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THE

GROUNDHOG

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Volume 15, No. 3

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

March 1997

BRANDOL JONES APPRECIATION DAY

By Evelyn Graves

Sunday, January 19, was designated as Brandol Jones Appreciation Day at the Moon Lake Baptist Church. Brandol served faithfully and sacrificially for 35 years as a deacon in the Baptist church, and resigned because of health problems.

It was a big day for Brandol, as his family surrounded him for the occasion--his faithful wife, Blanche, at his side. His son, Bob Jones, and wife Marcia, as well as granddaughters, Erin Jones and Staysha Savage were present in the service. His daughter, Shannon Freeman, and her family from Savannah, Georgia, were unable to attend. Staysha, a granddaughter from Nashville, Tennessee, sang some of Brandol's favorite songs. Her husband, Dean Savage, accompanied her on the piano.

Jerry Lawton read one of Brandol's favorite poems, "The Bridge Builder."

The Bridge Builder

An old man going a lone highway,
Came at the evening cold and gray
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim
The sullen stream had no fears for him.
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.
Old man, said a fellow pilgrim near,
You are wasting strength with building here.
Your journey will end with the ending day.
You never again must pass this way.
You have crossed the chasm steep and wide
Why build you the bridge at eventide?
The builder lifted his old gray head,
Good friend, into the path I have come, he said
There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me,
To that fair headed youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim.
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him.

Jim Ellis gave a brief talk about the friendship he and Brandol have shared through the years.



Brandol Jones and wife, Blanche Jones

Reverend Bill Russell, pastor of Moon Lake Baptist Church, spoke on "The Worth of a Deacon", and jokingly said, "A preacher is paid to be good, but a deacon is good for nothing." He presented Brandol with a plaque from the church in appreciation for his years of service as a deacon.

Brandol has a book of poetry which he loves to read that has been handwritten and shared by various friends. Two of the recent writings in the book which really touched Brandol's heart are shared with the readers.

Friendship

Oh the comfort--the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person. Having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words--but pouring them all right out--just as they are--chaff and grain together.

Certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them--keep what is worth keeping--and with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.

Thanks.
Marcia Tucker

"Friendship is the golden thread that circles, ties, and binds Heaven sent togetherness of hearts and hands and minds.

Another golden thread--thank you, Blanche and Brandol.

Love
Jan Wilkinson

1-19-97

"Dear Brandol,

The call of God is not a call to any particular service. Service is the overflow of superabounding devotion, and is the echo of your identification with the nature of God. To serve God is the deliberate love-gift of a nature that has heard the call of God. You have heard the call of God; the Son of God has revealed Himself in you, and you have served Him in the ordinary ways of life out of devotion to Him.

Thank you for hearing the call; you have touched so many lives.

Love, Christy Hardin

**Subscribe to the Groundhog.
See Page 2.**

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

•Monday, March 3, 6 p.m., Mentone Council Meeting, Town Hall

•Tuesday, March 4, 7 p.m., MAPA Meeting
Dessie's Kountry Chef

•Monday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day

•Thursday, March 21, Spring Begins

•Sunday, March 30, Easter, Annual Easter Sunrise
Services at Lee Crowe Property in Mentone at 7 a.m.
North DeKalb Ministerial Association
(See notice elsewhere.)

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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/ typesetter.....Marie Dillenbeck
Contributing Writers.....Ovie Blalock, Ruby Brock, Linda Brown, Eloise Brown, Madeleine Bullock, Marilyn Campbell, Gail Chambers, Bernise Crow, Marie Dillenbeck, Maurine Donahue, Evelyn Graves, Ray Goggans, Phil Harris, Lisa Moore, Bill Schwarz, Sue Schwarz, Ernest H. Smith, Kim Worthey

MAPA OFFICERS

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

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

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

The deadline for all material for The Groundhog is the 15th day of the month preceding publication. The Publication is due out by the 25th of each month. This is a change from our previous issues.

MAPA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Bernise Crow

Everything is moving along with plans for our Rhododendron Festival. Penny Lyday will be chairman again and will do an excellent job of organization, but she would like to have plenty of help. One person cannot do all the work involved in bringing all phases of the festival together. Doreen Waters and Dorma Hutcheson will work with me on the beauty pageant, which will be held May 10 a week before the festival. We will again be giving a leadership scholarship to the winner of the contest. Many thanks to Ann Everette for arranging this for us at Northeast State Community College. Crystal Whitmire, our queen last year, has used her scholarship and has been very appreciative.

We have a nice little community paper and have many out of state friends who look forward to receiving The Groundhog monthly. We are a non-profit organization and cannot sell subscriptions but one can pay a membership fee of \$10 a year, and we will send the paper to them. It costs us about that amount to mail the paper. It takes a lot of money to print a paper of any size, and we do it with the sale of advertising. We appreciate very much those of you who have stayed with us through the years. I wish there was more I could say that mean more than a mere "thank-you" All of us who read the paper are certainly aware of your contributions. Some of our friends have been supporting us with their ads since the beginning of the paper. A thousand kudos to you! We are thinking about having a picnic sometime when the weather is right and invite all advertisers--make a real celebration of it.



MAPA FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting was held at the Kountry Chef on February 4, at 7 p.m. The upcoming Rhododendron Festival was discussed, and instead of having a speaker, the members broke up into four different groups to discuss areas of concern. After each area finished, one designated person from each group gave a report. Following the reports, refreshments were served.

The next meeting will be on the first Tuesday of March, March 4, at 7 p.m., at the Kountry Chef. It is an open meeting and anyone can attend, and they will be welcome. Put this date on your calendar and come meet with us.

MAPA BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH

Ruth Porter — 4
Wanda Simmons — 20
Donna Bouldin — 21
Rick Chapman — 24
Evelyn Graves — 25
Ruby Daniel — 31



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WHEN YOUR LIFE LIVES ON

By Gilbert D. Edwards

153 Hamaker St. NW
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(Editor's Note: Mr. Edwards is a subscriber to *The Groundhog*. He has several books and numerous newspaper and magazine articles to his credit. We're delighted to accept his gracious offer to share some of his writings with *The Groundhog* and we plan to feature them from time to time.)

The writer has one thing that most others do not have: The ability to leave behind his thoughts, words, and things from his mind, that can be analyzed over and over. I'm sure many thoughts will be contrary to his true meanings. Others will try to look into his mind, trying to justify their sense of his meanings. But no one can truly look into another's writings and say, "He meant this."

Words are used as a means of putting into motion your innermost feelings. If they are used as the writer did not intend, his messages are garbled and one cannot know the true purpose of his efforts, to set forth the way he thinks and feels.

Words are a powerful element in our everyday life. More deadly—if used in that sense—than the most dangerous weapons. Words can teach, or destroy. It all depends on the writer's intent. Books, tracts, and treatises are to be studied, trying to fathom the true meanings. The reader who will read carefully can usually find the answer for the words used, and the writer's concern.

HAVE YOU EVER?

By Gilbert D. Edwards

Have you ever seen God? I have
In the tender smile of a Mother.
The proudness of a Father.
The innocence of a new-born babe.
A beautiful sunrise—the day's ending.
The wonderful green of the fields.
Plants reaching for the sun.
The changing of the seasons.
Beautiful snow flakes falling.
Birds on the wing.
The fierce protection of the mother
For her young.
Yes! I've seen God.
I look for Him wherever I go.
And He is always there.

A DREAMER

By Gilbert D. Edwards

What a joy it is to write. If only I could write as the Masters, conveying my thoughts, sensations, ideas, and experiences to others as I feel them...making it almost impossible to put aside a good book before it is finished. Zane Grey - Louis Lamour - my two favorites. As they write, I am there with them—I am the character in the story. Anticipation of the ending is almost unbearable—I dare not peek to see. Their lyric prose and descriptive words are now an almost forgotten art. Whenever I read the Old Masters, I can taste the cool spring water, feel the breeze, smell the fresh greenery of the forest—I am there! The horses I ride are real, along with the creaking of the saddle. I can hear the bugling of the Elk, the clashing of antlers of the fighting giants. Even the antics of the prairie dogs are laughed at. I can see them! I am the cowboy who carries the "doggie" to safety. The tales around the camp-fire are remembered—the smell of chuck wagon food—enjoying the competition of rough and ready sports. I am both the winner and the loser. The rise of the fish to the lure—the rod is in my hand, feeling the fighting heart of the fish. The shot that is fired at the great antlered deer is caused by my finger on the trigger. Ah! If only I could write as the Masters.

From Between the Counters

By
BRUTUS



Devoted and loyal readers, now that Pop is out of the hospital and back home, moi's routine has changed quite a bit. Pop needs a lot more rest because of his legs, so moi keeps him company—best friend, thing, you know.

Last night, moi finally got to take a shower. Boy, was I ready for it. Moi loves to shower, and helps Pop every chance I get.

Loyal fans, you'll never guess who came to visit the great one. As moi's glorious fame continues to spread, a poodle named Bailey came all the way from Hollywood, California, to see the magnificent one—as it should be.

It's probably the cold weather, along with the fact that moi is no longer at the Superette as many hours as before, but the flow of admirers has slowed down. With the warmer weather, the magnificent one will be ready to receive adulation from all those who come to adore him.

Moi has not been able to contact Lula Bell since leaving the vet. Moi planned to have a Valentine's Day get together. But, it didn't happen. Easter is coming, maybe then!

Some Mobile flatlanders came to view the great one. Julia, Lucy, and Betsy Greer were here recently, and boy were they impressed! Moi IS the greatest, you know!

Well, loyal fans, Pop and I need to go take one of our many rest periods back at the house, and on the way, we'll smell the flowers. Buttercups are blooming everywhere. Spring is not far behind.

'Til next time, I bid you adieu!



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Mentone Grapevine 11

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

Edmund Crowe thanks all those who prayed for his brother, Richard Crowe, who is now recuperating at home, after having been in the hospital in Anniston for 63 days.

Blake and Jerod Hulan are proud to announce the arrival of their new brother, Reid Hammon Hulan on January 17, 1997. Reid came into the world weighing a hefty 9 pounds and was 22 inches long. Sounds like another great Valley Head Tiger is in the future. Mom & Dad--Robin and Jerry--are pretty proud parents, too. Congratulations guys! (See photo and notice elsewhere.)

Congratulations to students at Jacksonville State University who were honored for academic excellence for the fall quarter: President's List (All A's) - Sally Ann Wheat, Mentone; Dean's List (All A's & B's) - Laura Ann McKenzie, Valley Head.

Also, congratulations to Shannon L. Blalock of Mentone, and Matthew R. Brandon of Valley Head, who graduated fall quarter from Auburn University.

The Valley Head Band is having its annual auction on Saturday, March 15, at 6 p.m. in the school auditorium. See the notice on the back page. Plan to attend and support them and have lots of fun, too.

Please remember the monthly Valley Head Band Booster Meeting will be Tuesday, March 11th at 6:00 P.M. in the band room.

Congratulations to the winners of the Valentines Baskets given away by the Valley Head Band on February 14th. Winner of the Elementary Basket was Amber Smith and winner of the High School Basket was Mrs. Noles. Thank you to everyone who bought a chance.

