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THE

GROUNDHOG

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Volume 12, No. 3

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

March, 1994

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, March 1; 7:00 p.m.

MAPA Meeting

Dessie's Kountry Chef

Speaker: Bill Witcraft, Executive Director
DeKalb County Tourist Association

Monday, March 7; 6 p.m.

Mentone Town Council Meeting
City Hall

Saturday, March 12

6th Annual Little River Canyon Cleanup
Hwy 35 Bridge on
DeKalb-Cherokee County Line

Thursday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day

Saturday, March 26, 6 p.m.

Alabama Boy's Choir

St. Joseph's On-The Mountain Church
(See notice on back page.)

Saturday and Sunday, March 26 & 27

DeKalb County Clean Sweep
(See notice elsewhere.)

Sunday, April 3

Easter

Tuesday, April 5; 7:00 p.m.

MAPA Meeting

Dessie's Kountry Chef



Estelle and Jack Watson

JACK WATSON: "DOUBLE-DIPPED" IRISHMAN

By Marie Dillenbeck

Jack Watson, who owns the homeplace "Shamrock," located in the Berry Patch on River Road in Mentone, was asked about his Irish background, and he said, "I'm a double-dipped Irishman." Jack's mother, Georgia Green, and dad, Robert J. Watson, both were born in Belfast. Robert married his childhood sweetheart, and they had five boys. In 1910, Jack's dad and Mr. Hood, a friend, came over to the United States. They went first to Birmingham. Mr. Watson worked for Mr. Hood, who owned the Hood-Wheeler Furniture Company in Birmingham. In 1914, Jack's mother came over on the Corinthian, the last passenger ship that left Ireland before WWI, when the Germans were sinking all the ships. Later, after the war, all four of Robert's brothers followed him to the United States, and all of them went into the furniture business, working for Hood-Wheeler Furniture.

Jack originally came up to Mentone in 1946, at which time he bought a piece of property (not the place now called Shamrock) with Everett Berry, his father-in-law, and two brothers-in-law. Jack married Estelle Berry in 1946. They were married 46-1/2 years and had two children, Jill and Gail.

In 1956, Jack sold his quarter interest in the Mentone property. About that time, Everett, the oldest brother of Jimmy Berry, built the house that is now called "Shamrock." This house sits in the Berry Patch. After Estelle's mother and dad died, Estelle and Jack lived in the house. According to Jack, he and Estelle went to England and Ireland three years ago, "to see my roots." It was the first time Jack had been over there.



Although he had been in the service, he never had gone to Ireland. Upon returning from that trip, Jack and Estelle named their Mentone home "Shamrock."

Jack provided a transcript of what was in an Irish paper about part of the Watson property in Hillsborough, Hillsborough County Down, Ireland. The property actually goes back to about 1600, and the Irish prison, The Maze, is on part of it. About the

the quiet fields that stretch along the river Lagan would regularly be disturbed by the bustle and throng of people attending the race meetings. Since the 18th century the tenants on the Watson farms on the Cockhill Road and Dunnygarton Lane would have been subjected to the influx of visitors and travellers from all over Ireland converging on the race course. On main roads and bye roads, they came on horse and foot and in all types of transport from splendid coaches, gigs, and traps to the tradesman's cart specially fitted for the occasion.

James Watson, esq. of Brookhill was a popular leading huntsman and local contestant at both Downpatrick and the Maze. His last race at the Maze was on 12th October 1825 when he competed for the County Cup on a twenty year old favourite of his called Violet. He was at this time over 60 years old and retired as a winner. Jockeys were used at the course but in addition Gentlemen such as Watson and his brother-in law Mr. Wakefield rode their own horses.

"Race days would have been exciting times for the Watson families of the area as they punctuated the routine of the working year. With the crowds departed, the fields would resume their quiet peaceful form, just as they remain today for Mamie Hewitt nee Watson whose house overlooks the course, and very much the same as they were when Richard Watson tended his cow and paid one shilling for grazing rights as is recorded in An account of Grazers on the Maze Course in ye year 1777."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

February 10, 1994
Rachel H. Blanton
1764 Mount Berry Station
Mount Berry, GA 30149

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

I recently read a copy of your town newspaper, THE GROUNDHOG, and enjoyed it very much. I particularly enjoyed the article by Brutus, from Between The Counters. As a college student studying journalism, I am exploring all sorts of newspapers, from large papers like the ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION to a small paper like yours. But as I was reading your newspaper, I realized that it would be a shame to read only one.

Please send to me, at your convenience, information on subscribing to THE GROUNDHOG. Please include a subscription form and a listing of the subscription prices. This would be greatly appreciated by both myself and my journalism professor.

Thank you so much for your attention to my request.
Sincerely, Rachel H. Blanton

Jerry W. Amos
4706 Quail Ridge Road
Hiram, GA 30141

3 Feb 94

I am a 56 year old male, retired, and am now living with my wife in Hiram, Ga, an Atlanta suburb. A week or two ago, one of my sons called to tell me about the ski slope he and a friend had just found near your little village. He told us the little town looks like a place where arts and crafts people live, and he absolutely loves the ski slope.

On 2 Feb, my wife and I decided to ride up there to Mentone and see what the area looked like. Using my son's directions, we drove directly to Mentone, but had a little trouble understanding the arrow sign to the ski slope.

Your little village reminds me somewhat of the kind of place we might want to retire to, because we are now placing our property on the market in order to get as far away as we can from the city of Atlanta.

The primary purpose of this letter is to share one little distasteful experience we had in your town, or very near it. While we were looking for the ski slope, we went down the mountain where the low rock wall is built along the cliff side of the road. We pulled into the first pull-off to enjoy the view, and immediately two thing(s) happened; the pull-off pavement was in terrible condition; and, worse, as we got out of the car and looked down the mountain, we saw, and were shocked at, a garbage dump just behind the rock wall and running for a considerable distance down the mountain.

That was a poor first impression, and the area seems to be so much above that kind of neglect. If it's outside the town limits, perhaps dozens of calls to the county or state can get that mess cleaned up.

We will be back. I know we saw the area at its bleakest, and we want to see it in the spring, summer, and fall.

By the way, if your real estate people might send us some current listings of property with a really great view, please give them our address.

Sincerely, Jerry W. Amos

NEW E911 ADDRESSES TO GO INTO EFFECT SOON

Mentone Residents: The Post Office will be notifying all residents when their E911 addresses will go into effect. A letter will be mailed out soon. Watch for your notice. If you have not received your designated address, contact: Derwin Odell of the DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency (205) 845-4911.

THE GROUNDHOG

P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

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.

THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

Editor.....Evelyn Graves
Associate Editor.....Marie Dillenbeck
Make-Up Editors.....Bill and Sue Schwarz
Contributing Editors.....Ruby Brock,
Linda Brown, Eloise Brown, Bernise Crow, Marie
Dillenbeck, Maureen Donahue, Evelyn Graves,
Charlyne O'Rear, Bill Schwarz, Sue Schwarz,
and Pat Seymour

MAPA OFFICERS

President.....Jack Jones
Vice President.....H. L. Jenkins
Secretary.....Marie Dillenbeck
Treasurer.....Dessie Newberry
Parliamentarian.....Sherman Gough
Member-At-Large.....Dot Crow
Member-At-Large.....Pat Seymour

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

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

The deadline for all material for The Groundhog is the 22nd day of the month of the first Tuesday of each month.

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Kathie

or

To the best mother in the world. I love you.
Bill

MAPA MEETING

The February MAPA meeting was held on February 1, with president Jack Jones, presiding. There were 22 members and two guests present.

The new bylaws were passed out to the members. The Board met prior to the regular meeting and passed the following motions: (1) to appoint a second member at large from three individuals recommended for the position, with Jack to contact the individuals and announce which one accepted the position; (2) to have all the festivals on the brow and charge an admission; (3) to mail out monthly notices to members in DeKalb County announcing MAPA meetings; (4) to donate two of the "Magical Mentone" Videos for publicity purposes; and (5) to authorize The Groundhog editor to have a separate post office box from the MAPA box.

A motion was made before the members to move the festivals to the brow and charge an entrance fee for each festival. A discussion followed. The motion was amended to move all festivals to the brow and charge an entrance fee for each festival for a one-year trial period. The motion was seconded and carried.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved. The treasurer's report was approved.

Under new business, Donna Bouldin introduced visitor Patti Bryan, Moon Lake School representative, who presented a request for any assistance MAPA or individuals in MAPA could provide to Moon Lake. The school needs include (1) funding an art program, (2) organizing a computer science program; (3) building a new cafeteria; (4) replacing the present library; and (5) maintaining and renovating the school structure to provide more classrooms. Moon Lake plans to have a spring festival with homecoming for alumni. Ms. Bryan invited all to attend and participate.

H. L. Jenkins introduced Marshall Johnson, the speaker for the evening. Mr. Johnson is an insurance agent, as well as a representative of Quorum. He gave a safety device demonstration which included devices, such as personal attack alarms; family safety net monitors; panic dial; home security system; car alarms; and Firenix.

Sherman Gough, the Adopt-a-Mile Chairman, announced that there would be a cleanup during the middle of March and requested volunteers.

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

Later during the month, the president announced that Pat Seymour had accepted the second member-at-large position on the Board.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MAPA MEMBERS

Betty Harris Finster.....March 3
Ruth Porter.....March 4
Wanda Simmons.....March 20
Donna Bouldin.....March 21
Rick Chapman.....March 24
Evelyn Graves.....March 25
Betty Chapman.....March 28
Ruby Daniel.....March 31
Bob Daniel.....April 1
Linda Kilgore.....April 7
Frances Rosario.....April 15

From Between the Counters

By
BRUTUS



Marcel Blackburn, French Poodle

As you can see from my latest photo, my widening fame as a writer has forced me to disguise my magnificent self behind shades. The devotion of my many admirers is so overwhelming that I'm passing myself off as a French poodle named Marcel. The crowds are buying my new appearance, foolish worshippers that they are. One flatlander lady told Mae that all the French poodles she's ever seen were white. Mae told her that I used to be white, too, until I went to sleep on a tanning bed down at the Chrysalis, and got left all night. (I think Hershell Pruitt needs to sell this dear lady exclusive rights to DeSoto Falls.)

Matthew Fuller says he has an untrained yard dog named Spike. Al says that is truly a tasteless name compared to Brutus, who can trace his classical lineage back to Shakespeare! Eat your heart out, flea bag! Matthew has recognized the error of his ways and sneaks into the Superette to wallow and adore at the paws of this magnificent pedigreed canine.

Little Jesse Easler just came in with her mom and fed me a peanut butter cookie. Bless you, my child!

Talk about making cheap skates sit up and beg! Rudolph Bell read in my column that he greedily refused to share his cake with me; so the poor, quivering wretch bought moi (me)--probably the French poodle in me lapsing into French--a whole cake. He even sat down and broke it up for me. (I really get off on seeing grown men crawl!) Be a man, Rudolph.

Here comes Paige Wright in those delicious, tasty shoes! Oh, Lordy, how I love to nibble those divine pieces of footwear. She always pets me in recognition of my superb excellence.

Willie Langston tried to steal the attention away from me on February 9, bragging on himself and his 76th birthday. I've serviced trees older than that, Willie, boy.

Rob Hammond is coming in the side door. Time to start whining before he gets his peanut bar so I'll get my well-deserved share. "More things are wrought by whining than this world knows of," to coin a phrase.

Talk about a sweet lady. Lisa Scott brought her son, Justin, by the Superette on Valentine's Day to give me a Reece Cup. Now, there's a family sensitive to magnificence in beasthood.

Did I mention my fast growing fame? Jason Taylor with cousins Molly and Morgan Bellew from (get this, fans) Mobile, who read my excellent column and came by the Superette just to see me in my incredible hunkiness.

It's only 9 o'clock in the morning, and here comes homeless street person, Ed Jones, for his 32nd visit to the store today. I'll give my new leash to anybody who finds this pathetic man a home.

Thank the Lord for blessings, which I truly deserve. Here comes Jennifer Blalock, a favorite of mine, to adore me. What a keen, smart girl child to recognize, already at her tender age, my greatness.

It pains this great heart of mine to see Mary Lou Stallings' granddaughter, Jessica, so timid about getting close to God's gift to dogdom. She just adores from the end of the counter. It may be that she doesn't recognize me in my poodle disguise. Just part of the price of fame.

Oh, Lord, Why me?? Just when I get my creative writing juices flowing, Pop starts the "tree trunk twitch," and out I am dragged from my adoring public. Could it be he, also, is jealous of my beauty and fame? Later, dear readers.

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About Our Town

By
LINDA BROWN



What beautiful weather February has given us! Everyone has the gardening catalogs out, looking at the seeds and plants. Planning what to plant in the garden, which plants to put here and which there. Which new rose should I try to grow this year? Recently, I visited Blackburn's Nursery (Al and Vicki's). They have two large greenhouses full of beautiful plants. One house has plants already in pots, ready to give as gifts, use as house plants, or hang outside later. The other one holds the "bedding plants." These are still small but will be ready by the time the soil is warm enough for transplanting to gardens and flower beds. All of these seemed to me to be the flowers that grow well here in Mentone. Vicki told me that they also plan to have seeds and other gardening supplies in stock this year. When the gardening fever hits you this spring, go over and see what they have to offer. They are located on Highway #117 just east of Moon Lake Baptist Church.

