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Volume 22, No. 3

"Neighborly" "News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

March 2004

MENTONE TROOP 106 EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR



David Gilbreath, Scoutmaster and Eagle Scout Gregory Carreker, at Eagle Court of Honor January 17, 2004

In the year 2004, Troop 106 has held three Courts of Honor, two of which are featured in the March issue, and one of which will be in the April issue, as it occurred on Saturday, March 11, and pictures were not available at press time for this issue.

On January 17, 2004, Gregory Carreker was honored at a ceremony at the Jim Berry Hall in Mentone. His parents L.A. and Lesa Smith were both at the ceremony, having supported him through all of his efforts. He joined the troop on June 1, 1997. He is the 18th Scout in Troop 106 to become an Eagle Scout.

His rank advancements include:

Tenderfoot Scout: 12/7/97
2nd Class Scout: 5/3/99
1st Class Scout: 12/4/00
Star Scout: 4/30/01
Life Scout: 11/12/01
Leadership positions:
Troop Quartermaster: 11/15/00-5/14/01
Beaver Patrol Leader: 5/14/01-6/20/02
Senior Patrol Leader: 5/2002 - Present.

Merit Badges earned:

Required:

Citizenship in the Community
Citizenship in the Nation
Citizenship in the World
Communications
Environmental Science
Family Life

First aid
Lifesaving
Personal Fitness
Personal Management
Swimming

Elective:

Archery
Canoeing
Fingerprinting
Indian Lore
Landscape Architecture
Law
Metalwork
Rifle Shooting
Rowing
Safety
Space Exploration
Wilderness Survival
Wood Carving

(Continued on page 10)



Eagle Scout Gregory Carreker and Eagle Scout Jonathan J. Mayhew at Eagle Court of Honor March 6, 2004

On March 6, Jonathan (Jon) Mayhew became the 19th Scout to achieve the Eagle Scout rank. His parents Joseph and Julie Mayhew were his greatest supporters throughout his efforts. In 1998 Jon joined Troop 106. His rank advancements include:

1998 - Tenderfoot
2000 - 2nd Class
2001 - 1st Class
2002 - Start Scout
2003 - Life Scout
2003 - Eagle Scout
Leadership positions:
Patrol Leader
Senior Patrol Leader
Troop Scribe
Quartermaster
Merit Badges earned:
Cooking
Citizenship in the Community
Citizenship in the World
Citizenship in the Nation
Emergency Preparedness
Camping
Fingerprinting

Environmental Science
Bird Study
Fishing
Radio
Woodcarving
Communications
Indian Lore

(Continued on page 10)

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Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 6, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, and is chartered as a non-profit organization by the State of Alabama.

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Vice President.....Dot Crow
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They should be typewritten and of reasonable length.

The DEADLINE for all material for The Groundhog is the 15TH DAY OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

MAPA MEETING

The Mentone Area Preservation Association met on March 2, at the fellowship hall of the Church of God of Prophecy.

Present were Homer and Bernise Crow, Page and Margaret Cunningham, Leroy and Joanne Crow, Dot Crow, Dessie Brown, Joyce Cooper, Marie Dillenbeck, Jack Jones, Tom Donald, Chris and Sara Bladen, and Dorothy Shelden. Coy Crow came in later in the meeting.

President Bernise Crow called the meeting to order and Page Cunningham gave the invocation.

There were no minutes as there were no meetings in January and February.

Homer Crow gave the treasurer's report.

The President reported to the members that at the last board meeting two matters came up involving donations. The first was a request from Gail Chambers, who spoke on the purchase of new Snowflake Christmas decorations for the Town of Mentone at a cost of \$321 each, the payment of which would be due in October. MAPA's old decorations needed to be replaced and Gail was heading up a committee to replace them through commitments of individuals and businesses for new decorations. It was necessary to have a commitment by the end of February. The second was a request from Dr. Bill Berry of Moon Lake Elementary School for an additional sum to help pay for an art teacher for grades K-2. The board tentatively agreed to the purchase of one snowflake decoration and an additional \$100 for the art teacher, pending the decision of the members at the March meeting. By general consensus of the members, both requests were approved.



Another item on the agenda was the upcoming Rhododendron Festival, which is the third weekend in May—May 15 and 16, with some events planned for Friday, May 14. President Crow announced that she and Homer had talked with Bruce BonFleur regarding another quilt by the Dakota Indians, star design. Page Cunningham made a motion that MAPA purchase a quilt to be given away at a drawing at the festivals and that one be purchased from Lola Mae Blalock and one from the Dakota Indians, and pay the same for each quilt. Dot Crow seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

Under old business, the meeting was discussed. Late last year, the time had been changed to meet at 6:30pm. Dot Crow made a motion to meet each time at 7:00pm. Homer Crow seconded the motion, which was passed by a majority of the members present.

Coy Crow, festival chairman, gave a report on the upcoming Rhododendron Festival. 20 booths have been prepaid and 100 letters have been sent out. Helicopter rides will again be available. Duane Walker and the Desperados will be performing again and 13-year-old Laura Lynn Carter, from Huntsville will be here, as well as the possibility of having a blue grass band perform.

Parking was discussed, and Coy announced that Sharon Barron had agreed to allow MAPA the use of her property for parking at the entrance to the festival. Other parking suggestions were made regarding the possibility of a shuttle bus or vehicle for parking that is further from the Brow Park. No decision was made until contact was made with the owners.

There being no further business, Page Cunningham made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Homer Crow. The meeting was adjourned to have refreshments provided by Joyce Cooper and others.



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www.MentoneAlabama.org, MAPA'S web site, has a "Directory" to help visitors to our community find the places, things, and services they might want—much like the Yellow Pages in the phone book. If you have any information for the Directory, please submit it via e-mail to Listings@MentoneAlabama.org. If you already have a listing there, please make sure it is correct and up-to-date. Thanks for your help!

By Laura Catherine a/k/a Moon

Sassafras is one of the many blessings to grace Lookout Mountain. Most people do not consider trees to be in the herb category, but sassafras is considered an herb. It is a tree that grows from 10 to 60 feet tall.

Sassafras has been used in the southern mountains for generations as a spring tonic to cleanse and tone the body's system. To quote a Foxfire book, "In the spring of the year, when the blood is too thick, there is nothing so fine as a sassafras stick. It tones up the liver and strengthens the heart, and to the whole system new life doth impart."

Sassafras is well known for its diaphoretic properties. This means that it will increase perspiration to rid the body of toxins and problems such as the common cold and fevers.

Sassafras works well as a diuretic—it promotes urination. Its diuretic properties make it beneficial to the liver, kidneys and bladder. Sassafras used in combination with a bitter vitamin and mineral packed diuretic herb like dandelion helps the body as well as makes the dandelion more palatable.

Sassafras is known to work wonders for the stomach and bowels to relieve gas and colic. It has antiseptic properties, which makes it a good wash for wounds and skin problems. Sassafras can be used as an eye wash. It is used internally and externally for various ulcers. Sassafras can remedy a spasm if taken warm. The oil of sassafras applied to a toothache helps ease the pain.

Sassafras was used for many years to flavor soft drinks, especially root beer—hence the name the root beer tree. Many drink manufacturers replaced with synthetic flavoring because there have been studies done that indicated that the component safrole that sassafras contains has carcinogenic properties. According to Rosemary Gladstar, author of *Herbal Healing for Women*, the safrole was extracted from the plant and injected into lab animals in extremely high doses. This did cause some cancerous tumors to form on the animals. However, there have been no cases in humans of sassafras related cancer or poisoning ever documented in all the history of sassafras consumption. Furthermore, safrole is highly insoluble in water so as to cause even less concern regarding the dangers of sassafras tea. To be safe, it is wise to not drink sassafras several times every day for more than a week at a time.

Sassafras is one of the easiest trees to identify. It grows crooked and curvy with rough grey bark as a mature tree. As a sapling, sassafras bark is greenish and tan/grey. It has two different shaped leaves—one is ovate and the other is three lobed. If in doubt, pull off a sassafras leaf, crush and smell it. The wounded leaves have a lemony smell while the rest of the tree has a kind of licorice, sometimes with a hint of lemon smell.

There are many different opinions on what part of the sassafras should be used. The

most common medicinal parts used are the roots and the root bark. Other parts of sassafras that are occasionally used medicinally are the bark of the tree, the young tops and leaves. The powdered form of the leaf is used in Gumbo file' and to thicken soups. My 4-year-old-daughter Tsoi and I love to snack on the lemony leaves while we hike through the woods.

I prefer harvesting sassafras roots from trees that are approximately bush height and in overabundance in their current location. This size of the tree does not always indicate the size of the root. Some people find bigger sassafras trees and take part of the root. The root can be harvested any time of year. For medicinal purposes, I prefer harvesting during early spring or fall. A sassafras decoction—tea—can be made of the roots or root bark whether it is fresh or dry. A decoction is different than a tea infusion. It is a method used often to brew a tea from roots—whereas a tea brewed from leaves generally should not be boiled but the leaves steeped in hot water.

After you harvest the root, it is best to wash—scrubbing thoroughly—and then peel the bark if that is what you intend to use. I prefer to either use the whole roots fresh or dry them in sections. Sassafras is bad to mold if you do not have it drying in a well ventilated area. You can use a little heat—250 degrees with oven door cracked—to get some of the moisture out. It may be easier for some to cut the root into pieces before drying. After sassafras completely dries, store in an air tight container.

My husband, Dane, and I use the handful measuring method, but approximately one ounce of root per one gallon of water will make a good tea. In order to make a tea or decoction, the root and/or bark should be broken or cut into pieces then boiled in an enamel or glass pot. Keep the pot covered while boiling. I recommend boiling for at least ten minutes. Remember, the longer you boil, the stronger the tea. Let the tea steep until cool enough to handle and strain it through a stainless steel mesh strainer, cheesecloth, or a non metal strainer. The tea can be served hot or cold.

If you are looking for wild crafted sassafras, we plan to be harvesting by the 1st of April. We also have plans to start selling our own special Sassafras Root Beer. Try a Root Beer or Root Beer float at our new location and new store name—The Mentone Well House General Store and Deli located next door to the Mentone Market and across from the Post Office on AL Hwy 117.

Keep in mind that it is wise to consult your healthcare provider before making any changes in your healthcare regimen.

You are welcome to contact us with any questions: (256) 635-3333
www.MountainLifeMarket.com
LCMoon03@aol or
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RECIPE CORNER

By Sue Schwarz

There was a recipe in this column a few months ago that called for a white sauce. If you are like me, that can be a bit of a stumbling block. The microwave is a great tool for some of those cooking chores and I have enjoyed the fact that white sauce is easily done in a microwave oven and doesn't burn. The recipe featured here is using a 600 watt oven, and if you have a newer one that is 1000 watts, the times should be shortened. This sauce also is a good base for cheese sauce. If you add cheddar cheese, it works well with macaroni for macaroni and cheese.

