Thompson, in North Carolina, recently.

Congratulations to George Beaube who was elected Vice President of the DeKalb County Republican Party.

On "Pastor's Appreciation Day" at the Mentone Church of God, preacher Ken Shelton mopped up! The congregation gave him a complete new outfit—a suit and all the accessories. The entire next week (Mon-Sat) the ladies brought food to the house so that wife Sandy did not have to cook meals all week. Is that not a great congregation or WHAT?

Maureen Brewer has given Marie Dillenbeck several Spider wort plants to put out in her yard. The lovely blue plants have already taken hold with prolific blooms. That Maureen is one generous lady!

Bessie Moxley was spotted at the Superette recently. She is at her Mentone home for an extended visit. Welcome back, Bessie!

Put Sherman Gough on your Tuesday, June 4, prayer list. That's the day he goes "under the knife" to correct Gastro Esophageal Reflux by laparoscopic surgery in Ft. Payne Medical Center. Dr. Walker will be doing the surgery.

Ilene Green has beaten her fluid problem and reduced her water retention greatly. She is back on her regular schedule and also back on her big motorcycle.

Leland Cox has been removed from home therapy visits and is taking care of himself at home. This past Sunday, June 2, Leland even felt able to attend Sunday School!

The Valley Head Band Boosters would like to thank everyone for their help with the auction this year. Congratulations to Mr. Tom Jones, Jr., who was the winner of the \$1,000 given away at the event.

Thanks a bunch to Pam Dean who "Held Down The Fort" for Lisa Moore while she was gone during her surgery. Pam did a wonderful job, and everyone enjoyed seeing her smiling face every day. She bought something special with her to the office every day. Little Miss Kaitlyn Nicole Dean, who was born on April 5, 1996, weighing 7 lbs. and 4 oz., helped her mom out greeting water customers each day. She was a joy for everyone to see.

Congratulations to all the 1996 graduating seniors from Valley Head High School. We wish them all Good Luck in the future.

Phyllis Lewis has a new grandbaby born on May 15. Phillip McElhaney and Carolyn Keef are the parents of a baby girl, Chassity Elaine McElhaney, 7 lbs. 7 oz., 21 inches long. Margie Ramsey, Valley Head, is the other grandmother.

June 15 will be the day Jennifer Robertson gets married.

The band had its band banquet on May 18 with a dance afterwards. Everyone had a wonderful time.

May 17 was Beth Moore's 13th birthday. She celebrated it with her mom and dad and best friend, Mary Pearson, at Quincys. She received money for her gift to use on her upcoming trip to visit her Great-Uncle in New Jersey.

Tony Ferguson is doing a great job keeping Valley Head beautiful. Tony works for the Town of Valley Head doing all the mowing.

The Valley Head Water Works Board is excited about the new office building being built on the corner of Hwy 117 and School Street. If everything goes as planned, the new office should be ready to move into by September.

Get well wishes and prayers go to Estelle Busby of Hammondville who was operated on in May for removal of tumors.

Corinna Taylor found out just how dangerous it was to get too friendly with a strange dog (chow-chow). The dog snapped at her face and managed to puncture a nostril and upper lip after Corinna made a sudden move.

Patrick McKinney suffered a broken collar bone and a broken knuckle bone during football practice. Thankfully, they did not happen at the same time. Kim McKinney is home from her first year at JSU and can be found working at Foodland in Ft. Payne. Birthday wishes to go little brother Billy McKinney from his family. Birthday wishes also go to Marsha and Kim McKinney. On June 27th, the lady will celebrate her 22nd wedding anniversary.

Jeffrey and Leland Bullock were very happy boys to get a first-time visit from their cousin, Monique Vaughters, who lives in Colorado but is temporarily working in Atlanta. This is her first close encounter with Southerners, and they seemed

to have impressed her, although she said that they like to gossip a little too much. We Southerners call that being friendly and somewhat curious.

There will be a Bullock Reunion at the Sylvania Park on June 22, starting at 8 a.m. til you are exhausted. All Bullocks are invited to attend, many others will be coming in from other states, as well. If you play a musical instrument, bring it along.

"Crossing Many Rivers" by Ralph Hammond of Arab, former poet laureate of Alabama and president of the National Poetry Society, was given the Alabama Book of the Year Award.

Marilyn Blanton Campbell recently attended a birthday party in Gatewood Park at Lake Allatoona in Bartow County, Ga., for Mrs. Sandra Watters Southern, better known as "Sam." Lordy, Lordy, Sam is 40!

A baby shower was given on April 27 for Heath and Melissa Worthey Miller at the American Legion. Melissa received lots of gifts for her baby boy expected around the first of June. Some guests were Gaynell Worthey, Fredia Miler, Mayla Bell, Donna Smith, Deniese Green, Ginny Ballenger, Stephanie Worthey, Sue Smith, Mary and Johnny Smith Jr., Megan Miller, Jason Smith, the guest of honor, and Kim Worthey. Melissa would like to thank everyone who brought a gift or attended.

Congratulations go to Tyler Cooper (13) who received several awards at Ft. Payne Middle School: Top pre-algebra student in 7th grade; placed 6th in top 10 in GPA; tapped for National Junior Honor Society. Other honors include playing on the Braves baseball team, 13-14 year olds, and the team winning first place; working with the Mighty Messenger Puppet Ministries; playing on the AAU basketball team in a tournament against Cullman. His parents are Van and Teresa Cooper of Valley Head.

Congratulations go to Kelly Bunch, daughter of Jim and Leslie Bunch, Valley Head, who was honored for placing 4th in GPA. Kelly is in the Jr. Honor Society, on the swim team, the debate team, the Future Problem Solvers team, the soccer team, the softball team, the basketball team, and is learning to play golf. What a little athlete and scholar!

Several of our 1996 graduates from Valley Head went to Panama City Beach, Fla., after graduation. Some of those include Kayla Bell, Jeffrey Hopper, Josh Goss, Angie Wheat, and several others. Pray for their safe return.

Deepest sympathy to the families of:

- Wallace Beam, 58, who died May 1.
- Jerry Allen Riddle, 41, who died May 13.
- Grace Maria Jones, 96, who died May 29.

Happy late May birthdays to: •2 - Ellen Voils; •3 - Beedie Sears; •4 - Katie Huff; •6 - Phil Harris; •14 - Christy (Miller) Evans; •20 - Jessica McKenzie; •27 - Christy Voils; •10 - Bobby & Lanita Allen, Anniversary.

Happy June Birthdays/Anniversaries to:

- 1 - Sybil Hopper; •2 - Glen Black; •3 - George Westmoreland; •4 - Annie Pearl Bain Watkins; •6 - Anna Young; •7 - Sally Lewis; •9 - Alan and Tricia Black, Anniversary; •10 - Lisa Moore, Michelle Chappell, Joyce Guest; •11 - Evelyn Hunt; •12 - Trudy McKinney; •15 - Campbell Smith; •16 - Lorie Carter; •18 - Krissy & Phil Harris, Anniversary, 2 years; Ashley Langston (13); •20 - Sherry Cox, Murrell Haney; •21 - Trey Kinser (3), Nicky Langston (19); •22 - Jewell Collins; •23 - Jack Johnston, Lucretia Pipenhagen, Luvenia Langston (23); •25 - Thann Owens; •27 - Larry Tripp, Cecil Bridgeman; •28 - Rusty and Angela Chambers, Mrs. Annie Young (85 years young); •29 - Lisa Beene; •30 - Jannel Fraizer, Myrtis Brown, Becky Smith.

Thought for June: In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is NOTHING!



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ALMA CRABTREE: MENTONE LEGEND HAS WORN MANY HATS

(Continued From Page 1)

Information for the story found on page one, was supplied by Alma and daughter Rovene Truett and also taken from the Samuel Biddle Family History and Descendants (1995).



(l/r) Jesse "Johnny" Biddle; Archibald "Archie" Biddle; Alma Crabtree; Laura Mae Clark, Pearl Melton (Photo taken by Debra Thornhill, Birmingham)

Alma Crabtree and Jesse Crabtree

(Top photo taken approximately 1946, while they were living on the farm in Henagar
(Bottom Photo taken in 1930, the Sunday after they were married)



Alma with Paula Frances Wideman wife of grandson, Jay; Jay Wideman; and granddaughter, Angie Callaham Mallard (Photo taken by Debra Thornhill, Birmingham)



Alma with her two great grandchildren, Rusty Mallard and Chassidy Mallard (Photo taken by Debra Thornhill, Birmingham)

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June 4, 1996



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It is a beautiful time—a time of reunions, graduations, and decorations.

Mary and Ted Holleman hosted a family luncheon at their home, Sunday, May 26, and they attended memorial service and decoration at Valley Head Cemetery. Rev. Jeff Adkins was the speaker.

Venna Livingston had her sister, Madge Sparks, and family and her daughters and families for Memorial weekend; and they attended decoration services at Mountain View Memory Gardens.

Adelaide Biddle spent the weekend in Dallas, Ga., for the graduation of her granddaughter, Tara Carmichael, from E. Paulding High School. She spent Sunday night with Julia Hickey in Chattanooga, and they attended the funeral of H. C. Moon, who was the father of Adelaide's daughter-in-law, Marsha Biddle.

Karen Freeman and daughter Katie are visiting in-laws and grandparents, Mary and Bill Freeman, in Pine Mountain, Ga.

Dillon Brown celebrated his fourth birthday with friends and family, May 25. He is the son of Chris and Gracie Brown.

Ruth and Bert Pickett took Bert's aunt, Bess Wright, to Craigford, Ala., then to Thomaston and La Grange, Ga., to visit other relatives.

Joey and Wanda Pickett, from Maryville, Tn., spent Memorial weekend with their grandparents, Ruth and Bert Pickett.

Lillie Bowden had eye surgery recently. She went to Chattanooga for a check up on Wed., May 29, and received a good report. She was accompanied by Joy Hurt, Ruth and Billie Pickett, and they enjoyed a day of shopping and lunch together. Joy is a new neighbor of theirs, as she and her husband, Johnny, came from Texas and bought the Glen Carden house. Welcome to the neighborhood!

The Valley Head U.M.W. met May 7, at the home of Adelaide Biddle. Venna Livingston led the program "Love in Action." Leslie Rogers, our youth leader, gave a vivid illustration of the work of the Methodist Church for young people. Others present were Mary Holleman, Marjorie Gray, Mary Crow, Velma Hammond, Gladola Holleman, Laura Margaret Allison, Helen White, and Eloise Brown.

The following members of the Sunshine Club enjoyed meeting at the beautiful garden of Ann and Billy Wright, May 23: Ruth Pickett, Bess Bauerle, Gladys Cobble, Leona Chadwick, Sue Clark, Verence Hawkins, Joy Hurt, and Eloise Brown. Lillie Bowden was sick and unable to attend, but furnished refreshments with a little help from me. The garden is an amazing example of how much beauty can be achieved by hard work and dedication.

I am sure that all right thinking people deeply appreciate the Ministerial Association for conducting the baccalaureate service at the Baptist Church, May 26, for the Valley Head graduates, and presenting each of them a Bible.

Happy Fathers' Day to all fathers and families—and fathers remember there are eyes watching you, everything that you may do—so that they may do it, too. Ears are listening to what you say—if you curse or if you pray—you will hear it in their play. Feet will follow where you lead. Guard your every word and deed—fulfill their spiritual need. To your golden rule be true—"Do as you would have them do"—so that they may copy you.

State Weather Watch Map



COUNTIES BY NUMBERS

1. Jefferson
2. Mobile
3. Montgomery
4. Autauga
5. Baldwin
6. Barbour
7. Bibb
8. Blount
9. Bullock
10. Butler
11. Calhoun
12. Chambers
13. Cherokee
14. Chilton
15. Choctaw
16. Clarke
17. Clay
18. Cleburne
19. Coffee
20. Colbert
21. Conecuh
22. Coosa
23. Covington
24. Crenshaw
25. Cullman
26. Dale
27. Dallas
28. DeKalb
29. Elmore
30. Escambia
31. Etowah
32. Fayette
33. Franklin
34. Geneva
35. Greene
36. Hale
37. Henry
38. Houston
39. Jackson
40. Lamar
41. Lauderdale
42. Lawrence
43. Lee
44. Limestone
45. Lowndes
46. Macon
47. Madison
48. Marengo
49. Marion
50. Marshall
51. Monroe
52. Morgan
53. Perry
54. Pickens
55. Pike
56. Randolph
57. Russell
58. Shelby
59. St. Clair
60. Sumter
61. Talladega
62. Tallapoosa
63. Tuscaloosa
64. Walker
65. Washington
66. Wilcox
67. Winston

TORNADO WATCH - means that weather conditions are such that a tornado may develop.

TORNADO WARNING - means that a tornado has been formed and sighted and may affect those areas stated in the bulletin.

LEARN TORNADO SAFETY RULES! WHEN A TORNADO THREATENS, YOUR IMMEDIATE ACTION CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!

State Weather Watch Map Submitted by Donna Bouldin



Private Peter F. Rafferty
Medal of Honor
69th Regiment New York State Volunteers
First Regiment of the Irish Brigade
by Michael Gnatek

Peter F. Rafferty was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, on June 12, 1845. His story as he tells it, shows, besides an extraordinary degree of nerve and pluck, that love of fighting which seems to have been characteristic of members of the legendary Irish Brigade.

Rafferty was one of three wartime members of the Sixty-Ninth who were awarded the Medal of Honor. His citation reads as follows - Having been wounded and directed to the rear, declined to go, but continued in action, receiving several additional wounds, which resulted in his capture by the enemy and his total disability for military service.

The color depicted is the "second pattern" Irish color. It was presented to each of the three New York regiments two days following the assault on Marye's Heights, Fredericksburg, Virginia, of December 13, 1862. The colors were a gift of a group of Native Americans led by M. H. Spaulding, a leader of the Know-Nothing Party during the middle 1850s. The Sixty-Ninth presented this color to the later President John F. Kennedy for his State visit to Ireland in September 1963. Kennedy offered it as a gift from America to the people of Ireland "through the generosity of the Fighting Sixty-Ninth." To quote an Irish news report "The ties between these two nations had been given vivid, tangible expression, by this fighting flag." The color is on permanent exhibit near the Main Hall in Leinster House, Dublin, seat of the Irish Parliament.

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Jesse Crabtree, Commander of American
Legion Post 215, not shown, would like to
thank everybody for the support at the
recent fund raiser. He also congratulated
Joy Hester for winning the \$1,000. Post 215
only has one fundraiser each year.