I am so proud of Mentone!! Everyone has started applying for a zoning certificate of compliance before starting their many projects. The Planning Commission issued 20 certificates in 1993 and have already issued six in 1994. I think this is great. The commission has mailed a letter to all business places explaining the correct ways to display signs. Signs have been a big problem, so far; but I think that the information in the letter will help correct the situation. Most of the time, we all want to do it right the first time. Mentone people are great to cooperate with the city in this endeavor; but heck, Mentone people ARE great!!

Another group of interested Mentonites who would like to help Mentone is the Heritage Foundation. This group would like to preserve and maintain one of the historic buildings or land sites in Mentone. So far, just about the time we think we may get a chance to do this, something changes and that deal falls through. The plans for such a building include a tourist information center, a museum, rooms for group meetings, a library and education center for our youth, an information center for those of us who can't be classified as youth any more, and many other plans. This group should be called The Optimist Club. I've never seen a group hold on and maintain such a good attitude through so many disappointments. We just know that something will open up for us soon. Our glass is always half-full as opposed to half-empty.

Another club that is changing the looks of Mentone is the Rhododendron Garden Club. This club is doing so much that I will devote an entire column to their accomplishments later this spring. They have a very able and willing president in Ann Wright, and she encourages everyone else to do their share, also. A lot of places are changing and will change because of them.

Enough rambling for this month. I know that the cold weather will return. I just hope that is all that happens. One T-shirt stating that I survived a blizzard is quite enough, thank you very much! Take care of yourselves so you can take care of each other.





The Recipe Corner

By
SUE SCHWARZ

March is upon us, and I am already feeling a touch of spring when I am outside. I am looking forward to some nice warm weather after this miserable winter. I guess we should count our blessings, though, when we hear what has happened in other parts of the country.

The other night, I fixed this soup and cornbread, and my guests thought that the recipes would be a good addition to my column. The first recipe is from a cookbook called *Mexican Light Cooking*, by Kathi Long. The chowder is low fat.

MEXICAN VEGETABLE CHOWDER

- 1 large white onion, thinly sliced
- 1-1/2 T olive oil
- 4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 1 can (28 ounces) whole tomatoes in puree
- 2 medium zucchini, cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 1 can (4 ounces) diced green chiles, drained
- 2 ribs celery, thinly sliced
- 1 large chayote (also called vegetable pear or mirliton) (Optional)
- 2 medium carrots, peeled and cut into 1/2 inch dice
- 1-1/2 cups fresh, canned, or frozen corn kernels
- 2 t dried marjoram or basil
- 1 bay leaf
- 6 cups unsalted or reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1/2 t salt
- 1/2 t freshly ground pepper

1. In a large saucepan or dutch oven, cook the onion in the olive oil until the onion is soft, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook until soft and fragrant, 1 to 2 minutes longer.

2. Add the tomatoes, chiles, zucchini, chayote, celery, carrots, corn, marjoram, bay leaf, chicken broth, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer about 10 minutes, or until the vegetables are just tender.

MEXICAN CORNBREAD

- 1-1/2 Cup cornmeal
- 1 Cup canned cream-style corn
- 1 Cup buttermilk
- 1/2 Cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 T baking powder
- 1 t salt
- 2 jalapeno peppers, seeded and minced
- 1/4 C finely chopped onion
- 2 T minced green pepper (optional)
- 1 Cup (4 oz) shredded sharp cheddar cheese

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Pour into a greased 10-inch iron skillet. Bake cornbread at 450 degrees about 30 minutes or until done. (To do a low-fat cornbread, omit the oil.)



A Friendly— Valley View

By
ELOISE BROWN

The March breeze sometimes warms, sometimes freezes, but the Jonquils' hardy blooms push through layers of leaves or Bermuda grass or any impediment to grow and grow and lift our spirits.

Venna Livingston and I attended the concert of the DeKalb County Honors Band, Sunday, February 13, at the Rainsville Civic Center. It was great! Congratulations to Alison Meadows who won a first chair medal, also Star Hayes, Jennifer Robertson, and Sarah Tucker, from Valley Head, who were selected as members of the band. Also, congratulations to Alison Meadows for being awarded first prize in the Woman's Club Poetry Contest, also Jennifer Robertson, who won second prize, Christina Tipton, who won third prize, and Yon Hopper and Sarah Hatfield for honorable mention. We are very proud of each of you.

Ed Ringer spent January 27-30 in Marianna, Fl., visiting Dr. and Mrs. Robert Ringer. Joyce and Harold Allen, from Centre, spent Sunday with him, recently, and lunched at Tigers Inn.

Linda Blackburn and Betty Jo Lewis of Orange Park, Fl., spent the weekend with Dot and Bill Blackburn. Martha and Hoot Gibson took them to the Marriott in Chattanooga for a sumptuous Valentine brunch to celebrate Dot's birthday, after which they went shopping. Felton McAbee, of Rome, Ga., and Celdon McAbee, of Rossville, Ga., came by to see Dot and Bill, recently.

Gladys Cobble, Becky, and Casey Stott met Jennifer and Donnie White in Gadsden for a Valentine Dinner.

Glad to report that Henry Daniel is home from a Rome, Ga., hospital, where he had heart surgery, and is doing fine. Ruby Koger is home from BMC DeKalb. We hope they both continue to improve. Thelma Hawkins is still in BMC DeKalb in serious condition. We hope she will soon be able to come home. So glad that Coley Morgan is home from the hospital. We hope for him a quick and complete recovery.

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News has reached us that the beautiful home and property of Don and Irene Kukler Henry, in Valencia, Ca., was severely damaged by the earthquake. Their house was condemned, but they were finally allowed to come back into two rooms. Irene is the daughter of Martha Hawkins.

So sorry for the Maynard Donahue's awful loss in their barn burning, and the irreplaceable losses of people in robberies.

The Sunshine Club met February 24 at the home of Sue Cooper. Gladys Cobble, president, and Lilly Bowden, gave the treasurer's report; Bess Bauerle gave the devotional; and Sue Cooper led a prayer for the sick and distressed. Others present were Evelyn Clark, Geraldine Hawkins, Jewell Palmer, Billie Harper, and Eloise Brown. We will meet March 23, at 11 AM, at the Western Sizzlin for a luncheon meeting.

Sorry to hear of the death of Bobby Lynn Gilbreath at his home in Flushing, Michigan. He was born and reared in Valley Head.

We have had several deaths in the Valley, recently. Sincere sympathy to all the families.

Visitors to see Gladys Stott, recently, were Ruth Pickett, Lilly Bowden, Gladys Cobble, Thelma McElhaney, and Priscilla Monroe.

Gladys' address is c/o Brenda Loveless, Rt. 5, Box 441, Centre, AL 35960. Also, the address for Doris Patterson (a former teacher at Valley Head) is Sun Mountain Nursing Home, #2 Three Mile Road, Rome, GA 30165. I'm sure they would appreciate hearing from you.

Welcome Sweet Springtime! We greet you with joy! It is a time of rejuvenation! Rejoice and be glad in it!

MARCH, THE BEAST

By Eloise Brown

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 it quickly freezes,
Hoping Winter can endure.

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

Roaring in the hurricanes,
In brutal, destructive force,
It chews up cluttered lanes,
Spits them out far from source.

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

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SHARP



Mentone Grapevine

By
PAT SEYMOUR

The news is good from Coley Morgan. Although he had a pretty tough time with strep throat after he got home from Children's Hospital, his dad Scrooge says, "Coley is doing fine now. He's improving to the point that his doctors are amazed."

Gertrude Cox had us all concerned when doctors found a spot on her lung that is a tumor or cyst. With medication, the spasms it was causing in her esophagus have about stopped. She is at home under observation.

Leola Owens underwent a knee operation recently in Birmingham. She is at home, now, but is still in much pain.

BreAnna Williamson, daughter of Rev. Marlon and Brenda Williamson, will celebrate her 7th birthday on March 16.

Bre Manning, 13-year-old daughter of Larry and Pam Manning was bitten by a next-door neighbor's Chow dog February 26, Saturday afternoon. Her ear wound required 30 stitches.

Her many friends in Mentone are much relieved to know that Betty Chapman is doing so well. The medication prescribed by her doctors is finally making a difference in her health problem.

Take a ride by Moon Lake School to see the beautiful landscaping done by the Rhododendron Garden Club. Take a bow, Ann Wright (President), Bill Wright, Russell Wright, and Ovie Blalock.

Nancy Rector celebrated her 53rd birthday on Sunday, February 27. Husband, Fouts, delighted her with the gift every woman wants—a battery charger.

Three carloads of residents from The Fountains attended the memorial service held for Philip Merkel at Howard's Chapel. Philip was a resident of The Fountains before his death. Organized by Peggy Bentley, The Fountains Social Director, the group included Alvariene Gann, Mary Tindle, Bill Fite (driver), Elmer Cottrell, Jewel Jones, Bob Thacker (driver), Hattie Rice, and Pauline Wisner (driver). In Mentone, Philip and his wife, Hulda, a past Rhododendron Garden Club member, lived next door to Rick and Betty Chapman.

Mary Clark, Valley Head piano teacher, is grief stricken over the death of her four-month old puppy, Muffin. Last week, Mary returned from a trip to Chattanooga to find Muffin run over on Fritz Steel Road.

Penny and Alisha McElhaney, daughters of Phyllis and Pat Lewis had to bury their dead little dog, Tiny, last week. "The girls are still crying themselves to sleep," said Phyllis.

Among the many area contributors to the Sanford Hartline Benefit were cloggers from Mentone. Those who delighted the crowd with their flying feet were Karen, Kelley, Rhonda, and Amanda Wright, and Emily Collins.

Bill and Sue Schwarz are back at home in Mentone. They arrived Saturday for at least a week's stay before taking off for Jackson, Ms., where they will catch a train to Portland, Oregon, to visit Janet, Bill's daughter. Welcome home, friends!!

Jimmy Shigley, son of Leonard and Winnie Mae Shigley, is fighting a serious illness in Pell City. Leonard reports Jimmy is much improved and about "out of the woods."

Rev. Edmund Crowe's cousin, Frank Crowe, Centre, is slightly improved in a bout with double pneumonia. Frank is a Mentone native.

Ed and Gerry Disney are back home after a week-long visit to Florida, that included a stop in Destin with Ed's sister Frances Swersky. From there, they traveled to Orange Beach for a three-day visit with Epp and Jayne Meadows. The Disneys and the Meadows went over to have lunch with George and Ocela Hauge, former innkeepers at Nippersink Lodge, now residents at Westminster Village. The Hagues are in bad health and miss Mentone. They send their love to friends here. Back at Orange Beach, the dampness and fog had taken its toll on the Disney's car. After a few hours, the vehicle started and was ready to make the trip back to Mentone. Just outside of Ft. Payne, at the Shell station exit, the water pump tore loose, and the Disney's "limped" up the ramp to the station. What luck to break down so near to home!

Michael Cryer, Dessie Newberry's son, has finished three weeks of training for the USA truck company in Oxford, Alabama. Michael is currently in VanBuren, Arkansas. He will leave from there for a 30-day run with a truck driver trainer. Michael has already qualified for his commercial trucker's license, scoring an "A" on the written test. Other news from the Kountry Chef is the new ice cream area being built inside to the left of the front door. A general facelift is being given all the interior of the restaurant.

Donna Bares' father is seriously ill in Birmingham, and he needs special prayers.

Richard King, of Hamilton, Al., brother of Ruby Brock, Joel King, and Lucille Crowe, recently visited in Mentone. While in town, Richard was the house guest of Chester and Lucille Crowe.

Delila Coots is ill with a serous infection. She is a sister-in-law to Margie Coots.

Hoyt Totts is in Riverview Hospital in Gadsden trying to overcome a heart problem.

Mae and Al Hunt's daughter, Angie, is recovering from a serious bout with a terrible rash and intense pain in her joints.

Dowe Clifton is now at Clydell's Beauty Shop in Mentone, Wednesday through Friday. All of her customers will be pleased to know that she can be reached there.

Grace and Dorothy Crow have been taking turns going to Chattanooga to stay with their sister, Mary Lee Camp, and her husband, Bill. Mary Lee has been seriously ill with a leg infection, and Bill broke his leg in a fall on the ice. Mary Lee is now home from the hospital, and Bill's cast will be off next week. Things are about to return to normal in Chattanooga!

Karen and David Bosworth, grandchildren of Sid and Ginny Bosworth, are attending McArthur College in Los Angeles. The recent earthquakes and after shocks were terrifying. They are the children of Bill and Sherry Bosworth of Chattanooga, former Mentone residents and former communicants at St. Joseph's On-The-Mountain.

Brenda Goggans is recovering at home after back surgery and two weeks in the hospital. Now, friend Mike Baxter is going in for his back surgery.

Dogs really are man's (or woman's) best friend. Ruby Brock was going to church last Wednesday when the fog was so heavy. "Spot," her old black, male "no-breed" dog, ran in front of Ruby's car barking all the way to the blinking light on Highway 117. When Spot reached the blinking light, the fog had lifted, so now he took his place in the intersection barking at traffic coming up the mountain until Ruby had turned left toward her church. He then wheeled and ran back to await her homecoming. Ruby said, "In all the years I've had Spot, he has never left the homeplace when I drove off—but I have never had to drive in such a dense fog. He sure took care of me!"

Mentone's own Jack Jones was one of 3 area artists asked to exhibit works for five days at the Ft. Payne Library, February 14 through February 18. Jack's paint-

ings were in oil or acrylics. I attended the exhibition and was amazed at the professional caliber of his work.

