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16 Years
in Print**

THE

GROUNDHOG

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By M.A.P.A.**

Volume 17, No. 3

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

March 1999

"What the American Flag Means to Me" Essay Winners

One Flag, One Land, One Heart, One Hand, One Nation, Evermore!*

By Sarah Hurt, 5th Grade, 1st place

These simple words of Oliver Wendell Holmes remind us that the people of the United States of America are united forever. We have a very important symbol of that union--the American flag.

When someone mentions the American flag I think of the places that I have seen it flying. I think of the President of the United States of America. I think of the bold colors on the flag--red, white, and blue--and I think of being in the fifth grade at Moon Lake School and loving the privilege of raising and lowering the flag.

When I see the American flag I feel proud of my country, and I appreciate that we have leaders who make decisions that help our country. Seeing the flag makes me feel accepted because I am a citizen and have the right to be one. When the flag is flying in the wind, I think of all the people in our country being free.

Although I have seen the flag many times, a few times I have really noticed it. I notice the flag at school because my class has the responsibility of raising and lowering the flag every day. I will always remember seeing the school flag flying at half mast on the day of Mr. Jimmy Berry's funeral.

I remember seeing the flags at the Washington Monument because so many of them surround its base. I really like a picture my brother has from a backpacking trip his Boy Scout Troop took. It is [a] picture of them on top of Baldy Mountain with the American flag flying on a makeshift pole in the background. I just like that somebody thought to take a flag up there with them and hang it up to celebrate their accomplishment.

My favorite part of the flag is the stars because they represent the fifty states. I know from reading books that it was a big day when a territory became a state. I think the stars remind me of those stories.

The American flag plays an important role in all of our lives. It reminds us of the laws of our country that we should live by. It reminds us that we are all part of a great nation. Also, it reminds us that our country is united and strong even though we disagree about some things.

She's a grand ole flag. She's a high flying flag. And forever in peace may she wave

* from a poem by Oliver Wendell Holmes



What The American Flag Means To Me

By Katie Gray, 5th Grade, 2nd Place

The American Flag came into existence when George Washington wanted something to represent our nation. In the town where he lived, he asked the finest seamstress, Betsy Ross, to make a flag to represent the thirteen colonies. The flag had thirteen stars in a circle and thirteen stripes.

Years have passed since the flag was made, and now there are fifty stars and the thirteen stripes to represent the fifty states.

In the 1970's, the hippies tried to burn the flag to show that it meant nothing to them.

What the flag really means to me besides its history is that one of the stars represents the state in which I live, and that after all these years, the flag is still flying and it represents the

men and women who lost their lives in the armed forces to insure that we have freedom and that our country remains untouched by war. It represents the families who have bravely given their sons and daughters but who remained strong Americans.

As I look at the American flag at halfmast or flying in all its glory, or as I stand to pledge allegiance to the flag, I am reminded of the sacrifices that have been made that the flag might still be intact. I am grateful for the freedoms I enjoy as an American, and the flag is a reminder to me of that privilege.

This poem written by an anonymous poet speaks what I feel:

I'm proud of this America
In which I had my birth
To me it is the grandest place
Of any on this earth.
I'm proud to know the stars and stripes
floats over great and small,
And gives regardless of their race
Security to all.
And, for the blessed privilege
Of being safe and free,
I'll try my very best to make
My country proud of me



What I Like About Our Flag

By Kira Goodwin, 3rd Place

I like the flag because it shows almost everything about the states in America. I also think it's neat that we made up a song about the flag. I never knew that each color of the flag had a meaning until now.

Red means, "Courage"; white means, "Purity", and blue means, "Justice". I think these words really symbolize our nation. Whenever I see our country's flag, it makes me feel proud about our nation. When I hear our national anthem it makes me grateful that we are a free country. I like our flag for all it represents, our nation, our states, our history, and most of all our freedom. I hope in the future all generations will love and know everything about our flag.



What the American Flag Means to Me

By Alisha Bushy, 1st Place

To me, the United States flag stands as a symbol of hope, flying in the name of peace. It is a tribute to the accomplishments of yesterday and the dreams and hopes of tomorrow. The colors of the flag, red, white, and blue, can stand for many different things. To me, red is for the courage of the men and women who have fought for our country. White is for our liberty and freedom, and blue stands for loyalty and faith.

God has given us many things and the United States flag is one of them. God gave us the flag to let us know that he has given us peace, hope, and liberty. For this reason, I will pledge my allegiance now and forever to the stars and stripes of the United States of America.



What the American Flag Means to Me

By Anna Rievely, 2nd Place

The American flag, flying high from the east coast to the west coast, means many things to many people. The American

flag, for some, symbolizes hope and equality. For some, it is a symbol of freedom. To me, the American flag means unity, unity from the past to the present.

The American flag consists of thirteen stripes and fifty stars. This is where the nickname "Stars and Stripes" originated. The stars and stripes come together to form one perfect unit. To me, this symbolizes the unity required to form the union we have today, the completed United States of America.

When Betsy Ross sat down to sew the first flag of this nation, there were thirteen members of the United States. She sewed thirteen red and white stripes. To me, this was a symbol of the bond shared by the original thirteen states as they worked to become one nation, under one government. Then, she added a square to the corner. In this square, she put thirteen white stars, also a symbol of the thirteen states.

Over the next few years, there were many additions to this flag Betsy Ross had made. The number of stripes stayed the same, but as one by one more states joined the union, the number of stars increased. In my opinion, the number of stripes stayed the same so that throughout time, the memory of the original thirteen colonies, of their work, and of their sacrifices would not be forgotten. I believe that there were stars added to represent new members and to symbolize the nation as a whole.

As the American flag flies forever over the United States, it will continue to mean many different things to many people. For me, it will always symbolize the unity of the original thirteen states and those that later joined the union. It will forever remind me of the work and sacrifices made by the states to form one nation. To me, the American flag is a symbol of unity, unity from the past to the present.



What the American Flag Means to Me

By Buck Strickland, 3rd Place

To me the American flag not only represents a symbol of freedom, but also unity as a nation. When I ponder upon the American flag it represents to me the knowledge that it took our forefathers to bring forth from a young nation the country that we now know as the United States of America. It also reminds me of the thousands of great men who lost their lives fighting for this wonderful nation.

(See schedule of events on Page 18.) (Continued on Page 5.)

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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.

Editor.....Evelyn Graves
Associate Editor/ typesetter.....Marie Dillenbeck
Contributing Writers..... Ruby Brock, Linda Brown, Eloise Brown, Madeleine Bullock, Marilyn Campbell, Bernise Crow, Marie Dillenbeck, Dowe Foreman, Evelyn Graves, Phil Harris, Lisa Moore, Sue Schwarz, Jennifer Smith

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Collette Kerby named to the National Register of Who's Who in Executives and Professionals

Collette Kerby, owner of the Log Cabin Restaurant and Deli was named in Dec. to the National Register of "Who's Who in Executives and Professionals." The 2000 edition is registered at the Library of Congress in Wash, D.C., and selection is certified by Dunn and Bradstreet for those individuals "who have reached a level of recognizable success in their respective field."

"Travel" (a special to the Star Banner) by Arturo and Maureenbrigid Gozalez recently featured the "Log Cabin Deli," which included two places a must to visit in North Alabama: The Log Cabin Deli and Unclaimed Baggage of Scottsboro.

The Mississippi Chapter of the RV's and Gold Wings travel brochure featured the Log Cabin Restaurant and Deli with special "kudos" to Rick Weber for making their visit so enjoyable.

The Log Cabin Restaurant and Deli is also featured in two hardback books, "Northeast Mountains" and "Alabama Historic Restaurants."

Do you have a picture or an article you would like to submit?

To submit pictures for an issue of The Groundhog, please get them in by the 15th of each month to either Evelyn Graves or Marie Dillenbeck. Copy or articles should be in no later than the 20th, so the paper can be printed on the 25th of each month. Thank you.

--PUBLIC NOTICE-- MENTONE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Meeting Dates for 1999:

March 18 June 17

September 16 December 16

All meetings are at 4 P.M., are open to the public, and are held in the Town Hall.

Larry Dodson's "Comforting Thoughts" Prints on Sale

You can still purchase a Larry Dodson print of "Comforting Thoughts" by contacting the DeKalb County Children's Advocacy Center.

This print was made especially for the Advocacy Center as a fund raiser. The cost is \$10.00 and is available at the Advocacy Center, Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; and also at the tag office in DeKalb County. Call 256-997-9700 to reserve your copy.



MAPA Meeting

President Homer Crow called the March 1st meeting order and Jim Lyday gave the invocation. New member Cheryl Baker, of The Shed, was welcomed. Jim Lyday, has been out for several months due to health problems, welcomed back.

Some issues that were discussed at the February meeting were: the installation of signs by the Alabama Department of Transportation (DOT) to slow large trucks down as they go through the town of Mentone. One suggestion was a petition be drawn up and made available throughout the community to obtain as many signatures as possible, forward the petition to the DOT, requesting that their department help with the speed problem in Mentone.

Sherman Gough made a motion that MAPA purchase a microwave to donate to the Community Center, which was seconded by Mickey Gough, and passed by the members.

Mr. Gough also announced that it was time for another Adopt-A-Mile pickup on the MAPA mile. During the March meeting, the date was set for Saturday, March 20, 9 a.m., with Saturday, March 27, being the alternate date in case of bad weather. Those volunteering are to meet at Reilly's Deli parking lot to begin the pickup.

Bernise Crow presented a brief history of MAPA.

The speaker for the February meeting was Elizabeth Wheatley of the Children's Advocacy Center in Fort Payne. At the March meeting, Bernise Crow read a list of 1983 common goals of MAPA, which included the following that were adopted and completed or ongoing:

- obtaining an official designation of the Old Hill Square in Mentone as a state and national "historic district"
- continued support of The Groundhog publication.
- reconstruction of the historic rock wall.
- rebuilding of the public picnic shelter at brow park.
- participation and promotion of quality, seasonal events in the Mentone Area.
- highway recognition signs for the Mentone area.
- encouraging the state and county road department to paint point divider stripes on area roads (Co. Rd. 89 was painted as a result of their efforts).

- a membership drive to increase membership in MAPA
- Cleaning and enhancing the Mentone Springs site (this has been a project that was done in the past.)

At the March 1st meeting, Corinne Caplano made a motion that MAPA clean up the pathway to the Mentone Springs. Mickey Gough seconded the motion and the members approved. Friday, March 12, at 3 PM, was the date to look into the project to see what will be necessary to clean the overgrown pathway to the springs.