BASIC WHITE SAUCE:

Barbara Kafka, *Microwave Gourmet*

4 T unsalted butter

4 T all-purpose flour

2 C milk

1-1/2 t salt

freshly ground black pepper (or white pepper if you don't like the black specks in your white sauce).

Heat butter in a 4-cup glass measure, at 100% for 2 minutes, remove from oven and thoroughly whisk in flour. Cook, uncovered, at 100% for 2 minutes. Remove from oven and whisk in milk. Cook, uncovered, for 4 to 6 minutes at 100% stopping to whisk any lumps and to mix the sauce well every 2 minutes. It may not take 6 minutes to cook, so it is done when the sauce is thick enough to fit your purpose. Remove from oven and season. Makes 2 cups.

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MOUNTAIN MAMAS CRAFTS & ROCK SHOP OPENS

By Mary Alice Stout

Mountain Mamas Crafts & Rock Shop will open for the 2004 season at noon (GA time) on Friday, April 2. It's our TENTH YEAR! The Shop is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 6:00 pm until December 5. Mountain Mamas sells consignment items made by over 60 women artists. New art and craft items arrive every week. During a visit to Mountain Mamas, you will find locally and regionally made pottery, candles, fabric items (rugs, pillows, wall hangings), handmade soaps, folk and yard art, collectibles, bird houses, a large variety of rocks and crystals, and homemade jams.

If you'd like to put something in the shop on consignment, call Mary Alice Stout at 706-862-2142 for more information.

Mountain Mamas is located on GA Hwy 48 in Cloudland, GA, on Lookout Mountain. Cloudland is a short drive from Mentone--go East on Hwy 117 to the AL/GA state line. Then about 1 mile into GA, on the left is the Shop.

Check out our website at
www.mountainmamas.com.

TRI-COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE/RESCUE NEWS

By Mary Alice Stout

EASTER BUNNY TO VISIT CLOUDLAND

Children from the mountain and valley are invited to come visit the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 10, beginning at 2pm. There will be refreshments, a free drawing for an Easter basket, and an Easter Egg Hunt. Also, there are prizes for those who find the most eggs and those who find the golden eggs.

The EASTER EGG HUNT will be held at the Tri-County Volunteer Fire/Rescue headquarters on GA Hwy 48 at the GA/AL state line, where AL Hwy 117 ends.

THANK YOU!!! Tri-County's Chili Dinner last month was a great success. Thanks to all who donated food, bought tickets, cooked, served, and everyone who came and ate. It was fun and we made money! Special Thanks to the businesses who donated--Menlo Lucky's, Summerville Sav-A-Lot, Ingles, Bi-Lo, McDonalds, and the Lookout Restaurant in Cloudland. Tri-County appreciates your donations.

Meet Baroness P.D. James by Jan Wilkinson

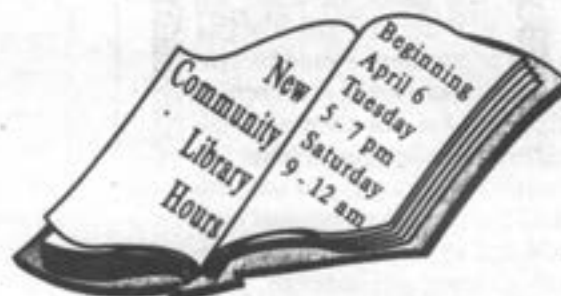
By the year 2000, P.D. James had authored eighteen books. Most of these have been filmed for television. Before her retirement in 1979, she served in the forensics and criminal justice departments of Great Britain's Home Office. She has been a magistrate and a governor of the BBC. The recipient of many prizes and honors, she was named Baroness of Holland Park in 1991.

P.D. James is a master of the crime novel. She demonstrates her skill in building classic detective stories when she develops gripping, complex plots. She utilizes psychological and emotional richness to build suspense. Her characters are unforgettable. In the novel, Death in Holy Orders, James' recurring hero from Scotland Yard, Commander Adam Dalgliesh, is called by a friend to investigate the murder of the friend's young son. The setting is at Dalgliesh's old college in East Anglia. No sooner has he arrived, than the college is torn apart by another murder, and Dalgliesh finds himself drawn into the labyrinth of an intricate and violent murder.

Death in Holy Orders, available at our Community Library in Large Print, is an adventure in action, suspense, and cleverness. Our library has other works by P.D. James:

Devices and Desires
The Black Tower
Skull Beneath the Skin
Cover Her Face
Shroud for a Nightingale
A Taste for Death

You might want to read one or all of these novels.....but maybe not on a dark and stormy night!



Book Signing

"The mother and son co-writing team from the peaceful little North Georgia town of Chickamauga didn't plan to be authors....at least Lamar didn't. As a young lady, Mary Agnes had dreamed of a career in writing, but the responsibilities of making a living, raising a family, and operating her own income tax service caused her to table that dream for many years. In 1961, after the birth of her son, she left her job as a legal secretary to become a stay-at-home mom. She had always done tax returns for friends and family, and soon thereafter started her own income tax service, which grew to be the largest tax service in the Chickamauga area.

Lamar grew up in the tax business, as Mary Agnes' offices were located in one side of the family home. Lamar worked part time with his mom in the tax business during college, then joined her full time after graduation. They were joined in the practice by husband and father, W. C. Fine, after his early retirement from Combustion Engineering in 1985. Then, in 1998, the Fines retired from the income tax business to pursue their writing."

These paragraphs are only part of the story of how the Fines began their writing career. They will be telling their story at the Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library on Saturday, April 3, 2004, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The Fines are the authors of three delightful books, all of which will be on sale at this time. Mary Agnes and Lamar will autograph each copy.

Their first book, "YESTERDAY'S GONE", is a love story, but it is far more than that. It's a story of survival and success in a world where life isn't always kind. It proves that by believing in yourself and persevering, you can ultimately reach your dreams...at least the important ones...and that, while Yesterday's Gone..Tomorrow lies ahead.

"I REMEMBER", the second of their books, is written through the eyes and memories of a little boy (the author) who couldn't 'sit still,' and couldn't stop asking 'why' or 'why not' and whose curiosity often got him in trouble.

The most recent, "YESTERDAY'S TOMORROW", is the second book in the Yesterday's Series, in the continuing saga of the compelling and endearing characters of "YESTERDAY'S GONE" Jack and Mary...Jody and Katie ...and Buddy. YESTERDAY'S TOMORROW echoes the truth that although Yesterday's Gone, tomorrow brings hope, and the light at the end of the tunnel is always worth reaching for.

Mary Agnes and Lamar are well known in our area. Come by and meet them., or say 'hello' if you are one of the lucky ones who know them already. Their books are 'keepers' and this is a good opportunity to acquire them for your own library.

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Dr. Penelope Laubenthal
Poetry Workshop

On April 14, 2004, in celebration of "National Poetry Month", the Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library will present a series of poetry workshops. The sessions will be conducted by Dr. Penelope Laubenthal, Professor Emeritus, Athens State University, and former chair of the English Department.

There will be sessions for the Moon Lake students during the day and an adult workshop at 3:00 PM. All sessions will be held in the Community Library. The adult session is free of charge and open to all, both authors of poems and those who have never attempted to write.

Dr. Laubenthal has conducted workshops throughout the United States and has been highly acclaimed. Praise for her workshops include the following:

"Your workshop was one of the most stimulating workshops I have ever attended. You organized a wealth of material and delivered it compellingly. It was such a beautiful blend of the right and left brain talking to and listening to one another. You used, in a complementary way, your grasp of theoretical constructs and examples from personal experience that touched me, and I think everyone in the room. I wouldn't hesitate for a second about attending another of your workshops." Ken Gorelick, MD, RPT Washington DC 1997

"Give yourself the pleasure of learning from Penne Laubenthal. Penne knows what teaching is all about. In the process, you will discover a true and lasting source of wisdom--within yourself!" John Fox CPT, RPT, poet and author of *Finding What You Didn't Lose* and *Poetic Medicine*. Palo Alto, CA 1998.

"This is one of your new students. I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the first class and how you inspire me to be the "real" me. You are obviously so full of life and fun to be around. Normally, I don't enjoy the idea of journaling but after the first day, I feel addicted to it!" Thanks again, Andrea Ostensoe (Academy of Lifetime Learning, University of Alabama-Huntsville, 2002)

We hope to see you at the workshop! For more information, you may contact Gene Giles at 634-3661, or any member of the library board.

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LITTLE EYES UPON YOU

Submitted by Nancy Lusk

There are little eyes upon you
and they're watching night and day.
There are little ears that quickly
take in every word you say.
There are little hands all eager
to do anything you do;
And a little boy who's dreaming
of the day he'll be like you.

You're the little fellow's idol,
You're the wisest of the wise.
In his little mind about you
no suspicions ever rise.
He believes in you devoutly,
holds all you say and do,
He will say and do, in your way
when he's grown up just like you.

There's a wide-eyed little fellow
who believes you're always right;
and his eyes are always opened
and he watches day and night.
You are setting an example
every day in all you do;
For the little boy who's waiting
to grow up to be like you.

—Author Unknown

LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

By Linda Brown

The library continues to be one of the best places in Mentone to visit. Diane Kuehl continues to process a lot of books each week. The FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY, which includes all of our volunteer workers, then cover, stamp and shelve them on our next visit to the library. We are getting our shelves very full. Soon we are going to have to get rid of some of our present books or build more shelf space. The members of the Board of Directors have discussed the idea of taking all of the books that haven't been checked out since the library opened to McKay's in Chattanooga and trading them for newer ones. If our committee cannot find books that they think would be good for our library, then McKay's allows them to take a credit. This credit can be used on a later visit. Isn't this a wonderful idea? I am not a part of the buying process so I don't know who owns McKay's or if it is a national chain of stores.

The members of the Board of Directors are very excited about two events that will be coming up this spring. One is a book signing by authors who are mother and son. The other is a day of poetry for the students of Moon Lake Elementary School and also for the adults of the community. Look for complete details of both events in this issue of *The Groundhog*.

We have already started to think about our second summer program at the library. This will be for all grades in Moon Lake Elementary and maybe for the students who have moved on to another school. Mrs. Lassetter, the school librarian, is considering a book club for the older students. They might read a book and then come together on Saturday morning and discuss this book. She is also thinking about an after school program for older elementary and middle school students. The members of a book club can have some very interesting discussions, as each member always has different ideas about the book for that club meeting.

We would really like to keep those students who live in Mentone but attend school off of the mountain interested in using the library. We have a lot of books especially for young adults. They are marked as such and shelved by themselves. They are on the rolling carts under the windows of the computer lab. All are available for checking out. If you don't have a library card or a school number, you can check out one book on the day that you apply for a card. Then after your card is ready and picked up, you will have the same privileges as an adult card holder. Maybe you should go by and apply for a card before summer gets here, then you won't have to say, "I don't have anything to

do." You can always have a book available to read and it is so easy, just come by the library on our open days and the volunteers who are working will help you.