Eula Mae Robinson had her 72nd birthday on February 26. She is the mother of Kathy Robertson, wife of Ronnie Robertson, and grandmother of Jennifer Robertson (saxophonist in Valley Head Band) and Adrian Robertson (cymbalist in Valley Head Band).

Don't miss the 40-voice Alabama Boys' Choir (based in Tuscaloosa) when the group presents a free concert at St. Joseph's On-The-Mountain Episcopal Church. The program will be on Saturday, March 26, at 6 p.m. The entire community is invited to enjoy this event.

Jean McGehee is back in Mentone after a delightful week spent in Hilton Head helping a cousin close up her beach house.

Betty Harris Finster is living in Menlo with her husband Len. They operate The Brown House, a collector's paradise.

Congratulations to the Valley Head Lady Tigers basketball team! The girls have advanced to the state tournament being held in Birmingham. The Lady Tigers play their first game on Tuesday, March 1, at 9:00 a.m.

A new club of miniaturists is being formed in Mentone. (See article elsewhere). The charter members are Judy Weaver, Elizabeth Stephens, Grace Howard, and Barbara Nancarrow. The group invites anyone interested in miniaturizing to join. Judy's number is (205) 634-4554.

Milton and Grace Howard have returned from a week's visit to Jackson and Greenwood, MS. Milton had cataract surgery in Jackson, and Grace had a chance to see family and friends in Greenwood.

When I bumped into Rev. Edmund Crowe last week, he had talked with his 13-year-old granddaughter, Starla Ann Crowe (daughter of Jim Crowe) in Modesto, California. Starla attends 8th grade at Somerset Middle School, student body 1,000. Starla, who formerly attended Moon Lake School, has been elected secretary of the SGA at Somerset. Among the teachers she had in Mentone were Joyce Smith and Dr. Bill Berry. Starla is a 3rd generation Moon Laker: she, her father, Jim, and grandfather, Edmund, all attended Moon Lake School.

Rev. Crowe also told me that all five of the Crowe brothers gathered in Gadsden for lunch last week: Edmund, from Mentone; James, from Summerville; Finn, from Anniston; William, from Oxford; and Floyd, from Gadsden.

Slim Easler is having painful back problems and requests our prayers.

Lula McGee Blalock is finally off her walker and telling everyone about the birth of a son to her granddaughter Carlotta Lewis. The baby was named Charles Lewis and weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz at birth.

John Cooper is at home after his multiple bypass surgery and is doing splendidly, according to Mickey, his wife.

All her friends were distressed to hear from Helen Walker that Christine Dersi fell and broke her hip outside her home on Alpine Road on Valentine's Day night. Christine was alone at the time and had to crawl to the house to call for assistance. She was taken to DeKalb BMC in Fort Payne. Helen has been recuperating from pneumonia since December. Hope she and Christine are continuing to improve.

Frances and Lee Scruggs of Rising Fawn, Ga., will be celebrating their 36th wedding anniversary on March 29. Happy Anniversary, Frances and Lee!

There is a single bloom on the forsythia bush in the front yard. Spring is here! (It seems that what happened to ALL of us in March of '93 has slipped my mind!!)

SPRING
is just around the corner



**The
Country
Journal**

By
BERNISE CROW

There are things of worth, things of interest and intrigue, things to enhance one's home, and things just to collect and clutter. I like things—old things with historic interest whether or not they are of value.

My teapot collection continues to grow, but I am at a loss for a proper place to display the teapots at present. We are going to build some more shelves so that they can be seen by everyone. Any collection, however simple, if displayed properly, can be enjoyed.

Ben Hardy gave me a novelty teapot, recently, shaped like a watermelon, with a slice removed; and it is placed where it can be seen.

If you are interested in making a collection, start small with inexpensive items that appeal to you. Then you can add or exchange for better quality as the collection builds.

I like china, good crystal, and silver—anything to set a pretty table to make a nice background for good food and conversation. Old linens are nice and can be obtained for a reasonable price at estate sales. Anything hand made is much more appealing than those mass produced by machinery. Pillow cases with embroidery are very attractive when spray starched and put on the bed in stacks.

Salt and pepper shakers can be very interesting and are collected by many people. These can be used with varied table settings. Old pewter is a bit expensive, but is most interesting when used with simple country furnishings. Quilts remain very good and are being collected—some want old ones in muted shades, filled with cotton batting and others want the new ones with polyester filling. They are really a work of art and can make good wall hangings. They are not as expensive as good oil paintings—and that is another. Wealthy people collect what is most expensive by famous artists; and, of course, it's a good investment.

Some collectors spend years looking for the exact thing to add to what they have, and any collection will be worth a little money.

I have people come in the shop who collect Civil War memorabilia; old coins; guns; thimbles; buttons; dolls; demi-tasse cups and saucers; hat pins that were used to hold large hats in place during the turn of the century; old tools; paper items (even *The Groundhog*); Blue Willow pattern china; depression glass; baskets; fishing lures; Goebel figurines; and iron pots. You name it and someone collects it. This is probably my specialty at the Crow's Nest—trying to keep an assortment of collectibles. This habit of collecting can be addictive, but has helped me over times of heartache and depression. It's the diversion that we need to keep us from dwelling on problems we cannot solve. Get busy collecting something—if it's just marbles to display in a glass jar on the mantle or coffee table. Pretty soon, you will find yourself searching for those collectible items at flea markets, yard sales, and wherever you happen to go.

Spring is near and most of us will collect our garden tools and start digging, raking, pruning, and planting to prepare for a lovely environment around our homes—maybe even collecting bulbs and new plantings.

Sometimes, we need to just collect our thoughts and direct them in the right manner so that we may be worth something to our community. I saw Doug Hoyt out collecting trash that some careless person threw out of the car while driving on DeSoto Parkway. Careless persons cause us to have to collect things we had rather not collect, but will to keep our roadsides clean. So, good collecting to all of you.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

BRITTANY ALEXANDREA ROBERTS of



Hixson, Tennessee, will celebrate her "third" birthday on March 5, 1994. She is the daughter of Jim and Lisa Roberts of Hixson, Tennessee. Proud Grandparents are Jim and Phyllis Roberts of Mentone. Great Grandparents are Ruby and Russell Stalvey of

Mentone; and her Great Great Grandparent is Wilbur Blalock, 94 years old, of Lafayette, GA.

GARDEN HINTS

By Madeleine Bullock

ROSE CUTTINGS -- In the spring, take cuttings of succulent new growth. Push the cutting a few inches deep directly into the soil, then cover it with an upside-down glass jar to keep the cutting moist and damp. You can also use the big plastic soda bottles. Cut out the bottom, and put it over the cutting—don't forget to remove the cap. Also, spring is the time to get out that epsom salt and treat the roots of the roses.

Instead of buying rooting hormone, you can easily make your own. Collect a handful of willow twigs, snip them into pieces a few inches long, then soak them in a few inches of water for a day or two. Soak cuttings in the hormone overnight or use it to water flats of newly-started cuttings. The strength of the hormone water depends on the time of the year.

HOME-MADE TRAPS -- make sticky traps from wood, cardboard, or stiff plastic. Paint the trap with a coat of primer and two coats of bright yellow or medium blue paint. Coat with a sticky compound, use stiff adhesive like Tanglefoot for large insects, thinner glues, such as Sticky Stuff, or STP oil for smaller insects. Scrape insects off and re-coat as needed. Plastic balls can be painted red to make apple maggot traps; plastic soda bottles make good cherry fly traps—paint the shoulders of the bottle yellow and fill 1/3 with lure. Lures can be bought or made. Scented soapy water is a good lure; try using the apple scented shampoo for the apple maggot lure.

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MENLO DOINGS

By Staff Writers

Children from pre-school to 14 years old are invited to join Mrs. Frizzle and her Magic School Bus Friends for "Reading Is A Magic Trip" at the Menlo Library.

The library is launching a new year-long reading program that encourages children and their families to discover the limitless world of entertainment and adventure at their library and in books.

"Reading Is A Magic Trip" is a free, non-competitive reading program that begins March 1 and lasts until the end of February 1995. The reading program will focus on science and math activities, together with the reading of books.

Story time at the Menlo Library will be at 3:30 p.m., the first Wednesday of each month.

For more information or to sign up for the program, come by the library.

Works by Chattooga County artist Howard Finster will be among the 270 on tour in "Passionate Visions of the American South: Self-Taught Artists from 1940 to the Present." Finster is one of 80 artists whose works are now on exhibit at the New Orleans Museum of Art. From there, the art works will travel to tour other museums this year.

The Chattooga County Firefighters Ladies Auxiliary will meet at 7 PM Thursday, March 10, in the Trion branch of the Chattooga County Library. All members are urged to attend.

Frank Joseph Kane, Cloudland, formerly of Rome, died Tuesday, February 8, after a long illness. Friends in Chattooga County, Ga., and DeKalb County, Al., are greatly saddened by his death.

Fifth grader Ashley Montgomery, 10, of Menlo, is excelling in gymnastics, according to her Rome coach Susan Odum. Ashley is the daughter of Andrew and Kelly Montgomery. She competes in Level 6 gymnastics as part of a gymnastic team.

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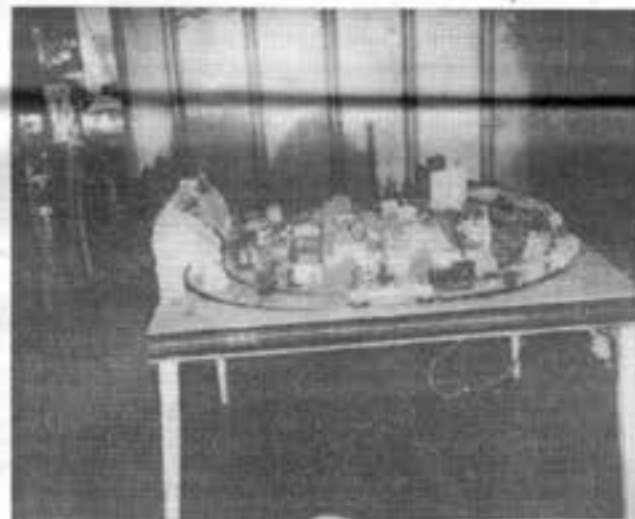
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Judy Weaver displaying a miniature house she has built and furnished with miniature pieces



MENTONE'S MINIATURE ART GROUP SEEKS TO EXPAND

By Evelyn Graves

There is interest in the Mentone area in expanding an already existing art: miniatures. Four local people are actively involved in collecting, creating, assembling, and sharing this unusual art. Judy Weaver of Weaver's (in the Log Cabin Village), Grace Howard, Barbara Nancarrow, and Elizabeth Stephens are very much interested and are active in this fascinating hobby. Membership is not limited to women--many men enjoy building miniature houses, furniture, and other small-scale projects.

If you would like to construct miniatures as a hobby or for profit, please contact Judy or Harry Weaver at (205) 634-4554. If there is enough interest in miniatures, a club will be formed so that ideas, tools, and catalogs may be exchanged.

(Editor's note: Look for more on the fascinating hobby of miniatures in the April issue of *The Groundhog*.)



MY INSPIRATION

By Jack Corey, Special Correspondent

Most of my inspiration comes from my Dad. He's great to have around (especially when I have questions). He's funny and can do a number of funny voices. He also speaks Spanish.

Another person who also inspires me is Dr. Bill Berry. He's a good teacher and assists me in every way when we're trying to get out the school paper.

Mrs. Joyce Smith inspired my story writing most. She, also, is a great teacher. Phil Hurt inspired me in sports. I'd like to thank all these people.

(Editor's Note: Jack Corey, the son of John and Jean Corey, is a 12-year-old 6th grade student at Moon Lake School.)



The Mentone United Methodist Church needs a piano player for the 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning services each week. Please contact Rev. David Lett at 634-4881.



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IT'S TIME TO PLANT!



The River Watch

By
BILL SCHWARZ

We, here in the good ole USA, are really, really fortunate. Most of the country is in the temperate climate zone and has mostly good weather, although the northeast and midwest have certainly had their fill of cold and snow. Here, in Mentone—the favored part of the world—we have reasonable winters and glorious summers. Fall and spring are without equal, anywhere. Even as this is being written, there seems to be a touch of spring in the air. Our jonquils are up and probably will be frozen by the next cold snap. However, they are up—and that does portend spring. Those genuine harbingers of spring, crocus, are up and will soon bloom. All in all, we have four nice seasons of climate.

But, that is not all of the seasons we in America celebrate, honor, and endure. Come along and let's tour some of the other seasons. We have skiing season, boating season, hunting season, fishing season, and travel season. Best of all, for the merchants, we have spending season, which officially runs from the day after Thanksgiving until the day after the day after Christmas. Right now (as I write), we are in the midst of the biennial Olympics season.

America's most impressive contribution to the world's collection of seasons is the one we are just now embarking on. It will last 'til nearly the end of the year, and the climate gets more intense as the end of the season approaches. If one can stand back and observe the season as it passes, it is rather entertaining, although it is fraught with danger and imposes irritation upon exasperation. Exacerbations are rampant. Guess what season this is? It occurs regularly every two years, and every fourth year would put Barnum and Bailey to shame. POLITICAL season!

I am reminded of a fable (could you guess that, too?), not a famous or fabulous one, but it certainly fits the season.

It seems there was once a middle-aged man, in a small out-of-the-way town, who decided to run for constable of his town. He felt that he might contribute something to his community, and the extra money would be nice. He set about doing all those things that politicians do to get votes: issue press releases for immediate publication, talk to civic groups (if he could get an invitation), kiss babies, hang out at the barber shop, eat breakfast at the local breakfast place, attend council meetings, etc.... try to make himself known.