Bernise announced that without her usual helpers, Donna Walters and Donna Hutcheson, the Rhododendron Queen Contest may not take place.

Cheryl Baker said that the Mentone Springs and White Elephant are planning in May to have some exhibits set behind the Mentone Springs and White Elephant in order to help draw visitors to the area. Since MAPA has decided to have the Rhododendron Festival, something needs to be offered for the visitors who regularly come to this area during May. They plan to have Rhododendrons for sale as well as a variety of crafts. MAPA may have a booth.

Dot Crow introduced the speaker for the March meeting, Mr. Ricky Little of the Alabama Emergency Management Association. A lifelong resident of Ider, Mr. Little devoted his time to helping people by volunteering his time at the Ider Rescue Squad (21 years, so far), being a former Mayor of Ider, working on the Ider Fire Department for years. He spoke on the weather problems and possibility of tornados, focusing on installation of sirens to warn DeKalb County residents of tornados. Mr. Little is actively seeking funding to have sirens installed in the county at strategic places, schools if possible, for early warning in the event of such storms. A NOAA Weather Radio was recommended for each home to help prepare for any type of weather.

In an emergency situation, his recommendation was to go to the basement or lowest floor of your home. The best place is in the center of your home where there are no windows. Linen closets are the best protection because of availability blankets, pillows and other bedding. Keep a flashlight handy at all times.

The meeting was adjourned to have refreshments.

SPORTS AFIELD

By
PHIL HARRIS



NATIONAL SPORTS AT A GLANCE

Women's Basketball: The Tennessee Lady Vols won another SEC women's championship in Chattanooga. They defeated Florida, Alabama, and Georgia to claim the crown. Tennessee goes for a fourth straight national title beginning next week.

Many people are going to be glad to see Chamique Holdsclaw finally leave Tennessee. She has already been voted the second best college player of all time, behind Cheryl Miller. If Tennessee wins a fourth consecutive national championship, I believe she will be considered the best.

As many as eight SEC teams may make the big dance. Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, LSU, Auburn, and Florida are probables. Miss. St., Ole Miss, and Arkansas are on the bubble with winning records. Simply put, the SEC is the premier conference in women's college basketball.

Auto Racing: Mark Martin won the Dura-Lube 400 at the North Carolina Speedway. Martin's triumph followed up an exciting Daytona 500 win by Jeff Gordon. Mike Skinner leads the early season points chase over Rusty Wallace and Ken Schrader. Martin is 8th, Gordon is 11th, and Dale Earnhardt is 17th. Next stop - Las Vegas.

Men's College Basketball: Auburn has enjoyed a remarkable 26-2 season, an SEC western division title, and a possible number one seeding in the NCAA tournament. The Tigers have been ranked as high as two and are the favorite to win the SEC tournament in Atlanta.

Tennessee surprised Kentucky and won the eastern division title. Tennessee may be one of those darkhorse teams in the NCAA tournament. They have won six straight games. Alabama really came on at the end of the season. Coach Mark Gottfried did a wonderful job of holding this team together. After being routed by Tennessee and Auburn, this team rebounded to upset Kentucky, Ole Miss, and Arkansas. The Tide finished at 16-13 and are probably headed for the NIT. Look for the Tide to upset Georgia in the first round of the SEC tournament. Then, they get Auburn.

The SEC feels like it should get at least six teams in the NCAA tourney. Tennessee, Auburn, Florida, Kentucky, and Arkansas are in. Mississippi and Mississippi State are on the bubble.

Groundhog top ten: 1. Duke 2. Connecticut
3. Auburn 4. Michigan St. 5. Stanford 6. Maryland
7. Cincinnati 8. Miami 9. Arizona 10. St. Johns

NBA Basketball: The NBA is just not the same without Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls. The Bulls lose night after night and there is no one to root for or against. With players changing teams like baseball now, it is hard to get interested. One constant has been Jordan and the Bulls. Now, that's gone.

Indiana, Miami, Utah, and the L.A. Lakers are projected as being the best. In a 50-game shortened season, who knows. Right now, it seems to be, who cares!

Pro Baseball: Atlanta and the New York Yankees continue to buy the best players to keep them on top. Baltimore, New

York Mets, L.A. Dodgers, and Cleveland Indians have made major strides to compete with the Yanks and Braves.

College Baseball: The SEC puts together some pretty good teams this time of the year. LSU, Alabama, Auburn, Florida, and Mississippi State were the top teams last year. I understand that Alabama sold out its season ticket allotment, already. With the SEC tournament being in Birmingham, it gives Alabama and Auburn time to build a pretty good fan base.

SPORTS ON THE SCENE

The Geraldine Lady Bulldogs (20-12) followed up a 1998 State 2-A runner-up trophy with another 2-A runner-up trophy in 1999. Only, this time, it was a little disappointing. Geraldine led number one ranked Cold Springs 48-45, with four minutes to go. They did not score until a basket by Brandi Roberts to cut the lead to 56-50, with 13 seconds left. It was in the Lady Bulldogs grasp, it just slipped away.

Coach Steve Simpson's team completed an amazing run. They were 11-11 after they were upset by Sylvania in the DeKalb County Tournament. They were struggling and left for dead. They went to work and things just started clicking. After the county tournament, they defeated West End to clinch home field advantage in the 2-A Area 13 tournament. Geraldine won the area tournament and defeated sixth ranked Valley Head in the sub-regional. They withstood a 37 point, 10 rebound performance by Pam Garrett and defeated Lineville. They capped that with an upset of second ranked Fyffe in the region finals at Jacksonville State. On to Birmingham, when they defeated fourth ranked Alabama Christian 69-44. Nine straight wins and back to the finals. Cold Springs ended an amazing run by Geraldine. If you look back and see what they accomplished after the county tournament, it was just phenomenal. As one Geraldine fan might say, "It was no fluke this time."

Other teams of note:

GIRLS

Valley Head (24-9) - The Lady Tigers were 2A runner-up to Fyffe. They had to travel to eventual state runner-up, Geraldine, and lost 64-53.

Fyffe (31-3) - The Lady Devils fell short of their main goal - a 2-A state championship. Two straight years they have been Northeast region runner-up to Geraldine. Fyffe is not used to losing. Rebecca Long was voted 2-A player of the year. Congratulations, Rebecca!

Crossville (13-11) - The Lady Lions lost to 3-A Northeast Region champion North Sand Mountain at Jax State. Getting to the Northeast Region tournament for Crossville was a huge accomplishment.

BOYS

Plainview (22-9) - The Bears won the DeKalb County Tournament in Coach Terry Mitchell's final season as coach at Plainview. They lost to Springville in the sub-regionals. It will be strange going to the Rainsville Civic Center and not seeing Coach Mitchell roaming the floor.

Fort Payne (24-4) - The Wildcats were shocked at home in the area tournament semi-finals, on a half court shot by Hazel Green. A great year and heart breaking end for Fort Payne.

Crossville (24-6) - Crossville finished runner-up to Litchfield in 3-A Area 10. They lost to Randolph County in the sub-regional.

Collinsville (23-9) - The Panthers were beaten by 1A Northeast region finalist Madison Academy. They were runner-up in the area to the other region finalist - Spring Garden.

Valley Head (15-13) - The Tigers lost to Ider in the first round of the area tournament. Valley Head finished the season with a winning record for the first time since 1986-87. They have only had three winning seasons since 1967.

That does it for another month. God bless!

From Between the Counters

By
BRUTUS



Devoted fans and loyal readers, greetings from Atlanta. Last year about this time, Moi's life between the counters changed. Moi is still hard at work here in the Atlanta area helping keep major crime and theft to a minimum. As I said last February: Atlanta is no Mentone—for sure.

Moi has heard that moi's favorite spot between the counters will soon belong to new owners. **The Mentone Superette** has been sold! Al's last day was Saturday, Feb. 27, as it was for faithful workers, Cheryl Crane, Eric Crane and Cricket Liles.

The new owners are Hobson and Martha Kirby. They have great plans to keep the Superette a thriving business. Moi has heard that the store will be closed for renovations and the installation of new gas pumps. The plan is to have the Superette open around the middle of April, this year.

Hobson and Martha will treat all the customers right, they love Mentone and the people in it. Hobson worked for several years on the Mentone Town Council and Martha works for the Mentone Post Office. They also own The Catalog Store in Trion, Ga., so they know what it takes to keep the customers happy.

Keep watching **The Groundhog** for their grand opening date and plan to celebrate with them on their BIG day. Mentone has always had two stores, and the Superette will continue to meet the demands of its customers when it reopens.

Moi is pleased that such fine people will be carrying on the tradition that the Blackburns started way back in 1920, when William's parents, J.O. and Naomi, began Blackburn's General Store. William bought the Superette in 1962, and turned it over to Al in 1994. William died December 20, 1997. He is mourned by all who knew him.

Al has had to juggle two businesses: the Superette and Blackburn's Nursery, besides having a family: wife Vickie, and two children, Wil and Alex, that keep him mighty busy. Al is lucky he has Vickie to run the nursery when he's not there. While Moi was between the counters, Wil and Alex visited a lot with their mom, Vickie. They all hope to have more time with each other with just the nursery to look after. Moi knows how fast the little ones grow up.

For all you super fans out there, moi misses your adoration and devotion, but with moi's duties keeping crime to a minimum over here in Atlanta, there hasn't been time to make the trip back to visit.

Well, it's about time to make the rounds again. A great canine's work is never done—he just finds other places to be of service. Thank you for being there, fans. Remember, Moi loves you!

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Mentone Grapevine II

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

The Mentone Superette has been sold and will reopen around the middle of April. Check the Brutus column on page 3, for the details.

Thanks to **Danny Greenleaf** of G & G Business Machines in Fort Payne for keeping my equipment going to continue typesetting *The Groundhog*. I don't know what I'd do if he didn't come when I needed him. Thanks, Danny!

Continue to keep **Leonard and Mae Shigley** in your prayers.

Jim and Penny Lyday were thrilled to hear that the doctors could find no cancer spots when their niece, Sara, had tests done--they had disappeared. Jim and Penny believe in the power of prayer! Jim is continuing to gain strength and has been seen out in the community several times lately. Keep on improving, Jim. We need you and Penny.

Ed and Gerry Disney celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 24, with a quiet ceremony at Mentone. Congratulations, Ed and Gerry!

Buddy and Norma Williams celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary on March 2. Congratulations, Buddy and Norma!