Look elsewhere for the picture of the winners of the National Geography Bee at Fort Payne Middle School, Ben Corey, 1st place, Emily Black, 2nd place, and Kelly Bunch, 3rd place. Ben will continue to compete at more advanced levels of the National Geography Bee. Great job, guys!!!

Dessie Newberry, owner of Dessie's Kountry Chef in Mentone has new hours effective March 2nd. At the request of her faithful customers she is again opening up on Sunday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Other hours: M-W-Thur: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri & Sat: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Tues. Closed.

Malcolm Brewer received another good report from his doctors in Birmingham. With this good weather, and spring right around the corner, watch out, ladies, Malcolm's going to be loose again. He's feeling great! We're all glad to hear the good news.

The Rhododendron Festival, held on the 3rd full weekend in May (this year, May 17-18), was again named to the top 20 events for the Southeast for the months of April-June by the Southeast Tourism Society. Also named is Alabama June Jam, to be held this year on June 21.

We all hope Valerie Chappell is feeling better. She has been in the bed with the flu since Valentine's Day.

Christopher Black has also been on the sick list lately. He has been a very sick little boy. Get well wishes go out to him.

Nikki Smith and Heather Jackson, both of Valley Head, were named to the Girls County All-Tournament Team. Congratulations! See picture elsewhere.

Haley Johnson was selected as the Valley Head representative for the DAR Good Citizen Award. Haley is the daughter of James & Sandy Johnson. She is the 1996/1997 Drum Major for the Valley Head Marching Band and a senior at Valley Head. Congratulations, Haley. (See photo and writeup elsewhere.)

The Tiger's Inn is open 5 days a week from 5:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Joe Stephens and Marie Dillenbeck celebrated their birthdays (belatedly-Dec. 30 and Jan. 12) with lunch at Dessie's recently. Joe sends Birthday wishes to his son Michael in Talladega, whose birthday was Feb. 21. Jerome, Joe's other son, and his wife, Liz, went to the Mississippi Coast where her

parents reside. On Tuesday, Jerome drove up to Mentone to visit with Joe for a few days, while his wife visited with her folks. Jerome left Friday to go back to Mississippi and on the way stop by at Talladega and visit Michael. A nice birthday gift, I'd say! Joe said he really enjoyed Jerome's visit.

Corey Kirby of Mentone was the Times-Journal weather artist, recently. Good job, Corey!

DeSoto State Park continues to renovate their facilities. The restaurant is closed. Some chalets will also be closed, and possibly some or all of the motel units. Space will be limited, so call ahead for a reservation. (205) 845-0051 or 1-800-568-8840.

Catherine Bailey and Marie Dillenbeck were guests of Sam Franks on Thursday, Feb. 20, for lunch. The food was delicious and the conversation lively. Everyone had a great time.

Congratulations to Camilla Yamada, daughter of the late Shelia Yamada. Camilla is a sophomore at Darlington School in Rome, Ga. She has already received 4 varsity awards--one each in basketball, soccer, softball, and track. Camilla is 16 years old and has a brother, Elliott, who also attends Darlington. Elliott is 17 years old and a Junior. He also excels in sports and academics. Camilla was accepted into the National Honor Society. Great Job, Camilla!

Peggy Howe recently was in the hospital at Erlanger. She is now recuperating at her daughter's.

Jo Bain had gall bladder surgery on Feb. 17. Hope her recovery is swift.

Several members of the North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Protection District (NLMVFPD) have poured the slab in preparation of the building of a structure to house the emergency vehicle. They will be having their annual "garage sale" in April and would appreciate good items to offer the public. Check in your attic, your garage, your outbuilding for good, useable items and donate them to the NLMVFPD. Contact Gail Chambers at 634-4507, for arrangements to pick up any items or to bring items. Keep watching for the announcement of the date in April.

Keep Dewey and Nancy Smith in your prayers. We hope Dewey gets well soon.

On March 25th, at 10:30 a.m., at the Nature Center at DeSoto State Park, there will be an environmental education meeting for all those interested in Little River.

L.M. Flannigan recently returned from the annual wagon train ride he participates in each year. He said it sure is lots of fun, hard work, and a long way from home. He enjoys the trips and gets to look after his favorite horses and mules.

Louise Worthey recently fell and broke her hip. Keep her and the family in your prayers.

Also, Alma Crabtree fell and is at Spain Rehab in Birmingham, and daughter Rovene is looking after her. We hope to see you home soon, Alma.

Rusty Rector is testing for his purple belt in Tae Qwan do on Monday, Feb. 24, in Scottsboro. After the purple, he goes for the red, brown, and black. Keep up the hard work, Rusty!

Deepest sympathy to the families who have recently lost loved ones:

- Bulah Smith, 77, Henagar, 77, who died Jan. 24;
- Ethel Dean, 95, Ft. Payne, who died Jan. 25;
- Theresa Bosworth, 88, Mentone, who died Jan. 26;
- Lena Barrontine, 88, of Mentone, who died Jan. 27;
- Jesse "Johnny" Biddle, 89, Valley Head, who died Jan. 30;
- Lee Roy Wright, 87, of Ft. Payne, who died Feb. 1;
- Mrs. Dorothy Inez Hopper, 79, Mentone, who died Feb. 2;
- Charles Williams, 23, Valley Head, who died Feb. 2;
- Mrs. Hattie F. McElhaney, 91, Ft. Payne, who died Feb. 4;
- Joseph Archie Willoughby, 76, Valley Head, who died Feb. 5;
- Nelle Eugene "Gene" Martin, 72, of Fyffe, who died Feb. 6;
- Mrs. Irene Dalton Thompson, 83, Sylvania, who died Feb. 12;
- Martin Ingalls Foster, 66, who died Feb. 13;
- William Herbert Cash, 74, Mentone, who died Feb. 17.

Sam Franks of Mentone lost a long-time friend, Gene Penland, 82, a lifelong resident of Birmingham, who retired and moved to Mentone about a year ago and who was in the process of getting settled in. She died Sunday, Feb. 23, at her home, and will be buried in her hometown of Maplesville, AL.

We have lost some beautiful, contributive people in Mentone over the past winter months. Please continue to keep the families in your thoughts and prayers.

Helen Hill continues to improve at The Crowne Nursing Home in Fort Payne. She enjoys receiving cards and visits from her friends. Keep Helen in your prayers.

Happy Belated Birthday wishes for February go to: •Brent Cooper, who turned 10 in February; Miss Terri Campbell who turned 17 years old on February 15th and to Mrs. Eula Mae Robinson who isn't telling how old she became on February 26th.

Happy March Birthday/Anniversary wishes to: •1- David Battles; •2-Robbie Freeman; •3- Dean Freeman, Gaynell and Jimmy Worthey (24th Anniv.); •4-Mildred Couch, Denise Brown, Leslie Thornberry; •5- Shelby Langley, Eiko Key; •6- Inez Guffey, Shawn Vernon; •7- Clyde Jones Tallent; •10- Francis Day, Spencer Harris; •11- Johnny Brown; •14- Teresa Storey; •15-Luther "Junior" King; •16-Penny Davis Scott; •17- Savannah Smith; •18- Sherry Lewis, Melinda Hall, Scott Tate; •9- Michelle Moore; •21- Wanda Black, Mary Johnson Chambers; •22- Johnny Cooper; •23- Meredith Moore; Michael Stephens; •24- Jimmy Phillips; •26- Stephanie Worthey; •28- Cindy Bethune, Sam and Toots Whatley - 39th Anniv.; •30- Robert Johnston.

Dr. Pat Seymour had a framed definition of success hanging in her living room. She lived that definition every day of her life, and she left the world a bit better everywhere she went.

Definition of Success

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a little better.

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L/R: Mentone United Methodist Church UMW members, Ann Wright, Linda Brown, Barbara Blalock, delivering a Christmas basket to Dessie Bailey (seated) at Dogwood Haven, an assisted living facility, in Ft. Payne

(The Groundhog reprints the picture and outline and regrets the incorrect listing of Dogwood Haven found on Page 4, in the January/February issue.)



**Nicholos Dewayne Porter
and Brandy Nicole Cushen Porter**

Brandy Nicole Cushen and Nicholos Dewayne Porter were married on February 22, 1977, at Fuller Baptist Church.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Kimberly Cushen. Her grandparents Boyd and Linda Ott of Flat Rock and Herman and Dorene Cushen of Sylvania.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Porter of Valley Head. His grandparents are Glenda Sue Ralley of Trenton, the late Paul Johnson of Chickamauga, Ga., and Nellie Porter and the late Melvin Porter of Bryant.

Miss Cushen is a 1996 graduate of Ider High School.

Mr. Porter is a 1995 graduate of Valley Head High School.



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SPELLING BEE WINNERS: Members of the Chattooga Education Association (CEA) congratulate the winners of the Fourth Annual Chattooga County Spelling Bee, held on February 5. From left are Martha Tudor and Pattie Luther, CEA co-presidents; Kristin Brown of Trion Elementary School, first grade winner; Emily Sink

of Menlo Elementary School, second grade winner; Spencer Davis of Menlo School, third grade winner; Jeremy Peppers of Summerville Middle School, fourth-eighth grades runner-up; Jessica Fleming of Trion School, fourth-eighth grades winner; and Stephanie Hudson, spelling bee chairman.

THE DODD FAMILY AND "ALPINE GLOW"

By Ernest H. Smith

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In September of 1989, I attended the Dodd Family public auction in Alpine, Georgia. Some of the surviving children at that time (I met one of the sons) were quite elderly and were no longer able to live in or maintain such a large house. With this in mind, they were selling at auction most of their possessions and planning to move into an apartment in the Atlanta area, as I recall.

This historic house, known as "Alpine Glow" is located about two miles south of Menlo, near the Alpine Church. The house was built by John Knox during the period 1839-1843. The Knox Family owned hundreds of acres of land that were tended by slaves. The house has a very interesting history, especially so, during the time it was occupied by the Union Army in the Civil War.

C. A. Dodd, the father of Mittie and her eleven siblings, purchased Alpine Glow along with forty-five acres of land, in 1919, having moved his family from Bartow County Georgia. The Dodd Family furnished their home with many heirloom pieces. Many of these pieces were sold in the auction of 1989.

At the time of the auction, the Dodd Family were hoping that the Chattooga County Historical Society might purchase Alpine Glow, furnish it with period furniture, and maintain it as a museum. I'm sorry to say that I don't know what the outcome of that was or the status of Alpine Glow at this time.

One of the several items I purchased at auction was Mittie's bird poem. This was penned in her own hand and beautifully framed. Bordering the poem are wonderful picture cards of birds, in living color. Each bird picture is arranged in the order mentioned in the poem. It all makes an attractive piece of folk art.

Mittie's brother, I believe his name was Tom, told me that Mittie had published some of her work, but had not sold the copyright. He went on to say that her bird poem was one of her favorites and that it now belonged to me. I hope that he was right, since I paid three hundred dollars for it. This was unusually high for an item that has no resale value, whatever. It is, however, an attractive piece that now rests on an antique easel. It will be enjoyed for years to come.

In addition to the bird poem, I bought a beautiful Staffordshire tea pot. The auctioneer said that the family didn't know how old it was, but remembered that their mother had it when they were children. It is, of course, more than a hundred years old. Also, I bought a huge wooden dough bowl, mounted on a tripod. It was considered to be one of the treasures of the auction. It now serves as a magazine rack.