He had one opponent, already well known and well liked. It seemed as though our man's run for office might be doomed to failure. As time went on, with gentle persistence, his place in the polls improved until he was only one vote down. How to get two votes!

Out on the edge of town and barely in the voting district there lived a fellow and his wife who were known by only a few. Our man went to the edge of town to meet this fellow and found that he was a tree worshipper, the only one in the county, and very lonely. He most desperately wanted a companion tree worshipper, and it turned out he was politically uncommitted. He was so obscure, there on the edge of town, the pollsters had missed him and his wife. Here was our man's two votes.

Courting the tree worshippers' vote, our man shyly confessed that he, too, was a tree worshipper, and they should get together for a ceremony. Of course, our man had no idea what was involved in the service. The tree worshipper was thrilled and suggested next

Friday, since that was the holiest of days for tree worshippers. After casually mentioning that he was running for constable, our stalwart agreed to the time and rushed back to town to learn something of tree worshipping.

In the ceremony, the congregation goes to the woods and locates the largest oak tree. The worship leader digs on the north side of the tree to uncover a small box containing a scroll, on which is printed all of the ritual. Well, our fellow felt that this wouldn't be too difficult a thing to do; and, so, after reading all that was available, he dressed appropriately for the rites, and went to the woods at the appointed time. There sat the tree worshipper and his wife dressed in the same manner, beaming as they waited for their new-found companion. Our man knew he had the election locked up. As he joined the group of two, the husband stood and announced that our man, as the most recent member of the congregation, should conduct the mass. Our man frantically looked for the largest oak tree, identified it, and solemnly walked to it, picked up the shovel he had brought and started digging. He dug and dug and dug. No box, no scroll. The tree worshipper looked angry and provoked. He pointed to a larger tree; and he, himself, dug the box and withdrew the scroll. He started to read, but turned to the budding politician and said, "We will never vote for a man who doesn't know his mass from a scroll in the ground." Thanks for your time, see you next month.

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L/R: Jennifer Davis (Mrs. Dallyne Jones seated) and Amy Willingham (Mrs. Clara Coots seated)

MENTONE'S NEW BUSINESS

"THE CLIP JOINT"
By Evelyn Graves

When you enter "The Clip Joint," Mentone's new beauty shop, you are met with smiles from Amy Willingham and Jennifer Davis, co-owners. Both Amy and Jennifer graduated from Gadsden State Community College in cosmetology. They both have always loved doing hair from the time they were children practicing on Barbie dolls.

Jennifer worked for Marilyn's Head Shed approximately four months after finishing her training. Amy worked at Kimberly's Beauty Salon for four months and with Marilyn's Head Shed for eighteen months before she and Jennifer decided to open their own shop.

The thing Amy and Jennifer like most about their work is being with people. Amy says, "It is not really like a job—it is fun!" They both agree that being able to set their own hours is a definite advantage. Amy enjoys doing men's haircuts; Jennifer enjoys doing perms; but they do it all! They enjoy people of all ages and enjoy doing modest styles for older clients as much as the newest styles for teens and young adults. They attend the hair shows in various areas to stay abreast of the latest in cuts and designs.

Amy and Jennifer have chosen an ideal spot for their shop. It is located in the old Mentone Real Estate building next to Little River Hardware. This building was, at one time, occupied by Janet Blalock's beauty shop. The building belongs to Don and Yvonne Brock. The name, "The Clip Joint" was chosen after they had located the building. Amy and Jennifer are equal partners and love working together. They have remodeled the interior of the shop in an attractive black and white motif with a splash of teal in curtains, pillows, etc.

Business hours are 9 AM - 5 PM Tuesday - Friday, and 9 AM - 2 PM on Saturday. They will take clients after hours by appointment. They offer a new hair loss control system for persons interested in this product. They also give senior citizen discounts.

Call 634-4013 for appointments. Walk-ins are always welcome.

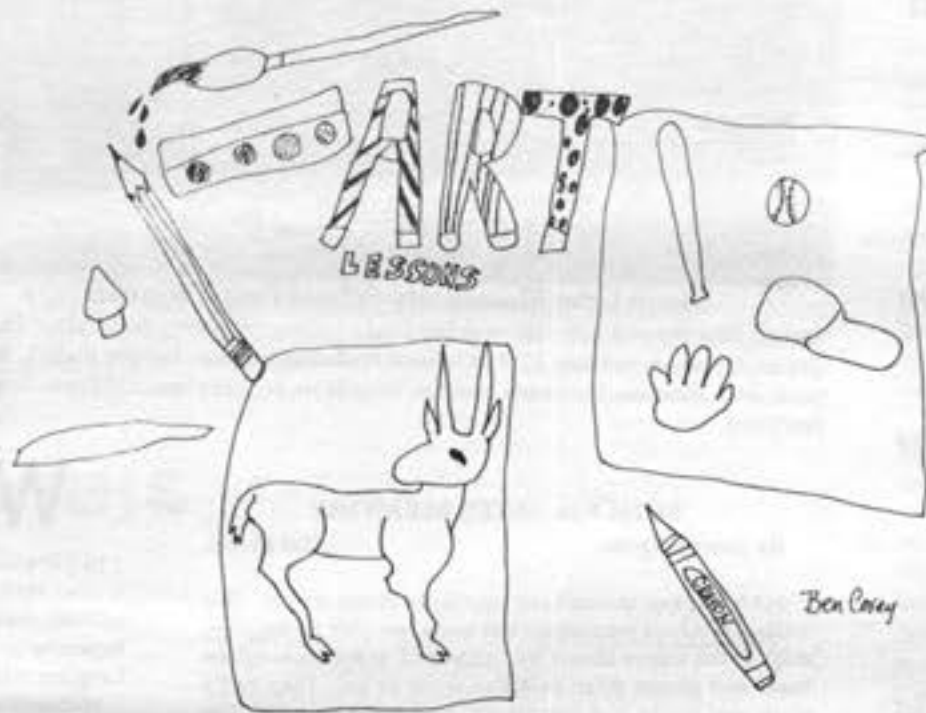
Young Artists At Work

Moon Lake Students are excited about having an art teacher for two weeks in the school, and the drawings below of some of the students express their feelings about the importance of art.

Ms. Cheryl King, artist-in-residence, is excited, also, about being able to teach in her own community for two weeks and feels that there is a great deal of potential among the Moon Lake students.

The Moon Lake PTA, under the leadership of Dr. Bill Berry, is making a concerted effort to raise funds to pay a full-time art teacher next year.

Ms. King's appointment to the 12-week artist-in-residence program sponsored by The Alabama Council of Arts will terminate at the end of March. She is now teaching private lessons on a small scale and plans to expand in this area. If you or your child are interested in private lessons, you may call her at (205) 634-4516.



Ben Croy



Peter Hurt

ART
LESSONS



Rob Childers

All of
us robots
say art
makes our
circuits
POP with
excitement.
And we love
to draw.

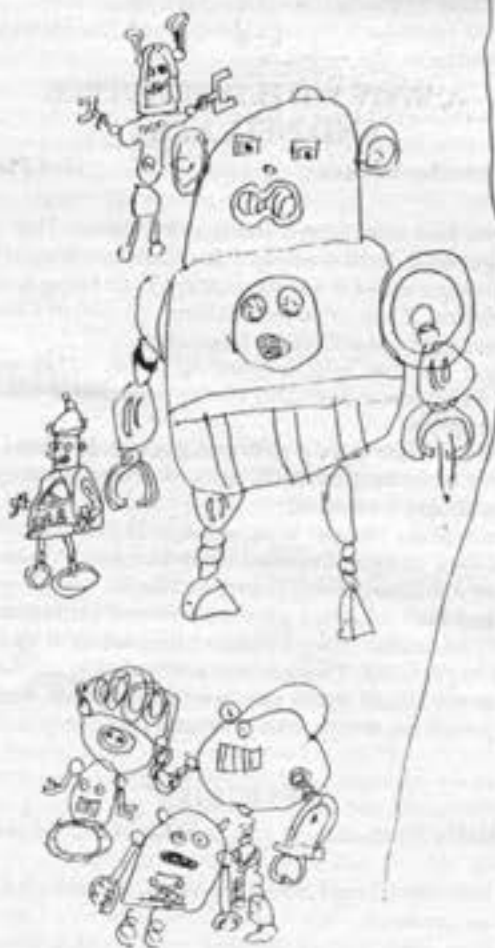
Jack Perry



ALL The Birds
Agree.....

Art
Fills the Gap

By: Gossie
Hooks



Kyle Hooks



Valley Head Woman's Club

By Maurine Donahue

The Valley Head Woman's Club was proud to present the winners of its annual poetry, essay, and visual arts contest at the February meeting held at the Valley Head Baptist Church.

Hostesses were Mrs. John Jones, Mrs. Jack Cooper, Mrs. Karre Lollik-Andersen, and Mrs. Herbert Stanley. As all other hostesses had other unexpected commitments, Mrs. John Jones did yeoman's duty in setting up the tables in the fellowship hall and decorating them with a patriotic motif honoring George Washington's birthday. She found willing helpers for the last minute work.

The subject of the program was "A Better World Through Words and The Visual Arts." Mrs. Alex Hamilton, club president, presided.

Mrs. John Jones gave the devotional basing it on Proverbs 22:6, "Train a child in the way he should go; and, when he is old, he will not depart from it," and on Proverbs 16:3, "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established." She said that by the time you mature and develop enough to be a good parent, your children are grown. Training a child is one way to show your love. When her mother chastized her, she said, "This hurts me more than it does you." Jean replied, "Mother, it is your job to do that, but I don't like it." Don't be afraid to apologize to your children, and do say, "I love you."

Mrs. Phil Hurt of the Education Committee had charge of the program and told what a joy it had been to work on the contest. She introduced Mrs. Joyce Smith, 4th and 5th grade teacher at Moon Lake Elementary School, and the contest winners.

This class interviewed someone 60 years old or more. Their topic suggestions included: School Days Story or Memory, Childhood Story or Memory, Favorite Thing about Growing Up in Mentone or Valley Head.

The prizes were as follows:

1st place: James Tipton, who interviewed his grandmother, Syble Tipton

2nd place: Peter Hurt, who interviewed William Blackburn

3rd place: Jennifer Blalock, who interviewed Dot Hopper and Nell Kent, sisters

Honorable Mention:

Holly Kitchens, who interviewed her great Aunt Velda O'Rear Smith

Emily Collins, who interviewed her grandmother, Ann Blalock Wright

Alan Hawkins, who interviewed Jewell Palmer, from his church

As a token of affection and appreciation for Mrs. Smith's work with the children on this project, the club gave her a necklace, the pendant of which was made of cross-cut native wood, with sunset on the mountain on one side and a house wren on the other, painted by Mrs. Hamilton.

Allison Meadows took charge of the high school division. She said Ms. Ellen Lacy, English teacher at Valley Head High School, gave the students the phrase "I Am" as the beginning of the subject of their poems.

The winners were:

1st place, Alison Meadows

2nd place, Jennifer Robertson

3rd place, Christine Tipton

Honorable Mention, Yon Hopper and Sara Hatfield
Michele Anderson was elected to membership in the club.



Moon Lake Elementary School Essay Winners

Seated, Mrs. Joyce Smith, 4th and 5th grade teacher; standing, from left: Emily Collins, honorable mention; Holly Kitchens, honorable mention; Jennifer Blalock, third place; Alan Hawkins, honorable mention; Peter Hurt, second place; and James Tipton, first place

SCHOOL DAYS MEMORY

By James Tipton

(1st Place)

Syble Tipton remembers very little about school. She walked to school because the bus route was only on the highway. In the winter time it was quite cold so she wore rubber boots and gloves when they had snow or ice. They had a black iron heater that burned coal and stood up high. The students would take turns bringing in a scuttle (big bucket) full of coal. They also took turns bringing water in from a hydrant outside. Each child brought their own drinking glass to school. There weren't snacks at all back then. They carried their own food to school in a paper bag or box. They carried jars of milk and some sandwiches.

At Easter time, they carried eggs to school and had a easter egg hunt. At Christmastime, they drew names. Each room had a tree. The whole school would gather and have a play, which was held during school. For Christmas, they were out two weeks. Usually they were glad to go back to school because there was no contact with friends. Plays were very popular, and all the children competed for the parts. Each individual teacher would find plays out of a book for the children. And they would act them out every Friday in front of the class. Every year on the last day of school they would have a picnic. They would be at different locations, usually near the school grounds. One year she remembers that they walked all the way to Eagles Nest. It's on the brow. It is called Eagles Nest because Eagles nested there a while back. Each child carried a bag of lunch. They would spread out and have a picnic. The year they went to Eagles Nest each child brought money and they were allowed to stop at the Mentone Superette and buy snacks and coca colas. By lunchtime they were rather warm. Having coke was a big event. They would have glass so that they could return it for the money. They played on the rocks and after lunch they walked back to school and that ended another year.

WILLIAM

By Peter Hurt

(2nd Place)

William Blackburn is a nice grocery store guy. He owns the Mentone Superette in the middle of town. He has a dog named Brutus and Brutus eats too much. He always has candy bars and lollipops because people who stop in are always feeding him. People go to William's to talk and get what they need.

My first memory of William is meeting him with my dad when we first moved to Mentone. I liked to go to his store because that is where I could buy candy. Now I like to go to his store because I can buy candy, see Brutus, and rent movies. William always talks about the weather.