Get well wishes go out to **Mr. Jackie Heaps** of Sylvania. Jackie was burned in an explosion at his garage on Feb. 15. He is currently in the intensive care unit at Erlanger. Keep him in your prayers.

Keep **Kathryn Jones** and husband, **Herman**, in your prayers. Both are in the nursing home at Stevenson. Also keep daughter, **Evelyn Graves**, in your prayers as she visits them.

Mrs. Myrtle Blansit is recovering from a broken hip she suffered in late January. We hope she is feeling lots better.

Our condolences to **Gail Crider** of Mentone and family on the loss of their mother, wife, grandmother, and great grandmother, **Mrs. Margaret J. Fann**, on February 22.

Mrs. Bessie Wilks is feeling much better after a sick spell, as is **Mr. Ed Ringer**. Mr. Ringer suffered from sinusitis, but he is almost as good as new now.

Our condolences go out to the **Burnett family** on the loss of their father and grandfather, as well as get well wishes to **Mrs. Burnett**.

Beth Moore and **Austin and Preslie Gifford** spent an evening together to play recently. They all had a wonderful time and hope to do it again soon. Beth is their babysitter and they love her lots. Beth's toe is all well now.

Tommy Gifford hasn't been feeling well lately and we send him get well wishes.

Jean Gauld is going to Austria to witness to the unchurched in that country. She is a great inspiration to those who know her and her work for the Lord.

Luanne Johns, of Marietta, GA., had her second birthday on March 3. She is the granddaughter of the late **Jean Matthews**.

Happy 91st Birthday to **Ruby Daniel**. She will be 91 on March 31. Many more happy returns, Ruby. We love you! Ruby is at the Fountains in Ft. Payne, Room 212. She would love to hear from all her friends.

Special Happy Birthday wishes go to **Maureen Brewer** whose birthday is March 30.

On April 5, the **Mentone Springs Hotel** celebrates its 3rd year of opening as a Bed and Breakfast under the ownership of **David and Claudia Wassom**. Congratulations, you've worked hard and it shows. Thanks for being here!

Jo and George Beaubé will be going to Copper Hill, TN, to celebrate **Minnie Sullivan's** (Jo's mother) 99th birthday, March 18. Their daughter and son-in-law, **Ann and Arturo Garcia** of El Paso, TX, were here in Mentone visiting with Jo and George. They are expecting their first child in June of this year. Congratulations to the new parents-to-be!

Congratulations to young weather artists from Valley Head whose drawings have appeared recently in the *Times-Journal*.

Dustin Davis, 10, (1/28); **Trista Blackmon**, 10, (2/3); **Ariana Beard**, 8, (2/11); **Joseph Atwood**, (10), (2/17); **Patricia Templeton**, 10, (2/19); & **Ashley Johnson** (9) (2/26).

If you haven't taken the time to stop by **Jack Jones' Red Barn** (hours 9 a.m.-3 p.m.) on County Road 106 in Mentone, it will be worth your visit. He has a waterfall, an artist gallery, antique car exhibit, and several farmyard animals, i.e., pot bellied pigs named **Annie and Tillie**; several calves, several goats, including triplets. **Marty Osborne**, who is very creative, was the builder and also is the caretaker.

Nancy Rector celebrated her birthday on Sat. Feb. 27, with a party at **Marshall & Annette Orr's** house in Valley Head. Many of Nancy's friends attended.

Bessie Moxley stopped in the town hall today. She spends a lot of quality time in Mentone, reading and relaxing from hectic life in the big city--Birmingham.

Rev. Charles Jenkins of Valley Head will have an eventful Easter this year. On April 4th, he will celebrate his 5th year of preaching at the Valley Head Baptist Church. Congratulations, Charles.

Thanks to **Marilyn Campbell** for providing my meal for Wednesday evening--the night before having this issue of *The Groundhog* printed. She was the hostess at the **Ethel Brown Unit of Mentone UMW**. I was not able to attend the luncheon before the meeting on Wednesday, but I was able to make the meeting at 1 PM. The soup, rolls, and jello sure hit the spot.

Deepest sympathies to the families of the following who have passed away:

•Mrs. Mildred Beatrice Shrader, 75, Valley Head, 2/18

•Mrs. Margaret J. Fann, 74, Ider, 2/22

•Joseph Henry Blalock, 79, Clondland, Ga., 2/22

•Willis Carmel "Doc" Gatlin, 79, Valley Head, 2/25

Dessie Newberry of **Dessie's Kountry Chef**, will celebrate being open for 8 years on March 6. Congratulations, Dessie. Thanks for "hanging in there."

This month, there are two full moons--a blue moon month!

Happy March Birthday/Anniversary wishes to: •3-Nate Wilson, Laura Martin (16); •4-Ruth Porter, Durell Owens; •5-Eiko Key, Shelby Langley; •6-Inez Guffey; •11-Marie Hunt; •12-George Shankles; •17-Mary Jane Hunt; •18-Sherryl Lewis; •19-Michelle Moore, Savannah Smith; •20-Wanda Simmons; •21-Wanda Black, Donna Bouldin; •22-Johnny Cooper; •23-April Blansit; •24-Rick Chapman, Jimmy Phillips; •25-Evelyn Graves; •26-Angie Laney, Peter Stevens (7); •27-Gary Talley; •28-Betty Chapman, Brigitta Modglin, Frankie Lewchuk, Cindy Bethune; •30-Maureen Brewer, Donyal "Foots" Rector (in memory); •31-Ruby Daniel (91).

Happy April Birthday/Anniversary wishes to: •1-Jerod Hulgant; •2-Milton Chambers, Mary Pearson, Effia & Annie Harrison; •3-Alfred Chambers. (Others will be in April issue.)

Remember, school will not be in session March 29 through April 5. It is time for Spring Break! Be careful out there!!!

Have a safe holiday and celebrate Easter by attending the **Annual Easter Sunrise Service (April 4, 7 AM)** held at the Lee Crow Farm in Mentone, and the Easter services at your church of choice.

Remember, too, on Easter, April 4, the time changes to **Daylight Savings Time!**



NOTICE: The April issue of *The Groundhog* will be published on April 1 and in the mail on April 2, and the May issue on April 29 and in the mail April 30.

Those submitting articles and/or photos, please get them to us between the 15th-20th of each month. April issue - due date is March 15-20. May issue due date is April 15-20. Thank you.

MENTONE TOWN COUNCIL

At the March 1st meeting of the Mentone Town Council the availability of water to the Lee Crow Community was discussed. The delay has been the installation of the pneumatic pump at the tank location. The pump is not completed, a new power pole needs to be set, the line flushed and meters installed. As soon as this is completed water will be furnished to the customers in that area.

Frank Hill was appointed by unanimous vote to fill vacant seat on the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District, Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors.

Other vacancies in Zoning boards were filled contingent upon the nominee accepting the appointments to the Board of Adjustment and to the Planning Commission.

With the purchase of a new police vehicle, the 1988 Ford Crown Victoria was declared surplus, and closed bids will be accepted, with March 31 being the date to receive the bids which will be opened at the April 5th meeting at 7 PM. A classified ad will appear in *The Times-Journal*.

At the February 1st meeting, the council received a conditional request to transfer the existing Mentone Cable franchise to Helicon Company, a national cable system--provided the transaction was approved, negotiated, and closed. Present for Mentone Cable were Gary Haas and Mr. Kidd along with attorney David Dodd of Fort Payne. Mr. Anthony Pope, regional manager, and Mr. Kalesch represent Helicon.

Mr. Pope presented information about his company; it has 180,000 customers from Vermont to Louisiana, including SC, NC, W VA, TN, GA, AL, and the services they provide, which will include upgrading the present cable system. They presently have service in Summerville and Milledgeville, Georgia. Mr. Pope answered questions from the council and the audience about services and rates. A motion and a second was made to allow the transfer of the franchise contingent upon the sale being successful for Mentone Cable. Questions from the audience followed before a vote. Mr. Kalesch commented on the engineering aspects of service and response time, and indicated that they are going to incorporate fiber optic cable when they rebuild the system. Mr. Kidd explained that the reason they wanted to sell to a large company is that it would have the ability to increase efficiency and number of channels available to the public, as well as the reception. A vote on the motion with the second was unanimous.

Mr. C. E. Britt, Chairman of the Planning Commission recommended that the new police officer, **Jeff Bain**, be placed on the planning board as an ex-officio member. A motion with a second to accept Mr. Britt's recommendation to appoint Jeff Bain as an ex-officio member of the Planning Commission was passed unanimously.

Johnny Ferguson, Chief of Police, recommended that the town send a petition to the State of Alabama requesting that the speed limit be changed to 35 MPH all the way through Mentone city limits on Hwy 117. A motion was passed that the town contact the appropriate department to have this done. (*See note below.)

Appreciation was expressed to the Scouts of Pack 106 Mentone for attending the meeting and conducting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The next town council meeting will be on **April 5th**, and the time will change to **7 PM** for the meeting, as daylight savings time begins on April 4.

(*The Department of Transportation (DOT) was contacted, and Mr. Curtis Lowe, District Manager of the DOT in Dutton, AL, came to the town hall on Wednesday morning, March 3, in response to a telephone call to him about several matters. He said that the proper procedure would be to contact Mr. Kerry Nee Smith at the Guntersville office and he would explain the exact procedure to follow.)



REMEMBER!

Daylight Saving Time

BEGINS April 4th

Continued from page 1.

When I look at the thirteen stripes of the American flag, it makes me realize how thirteen small colonies can generate a melting pot filled with free people-no matter what race or denomination. I know when I look at the stars on the flag I'm also looking at fifty free, but united, states which are now recognized as a free nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all. Therefore, with only the flag in mind, I am proud to be an American, living under the flag that symbolizes freedom and unity.

THE VALLEY HEAD WOMAN'S CLUB

The Valley Head Woman's Club met at the Valley Head Baptist Church on February 17 to make awards to winners in the annual essay contest. The essays this year were titled "What the American Flag Means to Me!"

Inelle Hurt gave the devotional based on scripture in the book of Esther. Her theme was "our date with destiny" and she emphasized our responsibility to do the best we can and put Christ first in our lives.

In the absence of Sue Hamilton (our Education and Special Projects Chairman), Ruth Hammon welcomed the essay contestants, their parents and teachers. She read an interesting writeup by Sue Hamilton about the American flag and its history.

Joyce Smith, 5th grade teacher at Moon Lake School, introduced the three winners from her class. They were: 1st place, Sarah Hurt; 2nd place, Katie Gray; and 3rd place, Kira Goodwin. Rhonda Lasser, teacher at Valley Head High School, introduced the winners from that school. They were: 1st place, Alisha Busby; 2nd place, Anna Rievley; and 3rd place, Buck Strickland.