In the following, the first poem is Mittie's tribute to her beloved "Alpine Glow." It is followed by her bird poem, "Nature's Riches."

ALPINE "GLOW"

By Mittie Louisa Dodd

Have you ever been to Alpine Glow,
Where wild flowers bloom and violets grow?
Well, the Dodds live there so I am told
In a beautiful house that's quite old,
With its antique furniture and bowls
Of cut glass that intrigues human souls;
There's a rosewood piano an heirloom rare,
Marble topped tables and old rocking chairs.
The wainscoting paneled, curved stair rails,
Put together with old square nails.
Walnut doors and floors of best heart pine,
Large old mantles that are very fine.
In 1839 this house was built.
The day of the squire and the patchwork quilt.

"Nature's Riches"

By Mittie Louisa Dodd

(Property of Ernest H. Smith)

Who put the song in Bluebird's throat?
Who gave the Cardinal his wondrous coat?
Who gave the Mocker his many trills?
Who sends us songs of the Whip-poor-will?
Who sends to us the merry Wren?
Who guides the Phoebe thru the glen?
Who gives the Thrush his rollicking tune?
Who makes the Robin to hop in June?
Who gave the Titmouse his perky crest?
Who put speckles on Brown Thrasher's Breast?
Who gave Towhee his whistle of cheer?
Who warns quail when hunters are near?

The birds that sing,
The bees that hum,
Tell each of us when spring has come
'Tis God on high who sends us these
Each day, each year, our souls to please.

Some of the information regarding Alpine Glow was taken from a story written by Luther Smith - *News-Tribune* Staff Writer, now included in the History of Alpine, Georgia, compiled by Roy White, of Rome, Georgia.

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Studies show that human beings are calmer, more efficient, and more satisfied with their lives when they have living plants around them. Fortunately, growing indoor plants isn't difficult. Sunlight, water and Epsom Salt is about all you need for successful houseplants.

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Epsom Salt quickly provides magnesium and sulfur, two nutrients plants need to thrive. Magnesium is a major building block of chlorophyll which enables the plant to carry light energy from the sun for photosynthesis. Magnesium also promotes a plant's uptake of phosphorus from the soil. Sulfur contributes to chlorophyll production and improves plant response to nitrogen fertilizer.

The vital nutrients in Epsom Salt prevent loss of green color, yellowing leaves, and weak stems. Epsom Salt makes the primary nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) found in most plants more effective.

To receive free information on how to spot magnesium and sulfur deficiencies in plants, call 1-800-600-2929. In New Jersey, call 1-201-754-6506. Or, send an SASE to Houseplants, P.O. Box 133, Nutley, NJ 07071.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

About Our Town

By
LINDA BROWN



Well, the groundhog didn't see his shadow and winter should be almost over! We'll see if he is a better weather predictor than the human variety. With Valentine's Day over, we now have to wait for the Easter season for another holiday. Easter is very early this year, March 30. Everyone will need a jacket with their new dresses, and the Easter Bunny will have to wear earmuffs.

The Mentone City Hall is getting a face-lift. Some of the bookshelves have been torn out, the walls are painted and new carpet is on the floor. I heard some talk of a computer and printer. It sure does look good!! Mentone must move forward with the rest of the world (I suppose). Many of us would like for it to stay the same, but that cannot be. Anything that stands absolutely still, will fall down. I think that is a law of physics or some such. Maybe we can move forward at a snail's pace, very slowly.

You may have noticed the changes taking place below the post office. I understand there will be some mini-warehouses built there. Some people have asked how the zoning of this property was changed so fast when other areas cannot be. The answer is the zoning area was not changed, this property was zoned commercial when the zoning laws were put into effect. To build the warehouses, the owner had to get a variance from the Board of Adjustment. This was done at a meeting held at the Mentone Meeting Room on February 3. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings, they are open to the public. Anytime you see a notice of a city meeting posted at the post office and other places, plan to attend to see what is happening. Don't wait until you hear what happened, be there and you will know what happened!

I am going to get on my soap box again. I cannot understand the big fuss we make over material things. I am talking about the plaque containing the ten commandments that is hanging in the office of Judge Moore of Etowah County. It is just a piece of clay, could it be worth the Governor of Alabama threatening to call out the National Guards over? Before you tell me all the things that it stands for, let me say that I know all of that. But if the judge and the governor and all others in politics lived by the ten commandments, he wouldn't need them hanging there.

I have never understood the big fuss over the Confederate flag, it is just a piece of cloth. Again, I know what it stands for and have found that I had quite a few grandfathers killed in that war. I am descended from the only son of one who was killed in the Civil War when he was twenty-one years old. I understand the meaning and symbolism, but the flag is just a piece of cloth! What matters is what we know and live by and no one can take that away. The real issue here, to me, is that just about the time Alabama makes some inroads in upgrading our education or some other good thing, one of the politicians knocks us back down and makes us look foolish in the eyes of the rest of the nation. Why don't they give THE PEOPLE a chance to show the world what we are made of.

Continue to hold good thoughts, think of warm sunshine and beautiful spring flowers and be careful of telephone shams.

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Innkeeper: Sarah Wilson

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GARDEN HINTS

By Madeleine Bullock

(Member of the National Home Gardening Club)

The last two months, the weather has been really strange and it has made me believe in global warming and the "greenhouse effect," which means that gases produced by the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, would trap heat in the atmosphere, warming up the earth.

There is new concrete evidence that air temperatures will keep rising, and it's on record that 1995 was the hottest year on record; and 1991-1995 was the hottest five-year period. Rising air temperatures, which also means rising soil temperatures, which means a great change in the gardening habits. We will not be sowing the flowers and vegetables that usually thrive in our specific zones.

Also, as the air and ground temperatures rise, so do the temps in the oceans, which makes it expand; and that affects the fish. Fish that like cooler waters will begin to migrate to cooler areas. A warmed expanding ocean also means the rising of sea levels and the volume expanding so more land will go under water.

During the last 50 years, Antarctic temperature has risen by 4.5 degrees Fahrenheit (2.5 degrees Celsius); and four Antarctic ice shelves have collapsed. The most dramatic of these was the Larsen ice shelf. Satellites provided scientists with detailed images in January 1995 as the Larsen ice shelf disintegrated over a five-day span.

As I said, plants that thrive in warmer weather should move up mountains, pushing colder-weather varieties into steadily shrinking ranges, maybe it's now a good time to start experimenting with flowers and vegetables that prefer warmer climates.

There has been a number of new flowers out this year, and maybe they will suit our valley and mountain. From Gurney's Seed & Nurseries Co. (110 Capital Street, Yankton, South Dakota 57079), comes some new flowers of '97. A yellow daisy called Tidy Tips, which tolerates day spells; Petunias: Super Cascade, Red Picotee, Burgundy Cascade; Solvia: Lady in Red; Impatiens: Confection mix; Snopdragon: Tahiti Red; Dianthus: Merry-go-round; Monkey Flower: for shady, moist spots; Shrub Roses: Austrian Copper (has a strong, sweet licorice scent); Cannas: Hybrid Cannas, giant flowers in a wide variety of colors, bright red, bright yellow, pink & red, orange, deep red, salmon, pink; Dahlias: a dinner plate size flower; Begonia: Picotee begonia mix; Iris: Beverly sills (pink), mulled wine (burgundy), Paris lights (ruby red); Mums: a new yellow giant football mum; Garden Phlox: bright red, red-centered pink, red-centered blue, clear orange; Lilies: America (deep ruby red petals), Stargazer (crimson center shading to soft rose/crimson flecks and white edging); Day lilies: Dwarf double persimmon, black-eyed Stella, prelude to love; Perennials: widow's tears, spiderwort, stokes aster, moon heuchera.

The Recipe Corner

By
SUE SCHWARZ



March already--spring and summer can't be far behind. Time passes by so fast. I ran across a favorite crockpot recipe the other day that you might like and find to be convenient. Also, included is a cole slaw recipe which is very good and low fat. The slaw recipe is from Dean Ornish's Everyday Cooking with Dean Ornish. The minestrone recipe is from a stained page of Sphere magazine which I tore out 20 years ago.

Minestrone

- 1/4 lb salt pork, diced (I use ham.)
- 1 onion sliced
- 1 clove garlic minced
- 6 C light stock or broth
- 2 carrots diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 1/4 head cabbage, shredded
- 4 tomatoes, diced (or 1-16 oz can)
- 1 zucchini, sliced
- 1 can (15-1/2 oz) garbanzo beans (or any favorite)
- 1 can kidney beans
- 1 C macaroni
- Salt & Pepper to taste
- 1 T parsley, chopped
- 2 T olive oil, Parmesan cheese

In skillet, saute salt pork until browned. Stir in onion and garlic and cook 'til onion is golden. Place mixture in crockpot with remaining ingredients, except macaroni, seasonings, parsley, oil and cheese. Cover and cook 6-8 hours. Add macaroni, salt and pepper. Turn heat to high; cover and cook for 30 minutes or until macaroni is tender. At serving time, stir in parsley and oil. Top each bowl with a sprinkling of parmesan.

Cabbage & Green Apple Slaw - serves 4

- 4 C store-bought cabbage slaw mix or a combination of green and red cabbage sliced fine and a grated carrot.
- 1 large tart green apple (cut into matchstick slices)

Sweet & Sour Dressing

- 1/4 C cider vinegar
- 1/4 C apple juice concentrate
- 1 t sugar
- 1/2 t salt
- 1/4 t celery seed

Combine slaw mix and apple. Combine dressing ingredients in small saucepan. Bring to a boil, then pour over cabbage mixture. Toss to coat. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Improves if allowed to sit 1 hour before serving.



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The Menlo News

BY OVIE "BO"
BLALOCK

Congratulations to Amelia Kay Howard, a Georgia Southern University freshman from Menlo, majoring in Biology. She has been named to the 1996 fall quarter dean's list. To be eligible for the dean's list, a student must have at least a 3.50 grade point average and carry a minimum of 15 hours for the quarter.

Congratulations also goes to Sarah Jane Fleming, wife of Frank J. Fleming, Cloudland, majoring in family sciences, who was named to the Berry College Dean's List.

See photo elsewhere of winners: Emily Sink, second grade, Menlo Elementary School; and Spencer Davis, Third grade, Menlo School, who recently participated in the fourth annual spelling bee sponsored by the Chattooga Education Association. Summerville Middle School was host for the event. Congratulations on a job well done!

Menlo Elementary School is scheduled (for the spring of 2001) to receive modifications and renovations to include new floor covering, ceiling tile, relighting, rewiring, restrooms, new windows, door replacement, painting, and sub-floor repair. Replacement of heating and cooling systems and modifications for a middle grades lab are included. Roof replacement of the old canning building is scheduled, and the gymnasium is included in renovations and modifications.

Deepest sympathy to the families who have recently lost loved ones:

- Dewey Lee Stoker, 64, Cloudland, who died Jan. 17
- Tillmon L. Howard, 74, Menlo, who died Jan. 18
- Thomas Harold Vernon, 67, Lyerly, who died Jan. 24
- Tim F. Flarity, 32, Summerville, who died Jan. 29



Amy Brown

GRADUATE

Amy Brown, Menlo, graduated from Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Ala., on Dec. 20 with a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice. Mrs. Brown graduated cum laude with special honors in criminal justice. She is the wife of Eric Brown, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank McCrickard, Lyerly. She is currently employed with the Chattooga County Sheriff's Department.

MENLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SECOND NINE WEEKS

SUPER STUDENTS

FIRST GRADE

Benton Birge
Briana Blackmon
Cody Boyd
Coty Cavin
Crystal Cordell
Mary Gayton
Brian Gilhooley
Richard Gill
Chris Hatt
Rachel Johnson
Jon Lemons
Makayla Long
Kim McGuire
Megan Mitchell
Justin Ott
Whitney Powell
Jordan Smith
Chelsea Stoker
Jacki Williams
Tyler Witter
Damion Wofford
Antonio Wooten

SECOND GRADE

Megan Adams
Jessica Blackmon
Savannah Blackmon
Daniel Brown
Michael Brown
Cassy Chance
Stephanie Cordell
Autumn Dodd
Amellio Domar
Chuck Gayton
Bailee Hawkins
Kirsten Hedgis
Jeffery Hill
Skyler Hughes
Haven Hurley
Levi Jackson
Lyndsey Little
Stephanie McGill
Sabrina Middleton
Will Murray
Emma Pickle
Allie Prince
Rhiannon Raines
Devin Rayls
Casey Sammons
Emily Sink
Nicholas Smith
Amber Spencer
Samantha Swartwood
Ashley Thompson
Brittany Ward
Cristen White
Kalen Willingham
Allison Willis
Brett Wilson

THIRD GRADE

Allen Ballinger
Adam Blackwell
Klein Borgschultz
David Brown
Tiffany Byrd
Kahle Calkins
Slaten Cordle
Spence Davis
Amanda Hegwood

Lori Hunter

Jessica Jones
Mary Morris
Whitney Price
Cory Tanner
Chelsey Ward
Amanda Wigley

A HONOR ROLL FOURTH GRADE

Hope Burge
Bryanne Hatt
Sarah Hedgis
Matthew Middleton
Shannon Sammons
Ben Swords
Justin Swords

FIFTH GRADE

Courtney Duke
John Hall
Katie Kerce
Doni Lee

SIXTH GRADE

John Brown
Caris Farrar
Anna Hall
Casey Luther
Samantha Maloney
Kandy McGill
T.J. Pierce
Kenya Webb

SEVENTH GRADE

Erin deMesquita
Sunny Smith

EIGHTH GRADE

Sarah Kerce

A-B HONOR ROLL

FOURTH GRADE

Miles Bagley
Justin Canada
Adam Ellis
Branch Harper
Miranda Hurley
Tabatha Justice
Amanda McGuire
Carrie Patty
Maggie Rich
Nikita Williams

FIFTH GRADE

Chris Blackmon
Freddy Bryson
Derek Bullard
Kasey Carter
Jana Cooper
Zack Cooper
Erica Dover
Chase Hegwood
Kim Middleton
Keri Beth Pettit
Jana Ward
Susan Wofford
Jacob Woodard

SIXTH GRADE

Anna Dotson
Clint McMurrey

Shelly Strange
David Yarbrough

SEVENTH GRADE

Richard Bartholomew
Tessa Brock
Jennifer Carroll
Kasey Green
Lindsey Nixon
Ashley Swicegood

EIGHTH GRADE

Ashley Montgomery
James Durham
April Elrod

STAR STUDENTS

FIRST GRADE
Megan Mitchell
Whitney Powell

SECOND GRADE

Matthew Lewing

THIRD GRADE

Allen Ballinger
Adam Blackwell
Chelsey Ward

FOURTH GRADE

Bryanne Hatt
Matthew Middleton

FIFTH GRADE

Doni Lee
John Hall

SIXTH GRADE

Caris Farrar
Clint McMurrey

SEVENTH GRADE

Lindsey Nixon

MOST IMPROVED:

FIRST GRADE

Cody Boyd
Shelia Langston

SECOND GRADE

Haven Hurley

THIRD GRADE

Heather Hill

FOURTH GRADE

Chad Beirkamp
Jason Boyd
Justin Canada

FIFTH GRADE

Jerry Rutledge
Jana Ward

SIXTH GRADE

Anna Dotson
David Yarbrough



TWO YEARS OLD

Madison Brooke Bentley turned two years old Jan. 9. She is the daughter of Barry and Stephanie Bentley, Summerville. Her grandparents are Mike and Brenda Woodard and Eloise Bentley, Menlo. Gene and Callie Bentley, Summerville. Great-grandparents are Bernard and Leona Shaw, Lyerly; and Marjorie W. Woodard, Summerville; and Clicky Wooten, Ft. Payne, Ala. Great-great grandparents are J. W. and Omer Chitwood, Summerville; and Jim and Edna Shaw, Attalla, Ala. On Sunday, Jan. 12, Madison had a Puzzle Place party at the Alpine Community Church Fellowship Hall. Attending were Randall, Kathy and Jansen Pierce, Buffie and Maloane Hughes, Cindy, Chrisann and Amy Martin, all of Summerville. Leona Shaw, Greg and Taylor Shaw, Judy, Joanna and Judson Hartline, Danny and Beth McGraw, all of Lyerly. Beth and John Hall, Cindy and Anna Hall, Brenda, Mike and Jacob Woodard, Scott and Nikki Ballard, Eloise and Jeffrey Bentley, Greg, Patricia, and Cody Bentley, all of Menlo.



SIX YEARS OLD

Dakota Colorada Dooley turned six years on Dec. 10. Her parents are Kristy and Larry Dooley, Menlo. Grandparents are Dottie Tucker, Menlo; Buddy Tucker, Berryton; Larry Joe Dooley, Summerville; and the late Betty Dooley. Great-grandparents are Sarah and Willie Smith, Menlo; Mary Tucker, Trion; and Lula Arnold, Summerville. Her great great-grandparent is Beulah Berry, Grove Oak, Ala. She has a sister, Stormy.

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(6) WEEKEND OR WEEKLY RENTAL available. 3 bdrms and 2 baths will accommodate 8 people. For more information, call Susan Collins.

(7) PLENTY OF PRIVACY is yours on these beautifully wooded 8 acres located on East Lake Drive. Ready to build on and convenient both to Menlo and Mentone. \$27,500.

(8) 10 ACRE TRACTS - gently rolling-heavily wooded-with creek. Close to downtown Mentone on private road. "Lightly" restricted. \$25,000.

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RENEW YOUR FAITH
This Easter

MOON LAKE SCHOOL NEWS

By Evelyn Graves

Spring pictures and sports pictures were taken on Monday, February 24. The PTO will meet at 6 PM on March 11 in the school cafeteria.

Students are now participating in self-selection and self-service in the school cafeteria. The variety of foods has been increased with the addition of a cold bar. Salad items are available daily to both students and adults.

The third, fourth, and fifth grades' sports banquet was Friday, February 21, in the school cafeteria, and the sixth grade sports banquet will be Friday, February 28, at Fort Payne Best Western.

On Thursday, March 27, the school will prepare for Spring Break by finishing up the day with a magic show. Admission is \$1.00 per person. The public is invited. The show will occur in the school gymnasium.

The Mentone Education Resources Foundation (MERF) is now sponsoring an after-school tutoring three days a week.

The first day of Spring Break is Good Friday, March 28, and will continue through the next week.



Valley Head Elementary School First Semester

FIRST GRADE

ALL A's:

Matthew Fuller
Jessica Goodwin
Savanna Weller
Paige Bethune
Justin Grider
Ashlee Romine
Danielle Johnson

A's and B's:

Megan Gregory
Bryan Thomas
Vince Wright
Casey Battles
Tiffany Crane
Chris Gregory
Justin Smith
Billy Stanfill

SECOND GRADE

ALL A's:

Brittany Bevel
Ethan Lewis
Tyler Gatlin

A's and B's:

Zachary Cooper
Heather Daniel
Cory Dobbins
Ashley Johnson
Sydney Johnson
Robert Kauble
Ashley Tinker
Amber White
Alan Crider
Amelia Hannah
Dustin Johnson
Adam Tuxbury

THIRD GRADE

ALL A's:

Heather Dulaney
Aaron Grisham
Tyler Harrison
Sheena Moses
Hillary Nichols
Rebecca Terrell

A's and B's:

Christina Armstrong
Trista Blackmon

FIRST GRADE

Christina Bullard
Dustin Davis
Kyle Garrett
Brandon Hawkins

FOURTH GRADE

ALL A's:

Matt Battles
William Blevins
Matt Croxton
Jacklyn Davis
Amber Hannah
Kyle Hicks
Chris Miller
Stacey Ogle
Kim Willbanks
Sheena Combs

A's and B's:

Kim Pritchett
Billy McKinney
Heather Freeman
Crystal Gregory
Ben Windom
Nelson Overby
Shelly Terrell

FIFTH GRADE

ALL A's:

Aubrey Ogle
Robert Brown
Steven Thornberry
Jeremy Edgeworth
Blake Hulan

A's and B's:

Greg Carreker
Britt Heinrich
Justin McMullins
Ashley Tuxbury

SIXTH GRADE

ALL A's:

Josh Hulan

A's and B's:

Crystal Bethune
Amanda Knowles
Tessa McKinney
Beth Shirley
Matt Tillman

Moon Lake Elementary School First Semester

FIRST GRADE

ALL A's:

Randy Addison
Tim Bain
Kayla Hazell
Will Scott
Tom Tipton
Sheena Tishaw

A's and B's:

Brittany Clark
Shinice Smith
J.J. Stinson
Paige Wright

SECOND GRADE

ALL A's:

Melissa Crane
Alex Hazell
Katie Herndon
Justin Smith

A's and B's:

Barnabas Bettis
Logan Chambers
Mark Corey
Erica Cryer
Michael Hawkins
Julie Ingram
Whitney LaBuda
Heather Phillips
Angel Wesley

THIRD GRADE

ALL A's:

Jared Bare
John Baxter
Katie Gray
Melissa Harrison
Lori Hope
Marie Hunt
Sara Hurt
Brandy Manning
Kirby McMunn
Kellye Phillips
Emily Tipton

A's and B's:

Laura Floyd
Joshua Rogers
Cayla Voils
Phillip Waller
Jason Willis

FOURTH GRADE

ALL A's:

Kristen Addison
Rachel Bryan
Erica Campbell
Catrina Ingram
Amanda Johnson
Andrew McCole
Kelly Wright

A's and B's:

Colby Baty
Amanda Collins
Paul Davis
Sarah Dodd
Nick Floyd
Jessica Meadows
Keith Miller
Josh Smith
Natasha Tishaw

FIFTH GRADE

ALL A's:

Kyle Hooks

A's and B's:

Dustin Burt
Emmy Corey
Ashley LaBuda
Ashley McSpadden

SIXTH GRADE

ALL A's:

Tiffany Bare
Tessa Collett
Stuart Hurt
Kerri McMunn
Kiley Young

A's and B's:

Beth Easler
Joshua Hughes
Corey Kirby
Natasha Moreland
Kelly Owen
J.R. Patterson

Moon Lake Elementary School Perfect Attendance 5th Month

KINDERGARTEN

Lauren Addison
Steven Barkley
Fred Castleberry
Marcus Feltz
Brittany Freeman
Heather Smith
Megan Smith

4TH GRADE

Tyler Huskey
Logan Jackson
Kirby McMunn
Kellye Phillips
Joshua Rogers
Emily Tipton
Cayla Voils
James Wells

1ST GRADE

Tim Bain
Chad Evans
Mike Feltz
Kayla Hazell
Shinice Smith
Vicki Stinson
Tom Tipton
Paige Wright

4TH GRADE

Kristen Addison
Rachel Bryan
Paul Davis
Sarah Dodd
Nick Floyd
Matt Hawkins
Catrina Ingram
Amanda Johnson
Andrew McCole
Jessica Meadows
Keith Miller
Josh Smith

2ND GRADE

Logan Chambers
Mark Corey
Alex Hazell
Robert Johnson
Whitney LaBuda
John Meadows
Heather Phillips
Justin Scott
Kelly Swindall
Kimberly Wells

5TH GRADE

Niki Johnson
Ashley LaBuda
Ashley McSpadden
Mason Plunk

3RD GRADE

Jared Bare
John Baxter
Hillary Fenley
Melissa Harrison
Lori Hope

6TH GRADE

Tiffany Bare
Tommy Dodd
Beth Easler
John Fischer
Kerri McMunn
J. R. Patterson



Brittany Danielle Daniel

celebrated her 3rd birthday on February 4.