There are a lot of people who helped with the essay contest for the fifth and sixth grades of MLES. I owe them all a very big, THANK YOU! I did not ask anyone to help who wasn't glad to do so and very enthusiastic about it. First, I want to thank Marie and Evelyn for printing the winning essays, with pictures, in last month's issue of *The Groundhog*. That was very nice of you. These two ladies do a wonderful job with our paper. Also, thanks to the lady who gave the money for first place. This enabled us to offer three prizes instead of possibly only one. Thanks also to the teachers and parents who took the time to help students. Our goal was that this be a learning experience and I think that we succeeded. I am looking forward to next year's contest. Next year, the present students in fifth grade at MLES will have the advantage, they have already written one paper and now they know what to do. A special thanks goes to the persons who were judges. They hold a special place in my heart. They are persons who are interested in Mentone and MLES. All of them are former teachers and know that our students are the future of our town, state and country. Last but certainly not least, thanks to all of the students who wrote an essay, all of them were very good and I am glad that I was not a judge! Thanks to the three winners for reading their papers aloud to the Parent-Teacher Organization meeting. This is not an easy thing to do and they did a beautiful job! Thanks again to everyone who had a part in the success of this endeavor.

The Board of Directors of the Moon Lake Community Library meets on the third Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the library. Our meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend. However, to be on the agenda for any meeting, you must call Jan Wilkinson at 845-5048 at least three days before the meeting.

New hours the library will be open when Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, April 4 are: **Saturday, 9 to 12 and Tuesday, 5 to 7.**

You can mail a suggestion, contribution or any other material to: Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library (or MLESCL), PO Box 481, Mentone, AL 35984.

Watch for advertisements for the coming events around town and in *The Groundhog*.

Help !! I need a book review or a critique of an author for the April issue of *The Groundhog*.

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Our Town

By Linda Brown

It is the middle of March and very warm. So far, this has been a very mild winter. Now it appears that we will have an early spring. The daffodils are in bloom everywhere and the forsythia is blooming in the more protected places. Everyone has the big beautiful daffodils that are so many colors and sizes. One of the reasons for this trend is the fact that two ladies from the Rhododendron Garden Club were able to acquire what seemed like thousands of daffodil bulbs and let each member of the club buy a bagful. Now every bulb has come up and is blooming. They are beautiful. Thanks ladies!

Bulbs are one of the easiest things for a novice gardener to plant. They contain everything that they need inside the bulbs, so they can be planted just about anywhere and in any soil. They make larger plants with larger blooms when they have some fertilizer, but do not require it. Look at the ones that have bloomed in pastures and old home sites for years and years. Daffodils are especially good for Mentone because the deer won't touch them. I have found that it helps protect other flowers from the deer if I plant a circle of daffodils around the flower that I want protected. Now if only I could find daffodils that would grow to be five feet tall so I could plant them around my hydrangeas. I was so excited because the cold had not damaged the hydrangea and I thought that it might bloom this year. Then I looked out the window one morning and the deer had eaten all of the new growth. Ann Wright has told me that the new growth that comes on last year's stalks is what will flower. Oh, well, at least I can enjoy the beautiful green foliage of the plant.

The work on the recycling center and the curb and gutter project on Scenic Drive is a little behind schedule because of weather and red tape. Any time that you deal with government agencies and try to get grants and low income loans, it takes much longer to do a project. The recycling center is something that the town is doing on a "let's try it and see what happens" basis. We have all observed that other places have tried to offer this service and failed. We need the support of everyone to make this work. Everyone should be alert to any illegal use of the site and report the same to the town or the police. It will take the cooperation of everyone to continue this service. We especially need to watch for out of state use. Most of the states close to us have much stricter laws than Alabama and they love to dump their trash on us.

The Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library has had an organized Board of Directors to oversee the community side for one year this month. We are so excited that the library has come this far in such a short time. Many people deserve a lot of credit for this success. The idea originated in someone's mind long before the plans for the building were drawn up. Those of you who remember the beginning know that someone donated a sizeable amount of money which was matched by the community. Committees then worked long and hard to come up with workable plans for the building and an easy way for both the students and the community to use it. The DeKalb

County Board of Education then approved the plans and built the building. I have never known how much money they had to put into the building but I'm sure it was quite a lot. Now we have a facility that everyone can be very proud of. I hope that most of you reading this will also read the article called, Libs from the Library. This gives a more detailed description of the many activities that are being planned for this spring.

Have you been to the four-way stop on Scenic Drive and DeSoto Falls Road to look at the progress of the new sub-station that the Sand Mountain Electric Co-op is building? I never thought I would see poles that tall in Mentone. This should help with some of Mentone's problems of power outages. This winter we have been very fortunate in that we haven't had bad weather that caused problems with the electrical lines. The clearing of the right-of-ways has helped tremendously. This removes most limbs and trees that can get into the lines. Here at our house, we continue to have quite a bit of blinking in our lights. This may be caused by limbs blowing into the lines or other reasons. I hope the new station helps even this problem. The lights just now blinked is the reason that I thought of this. Anyone who uses a computer knows that an electrical outage while the computer is on can be a bad thing. Everything that you have written up to that point can be lost if you haven't saved it. I can never remember what I had written to repeat it when that happens.

I know that there are people who do not like zoning laws. Mentone has had zoning laws for over ten years now and is a much better town to live in because of them. Lots of people are moving to Mentone because of the zoning laws. They are a good protection for your property. The rumor that a tract of land that contains over 155 acres may soon be for sale has brought this to mind. This land is in the Mentone town limits. Some of it is on Little River. The zoning laws will protect the surrounding land owners to some degree, but maybe we should have been more ruthless when we first put the laws into effect. I was on the first committee and I remember that we tried to zone in such a way that everyone could own a home. Most of Mentone even allows mobile homes for this reason. Now I think that we should have designated more of the land a stricter zone. No matter how hard you try, you never can totally prepare for the growth that is sure to happen.

I have heard several stories lately about pigs. This started me to thinking about a little one that ran loose on our farm in Adamsburg. He was the runt of the litter and the bigger siblings pushed him away from the food supply. Because of this my mom started giving him a bottle of milk. I suppose it was easier to have him outside the pen than to climb into the pen with what probably was a mean old sow and ten or twelve little pigs. Anyway, he had the run of the farm. After he grew a little, he would come up the back steps onto the back porch and bump the door until someone came to the door with his bottle. Needless to say he became quite a pet. He would run and play with us and our dogs. The dogs didn't bother him, but let one of the others crawl through the fence and the dogs would bark until they were put back. I went back to this farm last summer. The house and the barn that dad built are still standing, but in bad repair. I think that they will have to be torn down and new ones built if anyone ever lives there again. I would like to have some of the soil from there in Mentone, it is some of the best in DeKalb

March 2004 / The Groundhog/Page 7

County. It grew great corn and good cotton when the weather cooperated. During the last years that we were there, dad grew vegetables to take to the Farmer's Market in Chattanooga. We soon realized that the days of the small farmer were over and we sold the farm. This was when I moved to Valley Head and then some six years later moved to Mentone and have been here ever since.

The Senior Meals program continues to be successful. We have added two persons lately. Once again I want to remind everyone that income is not a factor. The one absolute rule is that a person be sixty or more years of age. Other than this the other requirements are that you can't shop and cook for yourself without difficulty. We were getting seven meals complete with milk, bread, butter, juice and a cookie, but they were cut to five when Gov. Riley's tax plan did not pass. If you know of someone who might qualify, call me or the town hall. Marie will get the information to me and I will call the agency to come and interview them. From then on, we will deliver the meals weekly. Thanks to the volunteers who deliver these. This is quite a commitment.

Don't forget to reset your clocks before you go to bed on Saturday, April 3. It is time to "spring forward," so set your clocks ahead one hour. This is also a good time to check the batteries in your smoke alarms. Statistics have shown that smoke alarms do give you more time to escape from a burning building. This is one time that seconds count.

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District has been awarded a FEMA grant. This will enable the firefighters to order a much needed service truck. This truck will also serve as a first responder truck and a brush truck. As most of you know, a grant must be matched with money or labor. This one must be matched with money. We are watching our funds carefully to be sure that we keep enough in reserve to match the grant when we receive it. The Volunteer Firefighters have put together a package for a truck. Companies will take your specs and build the truck that your department needs. Isn't that cool, as the young folks say. This is one reason that one truck can serve so many purposes. The Volunteers are doing a great job and we should all tell them how much they are appreciated. It is one thing to go and fight a fire when you get paid for doing it and quite another to go and fight a fire knowing that the only pay you may get is a thank you. The members of the board of directors strive to find ways to show them that they are appreciated. Please do your part. If you don't know who they are, let me know and I will publish a list of names of the volunteers. Rusty Chambers is the Fire Chief and Kevin Worthy is Assistant Fire Chief.

Spring is such a fun time in Mentone. So many events have already been planned that should go on your calendar. Always watch The Groundhog for announcements of library events, school events and the dates and times of meetings of town and other organizations. Marie does a great job of getting all of this together for us. Speaking of The Groundhog, the library has the complete set of The Groundhog. It was donated by Jean McGehee.

Plant something, write something, say something, do something, pick something, and love something. You decide what, where, when and who!

Mentone Tourism & Special Events Committee

Meets the Second Sunday of every Month @
MERF House at 4:PM.

2004 HISTORIC WALKING TOURS

Saturday May 29, June 5, June 12, June 19, June 26, July 3

Christmas In Mentone, 2004

Ongoing commitments of the Committee

Newest Item: Mentone Visitor's Handbook

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---NOTICE---

This year, MAPA will give away one of two handmade quilts. One is made by Native Americans in South Dakota, and one is made by Mentone resident Lola Mae Blalock, who has provided our festival quilts for many years and whose handiwork is unrivaled anywhere. The person whose name is drawn at the Rhododendron Festival on May 16, will choose one quilt, and the second quilt will

The 2004 Mentone Rhododendron Festival is quickly approaching (May 14, 15, 16)... Order Your Quilt Tickets Now!

Complete the form below, and send in your donation (\$1.00 per ticket). Your ticket(s) will be entered in the drawing for the gorgeous handmade quilt to be given away, Sunday, May 16, at 4:30 pm., at the Entertainment Pavilion on the Brow.

Please enter my name in the drawing for the handmade quilt. I am ordering _____ tickets @ \$1.00 donation each. I am enclosing my check/money order in the amount of \$ _____

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Phone number: (____) _____

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The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

Spring has arrived and is most welcome. It seems we have had the most dreary January and February I can remember ever. It seemed skies were overcast with misting rain or fog too many days. Our mountain weather is hard to predict by the weather man. The wind can quickly change directions and when they say rain and snow flurries, we have sunshine.

Homer and I have spent some good restful time at our home in Chattanooga. We always plan to work a little on the house, but usually spend more time resting, eating, sleeping, and sitting by the fireplace watching television. We have some dear friends in the area and didn't even call them. We did go to estate sales and buy for the shop so we will be stocked with merchandise for the summer months when tourists are in Mentone.

We have many people come in to the shop wanting information about where to stay, the places to visit and where to eat. They will certainly miss Dessie's Kountry Chef Restaurant, with its good southern country food. I hope someone opens another place similar to hers. Dessie plans to have carry-out food for those who want to go on a picnic, horseback riding, or sightseeing at Little River Canyon, etc.