Each student read his/her essay aloud. All of them were very good and each one received a certificate and a monetary award. The essays begin on page one and continue at the top of this page.

Refreshments were served immediately after the readings so that the students and teachers could get back to school in time to catch buses. The ladies in charge of refreshments were Martha Stanley, Ruth Hammon, Edna Morgan, and Adelaide Biddle. The fellowship hall was appropriately decorated with small flags, red, white and blue centerpieces, and napkins. Everything was delicious and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The business meeting was called to order by President Evelyn Graves. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Martha Stanley.

Recording Secretary Judith Hammon called the roll and read the minutes of the last meeting.

Members discussed the preparation of a meal for seniors on March 4. Cooks are: Inelle Hurt, Helen Longshore, and Flo Kirby. On April 1, Cooks will be: Evelyn Graves, Jan Wilkinson, and Dallyne Jones.

Edna Morgan announced details of the plans for our Spring Luncheon on May 19 at Nippersink Lodge. The cost will be \$10.00 per person and it will be appreciated if everyone will turn their money at the April meeting.

The hostess gift was won by Inelle Hurt.



L/R: Kira Goodwin, 3rd place; Katie Gray, 2nd place; Sarah Hurt, 1st Place; teacher Joyce Smith from Moon Lake School



L/R: Buck Strickland, 3rd place; Anna Rievley, 2nd place; Alisha Busby, 1st Place; teacher Rhonda Lasser from Valley Head School



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GIRL SCOUTS®

Each year, Girl Scouts of the United States celebrate Girl Scout Week during the week in which March 12 falls. The first troop meeting was held in the United States on March 12, 1912. During Girl Scout Week, troops show their communities what they do.

Mrs. Juliette Gordon Low established Girl Guiding in the United States in 1912. She soon changed the name to Girl Scouting. Mrs. Low held the first troop meeting in her home in Savannah, Ga., on March 12, 1912. The organization opened its national headquarters in Washington, D.C., in 1913. The headquarters later were moved to New York City. The national organization was incorporated in 1915, and Mrs. Low became the first president. In 1950, the U.S. Congress issued a charter to the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. in recognition of its service.

GIRL SCOUTING:

BUILDING

A FOUNDATION OF EXCELLENCE

National Girl Scout Week: March 7-13, 1999

UNITED GIVERS FUND OF DEKALB COUNTY, INC. GIRL SCOUTS OF NORTH ALABAMA, INC.

Q. What is the Mission Statement of Girl Scouts of North Alabama?

A. It is the mission of Girl Scouts of North Alabama, Inc. to serve as the major community resource for development of girls into self-assured, resourceful women who will be tomorrow's leaders.

Q. Is Girl Scouting open to all girls in DeKalb County and are there membership fees or other costs?

A. Girl Scouting is offered to all girls in kindergarten through twelfth grades (ages 5-17) in DeKalb County schools. Recruitment flyers and posters are distributed to all schools and public libraries throughout the area. There are some costs involved including fees for district events. These fees are nominal and help cover the cost of materials. However, financial assistance is available to all girls and adults if needed.

Q. How does the Girl Scout Program differ from that of other youth groups?

A. Girl Scout Programs provide an all-girl environment with activities that are coordinated by trained adult leaders. These activities are consistent with Girl Scout principles, beliefs, and practices. Girl Scouting's major thrust is helping young women face the challenges of today's world.

Q. In addition to the scheduled meetings, what are some of the activities and events girls can participate in?

A. All girls can attend and participate in age-appropriate programs and events such as: resident camp, day camp, fun days, badge workshops, and weekend events through the "Out and About" program. There is also specialized leadership and program training opportunities for the older girls.

JoAnn Pearson, District IV Director for DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall Counties encourages girls and adults to attend upcoming District IV programs such as: Awareness Adventure—Dealing with Disabilities, Gun Safety Classes, and the Annual Mothers and Daughters Conference. Girl Scouts of North Alabama sponsors the N.E. Alabama Women of Distinction Program and a variety of school field trips available to DeKalb County School children and teachers.

The Annual N.E. Alabama Women of Distinction Banquet will be held on Thursday evening March 11 at the First United Methodist Church in Scottsboro. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and is \$20.00 per person. Advance reservations are required.

Family Gun Safety Day will be held on April 17 at Camp Trico in Guntersville. Cost is \$5.00 per person and covers lunch.

For more information on the Girl Scouting program in DeKalb County, or to make reservations for any of the upcoming events, call JoAnn Pearson at (256) 582-0093.

Valley Head School News

by Lisa Moore

AEA week is March 29th through April 2nd, and there will be no school on Monday, April 5th.

The PTO meeting for March will be held on Tuesday, March 2nd, and there will be a special presentation from Bob Johnson, Assistant D.A. Please plan to be there.

Amber Hannah, daughter of Bobby & Cathy Hannah of Valley Head was the 2nd place winner in the DeKalb County Spelling Bee. Amber is in the 6th grade in Valley Head. She received a dictionary and a trophy.

The 5th and 6th grade classes will attend a Scholars Bowl on April 9th, 10th, and 11th.

Congratulations to Mr. L.A. Smith's FFA Land Judging team. They came in 2nd this year in a land judging contest.

Mrs. Camp's class was the winner of \$25.00 for the most attendance at the February PTO meeting. The PTO also voted to give \$400.00 to her class to help go toward their trip to Space Camp.

The 6th grade class would like to thank everyone who helped to raise the money for the Space Camp trip. There were many people and businesses who donated money, and the class wishes to thank all of them.

Sissy Crider's art class at Valley Head has been working on a collage for each one of the students. If you have a chance to do so, go by and check them out.

The new drivers education car has finally arrived! We would like to thank all the members of the DeKalb County Board of Education for their help in getting the new vehicle. Mr. Terry Wooten, board member for our district, helped a lot on this project.

BAND NEWS

The new band room at Valley Head is taking shape. Shaw donated carpet for one of the rooms and the band students spent one of their holidays working on the new band room. They would like to thank Josh Miller for coming to help them work. The kids picked up trash around the building and painted the inside walls. The heating and air conditioning has been installed and plumbing is complete. Mr. John Fischer did the plumbing work and the band is very grateful for this. Thank you to everyone who has helped on this project.

Effie and Annie Harrison and Kerstin Formhals traveled to Southside High School on January 30th to represent Valley Head Band in a competition. The whole band also played at the Scottsboro High School on Thursday, February 18th. They would like to remind everyone that their annual auction will be held on Saturday, March 20, 1999. The Miss Spring Fantasy Beauty Pageant will be held on April 24th.

DeKalb County All County Band tryouts will be held on Thursday, March 4th. Valley Head Band has several band students trying out for this. The concert will be at the Rainsville Civic Center on Saturday, March 6th at 6:00 P.M. Admission is \$2.00 per person. This is a time to come hear great young musicians from all the county bands.

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Valley Head Elementary Science Fair Winners

4TH GRADE

1st place: Dallas Manning

2nd place: Adam Tuxbury

3rd place: Sydney Johnson

4th place: Zack Cooper

Honorable Mention: Ethan Lewis

5TH GRADE

1st place: Tiffany Beard

2nd place: Tyler Harrison

3rd place: Trista Blackmon

4th place: Heather McLemore

Honorable Mention- Christina Armistead

6TH GRADE

1st place: Amber Hannah

2nd place: Ben Windom

3rd place: Kim Pritchett

4th place: Chris Miller

Honorable Mention: Jackie Davis

Each 1st place winner received a \$10 Savings Bond donated by Citizens Bank. 2nd place winner received \$25.00 donated by the Valley Head PTO. Each 3rd place winner received \$15.00 donated by the Valley Head PTO. Each 4th place winner received a ribbon. In addition, there were "Overall" winners who each received a medal.

THE OVERALL WINNERS WERE:

1st place: Dallas Manning

2nd place: Tiffany Beard

3rd place: Adam Tuxbury

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MOON LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HONOR ROLLS FIRST SEMESTER

FIRST GRADE

All A's
Desiree Cash
Ethan Crider
Michael Harrison
Keisha Powell
Peter Stevens
All A's & B's
Alex Blackburn
Ethan Blackwell
James Hawk
Whitney King
Kaleb McMunn
Tia Newell
Michael Norman
Jacob Tweedell
Leanna Webb
Brandon Willingham

All A's & B's
Thorn Rich
Nathan Jones
Matt Pollard
Fred Castleberry

3RD GRADE

All A's
Randy Addison
Kayla Hazell
Sarah Petersen
Sheena Tishaw
All A's & B's
Tim Bain
Patrick Murphy
Tom Tipton
Paige Wright

4TH GRADE

All A's
Brittany Bevel
Mark Corey
Julie Ingram
Drew Smith
All A's & B's
Barnabus Bettis
Logan Chambers
Melissa Crane
Alex Hazell
Katie Herndon
Angel Wesley
Robin Stevens
Justin Smith
Whitney LaBuda
Phillip McNutt

5TH GRADE

All A's
Lori Hope
Emily Tipton
Joshua Pollard
Sarah Hurt
Katie Gray
John Baxter
Jared Bare
All A's & B's
Cayla Voils
Melissa Harrison
Brandy Manning
Kira Goodwin
Laura Floyd

6TH GRADE

All A's
Kelly Wright
Kristen Addison
A's & B's
Josh Smith
Sarah Dodd
Matt Hawkins
Fawn Kitchens
Erica Campbell
Catrina Ingram
Andrew McCole
Josh Tweedell

2ND GRADE

All A's
Lauren Addison
Brittany Hester
Daniel Hughes
Heather Smith
Megan Smith
Kara Miller
Jessica Easter
Eric Hunt
Vance Carden
Sierra Nicely

MOON LAKE SCHOOL NEWS

PTO will meet on Tuesday, March 9, at 6:30 PM. Doughnut orders are to be turned in on Monday, March 8. The doughnuts will be delivered on Thursday, March 11. Proceeds from this sale, as always, will benefit Aerospace Week, which will be occurring at Moon Lake School in April.

Spring Break will begin on Monday, March 29, and continue through Monday, April 5.

Work on the gym entrance and floor is under way, and we are grateful to all those who helped raise money and also those who gave money, as well as those who are donating their time and talent toward making this project a reality.