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**JUNE IS
DAIRY
MONTH**

THE MENTONE BRIDE AND THE MAIL ORDER GROOM

By Ernest H. Smith

(A Fictional Story In A Mentone setting)

Matilda Hornsby had been a most unfortunate lady who lived just beyond the outer reaches of what is now the town of Mentone, Alabama. First, death had claimed her stepfather and soon thereafter, her mother, following a long illness. She continued living in the house with her stepbrother until his death a short while later. (This had caused some tongue wagging at the time, but was soon forgotten after his death). She was now left without any immediate family, whatever.

Matilda pondered her circumstances for sometime before deciding that her salvation lay in the direction of finding a husband. But, what was she to do? Searching out a likely candidate wouldn't have been conceivable to her or to anyone who knew her. Matilda had been an illegitimate child, but never seemed scarred by the circumstances of her birth. She'd always received an abundance of love and compassion from within her immediate family.

She was a petite lady, not too homely, who was shy and retiring almost to the point of being a recluse. She appeared to be frail, but this was deceiving. She was really quite strong, in a wiry sort of way and possessed a great deal of stamina. She seemed to be a person born into the world knowing, full well, that her road through life would be hard and unforgiving. Because of this there was never any bemoaning as she suffered one adversity after the other. Instead, she would sort things out, pick up as best she could, and get on with her life.

Being the sole survivor of her family, Matilda had inherited a well-equipped eighty-acre farm with a comfortable house. The farm was situated in a sparsely settled area of the community, which added to her concern of being alone.

After the many hardships encountered in running the farm and much loneliness, she hit on the idea of advertising for a husband. She'd heard of such things. I never heard it said how she went about it, but do know that she listed all of her assets, including the eighteen hundred dollars she had in the bank. She'd earned this money, over a period of several years, selling produce from her farm to the summer people in Mentone.

The ad must've had wide circulation for the bait was taken, hook, line, and sinker, by a man living in Buffalo, New York.

Basil Gruder considered this to be the proverbial pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. The mail was far too slow for handling this deal. He knew that he must get down there posthaste, before someone else filled the bill. He immediately quit his job as a part time saloon keeper, packed his bag, and boarded a train for Valley Head, Alabama.

On his arrival at Valley Head, late one afternoon, Basil engaged a taxi for the trip up the mountain to Mentone. His driver, who was an inquisitive young man, was trying to ferret out the purpose of his visit. Basil finally decided to confide in him, since he was interested in knowing if the ad had contained true facts. The driver didn't know anything about this lady, but said that his uncle lived across the creek from that general area. He suggested that they stop there first. This was agreed on.

Here, it is necessary to describe the prospective groom in order that you may appreciate the whole of the story. To begin with, Basil was fortyish, of medium build, with graying hair and wild piercing eyes. It was the eyes that one never forgot. It was said that he resembled something of a cross between a vagrant and a villain. Some said that he looked like a wild man ready to pounce at any moment.

On their arrival, just about dusk, at the home of the driver's uncle, the nephew asked his uncle if he knew this lady. He certainly did. He said that she was a fine hard working woman who minded her own business. The prospective groom immediately asked about the money. The driver's uncle replied that she did have the money, but not anymore. The bank had gone bust. (1929 crash). This seemed to take the wind out of his sail.

Upon learning that the money was gone, Basil was ready to turn back, but didn't have the return fare. So, having no other place to go, he was forced to go on over and check things out. The driver's uncle gave them detailed directions, and they set off in search of the fair maiden.

They bumped along over wagon roads, crossing streams, always wondering if they'd taken the right fork in the road,

before they finally arrived at a house that fit the general description they'd been given.

The driver seemed to be more anxious than the prospective groom to see what would happen when these two met. He accompanied Basil to the door and did the knocking. The somber little lady opened the door and, without any noticeable change in her expression, whatever, looked inquiringly at one and then the other. Her eyes finally settled on Basil as she softly inquired, "Might you be my respondent?" "Yes, 'tis so Ma'am," replied the prospective groom. The stone faced little lady then said, "Come in."

Before following Matilda into the house, Basil turned to his driver and gave him his last dollar which was shy of the fare by fifty cents. The driver let it pass by saying that it was just fine. He silently considered the information he was privy to as worth the difference for having something to tell others.

The driver later told that on that very night he dreamed of robbery, mayhem, murder, and all things foul. I'm happy to report that this was not the case. However, people in the community were amazed that she would invite a complete stranger into her home to spend the night. Most women, living alone, and seeing this man by the dim glow of an oil lamp would've fallen in a dead faint. If not that, they would've most certainly run for the hills.

The couple were married as soon as possible and began their lives together on the farm. Before very long, the particulars of some of Basil's escapades began to leak out into the community. It was evident that he possessed a violent temper, which was directed at the farm animals.

Having been raised in a city, he knew nothing about handling a horse or cow, getting them to do what he wanted. Most likely he had no idea as to what he wanted them to do. On one occasion, he hitched the horse to a new wagon his wife had bought before his arrival. He had beaten the horse so severely and screamed and cursed so incessantly, that the horse had become so disturbed that it broke away and completely trashed the wagon. On another occasion, in a fit of rage, Basil threw a sledge at random and accidentally broke a leg of their milk cow. The cow had to be destroyed.

Apparently, Matilda suffered in silence, for nothing was ever heard from her. If he was ever abusive toward her, physically or mentally, it was not known. She never had any visible signs of physical abuse. Perhaps she was so condescending that he never found reason to turn on her. Maybe he just hated animals.

After the first year, Basil began a routine of leaving in the spring for Buffalo, after the snow had melted up there. Then, in the fall, when the first chill came and snow began to fly, he would leave for a more moderate climate. It was time for Mentone. Some thought he might've had a wife up there. Others were just as sure that his purpose was to get out of farm work. In any case, his poor wife was left to struggle along as best she could. She now had to hand carry her produce to market in two large baskets. She no longer had a wagon or any money to buy one.

Basil's comings and goings, in order to get out of work, was responsible for an amusing joke making the rounds in Mentone. Same men in the community, when faced with a difficult task, would say, "I believe its time to shuffle off to Buffalo."

One might expect that Basil would've learned something by now and settled down to a quiet life on the farm. Not so. The big one is yet to come.

If I remember the story correctly, it was in the month of March, on a windy day, when Basil went to the spring and saw a small garden snake. He set fire to the dead grass in order to kill the snake. The fire immediately became a raging inferno, consuming everything in its path. The house and outbuildings went up in smoke, and they themselves barely escaped with their lives.

They threw up a small frame house and continued living on the farm. Again, Matilda seemed to take it as a manner of course.

In time, Basil became too old and sickly to travel back and forth to Buffalo. Matilda, most likely, tended him hand and

foot. Later, when his illness became quite serious, someone in the community drove him back and forth to the VA Hospital. This was where he died.

He no doubt had given his wife the particulars for his burial. She sold her few head of cattle to raise the money to send his remains back to Buffalo.

Matilda lived on at the old farm for several more years before selling it for a pittance and moving in with a kind lady she'd known for many years.

Matilda was now alone again, a widow of advanced age.

After the death of her friend, a short while later, it was necessary for Matilda to go into a nursing home. This was where she died. She'd previously placed her monument near her people where she wished to be buried. She must've designated a friend to take care of the final arrangements.

Matilda had been a most remarkable woman. A person of great courage, kindness, and tolerance. Surely, she had the patience of Job. Perhaps, if she'd shown a little spunk at times things might've gone better for the both of them. Perhaps, she was afraid he would leave or maybe she just accepted it as her lot. Among the few blessings she received during her lifetime were good health and longevity. She reached the advanced age of ninety eight.

Not knowing Basil personally, it's difficult for me to know just where to come down on him and get it right. Some people in the community believed that his original intent was to, somehow, separate her from her money and return home. Although chance may have interceded on her behalf, the money being lost, it is questionable whether or not she was any better off. Everything turned out rotten anyway.

I suppose that I could forgive him for everything but his cruelty to animals. Here, I would not budge. In my opinion, it ranks alongside that of child abuse. Any act of cruelty against a person or thing that can't defend itself should never be condoned.

In retrospect, I suppose something favorable could be said of this marriage. Basil did hang on, after a fashion, for some forty odd years. Although it had been no waltz for Matilda, it was probably better for her than remaining a spinster and living alone for all those many years. Loneliness can be a terrible thing to bear.



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OTHER PROPERTIES

(5) **BROW ROAD #89 NORTH OF MENTONE**. 7.6 acres with 240 ft. of brow frontage. Has been surveyed and perked. Includes a wet weather waterfall. All for \$33,500.

(6) **LOT ON LAKE LAHUSAGE (middle fork)**. 80x212 building lot with great access to lake. Partially cleared, driveway, surveyed, and perk tested. All you need is to build your cottage on the water. \$16,500.

(7) **VALLEY VIEW FOREST** (sub. of Canyon View Forest) Beautiful 5 to 7 acre tracts located on the East Brow, overlooking the Ga. Mountains and Weiss Lake. 9 miles south of Ft. Payne Hwy. 35, Cherokee, Co., Ala. Surrounded by 2,000 acres of National Preserve. Priced only \$10,000 to \$17,000.

(8) **78 ACRES ON THE WEST BROW**, minutes from DeSoto State Park. Great investment property with over 1,000 ft. of brow frontage. Rocks, Creeks and a beautiful view, all one could ask for, at a great buy - \$117,500.

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(13) **AVAILABLE - WOODED ACREAGE**, wooded with prime views. \$1,500 to \$2,000 an acre. Owner financing available to qualified buyers. Restrictions apply.

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OUTDOOR TIPS

Compiled by Dr. Pat Seymour

Ten Summer Camping Tips

- 1. Salt to Taste:** spice up meals on the trail or in camp with the little condiment packages from restaurants containing salt, pepper, ketchup, soy sauce, or lemon juice. They're free, easy to find, and very convenient for backpacking.
- 2. The Quick Fix:** Always take along a small roll of duct tape. It's a short-term fix for most fabric rips, as well as tears in a tent's mosquito netting. Ripped mosquito netting can also be repaired quickly by joining both sides of the tear with a waterproof sealant. It dries fast and is amazingly strong.
- 3. Stop the Itch:** Always carry a 35mm canister of baking soda. Add water to make a soothing paste for insect bites, or sprinkle it in your sleeping bag, boots or pack to absorb odors. It can also be used as deodorant or toothpaste.
- 4. Battery Power:** Put a fat rubber band around your flashlight near the on/off switch to keep it from being accidentally turned on while in your pack or duffel bag. Also, it never hurts to bring extra batteries.
- 5. Sleep Well:** To avoid slipping down on your sleeping pad when camped on uneven ground, try placing a wool shirt between the pad and the bag, putting your backpack at the foot of the pad, or placing the pad inside your sleeping bag.
- 6. Stay Dry:** In small tents, the foot of the sleeping bag often rubs against the tent walls and gets wet. To keep it dry, try placing a garbage bag over it.
- 7. Zip Tip:** Use glow-in-the dark shoelaces (often used on children's shoes) as zipper pulls on sleeping bags, packs, duffel bags or anything else you need to find in the dark.
- 8. Eat Smart:** As an alternative to raisins and other dried fruit, try putting a few bagels in your day or lunch pack. They keep well, pack well, taste good, fill you up, and are loaded with energy-giving carbohydrates.
- 9. Rope Trick:** Always carry a spare length of nylon parachute cord. It can almost always be used by someone in camp as an impromptu rifle sling, a clothesline, or to help tie down.
- 10. Keep Cool:** Putting a canteen or water bottle in a wet wool sock can help keep it cooler in the summer. Using a dry sock and putting it in your pack can keep it from freezing in winter.

●**You Point, I'll Set Right Here:** It's easy to see how the hunting dogs called "Pointers" got their name. They've been trained to go on point for a shotgunner near pheasant, woodcock, grouse, or a covey of quail. But "setters" got their name from an adaptation to a much earlier kind of hunting. They were originally trained to move silently up to a bird, catlike, in a low crouch, and then stop. This behavior froze the bird, "setting" it so that a stealthy human companion could throw a net over it.

●**Rivers:** When the sun beats down in midsummer, don't roast out on a hot lake. Switch to rivers instead, where the water usually stays cooler and the currents keep it better oxygenated. Fish typically feed well even during the hottest part of the day.

●**Safety Tip:** Never wave or motion to alert another hunter to your presence. He may see the motion of your hand and think it's a turkey or deer or other legal game, and fire without thinking. Instead, talk loudly in a firm, clear voice to inform the other hunter that you are there.

●**Drinks and Boats Don't Mix.** Did you know it takes only one drink to impair your boating skills? The blood-alcohol level of a 180-pound man rises to 0.04 percent after just one beer, which is half the legal limit in most states.

●**A Tough Old Raptor:** There are some 60 species of eagles living around the world, and they are the largest of all raptors. They weigh about 12 pounds, have a wingspan of up to eight feet, and can see eight times better than humans. For instance, a bald eagle can spot a moving rabbit from more than two miles away, and can see a fish a half-mile away. A transparent third eyelid keeps these eagle eyes clean and moist.

Eagles don't chew their food, but swallow it in large chunks, and they can store up to two pounds of food in their crop.

Eagles usually do not choose a mate until they are three to six years old, at which point they mate for life. Their nests--and eagles often make several, in case one is destroyed--are

shaped like inverted cones, with a slight depression in the center for the one to four eggs they lay. After about 35 days, the eaglet uses its egg tooth to chisel its way out of the shell. The first one to hatch is usually the largest, and if there is a shortage of food, the older and stronger chicks may kill off the weaker ones, a process that ensures a strong race of eagles for the future.

●**Wax on, Wax Off:** Dragging a boat any distance can be a chore. To reduce the friction (and therefore your workload), try rubbing the hull down with wax prior to your trek. A small block of paraffin or an old candle stub works well. The wax will also reduce drag when you're on the water, which could be especially helpful to those in canoes or rowboats.

●**Focusing In On Eyesight.** Older fishermen may have many advantages over their younger, less experienced peers, but improved eyesight is not one of them. The lens of the eye hardens as we age, making it more difficult to focus on nearby objects, and the diameter of the pupil shrinks and the lens becomes less transparent. Only about one-third as much light passes through the lens of a 65-year old as that of a 20-year old. This is why older people tend to need more light when they are reading. Aging also increases the problem of glare. You become more sensitive to such things as oncoming headlights, making it more difficult to drive at night, especially if it has been raining.

●**Did you know?** ●A key difference between manmade impoundments and natural lakes is that impoundments are often subject to frequent drawdowns, which can drastically change the water volume, drying up organisms, destroying spawning beds, and changing predator-pre relationships.