L.C. Moon is working on a type of brochure that will give visitors names of eating establishments, bed and breakfast accommodations and phone numbers to call. This will be good as we don't have this information readily available. We have a good brochure furnished by MAPA and Zora Strayhorn's "Mentone, A History." The brochures are complimentary and I sell Zora's book quite well for \$10. It is a good book giving history of the early beginnings of the Mentone area and lists the early families who lived here.

Joyce and Coy are preparing letters for Rhododendron Festival vendors. We mailed out a stack of them to addresses we had from previous festivals. And we are getting calls from people who have never been here and have heard about us and want to come. The helicopter rides will be available again and the band from Huntsville, Dwayne Walker & The Desperados, is coming and will perform at the bonfire and at the Brow Park Saturday and Sunday. Coy has other musicians lined up. It should be another good festival.

Winona Smith Hulgan's daughter, Grace, came by to visit one day recently. I had not seen her in several years and the same day, June White Harrison came in and I was delighted to see her. I had not seen her since high school days at Valley Head. That made my day! Her sister, Margarite, passed away in January. They were both beautiful girls. Their father was Rev. Bob White who preached many funerals in DeKalb County and he always ended with the poem, "Crossing the Bar" by

Tennyson. Their grandfather was Doc White, also a preacher. He preached many years in various churches and never took a dime for his services. I guess the last time I heard him speak was at Little River Church decoration. These girls have a great heritage.

Then Tom Anderson came by with his grandchildren just to say hello and see if we were well. The grandchildren are beautiful. Tom was keeping them for the day for their parents, Brad and Michele. Tom said he took them hiking at DeSoto Park, and I think the grandfather was more exhausted than they were! Tom and Homer were business partners for a few years and he and his wife, Tookie, seem like an extension of our family. I had no sales that day, to speak of, but what a wealth of friends—better than gold!

Coy is working on the Rhododendron Festival some every day, and it sounds exciting. How good to have him and Joyce to help. We have worked for many years and are happy to have some young people join in our efforts. I feel that we are working better with different groups. All of us are interested in the same thing—keeping Mentone historically correct and, at the same time, beautiful and restored. Mentone was a thriving place years ago, but seemed to go through a slump after World War II. I remember when Riverside, Riverdale, and Mentone Springs Hotels were full all summer. Of course, things do change and some changes are good for all of us. Now, we have bed and breakfast inns that are very comfortable, attractive and have pleasant, friendly hosts.

I just met Paul and Carolyn Todd who have purchased many cabins, refurbished them and have them for rent. That's wonderful. We need all of them when we have our festivals.

We are glad to have Leroy and Joanne Crowe living here permanently now, and they have graciously let us use a part of their property for the helicopter when we have our festivals. We were happy to have them at our last MAPA meeting.

Ruby Brock is back at home and I'm pleased to see her biblical text and comments in *The Groundhog*. We missed it while you were sick and recuperating, Ruby. God bless you!

Bruce BonFleur was visiting here recently and Homer asked him if we could get another quilt made by the Dakota Indian ladies in South Dakota where he and Marsha have been as missionaries for the past five years. Bruce donated one quilt to MAPA two years ago, but felt like he couldn't do it again, but said that if we paid for the quilt, he could get the ladies to make it and he would bring it to us when he returns (he and his family are planning to move back to the Chattanooga area soon). So we needed to have a MAPA Board meeting to make this decision and some others. Gail Chambers had called me to see if MAPA would buy a Christmas decoration (one or more) to mount on the electric poles in town. Our old ones are ten years old, a bit worn, and the wiring is bad. So, we needed to discuss this. I invited Gail to the board meeting. Also, Dr. Bill Berry, principal of Moon Lake School, called to see if we would be willing to help pay an art and music teacher for a 6-week session at the school for kindergarten, first and second graders. I also invited him to our meeting. Gail gave a good presentation and we thanked her for her work as a volunteer to get other other organiza-

tions to contribute. We then voted to buy two decorations @ \$321 each, and maybe buy another one at a later date. We also voted to give an extra contribution to Moon Lake School (in addition to our annual donation.) We are very proud of our school and the work Bill does to make it an outstanding one.

After our meeting, we had refreshments and a good "talk fest." It was so much fun remembering comedic things people have said and done. Bill said we should write a book to preserve this history. Great idea! Maybe he will do it. Perhaps the next "talk fest" could be tape recorded.

There is a lot of history in our little town—almost reminds one of the mime we saw in England about "Our Town." We have had some of all kinds of people, any one of which could be part of a good novel. It seems that "Brunch at the MERF house" followed some of the same kind of stories we told. I loved Brandol Jones' recollection about him and some others getting peanuts from his uncle's home and dropping the shells all the way to the next house where they stored them. I told our group about my cousin, Herhall Lea, riding his bicycle across (or trying to cross) the swinging bridge near Taylor's Ford. The bridge was iced over and he just rode off into the river. He told Jim Isabel about it and Jim said, "I b-b-bet twas a cold baptizing!" When Jim proposed to his wife, Willie, she was doing her laundry at a spring and he came by and said "Me want you mix my dough."

(Continued to page 13 for the February Country Journal article that did not appear in last month's issue.)

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MENTONE TROOP 106 EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

Eagle Scouts (continued from page 1)

Greg Carreker (continued)
For his Eagle project, Greg landscaped between the main building and the gym on the Moon Lake Elementary School Campus.

Troop 106

Scoutmaster: David Gilbreath

Assistant Scoutmasters: Dr. Bill Berry,
David Killian, Mike Bare, Tom Oberle,
Marlin Cox, Roy Jones, Paul Whittle

Troop Committee: Roland Hendon, Chairman;

Dianne Gilbreath, Treasurer

Brandol Jones, Scouting Coordinator

John Hurt, Unit Commissioner

Jim Jones, Member

Jan Wilkinson, Member

John Wilkinson, Member

Curt Miller (11/25/96)	Andrew Habel (1/17/00)
Bryan Young (2/27/97)	Ben Stewart (5/7/00)
Adam Bialock (3/10/97)	Joshua Hughes (12/3/00)
Jake Pinholster (5/26/97)	Tripp Griffith (2/11/01)
Ken Miller (10/9/97)	Peter Hurt (9/23/01)
Ryan Drake (10/10/97)	Robert McReynolds (4/29/02)
Chad Oberle (1/25/98)	John Mayhew (8/24/03)
Paul Whittle (3/7/99)	Greg Carreker (8/24/03)
Marlin Cox (4/5/99)	Jason Oberle (11/23/03)
Jack Corey (10/24/99)	Kyle Hooks (11/23/03)

Eagle Scouts:

Senior Patrol Leader: Kyle Hooks

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader: Andrew McCole

Junior Assistant Scout Master: Jason Oberle

Troop Guide: Jon Mayhew

Beaver Patrol: Charlie Akes, Patrol Leader

Isaac Akes

John Jones

Fred Castleberry

Keith Miller

Nathan Douglas

Fox Patrol: Alex Hazell, Patrol Leader

Jared Bare

Daniel Hughes

Max Cherbonneau

Kaleb McMunn

Frank Graham

Jon Mayhew (continued from pg 1)
Merit Badges earned: (cont)

Family Life

Personal Management

Computers

Personal Fitness

Snow Sports

Metalwork

Leatherwork

Cooking

Rifle

Shotgun

Orienteering

Pioneering

Mr. Mayhew's Eagle Project was cleaning up the roadside at Tutwiler Gap Road.

Jon also cut up fire wood and delivered it to those in need.

During the fall festival (Colorfest) and the spring festival (Rhododendron Festival), Jon helped with the parking and the cleanup of the festival area. He also participated in events at Camp Comer by helping park cars, Cub Scouts Haunted Weekend, and for reunions.

Troop 106 is truly exceptional. Through lots of hard work, fantastic community and family support, the young men of Troop 106 have accomplished many things for the community and its residents. We of this area are so proud of our scouts and what they mean to each other and to this area. The leadership skills they are receiving will carry them through their lives and benefit all whose lives they touch.

Jon has gone on many camping trips and has attended summer camp. He plans to go on a trip with the scouts this summer to Philmont Scout Ranch for a two-week hiking trip (Arizona and New Mexico).

Eagle Scout Mayhew started scouting in Englewood, FL, with Troop 198 in 1967.

Jon and his dad, Joe, helped clean up Camp Comer after the ice storm in 2000. They stayed all day on Saturday with chain saws cutting and clearing the roads in Camp Comer.

Jon has tentatively been accepted to Nashville Auto Diesel College.

Jon and his dad, Joe, helped clean up Camp Comer after the ice storm in 2001. They stayed all day on Saturday with chain saws cutting and clearing the roads in Camp Comer.

Jon has tentatively been accepted to Nashville Auto Diesel College.

Their Eagle Scout projects require much planning and cooperation and, as a result, these projects have taught them many skills and have enhanced the Mentone area. Troop 106 is, truly, an exceptional scout troop and we in the community would like to commend each of you for the work you do in your troop and in the area in which you live. The lives you touch are changed for the better.

Thanks for being there!



Mentone Environmental Committee

By L.C. Moon

Mentone needs your help! There are many people coming out in the community to help Mentone to improve and maintain the beauty, as well as preserve our quality of life, through the environment. There was an initial scare that West Nile might be a problem because there was a bird found dead in Mentone with the virus. After much research, the consensus is that clean up, increasing habitat for natural mosquito predators, as well as some applications of the natural non-invasive bacteria--BTI (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) to places with standing water is the most beneficial way to help mosquito control. Lyle Nicely, Chairman of Mentone Environmental Committee, made a very good point that because a bird was found does not mean that the West Nile carrier mosquito infected the bird in Mentone. Lyle said that the mosquitoes do not fly more than a couple of miles, whereas, the bird could have flown for many miles to Mentone. However, it is still necessary to clean up containers and anything that can potentially hold water in order to avoid the possibility of spraying harmful chemicals.

The efforts that are being made by volunteers are helping greatly with clean up and destroying of mosquito breeding habitats along the streets of Mentone and at their own homes. Every person in Mentone that does not make an effort not to litter or to clean up potential breeding grounds thwarts the efforts of another who is trying to make a difference. We are a unique community with a quality of life most of the world longs for. Please help maintain our quality of life for us and for the environment.

Bill Rutledge (Mentone resident), Glenda Hollis of The Mentone Inn, along with Lyle Nicely organized the March 20th clean up day for cleaning up AL Hwy 117. Bill Rutledge called Lyle and told him about his efforts and others who had done it in the past. Rudy Bell also made mention of his attempts to clean up AL Hwy 117. Glenda Hollis generously volunteered to provide lunch for all the volunteers.