A Lost Love

He's someone I hold near my heart,
My love for him so deep he'll never part.
I think of him all the day through,
I'll never forget the love we once knew.
To remember our love, it has been so sad,
The son that lives on for him I'm glad.
That awful night I will never forget,
Time for him was truly up, yet
He barely knew life at twenty-one,
I wish he had more time to enjoy his son.
He'll never know what his son will be,
Unless he's an angel watching from a tree.
My son will never know his father
Sometimes I wonder why do I bother.
I thank God every day for this life
For the son he left in his place.
Six months old when his father passed away,
The boy will know everything I can say.
I'll give him his last name
So the generation will live on.
I still can't believe my true love is gone.

In memory of Victor Ray Sargent
Born November 24, 1973
Died April 2, 1995
--Helen Marie VanHook

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MUST SELL-Owner Relocating-Great Mountain Retreat-Cloudland-4 years old. Entrance foyer, great room offering kitchen/dining/living area. Master suite with large bath & separate entrance. 2nd BR and additional utility bath. 0.78 acre tract at \$69,900. Add'l 5.70 acres available. Must See!! Must Sell!!



CLOUDLAND - Beautiful two story home overlooking the east fork of Little River sports 3 BR, 1 BA, kitchen, formal dining, great room with stone fireplace, screened porch overlooking river, wet bar and mountain stone fireplace, 2 car garage, shop, and storage area, plus large unfinished attic. 2.5 +/- acre tract, showcased by mountain laurel, rhododendron, and natural beauty of the mountain. Too many amenities to list, and priced at only \$129,000. (No G-57)



MENLO - Beautiful southern Victorian Plantation home located in scenic Menlo with 2900+ sq. ft. heated area. Entrance from large L-shaped column porch leads to formal foyer which defines lower level-offering formal sitting area, formal dining w/built-in cabinetry, updated kitchen w/island and pantry, full bath, study bedroom and back porch. Formal staircase leads to 4 BR, 1 BA and sitting area upstairs. Amenities include pretty hardwood floors, some carpeting, high ceilings, HVAC, etc. Immaculate grounds include fencing, pecan and walnut trees, concrete driveway, large detached garage, outbuilding, and much more on 2.34+ acres. Must see to appreciate. APPT. ONLY!! \$179,000.00



MENTONE, ALA - Co. Rd. 106 - Neat 3 BR, 1 BA, living room, kitchen/dining combination, appliances included, large lot. \$54,500 with owners paying up to \$2,500 in closing. APPT. ONLY!! \$A-23



MRS. ROBBIE GREEN ESTATE - once in a lifetime opportunity. Approx. 2+ acres - 1500 sq. ft. Original Mountain Home features Sun Room, Living room with stone fireplace, Dining Room, 3 BRs, hardwood floors, kitchen, 1 bath - much, much more - Located at the intersection of Hwy 48 and 157. Potential. Potential with the best location on the mountain.



CLOUDLAND, GA - East Fork of Little River runs through your backyard! 6.33 acres, mtn. tract & Home w/great room, FP, finished basement. 24 Hour Property Info-1-800-801-9882 #604

EAST BROW - SCENIC VIEW LOTS All our lots offer uncluttered views - watch the sun and moon rise in elegance. Outlook Properties - Hwy 157 - Cloudland; Lot 8 - 2.36 acres - 151 ft. of brow - \$37,500. Lot 10 - 1.28 acres - 150 ft. of brow - \$27,500. Restricted with easy access to Hwy 157. Great view of valley and surrounding mountains.

Hwy 157 - 10 acres back to State property on two sides. \$3,000 per acre. Sold as a whole.

Hwy 157 - Cloudland - T1 - 1.60 acre Under Contract 1.52 acre - 100 ft. of brow. Beautiful views - easy access. Restricted. \$39,500 each (Under Contract)

Mountain River Estates - Hwy 117 Mentone - Phase 1 & 2 now open. 3 to 5 acre riverfront tracts starting at \$27,500.00 4 to 15 acre mtn. stream tracts starting at \$10,000.

31.5 acres on Hwy. 48 near Menlo. Creek, pasture, and planted pines.

Cooper Ridge - Teloga Creek traverses northern boundary of this 92+ acre tract of rolling hills with beautiful view of Lookout Mountain. Private entrance, county water available. \$2400 per acre. No subdividing. (No G-44)

Mentone - Hwy. 117S - Multi use pole Contract Pending 1000 sq. ft. living room, dining, kitchen, 3 BR, 2 car carport. Also on property is 1-room cabin w/mountain view. 24 Hour Property Info-1-800-801-9882 #605

THE SHED

Celebrates Grand Opening

On Feb. 7th, The Shed celebrated its Grand Opening in honor of Robert (Spokey) Baker, former owner of The Shed, and father of David Baker, present owner. The Shed opened up in 1985. Spokey and his brother Wayne bought 10 acres and cleaned it off. At that time, out of the back of a pickup, Spokey and Wayne started selling produce that they grew themselves.

In 1986, with the help of Ink Foster, they tore down an old building to use the good material to put up a new building. The store was called "Plain Country." It started by selling Furniture, Porch Rockers, Collectibles, Baskets and Produce.

Years later, Spokey and Wayne expanded by adding a Fiberglass Green House. Spokey and Wayne began then to sell bedding plants. Back then, you could buy a flat of bedding plants that held 96 to a flat.

Then, a year later, they added on a 12 x32 room for Fireworks. Shortly after, Spokey decided to buy Wayne out and run it on his own.

Today, the Shed is called "The Shed," because whenever folks in Mentone would give directions there, they would say "down the road on the left hand side where the shed is." Spokey decided at that time, since people knew it to be a shed to call it "The Shed."

In May of 1996, Spokey was diagnosed with cancer. Spokey passed on Dec. 24, 1996.

David and Norma resumed ownership for a year. In Nov. of 1997, David decided to buy Norma out to enable her to retire.

The Shed is now being run by David and his wife, Cheryl Baker. This brought them to their 1999 Grand Opening. The Grand Opening was to celebrate the remodeling of the Store, as well as the Nursery. The store is now a four seasonal gift shop, along with the new additions to the Nursery of the Fiber Glass Green House, Cool Winter Plants, and Landscaping. For the convenience of their customers, The Shed is a growing company in many areas.

David and Cheryl said, "We announced at the Grand Opening Water Gardens, Bog Plants, Ornamental Grasses, Pond Liners, and Pond supplies would be coming March 1st. The community came out to celebrate this wonderful and beautiful day, which included lots of food and a door prize. We would like to give a special 'Thanks to our Community' for coming out and supporting the Grand Opening. With the celebration of the Grand Opening, there was lots of preparation to be done for remodeling, food, and cleaning up. We would like to tell people who made this dream come true that 'We Love you and Thank you!' Those volunteers were: Carolyn Gold, Corinne Caplano, Jane McSpadden, Richard Baker, and Norma Baker. Without these people, it would not have been possible. 'Thanks, Guys!'

"We would like to announce the Prize Winner of the door prize: Judy McMahan of Valley Head, AL. Judy won an Indian Pot Pottery for plants. She decided to exchange it for a 3 Wick Pillar Candle and a Cherub Candle Holder. 'Congratulations, Judy McMahan.'"

--David and Cheryl Baker

"Beware the Ides of March!" I think this has something to do with Julius Caesar and his being betrayed by his best friend. "If March comes in like a lamb, it goes out like a lion!" Another warning to watch out for the month of March. March is usually the beginning of tornado season in the south. Already the schools have had a tornado drill or two. Even though Mentone seems fairly safe from tornadoes, this doesn't mean that one can't hit here. Everyone should designate a safe place in your house and be sure that those who live there know where it is. You should have a plan of action, what to grab quickly (such as pillows, etc. to protect your head) and where to go. An inside room with no windows seems to be the safest place. We all hope that there are no storms in this area this spring, but I'm afraid that is too much to hope for. Better to be safe than sorry.

So much is already being written about the new weather phenomenon called La Nina. This is the opposite of El Nino, which was a warming of the ocean water, that caused all kinds of bad things to happen. This new one, La Nina, is a cooling of the ocean water and may well cause as much havoc as the other. The point of all of this rambling is to warn everyone to be ready for anything. You certainly can't say that the weather around here is dull and uninteresting. Our minister, Linda Tucker, recently said that Mentone people were more aware of what the weather was going to be than most communities were. I had never heard this said before, so I started thinking about why and if this was true. I have concluded that it is true and the reason is because we have so many kinds of weather and can have all of it in one week. Remember the thunder storm that happened just before the blizzard of '93? Another reason that so many here on the mountain are aware of what the weather is doing may be because we cannot always depend on being able to get off of the mountain. Therefore, we know to be ready with ample supplies of groceries and emergency light and heat. You have to learn to live in Mentone in the winter.

So many bad things have been in the news lately. To me, the worst was the killing of a man by dragging him behind a truck. The only motive for the murder seemed to be that he was of a different race than they were. How can anyone hate an entire race? The man's sisters have been shown much love and compassion in the courtroom, almost to the point of forgiving the man driving the truck. As I have said before, we are all humankind and we are all children of God, we just happen to be wrapped in different colors of skin. Do what you can to

About Our Town

By LINDA BROWN



instill love and justice in your child and young people. If we can have generation that shows love and not I maybe we can get rid of these animosities forever.

Presently, the city council needs to appoint a person to serve on the Zoning Commission, one for the Board Directors for the fire department and for the Zoning Board of Adjustment. This sounds like a simple task, just three people to fill the positions. It is that easy. So many people will not commit to serving on these boards. Maybe they don't like having to attend a

meetings or maybe they are afraid to accept the responsibility of making decisions or they maybe don't want to vote something that may not be popular with their neighbors. Whatever the reason, if you are asked to fill one of these positions, consider saying yes. Your town needs you.

Jesse Culp, Roland Walls, Daryl Norman and I all seen "hark back" quite often. Recently, when snow was in the weather forecast, I started thinking about snow cream. I I snow cream and it is one of the fondest memories of my childhood. I am much more careful where I gather the snow now than we were back then. For those of you who haven't experienced this delicacy, here is how to make it. First mix in sugar and vanilla flavoring well in a very large bowl. (Mom mixed in eggs, but they were from our farm. We won't dare do that now.) Next go outside and find the clear snow you possibly can, scoop a lot into another big bowl and rush inside. Add the snow to the milk mixture until it is consistency of ice cream. Dip into smaller bowls and immediately. My brothers, sister and I looked forward to sn because we knew that Mom would make snow cream several times before it melted. I still make it for my grandchildren; they like it as well as I do. Maybe it will be one of those traditions that last. I am beginning to think that we won't get a snow cream this winter. But we still have five or six more weeks of winter, there may still be hope.