●**The Cold Truth:** It's a popular misconception that the amount of life in the ocean increases with water temperature. Cold water is capable of holding more dissolved gases, including oxygen and carbon dioxide, which aids plants in photosynthesis and thus provides a food base for animal species.

●A dog's heart beats forty times faster than a man's.

●Nearly one-third of the nation's threatened and endangered species live in wetlands.

●There are more living organisms in a cubic foot of soil than there are people living in China.



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"The Friendliest Restaurant On Lookout Mountain"

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR FIRST TRIP IN A MOTORHOME

Sliding into the driver's seat of a motorhome is like pulling up a chair on the front porch of a small house on wheels. Behind you is a huge box that holds a living room, galley, bathroom, bedroom, and half a dozen appliances. Obviously, the first-timer can be intimidated before even turning the key unless he or she knows the basics of motorhome driving and operation.

Driving Tips

1. Use the side mirrors. There's no other way to see vehicles behind you or on the passenger side. Know the blind spots (An RV's blind spots are considerably larger than a passenger vehicle's.) Check the mirrors well in advance of lane changes.

2. Turn wide. To avoid running over curbs and other obstacles with the rear wheels, make turns a lot wider than you would driving a car.

3. Think ahead. Don't commit yourself to a parking spot that will be difficult to exit. Seek out the most open parking spaces possible.

4. Know your height. More than one air-conditioning unit has been ripped off an RV roof by drivers misjudging the height of their motorhome. Stop only at gas stations that have exceptionally high clearance.

5. Use a spotter. Side mirrors alone aren't enough to gauge the distance between the rear of the RV and the objects you're trying to avoid. When you're backing up, have someone outside guide you.

6. Take it slow. This is the key to driving an RV. Usually, there's no other way. RVs are heavy and generally underpowered, making acceleration slow. Stay in the slow lanes and make sure you're not holding up traffic. Let other vehicles pass you.

Working It

1. Shake it down. Study the operation manuals for the stove, refrigerator, furnace and generator before leaving. Test-start all of them.

2. Fuel up. When camping where no outside sources of water and electricity are available, the vehicle's 12-volt battery system or the on-board generator becomes the electrical supply source. Many generators run off the vehicle's fuel tank, when the fuel level is low, the generator shuts off.

3. Get there before dark. If you're staying at an RV campsite, you have to plug in the power cable, attach the water hose, and hook up the flexible sewer drain. Have the RV dealer show you how to hook these items up before you set out.

4. Level it. Take along a few foot-long pieces of 1x12 inch lumber to serve as leveling blocks for the rear wheels (some RVs have leveling jacks, but many do not). Place a little bubble level on the range to gauge proper height. It's very annoying to wake up in the morning scrunched up at the low side of the bed or to cook on a stove that's not level.

5. Know how to drain it. Used water goes into holding tanks: one for gray (shower and skin) water, another for black (sewage) water. A gauge inside the motorhome shows the level of each tank; they need to be drained periodically at dump stations, which are found at every RV park and many rest areas. The proper procedure is to run the sewer hose from the RV's holding tanks to the dump station sump. Then, pull the dump handle on the motorhome's holding tank (black water first). Most dump stations have a hose to flush the dump hose with clean water before storage.

How to rent a Motorhome

There are hundreds of rental outlets across the United States, all offering a selection of vehicles. The most common are motorhomes (Class A), which range in size from 24 to 34 feet; (Class C) mini-motorhomes, 20 to 28 feet; and (Class B) van conversions, 16 to 21 feet.

Rental costs differ according to vehicle size and the time of year. Usually the off-season months of January through April are least expensive, while the July-through-September peak is the most expensive. For example, a big Class A motorhome rents for about \$750 a week, plus fuel and deposits, during the off-season and around \$1100 a week, plus extras, during peak. A smaller Class C motorhome rents for about \$600 a week off-season and around \$900 peak. Prices vary from location to location, so shop around.

The *Directory of RV Rental Dealers* (covering the U.S., Canada, and Europe) and the brochure, *Rental Ventures*, which provides tips on touring North America via rental unit, are available for \$7.50 postpaid from the Recreational Vehicle Rental Association: 1-800-336-0355.

The Church News

By
EVELYN GRAVES



The Men's Fellowship of the Mentone Church of God had a breakfast on Sunday, June 2. ●On Sunday evening, June 2, there was a joint service with the Mentone Church of God of Prophecy. ●On June 10-14, the pastor and his family will be going to the Alabama Church of God camp meeting. The church will be paying their expenses. ●On June 15, at 6 PM, the Men's Fellowship will be sponsoring a Father-Son cook-out. ●On June 16, Reverend Rick Fuller will be the guest speaker. ●Vacation Bible School will begin June 17 through June 21, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, for ages 5-12. (See flyer on back page). ●On June 23, there will be a Homecoming, celebrating 81 years of ministry in this community. Rev. Terry Wigley will be the guest speaker for this service. There will be a covered dish dinner, followed by singing in the afternoon. Everyone is invited to attend on this special day.

On June 8, the youth of the Moon Lake Baptist Church will take a trip to Six Flags Over Georgia. ●On June 22, the youth will wash cars at the church as a fundraiser. Children's Church is running well. ●Vacation Bible School is planned for July 15-19. ●July 8-12, a Sports Camp is planned and will be held at the church. ●A telephone outreach survey is currently being made with all 634 numbers being contacted. Your cooperation in this survey will be appreciated.

The UMW of the Valley Head United Methodist Church will be held on June 26, at 3 P.M., at the home of Velma Hammonds. Velma Hammonds, Vesta Hawkins, and Geneva Smith will be the hostesses for the meeting, and Eloise Brown will have the program.

The Valley Head Baptist Church will have a Brotherhood Breakfast on June 8, at 8 AM. ●On June 8, at 3 P.M., there will be a Youth Block Party at the church. ●Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 17-21, from 9-12 AM. ●The church council will meet at 6:30 on June 20 at the church. ●June 30 will be a joint evening service at the Valley Head United Methodist Church at 7 PM, with Reverend Jenkins speaking in that service.

There will be no Sunday School during June, July, and August at St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church. There will be a fellowship at 10 AM, worship at 10:30 AM, and a Wednesday Communion service at 12:05 PM. The men meet at Little River Hardware at 6:30 AM to talk and pray. A new rector will be coming on June 30. He is Allen Cherbonneau, who recently completed seminary.

Worship services at Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church are at 9 AM each Sunday. You are welcome to attend.

Howard's Chapel (The Church in the Rock) holds worship services each Sunday at 10 AM. Visitors are always invited to attend the worship services and to visit the chapel at other times. Vacation clothes are fine for the service.

The Union Hill Baptist Church youth choir sang at the May J.O.Y. meeting at Moon Lake Baptist Church. ●A special training for new members is being conducted each Sunday evening at 6 o'clock. ●The monthly singing is the second Sunday in each month at 6 PM. Everyone is invited. ●Sunday School is at 10 AM each Sunday. Worship Service is at 11 AM, Discipleship Training is at 6 PM and Evening Worship is at 7 P.M. ●Wednesday evening prayer service is at 6:30 with Youth Choir practice and GAs, RAs and Acteens meeting on alternate Wednesdays.

The Mentone Church of God of Prophecy will be in REVIVAL Friday through Sunday, June 7-9, 1996. There will be special singing and prayer for the sick. Special speaker, Wayne Little, national evangelist. Services begin at 6:30 p.m. nightly. ●The church will celebrate Children's Day Sunday June 2, 1996. ●The church will observe a special Father's Day service June 16. Everyone is invited. ●All children and youth interested in attending Summer Camp, please call 634-4459.

The Mentone Revival Center participated in observing National Day Of Prayer on May 2, 1996. ●We also had a really great time on our LAKE WINNEPESAUCAH Trip. There was a total, altogether, of forty adults and children who went on the trip with us. We had some really good fun and fellowship. ●Our ladies' yard sale and bake sale went off really well on the 18th. We had a really good time in the Lord witnessing and fellowshiping with each one that stopped by. Thanks to each and everyone who contributed and made this activity possible. ●Hope everyone had a really nice Mothers Day. ●Summer is here and that means school is out, and there will be lots of children going and doing lots of things—playing in the park and on some road ways. Please keep a close eye out for children riding bikes and playing near roadways. Let's keep all the children in our prayers. To all you children, keep a close eye out, and try a little safety this summer. Hope you all have a really happy and safe summer. ●As you know, June brings on another very special holiday—it's Fathers Day. Let's not forget to wish all our Fathers a very Happy Fathers Day. See the Fathers Day Message, "Why God Made Fathers," on this page. It is dedicated to all you fathers from the Mentone Revival Center.

At the Mentone United Methodist Church, on Sunday, June 9, after church services, there will be a covered dish dinner to honor Rev. Maxwell. This will be Jim and Colleen's last Sunday with us. Please plan to join us for good food and great fellowship. ●Bible School is June 17 - 21. (See flyer on back page.)

J.O.Y.

The Just Older Youth will not meet again until September. Please plan to join us then. New officers will be elected at the September Meeting.



Mentone Springs Hotel

Bed & Breakfast

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(205) 634-4040

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Come and enjoy eating with us. Sun. Branch
Roy Strickland, Chef 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
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North DeKalb Ministerial Association

The North DeKalb Ministerial Association will meet in regular session Thursday, June 13, 1996, at 12:00 noon at the Kountry Chef in Mentone. All area ministers are invited to attend.

The Association will be seeking direction concerning community involvement and support in defending the current federal lawsuit which was filed against the DeKalb County Board of Education in February of this year concerning students' religious rights. If the Board of Education is not adequately defended, this case could alter the current Alabama School Prayer Law. In this case, Christians all across Alabama would be affected. The Association has already composed a position resolution.

Why God Made Fathers

God knew that we would each need
shelter and guidance

Throughout all our growing-up years,
Warmth and compassion for all of our problems
And strength for our worries and fears....

He saw that we all needed wisdom for living,
A knowledge of heaven above,

True understanding of life's deeper meanings,
Examples of kindness and love....

And so He made fathers to stand by our side,
To inspire us in every endeavor,

Whose faith and devotion
will last through our lives

And whose love we will cherish forever.
Life holds many blessings,

But there is no love

That can compare to our Heavenly Father's love for us,
A special caring love of kindness and joy and peace.
But when he made earthly fathers, he came real close.

Hope you have a really Happy Fathers Day.
May God bless you and keep you in his care.

—Submitted by Mentone Revival Center

NIPPERSINK LODGE

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Mentone, Alabama 35984
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Valhalla	(205) 634-4006
Winston Place	(205) 635-6381 or (888) 4WINSTON
Woodhaven	(205) 635-6438

Please Call for Reservations.

Happy ☺ Birthday



Patti Leighana Grider

Patti Leighana Grider celebrated her 5th birthday May 31st. She had a party at Hammondville Park. Her parents are Shane and Cindy Grider of Valley Head. Her grandparents are Sidney Everett and Glenda Everett, Flyod and Ann Templeton, Peggy Mabry and Larry Grider, and the late Patricia Grider and Samuel Dakota Everett Malone.



Samuel "Dakota" Everett

Samuel "Dakota" Everett celebrated his 4th birthday June 1st. His parents are Ashley and Stacy Malone of Sylvania, Ga. His grandparents are Sidney Everett and Glenda Everett, Ricky and Angie Henderson, and Jerry and Teresa Malone.

Birch Announcements



It's a Beautiful Girl!

Melanie DeAnne Potts of Valley Head announces with pride the birth of her daughter, **Anna Jensen Potts**, born January 2, 1996, at BMC DeKalb. She weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz and was 19-1/2" long. Her happy grandparents are Eugene and Karen Potts of Valley Head and great-great grandparents are Naomi and the late Hoyt Potts of Mentone, and Betty and the late Lonnie Killebrew of Cadiz, Ky.



Sydnee "Paige" Grider was born to Shane and Cindy Grider, February 12, 1996. She weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 21 inches long. He big brother is Justin Grider and her big sister is Patti Grider. Her grandparents are Sidney Everett and Glenda Everett, Flyod and Ann Templeton and Peggy Mabry, and Larry Grider, and the late Patricia Grider.

Wedding Announcements



Jennifer Amanda Robertson and Martin Cole Blake

The wedding of Jennifer Amanda Robertson and Martin Cole Blake will take place of June 15, 1996, at 2 p.m. at Walnut Grove Baptist Church on Hwy. 11 in Ft. Payne. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall. All friends and relatives are invited.

Jennifer is the daughter of Ronnie and Kathy Robertson of Ft. Payne. Cole is the

son of Richard Hazel Blake of Sulphur Springs.

Grandparents of Bride-elect: Ms. Eula Mae Robinson of Ft. Payne and Gaynell Robertson of Ft. Payne.

Cole is employed by GameTime in Ft. Payne.

Rebecca Ann Williams and Charles Christopher Wadkins

Rebecca Ann Williams and Charles Christopher Wadkins were married on April 27, 1996, at the Langdale United Methodist Church, Valley, Alabama.

The bride is the daughter of Fran Hawkins of Mentone and S. Wayne Williams of Atlanta, Georgia. The groom's mother is Janice Richardson of Valley, Alabama. The grandparents of the bride are Stanley E. Williams and the late Emma Lee Craton Williams of Chamblee, Georgia and the late Howard E. ("Mike") and Margaret E. Wright Hawkins of Atlanta, Georgia. Grandparents of the groom were the late Culver and Louise D. Wadkins of Valley, Alabama.

Attending the bride were Michelle Moskowitz, of Atlanta, as Matron of Honor, Amanda Minton of Decatur, Georgia and Amy Truelove, of Jacksonville, Alabama, were bridesmaids. The best man was Jason Morrow, and groomsmen were Greg McRay and Eric Sims. Ushers were Darren Spruill and Askari Dougan. All the young men are of Jacksonville, Alabama. Rev. Brown O'Quinn of Birmingham officiated.

Rebecca and Chris Wadkins will make their home in Jacksonville, Alabama.

June Wedding being Planned by Couple

Mr. and Mrs. Jay H. Stiefel of Fyffe, announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, **Nancy Ann Stiefel**, to **Shane Douglas McMahan**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas M. McMahan of Valley Head.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mrs. Marie Hammond and the late Gordon Hammond, and Mrs. Lona Stiefel and the late Jesse O. Stiefel, all of Fyffe.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Geraldine High School and Jacksonville State University with a B.S. in Secondary Education. She is employed with the Northwest Georgia Regional Education Service Agency in Rome.

The prospective groom is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Allie Ernest Gregory of Valley Head, and Mrs. Pally McMahan and the late George McMahan of Rising Fawn.

The groom is a graduate of Valley Head High School. He is employed by Palmetto Mills in Fort Payne.