Organizations that have donated funds are: Lookout Mountain Holistic Center - \$300; Keep America Beautiful is providing 450 garbage bags; Wal-Mart \$75 for gloves, etc. Boy Scouts of Troop 106 are going to put up bat houses around Mentone. So far, Lyle has gotten six people to commit to buying bat houses. If you are interested, please call Lyle to donate \$50 to purchase 2 bat houses. Mayor C.E. Britt has enlisted the help of Constance Gwinn of Community Resource Group, Inc. She is helping the mayor organize the solid waste transfer station and recycling center that will be of great benefit to keep Mentone environmentally friendly. Please call Town Hall (634-4444) for information about the recycling center. Constance was also helpful in getting Lyle in touch with Keep Alabama Beautiful. Lyle is also trying to get cooperation from Jacksonville and/or Northwest Universities to find a student entomologist to do mosquito monitoring so we will know where it is most necessary to treat with BTI, etc.

Any further ideas or questions, please attend the meeting on April 1st or call Lyle Nicely 634-4124. Please take notice of the educational cleanup door hangers being distributed in Mentone. They will answer a lot of questions.

Remember the tiny girl who snuggled up to you at night and felt so safe in her Grandpaw's arms; and never let him out of sight. Who carried you water when you were tired from plowing in the fields, and no matter how long the furrows, was always at your heels. And at the end of the day, you'd lift me up to Pat or Daisy's back. They seemed as much a part of you as your pipe and worn-out hat.

I can even now recall, the jokes you played on me, And I never shall forget "Possum up the Simmon tree." It seems the years went by too fast, and a young woman I became, though disheartened with my foolish wiles, you loved me just the same. I remember the jealousy I felt, when smaller children took my place, but now I'm glad we all were blessed with the warmth of your embrace.

I wish my son could have only known, what a wonderful man you were, but I'll often tell him of you and I when I was a little girl. So please be waiting for me when I come home to stay, for I'll be looking for you. Please don't be far away.

Although I know you're happy now; and have so much to see Daddy, darling Daddy--
---Please remember me.

Janet Alexander.

Granddaughter Janet wrote this poem when she was a small girl. She is shown with her grandfather, Clarence N. Johnson, in the picture above.

His obituary read:

Johnson, Clarence N., 71 Mentone, died Friday, May 26, 1967, of injuries received when his farm tractor overturned on him. He was a farmer, member of Cove Road Baptist Church, and veteran of World War I. Services were held at Little River Baptist Church, Revs. Carl Williams and Jim Mitchell officiating. Burial church cemetery. Survivors: wife, Mrs. Ira Mae Johnson; sons, Herman and Paul Johnson, Mentone; daughters, Mrs. Ruby Wilson, Marietta, Ga., Mrs. Edith Watts, Tuscaloosa; Miss Bernice Johnson, Tampa, Fla.; Mrs. Pearlina Rentz, Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Mrs. Dianne Hunt, Mentone; a brother, a sister, 20 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



**Janet Alexander
and Clarence Johnson
In Memory of
Mr. Clarence Johnson**

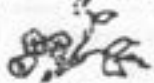
**Clarence N. Johnson, Mentone,
born March 31, 1896;
died May 26, 1967**

By Janet Alexander

Dear Grandfather,

I'm sure you know my grief and loss, since you have gone to be with Jesus there in heaven; Yes, it's both of you I see. You're telling him how much you like your new home above, Your body's healed and your face is filled with your same enduring love. I can see you so very clearly, and that's my consolation, for at last, you have sweet peace and rest; and your own dear revelation. And there's many familiar faces of loved ones that you see, but Daddy, in your time of joy; please remember me.

a "rustic touch of class"

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The following is a portion from Bernise's February article that did not appear in last month's issue:

Time moves on and we are into the shortest month of the year, and it's Leap Year. Of course, we know that leap year is also presidential election year in the United States. We are already being bombarded with speeches of those who are seeking the Democratic nomination. Later, the Republicans will hold their convention and speeches will go on until the November voting day.

I heard someone on television say that we have five Sundays this month and I had to confirm it by looking at the calendar. The first and last days of the month fall on Sunday. It only happens every 27 years. So this is an unusual year.

Gregg and Joyce enjoyed their Caribbean Cruise in January, and especially the good food on ship. Joyce didn't have a chemo treatment the following week and she had a ravenous appetite. She said she ate everything in Doreen's house! Then she went back to the hospital in Birmingham for her treatment, and she had gained seven pounds. That's wonderful! She had lost weight because her appetite is not good when taking chemo. Thank you for your prayers.

I am so sorry that Dessie is closing the Kountry Chef Restaurant, but she has had health problems and I suppose she needs a rest. I just hope someone buys the place and will continue the good food. Our local people will really feel the loss, and when we have our festivals, we don't have enough places for the crowds. We hope she stays with us. We need her and love her.

Homer and I have been staying in Chattanooga during the cold weather, and will stay another week. MAPA doesn't meet during January and February because it's usually either real cold or raining during these months. That does not mean we are not doing anything. Coy is already busy getting phone calls about the Rhododendron Festival. He is planning to have the helicopter rides and is trying to arrange parking areas. Last year, parking was a major problem. We need someone who is insured to drive a shuttle from the parking places to Brow Park. We will still have parking there, but it was not sufficient to handle all of it.

Joyce will help Coy by typing and sending letters to the vendors. That is a big job and she handles it well.

February is a special month, with Valentines' Day and Presidents' Day. I'm sorry they combined Lincoln and Washington's birthdays. It seems to take away a little of the celebration from each of those great men. Oh, well Government offices like Mondays off, so they can have a long weekend. Everyone needs a break.

You have probably heard that Eugene and Imogene Crowe won the lottery by buying a ticket in Rising Fawn--three million dollars! We need to remind them that Homer is related! The Fort Payne Times-Journal did a nice column about them. Imogene said she was shocked that the IRS took so much of it. But I could manage a third of it and be happy. The only other person I know of that won about the same amount lives in Chattanooga. He has managed it well by getting an attorney to handle it for him. He built himself a nice home and finished one that his son had started building. He bought himself a pickup and didn't even get a new one. He gets his annually, but the Crowes decided to take it all now.

The birds are still a source of pleasure. Our large feeder is covered with the fluttering little Titmice, Goldfinch and Purple Finch. When the weather is bad, they can't find food as easily and they appreciate the feeder. And the squirrels have stopped feeding with them. One day, we saw a flash of the most beautiful birds I've ever seen. They were rather large, bright blue all over except for a little red on their wings. I looked in my bird book and believe they were blue grosbeaks. I was hoping they would stay, but they moved on. It seems a bit early for migrating, but these migrated from someplace. I hope they were not going north. It's cold enough here. I miss my brother so much. He would have known in a moment what kind of bird these were.

As I write, it is snowing lightly, twenty degrees, and the birds have the feeder covered, more on the ground and on the wire from which the feeder is attached--like waiting in line to be served. They need suet on days like this, or peanut butter on bread to keep them warm.

If you think bird watchers are nerds, you should try it for a while. They are beautiful, interesting, and a pleasant way to spend a few minutes of your time--away from war news and tragedies we all experience at some time in our lives. The Mentone area is a bird sanctuary. I hope it is observed by everyone

Mentone Mayor's Notes

It is spring clean up time beginning at 9:00 AM Saturday morning, March 20th. The environmental committee will kick off several events of "Clean Up Mentone." We were fortunate to get the Alabama Department of Transportation to come from Huntsville and sweep down the rock wall on Alabama Hwy 117. We thank them for their work. Mentone does look a lot better.

The Town is experiencing theft of street signs. This is very costly and can be extremely dangerous when stop signs are removed. If you know of someone who has removed a sign, please tell them to return it or let us know so that the Town can recover the signs.

We are still planning on opening the Recycling Center, but probably not on April 1st. This is due to the weather and the surveyor needing to finish up as well as the fencing not in place at this time.

Now is the time to get rid of those junk autos, as steel prices are higher than ever. Get rid of the mosquito breeding places, "Save someone's life."

Please call me at the Town Hall (634-4444), as I can help. We know where and how to get rid of those ugly sights. Again, the rules and type of material we will be accepting at the center is listed below.

The rules regarding the use of the center are as follows:

- No household garbage or dead animals will be accepted.
- The center will be open on
 - Saturday mornings: 7:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and
 - Wednesday afternoon 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.
 - Other special times will be posted.
- The items that will be accepted are as follows:
 - aluminum cans and scrap aluminum;
 - glass and plastic containers;
 - copper, brass, iron, steel
 - batteries, radiators, air conditioners;
 - tires (no truck or tractor tires)
 - used motor oil (gallons)

Later on, we will accept paper and cardboard.

Exciting News!!!

Get ready for spring and summer by updating your wardrobe. Add a little spark to your life by learning something new. Sewing classes are still in progress on Tuesday evenings at 4 o'clock at Mentone Community Center.

Beginners, ages 10-100 are always welcome.

Telephone Evelyn Graves at 634-4390 for additional information.

**DAYLIGHT
SAVING
TIME**

April 4th

**SPRING FORWARD
... FALL BACK**





We have had some beautiful days with clear blue skies, sunshine, warm breezes and blooming flowers. I'm sure many people can't wait to stir up dirt and plant things.

Cindy and David Meadows, and **Beverly and Shane Wright** attended the Home and Garden Show in Chattanooga, Saturday afternoon, March 13. Shane's brother, S. Sgt. Russell Wright, is now in Germany, serving in the Army as M.P.

My cousins, **Bill and Blanche Fuller**, from Madison, AL, spent Sunday, March 7, with me. We ate dinner at Western Sizzlin and did a little shopping in Fort Payne.

Doris and Jim Carmichael went to Birmingham, March 11, for Grandparents' Day at Altamont School, with their grandchildren, Lucy and John Ricketts. It was a very nice celebration, with band, choir, and skits, and a very interesting program and nice refreshments. Lucy graduates from high school this year.

Edith Cox is confined to her home with a lengthy recovery from foot surgery. Her friends, Sandra and Danny Coulter from Ringgold, GA, came to visit her and brought her a nice gift from Mexico. Christine Brooks visited her and brought her a delicious lunch one day.

Laura Margaret Allison has returned home after an extended visit with her daughter, Ansley and John McGinnis, at Florence, SC, and Peachie and David Cearley at Alpharetta, GA. She was recovering from a fall she had at home.

Brandi McDade is much better after her surgery.

Charlie Ingle is better after gall bladder surgery and serious complications.

Howard Carson is recovering from cataract surgery.

Clyde Hawkins is now a resident of Collinsville Nursing Home after a stay in BMC DeKalb Hospital.

Dot Haney is taking a series of treatments.

Mozelle Crow is feeling better but has had a slow recovery.

We hope all who are sick will have a quick and complete recovery.

Gladys Harris and Sue Moore, from Chattanooga, spent the day, Saturday, March 13, with their relatives Susie and "Scooter" Clark.

Marion Odell has a new great grandson, born Feb. 24. His parents are Jessica and Jette Suddeth of Charleston, SC.

E.T. Holleman's great grandson, William Michael, had a party at the home of his parents, Amy and Mike Helms, in Fort Payne, to celebrate his first birthday, Saturday, March 13.

Paul Ellis will be the new head football coach at Fort Payne High School.