Parents are Donald and Margie Daniel of Valley Head.

Grandparents are Stella Pierce and the late Rev. Clarence Pierce of Valley Head, and Gertrude and the late R.C. Daniel of Sulphur Springs.



DEDICATED TO TEACHERS

Dr. Pat Seymour was a master teacher. She loved her students, all of them, from pre-school, elementary school, high school, college, and beyond, and urged them to go as far as they could in whatever they chose to do--and never, never, give up.

The following is a quote from *Elective Affinities*, bk I, ch.7, by Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749-1832) that is in a framed wall hanging in her living room.

"A teacher who can arouse a feeling for one single good action, for one single good poem, accomplishes more than he who fills our memory with rows on rows of natural objects, classified with name and form."





Angela Brook Hunt Elkins and Lyndall Lane Elkins

Angela Brook Hunt and Lyndall Lane Elkins were married on December 23, 1996, at Maranatha Baptist Church in Rainsville, with Brother Nick Harcrow officiating. The reception was held at the church.

The bride's parents are Mae Hunt of Mentone and Al Hunt of Pisgah. Grandparents are the late Pete and Ruby Kirby of Mentone.

The groom's parents are Lynn Haney of Hammondville, and Allen Johnson of Mentone. Grandparents are Virginia Elkins of Dalton, GA., and the late Alvin Elkins.

Angie is a senior at Valley Head High School and is employed at Dessie's Kountry Chef in Mentone.

Lyndall is a 1996 graduate of Valley Head High School, and is employed at Alabama Footware in Fort Payne.

The couple reside in Mentone.

Birth Announcement



Reid Hammon Hulgan

came into the world on January 17, 1997, at 11:23 a.m., weighing a hefty 9 pounds and was 22 inches long. He was born at Gadsden Regional Medical Center. His proud parents are Robin and Jerry Hulgan of Fort Payne. His grandparents are Robert

and Ruth Hammon of Fort Payne and Glenn and Elaine Hulgan of Fort Payne; great-grandparent is Garnett Hammon of Fort Payne. Reid has two brothers, Blake and Jerod.



Birth Announcement



It's a Boy!

Mona and Buddy Cartee of Tuscaloosa announce the birth of their son, Samuel Cole, on December 18 1996, at 5:07 p.m. at DCH Regional Hospital in Tuscaloosa. He weighed 9 lbs. 15 oz., and was 20-1/2 inches long.

Grandparents are Thomas and Mildred Lackey of Valley Head and Charles and Mackie Cartee of Tuscaloosa. Great-grandparents are Juanita Simpson of Fort Payne and Cecil Freeman of Menlo, Ga.

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NATIONAL HONOR ROLL STUDENT



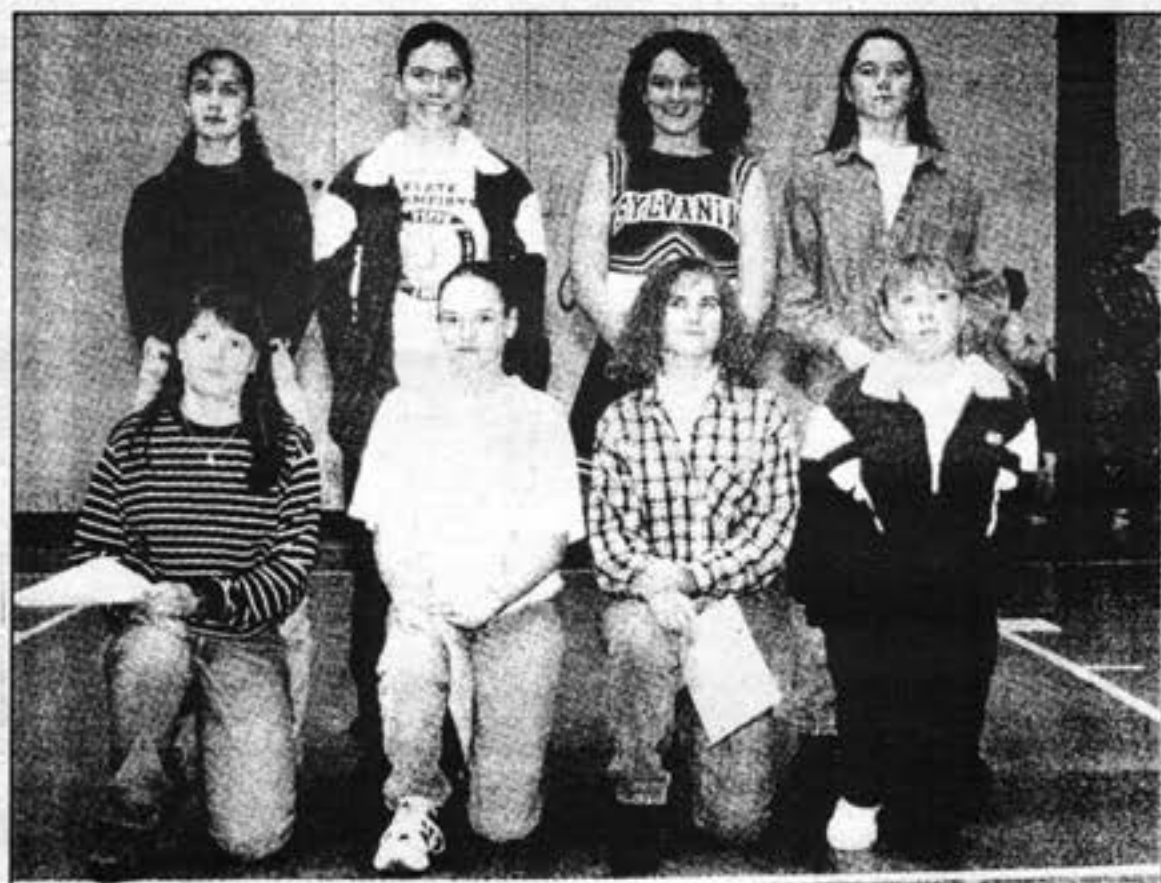
ANNA NICOLE RIEVLEY

Anna is in the 9th grade at Valley Head High School and is a member of the National Jr. Honor Society. She has been selected by the United States Achievement Academy as a National Honor Roll Student, and she will appear in the USAA Yearbook and is eligible to apply for USAA College Scholarships. Anna received this honor with her outstanding achievements in academics. Anna is the daughter of Lisa O'Tinger of Valley Head and Spencer and Laura Rievley of Chattanooga, Tenn., and the granddaughter of Bennie and Kathy O'Shields of Valley Head, Jimmy and Hazel O'Tinger of Adairsville, Ga., and Ester Fine of Flat Rock.



North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Protection District (NLMVFPD) to have garage sale in April

The annual "garage sale" of the North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Protection District (NLMVFPD) will be in April. NLMVFPD would appreciate the donation of good items to offer the public. Check in your attic, your garage, your out-building for good, useable items and donate them to the NLMVFPD. Contact Gail Chambers at 634-4507, for arrangements to pick up any items or to bring items. Keep watching for the announcement of the date in April.



Times-Journal photo by Bayne Hughes

GIRLS COUNTY ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM: Named to the All-Tournament team were Nikki Smith, Valley Head; Joy Simmons, Fyffe; Nicole Crowley, Geraldine; Alice Pettyjohn, Sylvania; Jennifer Gray, Collinsville; Heather Jackson, Valley Head; Devin Mullinax, Crossville; LeAnna Ivey, Ider; Rebecca Long, Fyffe; and Ashleigh Adrian, Collinsville.



Mentone American Legion Post 215 News

By Marilyn Blanton Campbell

Mentone Legion Ladies Opt For Plan B

With very few exceptions, the entire population of the mountain has been sick with either the flu or what everybody has been referring to as the "universal crud" for lack of any other name. The understanding is that the main difference in the two is in neither the severity nor in the longevity but in the fever that goes with particular strains of the pandemic bodily contagion. With the ladies sick and the weather so wet, going anywhere was not a particularly good idea. Furthermore, the ladies were aware that they would not be allowed into the facility purely because the residents did not need to be contaminated.

At that point, the ladies opted for "Plan B." The valentine committee prepared valentines for the entire population of the Fann Home, put them in a box, and mailed them to Mrs. Nancy Gavaghan, the Activities Director at the Fann Home, along with a letter asking her and her staff to distribute the valentines along with their regrets that they were unable to make the trip themselves.

There are six men from DeKalb County living at the Fann Home. As a special gesture on behalf of those people, the valentine committee constructed homemade valentines and mailed those individually to the recipients.

Some of the ladies are beginning to feel a little better NOW, but they still think a trip to visit our veterans would be best put off until the epidemic has passed on and spring has arrived. Every time the ladies discuss the situation, they say, "Maybe by Easter," in reference to their hopes for making another trip. The veterans in the Fann Home seem to appreciate so very much the visits the ladies of Unit 215 make.

Small Crowd Attends Mentone Legion Supper

The ladies of Unit 215 scheduled a covered dish supper on Valentine's Day, Friday, February 14, at the legion hall on Cove Road in Mentone. The foggy, wet and ugly weather tended to keep lots of people—particularly those who had been sick—away, but a small crowd of brave souls did venture forth to attend.

The men of Post 215 were extremely supportive of the ladies' efforts in that they gathered on Thursday night, February 13, and cleaned the legion hall. That was truly appreciated. The decorations were really quite festive and in keeping with the season. The decorating committee consisted of Penny and Jim Lyday and Mrs. Marilyn Blanton Campbell. The committee decorated three long rows of tables, a dessert table, and a small table off to the side for drinks. Penny had received a dozen red roses from her husband, Jim, for Valentine's Day, and she shared those with the people attending. "The Penny" bouquet was the focal point of the decorating scheme. Red column candles, with hurricane globes nestled among short snips of greenery around their bases, decorated the front two tables along with small crystalline dishes of conversation hearts; strands of shimmering, red, valentine tinsel; glistening, heart-shaped, red, lacy, foil doilies; and confetti sprinkled about in seasonal shades of red, pink, and white. Each place was marked by a glistening, tiny, red cherub and a folded napkin that was either red or white. Red plates and cups complemented the valentine motif. The dessert table had a white cover as well and was decorated with a valentine angel that Penny had dressed in the most elegant white lace imaginable. Strands of shimmering, red, valentine tinsel, folded red

napkins, and an attractive sprinkling of confetti were also decorating the dessert table. The drink table, where the ladies offered tea, coffee, and 7-UP was decorated with a white table cover, other seasonal appointments, and sprinkled with confetti.