Do you know that Easter this year is April 4. That is very early in the spring for Easter to come. The April Groundhog may not be out by then, so I'll take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Easter. Besides being the most important religious celebration of the year, Easter signals the beginning of spring. With spring comes the flowers and the green leaves and the new grass and the digging in the dirt. Are we sure we can wait?

I want to say a big hello to a very lovely lady in our community. She is someone who is always kind, considerate and joy to be with. She has more problems than her share, but you won't hear her complain. Norma Williams, I love you and does all of Mentone. Get to feeling better soon, Buddy wait to take you to see the spring flowers!!

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(2) **100 YEAR OLD OAK TREES** Shade the 3 bdrm, 2 bath Older Home Located on Cuffer Ave., MENTONE. 2 story with Detached Garage. City Water, Cable, and Walking distance to Downtown. \$51,900.



(3) **BUILT IN 1926, AN ORIGINAL CLOUDLAND HOME.** 2 story. Upstairs, being a Large Dormitory room with bath. Downstairs 2 bdrm, bath, living w/fireplace, Dining and Kitchen. All new wiring. City Water. ~~\$68,900.~~ \$65,900



(4) **LAUREL CREEK LAKES SUBDIVISION.** Wooded lots starting at \$8,500. Lakeside (3 left) and pasture lots (2 left) starting at \$12,500. Mentone area, County Road 106. Common areas for hiking and fishing. Restrictive covenants. Owner financing available.



(5) **EAST BROW, CLOUDLAND, GA.** What a view from these 2 to 3 acre lots located off Hwy 157 North. Rock formations, wooded, private with 100 to 250 ft. of breath-taking edge of the world view. Starting at \$32,000. Owner financing.



(6) **ONE BLOCK FROM VALLEY HEAD SCHOOL.** Main floor vinyl sided, 3 bdrm, 1 bath. Rusty Hardwood floor, ample closets, Carport, Fenced back yard. \$42,000.



(7) **WILD RIVER COMMUNITY.** 100x300 ft lots on the East Fork Little River. Secluded and Scenic. \$10,000 each. **ALSO AVAILABLE:** 3 acre tracts-EAST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER, secluded, with natural deep swimming hole and rapids. Wild and Scenic beauty surrounds you. \$30,000 each.



(8) **COTTAGE ON LAKE LAHUSAGE** Furnished, Rustic 3 Bdrm 1 Bath, Fireplace, 2 decks and Screened Porch. All appliances. Also Efficiency apartment above Garage. Creek on the West Boundary. A unique structure with lots of Mountain Stone Accents. Dock on Lake. \$95,000.



(9) **MOUNTAIN RIVER ESTATES Phase 1 & 2** now open. 3 to 5 acre tracts on the middle Fork of Little River. Located off Lookout Mountain Parkway, 4 miles from downtown Mentone and 2 miles from the Ga. line. River front tracts starting at \$27,500, and 4-15 acre wooded stream tracts.



(10) **FISH IN THE RIVER ACROSS THE STREET** from this 28 x 50 Mobile Home, 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Country Kitchen. Central Heat and Air, New Screened Porch, Glassed Sunroom and 2-car Garage. Located County Road 635, Mentone. \$87,500.



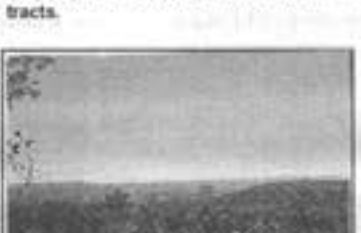
(11) **HANDYMAN SPECIAL ON THE BROW.** 3 Bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, Hardwood floors, Stone Fireplace. Cozy cottage; walk to Downtown. Priced to sell. \$65,900.



(12) **MENTONE CONNECTION.** Two story Cedar and Log Home on the West Brow, 1 mile from Downtown. 4 Bdr (master 1st level) 2-1/2 baths. Heart Pine Plank Flooring in Living, Dining, Den, Kitchen. Fireplace w/insert, CHA, lots of storage and closets. Large Deck and Screened Porch for enjoying the Sunsets. 3 acres M/L. \$240,000.



(13) **BROW, BROW, BROW - MENTONE.** Approximately 3 acres with 300 ft. of view frontage. Property is on the West (sunset) on Desoto Parkway. City Water available. Great Location. \$90,000.



(14) **INDIAN TRAILS** over 3 acre tracts on the highest point on the Brow overlooking North Fort Payne valley, to the Cumberland Plateau. City water available, access to and overlooking private lakes. Private access. Off Citadel Rock Rd. Restrictive covenants. \$30,000 each.



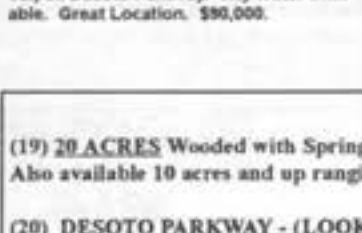
(15) **LOOKING FOR A FIXER-UPPER IN MENTONE.** 6 Room frame cottage, with Rock porch, located on Hwy 117 S, downtown Mentone. Approximately 2 acres. \$34,500.



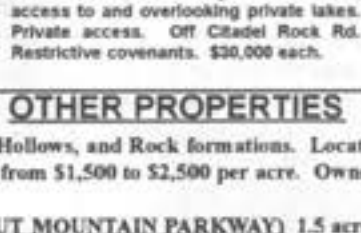
(16) **67 ACRES ON THE EAST BROW LOOKOUT MTN.** Over 1,000 ft. of frontage, Rock formations, spring fed pond, artesian well, electric, and approx 5 acres cleared. Joining Wildlife Management and NPS. ~~\$438,000.~~ **REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE \$115,000.**



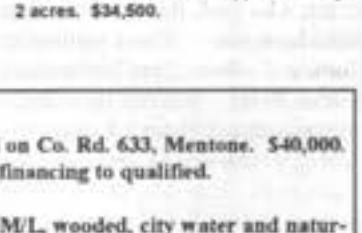
(17) **WONDERFUL OL' FARMHOUSE** with 4 or more acres, garden area, two outbuildings, on paved road, Mentone. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, large country kitchen for canning and a cellar for storing. \$89,500.



(18) **SOOTHING SOUND OF RAIN-DROPS ON A TIN ROOF,** brings back the warm cozy feeling in this 2 Bdrm, 2 bath cottage. 1 car garage and 3.8 wooded acres, and only three years old. Located in Mentone area. \$84,500.



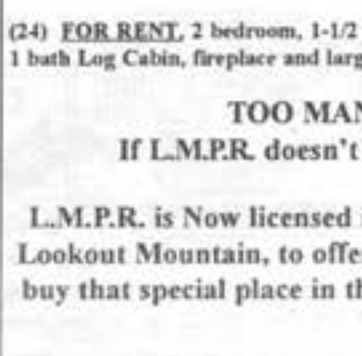
(19) **20 ACRES** Wooded with Springs, Hollows, and Rock formations. Located on Co. Rd. 633, Mentone. \$40,000. Also available 10 acres and up ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,500 per acre. Owner financing to qualified.



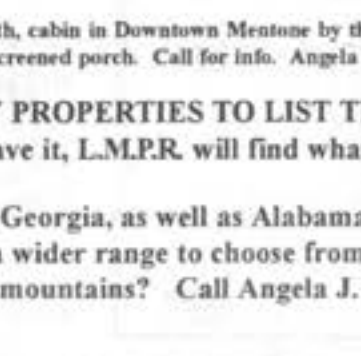
(20) **DESOTO PARKWAY - (LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN PARKWAY)** 1.5 acres M/L, wooded, city water and natural gas available. Minutes from State Park and Fort Payne. \$10,500.



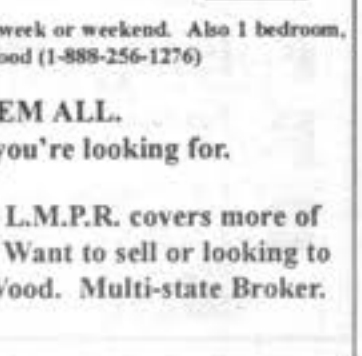
(21) **12 ACRES ON EAST FORK LITTLE RIVER.** Wooded and Private with 330 ft. of Water frontage. Relax on the Large Flat rock in the middle of River. ~~\$78,000.~~ Reduced to \$70,000. **SOLD**



(22) **OAKWOOD ESTATES** - 3 plus acre wooded and Pasture tracts available. Located in Mentone, County Road 106. Restricted Covenants. For permanent or Vacation Residential Homes. \$9,500 to \$12,500.



(23) **ACREAGE ON PAVED ROAD** - 13 acres M/L of fertile land, mostly open pasture, 2 small springs. \$38,700. **SOLD**



(24) **FOR RENT,** 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, cabin in Downtown Mentone by the week or weekend. Also 1 bedroom, 1 bath Log Cabin, fireplace and large screened porch. Call for info. Angela Wood (1-888-256-1276)

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Major Diaz Frost

Wesley and Tammy Frost of Henagar announce the birth of their son Major Diaz on Thursday, November 12, 1998, in the Erlanger Medical Center. His weight was 6 lb, 7 oz, and he was 19 inches long. Proud grandparents are Danny and Sible Hopper of Mentone, and Diaz and Pearl Frost of Henagar.

(His daddy is the milkman.)
(photo of Major at 11 weeks)

It's a Boy!

Justin Brian Langston was born on February 22, weighing 7 lbs, 4 oz, and is 20-1/2" long. He is the son of Nicky and Tina Langston, and the baby brother of 2-1/2 year old Michael Langston. His proud grandparents are Alfred and Eddie Langston of Mentone and Ralph and Carolyn Baine of Fort Payne. His great grandmothers are Nell Kent, Lou Langston, and Tiny Brooks.

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LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN NATURAL HEALING: THE HEAL-ALL HERB

By Laura Katherine AKA Moon

Comfrey is my favorite herb. It is not the most beautiful but one of the most useful. Many of my friends make jokes about my comfrey obsession. Every time someone gets an itch or a scratch, I always say, "Put some comfrey on it." I do this with good reason, because comfrey has healed my wounds with rapid speed and alleviated dreadful poison ivy itch.