The wedding will be an event of Saturday, June 22, at 6:45 p.m. central stand time at Rainsville Church of God.

All friends and relatives are invited to attend.

After the wedding, the couple will reside in Rome.

The Groundhog apologizes for the mixup in pictures in the May issue. The pictures were reversed. They are reprinted in this issue with additional information and with the correct picture above the writeups.

Mentone Wedding Chapel



- Candle-Lit Ceremonies •Music
- Photographs •Flowers
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- Renewal of Vows
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Blossom Hill Bed and Breakfast and Herb Farm

Nestled in the woods on a canyon above Little River only 350 yards below DeSoto Falls, Blossom Hill offers a "Rustic touch of Class" for someone who wishes to continue the development of a Bed & Breakfast or for someone who is looking for a location that can accommodate multiple families with year-round opportunities for fun and relaxation.



(1)

Blossom Hill's main residence includes a bedroom, living room, bath, kitchen, utility room, large sunroom, (also used for feeding guests), 300' of deck and an attached greenhouse.



About 200' from the main house sits the guest house, including private rooms with private bath and entrance from a covered porch, and a 2nd floor 2-room studio apartment.

All surrounded by approximately 7 acres of natural beauty, native wildflowers, and raised herb beds. Shown by appointment only. Please call Southern Properties for more information.



(2) DISCOVER THE WORLD OF COUNTRY LIVING in this like-new, 3-bedroom, 2-bath home, featuring 1200 square foot of porches, a 20'x30' workshop with 1/2 bath, 1 car garage and carport, and 6.8 totally fenced acres for added privacy. \$120,000.



(3) LIKE NEW--LOW MAINTENANCE BRICK HOME with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large eat-in kitchen, and fireplace with insert. Room for expansion in this 3/4 basement with full bath. Sitting on a low maintenance lot with adjoining land available. \$75,000.



(5) LOFTY CONTEMPORARY on the Brow of Mentone. Offering 3 or 4 bedrooms - 2 baths. Fully equipped kitchen--pine floors--dressing room, and solar room. Floor to ceiling glass in the 2-story living room produces a feeling of openness to the outside from both floors. Appointment only. \$225,000.



(7) WATCH THE SEASON CHANGE IN THE VALLEY BELOW from in front of the rock fireplace of this 3 bedroom, 2 bath, custom log home. Fully equipped kitchen, pine floors, exposed beams in living room, and central heat and air on a 7.2 acre brow lot above Mentone. Ready to move into and start enjoying the fantastic view from the large deck where you can spend many lazy afternoons. \$139,900.



(4) MENTONE BROW - Spectacular View-Beautiful, unique, unusual describes this finished home which offers three bedrooms, one full bath (with Jacuzzi), two one-half baths, great room with wet bar and fireplace, kitchen area features ceramic countertops and an island with custom hood, range, disposal, dishwasher and refrigerator. A two-car garage, glass-enclosed octagon-shaped casual pool with patio overlooking pool, sauna, shower area, recreation room with pool table, hot tub, and decks are just some of the amenities. All this and approximately 700' of brow frontage! Shown by appointment only to qualified buyers. Great for a restaurant. \$295,000.



(6) Own from Highway 117 to Cutler Ave. Downtown Mentone - 100' lot on Highway 117 zoned B-1 - 2 bdrm, 1 bath, rental house on 3 lots and 2 lots on Cutler Ave. All for only \$68,500



(8) COZY COUNTRY COTTAGE - 1 acre wooded lot on East Lake Drive. Less than 2 years old. 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, large living, dining & kitchen. Fireplace. Front & Back porches, 2 car carport & detached garage. REDUCED to \$79,500.

OTHER LISTINGS

(9) THE WEST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER flows quietly by these 3-acre wooded lots with 300 feet of River Frontage. Restricted for property owner's protection. Prices starting at \$20,000.

(10) 13 BROW LOTS with additional acreage across the road for a mini-farm. Just over the Georgia line. Restricted. Co-Broke with Cloudland Realty.

(11) OVERLOOK THE BREATHTAKING GEORGIA VALLEY from this 3.76 acre West Brow lot, about 10 miles north of Mentone. Lightly restricted. Co-Broke with Cloudland Realty. Only \$22,000.

(12) LAKE ON THE BROW - Where else can you find magnificent sunrise and lake view in the same place? Only at Lake on the Brow. Restricted building lots 10 minutes from town. NOW OPEN--PHASE II - look now while the choice is prime--starting at only \$12,500.

Susan Collins Residence - 634-4695

Sara Quinn Residence - 845-1881





The Summer of '68

The summer of 1968 was a very memorable one for me. It was one of the several summers I spent as pit crew for my friend, Bill, with the racing Porsche. It was also memorable because of a chance event that brought me into contact with a most unforgettable character.

There I was at one of the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) meetings in the early spring and was approached by a compeer and asked if my wife and I'd be host to a foreign visitor for 6 weeks in the summer. My fellow SCCA'er was chairman of an organization making arrangements for ten European students to visit America. It was a very unusual program whereby the student was in the country for ten weeks, six with a family as a paid employee and four free to roam about the country going wherever he/she wanted. Each student had purchased a Greyhound bus pass good for passage anywhere at anytime for the time period the students were free to travel. As a group, the students ranged in age from 16 to 24. I don't recall exactly what the pay was for the young folks, but even for 1968, it was nominal, about \$20 per week.

After some discussion, my wife and I decided, yes, we could do that, and since we were a female-dominant family (wife and two daughters), it would be best to have a female visitor, and she could earn her \$20 per week by teaching the children her language and by being an au pair for our girls (age 9 & 11).

As time drew near for the students to arrive, my friend said we'd be getting a "boy" student, one who'd just graduated from a Swiss "technische hockschole" with a degree in automotive engineering. The family fit turned out to be perfect, not what we had anticipated, but Hermann Friedli fit into my little family just perfectly.

Language was our first and really only problem. Hermann was from the German-speaking section of Switzerland and had taken a couple of years of English in school. I, on the other hand, had taken a couple of years of German in school, but that had been 20 years earlier. My wife, Pat, had taken French, and since Hermann didn't know as much French as he did English, French was of no help. Hermann and I stumbled about in each others language for about a week. Hermann's English improved far more rapidly than my German (although, he did help me a lot).

Hermann was very accommodating; and, after some discussion, we all decided that he could earn his \$20 by helping my friend, Bill, and me work on Bill's race car; rebuild a Porsche 1600N engine to go into my sports car that I was building; and cut the grass. As it turned out, Hermann was also an excellent welder, and he got "swept up" in the racing enthusiasm that pervaded the two families. So enthusiastic that he agreed to build a trailer for the race car if Bill would furnish the materials.

One evening shortly after Hermann joined our family, we were sitting at the dining table enjoying dinner and trying to talk with Herman when he excused himself from the table and went to get his dictionary. On his way back to the table, he stopped at a window and looked out. After taking his seat, he asked, in all seriousness, "What is that small green animal out there that goes 'moo'?" We thought we hadn't heard right, and asked him to repeat his question. We each got up and looked and could see nothing, so we told him we had no idea. He grinned big and said "a frog with a speech impediment."

On the day he arrived, he asked if we'd like to see his fine Swiss watch, a type that was not available to everyone. He got the watch from his suitcase and walked to my younger daughter, showed it to her, then held it to her ear as if to let her hear it tick; but he shook it. Her eyes widened, she had a funny look, and then broke out laughing. The watch was totally broken and filled with loose parts.

Hermann told us once he didn't know about knives. He had served his time in the Swiss Army, as all Swiss men do, and no one had issued him a Swiss Army Knife.

For dinner one night, my wife made soup out of left-overs in the refrigerator, which we called "refrigerator soup." Always good, but always different. There was only one left-over that did not go into the soup pot...lettuce. Hermann looked at the soup and immediately recognized it for what it was. We told him what we called it and why. He related to us that his family had similar soup frequently. In his family, it was called--translated from the German--"across through the week." He lifted a spoonful, carefully poured it back into the bowl, and said, "Ah, Wednesday dinner," another spoonful and "Thursday lunch."

As part of our summer racing schedule, Bill had decided to go to Daytona for an SCCA national race. Nothing would do but we all had to go to Daytona. Hermann, by this time, was a genuine member of the family and of the race team. Hermann, I don't think had any real concept of distances in this country. By the time we reached Daytona, Florida, and had taken 12 hours to do it, he commented he could have driven clear across Europe, from Switzerland to Denmark.

On the day of Bill's big race, he, Hermann, and I were fretting over the car and its state of readiness when Hermann piped up with, "Tell me when your chief competition comes by, and I'll stick my head in the engine compartment and curse loudly in German. We'll psyche him out." Such was life with Hermann!

Our six weeks with Hermann ended all too soon. On the proper day, we took him to Decatur to get the Greyhound bus for New Orleans. From there, he'd just ride generally west and see how far he got. He'd arrived in this country with little clothing and no money. His only shoes were sandals--he said he lost his other shoes on the plane--maybe, but I think he was embarrassed to admit that was all he had. His other clothes were very casual. So, with not much to carry around for 4 weeks and precious little money, Hermann struck out to see this big country. His knowledge of English had improved to the point that we didn't worry about him from that aspect; but, boy, did we worry about his naivete. His total travel plan was to ride the bus at night and sleep, and then walk-tour cities during the day. If there was no bus going his way at night, he'd sleep in the bus station. We told Hermann to call us collect at least once a week. It was a tearful departure when Herman left his American family--Lord, please look out after that young man.

Hermann made it all the way to Salt Lake City with tours of New Orleans, Dallas, El Paso, and other cities, which I no longer remember. We did hear from him every week, so we could follow him across the country. When he reached Salt Lake City, he fulfilled one of his dreams...to swim in the Great Salt Lake.

He was really enthusiastic when he called us after that experience, telling us all about how he floated just like a piece of cork. It was then that Hermann decided he had better head east to New York, 'cause he wanted a few days in that city before he was due to catch the plane back to England and from there on to Switzerland. Chicago was next on his agenda.

Some of you older readers may remember that the Democratic National Convention was held in Chicago in August of 1968. That year was filled with internal strife; it was all about the war in Vietnam. Hippies and flower children abounded; and many, many of them went to Chicago to create a disturbance at the Democratic Convention. As I recall those days, the uniform for flower children was long hair with a head band, sandals, torn and outrageous clothes, and a general disheveled appearance. Well, here came Hermann to Chicago, the gathering place for summer protesters and politicians. I can almost see Hermann stepping off the bus (probably loaded with hippies and flower children) with his sandals, long hair (no hair cut since he left Switzerland), probably no socks (he didn't wear them very often when he was with us), and most probably looking a bit disheveled after riding the bus all night.

The next call we got from Hermann came in the morning and was placed from a Chicago police station. He had been picked-up near the convention site and was being held in some jail. Poor old Hermann had gone to the convention hall to see what was going on and was standing on the sidelines watching the action. To say that Hermann was distressed would put it ever so mildly. He was so near panic that he had almost forgotten his English. He had no idea why he had been arrested nor what he was being charged with. We, my wife and I, were

the only ones who could help him, and we were 600 miles away in Huntsville. Hermann's plane left in three days, and here he was locked up in a Chicago police station. Perhaps the police would have let him go the next day, but we felt we had to do something to assure he would be released and released soon.

"When you're worried, when in doubt, run in circles, scream and shout," and that is what we did, big time! Hermann hung up the phone before we could find out where in Chicago he was or talk to any of the policemen. When you're uncertain what to do, start out at the top and work your way down from there. We started looking for help at the Swiss embassy in Washington. I found it very frustrating and amazing how unconcerned the embassy personnel were over the plight of one of their countrymen. We talked to 3 or 4 different folks in the embassy, explaining to each how we knew Hermann and exactly the predicament he was in. The upshot of this contact was "We can do nothing with the Chicago police, and thank you for your concern." I don't know when I have been so angry and disappointed!

Apparently, there was not a Swiss consulate in Chicago, but there was a trade commission or something of the sort. That was the one piece of positive information and help we got from the embassy and that was our next foray into international relations.

We found a sympathetic ear there in Chicago. I don't know whether it was a clerk or the head of the office there in Chicago. But, that person promised to look into it, go see Hermann, and try to secure his release. All that occupied several hours of phone time.

Hermann was released the next day, not charged with anything, and left immediately for New York. He did get one day in New York to look around. We got one final call from Hermann the night before he was to fly home. Even for a 24-year-old, he sounded weary, also, relieved and happy to be going home.

Over the next couple of years, we got post cards from his vacation and holiday travels, but gradually Hermann dropped from sight, and we heard no more. Of course, he'll never drop from our memory. Hermann now is about 52 years old, and I'm sure he has done well in life, he is just that sort of person. I hope he remembers his American family.



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The Menlo News

BY OVIE "BO"
BLALOCK

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Fred Cook who announced the birth of a son, Nicholas Ryan, on Monday, April 22, in the Floyd Medical Center.

Menlo Elementary School's promotion exercises, were Tuesday, May 28, when a total of 39 students received promotion certificates. Leslie Knox and Rebecca Dunn delivered honor speeches, followed by the presentation of awards and certificates. A reception followed the program.

Amy Lynette Brown has been named to the spring semester's President's List at Jacksonville (Ala.) State University. Mrs. Brown, a senior majoring in criminal justice, is the wife of Eric Brown and the daughter of Frank and Peggy McCrickard. Way to go, Amy!

Deepest sympathy to the families of:

- Lurene Frances Graham, 86, who died May 27.
- Winnie Robinson, 79, who died May 15.
- Dorothea T. McClung, 85, who died May 16
- Marvin Jones Downer, 76, who died May 1.



Love-Bridges Vows To Be Exchanged May 10

Connie Bridges and Lamar Love, Menlo, announce their forthcoming marriage.

The bride is the daughter of Chester and Frances Bridges, Ringgold, and Harold and Barbara Bell, Shannon. She is the granddaughter of Gladys Bridges, Chesterfield, Ala., and the late Millard Bridges, Mary Sampson, Rome, Jeanett-

Brown, LaFayette, and the late Buster Brown. She is employed at the Handi-Mart in Menlo.

The prospective groom is the son of L. C. "Bunky" and Peggy Love, Trion. He has one sister, Susan Wallin, Trion. He is the grandson of the late J. D. and Rena Reese, and the late Charlie and Grace Love. He is employed at Mount Vernon Mills, Trion.

The wedding is set for May 10. A wedding reception will be held at 3 p.m. May 11 at the home of the bride and groom. All friends and relatives are invited to attend.