The Superette is in the same building now as it was 30 years ago. When William first got to the Superette in 1961 it was an empty building. Nothing was there and they fixed it up and ordered groceries from Ken's Wholesale in Collinsville, Alabama. The store sold gas, animal foods, kerosene, and men's and boys' socks and pants. They had alot of business.



Valley Head Woman's Club

From left, Emily Collins, honorable mention; Peter Hurt, second place; Jennifer Blalock, third place; and Alan Hawkins, honorable mention.

Woman's Club

In 1994 the Mentone Superette has a television, new shelves that it didn't used to have, a video room has been added, central air conditioning and a tile floor. The Superette now has a gas heater by the door where people hang out and chat.

William's dad had a grocery store that gave him the idea of having a grocery store.

William grew up just outside Valley Head. When he was in the fourth grade he had one teacher and her name was Mrs. Hendrick. He went to Lea's Chapel School which had first through sixth grade and they all met in one room. William's only school days memory was that one time he got a whipping for jumping the benches. William's favorite subjects in school were math and spelling and the thing he didn't like about school was getting whippings. When William first started to school he had to walk. Later on they got a bus.

William's favorite thing about being a parent is having children and grandchildren. His favorite thing about being over 60 is still being able to work. What William misses about being 10 years old is not being able to run, jump, and play. William thinks that one of the good things about raising children in Mentone is having a good school like Moon Lake for them to go to.

A VISIT WITH DOT HOPPER AND NELL KENT

By Jennifer Blalock

(3rd Place)

Dot and Nell came from a family of 8 children. Their parents believed in hard work and the Christian way of life. Their mother worked at a pants factory. Their father worked in the mines. They attended Waldron Christian Church. They went to school at Corinth, Mississippi.

Dot and Nell had to earn spending money. They would babysit for a dime a day. This money was used to attend a Saturday movie.

In their younger days a gallon of gas was 25 cents. You could buy 6 hamburgers for 25 cents. A coke and candy bar could be bought for a nickel.

Dot met Major Hopper when she was 21 years old. They courted for 2 years and married when Dot was 23 years old. They had 3 children, Harry, Danny, and Beck.

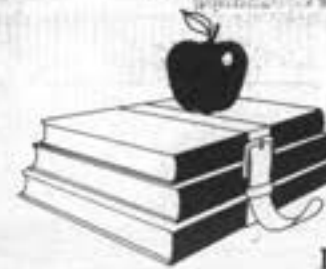
Dot and Nell inherited glaucoma from their father that causes blindness. They became blind when they were around 30 years old. They say that young people are the best thing in the world when you are handicapped, because young people are always willing to help.

MEMORIES

By Holly Kitchens

(Honorable Mention)

As I interviewed my Great Aunt Velda, she told me a story about an opossum. My Great Uncle John was 5 and my Great Aunt Velda was 11 and they were walking down the road one afternoon with their mom and dad and on the way



I AM

By Alison Meadows

(1st Place)

I am a girl who loves to dream of raging rivers and clear blue streams.

I wonder why we have to dream to fill all of life's emptiness.

I hear my surroundings breathe.

I want to run free like a wild horse.

I am a girl who loves to dream of raging rivers and clear blue streams.

I pretend that I am loved by all.

I feel as if I am tossed like a ball.

I touch the softness of the clouds.

I worry I shall not make it back.

I cry at death.

I am a girl who loves to dream of raging rivers and clear blue streams.

I understand I could never be like the birds sitting in the trees.

I say we are all innocent until proven otherwise.

I dream a dream—an ultimate dream of how life should really be.

I try to be the best I can be.

I hope people see me for me.

I am a girl who loves to dream of raging rivers and clear blue streams.

I AM

By Jennifer Robertson

(2nd Place)

I am a young poet who loves to go mudding.

I wonder about my family's past.

I hear the Irish accent of my grandfather as he sings.

I see the man in the moon give me a friendly wink.

I want to live my life as though it will be gone tomorrow.

I am a young poet who loves to go mudding.

I pretend to be a wild Indian.

I feel the arrows as they pierce my skin.

I touch the dark blood my wounded body releases.

I worry my next breath will be my last.

I cry over being defeated.

I am a young poet who loves to go mudding.

I understand that no one is perfect.

I say the strong shall prevail.

I dream of singing with angels.

I try to accomplish my goals.

I hope to be a famous, well-known poet.

I am a young poet who loves to go mudding.

I AM

By Christina Tipton

(3rd Place)

I am a person set in my ways.

I wonder what life will bring.

I hear rain tapping on a tin roof.

I see an eagle soar through the sky.

I want to be satisfied.

I am a person set in my ways.

I pretend to understand the way life was back then.

I feel the love and oneness of my tribe.

I touch the beads that decorate my leather dress.

I worry that life might be too short for me.

I cry to the great spirit in the sky.

I am a person set in my ways.

I understand life is difficult.

I say this to myself.

I dream of easier times.

I try to understand my ancestor's ways.

I hope to learn from them.

I am a person set in my ways.



b Presents Essay Awards

James Tipton, first place; Holly Kitchens, second place; Evelyn Graves, Essay Committee; and Jennifer Robertson, honorable mention



Valley Head High School Poetry Contest Winners

From left, Sarah Hatfield, honorable mention; Christina Tipton, third place; Jennifer Robertson, second place; Alison Meadows, first place; and Yon Hopper, honorable mention

Contest Winners

back they spotted an opossum in the Persimmon Tree. They decided they would catch it. My Great Aunt Velda ran home and grabbed a gunny sack. My Great Aunt Velda climbed the tree with the sack to get the opossum. When she reached out to get it, it fell to the ground. She threw the sack to my Great Uncle John and told him to put it in the sack. The opossum started running, but my Great Uncle John put his foot on its tail. They threw it in the sack and walked back home with it. When they got home they put it in a bucket and put a plank over it. During the night the opossum got out. It got between the ceiling and the outside wall and her father had to tear the wall out and he said, "That's the last of the opossum catching."

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

By Emily Collins

(Honorable Mention)

When Ann Wright was a child they didn't have T.V.'s so they played games. They played checkers, chinese checkers, and dominos. She played with her mom and three brothers and one sister. Her dad didn't play. He went hunting. After they had eaten supper and the dishes were washed they would sit in front of the fire and with an Aladdin lamp for light they enjoyed playing games for entertainment. Her mom thought dominos was good for learning arithmetic. She also enjoyed keeping scrapbooks. She would sometimes get them for her birthday. Her mom would always subscribe for magazines. They always had books to read like the Bobbsey Twins, Little Women, and Black Beauty. This is Ann Wright's Childhood Memories. (She still likes playing these games today.)

MRS. JEWELL'S CHILDHOOD

By Alan Hawkins

(Honorable Mention)

Mrs. Jewell used to go to school at Lea's Chapel. She finished the sixth grade. Mrs. Jewell lived about a mile from school. She worked on a farm. She said the Drug Store and the Tigers Inn were there thirty years ago. She has two daughters and stayed home alot. She says her favorite thing about being over 60 is she has a lot of special privileges. She is retired drawing her social security.

She lived in the country and had get togethers every weekend. School was seven hours long. The required subjects were Math, reading, and spelling. They sang hymns, had Bible reading and said prayer.

Mrs. Jewell lives down the road from Hammondville Baptist Church. Her house is light blue. She does not have a car. Her porch is big. She has a swing. She lives down the road from my grandparents. Mrs. Jewell's yard is big. She goes to Hammondville Baptist Church. Her favorite sport is baseball. Her teacher's name was Mrs. Thornberry.

I AM

By Yon Hopper

(Honorable Mention)

I am a Christian who loves to laugh.

I wonder when the day will be that my Lord returns.

I hear trumpets sound.

I see the sky unfold.

I want to make people see that the time is near.

I am a Christian who loves to laugh.

I pretend that none of my problems are serious.

I feel that everything has its humorous side.

I touch images that seem to be there.

I worry the world will become too serious.

I cry for people whose dream is a home away from the streets.

I am a Christian who loves to laugh.

I understand that things change.

I say the world is wrong.

I dream of people truly united under God.

I try to love everyone.

I hope for acceptance among those I think are important.

I am a Christian who loves to laugh.

I AM

By Sarah Hatfield

(Honorable Mention)

(Dedicated to the late Marcus W. Hatfield)

I am a daydreamer who wishes on stars.

I wonder if my Grandfather knows my name.

I hear him telling stories I'll never get to hear.

I see him on clouds watching me grow.

I want the wonderful old memories of someone I never knew.

I am a daydreamer who wishes on stars.

I pretend that he holds me tight in his arms to protect from harm.

I feel his love like a seed growing inside my heart.

I touch the world around me the one he loved and toiled upon before me.

I worry that my loved ones won't be there.

I cry for loss of someone I never knew.

I am a daydreamer who wishes on stars.

I understand pretty soon we will meet.

I say that we all have a chance.

I dream of being in another time and place.

I try to live for the love of all mankind.

I hope that the man I call "PaPa" will know my name.

I am a daydreamer who wishes on stars.



The Irish countryside retains the informality that once greeted the work of Saint Patrick

LANDSCAPES AND TRADITIONS OF ST. PATRICK'S IRELAND

By Dr. Bill Berry

(Editor's Note: Dr. Berry reminisces for *The Groundhog* about his trip to Ireland.)

Bed and breakfast proprietress Mrs. O'Brien presented a few last-minute pointers before a train carried us westward to Holyhead, Wales, and the Irish Sea beyond. Ahead of our ferry, a few hours later, an emerald vision rose from the sea. It was Ireland.

That was 12 years ago, but the vision lingers.

Hundreds of years earlier, another man made this journey toward the setting sun. His name was Patrick, and today he's called a saint.

My buddy and I were spending a summer traveling across Europe, and Ireland provided a breath of fresh air. Dublin's the largest city, but even it retains small-town charm. It welcomed us, and then sent us to the splendid vistas and hidden corners of a unique land.

St. Patrick also considered Ireland a special place. British by birth, he was taken to Ireland as a slave captured during a raid. While working as a shepherd, he dedicated himself to religion. Though later freed and sent home, he returned to convert the Irish to Christianity.



Rising abruptly from the Atlantic surf, the Cliffs of Moher steadfastly gaze westward

Today Ireland stands as a predominantly Catholic land. This common faith dates to Saint Patrick's work as a missionary in northern and western Ireland, which began around 431. After gaining the friendship of several tribal leaders, he led a highly successful campaign, founding more than 300 churches and baptizing over 100,000 people.

I, too, was drawn to the western side of this ancient isle. We rode the rails toward the Atlantic, stopping in the quaint seaside town of Galway. Exiting the train station, we encountered an old gentleman in tweed coat and hat who directed us rather insistently toward his bed and breakfast establishment. Obediently, we followed the path of his bicycle. The aroma of freshly baked bread rewarded our obedience. We had found a home.

In like manner, Saint Patrick was received. He is still revered by all who are Irish, indicated by the many legendary feats attributed to him. Irish tradition holds that Saint Patrick charmed the island's snakes into the sea. And the shamrock's place as Ireland's traditional symbol springs from the legend that Saint Patrick used a three-leaf shamrock to illustrate the idea of the Holy Trinity.



Sheep graze on emerald grass watered by an ethereal cascade

We yearned to explore the Connemara Peninsula, but train routes in Ireland are about as rare as snakes. Off we ventured in a rented Fiat, traversing sparse moors decorated by heaps of peat. Occasional horse-drawn carts plied the moors, removing the peat to fuel nearby fires.

March 17th, the feast day of Saint Patrick, recognizes his status as patron saint of Ireland. Religious services and festive parades commemorate the life and work of one man who forever changed a land.

We gazed upon a final sight before leaving Ireland. The dramatic Cliffs of Moher, breaking the Atlantic waves, served as fitting benediction to the place that Saint Patrick adopted as his personal mission.

Each of us should be blessed with such a rewarding challenge.





Beauty Tips

By
CHARLYNE O'REAR

cleansing and exfoliating will surely bring them to the surface. The beauty of it all is that, after you have "worked" them out, your skin will glow like it's never done before or like you haven't seen since you were a very young girl. You'll be so glad you stayed with the regimen when everyone tells you how beautiful your complexion has become and asks what you are doing to look so great!

See you next month.



CHARLYNE O'REAR
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EXFOLIATING IS A "FLAKY" BUSINESS

Let's take another side road this month and talk about making your complexion more beautiful by cleansing with an exfoliator. We will be back to the fitness route soon.

Do you exfoliate? This is not a trick question—either you do or you don't, and the answer is written on your face.

People say to me: "my face has so many blackheads and/or blemishes," or they say, "my skin has dry flaky patches here and here and around my eyes and hair-line." I've noticed that these are always the same people that tell me they don't exfoliate at all or just maybe "once in a while."

In this age of high pollution and stressful lifestyles, exfoliators are a critical part of your total skin care regimen. Because it is not used every day, the importance of an exfoliator is sometimes taken lightly. The following is a list of some of the reasons you should exfoliate. Exfoliating scrubs:

*Polish away dull dead cells to renew and de-age your skin instantly.

*Cleanse deep to reduce excess oil that can't be reached by surface cleansers.

*Improve circulation for healthier skin from the inside out and help prevent blackheads.

*Stimulate the cells, which increases hydration.

*Are critical in attaining maximum results from your moisturizers and foundations.

How to exfoliate: First, you must start with a clean face by using a good cleanser (applied to the face with upward and outward motions). Remove cleanser with a warm, wet washcloth, and rinse several times with warm water. Next, gently massage onto wet face the exfoliating lotion or scrub, avoiding eye area. Rinse with a wet washcloth, or splash off with warm water. Be sure to follow with a tonifier. Tonifiers refresh and stimulate the skin, increasing circulation to encourage healthier skin.