Over the fireplace, a shimmering red HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY banner created an attractive display against the rough stone of the chimney. A large, cardboard cupid cut-out hung on the door, and valentine seasonal hangings on the walls transformed the legion hall into a valentine wonderland. Red ribbons, red felt cherubs, and a wreath of red wooden cherubs put the finishing touches on the decorations.

While the crowd was small, the food was exceptionally good, and everybody in attendance seemed to be having a wonderful time, relaxing, sitting and talking to people they seldom see. There was many times more food than could possibly have been eaten by that group of people.

In addition to "the hard core faithfuls" in attendance at the Valentine Supper were Roger and Deborah Sharpe, and Harold Wright, who was there as the guest of Mrs. Joyzelle Webb. Hopefully, they will all be joining the legion and becoming regular participants in legion activities. Rev. William Giddens of the Mentone United Methodist Church blessed the food.

Mrs. Syble Tipton is President of American Legion Unit 215 at Mentone, and she encourages all eligible ladies to check out the unit's activities.



Times-Journal photo by Angela Tant

DEKALB COUNTY DAR WINNERS: Each county high school selected one of its students to receive the Phillip Hamman Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution's Good citizen Award. They are, from left, Chris Gilbert, Geraldine; Britt Mann, Ider; Matthew Morgan, Collinsville; Damien Underwood, Fort Payne; Amanda Smith, Fyffe; David Boman, Crossville; Haley Johnson, Valley Head; Jana Cagle, Plainview; and Manda Mountain, Sylvania. On February 18, Amanda Smith, of Fyffe, was selected as the county winner, at a Good Citizen reception held Tuesday afternoon for the young citizens at the Fort Payne Opera House. These seniors were selected as exemplifying the leadership, dependability, service, patriotism, and academic excellence of a good citizen.



Times-Journal photo by Scott Turner

GEOGRAPHY BEE BUFFS: Winners of the Geography Bee at Fort Payne Middle School are pictured with the competition's sponsor Peggy Martin (far right). From L/R: Ben Corey, first place; Emily Black, second place; and Kelly Bunch, third place. Corey will continue to compete at more advanced levels of the National Geography Bee.

Valley Head High School's DAR Representative



Haley Nicole Johnson

Haley Nicole Johnson, Valley Head High School's representative, is the daughter of James and Sandy Johnson.

Haley has been an active member of the band for the past eight years. This year, she was drum major, and had prepared for the honor as assistant drum major and captain. She has also been section leader and received the band award.

Haley is a member of the Beta Club, FHA, and the Bible Club.

The National Honor Roll Student has been awarded the United States Achievement Academy Band Award, named as a United States Achievement Academy All-American Scholar and Leadership Service Award winner.

In her spare time, Haley is active in her church's youth ministry and choir. She also keeps busy volunteering her time for Adopt-A-Mile.

She plans to attend Jacksonville State University where she will major in music education.

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The Church News

By
EVELYN GRAVES



◆◆◆Easter is March 30. ◆◆◆

Plan to attend the Sunrise Services. See the notice elsewhere on this page and in this issue.

The Moon Lake Baptist Church is now publishing a newsletter which goes out to the church members each month. The first issue was in February. Future issues will be mailed to reach members on the first of each month. •On March 1, there will be an outreach training meeting at 10 AM, with lunch at 12 o'clock and visitation following. •Missionary speaker, Lloyd Mann, will be speaking in the evening service on March 2. •The church council will meet on March 9 at 4 PM. On that Sunday evening, there will be a fellowship meal at 6 PM. •The Youth Outreach Project will meet on March 15 in preparation for the revival which begins on March 16 and extends through March 19. The services will be at 6:30 each evening. Rick Cato will be the evangelist. •A long-range planning committee has been elected to study better utilization or enlargement of the church facilities due to church growth. The floors have been refinished in the fellowship hall. •The J.O.Y. club will meet on February 27 and March 27. All seniors in the community are invited to attend. •There will be an early worship service on Easter Sunday, March 30, from 8:45 to 9:45, and Sunday School will be from 9:45 to 10:45, with the regular worship service from 11 to 12 o'clock. There will be no Sunday evening service on that date. •There will be a business meeting on March 5 at 6:30 PM. •Training for Team Kid was held on Saturday, February 15, and Team Kid is being held each Wednesday evening from 6 to 7:30. This program is organized like a club and is designed for Grades 1-6. Preschool workers are available, however, if necessary.

The UMW at the Valley Head United Methodist Church will meet on February 25, at 3 PM, at Venna Livingston's home. The program will be a video, "Where Christ Walked." •Nelson Ellis will be speaking for the Gideons in the morning service on March 23 at 10 AM. •Sunday School is at 9 AM and Worship Service is at 10 AM each Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

On March 23, there will be a Home Missions study from 5 to 7 PM, "Starting Something New", at the Valley Head Baptist Church. •March 2-8 is Week of Prayer for Home Missions. •On March 23, the evening service will be a vesper service and will emphasize college night. There will be a message and prayer followed by games and a time of fun. •There will be an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 29, at the church. •Easter Sunday morning will be a communion service.

The Mentone Wesleyan Church will sponsor a community Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 29, at 1 PM, at the home of David and Rachel Lee. You may call the church parsonage at 634-4210 or the Lees at 634-4370, for further information. •On Easter Sunday morning there will be a special Easter service along with communion.

Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church invites you to join them in worship each Sunday at 9 AM. Reverend Jerry Davis and Reverend L. A. Smith are the speakers on alternate Sundays.

Howard's Chapel (Church in the Rock) invites you to attend services on Sunday morning at 10 AM. Visitors are always welcome to visit the chapel at other times also. Vacation clothes are always acceptable for the service.

Homecoming plans are currently under way and will be announced later. A shelter is in the process of being built in case of rain on special days like Homecoming.

The Union Hill Baptist Church has outgrown its new sanctuary, and a committee has been formed to study the needs and exact location for a larger new facility, including more classrooms and recreational facilities. Four new members were baptized during February. A new children's choir has been formed in addition to the youth choir. 3-year-old Corey Beth Gregg from the children's choir was invited to be the soloist at the recent Associational Children's Choir Festival. A very impressive Acteens coronation service was held on Sunday, February 16, when Brooke Baker and Melissa Baxter were crowned queens, having completed their study requirements. A formal reception was given following the service. You are invited to all services - Sunday School at 10 AM, Worship Service at 11 AM, Discipleship Training at 6 PM, and evening worship at 6:45 PM. Wednesday evening prayer service is at 6:30 PM, preceded by GAs, Acteens, RAs, and Youth Choir practice at 5 PM. Adult choir practice, led by Barry Wisner, is at 5 PM each Sunday. WMU meets on Wednesday after the second Sunday of each month at 11:30 AM. All ladies in the community are welcome to attend. Brotherhood meets on the fourth Sunday at 7 AM. A singing is held each second Sunday of the month at 6 PM.

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy will be having their traditional Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, March 30. •The State Bishop, Bishop Edwards, will be visiting on Sunday, March 16. The public is welcome.

The UMW of the Mentone United Methodist Church will meet on Wednesday, March 5, at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There will be an Easter egg hunt for the children and the date will be announced.

J. O. Y.

The Just Older Youth will meet at 11:30 AM on February 27 and March 27 at the Moon Lake Baptist Church. This is a non-denominational organization for seniors, and everyone is invited to attend. Bring a covered dish and a friend and enjoy a good time together.

NORTH DEKALB MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

The North DeKalb Ministerial Association met Thursday night, February 20, at 7 PM, at the Mentone Church of God of Prophecy. The Annual Easter Sunrise Service, the school prayer lawsuit, and other important items of business were discussed. The Annual Easter Sunrise Service will be on the Crowe Property where it has been held in previous years. The time is 7 AM. In case of inclement weather, the alternate location will be St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church. The North DeKalb Ministerial Association plans for the services to include all churches in the area.

A Love Letter From Jesus

How are You? I just had to send you this letter to tell you how much I love you and care about you. I saw you yesterday as you were walking with your friends. I waited all day, hoping you would walk and talk with me, also. As evening drew near, I gave you a sunset to close your day, and a cool breeze to rest you. Then, I waited, but you never came. O yes, it hurt me, but I still love you, because I am your friend.

I saw you fall asleep last night, and I longed to touch your brow, so I spilled moonlight upon your pillow and your face. Again I waited, wanting to rush down so we could talk. I have so many gifts for you.

You awakened late this morning and rushed off for the day. My tears were in the rain. Today, you looked so sad, so alone. It makes my heart ache because I understand. My friends let me down and hurt me many times, but I love you. I try to tell you in the quiet grass. I whisper it in the leaves and trees and breathe it in the color of the flowers. I shout it to you in the mountain streams, and give the birds love songs to sing. I clothe you with warm sunshine and perfume the air. My love for you is deeper than the oceans and bigger than the biggest want or need you could ever have.

We will spend eternity together in heaven. I know how hard it is on earth. I really know, because I was there, and I want to help you. My Father wants to help you, too. He's that way, you know. Just call me, ask me, talk to me. It is your decision. I have chosen you, and because of this I will wait...

Because I love you.

Your Friend,
JESUS

Easter Sunrise Service

The North DeKalb Ministerial Association announces that the Annual Easter Sunrise Service will be on the Crowe Property where it has been held in previous years. The time is 7 AM. In case of inclement weather, the alternate location will be St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church. The services include all churches in the area.



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A Friendly— Valley View

By
ELOISE BROWN

It has been a "see-saw" season—up and down—from high to low—but good to us over all!

Many enjoyed Valentine's Day and weekend. My little great grandson, Dillon Brown, and his mother, Gracie, were delivering tokens of love on Valentine's Day. They brought me a box of candy and took balloons to the ladies at Rock Castle Cafe and assumed Cupid's job to deliver flowers.

David and Pam Dean were hosts for a Valentine party on Feb. 13, at their home. Those present were Jonathon, Zachary, and Kaitlyn Dean, Doris Chamlee, Debra and Steve and little Allie Rhodes, John and Edith Dean, and Mary and Jerome Rhodes. They enjoyed lovely refreshments and gifts.

A very entertaining and beautiful Valentine party was enjoyed by a good attendance at the Valley Head Baptist Church, Feb. 13. The tables were beautifully decorated with red and white candles and flowers. They had lots of fun, telling how couples met and prizes were given to Ruth and Bert Pickett, as longest wed, and Peggy and Bob Forlano as newest wed. Special music was presented by DeVann Jackson, Hayden Kirby and Lana Cooper.

Dr. Charles Jenkins, the Baptist pastor, has returned from a Pastors' Conference in Jacksonville, FL.