AMBER HAZEL (L) HELPED BY SHRINERS
Shown With Shriner George Payne

Amber Hazel Helped

When she was born, Amber Renee Hazel weighed three-and-a-half pounds and then lost down to around one pound the first week of her life.

Sixteen years later, the young lady has battled numerous afflictions but has done so with the help of the Shriners and that team is winning.

She is the daughter of Kenneth and JoAnne Hazel, Rt. 1, Trion.

Amber has had 11 major operations with the first one — heart surgery at only four days of age. She was also diagnosed with cerebral palsy with spastic diplegia at two years of age.

About that time, 1981, the

Shriners started taking care of Amber's medical needs. The surgeries at the Shriners' Crippled Children's Hospital are, heel cord lengthening — three times; abductors release; derotational osteotomy right leg; femoric tendon bilaterally band release — both legs; bilaterally bunionectomy and hamstring release — both legs and other surgeries.

She is a freshman at LaFayette High School and is trying out this year for the colorguard at school.

With all the help the Shriners have given her, she hopes to someday to become a physical therapist and work at a Shriners Hospital and also work with the deaf.



FIRST BIRTHDAY

Dylan Art Thoreson celebrated his first birthday March 24. His parents are Ed and Joanna Thoreson, Menlo. Dylan celebrated his special day with a visit from the Easter Bunny and an egg hunt. Helping celebrate were Randy, Shelia and Garrett Cothran, Lynda Carroll, Monte, Due, Lee, Jacob and Gordon Turner, Evelyn Houser, Destany and Tammy Dutton, Kacey Westbrook, Joy, Mandy and Hannah McKee, Tammy, Alex and Megan Parker, Sandy and Erin Morris, Patty and R. J. Bishop, Stephanie, Alleigh and Jessica Dennia, Tammy, Megan, Lauren and Mariah Edwards, Edith, Kelsey and Chase Dendy, Tammy Blackwell and Ashley Debord, Rita Hennon and Fayla Henderson.



Quiz Bowl Team

Six Menlo Elementary School students participated in the Georgia Southern University Quiz Bowl contest this year. The Menlo team placed fifth from a field of 28 teams, advancing to the first round

of finals. From left are Joseph Swords, Kelly Haygood, Emily Johnson, Rebecca Dunn, Leslie Knox and Ronnie Wright. (Staff Photo).

VALLEY HEAD SCHOOL NEWS

AWARDS DAY HONORS STUDENTS

By Amanda Bethune

On Friday, May 17, 1996, the student body attended the Awards Day Ceremony in the gym. Many students were awarded for their excellence in the classroom. Mrs. O'Daniel, who is retiring this year, was also presented with a gift by Sarah Hatfield on behalf of the student body. The Purple and Gold staff would like to congratulate all of the following for receiving an award, and we would like to encourage all of those who did not to work harder in the future.

ENGLISH: Slade Carden, Eric Battles, Michael Blansit, Kern Hale, Derek Talley, Eric Crane, Shelley Ingram, Garrett Collins, Ten Campbell, Brandi Abernombie, Wendy Hyde, Jennifer Robertson, Kayla Bell, and Ingrid Vik.

BASIC SKILLS: Lisa Knowles and Hannah Alexander.

SCIENCE: Slade Carden, Eric Battles, Jeffrey Bullock, Josh Johnson, Daniel Brown, Ashley Blalock, Jennifer Smith, Dewayne Grisham, Wendy Hyde, and Rhonda Owens.

HISTORY: Eric Battles, Slade Carden, Jeffrey Bullock, Anna Rievely, Nancy Jeffrey, Jackie Easter, Ten Campbell, Tim Harrison, Jonathan Tate, Wendy Hyde, Ginger Gray, and Jennifer Robertson.

MATH: Laura Fuller, Slade Carden, Eric Battles, Edith McElhaney, Hannah Alexander, Anna Rievely, Ashley Blalock, Tabitha Binsendine, Nancy Jeffrey, Shelley Ingram, Eric Crane, Selina Couch, Kerri Busby, Amanda Bethune, Nikki Smith, Kayla Bell, Jennifer Robertson, and Christy Ferguson.

HOME ECONOMICS: Becky Mays, Emily Collins, Candace Fuller, Thomas Brendle, Ashley Blalock, Brandi Jackson, Ginger Gray, Stephanie Hester, and Kayla Bell.

TYPING: Eric Battles, Slade Carden, Candace Fuller, Jill Wampler, Christy Ferguson, Nikki Smith, Lyndall Elkins, Christina Fitzgerald, and Christy Koger.

ACCOUNTING: Karen Davis.

SOCIOLOGY: Rhonda Owens and Shaunathan Bell.

PSYCHOLOGY: Mady Ferguson and Angie Hunt.

JOURNALISM: Sarah Hatfield.

LIBRARY: Shelly Brown, Brandi Clure, and Beth Moore.

Additional awards were also presented.

U.S. ARMY RESERVE SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARDS: Matthew Hulgian and Wendy Hyde.

U.S. ARMY DELAYED ENTRY: Shirley Collins and Daryl Clements.

GOOD CITIZENSHIP AWARD: Nikki Smith.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG MUSICIAN AWARD: Alison Meadows.

OUTSTANDING YOUTH OPTIMIST AWARD: Karen Davis.

PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMIC AWARDS: Michael Blansit, Delsie Butts, Brandon White, Andrew Monroe, Selina Couch, Garrett Collins, Michael Scruggs, Brian Smith, Rhonda Owens, Jennifer Robertson, Kayla Bell, Julie Yates, and Shaunathan Bell.

BETA CLUB AWARD: Christina Fitzgerald.

SALUTATORIAN: Jennifer Robertson.

VALEDICTORIAN: Kayla Bell.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Alison Meadows, Sarah Hatfield, Christina Fitzgerald, Jennifer Robertson, Rhonda Owens, Karen Davis, Shaunathan Bell, and Trevor Sreckland.

ORGANIZATIONS END BUSY YEAR

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

By Shaunathan Bell and
Daniel Vest, FFA Reporter

The FFA agricultural teams recently attended two contests—the county and district competitions. They enjoyed overall progress which was much needed this year. The land judging team placed second in the county competition. The members of FFA appreciate the support given by the school and principal this year, and hope to enjoy continued support next year.

FUTURE HOMEMAKERS OF AMERICA

By Stephanie Hester

The members of FHA and the VHS Home Economics classes recently hosted the third annual quilt show on the front

lawn. Quilts created by 29 students were on display. The quilts were also judged. Winners were:

1st: "Hearts and Diamonds" by Ginger Gray.

2nd: "Little Bow Peep" by Amy Izell.

3rd: "The Player" by Brian Turner.

Honorable Mention: "The Kilt" by Tara Tipton and "The Intimidator" by Brian Smith.

When asked for a comment about quilting, first place winner Ginger Gray stated, "It took a lot of time and patience—patience being something I don't have—but it was fun!"

SENIOR BETA CLUB

By Shaunathan Bell

The VHS Senior Beta Club has had an exciting and eventful year. The club would like to congratulate its outgoing seniors for a productive career in the club and for their achievements. The new officers for the 1996-97 school year were elected at the May meeting. They are: Wendy Hyde, President, Christy Ferguson, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Ten Campbell, and Reporter, Angie Hunt. These are very smart and capable officers and they will serve the club well. Please continue your support of the Beta Club in the upcoming year and "thank you" to everybody for their support this year.

JUNIOR BETA CLUB

By Miss Downer, club sponsor

The VHS Junior Beta Club recently hosted their annual spring dance. This year's theme was "Friday Night Fever." The Junior Betas spent a lot of time collecting record album covers from the seventies, folding crepe paper, blowing up balloons, and putting it all together to decorate the auditorium for a night of "disco" entertainment. Attendance at the event was great, and everyone there enjoyed good music, good dancing, and good food. Two contests were also held. The winners for the "grooviest" disco outfit were Effia and Anne Harrison. Heather Wilbourn was the winner of the disc dance contest.

STUDENT COUNCIL

By Wendy Hyde

The 1996-97 Student Council officers were elected on May 16, 1996, after a week of campaigning and the candidates' speeches. The following were elected to office: Tim Harrison, Vice President; Richard Fuller, Secretary; Wendy Hyde, Treasurer; Heather Wilbourn, Reporter; and Rene Brendle, Historian. Matt Hulgian will preside as Student Council President next year.

VHS BAND

By Haley Johnson

The VHS Band has been busy during the last few weeks. The annual spring concert was held on May 14, 1996, in the auditorium. Recently, some band members received superior ratings at the County Solo and Ensemble contests held on April 20, 1996, at Plainview High School. They were: Shirley Collins, Valerie Chappell, Anne Harrison, Effia Harrison, and Haley Johnson. The band also had three members to make the JSU Honor Band this year. They were: Valerie Chappell, Haley Johnson, and Becky Mays. Last, but not least, the band is bidding farewell to nine seniors: Shirley Collins, Karen Davis, Christina Fitzgerald, Jeff Hopper, Yon Hopper, Sarah Hatfield, Alison Meadows, Rhonda Owens, and Jennifer Robertson. All of you will be missed very much. Congratulations and good luck!

Cub Corner Elementary Newslines

By Amanda Goss

On May 6, 1996, the kindergarten students had their first graduation in caps and gowns. The boys and girls did a terrific job. During the last few weeks of school, the kindergarten students have been painting rainbow shirts. On May 28th the kindergartners enjoyed Rainbow Day. They wore their rainbow to the ice cream shop in Valley Head. Donald Morgan and Joy Hyster furnished ice cream cones for the kindergarten students. On May 27th, they enjoyed their end-of-school party. Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Slay, and Mrs. Davis have enjoyed working with the kindergarten students this year. Also, special thanks

to the P.T.O. for all of their support.

Miss Benefield's first grade class recently celebrated the birthdays of Stanford Carson and Emily Bowman. They made their mothers a very special surprise for Mother's Day. They have worked very hard and have had a lot of fun this year. However, they are also ready for some summer fun!

Mrs. Carroll's first graders had a great year. They learned to read, write, spell and do math. They are planning a big "end-of-school" party and a fun summer vacation. It sounds like the first graders are going to have a blast! Ms. Keith's second grade has had a blast learning the multiplication facts. The second graders have also been practicing cursive writing and are having a lot of fun getting ready for third grade. They also recently wrote a friendly letter to Texas.

Mrs. Keith's class can't wait for May 31st to get here, and they want to wish a happy birthday to Heather Dulaney.

Mrs. Davis' third graders have had a very busy month. They have worked really hard to get all of their books finished. They are almost there! The third graders really enjoyed traveling to Northeast State on May 8, 1996, to see "The Nightingale." They also enjoyed the hamburgers and fries from Burger King afterwards! Jared Hulgian recently enjoyed a trip to Disney World. Chris Muller has a new baby sister and a birthday on May 1st.

Mrs. Early's third grade class is getting ready for summer. They are finishing the last chapters in all of their books. They plan to do a unit on dinosaurs, insects, and birds during the last two weeks. Since they finished Social Studies early, they have been practicing their map skills. Their class, along with the 4-6 grades went to see the play "The Nightingale" at Northeast. They had a great time. The third graders appreciate Mrs. Tihen setting it up and getting it all together for them. Also, a great big "thank you" to Burger King in Fort Payne for providing an economical lunch. It was inexpensive but delicious. Billy McKinney and Turner Taylor have May birthdays. Summer birthdays include Heather Carr and Kimberly Wilbanks.

The fourth graders are excited about summer vacation quickly approaching. They have been studying oceans and the civil rights years. They celebrated May Day on May 1st by dancing around the Maypole. Everyone enjoyed the brightly colored streamers and the weaving designs created by the dance. Several fourth graders earned all A's during the fifth six weeks. They are: Robert Brown, Jeremy Edgeworth, Stephanie Hicks, Blake Hulgian, Alexandra Schover, Steven Thornberry, and Ashley Turbury. The students who earned all B's are: Dustin Burt, Greg Carreker, and Rene Hall.

Mrs. Brother's fifth grade news is written by reporter Beth Shirley. On Wednesday, May 8th, the class went to a play at Northeast College. The third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grades went. All of our classmates are very excited about summer. I asked some of them what they are going to do. Sharee Jenkins said, "Play softball." Tessa McKinney said, "Go to my uncle's and go to Florida." Chad Heinrich said, "Go to Washington," and Crystal Bethune said, "Go to Florida." We all hope you have a good summer!

During the six weeks, the sixth graders in Mrs. Stephens' room have been busy with more things than just classroom assignments. On April 20th the sixth grade was well represented in the Miss Spring Fantasy Pageant. Stacey Hyde was crowned the winner and Ashley Holcomb was 1st runner-up in their division. The sixth graders are proud of you! Dustin Pierce, Zachary Patchett, and Michael Terry have been flexing their athletic abilities by playing on Dixie Youth baseball teams. Way to go boys! This class also had the first place winner in the child abuse prevention poster contest, sponsored by the Child Advocacy Center. This award went to sixth grader Russell Pearson. Congratulations Russell! The sixth grade went on a field trip to Northeast College to see a play, "The Nightingale." After returning, they had Burger King lunches. A good time was had by all who participated.

VALLEY HEAD FIFTH SIX WEEKS HONOR ROLL

FIRST GRADE - ALL A's: Zack Cooper, Amber White, Amber Howard, Josh Bowman, Amber Carrier, Alan Crider, Amelia Hannah, Dustin Johnson, Ethan Lewis, Rusty Rector, Ashley Tinker. **A's AND B's:** Heather Daniel, Wendy Edgeworth, Tyler Gatlin, Elizabeth Taylor, Adam Tuxbury, Cory Dobbins, Ashley Johnson, Robert Kauble, Brittany Durham, Amanda Ellis.

SECOND GRADE - ALL A's: Brandon Hawkins, Renae Steele, Brandon Foshee. **A's AND B's:** Christina Armstrong, Trista Blackman, Christina Chester, Dustin Davis, Brandy Ellis, Claude Garrett, Aaron Grisham, Tyler Harrison, Sheena Moses.

THIRD GRADE - ALL A's: William Blevins, Amber Hannah, Kimberly Pritchett, Kimberly Willbanks, Matthew Croxton, Nelson Overby, Heather Freeman, Chris Miller, Ben Windom, Kyle Hicks. **A's AND B's:** Heather Carr, Jacklyn Davis, Mandy Brown, Autumn Cook, Crystal Gregory, Jared Hulan, Kory Knopps.

FOURTH GRADE - ALL A's: Robert Brown, Jeremy Edgeworth, Stephanie Hicks, Blake Hulan, Alexandria Schauer, Steven Thornberry, Ashley Tuxbury. **A's AND B's:** Dustin Burt, Greg Carraker, Rece Hall.