I cut my pinky to the bone on a sharp dog food can lid. I had used comfrey on smaller scratches, but I had not been cut this bad since I was a child. I grabbed a paper towel and wrapped it tightly around the wound to control the profuse bleeding as I ran out the door to the back porch where I kept my treasured comfrey plant. I pulled off a prickly leaf and began bruising the stem of the leaf. I flattened out the rolled edges of the leaf stem so that the juicy inside of the stem could be placed on the wound without the irritating prickly hairs touching the wound. I wrapped the comfrey around my pinky finger wound, then pulled off a couple more leaves. After I went inside, I bruised the other leaves and rubbed the juicy substance on the cotton part of a band-aid. I disinfected the wound with rubbing alcohol, noticing the bleeding had already substantially slowed, and placed the comfrey-soaked band-aid on my pinky. After three days of applying a comfrey-soaked band-aid, I could actually see increasing skin repair each day. By the fourth day, the wound, which I am sure would have required stitches, was completely healed.

Comfrey's Latin name, *Symphytum officinale* actually means to heal, join or unite. Since the eleventh century, there has been much documentation of the many uses of comfrey, which has also been referred to as self heal and knitbone. Comfrey contains allantoin, which stimulates growth of tissue, bone and cartilage, taken internally or applied externally. Until 1968, comfrey was prescribed widely and often to be drunk as a tea and eaten as greens for healing broken bones, ulcers (especially in the lungs), nasal congestion, anemia, dysentery, diarrhea, leukorrhea, coughs, asthma, tuberculosis, as well as women's reproductive and hormonal problems because of the steroidal saponins comfrey contains. Comfrey also contains helpful healing vitamins, minerals, such as iron; seven times more calcium than soybeans, and Vitamins B, A, C & E.

In 1968, a study was conducted in Japan, and backed up by an Austrian study, that comfrey contains a carcinogenic (poisonous) substance known as pyrrolizidine alkaloids. However, a Washington study found very little carcinogen and no sign of it in much of the comfrey. The Japanese lab that

conducted the study still prescribes comfrey for cirrhosis of the liver and the Austrian studies ultimately proved inconclusive. Still, it is advisable not to take comfrey internally under close supervision of a healthcare provider.

Comfrey is still known to be useful and safe for external use unless you are pregnant. A poultice of the fresh leaf (saw chop leaves and mix with a little water) is beneficial to heal sprains, swelling, bruising, bunions, bed sores, bleed hemorrhoids, psoriasis, all skin rashes, insect bites and st joint troubles, and boils. A tea made from the fresh or root is beneficial for all of the above, as well as to condition dry skin and hair and tighten skin pores.

To make an herb tea of comfrey root, you can use one teaspoon comfrey root to 1 cup of water. Herbal author J. Rose recommends her fantastic Fennel/Comfrey Remedy: 1 T of Fennel seed, 1 T comfrey root, and 1 C of water. Boil to a boil in a covered enamel pan (glass will also work). Reduce heat and simmer for three minutes. Strain with cloth when cool enough to handle. This will keep in the fridge for 3-4 days when sealed tightly in a jar. For sore muscle sunburn, a comfrey root tea can be made from at least 1 ounce of the root boiled with one pint of water, simmer 1 minutes, steep for no less than three minutes, strain and use in with our bath water.

Last, but not least, comfrey is an excellent fertilizer for your plants. If you ever have left over comfrey tea or root that has expired for your use, it is still beneficial for plants, so water them with it. Comfrey is excellent for compost, so always put your pruned leaves and left over comfrey materials with your compost.

So, where can you find this do-it-all herb? Comfrey begin growing naturally along streams, river banks, d meadows, and ditches in spring. In early summer-to-fall, clusters of flowers ranging in color from creamy yellow, may purple to pink will bloom especially in sunny areas, the comfrey thrives in full sun to part shade. Comfrey is a perennial averaging up to three feet, with a tap root of up to ten feet with ovate hairy leaves, the lower leaves are large and upper leaves smaller and more narrow. Should you be lucky enough to find this plant, remember, the location or get seeds for your garden. Otherwise, you can find dried comfrey and extracts at your local health food or herbal store.

Words to live by: "All things are poison and nothing without poison. It is the dosage that makes a thing poisonous." Paracelsus

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(9) A MAGICAL MOMENT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ENTER THIS WONDERFUL 4-YEAR-OLD LOG HOME close to DeSoto State Park. Secluded in the woods, you can enjoy the large porches, the pine floors, solid wood walls, high ceilings with spacious loft room, and beautiful landscaping. A perfect get-away location, but only minutes from town. Enter today. \$169,500.



(10) CREAM OF THE CROP - two old log cabins and a new addition make this a great retreat. 3 bdrms - 3 baths - den, - great room- 3 fireplaces-rock and wood floors-2 CHUA units-patio & decks with an unbeatable view of the valley. Call today for your appointment! \$315,000.

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(11) MONTHLY RENTAL 2 bd 1 bath cottage in downtown Mentone. \$450 a month. References and damage deposit required.

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

(13) 10 ACRE TRACTS - gently rolling-heavily wooded-with creek. Close to downtown Mentone on private road. "Lightly" restricted. \$25,000.

(14) MAKE THE MOVE TO MENTONE! Building lot on DeSoto Parkway - 200 feet of road frontage. \$10,000.

(15) Lake on Brow - two great building lots. Over 1 acre Lake lot \$37,500. 1.4 acre Brow lot \$41,000.

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GARDEN HINTS

By Madeleine Bullock

It seems that people all over the globe are just as confused and upset over the weather that we have been having and there seems to be no logical or rational explanations for it.

Scientists and meteorologists have been heard to explain it in various ways. One explanation was that the earth is tilting to a perpendicular position, that we are coming out of the "tilt of the axis." It was also said that at one time the axis was actually horizontal! That would mean that the north and south poles were actually west and east! And due to global warming, the seas off the British Isles are being invaded by man-eating sharks now! I don't know just how much truth there is in all this scientific "speculation", maybe we should stop complaining and trying to find explanations and just enjoy it. One day we may get the explanations we are going crazy looking for.

If you are not into bedding veggies and flowers, then it is still easy to enjoy the spring, summer and fall blooms and foliage by planting them in pots of various sizes of your choice. Painted coffee cans with holes punched into the bottoms will do fine for petunias, marigolds, herbs, bulbs, but use larger containers for bigger plants, like 5-gallon paint buckets or just paint buckets purchased from the store. Though, don't forget to punch drain holes into bottoms to avoid water-logged root-rots.

Mossy Pots: Collect mosses from around your garden, finely chop them and allow them to dry. Make a moss slurry in a deep bucket. Follow the recipe:

1 cup flour	2 cups buttermilk
2 pkg. active dry yeast	2 T corn starch
1 - 2 cups dried, crumbled moss	

Mix all ingredients together in the bucket, then place it in the sun for 3 days. When it is really smelly, brush it liberally on the outside of the clay pots then wrap them in plastic wrap and set them in the sun. In two weeks, the pots will mold, in 6 - 8 weeks, moss plants will be growing well.

Frost-to-frost flowers: Serbian bellflower is nearly indestructible, it takes cold, heat, drought and thrives anywhere from zone 3-8. It blooms from May - June, then again for an encore from September until first frost.

Classic summer fun: From July to frost, your yard will come alive with the most reliable and spectacular black-eyed susans, which do not mind hot, dry summers, and give you vast amounts of blooms year after year.

Winter scenes: The choice plant is the Lenten rose, a perennial that stays richly green through the winter, especially when given a protected spot. In the colder regions, it begins to bloom in March; but in the warmer climes, it may bloom in January. It thrives from Florida to Texas to Buffalo and Minnesota.

Ant fact: The common ant actually moves and aerates more soil than earthworms! All their digging and hauling is what keeps the soil light enough to transport water and nutrients. They have also been known to plant flowers (by accident, of course), when they also haul off the seeds of plants. So, you may get all kinds of flowers popping up here and there.

Butterflies and hummingbirds will soon be regular visitors to your garden if you plant **calamint**, a new introduction to American gardens from Europe. It is a dense, compact plant with flowers that resemble sage blossoms and it has a crisp, herbal aroma that the birds, bees and butterflies are attracted to.

You can easily fill up a garden with "free plants" that you have started from clippings or divisions from each other's perennials. For example, lilies can be propagated by planting the small "bulbils" that appear at the tips of the leaves or from breaking off pieces of the main bulb and replanting. Divisions, made in spring or fall are an easy way to increase your bergenia (meaning plants that bear little berry-like bulbils just below the soil surface of the lily stalk) planting. You can also take 3" cuttings of the stems in late fall or early winter. Make sure each cutting has an eye (bud) in the axil above a leaf scar, and plant it upright so that the top-most part is just below the soil surface. Keep the cuttings moist and most of them will leaf out in the spring.

The Ag. department at Valley Head High School will be late selling bedding and potted plants this year. Mr. L.A. Smith said that the plants should be ready by mid April. All moneys go to buying new supplies and machinery for the Ag. department at the school.

Recently it was reported (Progressive Farmer) that wild cherry trees can contain prussic acid and the wilted leaves on fallen limbs sometimes have large concentrations of the acid which can be fatal to livestock.



We are still remodeling at our house, and it is a messy operation. We are doing a complete overhaul of the kitchen. We took out all the old cabinets and had new oak ones built. It seems like just a short time ago since I was writing about building a kitchen at the Raven Haven! I guess we are not content with a finished house because we are always working on one, either upgrading or changing things. It's usually nicer when the changes are made, but I dread the process because things are messy and misplaced. Our dining room is full of kitchen items, piled in boxes. We do not have a large kitchen, but when we dismantled the cabinets it was amazing how much was in that one room. Now we are sorting and tossing out some things we don't need and are saving them for the big outdoor sale in August. We could furnish a kitchen with all the gadgets it needed and never miss any of them. We do intend to finish a small kitchen in the basement and use some things in it. It will be nice to have a small emergency kitchen in case of power failure, with a gas stove.

My spring cleaning will be done when this is finished, I hope! It is discouraging to see how much dust can drift through the house when work is being done in one room. I've covered the furniture in the living room with sheets for some protection, and we have tried to keep bedroom doors closed. The cabinets are in place, the ceramic tile floor has been laid, but we have to wait for the Corian counter tops to be made and installed. So I am going back to Chattanooga during the week and come back on week-ends to work at the Crows' Nest. There is work to do in Chattanooga if I choose to do it. The one good thing about having your kitchen dismantled is that you don't have to cook. We have eaten out some, had sandwiches some days, and eaten cereal for breakfast when we could find the bowls to use. There is a little sink in the bar area, with hot and cold water, where we can make coffee and wash our dishes.

I told Rev. Al Cherbonneau we would have a "Kitchen Blessing" or christening when we finish. We enjoy having our church group come for dinner and music practice, but we have had to postpone it for a while. It won't be long until we can resume our practice.