There are many, many exfoliators on the market, and it gets hectic shopping for just the right one for your type skin. So, I will list below the three basic types you will find out there.

For Dry Skin: A clay-type formula with skin-softening emollients that gently removes cellular debris, while polishing dry, dull skin. It improves texture for a more youthful look, while the "scrubbing action" helps stimulate blood circulation for a healthier complexion.

For Combination Skin: Usually, a lotion specially formulated for combination skin, renews skin texture in the oily "T-zone," while it polishes the dry areas. The result is smoother, younger-looking skin with a more healthy appearance.

For Oily Skin: Most times will be in a gel form, is an oil-free formula that polishes and normalizes oily skin by eliminating surface oil and removing pore-clogging impurities.

You'll be safe with the 1-2-3 count of when to exfoliate:

- 1 time a week for dry skin
- 2 times a week for combination skin
- 3 times a week for oily skin

Be prepared for a few more than usual blackheads and/or blemishes for the first few weeks. It just makes good sense that these impurities must come out if they've been left in your face over the years, and

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(Qty. Sugg. Retail 18.75)

Solid Rustic Stain

\$12.95/gal

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Exterior Acrylic Flat

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Interior Flat Wall Paint

\$10.49/gal

Use on interior wood, drywall, plaster, metal and exterior masonry. Excellent quality, uniform flat sheen, exceptional hiding, 1000 colors, washable, spatter resistant.



(Qty. Sugg. Retail 18.30)

Interior Latex Semi-Gloss

\$14.59/gal

Use on wood, drywall, plaster, metal, masonry. Excellent quality, 1000 colors, smooth semi-gloss sheen, exceptional hiding, washable, low odor.



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MOON LAKE SCHOOL NEWS

MOON LAKE

Mr. Charles Bell, principal, is in the process of organizing community baseball programs. The Dixie Youth League for ages 9-11 will be coached by Eric Kirby. The Dixie Little League for ages 11-12 will be coached by Ronald Baggett, head coach. The coach for the T-ball League for ages 5-8 has not yet been announced.

Students are now being chosen for Who's Who in The Laurel, Moon Lake's year book. Plans are in progress for sixth grade graduation. Students will be measured for their caps and gowns in early March.

Plans are underway for a reception honoring Mr. Charles Bell, Mrs. Helen Sibert, and Mrs. Juanita Smith, who are retiring at the end of this school year. The PTA is planning the reception for sometime in May. The exact date will be announced later.

Moon Lake welcomes a new art teacher, Ms. Cheryl King, who will begin teaching art for two weeks the latter part of February extending into March. Students, teachers, and parents are excited that art is being offered for the first time in county schools. Under Dr. Bill Berry's leadership, Moon Lake School has filed for a grant with the objective of getting a full-time art teacher for the next school year. The PTA will be raising money to supplement her salary, and with anticipated donations from individuals, it is very hopeful that this will be realized. If you are interested in making a donation, it will be very much appreciated, and it will, of course, be tax deductible. You may contact Dr. Bill Berry or Mr. John Corey, PTA president, if you are interested in making a donation.

The following items were taken from the February 1994 issue of the Tiger Paw Print newsletter of Moon Lake School. The Staff is: Editor: Jack Corey; Assistant Editor: Ben Corey; Sports Writers: Jennifer Blalock & Peter Hurt; Class Reporters: Brandy Jackson (6th), Emily Collins (4th/5th), Tiffany Bare (3rd/4th), Emily Corey & Ashley McSpadden (2nd), Rob Childers & Andrew McCole (1st), and Stuart Hurt (kindergarten); Comic Artist: Nathan Owen; and Sponsor: Bill Berry.

Tiger Paw Print

Student of the month--
ROB CHILDERS
By Ben Corey

Rob Childers likes Moon Lake School's gym. His old school had three playgrounds, but no gym. He likes the teachers and his work, especially reading and math.

He says his dad takes him on hikes if he does his chores. His little sister is four years old. She goes to preschool in Fort Payne. We look forward to having her in Moon Lake's kindergarten class next year.

Rob likes pizza, football, and kickball. He also likes Moon Lake School and everybody is glad!

Coming Soon: **SPRING**
By Jack Corey

Welcome back to the new school year. Sorry we have not been getting the paper out (50% my fault).

There are many things to look forward to this spring. Baseball is one of them, not to mention volleyball. Warm weather will start, and spring break will come.

SPORTS REPORT
By Jennifer Blalock & Peter Hurt

The basketball players did well this year. The 5th grade won a total of one game. The 6th grade won three games. We are out of the tournament. We had a good season. Moon Lakers are happy about it.

The cheerleaders did well this year, too.

Baseball will be coming up soon. Hope you sign up!



TEACHER OF THE MONTH--
BILL BERRY
By Jack Corey

Dr. Berry is the 3rd and 4th grade teacher. He enjoys foreign travel because he likes meeting new people and seeing new things.

He also likes Agatha Christie books and Alfred Hitchcock movies. He dislikes the singer Madonna and weather that is too hot or too cold.

2ND GRADE NEWS
By Ashley McSpadden

Ms. Lehman is nice. We are learning to add two-digit numbers in math.

We've been writing stories to go in our class big book. We are also illustrating our stories. Our last story was about Martin Luther King Jr.

The kids in our class are excited about getting new balls and books. We have learned interesting things.

SENIOR SENTINEL
By Brandy Jackson

The 6th grade is doing two reports, one on health and another on anything we want. It is very hard. We have a lot of reports.

We got a new game for the computer. It is on math. Mr. Bell said that it has a report card and it will have our grade on it for the next six weeks and he will look on it for our grades.

We have been doing chess and checkers. It is so fun for people! We will start volleyball very soon, right after basketball season is over.

DR. BERRY'S CLASS
By Tiffany Bare

We now only need four people to finish their times tables. They are Beth, John, J.R., and Stephanie. We're only 11 tables away from the pizza party. We already had our big multiplication test.

Mrs. Lyons, the woman from the animal shelter, arranged for us to get *Kind News* newspapers. They are really neat.



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Mentone Cable Presents VCR

Mentone Cable Company, represented by Gary Haas, recently donated a new VCR to Moon Lake School. Accepting the donation is School Principal Charles Bell. "We present this as a token of our appreciation for the opportunity to serve the folks of Mentone with cable service," said Haas.

MRS. SMITH'S CLASS
By Emily Collins

In Mrs. Smith's class on February 1 we started D.A.R.E. Everyone seems to enjoy it.

We also got some new books. They're pretty.

We are really looking forward to the end of February. We'll start art then.

Basketball season is over. Baseball should start here soon.

HOBBY MANIA
By Ben Corey

These are the favorite hobbies at Moon Lake School:

kindergarten--bike riding
1st grade--jumping rope
2nd grade--swimming
3rd grade--basketball
4th grade--swimming
5th grade--horseback riding
6th grade--football
The runner-up hobbies are:
kindergarten--Barbies & coloring books
1st grade--basketball
2nd grade--no clear 2nd favorite
3rd grade--reading
4th grade--horseback riding & sports
5th grade--no clear 2nd favorite
6th grade--basketball.

These lists were determined in a recent *Tiger Paw Print* survey.

FIRST GRADE FLASH
By Special Correspondent

The first grade has a new student named Rob Childers. We are really enjoying having him in our class.

We have been writing letters to a first grade class in Pinedale, Wyoming. Each student has his or her own penpal to write. The first graders in Wyoming made a book for our class entitled "Tongue Twisters for Our Penpals in Alabama." Each tongue twister had one of our students' names in it. They were very funny and we really enjoyed them!

KINDERGARTEN!
By Stuart Hurt

The kindergarten has been studying the letters Q and U. They read a little story for the letters. Then they determine which words start with those letters.

The kindergarten has gotten a number of new supplies. That's including a magnetic chalkboard, pegboards, and an assortment of miniature clocks.

On Thursday, February 3, they went shopping in their math books. They had a certain amount of dimes, nickels, and pennies. They bought things with those.



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Susan Collins Residence 634-4695

Sara Quinn Residence 845-1881

MENTONE LISTINGS

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(2) The one and only EAGLES CLIFF-North of Mentone. 1200 feet of sheer cliffs and 34 wooded acres. \$179,900.



(3) PEACEFUL COUNTRY LIVING at its best. Over 3500 square foot farm house on 20 fenced acres, barn, 2 wells, spring fed pond. Connecting DeSoto State Park. Only a few steps from Little River. Great Bed and Breakfast potential. \$127,500.



(4) The West Fork of Little River flows quietly by these 3-acre wooded lots with 300 feet of River Frontage. Restricted for property owner's protection. Prices starting at \$20,000.



(5) A WATER WONDERLAND -- 3 bedroom, 2 bath rustic cottage overlooking the East Fork of Little River. Sunroom, 2-level deck, dock in the river. A great week-end get-a-way. \$75,000.



(6) HISTORICAL LOG HOME - across from Sunset Park in Mentone. This rustic beauty offers 3 bedrooms, stenciled pine floors, footed tub, marble shower, and elevator. Beautifully landscaped with paved drive and walkways, totally fenced. \$89,900.



(7) This one is bigger than you think--three levels, 3 bedrooms, 2 & 1/2 baths, 2 kitchens, sunroom, totally self-contained apartment possibilities on lower level. \$74,500.



(8) COUNTRY GENTLEMEN FARMER - 45 fenced acres, 5 bedrooms, 3-1/2 baths, sunporch, 3 fireplaces, inground swimming pool, 2 baths, playhouse, beautiful shade trees and a pond. \$170,000.



(9) LANDMARK PROPERTY IN DOWNTOWN MENTONE - Once housed one of the area's finest hotels. Now is the home of the White Elephant Antique Shop. \$225,000.



(10) COMMERCIAL LOT on front with a 3 bedroom, 1 bath cottage with fireplace, pine floors and lots of charm! Prime downtown location on Highway 117 in Mentone. \$68,500.

OTHER LISTINGS:

(11) BROW LOT IN MENTONE adjoins Cragmere Manna with 20 acres between you and the valley below. Surveyed and perked. \$35,500.

(12) 510 ACRES - cleared and wooded, 7 ponds. \$500 an acre. Owner will consider selling in 3 smaller tracts.

(13) BUILDING LOTS available on Brow, DeSoto Parkway, Little River, and Lake Lahusage. Call 845-6000 for more information.

(14) LAKE AND BROW VIEWS - 56 lots to choose from, 2 private lakes for fishing and boating while you view the magnificent sunrise. Priced from the low \$20,000's.

(15) Own "UMBRELLA ROCK" located in the Old Military Road Estates. Over 3 wooded acres with 200 feet on Little River. \$32,500.

4-H CLUB NEWS

CROSSVILLE 4-H

By Monica McCollum, Crossville Reporter

The Crossville 4-H Club met Feb. 8, 1994, for its February meeting. Elizabeth Whitworth, club president, called the meeting to order. Wyatt Graves, Steven Bouldin, Tanya Rowell, club song leaders, led the club in singing, "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands." Charity Perez gave the devotional for the group. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and our 4-H Club Pledge were led by our vice-president, Merideth Rogers. Our secretary, Candice Painter, then read the minutes of our last meeting and took roll call. The meeting was turned over to our 4-H agent, Mrs. Wardrup, who presented a program on "Cleaning Up Your Environment." The local 4-H contests this month were foods, crafts, and hobbies. Our local 4-H leader, Mrs. Wardrup, was in charge of the contest. All the projects got first place.

SYLVANIA 5TH GRADE 4-H CLUB

By Dawn Elliott, Club Reporter

On February 11, 1994, the Sylvania 5th Grade 4-H Club held their monthly meeting in Mrs. Schultz's room. President Christopher Love brought the meeting to order. Vice-President Saranda Wells led the club in the pledges to the United States Flag and the 4-H Flag. Next, Secretary Jessica Outlaw called the roll. Later, Devotional Leader Chastity Dixon brought the devotion, the thought for the day, and led us in a prayer. Song Leaders Robin Harris, Alison Pack, and Amanda Wells led us in the song, "Hokie Pokie." Dawn Elliott gave a demonstration of a small electrical appliance. Mrs. Wardrup, Club Agent, showed us how to make napkin holders and pencil holders. Lastly, Mrs. Wardrup announced the results of the contests. In Foods, 1st Place went to Andrea Vaughn and 2nd Place to Saranda Wells. In Woodworking, 1st Place went to Joshua Brooks. In Sewing, 1st Place went to Pamela Reed and 2nd Place to Saranda Wells. In Posters, 1st Place went to Christopher Love and 2nd Place to Chastity Dixon. In a demonstration of the safe use of a small electrical appliance, 1st Place went to Dawn Elliott. Then the meeting was adjourned.

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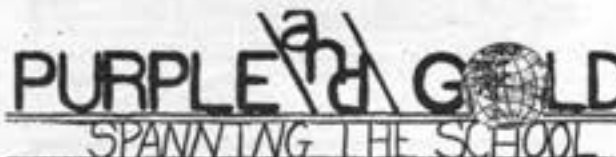
VALLEY HEAD SCHOOL NEWS

VALLEY HEAD

The Valley Head High School Girls Basketball team participated in sub-regional playoffs on February 22.

The Valley Head Senior Beta Club will be going to the State Convention in Mobile on March 17-20. A fund raiser is on schedule for later this spring.