Sadie Cooper went with Janet and Jimmy Cooper to take their son, Brent, to Hamilton Place shopping, on Sat. Feb. 15, to celebrate his tenth birthday. His brother, Patrick, shared the occasion.

Julia and Ronnie Hickey, their son, Scott, his wife, Starla, and two children, from Chattanooga, spent Sunday, Feb. 16, with Julia's mother, Adelaide Biddle.

Robert and Gail Hawkins of Brewton, AL, spent several days with his parents, Geraldine and Howard Hawkins, recently.

Laura Margaret Allison has returned home after an extended visit with her daughter, Ansley, and John McGinnis in Florence, S.C. Laura Margaret is still not fully recovered.

Ruth Terrell is recovering from surgery and her brother, Grady Craig, is seriously ill at BMC DeKalb.

Wendy Gregory and Michael Bryant will be married Saturday afternoon, Mar. 22, at the Valley Head Baptist Church. Wendy is the daughter of James and Linda Gregory, Jr., and Michael is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Erby Bryant. We wish for them a long and happy life together.

The Sunshine Club and the UMW did not meet in January because of so much sickness and bad weather. The Sunshine Club will meet Wed., Feb. 26, at 11:30 a.m., at the Best Western for a Dutch treat lunch and then tour the Big Mill Mall.

The Valley Head UMW will meet Tues. Feb. 25 at 3 p.m. at the home of Venna Livingston.

The Woman's Club will meet Wed., Feb. 17, at the Valley Head Baptist Church. The essay contestants will be recognized and will be the subject of the program.

Nelson Ellis, a fine hometown "boy" will be the speaker at the Valley Head Methodist Church at the morning worship service at 10 o'clock, on March 23. He is retired from being principal at Fyffe High School. He will be representing the Gideons.

There has been a lot of sickness and tragedy. Sincere sympathy to all who have lost loved ones. Pray that everyone who is sick will have a quick and complete recovery.

Congratulations to Matthew Hulan, who was recognized by the Optimist Club as an outstanding youth. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Danny Hulan of Valley Head. He was nominated by Campbell Smith for his leadership qualities and as a "good, all around student." He is president of the Senior Class and a member of the Tiger football team.

Congratulations to Haley Nicole Johnson, daughter of James and Sandy Johnson of Valley Head. The Phillip Hamman Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution selected her as one of the recipients of their Good Citizen Award. It is one of the most highly regarded awards for outstanding high school seniors in the nation. She was selected by Valley Head High as exemplifying the required qualities of good character, dependability, leadership, and patriotism.

We are also proud of Anna Rievey (see picture and item) and all our young people who strive to achieve and be true to the best that is in them.

Spring is just around the corner. Hopefully everything and everyone will be rejuvenated! Rejoice and enjoy!

Easter Season

Easter is a season of newness
When all the world seems so clean;
Fresh washed by Winter's stormings
From drabness to glist'ning green.

Easter is a season of beauty,
Of blooming colors so bright,
That thrill and fill the senses,
With feelings of high delight.

Easter is a season of music,
When the world takes wing to sing,
Anthems of living gladness
In homage to its God and king.

Easter is a season of worship—
For a Saviour resurrected—
personification of God's love,
Eternal hope perfected.

Easter is the season of seasons,
That gives all living meaning—
Because Christ arose from death,
In resurrection's redeeming.

—Eloise Brown

March, The Beast

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

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

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

Roaring in the hurricane,
In brutal, destructive force,
It hews up all in path insane
and spits it out far from source.

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

—Eloise Brown



St. Matthew Chapter 14 and Verse 14

The multitudes were gathered
There in that desert place,
And in their midst stood Jesus
Compassion on his face.
He watched them as they hovered
About his holy form
He moved about them, healing
Giving his love so warm.

When evening came, his disciples
Said "Lord, the time is past,
Send them to the village for food
For theirs will never last.
They had but two small fishes
And five small loaves of bread,
"Bring them hither unto me,"
the Blessed saviour said.

Then, looking to heaven he blessed, and brake
And gave he them the bread.
"Give ye to the multitudes"
Jesus gently said,
They all did eat, and were satisfied,
And when they had their fill,
The remainder was all gathered
There were twelve baskets still!

Beside the women and children
There were Five Thousand Men,
All of whom were filled with food
Given them by Him.
St. Matthew Chapter and verse fourteen
This story can be read,
How Jesus fed the multitudes
With the fishes and loaves of bread.

Jerry F. Abbott
February 9, 1957

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Spring is Fun

I like Spring
When the birds begin to sing
And the flowers bloom
And fill my room
With sweet scents of joy.

I like to play outside
In the open spaces so wide
And feel a breath of fresh air
As the wind blows my hair
and makes me feel like I can fly.

I like to roam in the woodland
And make castles in the sand
And enjoy the spring showers
That give growth to the wild flowers,
And dance in the warming sun.

Katie Gray
9 years old



The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

During the coldest days, we escaped to Sebring, Florida, for a week where we have a lot on Red Lake. We could not stay long this time because we are working on the house where we now live and needed to complete some plumbing. Last year, we had the idea of building a small home there where we could spend the winter months, but I guess we put those plans on hold for the present. We stayed with our good friends, Clyde and Beverly Hoyt, and had a delightful time catching up on all the news from Mentone-- things that have happened since they were here. They get *The Groundhog* regularly, but some things are not in the paper. They were so good to us that we did not feel like we were imposing. Beverly is always busily crocheting or knitting, or making draperies or whatever suits her fancy. I love creative people. When we arrived, she was finishing a knit sweater and cap for me! What a nice surprise. I wore the sweater most of the time we were there because it was quite cool in Florida. Clyde and Beverly's son, Doug and his wife Dael, still own the log cabin near Cragmere Manna; so Clyde and Beverly will be visiting them this summer. They sent their regards to everyone. They love Mentone.

Our fruit trees we planted on our lot a year ago were loaded with oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, and kumquats. I was amazed that they would bear fruit so quickly. One Valencia orange was very sweet and flavorful.

We visited with Bill and Sue Hughes and Bob and Ann Geiger, our good neighbors who sort of look after the place for us. They are exceptionally nice people whom we count as great new friends. We even tentatively planned a trip with the Geigers who love to travel as much we do.

We drove to Lakeland, Florida, one day and met our friends with whom we became acquainted when we toured Europe in 1990--Rev. Harry Russell and his wife Margaret. We had dinner with them at a local restaurant and renewed our friendship as we recounted our many interesting experiences on the tour. It was hard to believe that it was seven years ago that we went to see the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. We recalled that the actors only spoke German, but Harry reminded us that we were acquainted with the script. Then at intermission we were given programs with English translation. Rev. Russell is a retired Methodist minister and we have given them an open invitation to visit us here in the summer months.

We did not rush coming home, spent the night in Cordele, Ga. and went west from there to Americus, Ga., to visit the headquarters of Habitat for Humanity. We had hoped to see Frank Purvis, but he had gone to Houston where they hoped to build 300 homes in one week. This was interesting to us because we have contributed to this organization since its beginning. It's a big organization now with hundreds of employees and volunteers who build houses for low income families. The homes are not given to them outright; the people must help build them and have the privilege of paying amounts they can afford. Many people have new homes who could never have afforded to purchase one. Our former president, Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalyn, have worked with this organization for several years as volunteers. They drive nails and work like any other volunteer. It has been said that Jimmy Carter is the hardest working past president of the United States that we have ever had. He certainly is a favorite of mine.

We drove on to Plains, Ga., which is the home town of Jimmy and Rosalyn. We have been several times and have thoroughly enjoyed each visit. The little country town exists much like it has for a hundred years; just a small farm community where Jimmy still grows peanuts, corn, and a little cotton. The little railroad station was used for campaign head-

quarters when he ran for president. We had lunch in a quaint, rustic type building where the good home cooking was marvelous. The name of it is Mama Allie's. We had some of the best pecan pie I have ever eaten and I was looking for someone to tell me who made them. A little lady asked if she could help me and I told her I wanted to congratulate whomever made the pecan pies. She replied that she made them and proceeded to write the recipe for me. There was a gracious southern lady who certainly knew how to cook.

We had a most interesting garden club meeting in February. Our speaker, Pat Shippey, has had surgery and could not come, so we had a video about starting a beginners flower garden. It made me want to get started. Karen Wright, Heather Nicely, and Patti Bryan decorated a most beautiful table, using three themes: Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, and Easter. And they had delicious food in shades of red. We should have made a picture of it. March brings us St. Patrick's Day and Easter is the thirtieth, which is early. Perhaps that means an early spring, but winter has not been a harsh one this year, and I have enjoyed it.

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(2) **ROCKY TOP ESTATES** Brow and wooded lots for sale. New addition now open with new road and underground power. Property joins DeSoto State Park at back entrance, Co. Rd. 66. Prices start (wooded) \$14,500; (Brow) \$25,000 to \$35,000. Selling fast.



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(4) **MOUNTAIN RIVER ESTATES** Phase 1 now open! 3 to 5 acre tracts on the Middle Fork of Little River. On Hwy. 117 S, Lookout Mountain Parkway. River front tracts at \$27,500 & up. 8 to 10 acre wooded stream tracts from \$22,500.

OTHER PROPERTIES

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(8) **HORSE RANCH, CATTLE FARM, HUNTING RETREAT**, or use your own imagination. 500 acres M/L located on Lookout Mountain, Mentone. Approximately 250 acres of open land, several ponds, beautiful rolling hills. Can be purchased as a whole or 20 acres and up. Owner financing available. \$1,100 an acre as whole or \$1,300 to \$1,500 an acre divided.

(9) **MENTONE-WOODED LOTS**, off of DeSoto Parkway, 2 miles from State Park. City water available. \$8,500.

(10) **PICTURE YOUR NEW HOME NESTLED AMONG HUGE ROCK FORMATIONS** on DeSoto Parkway, Mentone. This building lot already has City water, Septic tank installed, driveway, and cleared to build. \$21,900.

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"Lookout Mountain Preferred Realty, Inc." is the same company as Lookout Mountain Properties, but it has become incorporated and the name has changed.

RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB

The Rhododendron Garden Club met on February 11 at the Mentone Town Hall. The hostesses, Heather Nicely, Patti Bryan, and Karen Wright decorated the hall in a valentine motif, and prepared a sumptuous table of refreshments.

Linda Brown gave the devotion and centered the message around love and education, citing 1 Corinthians 13 and reading a poem entitled "Love's Seasons".

There were 17 members present, plus two adult guests, Lucette Dix and Jan Cherbonneau, and two infant guests, Orian Nicely and Brooke Wright.

The minutes were read and approved; and in the absence of Flo Kirby, the treasurer, Barbara Blalock gave the treasurer's report.

Patti Bryan reported on the work that she is doing with the fourth grade students at Moon Lake Elementary School. She goes every Monday and the students work in the outdoor eco-center. For Arbor Day, the 4th graders are planting a white Spruce to replace the large oak that fell in the playground area. The sixth graders plant a tree each year. In the eco-center, Ryan Drake and Heather Nicely have made a dry stream bed. Adam Blalock has built bird houses that will be put out as habitats for the birds. The students are all looking forward to their Earth Day Project, which will be completed on Earth Day, April 21-22, this year. The children really enjoy the eco-

center and look forward to working in it as often as they can.