FIFTH GRADE - ALL A's: Crystal Carter, Joshua Hulan, Brittney Johnson, Amanda Knowles, Tessa McKinney, Beth Shirley. **A's AND B's:** Jason Wright, Crystal Bethune, Karina Taylor, Natt Tillman.

SIXTH GRADE - ALL A's: None. **A's AND B's:** Lacie Clure, Stacey Hyde, Hilary Lawton, Steven McElhane, Kayla Wilbanks, Pam Morgan.

SEVENTH GRADE - ALL A's: Becky Mays, Slade Carden. **A's AND B's:** Jessica Barrier, Shelly Brown, Virginia Hatfield, Laura Pujlen, Jill Wampler, Eric Battles, Adam Morgan, Will Shanklin.

EIGHTH GRADE - ALL A's: Anna Rievley. **A's AND B's:** Kerri Hale, Adriane Robertson, Stephanie Watkins, Jeffrey Bullock.

NINTH GRADE - ALL A's: Ashley Blalock, Tabitha Brisendine, Nancy Jeffery, Michael Scruggs. **A's AND B's:** Toby Crider, Eric Crane, Derek Talley.

TENTH GRADE - ALL A's: None. **A's AND B's:** Krissy Brown, Teri Campbell, Brandi Shirley, Tara Tipton.

ELEVENTH GRADE - ALL A's: Christy Ferguson, Wendy Hyde, Nikki Smith. **A's AND B's:** Amanda Bethune, Misty Ferguson, Mandora Hannah, Joshua Woods, Josh Smalley, Michael Day.

TWELFTH GRADE - ALL A's: Ingrid Vik. **A's AND B's:** Kayla Bell, Karen Davis, Christina Fitzgerald, Rhonda Owens, Jennifer Robertson, Julia Yates, Shannathan Bell, Lyndall Elkins, Yon Hopper, Coley Morgan, Lewis Ramsey, Tim Smith.

SPORTS BANQUET HONORS ATHLETES

By Wendy Hyde

The 1995-96 Varsity Sports Banquet was held in the lunchroom on May 10, 1996. The meal was followed by an awards ceremony in the auditorium. The following athletes received awards:

FOOTBALL: Nathan Alcorn—Most Valuable Offensive Lineman, Most Valuable Defensive Lineman

Daniel Vest—Most Valuable Offensive Back Tiger Award

Tim Harrison—Most Valuable Defensive Back

James Cox—Most Improved

Trevor Strickland—Tiger Award

Shaun Flannigan—Golden Helmet

VOLLEYBALL: Heather Jackson—All Area

Nikki Smith—All Area

Kayla Bell—All County, All Area

BOYS BASKETBALL: Jon Baggett—Most Rebounds, Best Free Throw Percentage, Tiger Award

Jim Phillips—Most Steals

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Jamie Baugh—Leading Rebounder, Best Free Throw Percentage

Kayla Bell—Best Three-Point Shooter, Most Assists, Most Steals, Lady Tiger Award

Heather Jackson—Best Field Goal Percentage

Nikki Smith—Hustler Award

Ashley Blalock—Most Improved

BASEBALL: Jason Owen—Golden Glove Award

Jim Phillips—Hustler Award

Heath Watson—Pitching Specialist

Tim Harrison—Highest Batting Average

Daniel Vest—Most RBIs, Tiger Award

SOFTBALL: Kayla Bell—Most Valuable Player, Captain, Golden Glove Award

Heather Jackson—Highest Batting Average, Most Dedicated

Candace Fuller—Most Improved

Jennifer Brubaker—Most Improved

SECTIONAL TRACK RUN: Ashley Blalock—1st Place 100M, 1st Place 200M

Wendy Hyde—1st Place 400M

Congratulations to all winning athletes on behalf of The Purple and Gold Staff.

1996-97 CHEERLEADERS SELECTED

Cheerleader tryouts were held on May 1, 1996. There were three different parts of the tryout: teacher evaluations, student body voting, and after school judging. The 1996-97 cheerleaders are: Wendy Hyde, Heather Wilbourn, Teri Campbell, Brandi Shirley, Crystal Wright, Rene Brendle, Amanda Goss, Tabitha Brisendine, and Tricia Goodman (alternate/mascot).

The cheerleaders traveled to Boaz on the Saturday following the tryouts for stunt camp. They had a lot of fun and learned a lot of new stunts for the VHS Tigers. The 1996-97 cheerleaders are full of spirit and are ready to cheer for VHS. All of the cheerleaders are working very hard for the best year ever.



On May 28, 1996, Joy Hester continued the tradition begun by Scrooge Morgan 13 years ago: hosting an ice cream party for the kindergarten classes from Valley Head School. She also hosted the 1st graders, and two of them are shown eating their cones. Becky Davis behind the counter.



7th grade

Recently the Fort Payne Middle School presented its top ten academic awards for the seventh grade. Back row (L-R), Kelly Bunch (4), Adam Chambliss (5), Mary Carroll (3), Emily Black (2), Ashley Manning (1); front row (L-R), Ashley Elliott (8), John McDowell and Kyle Payne (7), Tyler Cooper and Tiffany Garrett (6).

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The Electric Guitar, personally autographed by Alabama Lead guitarist Jeff Cook, to be given away at June Jam, will be on view at Tigers Inn one day during the week before June Jam.

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**Charles Cleveland, MPH,
Wildwood Lifestyle Center, using overhead
transparency of food pyramid**

There will be a series of seminars on how to be healthy while eating well that will be open to the public. Sponsoring the seminars is the Wildwood Lifestyle Center and Hospital, Dept. of Community Health Education, Wildwood, GA 30757. Mr. Charles Cleveland, MPH, is in charge of the **Formula for Wellness** series and will be presenting them as shown below. Also sponsoring the series is the **M.E.R.F. foundation**, a non-profit organization in Mentone. A version of the Formula for Wellness program has been presented to the students at DeKalb County Schools—Moon Lake, Adamsburg, and Ruhama.

The first seminar, entitled: Nutrition and Health Seminar on Thursdays, June 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25. There is no charge for these classes. **Learn:** •Menu planning for your family •How to use the new USDA food pyramid •Why so many Americans have heart disease and cancer—can they be prevented? •What kinds of physical activity are adequate to maintain good health? **Receive:** •Current information from scientific studies on nutrition and health in simple every day language •Take home handouts that summarize the main points, including the references.

The second Seminar is "Natural Foods Cooking." Each class focuses on recipes from logical meal groups •Nutritious breakfasts, "king" of the day •Packing quality lunches •Labor saving suppers •Healthy desserts •Bread making and rolls made easy. Learn by "hands on" experience. Groups of 3-4 with an instructor will make a variety of recipes each program. Taste and take samples home. **Thursdays, Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. No Charge**

The third seminar is "Simple Home Remedies." Ordinary people provided with clear, simple information can prevent and treat most common health problems in their own homes—earlier and cheaper. This seminar teaches the process basic to all healing and the simple home remedies that are appropriate.

•Handouts •Demonstrations •Questions and Answers. **Thursdays, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26, Oct 3 No Charge**

All over the world people are suffering from various lifestyle induced diseases. Cancer, heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, diverticular diseases are all too common among us. Today, as never before, there are answers to how to prevent or deal with these problems.

The "Formula for Wellness" seminar systematically explains these so-called degenerative diseases and explores now proven ways to avoid them.

Every lecture uses color overhead transparencies to make the topic easy to understand. Questions and answers are a part of the format.

Come join your friends and learn together how to plan your quality life for you and your family.

For more information, watch The Groundhog or call Stan and Linda Lawton - 634-4658.



RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB

On May 14, 1996, at 12 noon, at Rhododendron Garden Club met at Caldwell's Restaurant in the Mentone Springs Hotel for their annual luncheon. Hattie Lide had the devotion, which was centered around the theme of Mother's Day. She read "Meanest Mother In The World", which can be found on this page. She also read, "After the Winter, God Sends the Spring", also found on this page.

There were 27 members present: Virginia Bassage, Jo Beaubé, Barbara Blalock, Virginia Bosworth, Marilyn Blanton Campbell, Gladys Crane, Bernise Crow, Mary Crow, Dorothy Cyr, Ruby Daniel, Marie Dillenbeck, Marjorie Gray (assoc. member), Helen Hill, Beverly Hoyt, Shirley Hussell, Flo Kirby, Mabel Kirk, Diane Kuehl, Hattie Lide, Penny Lyday, Lynette McCary, Sue Schwarz, Dr. Pat Seymour, Hope Walker, Ann Wright, Karen Wright, Mildred Wylie, Jan Wilkinson, and two guests, Annette Orr, president of the DeKalb Federation of Garden Clubs, and Maureen Brewer.

There were no minutes. The April meeting consisted of a tour of the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham, Ala. Eleven people went on the tour: Jo Beaubé, Betty Chapman, Mary Crow, Marjorie Gray, Mickey Gough, Diane Kuehl, Lynette McCary, Frances Waller, Hope Walker, and Jan Wilkinson, with one guest, Maureen Brewer.

Flo Kirby, treasurer, announced that those who had not paid their dues could do so at the meeting.

Ann Wright prepared a beautiful flower arrangement for the head table. The flowers were from her gardens.

For the meal, the members enjoyed trips to the salad bar, a croissant sandwich, tea or coffee, and dessert. After the meal, the president announced that the next meeting date, June 11, would be a work day in Ed Mason Park. A regular business meeting will be held July 9, at the City Hall.

The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.; Deep South Region; The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.; Garden Clubs of District II; and DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs.

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MEANEST MOTHER IN THE WORLD!

Author Unknown

(from the Berney Points, Baptist Clarion,
Vol. 13, dated May 10, 1995)

I had the meanest mother in the world. While other children ate candy for breakfast, I had to have cereal, eggs, and toast. When others had cokes and candy for lunch, I had to eat a sandwich. As you can guess, my supper was different from other children's, also.

My mother insisted upon knowing where we were all the time—you'd think we were on a chain gang. She had to know who our friends were and what we were doing. She insisted if we said we'd be gone an hour that we would be gone one hour or less—not one hour and a minute. I am nearly ashamed to admit it, but she actually spanked us. Not once, but each time we did as we pleased. Can you imagine someone actually hitting a child just because she disobeyed? Now, you begin to see how mean she really was.

While the other girls were wearing mini-skirts and jeans, and smoking cigarettes, we had to wear dresses and be little grandmas and were called old-fashioned. Mother would not even let us go to the drive-in movies. How could she be so mean?

My mother actually had the nerve to break the Child Labor Law. She made us work. We had to wash dishes, make beds, learn to cook, and all sorts of cruel things. I believe she laid awake at night just thinking up mean things to do to us. She always insisted upon our telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, even if it killed us—and it nearly did. She embarrassed us by making our dates come to the door to get us. None of this "tooting the car horn" by the boys for us to come running.

My mother was a complete failure.

Because she was so mean, none of us have ever been arrested, divorced, or beaten by a mate. Each of my brothers served his time in service to this country. And whom do we have to blame for the terrible way we've turned out? You're right—our mean mother.

Look what all we missed. We never got to march in a protest parade, attend a rock concert, take part in a riot, burn draft cards, and many other things that other children did. She forced us to grow into God-fearing, educated, honest adults.

Using this as a pattern, I am trying to rear my children. I stand a little taller and I am filled with pride when my children call me "mean."

"I'm glad I had a mean mother!"

"After the winter, God Sends the Spring"

Springtime is a season of HOPE,
and JOY and CHEER.

There's beauty all round us
to see and touch and hear.

So no matter how downhearted
and discouraged we may be,

New Hope is born when we behold
leaves budding on a tree...

Or when we see a timid flower
push through the frozen sod

And open wide in glad surprise
its petaled eyes to God...

For this is just God saying —
"Lift up your eyes to Me,"

And the bleakness of your spirit
like the budding springtime tree,

Will lose its wintry darkness
and your heavy heart will sing.

For God never sends "THE WINTER
without the JOY OF SPRING."



Cassie Hooks and Chloe

My Little Puppy

I have a little puppy,
Who is tiny and sweet
I feed her each day,
and give her a treat.

I love my little puppy,
sweet as can be,
I never seem lonely,
when she is with me.

She has soft brown eyes,
and a cute little nose,
She's a dachshund you see,
from her head to her toes!

--Cassie Hooks

MOUNTAIN MAMA'S STUDIO RE-OPENS!

By E.A. DeNero

Mountain Mama's Studio has opened again and, as promised in December, this expansion is successfully under way. Morgana MacVicar and Fayann Schmidt have opened a few more rooms and cordially invite you to come and spend some time watching these potters at work--throwing, hand-building, and painting their brightly colored "Majolica" wares.

From animal-shaped platters to teapots and vases, this light-hearted folk art will add a year-round cheerful touch to any decor. And all dinnerware is microwave and dishwasher safe. Special orders for complete sets are welcome!

As some of you already know, enchanting pottery is not all you can find at Mountain Mama's Studio. One-of-a-kind items like handwoven rugs, nature photography, and unique jewelry are still well-stocked gift items. Plus, there is a greater variety of colorful hand-dipped candles (including honey-comb) and more home-spun fabric art.

Several additional local and regional artists have placed their works with the Studio, and you'll be delighted to discover weavings, hand-painted bird houses, and a wonderful selection of beadwork. For a truly personalized reply to those summertime shower invitations, Gift Baskets are a great and exciting idea! And for those who really love a happy kitchen, there's a special surprise waiting for you, too.

Looking for uncommon arts and crafts at easily affordable prices? Stop in soon!

And don't forget to spend a few minutes with the artists while they work. They'd love to meet you!

The Studio is located in Cloudland on Georgia Highway 48, 1/2 mile west of the Lookout Restaurant or 1/2 mile east of the Alabama State Line. Hours are Noon to Six every Thursday through Sunday.

GARDEN HINTS

By Madeleine Bullock

The first part of May here in Merone was simply glorious. We had sufficient rain for the lawns and gardens to burst out and thrive. And a really hot spell during the second week sent most citizens scurrying indoors for cover from the heat. Overabundant pollen count made good business for the doctors in the area. By the time I managed to get an appointment, the rain was about to knock on the door. We really needed this shot of hot sunlight after such a long winter.

By now, most vegetable and flower gardens have been sown or planted. Now comes the battle of getting the best out of all the work and trying to keep the insects from enjoying them before we do.

ANTS: to control them, you have to destroy their nest and queen. The best method is to make a hot pepper drench and pour it over as many ants as possible while digging up the nest. Make this solution by boiling half cup finely chopped hot peppers in one pint of water. Take the solution directly from the stove out to the yard and pour it on the ants. Another tip I got from a Virginian is: make a deep hole (use a tire lever or a long, sharpened stick) in the center of the nest and pour in one cup of gasoline; then, right away, a kettle of hot scalding water. Get away as fast as you can and watch the ants run!