The following items were taken from the 1993-94 issue of the Purple and Gold newsletter of Valley Head High School. The editors are Amy Hale, editor-in-chief, Tammy Traffanstedt, and Nichole Hatfield. Reporters are Chrissy Norman, William Lee, Tony Key, Jody Wagner, Allison Meadows, Shaunathan Bell, Tammy Camp, Haley Johnson, and Ginger Gray. The Advisor is Miss Downer. Mark Smalley designed the Purple and Gold Banner.



MR. AND MISS VALLEY HEAD HIGH SCHOOL 1993-94

This year's Mr. V.H.S. is Duane Blalock. His parents are Jimmy and Gayla Blalock. Duane lives in Mentone. His extracurricular activities include basketball and other sports. Duane also enjoys fishing and hunting. His future plans include going to college. When asked how he felt about being chosen as Mr. V.H.S., Duane said, "It is a great honor."

This year's Miss V.H.S. is Chrissy Norman. She is the daughter of Priscilla Norman and James Norman. Chrissy resides in Valley Head. Her extracurricular activities are basketball and softball. Chrissy also likes to go horseback riding, and she enjoys goofing off. Her future plans are to attend Auburn University, where she plans to pursue a career in pharmacy. When asked how she felt about being chosen as Miss V.H.S., Chrissy said, "I am honored and very surprised."

FREEZE ME

By William Lee

The night of January sixteenth, 1994, brought one of the hardest freezes Valley Head has seen in years. Schools were closed because of ice on rural roads and frozen water pipes. Some sock mills were closed also because of frozen water pipes. However, the main reason the mills were closed was because the machines were frozen.

I asked Joseph Lee just how cold it was. He said, "At one point, it was one below at my house. That's not counting the windchill factor. Our water froze in the pump house. It's nothing to us on the mountain."

I also asked Adrienne Hall the same question. She said, "It was cold enough to stay at home and ice skate on the frozen puddles outside my home. It froze something on the heater in my car. It burst and water leaked out onto my floor board. It was covered an inch thick."

I believe the main reason we had it so bad was because we weren't prepared. While we had a little freeze and got out of work and school, people up North had eighteen inches of snow and ice. The went to work and to school. I wouldn't doubt it if they were laughing at our situation. Maybe this will teach us to be better prepared next time.

VALLEY HEAD GYM GETS A NEW LOOK

By Tony Key

As you may have noticed, the gym has recently undergone some renovations. The gym has received a pair of new score boards sponsored by Coca Cola, and new bleachers have also been added. These will provide more seating capacity and less of a mess from garbage. These improvements have helped the appearance of the gym. We would like to thank everyone that has helped in the renovation process so far, and we ask everyone to keep up the good work.

SPORTS

COUNTY TOURNAMENT RESULTS

By Shaunathan Bell, Chrissy Norman
and Jody Wagner
A-Team

The varsity boys basketball team played Plainview in the first round of the county tournament held at the Rainsville Civic Center. Heath Blalock led the Tigers with 12 points. Toby Manifold added 11 while Duane Blalock finished the game with 9 points. The Tigers were defeated by Plainview 73-57.

B-Team

The Valley Head B-Team made it to the second round of the County Tournament after defeating Ider 52-47. The Tigers, however, did have a disappointing regular season, but hoped to turn it around by winning their last three games. They did defeat Fyffe on February 4.

Varsity Girls

The 1994 Varsity Girls County Tournament began with an easy game for the Lady Tigers. They played the Crossville Lady Panthers and the outcome was spectacular. The Lady Tigers won with a score of 62-45. This victory led the Lady Tigers to the second round of the tournament where they met the Plainview Lady Bears. Although this game wasn't as easy as the previous one, the Tigers managed to squeeze by with a win, 53-49. The finals of the tournament began at 7:00 pm. on Saturday night, January 29. It was the Valley Head Lady Tigers vs. the Fyffe Lady Devils. The Tigers played a great first half, but just couldn't hold on to a win. The Area Tournament for the Lady Tigers began on February 11, 1994, with a game against Cedar Bluff.



CUB CORNER

ELEMENTARY NEWSLINE
BY ALLISON MEADOWS

First Grade News

Mrs. Bell's class wished a happy birthday to Benjamin Windom on February 4, 1994. The first grade is working on remediation skills to improve test scores.

Second Grade News

Miss Keith's second grade class has two birthdays--Ashley Tuxbury and Adam Battles. They would also like to welcome Jerry Dawson to their class. The second grade is also working on remediating basic skills in order to be ready for third grade.

Third Grade News

The third grade is currently having their annual valentine box contest. Winners will be announced later. The third grade is also working hard to learn their multiplication tables.

Fourth Grade News

The fourth grade recently made funny Valentines for the elementary bulletin board. They are also working hard to remediate for the SAT test. The fourth grade is really enjoying studying math because they are learning to do multiplication with four digits! They also have 15 students participating in the Mathathon.

Fifth Grade News

The fifth grade wishes to congratulate Slade Carden, who made "all tournament" team in basketball. Also, Beth Moore has written a story which has been sent to a publisher. Everyone is eagerly awaiting the publisher's reply. Also, the fifth grade is busy collecting information for the Social Studies reports.

Sixth Grade News

The sixth grade class recently held several 4-H contests, even though the regular January meeting was cancelled. Receiving first place in the baked goods contest were Amanda Hall and Charity Lynch. The first place winner in the model car contest was Josh Johnson. Finally, in the wooden craft contest, a first place award was given to Johnny Holland. The sixth grade is looking forward to their February 4-H meeting.

DeSoto Rescue Squad

P.O. Box 213
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Proudly serving our neighbors in Valley Head, Hammondville, and Mentone

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By Jim Gaylord

This past month has been rather quiet. We answered 2 accident calls and 1 sickness call. We are very happy everyone is being extra careful and staying healthy. Our First Responders class is almost ending, and our squad's list of first responders will be growing by four new qualified First Responders, thus, giving us 7 First Responders, 6 EMT's, 2 EMT-II's, and 1 Paramedic. These people spend many hours in classes to get, and to stay, qualified. We thank these folks for showing the effort.

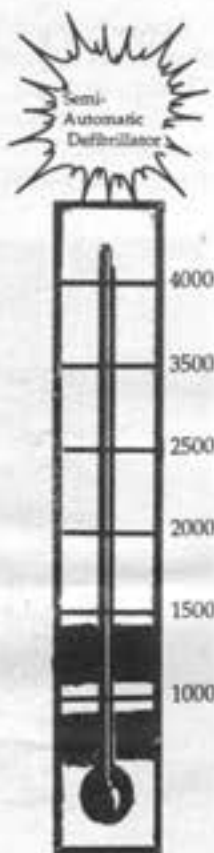
During this past month, the squad received a \$1500 donation towards the purchase of a Semi-Automatic Defibrillator (SAD). We are extremely delighted to get this project off to such a great start. We are thankful to the anonymous folks who recognized the need for this type of equipment in an area such as ours, because they have lost two grown children in their family due to cardiac problems. The SAD will be a great lifesaving aid to heart patients in this area and can be operated by EMT's. The machine can be used any time a person's heart stops beating for any reason--electrocution, drowning, and heart attacks are just a few reasons a person's heart can stop beating. The heart can be restarted with the Defibrillator and put back into rhythm so that the person can then be transported to the hospital for further treatment. At this time, we are able only to perform CPR and rescue breathing until the ambulance arrives. The use of a SAD will greatly improve our chances for "saving lives." We hope to be able to purchase this piece of valuable equipment with donations from others who read this column. The rescue squad wants to be able to help when called and possibly save a life with the use of the Semi-Automatic Defibrillator--AFTER ALL, THIS IS OUR MISSION.

We, again, thank you for letting us be of service to you and for your support and donations.

Any donations may be sent to DeSoto Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 213, Mentone, AL 35984.

For information, call:

Mike Kenamer, Co-Captain - 1-205-634-4484, or
Jim Gaylord, Co-Captain - 1-205-634-4535.



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THE ONE AND ONLY CANYON VIEW FOREST is a spectacular site at this time of year. The rhododendron, mountain laurel, wild pink and white azaleas are in bloom along with the wild oak hydrangea. These Native Plants line the Canyon walls. Available are 5-acre tracts priced from \$25,000 to \$40,000. Overlooking the Little River National Preserve, and adjoining 2,000 acres of Wild Life Management Area. There are many tracts to choose from, some with waterfalls and creeks. Also, one with a charming Vacation Cottage (\$68,000). **SHOWN ABOVE.** All located behind locked gates, and with private access (restricted). Shown by Appointment Only.



FOR THE BOATING AND FISHING ENTHUSIASTS - Must see this 3,800 sq. ft. Multi-Level 3-Br., 3 bath home, located on Lake Lehigh. Complete with 3 fireplaces, CH&A, eat-in kitchen, Living/Dining, Den, Screened Porch--complete with sink and wet bar. A view of the lake from every room. Screened beach house for entertaining, 2 wells--one distilled drinking water, and a boat house. Beautifully landscaped with hundreds of azaleas and rhododendron. Approx. 2 acres. \$150,000.



TWO STORY RANCH - Over 2,000 sq. ft., 4 bdrm., 2 bath, located in Mentone area. Living room with fireplace, den, all on 1.5 acres. Great buy at only \$44,900. Occupancy immediately.

OTHER LISTINGS:

WHAT A DEAL - 36 acres located near Mentone. Area, mostly pasture land with a few acres of woods. Priced at only \$18,000.

ATTENTION DEVELOPERS - have I got a parcel of land for you. 188 acres at Big Woods, Hollows, 2 spring-fed lakes (unfinished). 30 acres at this is cleared and continues to join 800 ft. of the East Fork of Little River. 3 miles of dirt roads inside the property. \$175,000. By Appointment Only.

EAST FORK LITTLE RIVER SECLUDED HOMESITES - Minimum size 100x300 extending to middle of river, with natural swimming pools. Many to choose from. Owner financing available.

PINE AND HARDWOOD FOREST LOTS - 3/4 acre with city water available, level to gently rolling. Located off Lookout Mtn. Parkway. 1 mile from State Park. \$7,500.

DUTCH BARN BUNGALOW - located on Little River Canyon (Canyon View Forest Subdivision), 1 room, air conditioned, gas heat, well water with outside faucets. Screened 15x15 shelter for picnic and camping in warmer weather. Built on a concrete slab. 5 acres. Must see to admire the view of the Canyon. \$45,000.

BROW ROAD NORTH - 2 beautiful tracts on the West Brow, 7 and 9 acres overlooking Battelle Valley. Priced \$30,000 each.

HISTORICAL DOWNTOWN MENTONE - Beautiful wooded lot with wildflower garden, 1 bdrm., 1 bath home, with rock porches and a **SOLD** house. Walking distance to churches and gift shops. \$45,000.

EAST BROW, GEORGIA - A Get Away Mountain Home, beautifully decorated, with 6 acres, 11,000 sq. ft. of brow frontage. Security System, 2 cars, large Cathedral beam Great Room, loft, fully equipped. Ceiling to floor window view, a rock patio with a view to the Blue Ridge Mountains. Priced \$150,000, firm. Co-Broke with Cloud and Realty. **SALE PENDING**

ROCKY TOP ESTATES - West Brow and wooded tracts priced from \$10,000 to \$35,000. Located across from the back entrance of DeSoto State Park on Scenic Drive North. Restricted covenants. Owner financing available.

BROW ON DESOTO PARKWAY - just minutes from DeSoto State Park and Mentone. 100x300 lot with a beautiful view of the Fort Payne Reservoir. \$27,000 reduced to \$22,000.

TWO-3 ACRE TRACTS - located next to the Comer Scout Reservation and minutes to Mentone on the Lookout Mtn. Parkway. Upper West Brow with sunset and partial valley views. City water available. Price \$27,000 and \$30,000. Reduced to \$23,000 and \$27,000. Buy all 6 acres for \$40,000.

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The Church News

By
EVELYN GRAVES



Joel Goddard, from Shorter College in Rome, Georgia, was the guest speaker at the Valentine banquet at Moon Lake Baptist Church. He gave a most impressive testimony, much of which was delivered in song.

The youth of The Mentone Church of God are in the process of promoting the YWEA (Youth World Evangelism Appeal) drive. They are raising money to build Bible schools and worship centers in Mexico. The drive will climax in May. Anyone who is interested in donating to this cause may contact Reverend Ron Johnson at 634-4418.

The Search Committee at the Valley Head Baptist Church is at work trying to find a suitable pastor for the church. Plans are being made for a puppet ministry, and workers are being trained. It is felt that this will be an effective means of reaching people and ministering to their needs.

The UMW of the Valley Head Methodist Church will meet at the home of Frances Longshore on March 1. Venna Livingston will co-host the meeting. Mary Holleman will do the program. On March 29, the UMW meeting will be at the home of Adelaide Biddle.

Services at Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church are at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning. Reverend Jerry Davis and Reverend L.A. Smith share the pulpit on an alternate basis. If you do not attend church elsewhere, you have a cordial invitation to join them in worship.

A children's church has been started at the Mentone Revival Center, with Beverly Henry as director. The children meet in the fellowship hall during the 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. services. Approximately 30-35 children already attend. All children are invited.

On March 19, there will be a singing at the church beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Rev. Marlon Williamson can be heard on the radio each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and at 3:00 p.m. Valley Head WQRX-870AM carries the morning program, and the afternoon service can be heard on Summerville WGTA-950 AM.

On Friday, February 25, Brenda Williamson took six cars of ladies from the Mentone Revival Center to a Ladies Retreat that included a "Praise the Lord" musical program in Nashville. 22 Center members made the trip. Brenda is the wife of Rev. Marlon Williamson, pastor.