Under old business, the president reminded the members about the upcoming Deep South Region Convention to be held in Huntsville on March 19-22, at the Huntsville Marriott Hotel, and the District II Spring Meeting to be held at the Palisades Park in Oneonta, on April 17 at 2 p.m. This is the installation of new officers for District II.

Also, under old business, the five-burner heater that was purchased for use in the city hall for \$200 from Leland Cox was in the hall for the members to see. Ann Wright will check out the price of a cigarette holder for outside the city hall.

Under new business, when the weather gets warmer, work days in Mason Park will be scheduled for all members who can participate in the cleanup. Everyone was encouraged to plant a tree for Arbor Day and to participate in Earth Day projects. Ann Wright announced that Valley Head wanted to form a new garden club, and that they are in the process of doing so. Another project that will be in conjunction with the Mentone American Legion Post 215 is the sponsoring of an essay contest for the 6th graders at Moon Lake School, where monetary prizes would be given. The Home and Garden Show will be March 16 and 17, in Rainsville, at the Civic Center. Several members of the club will work on Sunday, March 17. Jan Wilkinson, incoming garden club president requested all mem-

bers to sign up for the various areas for next year's meetings.

There being no further business, in the absence of the speaker, Pat Shippey, who is recovering from hip surgery, an interesting video was shown on how to design and maintain a flower garden. Many great ideas were presented, and deciding the best area to plant depends on the soil and sunlight, because not all plants have the same requirements. The video gave many interesting points on mulching the garden, creating your own compost, and how to test water. Mulch will help to keep the weeds down. The design is really never finished, as we can always see many new and interesting plants to add. The catalogs out at this time are a great help.

The hostess gift was won by Marilyn Campbell.

The next meeting will be at the City Hall on March 11, at 2 p.m. Roll call will be to name an indoor vine. Flo Kirby has the devotional, and the program will be announced. Hostesses are Barbara Blalock, Linda Brown, and one other.

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



MASTER GARDENER CLASS OF 1995: Brad Anderson, Ed Campbell, Vickie Goforth, Dodie Marquard, Kristie Rastall, Linda Stephens, Mimi Anderson, Celestine Darnell, Flora Duncan, Ann S. Houston, Treby Miller, Pat Shippey, and Ann Wright. Not pictured: Harriet Turner



MASTER GARDENER CLASS OF 1996: Mike Arnold, Mary Crabtree, Dallyne Jones, Rebecca Barrier, John Gault, Sarah Horton, Emma Jordan, Lou Ann Weatherly, Barbara Wise, Christina Vincent, and Jan Wilkinson. Not pictured: Harold Lake, Ramona Beck, Linda McCurdy, Kay Scruggs

CORRECTION: In the January/February issue of *The Groundhog*, the cutlines were switched under the pictures of the recent graduates of the Master Gardeners course. *The Groundhog* reprints the entire article with the corrected cutlines. The *Groundhog* is happy to make this correction.

DEKALB COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS GRADUATE

Thursday, Dec 19, 1996, marked the graduation of both the 1995 and 1996 classes of the Master Gardeners of DeKalb County. The graduation luncheon and ceremony was held at 11 a.m. at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant in Fort Payne.

Bill Springer, director of the Little River Canyon Preserve, was the guest speaker. Holiday music was provided by Jim Bowman on the keyboard, Kaare Lollik-Anderson on accordion and Finn Grunert on guitar.

The first Master Gardener program was begun in Washington State in 1972. Twenty-three years later, programs are in operation in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and four Canadian provinces.

The Alabama Master Gardeners program was piloted in Madison County in 1981. During the past 15 years, county extension agents from 30 counties in Alabama have offered

the program in their respective areas.

The program was first introduced in DeKalb County last year and has produced some 30-plus Master Gardeners thus far. Classes were administered by Terry Shackelford, DeKalb County agent, and Master Gardeners Pat Shippey, Ann Wright, and Harriet Turner.

Through the coordination and teaching of various county extension agents and extension specialists from Auburn and Alabama A&M Universities, as well as other institutions, more than 2,000 Master Gardeners have been instructed in an intensive 40 hours of horticultural training. They have also shared their knowledge and expertise through volunteer service in their home communities.

The DeKalb County Master Gardener class of 1995 will receive their Master Gardener certificates, having completed

both the academic qualifications and the required 40 hours of volunteer service. The 1996 class will receive their academic certificates, having just completed that portion of the qualifications.

Once the initial 40 hours of volunteer service is completed, members are required to give at least 20 hours of volunteer time each year to remain a certified Master Gardener.

Master Gardener volunteer programs are tailored to meet the needs of their individual counties. Their knowledge is shared with the people as they speak to civic groups, volunteer time at botanical gardens, assist with children's gardening programs, as well as designing, implementing, and maintaining community landscaping projects.

AN EARLY SPRING



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Punxsutawney Phil is held by handler Bill Deeley, left, as Deeley tells Groundhog Club president Bud Dunkel that Phil failed to see his shadow upon emerging from his burrow on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pa., Sunday, February 2, Groundhog Day, indicating spring is right around the corner.

Even Punxsutawney Phil's copy-cat competitors agree on the forecast.

Associated Press

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. An outdoor bash that looked like a summertime rock concert, complete with bare-chested men and fireworks, was a fitting prelude Sunday to Punxsutawney Phil's forecast: **Spring is nearly here.**

The sky was cloudy on Groundhog Day and the celebrated rodent failed to see his shadow at sunrise, just the 12th time that's happened in 111 years of Pennsylvania prognostications. (The last time, in 1995, turned out to be a bad guess.)

"He's just kind of complacent and ready to go about the things groundhogs do," said Bud Dunkel, president of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club.

A shadow sighting, according to tradition, would have indicated six more weeks of winter.

It was a unanimous decision among groundhogs around the nation, concurring opinions came from New York City's Staten Island Chuck; Gen. Beauregard Lee of Lilburn, Ga.; Jimmy of Sun Prairie, Wis.; Wanda at the Milwaukee County Zoo; and Buckeye Chuck of Marion, Ohio.

"We don't really care what he (Phil) says," said Jimmy spokesman Scott Lange.

Even a prairie dog got into the act: "early spring" said Lander Lil of Lander, Wyo.

Phil was pulled from his temporary burrow in a hollowed-out maple stump at 7:25 a.m. by handler Bill Deeley, whose heavy glove saved his fingers from the annoyed critter's sharp teeth.

Dunkel then looked into the 15-pound woodchuck's eyes and pretended to translate "groundhogese."

The forecast won a cheer from the estimated 20,000-plus fans who gathered in a small clearing at Gobbler's Knob in the central Pennsylvania woods. Most had waited for hours as the temperature hovered around a relatively balmy 30.

At sunup, Phil got a wakeup call from a round of fireworks. If that wasn't enough noise, there was a mass dance and sing-along to "YMCA" chants of "Day-O! Daylight come and I want to see Phil," and portly local radio station manager Chris Lash dancing atop Phil's stump to "Play That Funky Music."

"I think we've created a monster," Dunkel said. "It's a combination of a little bit of cabin fever ... plus it's on a weekend," he said.

Kevin Mason, a sophomore at Villanova, drove five hours through the night on a lark with a carload of classmates. Ellen Romsaas of Pittsburgh came with her husband, her brother, and their families. "I've waited years to do this," she said.

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GA. BROW - 8.79 ACRES - 150° Breath-taking, panoramic view of the valley with magnificent rock outcroppings. Watch the deer play in your front yard. Underground power. Private Drive. Creek. Abundant, undisturbed foliage. Restricted. Owner financing.

ADDITIONAL LISTINGS

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Cloudland-Gilbreath Mill Rd. - 5 acres - Once in a lifetime opportunity. 740 ft. of Gilbreath Creek (year-around) & 100 ft. of Gamble Creek flowing together into the mouth of the East Fork of Little River. Rhododendron & Mt. Laurel abound in this ideal setting.

Mentone (North) Brow - 1+ acre. Scenic view of the valley below. Beautiful rock outcroppings. Owner financing.

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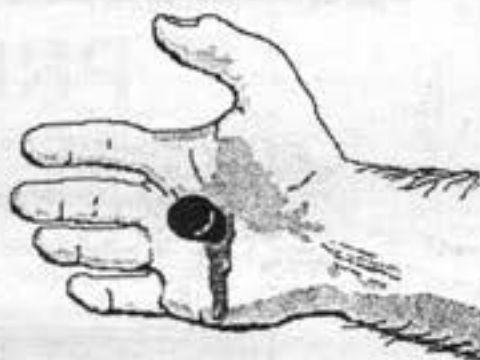
The Valley Head Band "Annual Auction"

Saturday, March 15, at 6 p.m.
in the school auditorium.

Many articles will be auctioned off from clothing to housewares and numerous other items. Proceeds will benefit the Valley Head Band. Door Prizes will also be given away.

The booster club is currently selling chances on a quilt to be given away at the auction. The quilt is on display at the Valley Head Water Board.

If you have questions, you may call 635-6527 (day) or 845-1956 (night). Auction items will be on display prior to the auction in the school auditorium.



The Sacrifice

Presented by Northside Baptist Church

6:30 p.m. March 28-30

and upon demand, Mon., March 31

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For more information,

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Dale Haynes, Pastor



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

Trust in the Lord and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Psalm 37:3

What a promise, when snow is on the ground, all heat bills are going up and the promise is still true. Trust and do good and thou shalt be fed. Remember God never sends a winter without the promise of spring. Keep trusting, it's on its way.

Happy Birthday, Girl Scouts!



From its inception on March 12, 1912, through today, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. has helped millions of girls of all backgrounds

and ages develop the skills and confidence needed to meet the many challenges of adulthood with undaunted success.



Girl Scout Week March 9-15, 1997

Girl Scout Week is celebrated during the week in which March 12 falls. This year, March 9-15 is Girl Scout Week. The first troop meeting was held in the United States on March 12, 1912, under the guidance of Juliette Gordon Lowe, the founder of the organization. It has grown into the largest voluntary organization for girls in the world. This is a celebration of the endurance of the organization that encourages leadership, well-being, caring, and togetherness.



Easter Sunrise Service

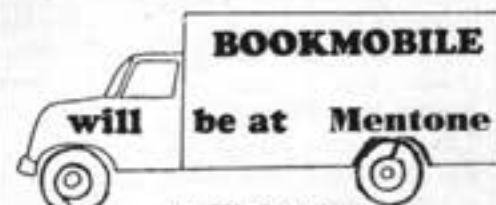
The North DeKalb Ministerial Association announces that the Annual Easter Sunrise Service will be on the Crowe Property where it has been held in previous years. The time is 7 AM. In case of inclement weather, the alternate location will be St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church. The services include all churches in the area.



North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Protection District (NLMVFPD) to have garage sale in April

The annual "garage sale" of the North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Protection District (NLMVFPD) will be in April. NLMVFPD would appreciate the donation of good items to offer the public. Check in your attic, your garage, your out-building for good, useable items and donate them to the NLMVFPD. Contact Gail Chambers at 634-4507, for arrangements to pick up any items or to bring items. Keep watching for the announcement of the date in April.

The DeKalb County



on Wednesdays

from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

March	5	19
April	2	16 30