Rev. and Mrs. Jerome Jelks from Leesburgh visited Valley Head Methodist Church, Sunday, March 14. He shared the service with Rev. Nesbitt and preached a good short sermon.

Mike Marshall, feature writer for the Huntsville Times and a photographer, also, came by our church and the Presbyterian Church March 14, as they are doing a feature article on the two churches and our organist, Marion Odell. We hope to hear more about that later.

Dael Hoyt visited me and brought some good food. She and her mother are good cooks!

Michael Stack, son of Susan Higginbotham, received a scholarship to Auburn University, from the Boy Scouts. (Only two were received in Alabama.) He is an Eagle Scout.

Beth Moore will graduate April 30, from Jacksonville State University with a degree in elementary education. She will celebrate her 21st birthday, May 17.

Congratulations to all graduates and all achievers! Everyone enjoy the beautiful birds and flowers and precious sunshine, and hope the fruit survives. March marches on and soon we may know--it will be gone and we may have April snow--Hope not!

Lent Reminds

Lent reminds of a garden--Gethsemane,
Where Jesus went to pray in agony--
Facing betrayal and denial,
To be beaten and condemned in unjust trial.

It reminds of Golgotha's three crosses,
Of three kinds of different important choices,
When the sun hid in darkness its face--
Ashamed of the awful, infamous disgrace.

The silken cocoons set butterflies free--
To wing upward in beautiful ecstasy--
Reminding of Heaven's beautiful perfection,
Living proof of earth's resurrection.

The Dogwood abloom, was once strong and tall,
Now grows gnarled, twisted and small--
But glories in its blooms with sacred blood
And a crown of thorns symbolized in each bud.

Lent is a time of penitence and evaluation,
Of new appreciation and preparation
To receive the joyful and hopeful season
Of Easter's proof of resurrection's reason.

March, the Beast

March is a wild roaring beast,
Constantly on the prowl,
Winter's last fury unleashed,
To prance, to blast and to howl.

It seeks the warming breezes,
To change their temperature;
Their breath he quickly freezes,
Hoping Winter can endure.

It searches by the hour,
Any fruit's unwary bloom,
To shrivel, sere and devour,
If they venture from their tomb.

Roaring in tornadoes to destroy
Everything within its way.
The sun its warm rays may employ
To bring a brighter, gentler day.

March is a strong, fighting beast,
But only for a season;
Meek as a lamb, snowy fleeced--
It will bow to April's reason!

--Eloise Brown

March's Golden Touch

March, your magic golden touch,
Is of beauty just too much,
To contain in rapture bliss
As earth awakens to your kiss,
To produce a golden scene,
Framed in clean, emerald green.
Bright with dancing Daffodils,
As with new life all earth thrills.
Winter's bleak and freezing cold,
Explodes into Springtime gold,
Of Forsythia and Jasmine too--
March, like Midas, has touched you,
But more dependable and true--
More pure and fragrant too--
The gold of March gives more pleasure
Than all of King Midas' treasure.

--Eloise Brown

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(1) **PEACEFUL COUNTRY** - This 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, brick home has living room, kitchen w/dining and separate den, all located on 9 acres of wooded property and waiting for you. Call for your appointment TODAY! \$72,000 (PLS #12173)



(2) **CLOUDLAND, GA** - New listing with 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, over 3500 square feet. This log home was built in 1928 and is filled with character. Priced at \$152,500. (PLS #11807)



(3) This **CUSTOM BUILT HOME** offers 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, large eat-in kitchen area, spacious living room with fireplace and multi-purpose basement and includes 2.9 acres. \$199,000. (PLS #10234)



(4) **ROOM TO ROAM** in this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home offering lots of extras. Great room with cathedral ceiling, wood floors, recreation room, barn and fenced pasture on 3 acres connecting DeSoto State Park. \$129,500. (PLS #10907)



(5) Looking for a **MOUNTAIN RETREAT** - 8 self contained cabins, office building that could be converted into living quarters, numerous RV and camp sites all on 13+ secluded acres adjoining DeSoto State Park. \$395,000. (PLS #10906)



(6) **LESS THAN 1 MILE** from downtown Mentone and sitting on over 1-1/2 acres, this home offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, an open porch on front and a sunroom on the back. All appliances to remain including washer and dryer, 2-car carport with workshop and a 20x24 building for extra storage... office... craft shop, etc. \$92,500 (PLS #11605)



(7) **PRIVACY A PRIORITY?** Try this cabin on one wooded acre. Cedar siding, metal roof, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, covered front porch, side deck. Under construction and waiting for you to help decide interior decor. Only \$89,500. (PLS #12217)



(8) **PRIME LOCATION IN DOWNTOWN MENTONE** - formerly Dessie's Restaurant, approximately 3000 sq. ft. building with great parking. Now ready for your business. \$250,000. (PLS #11430)



(9) **COUNTRY AT ITS BEST** describes this rustic style home with spruce ceiling--floors and walls. Add charm to the 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and great room, large front porch looking out at a beautiful field from the 3.5 acre wooded lot. Listed at \$150,000. (PLS #11719)



(10) **INCREDIBLE VIEW! IMMACULATE HOME!** This lovely brick home features over 5000 square feet of living space, 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 2 half baths, with decks, patios, circle drive, beautiful landscaping and situated on over 3 acres for privacy. Owners must relocate...All reasonable offers will be considered! (Additional lot available also.) \$459,000 (PLS #11917)



(11) Almost maintenance-free **BROW HOME** with 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, large eat-in kitchen with island, cozy living room with fireplace, den/pool room with pool table already there. Great views of the valley. \$250,000. (PLS #11186)



(12) **ESTABLISHED OLD HOME PLACE** in historic Mentone. House is over 100 years old and is restorable with 16.8 acres. This home has several primitive barns and sheds all surrounded by huge Oak trees. Retreat to an era gone by for less than \$100,000.



(13) **HIGH ON A HILLTOP!** Situated on almost 23 acres, this beautiful southern home and farm have more than you can imagine! Four bedrooms each with its own bath, and two half baths, spacious great room with stacked stone fireplace, huge laundry/hobby room, finished walk-out basement with full den, fireplace and built-ins, handsome study also. Property totally fenced with new wood fence, huge barn with horse stalls and a concrete basketball court inside. \$899,000. (PLS #11850)



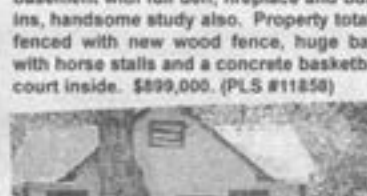
(14) **ROOMY RANCH!** This 3 bedroom, 1 bath has more space than you can imagine, making this a **MUST SEE!** This house offers a large eat-in kitchen, spacious living room/den with gas log fireplace, additional den that could serve as a formal living/formal dining/play room or office, 3 car carport, 2 outside storage sheds, covered entertainment area, shared tree-lined concrete driveway AND a heated 20x40 pool with pool house. What more could you want. \$139,900. (PLS #12159)



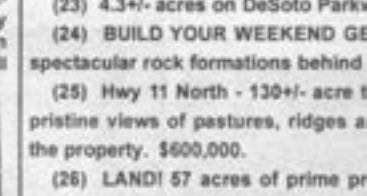
(15) **NEW LISTING!** 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with 9.89 acres with 1800 square feet, appliances to stay, rock fireplace and located near DeSoto State Park. \$150,000. (PLS #11809)



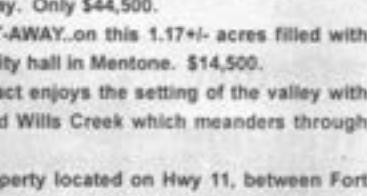
(16) **COZY COUNTRY CHARM** in downtown Mentone - 2/3 bedrooms, 1 bath with antique footed tub, living/dining combo, pine floors and walls, rock fireplace, central heat and air and a storage building on 2 acres. Fenced side yard. \$72,500. (PLS #12051)



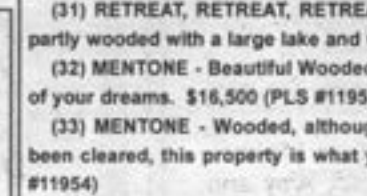
(17) **QUALITY CONSTRUCTION IS A TIMELESS ASSET.** This 3 bedroom home on a level, shaded 3/4 acre lot offers tongue and groove wood walls, hardwood and pine floors under the carpet, spacious rooms, ample closet, CH&A, roof only 5 years new, den which could be a 4th bedroom and a large outside storage building/shop. Just minutes from downtown Mentone. \$69,900. (PLS #11935)



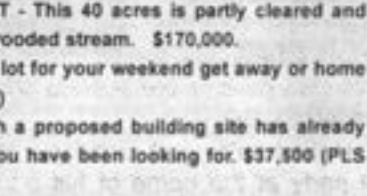
(18) **A WELL-KNOWN ESTABLISHED BUSINESS** featuring a fully-equipped kitchen and dining room with a large porch for outside eating, stage for entertainment and a rustic atmosphere in a charming renovated old home. Located between DeSoto State Park and Little River Canyon and only 10 minutes from Fort Payne and Mentone. \$129,500. (PLS #10215)



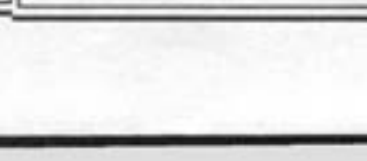
(19) **MENTONE** - Build your cabin on this secluded yet convenient lot located near DeSoto State Park. \$19,500 (PLS #11730)



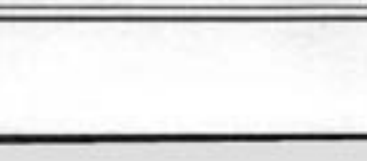
(20) **WEST FORK SUB.** - 254' of river frontage (Little River) Gently sloping with great building sites. Lightly restricted. \$40,000 (PLS #10134)



(21) **LAND** - Wooded Corner Lot just South of Downtown Mentone. \$5,500. (PLS #11805)



(22) **GENTLY ROLLING, WOODED VACANT LAND IN VALLEY HEAD.** Perfect for development. Extensive paved road frontage. 62 acres listed at \$3,000 per acre.



(23) 4.3+/- acres on DeSoto Parkway. Only \$44,500.



(24) **BUILD YOUR WEEKEND GET-AWAY** on this 1.17+/- acres filled with spectacular rock formations behind city hall in Mentone. \$14,500.



(25) Hwy 11 North - 130+/- acre tract enjoys the setting of the valley with pristine views of pastures, ridges and Wills Creek which meanders through the property. \$600,000.

(26) **LAND!** 57 acres of prime property located on Hwy 11, between Fort Payne and Hammondville is a dream come true. Call today! \$384,750.

(27) **LAND AND LAKE**...40+/- acres with a 5+/- acre lake and Brush Creek runs through it. The lake was stocked with Bass and Bream 2 years ago and is approximately 35' deep. \$180,000.

(28) Brow property ...1.7+/- acres on County Road 166 near Desoto State Park. \$37,500.

(29) 3.68 +/- acres on the Brow near Desoto State Park. \$59,900.