GRAPES: watching how nature does things can often teach us better gardening practices. On the eastern seaboard, wild grapes grow on trees and feed off the decomposing bark and twigs, and are rarely bothered by pests and diseases. So, it might be a good idea to try using well-rotted wood in the planting hole and mulch with wood and bark scraps.

For southern areas, three disease resistant grape cultivars are recommended. "Champanel" is a dark blue and makes great juice and jelly. If left a little longer on the vine, it makes a good table grape. "Xlanta" and "America" are also recommended for hot and humid areas without using fungicidal sprays.

Also recommended for the south is the muscadine cultivars such as "Fry," "Jumbo," and "Magnolia." Muscadines are resistant to most diseases and require very little spraying, and they are hardy to about zero degrees Fahrenheit.

The Recipe Corner

By
SUE SCHWARZ

Summertime again. I think I must have blinked, because it seems like we moved directly from winter to summer. I guess we shouldn't complain too much, as the weather has been beautiful. Time for a couple more quick recipes. Both recipes are from a favorite cookbook, Moosewood Restaurant Cooks At Home. Both are good, quick, and with a salad and good bread make a nice light meal.

Shells with peas and onions

4 medium onions (about 4 cups sliced)
1 T olive oil
4 C fresh or frozen green peas (about 1 pound)
salt and freshly ground pepper
1 pound shell pasta
freshly grated parmesan cheese (about 1 C)

Cook pasta according to package directions. While pasta is cooking, saute onions in olive oil until they begin to brown. Add peas, salt and pepper, and cook a few minutes longer. Add 2 T of the hot water from the pasta, reduce heat and cover. When pasta has cooked, drain it and toss with some of the cheese. Top with peas and onions and serve immediately. Serve extra cheese at the table.

White bean and tomato salad

4 C cooked white beans (2-16 oz cans)
2 cloves garlic (minced)
1/2 red onion (minced)
1 C thinly sliced celery
juice of one lemon
1 T olive oil
1 T chopped fresh mint or basil (1 t dried)
4 or 5 tomatoes cut into 1/2 inch cubes
Salt & pepper to taste

Drain beans. If you use canned beans, rinse them very gently in a colander and set aside to drain.

Combine rest of ingredients in large bowl. Add beans and carefully stir in so that the beans won't break. Serve at room temperature.

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(l/r) Raymond Brown, trustee; Dot Crowe, treasurer; Bea Crowe, Edmond Crowe, and Nelson Stallings, board members of Little River Cemetery; and Rev. Gordon Stallings

(Photo by Ken Kirby)

Decoration Day at Little River Church

Little River Cemetery held its annual Decoration Day Memorial Service Sunday, May 18. Rev. Edmond Crowe and Rev. Gordon Stallings conducted the service.

One topic discussed in the afternoon business meeting was plans to expand the cemetery for the purpose of providing additional burial plots, since the original section has very few spaces remaining. Land donated in 1992 by the Cash family will be utilized for this expansion.

Maintenance costs for the cemetery and church building are now funded by interest income from a trust fund established for this purpose. However, additional costs will be incurred with the expansion and increased costs for building and cemetery maintenance are certain.

If you have loved ones buried at Little River (or have plots reserved there) and wish to make a donation to help cover these expansion and maintenance costs, you may do so by sending your check to:

Little River Cemetery Trust Fund
c/o Dot Crowe, Treasurer
P.O. Box 151
Mentone, AL 35984

All donations are tax deductible and will be greatly appreciated.

QUEEN JUNE

June, you are majestic and serene
throned with lavish leaves so green
of the summer months you are queen.

Dressed in robes of colorful flowers
blessed with many loitering hours,
resting in shady, perfumed bowers.

You are so voluptuous and lush,
reclining on your throne of plush
dimpled with strawberries' rosy blush.

Serenaded by happy birds' songs
catered to by vegetable throngs,
homage of nature to you belongs.

June, you are queen of Summer delight,
of full blown days beautiful and bright
Crowned by star glittering, moon gold night!

—Eloise Brown



The Taylor Blalock Family

(L/R) Jim and Penny Lyday; Elaine Thomas and Ellen Thomas; Mellanie Tuttle and Kendra Tuttle; Ovie and Barbara Blalock, Barbie and Jimmy Hester, with children, Brittany and Tyler; standing behind Jimmy and Barbie Hester are Kaylon Tuttle and Kendall Tuttle; Jennifer Hester; Ann Wright; Gladys Crane; Karen and Russell Wright with Paige and Kelly. These Taylor Blalock family members were present at the Bankhead Decoration Day, May 26, 1996, at which time this family was honored.

BANKHEAD DECORATION DAY

Bankhead Chapel held its Annual Memorial Service on May 26, 1996, beginning at 11 a.m. Rev. Don Brock, of the Mentone Church of God of Prophecy, and also a vice-president of the Bankhead Cemetery Memorial Association, recognized Max Cash, the president of the Association; James Johnson of the Mentone City council; Rev. Randy Addison of the Wesleyan Church; and Rev. Kenneth Shelton of the Mentone Church of God, who delivered the morning message, "Being Transformed". Howard Carson, program committee chairman, led the singing, while Barry Crow played the piano.

Before the sermon, Charlyne O'Rear announced that the **Taylor Blalock Family** was being honored at this year's service. She introduced Jim Lyday, one of the family, who made a few remarks. He said, he did not know very much about the family, but said you can tell a Blalock by this trait, "If you don't have anything to say, don't talk. If you do have something to say, you don't necessarily have to say it. All the Blalocks have a story to tell." One of Jim's story is about Uncle Mack—Taylor Floyd Blalock. Jim said Mack was sawmilling one day, and a young man said he wanted to play Blalock. Throughout the day, he said not a word. Mack said, "Boy, is there something wrong with you, are you sick?"

"No, I'm just playing Blalock", the boy said. Jim said Taylor Blalock married Ida Bell Finster, and from that marriage came eight children, 36 grand children, 70 great grand children, 79 great great grandchildren, and 3 great, great, great grandchildren. In closing, he said, "The Bible says Enoch walked with God. That is my prayer. Walk With God!"

Charlyne O'Rear announced that next year they will honor the Ronnie Wright family.

Ed Jones said they had just about reached their goal to have \$50,000 in the perpetual care fund. The money is invested and the interest will cover the maintenance in the future. For those wishing to donate to Bankhead, there are three accounts: the perpetual care fund, unmarked grave fund, and the checking account for day-to-day expenses. You may designate on your check which account when you send in your contribution to:

Bankhead Cemetery Memorial Association
c/o Mrs. Loretta Bain, Treasurer
629 County Road 647
Mentone, AL 35984

All donations are tax deductible and will be greatly appreciated.



Rev. Kenneth Shelton delivering the Bankhead message. Diane Gilhooly of Clondland, Ga., signing for the hearing impaired during the special music by trio, Bobbie Smith, Ethel Manifold, and Loretta Bain.

Nature's

Classroom Wraps
Up Another Great
Year!!

On May 23, the Nature's Classroom staff waved good-bye to our last group of students for the year. This year almost 2,000 students from public and private schools from across Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama made the trip to Nature's Classroom. While here, students get to take "hands-on" classes in all the curriculum areas like math and science as well as participate in field groups. Field groups focus on team building, self-esteem, and cooperation while they hike, explore the river, the caves, and all the beautiful Mentone rock formations! Field groups also have the opportunity to test their team building efforts by using our Project Adventure low ropes course. Children usually stay with us for four days and participate in programming thirteen hours a day.

As a step towards accreditation with the Association for Experiential Education, we had a successful review by our peers within this field. In March, the peer review team spent two days on site during a program and declared our program "solid experiential education!" We are working on our documentation to be ready to apply for accreditation in the fall.

This year's staff had the highest level of training and development of any in our history, and our entire staff was able to go to Seabrook Island, South Carolina, for the regional conference of the Association for Experiential Education. I have been asked to convene next year's regional conference which will be held in North Carolina and to serve on the host committee for the 25th annual international conference of 2000 members which will be held in the South, fall of 1997.

Next year's staff will include: Heather Brock, returning for her fourth year; Beth Ensey of Mountain Brook, who joined our staff in February; Emily Graham who will be returning for her third year; Bernie Van Doninck of Nova Scotia, who will be working out at Camp Laney this summer; Ellen Thompson, returning for her third year who will take on the duties of program coordinator; and Mrs. Anita Hausheer of Ider, who is returning for her third year and will assume the duties of program manager.

It's an exciting time for Nature's Classroom, we're growing fast and developing our program here in Mentone to be the finest of its kind anywhere in the world! We will soon have our very own web site on the world wide web, which should be available for viewing within the next month at: <http://www.naturesclassroom.com> if you're "online." We have shot footage for a video which we hope to premier here in Mentone next September.

We'd like to thank everyone who shared local stories and history with us this year to help us develop the "folklore" part of our program, especially Mrs. Yvonne M. Thompson of Menlo, GA. If you have any more tales or legends about Mentone, we would love to incorporate them into our program, or if you would like to know more about this exciting program right here in your backyard, please feel free to contact me at: 634-4443 or P.O. Box 400 Mentone, AL 35984, Susan Cheronos, program director.

NAMED TO PRESIDENT'S LIST

Margaret Virginia ("Gini") Williams, daughter of Fran Hawkins of Mentone, has been named to the President's List at Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Alabama, for Spring Semester, 1996. She has also been on the Dean's List several times during her college career.

Gini is a senior. Her major field of interest is Food and Nutrition, and she expects to receive her Bachelor of Science in this field in 1997.

--THANK YOU NOTE--

I wish to say "Thanks" and I appreciate you, Lola Mae Blalock and Dale Kerby for helping me during the big "Ice Storm." Dale brought me a kerosene heater in 8° below zero weather from Lola Mae. May God Bless each of you for your acts of kindness and thoughtfulness.

Ann Watkins.



Sarah Ann-Elizabeth Hatfield

Sarah Ann-Elizabeth Hatfield of Valley Head has been awarded a two-year Leadership Scholarship to Northeast Alabama State Community College, where she will major in psychology and sociology.

Sarah is a 1996 graduate of Valley Head High School where she was a member of the Valley Head Band, Co-Head Varsity Cheerleader, Top 10 Magazine Sales, 12-year student, Purple & Gold Reporter, Editor of the Yearbook, F.C.S., FHA, and chosen for Senior Who's Who "Most School Spirit."

She is a member of Rising Fawn Baptist Church. Sarah is the daughter of Wiley and Sharon Hatfield.



(top) Dowe Clifton, Regina, Kent Kerby
(bottom) Dowe Clifton and Kent Kerby

(Photos supplied by Annie Watkins)

IT HAPPENED IN 1962

By Annie Pearl Kerby Watkins

One spring day a good friend and neighbor of mine came over to visit and chat for a while. After we talked for some time, she told me she was expecting a baby! What a surprise for me to hear her story--because I was expecting a baby, too!

As time went on, we agreed to travel together to the doctor's office for our prenatal visits. As we were on our way to the doctor's office one day, we talked about how nice it would be if we could go to the hospital together and have our babies at the same time.

As the months went by, the time was drawing near for our babies to be born. On this particular visit to the doctor's office, my neighbor was sent to the local hospital from the office having labor pains. At this point, I went back home sad, and almost in tears, since our hopes did not go as we had wished and hoped for. After arriving home the same evening that my neighbor was sent on to the hospital, that same night, I started having labor pains.

My husband took me to the same local hospital the next morning. We found my neighbor still had not had her baby. So, we both were in the same labor department together. What another surprise for us--was it that our wishes were going to come true? It wasn't long until we were in the last stages of labor together.

Soon we were moved to the delivery room at the same time together for our babies to be born. Our babies were born in the same delivery room, and then they were taken and placed in the same nursery together--at the same time.

The hospital staff chose to make our day more enjoyable by putting my neighbor friend and me in the same hospital room together--again!

My how fast the time flew by. Soon, it was time to go back home, but with lots of joy this time.

We were released from the hospital on the same day, together, and finally we arrived home the same day with a beautiful baby girl named Winona Dowe Clifton and a beautiful baby boy named Edwin Kent Kerby.

We celebrated their birthdays together for the next six years, along with their little friends until school bells were ringing for them. Dowe is married to John Michael Foreman and is employed at Clydell's Beauty Shop in Mentone. Kent is married to the former Jane Crow Blansit and resides in Valley Head, Ala., and is a construction worker.

It was such joy to help and watch you grow up together. Happy birthyear and many more for both of you. I love you.

UGF SPOTLIGHT

THE ARC OF DEKALB COUNTY

The ARC of DeKalb County, located at 201 Grand Avenue South in Fort Payne, is responsible for managing and running the Training Center and the Activity Programs which serve adults with mental retardation in DeKalb County. The Training Center and Activity Programs are in operation Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The ARC's goal is for individuals with mental retardation to be in the least restrictive environment available.

Individuals receive training in the areas of independent living, self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, self direction and economic and self sufficiency at the ARC's Adult Training Center.

The main focus of the Activity Program at the ARC is on maintenance of skills and training skills for employment of the individual in the community.

To be eligible for either of these programs, an individual must be mentally retarded, 21 years of age or older, (or have had twelve years of public school), and reside in DeKalb County. At this time services are provided at no charge. If an individual meets qualifications and services are not available, they will be placed on a waiting list.

Denise Richards, Executive Director for The ARC of DeKalb County, says UGF dollars provide the local support required for their agency to purchase state and federal funding. She says without UGF these programs could not exist. To continue to improve and expand services and to increase community awareness of the services provided by the agency are seen as goals for the near future.

Referrals to the programs available through The ARC are made through the Mental Retardation Board which is the planning and fiscal manager of all programs for developmentally disabled individuals in DeKalb County. The MR Board is located at 806 Grand Avenue South in Fort Payne and can be reached at 845-1097.

The ARC of DeKalb County is one of 14 agencies funded by United Givers Fund of DeKalb County.