The UMW of the Mentone United Methodist Church will meet at Barbara Blalock's home on Thursday, March 3. The program, "Call to Prayer and Self Denial," will be given by Catherine Bailey. A special offering will be taken.

A Spiritual Life study is being taught by Reverend David Lett each Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. The book being used is *Spiritual Life*, Book One. This is for all ages, and everyone is invited to attend.

The newly-activated Outreach Committee, chaired by Syble Tipton, has begun to reach out to members through telephone calls and cards. Bulletins are mailed to those persons desiring copies.

The church needs a piano player for the Sunday morning worship services. Please contact Rev. Lett at 634-4881.

The Union Hill Baptist Church youth sang at Union Baptist Church on Sylvania Gap Road on Wednesday, February 23. They participated in the Associational Choir Fest held at Nazareth Baptist Church on February 26. The plans for their trip to Washington, DC in June are materializing. Of the estimated \$2500 necessary for the trip, they have earned and received donations amounting to \$2850.

They also have plans for some other summer missions, which they will continue to work toward. A dedication service was held on February 20 for two of the babies in the church--Hannah Raughton, daughter of Larry and Beth Raughton, and Jacqueline Houston, daughter of Jeff and Myra Houston. They were each presented a Bible from the church. There is a White Bible Service by the Baptist Young Women scheduled for Sunday evening, March 6, for newlyweds Jeff and April (Liles) Essinger.

A prayer and study group will meet at 10:00 a.m. each Wednesday at St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church. The rector, Robert Childers, will be discussing the Parables. Supper is served at 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday in the fellowship hall, followed by a Lenten study group at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The book being studied is *The Church in The Marketplace*, subtitled "An Inspiring Story of Witness and Renewal," and written by George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Each first Sunday, a covered dish luncheon is served at 11:30 a.m. after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

A communion service, conducted by Rev. Childers, is held each Wednesday at 12:05 p.m. in the sanctuary.

On Saturday, March 26, at 6:00 p.m., the Alabama Boys Choir will present a free concert at the church. Area residents are cordially invited to attend.

A men's prayer group meets each Wednesday at 6:00 a.m. at the Little River Hardware.

NORTH DEKALB MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

The North DeKalb Ministerial Association will meet on Saturday, March 5, at 8:30 a.m., at Dessie's Kountry Chef.

Holy Week services will begin at noon on March 28th and continue every day at a different church prior to Easter. Watch for flyers and information to be posted in each church and at the following places: post office, city hall, downtown merchants. Easter services will be on April 3rd.



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GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

The children of Wilda and George Frazier honored them with an anniversary reception at Lea's Chapel Church, Saturday, February 19, 1994. Their children are JoAnn Hawkins and Bobby Frazier of Valley Head, and Gordon Frazier of Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. They have five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



BASHAM-JONES

Jamey Lou Basham was wed to John Douglas Jones on January 1, 1994, in a very beautiful and impressive candle light ceremony. Rev. M. Raymond Benton was the officiating minister at the First United Methodist Church, in LaMesa, California.

Jamey's sisters served as attendants; Marsha Haik, as Maid of Honor; and Julie Basham, as Bridesmaid. The flower girl was Jamey's daughter, Kendra Basham; and ring bearer was Jamey's son, Michael Basham.

The bride's dress was made by C'Lene's Sewing Shop of Valley Head, and her head dress and attendants' flowers were made by the groom's mother, Jean Jones.

The couple are residing at 2289 Orchard Avenue, El Cajon, CA 92019.



Rhododendron Garden Club News

There was no February meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club. However, on Monday, February 21, Ann Wright, president of the Club, took part in a District II workshop instructing garden clubs in the application process for awards. The workshop was held in Gadsden.

On Tuesday, February 22, the garden club landscaped the front of Moon Lake School. The shrubs and bushes were furnished by Russell Wright of Wright's Nursery and Landscaping; and the labor and planning to accomplish the landscaping was donated by Bill and Ann Wright. Ovie Blalock of Menlo Lumber Company, supplied the mulch.

For Arbor Day, the garden club also planted 2 Sugar Maple trees and 2 umbrella magnolias in Ed Mason Park in the memory of Ann's mother, Lillian Blalock. Ann and Bill Wright donated the labor.

The next meeting will be March 8th, at St. Joseph's On-The-Mountain Episcopal Church, with Mickey Gough, Marie Dillenbeck, Mabel Kirk, and Dessie Newberry as hostesses. Pat Seymour, Garden Therapy chairman, will present the program, "Hands-On Garden Therapy." The devotional will be given by Shirley Hessel.



Masonry Rock Wall Work To Begin Soon

The Alabama Department of Transportation has opened bids for construction and maintenance of a retainer wall, masonry guard wall, and traffic stripe on Alabama 117 in Mentone.

This .860 mile project is expected to be completed in 160 working days, according to a report from the state DOT.

Low bidder was APAC-Alabama, Inc., in Birmingham. Their bid was \$666,287.18.



HUNTIN' & FISHIN' TIPS

Compiled by Dr. Pat

When waters are low and clear, approach fish cautiously. Keep a low profile—even bend over or kneel as you move toward casting position. Wearing dull-colored clothing or even camouflage helps, too.

Scrapes can be excellent spots for a deer stand. These are oval areas on the ground where a buck has pawed out the leaves and debris. The buck will then urinate over its tarsal glands to leave scent that will attract does in heat and mark its breeding territory. If a scrape is fresh and the rut is on, take a stand downwind and watch all day.

If you are searching for bass, cast as close as possible to the shoreline. Often these spunky panfish hold within inches of land near rocks, brush, overhanging trees and undercut banks.

When bird hunting, try walking into the wind. This tactic will prevent the birds from hearing you as quickly and will allow you to work closer to them before they flush. The wind will also slow their flight a bit, as they fly away from you into it, making for easier shots.

KEEP IT CLEAN: Too many shooters neglect to swab their rifle bores. Low-velocity rimfire rifles and revolvers can be cleaned every few years if the weapons are kept oiled and occasionally inspected for rust. Even deer hunters can get by with infrequent cleaning if they shoot only a handful of cartridges a year.

But rifles fired with greater frequency, like those used in target competition or for hunting varmints, require more attention. Residue from powder and primers can affect accuracy, but the biggest factor is copper fouling. Every time a high-velocity bullet goes down the barrel, it deposits a thin wash of copper in the bore. Keep shooting without getting the copper out, and soon the inside of your barrel will look like the bottom of an iron pot.

DENTS IN YOUR ALUMINUM BOAT? To keep weight to a minimum, aluminum boats and canoes are built using a very thin skin of metal. While this is great for ease of handling and carrying, it can mean dents when your craft bumps into a rock or pier. The best way to remove dents is to use a burlap bag filled with sand. Place the bag firmly against the damaged area. From the other side, use a wooden or rubber mallet (not steel) to work the dents out gently. The sandbag provides a firm, smooth surface to pound against, and the result will be much more pleasing to the eye than if you'd pounded away with a steel hammer and no support.

PREDICTING THE WIND: Nothing sends fear through a deer, or any other wild animal, like the smell of a human being, so monitor wind patterns carefully. Patterns are hard to predict, but a general rule of thumb may help. In hilly country, the wind pattern will usually be down the ridges and hills as the evening chill comes on, and up the hills as the morning sun warms the earth's surface. Keeping this in mind may help you better position your stand for morning and evening hunting.



PCD Preferred Chiropractic Doctor

Exciting news has reached DeKalb County: The Elrod

Clinic has been accepted as a member of The Preferred Chiropractic Doctor Program.*

This new program provides patients with no health insurance coverage and those patients with very limited insurance benefits the ability to receive Quality Modern Chiropractic Care at substantial discounts through Individual and Family Plans.

To find out more about this rapidly growing program, **CALL TODAY (205) 845-0047**, and ask about the "PCD" program.

*limited time only for accepting new applicants under this program, so call now!

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6 out of 10 people die of nutritional deficiencies.

50% of all dental cavities, dental disease, and gum disease are from nutritional deficiencies.

75% of all industrial accidents are attributed to no breakfast.

75% of all osteoporosis is caused from a nutritional deficiency.

50% of all arthritic problems are from nutritional deficiencies.

80% of all obesity is from a nutritional deficiency.

20-25% of all cardiovascular disease is from a nutritional deficiency.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, call 635-6688,
Hammondville Herb Shop,
Judy Millican or Karen Dittmore.

Closed Mondays; Open Tues.—Sat. 12-5 p.m.

6th Annual LITTLE RIVER CANYON CLEANUP

March 12, 1994



All individuals and groups are invited to participate. REGISTRATION IS AT THE HWY. 35 BRIDGE ON THE DEKALB-CHEROKEE COUNTY LINE. Bring a pair of gloves and a lunch. Trash bags provided.

CLEAN SWEEP '94

According to Superintendent Talmadge Butler, of DeSoto State Park, the Little River Canyon Cleanup and air lift will be on Saturday, March 12, starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Highway 35 bridge on the DeKalb-Cherokee County Line. Not only the canyon is to be cleaned up, but both sides of Highway 35. All adopt-a-mile people are requested to join in and clean up their specific areas. Trash bags will be provided. Everyone is advised to wear boots, long-sleeved shirts, and gloves. If you plan to stay the whole day, bring a sack lunch. If you can't stay the whole day, please give whatever time you can to help the clean-up effort: 1-2-3 hours. Everyone is invited to help.

Some volunteers are going to begin cleaning up on Friday, March 11. On Saturday, March 12, there will be an airlift to remove vehicles from the Canyon. If the weather is bad on Friday, the 11th, they will try to do the airlift immediately after the pick up on Saturday.

DeKalb County CS-94 ("Clean Sweep '94") is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, March 26 and 27. Everyone is invited to participate. Bags will be provided.

For further information regarding CS-94, times, and pickup spots, contact Talmadge Butler, DeSoto State Park, (845-0051) or Billy McDow, (845-7031), Environmental Division of the DeKalb County Health Department. Look for further announcements to be made regarding "Clean Sweep '94".



THE GIFT OF Music



FREE CONCERT

ALABAMA BOYS CHOIR

World-traveled 40-voice Alabama Boys Choir based in Tuscaloosa,

and directed by Karen Nicolosi, will give a free concert

at 6:00 p.m., Saturday, March 26,

at St. Joseph's On-The-Mountain

Episcopal Church in Mentone.

Music lovers from the Mentone area are welcome.

Voluntary love offering will be accepted.

Mark this date on your calendar!

FRIENDS OF LITTLE RIVER QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING--MARCH 26

On February 15, the Board of Friends of Little River met at the Fischer Rescue Squad building. Some of the activities planned for the organization are an Aquatic Wild Workshop set for Saturday, April 23, at the Fischer Rescue Squad building. The workshop will address the issues of protection of streams and rivers and is a follow up to Project Wild.

A quarterly membership meeting will be held in March on Saturday, March 26, beginning at 11:30 a.m. A buffet lunch will be served. Pete Conroy is scheduled to be one of the speakers, and Ferrall Saunders and Don Forrester of the Little River National Preserve will be in attendance and available to answer any questions. Activities will follow. Everyone is invited to come and join in.

DESMOND DISNEY NAMED 1993 OUTSTANDING RIVERS ADVOCATE

Desmond Disney of Mentone has been honored by fellow conservationists as Alabama's Outstanding Rivers Advocate for 1993.

He was recognized this month by the Cahaba River Society in Birmingham as "the person who has done the most to advance the river conservation agenda in Alabama," according to a report.

Friends of Little River was formed five years ago and is dedicated to the protection and long-range welfare of Little River and its watershed, the report states.

Cahaba River Society, Friends of Little River, and Friends of the Locust Fork have joined to form the Alabama State Rivers Coalition, a statewide network comprised of groups working to protect Alabama streams.

More information on the Cahaba River Society is available by calling Friends of Little River, 634-4510.



God's Minute

By RUBY BROCK

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Phil. 4:6-7

Paul is telling us not to be too anxious, but spend our time in prayer and thanksgiving, then make our requests known unto God; and the Peace of God will come and will keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. What wonderful peace. No wonder it passeth all understanding!

*****THANK YOU*****

On February 12, 1994, a great Valentine Benefit was held for Sanford Hartline. The event was a tremendous success. Only Mentone and this area could have put on such an evening of fun. Over \$2900 was raised to help Sanford with some of his enormous medical expenses.

There is no way to thank everyone adequately for all the help and support given the benefit. From planning right through cleanup, everyone pitched in and worked hard to make this one of the most successful fun times in this area--at least, for a long time.

Many furnished food items and auction items, while others supplied their entertainment talents, and some just plain ole work! And, of course, many of you gave "MONEY," which was the purpose of this event, along with the fun that was had by all.

So, at this time, we, "the committee," would like to say "THANKS" to each and every person who worked for and/or supported the Valentine Benefit for Sanford. May God touch you for your concern and generosity!

"The Committee"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Volunteer Needed!!

The Mental Health Association of DeKalb County is in need of an energetic volunteer to assist with routine office work for a few hours a week. The local affiliate of the National Mental Health Association is a Non Profit Organization, providing programs for students in the County and City School systems. "I'm Thumbbody," "Kelly Bear," and "Stress Management" are a few of the programs presented to the youth of the area. The Association works for America's Mental Health and victory over mental illness. A volunteer's efforts will be greatly appreciated.

For more information, please call:

Karen Swift - 845-2581 or
Diane Carrick - 845-9318.