(30) **OPPORTUNITY AWAITS** - 10 acres on Hwy 117, East of Mentone. 3 mobile homes and 2 one bedroom apartments and room to grow. Outside the city limits - no restrictions. \$158,500.

(31) **RETREAT, RETREAT, RETREAT** - This 40 acres is partly cleared and partly wooded with a large lake and wooded stream. \$170,000.

(32) **MENTONE** - Beautiful Wooded lot for your weekend get away or home of your dreams. \$16,500 (PLS #11955)

(33) **MENTONE** - Wooded, although a proposed building site has already been cleared, this property is what you have been looking for. \$37,500 (PLS #11954)

(34) **LOOKOUT MTN.** - build your dream home on 3 beautiful wooded acres near DeSoto State Park. Water and power available. Some restrictions. \$25,000 (PLS #12002)

(35) **A GREAT FIND** - 18 plus acres on County Road 106. Heavily wooded, road frontage and city water available. Great for subdividing at \$4250 per acre.

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Alexander David McQueen Happy 1st Birthday!

Alexander David McQueen was one year old on March 9. He is the son of Jonny and Tiffany McQueen of Peona, Arizona. He is the grandson of Marie Walker of Glendale, Arizona, and Douglas Walker of South Carolina. He is the great grandson of Helen Frazier of Mentone.

Just A Boy

Submitted by Nancy Lusk

Got to understand the fad--
He's not eager to be bad.
If the right he always knew,
He would be as old as you.
Were he now exceeding wise
He'd be just about your size.
When he does things that annoy
Don't forget, he's just a boy.

Being just a boy, he'll do
Much you will not want him to,
Could he know and understand,
He would need no guiding hand.
But he's young and hasn't learned
How life's corners must be turned
Doesn't know from day to day
There is more to life than play,
More to face than selfish joy--
Don't forget he's just a boy.

He'll be careless in his ways,
Have his disobedient days,
Willful, wild, and headstrong; you
At just his age were like that, too.
Just a boy, he needs a friend--
Patient, kindly, to the end;
Needs a father who will show
Him the things he'd like to know,
And his companionship enjoy--
Don't forget he's just a boy.

BE THANKFUL

By Eloise Clark

As I sat in Sunday service with families, the pastor led a wonderful prayer. How many times did he say, Thank you Lord, for the many blessings?

Long ago, my daughter and I went shopping. When we were through, we were tired and hungry. We went to Captain "D"s for fish lunch. We ordered and my daughter said, find a table. I did. A nice young lady on crutches was going around speaking to everyone. She was smiling and came by my table. She asked, "How are you?" I said, "Tired and hungry." I asked how she was. She said, "I am thankful."

I have thought of those words so many times. I hope she is doing well and still smiling. She had brought her mother and dad for lunch.

Happy Hearts make the face cheerful.

Proverbs 15:13.

"Thank you, Lord," for the healing power of laughter. Arthur Gordon

So let us all be thankful, daily, as each new day comes.

-----Correction-----

Valley Science Fair

The Valley Head PTO would like to thank the following people for donating their time to judge the Valley Head Science Fair on Monday, February 9, 2004. Mr. R.E. Ringer, Mr. Roy C. Smith, Mr. Maynard Donahue, Mrs. Christina Wise, Mr. Bill Schwarz, Dr. Linda Johnston, Mr. Charlie Johnson, Mrs. Edna Morgan, and Dr. Bill Berry.

Mentone Wedding Chapel

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



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

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Home: (256) 634-4169
1-888-256-1276

Fax: (256) 634-4702



(1) **THE GALLERY COTTAGE**, Mentone 7 room house, newly remodeled inside and out. Kitchen, bath and a glass front porch. Great commercial location. Landscaped 1.4 acre lot, with lots of parking. Open your own business and live in Mentone. \$125,000.



(5) **ONE OF A KIND LOG, STONE AND CEDAR SHAKE LODGE**. This unique find is complete with Heart Pine Plank floors throughout. Open Great room and a loft with built-in beds. Stone fireplace in Living area, and the custom kitchen with a stone fireplace. French doors open to the sleeping porches and master Bdrm. A must see, with much more to offer. ~~\$395,000~~ REDUCED to \$275,000.



(9) **CHARMING BRICK BUNGALOW** sitting on 1.65 acre corner lot. 3 Bdrm 1 bath, living room with fireplace, separate dining, wood floors, C/H/A, Level, Fenced Backyard, quiet setting. Mentone \$49,000.



(11) **CREEKSIDE AT LOOKOUT**, Two Brow tracts available. 5 acres with over 400 ft on the Brow. Wooded with drive. \$95,000. Also 7.7 acres wooded with 300 ft. \$115,000. Gated subdivision. Common areas for hiking. Cloudland, GA.



(2) **MOUNTAIN CHATEAU** Cloudland community. Open Greatroom, Rock FP. 2 bdrms plus a Loft Suite with bath. C/H/A, full bath down, Wood accents. 18x15 screened porch and New Deck. Finished basement and 1 car garage. Easily maintained yard. \$191,500.



(6) **NESTLED ON A SHADY LOT** sits this 3 bedroom 2 bath cottage with Rock fireplace and screened porch. A Metal roof soothes the sound of summer rain. Located on DeSoto Parkway, minutes from Park and Mentone. \$69,900.



(10) **FAMILY SIZE HOME**, with 3 acres within walking distance to downtown Mentone. 3 bdrm 2 bath, C/H/A all new flooring. Cabinets and counters in Kitchen. Living room, dining, office or 4th bdrm. 16x30 workshop and other outbuildings. All for \$107,500.



(12) **LOG HOUSE IN CLOUDLAND**, 3 Bdrm 2 tiled baths. Master on Main floor. Cathedral ceiling in Living room. Country eat-in kitchen. C/H/A, front porch and 2 side decks. 1800 sq ft. with 1.7 acres. \$138,000.

(13) **BRAND NEW AND A VIEW!** Cedar Shake siding. Open Great Room with 2 sided stack rock FP. Kitchen and open dining tile counters and bar. All tung and groove walls and floors. Master on main floor with tile bath. Upstairs 2 bdrms bath divided by a catwalk. Wrap-around deck. 2 acres. \$160,000. (Photo to the left)



(3) **WEST FORK SUBDIVISION**, 2 lots with combined fig on water of 593 ft. 4.4 acres wooded, on the cul-de-sac. Private yet close to Mentone. \$85,000.



(7) **MOUNTAIN RIVER ESTATES**. A River runs through it! Direct Access from the Lookout Mtn. Parkway, on AL Hwy 117. Minutes from Mentone and Cloudland, GA. Three to 7 acre riverfront Tracts starting at \$35,500. Five to fifteen wooded stream tracts from \$21,000. Restricted covenants apply.



(4) **MENTONE COTTAGE**, all new plumbing. Stone fireplace. Remodeled with new flooring throughout. Sits on 3 lots. 3 bdrm 1 bath. Screened porch & fenced. \$73,500.



(8) **COMPLETELY REMODELED AND LIKE NEW**. One level Ranch-style home, with apartment. 3 bdrm, 3 bath, Living room with stone fireplace. Separate dining room. New kitchen cabinets, counters, flooring. New Roof, lifetime warranty windows. Screened porch and breezeway. Wired Generator. So much more. Containing 3.6 acres M/L. Hwy 117, with commercial potential. \$120,500.

OTHER PROPERTIES

(14) **INDIAN TRAIL ESTATES**. Building lots on the West Brow, above N. Ft. Payne, county road, city water access, view lots starting at \$10,000; wooded lots starting at \$6,000.

(15) **WILD RIVER COMMUNITY** 220x300 on the East Fork of Little River. Secluded and Scenic, with pools and Rapids. \$30,000.

(16) **WILDLIFE ABUNDANT** on these three 20+ acre tracts. Mostly Open Land, Rolling hills, ponds. May be purchased individually or together. Priced \$2,000 an acre. Located in Mentone area with deeded access road.

(17) **CANYON VIEW FOREST** adjoins National Preserve, and wildlife Management. 5 acre tract, wooded with drive, power, well installed. Private access behind locked Gate. Overlooks Little River Canyon National Preserve. \$60,000.

(18) **RESORT AREA RIVERFRONT PROPERTY**. Building lot with **SOLD** on the West Fork River. Woods and rocks. Call for appt. to view. \$43,500.

(19) **LAUREL CREEK LAKES SUB**. Lots 1&2 approx 2.77 acres wooded with half of Arrowhead lake. Surveyed and perked. Great place to build that Weekend retreat. \$23,500.

(20) **7.25 ACRES**, on CO RD 106, City water available, mostly cleared with lake site, Large Oak Trees, where the Old Homeplace used to be. \$56,000.

(21) **.80 ACRES of Wooded Brow property** with creek and waterfall. Private drive with bridge. Great views, \$240,000.

(22) **STATELINE ROAD, CLOUDLAND** 26 acres of land with level fields and half wooded. Fruit orchards. Mobile Home built with den, bdrm, bath, canning room, utility. All appliances. Fenced yard. \$86,000, or will sell residence and 4 acres, \$45,000.

(23) **HIDDEN BROW ESTATES**, Cloudland, GA. Spectacular Views East side. 7.5 acres, 500 ft of brow frontage, private, large Rock bluffs, \$162,500--will divide.

(24) **50 ACRES LOCATED IN CLOUDLAND, GA.** Great Farm, with 20x40 Barn, Large Workshop, 3 outbuildings, Garage, 3 wells, Year around spring, 3 garden areas, Grape Arbors, Approx 5 acres cleared. Beautiful Hardwoods. 12x70 Mobile Home with Rock foundation. Many more amenities. \$225,000. Show by Appt ONLY. City water access.

(25) **SECLUDED** wooded acreage, with power, septic, well, driveway installed. Homesite area cleared. Lightly restricted. 11 ac M/L. \$40,000.

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Sunday 12:30 - 5:00



Springtime Haiku

The sassy Spring breeze Likes to kiss, flirt and tease Tender budding leaves.	The Crocus raises Her beautiful praying hands To Heaven in praises.
The puckered up sky Is getting ready to cry-- Earth is thirsty dry.	Hyacinths ring bells Of lovely pastel clusters In the fragrant breeze.
The queenly oak tree Has put on her jewelry For Spring's pageantry.	New skinned snakes Slither lazily Thru tall grass
Butterflies flit by Fluttering happy colors Uttering mute songs.	Fireflies flickering Swinging lanterns to and fro Make warm breezes glow.
Fish gaily leap high Ignorant of barbed danger To snare them to die.	--Eloise Brown

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RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB

By Gethryn S. Giles, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Harriett Lillich at 12:35 p.m. There were 24 members present. Joyce Oliver and Dorothy Shelden were visitors.

After the pledge of allegiance to the flag, Dorothy Cyr gave the devotional. Hostesses were Jan Wilkinson, Mary Crow, and Dallyne Jones.

The minutes of the meeting of February 10, 2004, were read and approved.

Reports: Dorothy Cyr, chair of the Conservation Committee, gave a report on conserving water. Members were reminded that it is best to water in the early morning. Water deeply, but not often, using soaker or deep hoses. Other tips were given in this report.