The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

Festival 1996

The Rhododendron Festival for 1996 is now history, and it was a good one. This year our rhododendron plants outdid themselves and were blooming right on time, as if by cue. Some of the ones grown in our yards were a bit past their prime, but those on the river were really beautiful. The beauty pageant, held a week before the festival so that the queen and her court could reign over the festivities, was a very good one. The queen, a lovely girl from Ft. Payne, was Crystal Whitmire; the first princess was Anna Everett from Rainsville; the second princess was Angela Wheat from Mentone; and the third princess was Trisha Goodman from Valley Head. The queen received a leadership scholarship from Northeast State Community College, \$100, and many gift certificates. Each princess received \$50 and gift certificates. (See photo this page.) We wanted each of them to be winners. All twelve girls who entered were lovely. Jerry Waters was emcee again this year, and Lee Traylor was escort for the girls. Barry was pianist and Terry Hutcheson sang and played guitar as he has done for thirteen years. Doreen Waters and Dorna Hutcheson organized things well, which made the pageant successful. Together these girls can make any project run smoothly. They did the stage decorations with plants loaned by Spokey Baker at The Shed and baskets of rhododendron from my yard. Gail's Flowers arranged the bouquets for the winners from rhododendron Penny Lyday gathered from the yard of Charles Parker, our neighbor who grows extra beautiful flowers.

The judges were: Karen Herndon of Mentone; Judge Clyde Traylor of Ft. Payne; David Wassom, new owner of the Mentone Springs Hotel; and Molly McCanless, marketing asst., from Florence, Alabama. Greg McCanless furnished the sound system, for which we are grateful.

Joe Hines and Terrence McCabe, who are doing the "Dish" tearoom, prepared the dinner for the judges and their spouses and those of us who worked with the pageant. It was an excellent gourmet meal. Many thanks to St. Joseph's Episcopal for use of the kitchen and parish hall for serving the dinner.

The musical group, called Cotaco, were good entertainers who played various songs and sang for the Friday night program on the vacant lot at the Mentone Inn. They hail from Summerville, Alabama and volunteered their many talents and use of their expensive sound equipment for that night and Saturday at Brow Park. We loved them. They are nice people and we hope to have them for our October Colorfest. And our own Terry Hutcheson, local practicing attorney, was again at his best singing for us at the Friday night performance. It was too warm to have a bonfire, but Homer made seating arrangements and everyone had a good time.

The band Cotaco entertained at intervals all day Saturday at Brow Park.

The well-known singer, Dean Mitchell, sang Saturday afternoon followed by Dale Kerby, our own talented young man. Sunday morning devotions were by Rev. Bill Russell, pastor of Moon Lake Baptist Church. Barry Crow was pianist and Doreen Waters was soloist. Jean Matthews joined us for gospel singing following devotions. Karen Wright and her cloggers entertained for about an hour in the afternoon. The show was exceptionally good. Thank you Karen. Homer Crow and Lane did the boat rides at DeSoto Falls like they have been doing for years. They said the rhododendron on the river was spectacular.

Our vendors at the festival were nice people who offered a lot of quality merchandise. Much appreciation goes to those who worked hard to produce the festival, mostly the board members of M.A.P.A. Much appreciation goes to Jack Johnston for putting up the banner across the road and for



1996 Rhododendron Queen and Princesses

(L/R) Crystal Whitmire, Ft. Payne, was crowned the 1996 Rhododendron Queen, May 11, in Mentone. She is the daughter of Dennis and Cindy Whitmire. She is a 1996 graduate of Fort Payne High School and will be attending Northeast State Community College. She plans to pursue a career in nursing. She received a two-year Leadership Scholarship to Northeast State Community College, \$100, and several gift certificates. Anna Everett, Rainsville - 1st Princess; Lee Traylor - Escort; Angie Wheat, Mentone - 2nd Princess; Tricia Goodman, Valley Head - 3rd Princess.

"Could I But Ride Indefinite"

(This seasonal article and others to follow are from a scrap book belonging to long-time Mentone resident Mary Wiegand. The large scrapbook of her favorite seasonal articles by various authors was found recently in a storage chest at "Madaperca" by Don & Yvonne Brock.)

Could I but ride indefinite
As doth the meadow-bee,
And visit only where I liked,
And no man visit me,

And flirt all day with buttercups,
And marry whom I may,
And dwell a little everywhere,
Or better, run away

With no police to follow,
Or chase me if I do,
Till I should jump peninsulas
To get away from you,

I said, but just to be a bee
Upon a raft of air,
And row in nowhere all day long,
And anchor off the bar,
What liberty! So captives deem
Who tight in dungeons are.

—From "Poems of Emily Dickinson," by Emily Dickinson

removing it...to Shurlee Froehler for sending cards to vendors...to Jack Jones for again organizing the parade. It was fun. I love a parade. Thanks to the Valley Head High School marching band for being a part of the parade, and to the queen and her court for riding in convertibles furnished by Woodson Jones of Ft. Payne. Homer Crow was grand marshal, taking time out from the boat rides to ride with Jack in the lead car. Many others have not been mentioned: The boy scouts, under the direction of Bill Berry, handled parking well. Jim and Penny placed the vendors as they arrived; Sherman and Mickey Gough sold tickets on the quilt. The winner of the quilt was Donna Hairel of Ft. Payne.

We hope you enjoyed the festivities as much as we did.



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(l/r) Jane Brooks, State President, Doris Carmichael, new president, receiving the gavel from Dot Blackburn, and Flo Kirby (Inset is Dot Blackburn whose back is to the camera in the larger photo)

Photos courtesy of Doris Carmichael

VALLEY HEAD WOMAN'S CLUB

The Valley Head Woman's Club met at Cragmere Manna on May 15 for the annual Spring Luncheon. The tables on the back porch were beautifully decorated for the occasion by Dallyne Jones and Flo Kirby, who served on the Entertainment Committee for 1994-96. Floral tablecloths were adorned with garlands of weigela and greenery. A delicious meal was served to 21 members and 5 guests, Linda Thomas, Emmy Ricketts, Virginia Livezey, Ruth Hammon and Kathy Hammon.

The outgoing president, Dot Blackburn, was presented with long-stemmed roses as a token of love and appreciation for the beautiful job she has done for the past two years. She gave a very informative farewell speech about the activities and accomplishments of the Club during her two years as president. She paid tribute to all the officers, committeewomen, and other members for their contribu-

tions to the Club.

The new officers for 1996-98 were installed by Jane Brooks, State President. The new Valley Head Woman's Club President is Doris Carmichael; 1st Vice President is Evelyn Graves; 2nd Vice President is Bess Bauerle. Jean Jones will serve as Recording Secretary, Judy Shelley will be the Corresponding Secretary, Maxine Wright will be the Treasurer, and Flo Kirby will be Custodian-Librarian.

Doris Carmichael, newly installed president, gave a brief speech of acceptance, and she encouraged officers and members in the work of the Club and asked for their support.

The next meeting of the Valley Head Woman's Club will be in September at Nippersink Lodge with Gerry Disney, Sue Hamilton, and Maxine Wright as hostesses.



Menlo Graduates

Menlo Elementary School's eighth graders who participated in promotion ceremonies last week were, not in order, Justin Adams, Keisha Bandy, Heath Barnett, Reisha Becker, Jeffrey Bentley, Mathew Bierkamp, Justin Chamlee, Matthew Christol, Allan Collins, Rebecca Dunn, Kerri Glenn, Anthony Green, Jamie Hall, L. J. Hall, Kelly Haygood, Lindsay Hegwood, Joe Hudgins, Richard

Humphrey, Daniel Hunter, Josh Hurley, Amos Huskey, Emily Johnson, Leslie Knox, Carla Peace, Randy Peace, Nathan Plant, Casey Ramey, Curtis Ray, Amanda Rose, Charlie Rutledge, Timothy Rutledge, Jason Sammons, Joseph Swords, Richard Tapp, John Toles, Gina Treadaway, Jolene Walston, Sean Willingham and Ronnie Wright. (Staff Photo).

CLOUDLAND REALTY

Highway 48 • Cloudland, Ga. 30731
706-862-2761

SHINBONE VALLEY - Chattooga County - Blowing Springs Circle - 150.48 acres has hardwood timber and approximately 3/10 mile of paved road frontage - \$850 per acre.

CLOUDLAND - Approximately 200 acres with hardwoods and creek. Great for your own private highway or hunting preserve. Only \$500 per acre.

CLOUDLAND - Many beautiful brow lots priced from \$16,000-\$32,500.

MENTONE - 700' Brow - Furnished 3 bedrooms, recreation room, sauna, hot tub, indoor casual pool, 2-car garage, and large workshop area. Many other amenities. Appointment only-Qualified Buyers-Co-Broker of Southern Properties, Inc.

CLOUDLAND - Nice residential building lot in good neighborhood containing approximately 1/2 acre - \$4,500.

CLOUDLAND - Highway 157 - good camping lot - 60'x160' - Only \$1200.

MENLO - Approximately 12 acres just outside Menlo city limits - level and wooded. Priced at \$3000 per acre.

LAKE LAHUSAGE - Summer Get-Away-Very rustic. 1 BR cabin on 2.3 acres - \$65,000. Co-Broker of Southern Properties, Inc.

MENTONE BROW - Brow lot with 240' of brow and road frontage - \$25,000. Co-Broker of Southern Properties, Inc.

CLOUDLAND - 4 bedroom, 2 bath house features living room fireplace, kitchen/dining, central heat/air, one car garage, all on approx 1.2 acres - \$75,000.

SUMMERVILLE - 3 bedroom, 1 bath home with carport, utility room, hardwood floors and electric heat on nice corner lot. A must see at \$47,500.

CLOUDLAND - Dreaming of your own business? This convenience-pkg. store located next to the Alabama line on Hwy 48 in Cloudland is your answer. Nice brick building, CHVA, largest cooler on the North Georgia route, gas tanks and pumps, kitchen, plus outdoor BBQ pit on 5 acres. Lots of room for expansion and development. Land, store & inventory, all for just \$175,000.

Call Us For Information On Other Listings.

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DEAR GRADUATES

Graduates of 1996, Congratulations!
We have for you, great expectations.
A high school diploma you have earned,
hopefully, an abundance of knowledge learned.
Knowledge is more precious than gold
a wonderful treasure, your life to mold--
but knowledge without wisdom is vain,
can be dangerous and leads not to gain.
Altho you may be smart and very efficient,
never think that you are self sufficient.
No one goes alone through this life,
each one has troubles, joys and strife.
On others and God we need to depend,
so be very careful lest you offend.
Treat all others as you want them to treat you
Respect for rights and life is everyone's due.
Yield not to current trends to conform,
Strive always the world to transform
make the place where you are a better place--
History your life's actions will prove and trace.
Do the best that you can whatever you do,
To our obligations to God and yourself be true.
Experience is the best teacher and chastening rod.
In all your ways, seek the guidance of God.
Good character harvests a good reputation
Keep studying and continue your education
Learning does not end with school, it's forever.
Keep an open, seeking mind and worthy endeavor
will make you proud of yourself and life well spent.
To know achievement and joy and be content.
May God protect and guide and richly bless,
and crown your efforts with success and happiness.

--Eloise Brown



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part of this year's
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Sign up now to be part
of an adventure-filled
week at *The Jesus
Expedition Making
Discoveries about Jesus
through His Miracles*
Very exciting Bible
School™!

Ever wonder what it would be like to go to the South Pole, participate in an archaeological dig in an Egyptian desert, visit a jungle, climb Mount Everest, or explore the Pacific Ocean? Now you can do all those things and more in one action-filled week!

Each day you will visit a new Expedition Site. You'll hear and experience Bible stories such as Jesus healing a paralytic, ten lepers and a blind man, raising a little girl from the dead, and providing for Peter's needs in a creative way! Some of the things you'll discover about Jesus are that He has power over life and death and that He rewards persistence. There will also be interesting crafts, expedition games, and lots of fun.

Bring your friends and sign up now while there's still time. You won't want to miss the excitement and adventure of *The Jesus Expedition*!

DATES: June 17 - 21st
TIME: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
PLACE: MENTONE CHURCH OF GOD
AGES: 5-12

For more information, call: 634-4418.



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Psalm 107: 8, 15, 21, 31

On this Father's Day, I would like to say with David, "Oh, that men (fathers) would praise the Lord for his goodness, the good things He has done for their children. It must have been important or he would not have said it four times in the same chapter.

It's time for fathers to teach their children that good things come from God, and He should be praised!

Happy Father's Day!

GOD, MAKE ME WORTHY OF MY FRIENDS

God has given me many magnificent gifts, but far above others, the first and best He gave me is the gift of caring, Christian friends. Late in November '95, I contracted flu virus 4, the newest and deadliest strain of the disease. Simultaneously, an ignored blister on my foot exploded into blood poison, and the doctor warned me that the foot might have to be amputated. Word spread through my friends in Mentone and the prayer groups began. Although my medical advisor saw little hope in the fight to save my foot, gradually the effects of so many prayers became apparent. There is no way I can thank all my prayer partners except to acknowledge the hopelessness of my situation without them. Against all odds, you friends have turned around my physical crises. Thank you for the dozens of calls of concern and the cards of encouragement. May God bless you all.

Dr. Pat Seymour

IF YOU MISSED THE DEER TICK ON THIS PAGE, HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO SEE IT ON YOURSELF?

That's it, the tiny spot above the word "tick" in the headline. The tick that carries Lyme disease is so small that it virtually goes unnoticed. That's why it is so important to know the early symptoms of Lyme disease, because early treatment offers the best chance for a full recovery. Left untreated, Lyme disease can lead to arthritis, nerve, or heart problems.

For a free copy of the brochure *Lyme Disease*, contact your local Arthritis Foundation chapter or call the Arthritis Foundation Information Line toll free at 1-800-283-7800.



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50th

You are invited to attend a
50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration
honoring Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Smith
on Sunday, June 9, 2-4 p.m.
Cove Road Baptist Church,
Mentone, Alabama.

Come Follow Jesus Vacation Bible School 1996



It's a party!

You are invited
What: to follow Jesus
When: all the time
Where: everywhere

What to bring? yourself and any other people you want to bring.

Special comments: come just as you are
Come follow Jesus for the
party of your life!

Each day you will learn something about Jesus. You'll hear and experience Bible stories about ministering to others, using gifts of a child to feed 5000, healing a blind man, and being a disciple, too! Some of the things you'll discover about Jesus are that He has power over life and death and that He rewards persistence. There will also be interesting crafts, games, map making, and lots of fun and refreshments. On the evening of June 21st, there will be a covered dish dinner, including hotdogs for the kids. Everyone is invited to attend.

DATES: June 17 - 21
TIME: 9 a.m. - 12 a.m.
PLACE: Mentone United Methodist Church
Cutler Avenue, Mentone, Ala.
AGES: 5-12

For more information, call Barbie
Hester, 635-6576.



We wish to thank everyone for all their prayers, cards, calls, and flowers during my recent surgery and recovery. We would especially like to thank everyone who helped me with Beth--getting her to and from school every day. We are so thankful to have such wonderful friends such as you. God bless you.

Lisa Moore & Family