Dallyne Jones, chair of the Horticulture Committee, gave some good information on spring planting. She also stated that house plants often need to be dusted.

Two bits of information were given for use by the Historian. Dallyne Jones had found year books from the Rhododendron Garden Club for the years 1968-69 and 1969-70. She read some rules for manners from one of these books. Margaret Baker had found a newspaper clipping about the club dated 1984. Both of these will be given to the Historian.

Announcements: •March 20 is clean up day for Mentone. They are expecting around 100 volunteers, but others are needed. •The Home and Garden Show will be in Rainsville March 20 and 21. Our club is to help in the Hospitality room on Sunday, March 21, from 2 to 4. Call Linda Brown to volunteer. •Harriett Lillich asked for suggestions for the programs for the 2004-05 year.

New business: Margaret Baker moved that the club make a donation to the Flower Guild

of the Episcopal Church of Ascension, Birmingham, in honor of Jan Ennis, who gave the February program for the club. Motion passed. Gethryn Giles moved that this donation be \$50.00. Motion passed.

Program: Harriett Lillich introduced Mary Summerville of Fort Payne who is President of The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc. Mrs. Summerville gave an excellent program on the history of The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., and the DeKalb-Cherokee Federation. There are currently over 200 clubs in Alabama with over 3700 members. One of the goals of Mrs. Summerville's presidency is for every garden club in Alabama to have 100% of their members hold State Life Membership. This goal is a companion of the scholarship project of the state garden club. This project involves recycling and the awarding of scholarships. The state board has a project to make money for scholarships by recycling ink jet and laser ink cartridges and old cell telephones. For each ink jet cartridge and each cell phone, the state club will be given \$1. Four dollars will be given for each laser cartridge. Each local garden club is to have a chair for this project. The chair will collect the donations and will send them in, keeping an accurate count of those submitted. When the local club has sent in \$50 worth, a State Life Membership will be awarded to a member of the club.

A plant which was contributed by Kim Lawler was auctioned off for \$5.00.

The door prize was won by Shirley Hessel.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm. The next meeting will be a work day on April 13.

The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of the DeKalb-Cherokee Federation; The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., District II; and the National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Region.

RECYCLING OF INK JET AND LASER INK CARTRIDGES AND OLD CELL TELEPHONES

If you have any of the above items, please bring them to the Mentone Town Hall. Marie Dillenbeck is collecting them for the club and will be sending them in to the State Garden Club in containers provided by the State Garden Club.
Thank you for your help in recycling.

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Natural Easter Egg Dyes and Decorations

By L.C. Moon

You are invited to a Demonstration and Practice

Last April, Tsoi and I had a fun time preparing egg dyes, harvesting flowers and such for egg decorations. The activity was so well received that we decided to make it an annual event. We welcome you to join us for natural egg dyeing and decorating on April 3rd, 2004, at our new store location--The Well House General Store and Deli, located next to the Montone Market. The dyeing will begin at 11:30 AM, though we welcome you to come all day to celebrate our Grand Opening! Come in and sign up for prizes and an Easter Egg Hunt on April 10th from 11:30 A.M.

Simple, Natural Dyes

I researched herbal dyes, read some Martha Stewart, but having a three year old has been one of my best training for discovering natural dyes. Buy a three year old white shirt or ask anyone who has had a three year old what were some hard stains to remove. I know blueberries and grape juice are a stain culprit around my house. When using them for egg dyes, grape juice left a bluish/violet tint to the eggs and the blueberry juice a deeper grey blue. Cranberry Juice was a nice shade of pink. I added some beet juice to it to give it a more crimson color. Mustard was a very faint yellow. Onions skins are often recommended in egg dyeing, though I found them to be a bit of a disappointment.

Some of the most surprising turn outs were the wrapped eggs. Joan Byrum of the Montone Market told me her family had a tradition of wrapping apple leaves around the egg, wrapping cloth around the leaves and the eggs, then boiling them. I did this with the apple leaves she brought me, as well as harvested some violets and dandelions to try with the same method. They turned out like a true work of art. My favorite find was the speckled dyed eggs. To find out my secret, you must come and see the demonstration or the display. April 3rd - 11th.

Egg Decorating

Decorating the eggs to resemble figures such as animals, funny faces, chickens, fairies, or just doing some fun designs can also be done with things you can find around the house, inside and out. We have already begun harvesting chickweed, dandelion, forsythia, daffodils, and blueets. We hope the dogwoods, violets and azaleas are in bloom soon enough to press the flowers to decorate some eggs. Pressed azaleas make really cute fairy wings. To get new ideas for egg decorating, I imagine what fories might use to decorate their home. I imagine things like acorn shells, small sticks, moss, pine needles, dried fruit, nuts and seeds, etc. I usually use a nontoxic school glue, but honey could work to make some of the drier flowers stick.

Join us April 3rd at The Montone Well House General Store and Deli. 634-3333
MountainLifeMarket.com LCMoon03@aol

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ST. CLAIR COUNTY

3,900+ ACRES ON I-59 NORTH OF BIRMINGHAM, AL - Road frontage on US Hwy 411 and approx. 3 miles on Interstate 59. Excellent industrial and commercial location. Price \$1,450.00 per acre.

580 ACRES ON SHOAL CREEK WITH Level to rising terrain. Pine plantations with approx. \$150,000.00 of merchantable timber. 27 acres proposed lake site. Excellent deer and turkey hunting. Price \$1,450.00 per acre.

202 ACRES - Looking for NO NEIGHBORS? Surrounded by management area. Price \$1,250.00 per acre.

CALHOUN COUNTY

PIEDMONT, 332 ACRES - Just 3 miles South of town with paved road frontage on Mack Alexander and Old Piedmont Gadsden Hwy. Level to rising. Price \$1,450.00 per acre.

ESTES ROAD 20-180 ACRES - Level to gently rising. Beautiful views, paved road frontage, county water, planted pines. Price \$1,300.00 per acre.

DEKALB COUNTY

HAMMONDVILLE, LEA CHAPEL RD - 3 to 107 acres. A wooded, level to rising, county road frontage. Priced at \$1,400.00 per acre.

325 ACRES IN MENTONE, AL - level to rising terrain. streams, several lake sites, pine plantations planted 2001. Excellent for deer and turkey hunting. Price \$1,350.00 per acre.

ETOWAH COUNTY

1,037 ACRES, CANNON GAP RD - On Dry Creek Mountain, paved road frontage and beautiful views. Wet subdivide. Price \$1,450.00 per acre.

3 TO 25 ACRE TRACTS - Just 1/2 mile on of Hwy 278, planted pine plantations, paved road frontage and county water. NO RESTRICTIONS. Price \$1,450.00 per acre.

85 ACRES, HWY 278 - Between Piedmont and Gadsden, AL. Paved road frontage, county water, pine plantation planted 2000. Great view! Price \$1,650.00 per acre.

279 ACRES, WEST ETOWAH CO. - Great for hunting! Deer & turkey in abundance. Level to rising terrain. Pine plantations 13 yrs old. Price \$1,350.00 per acre.

SILQ AND MAYO ROAD - 3 to 40 acre tracts with paved road frontage, county water, gently rolling terrain with planted pine plantations. NO RESTRICTIONS. Price \$1,300.00 per acre.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

3,000+ ACRES - Located just miles from downtown Corne, AL, is a great opportunity investment, hunting or both. 100+ acre lake site, creek, miles of good interior roads, paved road frontage, county water, level to gently rising terrain. Pine plantations from 3 years to 30 years old. Price \$1,450.00 per acre.

1,400+ ACRES - Beautiful views! Located on the North side of Wetmore Mountain, South of Corne, GA. Level, gently rising to steep terrain, paved road frontage, county water, pine plantations, and hardwoods. Price \$1,350.00 per acre.

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-----NOTICE-----

This year, MAPA will give away one of two handmade quilts. One is made by Native Americans in South Dakota, and one is made by Mentone resident Lola Mae Blalock, who has provided our festival quilts for many years and whose handiwork is unrivaled anywhere. The person whose name is drawn at the Rhododendron Festival on May 16, will choose one quilt, and the second quilt will be given away at the 2004 October Colorfest.



The 2004 Mentone Rhododendron Festival is quickly approaching (May 14, 15, 16)... Order Your Quilt Tickets Now!

Complete the form below, and send in your donation (\$1.00 per ticket). Your ticket(s) will be entered in the drawing for the gorgeous handmade quilt to be given away, Sunday, May 16, at 4:30 pm., at the Entertainment Pavilion on the Brow.

Please enter my name in the drawing for the handmade quilt. I am ordering _____ tickets @\$1.00 donation each. I am enclosing my check/money order in the amount of \$_____

Name: _____
Street/PO Box: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone number: (____) _____

Mail completed form with donation to:
**MAPA QUILT TICKETS
POST OFFICE BOX 50
MENTONE, AL 35984**

New Community Library Hours

Beginning April 6
Tuesday, 5-7 pm
Saturday, 9-12 am



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases: Psalm 103:1-3

Have you ever taken time to look around at the many benefits we have received from the hand of God? First of all, He is the only one who can forgive our sins and set us free. What a great benefit!! How many times has He healed us? It makes me cry out to Him and say, Bless the Lord O my soul, Bless His holy name for He is worthy of all our praise.

Try Praising him!

MENTONE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY

**Saturday, March 20th
9:AM till 1:PM**

**We need
YOU**

Join us on the town square
to get your vest,
bags, assignment
& join a group. Bring a group.

Lunch will be provided
afterwards.

Tel: 256-634-4124

Rain Date March 27, 2004

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

- Saturday, March 20, Clean Up day scheduled. See notice this page.
- Thursday, March 25, 4PM, Waterworks Board Meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Thursday, April 1, APRIL FOOLS DAY
- Sunday, APRIL 4, DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS. Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, April 3
- Tuesday, April 6, 6:30 PM, DeSoto Rescue Squad, Mentone Community House
- Tuesday, April 6, 7 PM, MAPA Meeting, Fellowship Hall, Church of God of Prophecy
- Saturday, April 10, 2PM, Come see the Easter Bunny and join in the EGG HUNT at

- Tri-County Volunteer Fire/Rescue (See article this issue.)
- Sunday, April 11, EASTER
- Monday, April 12, 6PM, Town Council Meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Tuesday, April 13, Rhododendron Garden Club Work Day
- Tuesday, April 13, American Legion meeting 6:30 p.m., American Legion Hall
- Saturday, April 24, Clean Up day scheduled. See flyer this page.
- Thursday, April 22, 4PM, Waterworks Board Meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public

Mentone Clean Up Day April 24, 2004

A day designated to remind everyone in Mentone to keep Mentone beautiful and safe

**Mentone Environmental Meeting -
April 1st, 6:30 PM**

Senior Lunch

**11:30 Every Wednesday at
the Community House from
February 25 until April 28**

Contact m.e.r.f. c/o Little River Hardware, at 634-4757, if your group would like to prepare and serve one of these meals.