Jerry and Doreen Waters took David Kroon, who is the exchange student from Sweden they are hosting this year, to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for a week's vacation. David loved it. His friend, Christian Lodde from Norway, went with his sponsor, and the boys had a wonderful time skiing. They had missed the snow they are accustomed to in the Scandinavian countries, so they enjoyed the abundance of the snow in Colorado. David liked it so much he wants to come back in a year or so and teach skiing in Steamboat Springs. Doreen said it was a pleasure to watch the boys ski because of the professional way they handled the ski jumps. Both Jerry and Doreen ski pretty well, but she said they felt like amateurs after watching the boys. They went on a snowmobile trip one day and the boys had a good time with that sport, too. We went when we spent Christmas with Jerry and Doreen when they lived there a few years ago, and Lisa had a ball with the snowmobile.

Jerry and Doreen have had the flu since returning, but are recovering. All David got was a wind-blistered face. He would ski about twelve hours a day!

The last day of February winter returned after having balmy weather the first half of the month. I am sure some plants that bloomed too early were nipped. The Teverinos were hoping it did not ruin the blueberry crop.

My cousin, Gaynelle Smith, brought her Mother (Aunt Ruby Taylor and her cousin Mary) by the Hitching Post for a visit last week. That made a bright spot in the day, because I love them very much. Gaynelle is married to Jack Smith and both of them grew up here in Mentone. They all live in Chattanooga

now. I will not tell Aunt Ruby's age, but she is older than me and she worked way past her retirement age. She had read The Groundhog that I had stayed some in Chattanooga, and she invited me to come for dinner at her house when I came back. And that would be a treat, because she is one of the best cooks I know.

My bulbs are pushing up out of the ground now, the ones that were planted late. Since we have had some cold weather they will do well and will bloom after other bulbs have faded and gone. I just hope the voles don't eat them like they did years ago. I watched a blooming tulip gradually disappear one day like a hand was pulling it under. This time we planted moth balls in the holes with the bulbs, hoping to keep the little varmints away.

The membership of M.A.P.A. voted to cancel the Rhododendron Festival this year, and we have had numerous calls from people who were very disappointed, as well as I. But everyone is busy with other things, it seems, and felt that we should concentrate all our efforts toward the October Colorfest. Also, last year we had so many other activities around us on the same week-end that it took some of the crowd. We may re-coup and try for it again next year.

At our last M.A.P.A. meeting I tried to give some of the history of our organization since it was founded day, but I did not have all of it readily available. I had no idea that Ma Dillenbeck was going to write it in the February issue of The Groundhog. That must have been mental telepathy! And she covered it well. Ed and Gerri Disney and Homer and I are the only charter members living in Mentone, and we are very proud of our status. Bruce Bon Fleur and Marsha are in North Dakota working as missionaries. Bruce is principal of Indian school and Marsha also teaches. Of course, Bruce is a charter member and was given a life membership.

We have been watching the progress on several homes being built near us. Building and architecture are fascinating to me. It is almost magical to see carpenters cut, saw, and fit together pieces of material to form the framing and eventually the finished product for walls of small, medium, or large homes. Our small home is next door to the Cliffs Restaurant, and a very large Victorian style house is next door to Cragmere Mar Restaurant. It seems to be in the finishing stages. I would like to see it inside when finished. The Banksen house, not far from us is being remodeled, and it looks like they have added a large room with a fireplace on the brow side. There is a new house next door to Dr. Hambaugh's house and the owners have moved into it. A cottage is being built near the Libby property on the brow, and one near the Edmond Crowe house almost done. Another one two houses down from this one being built the fastest I have ever seen one done. That is an ideal way to do it, but some of us have to go slowly in order to pay as we go. All these nice dwellings add to the beauty of the area.

Let's hope March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. We are ready for spring.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all of you.

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The Church News By EVELYN GRAVES



Sunday morning services at **Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church** are held at 8:15 AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Reverend Jerry Davis and Reverend L. A. Smith are alternate speakers for these services.

The **Valley Head United Methodist Church** Sunday School is at 9 AM each Sunday and Worship is at 10 AM.

Howard's Chapel (Church in the Rock) has regular services at 10 AM each Sunday. You are invited to attend these services or visit the church at other times. Casual dress is always acceptable.

Menlo Church of Christ invites you to attend the 10 and 11 AM services and evening services will be at 7 and 9 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

Union Hill Baptist Church Sunday School is at 10 AM. Worship is at 11 AM. Adult Choir practice is at 4:30 PM. Discipleship Training is at 6 PM, and Evening Worship is at 7 PM. Wednesday evening at 5 PM is Youth Choir practice with GA's and RA's meeting on alternate Wednesdays at 5 PM. Each 2nd Sunday evening, the church has a singing at 6 PM. Everyone is invited for the singing. The church has recently called an associate pastor, Tim Bryan, to assist Pastor Jimmy Graves. The church continues to grow and his services are needed. Welcome, Tim and Kay!

The **Mentone Revival Center** and Pastor Alfred Chambers and his wife Polly, invite everyone to join in worship on Sunday at 10 AM. Wednesday evening worship begins at 6:30 PM.

The **Mentone Church of God of Prophecy** wants to invite you to attend their services. Sunday School is at 10 AM, with Worship at 11 AM. Evening services begin at 5:30 PM. Wednesday evening service is a time of prayer, worship, and to allow specialized ministries to be boosted. The first Wednesday night before Sunday is Youth services, the second Wednesday night is mission services, the third Wednesday night is Heritage services, and the fourth Wednesday night is Care Ministries (local missions). Men's Brotherhood is every fourth Saturday at 8 AM in the church. Women's prayer service is every Wed. morning at 9:30.

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to attend Sunday School at 9:45 AM each Sunday and Worship at 11 AM. Youth Choir practice is at 6:30 PM each Wednesday. Discipleship Training is at 5 PM each Sunday, and Evening Worship is at 6 PM. The Men's Prayer group meets every Wednesday at 6:45 AM and Church Bible Study is at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays. Jan. 13, 20, 27, 6:30 PM, Children's Choir and Adult and Youth Bible Study. Karen Lee has been called as Minister of Music and is doing a great job with the choir.

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter is currently holding services in the Woodmen of the World Hall in Valley Head. Pastor - Wilbor Atwood; Lay Pastor - Bill Pyke. Sabbath School 9:30 - 10:45 AM; Worship Service - 11 - 12:15. Prayer meeting/Bible study - Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome! We look forward to our missionaries coming home. Lew and Darlene Keith will be returning mid-March from the island of Palawan in the Philippines. Come and worship our Saviour Jesus Christ with us. We look forward to your visit.

Mount Calvary Baptist Church welcomes you to attend services on Sundays and Wednesday Evenings. We have added a few new Sunday School classes, and you may join whichever class is comfortable for you at 10 AM. Pastor James Braddy brings the message at 11 AM, Sun., and 7 PM on Wednesdays. We would all like to welcome you as a visitor and you are welcome to attend our church on a regular basis if you do not have a home church. Our singings will resume again in the spring. We discontinue them in the winter months. We are located 2 miles behind the Lookout Restaurant at Cloudland. Come Praise the Lord with US. You may call 706-862-2651 for directions.

The **Harmony Grove Baptist Church** invites everyone to come and worship with them. God's Country Church is located on Co. Road 259 (Hawkins Road). Sunday School is at 9:45 AM; Morning Worship is at 11 AM; Evening Worship is at 6 PM. Wednesday Night Prayer Service is at 6 PM.

The **Mentone United Methodist Church** services are at 11 AM each Sunday. Sunday school is at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome. The Ethel Brown Unit of the UMW will be delivering Easter "baskets" to shut-ins and others on March 31st. Meet at the church at 10 AM. The church is continuing to raise funds for a new roof, and members have pledged and given over \$4800 at the present time. The total cost (estimated) is \$10,000. The church was organized in early 1892. Ed Mason deeded land on Cutler Avenue for the church, and not only paid for and built the foundation and the tower, he owned a sawmill to which other church members brought logs from their land to the mill to be cut at no cost. In a cooperative effort, various members paid for building materials and built the church. The tradition continues today as faithful members maintain the church building with their support and presence. Those wishing to help may do so by mailing their donations to PO Box 90, Mentone, AL 35984.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church holds mass services at 11:30 AM each Sunday. Tuesday evening services are at 6 PM and children's and adults' education classes are at 6 PM each Wednesday.

Mentone Wesleyan Church is committed to being a Bible teaching community church where all peoples of all races, social standing and diverse church backgrounds are welcomed and loved. Sunday School 10 AM. Worship Service 10:45 AM. Youth Ministry Sunday afternoon 4:30 PM; Bible Study Wednesday 7 PM.

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church services are Sunday at 10:30 AM, with Sunday School at 9:30 AM. Small groups meeting on Sun., Tues. and Wed. nights. Contact the church at 634-4476 for more information. Everyone is welcome.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne has Mass at 10:30 AM on Sundays, and Communion Services at 6 PM on Tuesdays.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church-LCMS, 112 First Street, SW, Fort Payne, invites you to attend Sunday Worship at 8 AM, School at 9 AM, and Tuesday Bible Study at 6:30 PM.

The **Valley Head Baptist Church** invites you to attend Sunday School at 10 AM, Worship Service at 11 AM, Evening Worship at 6 PM; and the Wednesday night prayer and Bible study of 1st John. March 21st, from 12:15 to 1:30, is the regular 3rd Sunday dinner at the church. This is a fund raiser to help build a new fellowship hall. The food and fellowship are great!!!

The **North DeKalb Ministerial Association** will be conducting the Easter Morning Sunrise services again this year at the Lee Crow property on County Road 647 in Mentone at 7 AM. Everyone is invited to attend. Easter is April 4th and it is also the time for springing forward to Daylight Savings Time.

LOCAL CHURCH ADDS VICAR



Stephen Schrader and Rev. Gary Faith

Members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, located at 114 1st Street, S.W., Fort Payne, are proud to announce that Steve Schrader has been installed as Vicar. Schrader was installed in a special ceremony held during the regular worship service at 8 AM on Sunday, January 31, 1999.

For the past three years, Schrader has been a student in the new Distance Education Leading To Ordination (DELTO) program sponsored by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Steve has been taking standard seminary courses while continuing to work his regular 40-hour a week job as a Conservation Enforcement Officer in DeKalb County.

This year, not only will he continue his studies and regular job, he will serve as Vicar of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Being a Vicar is best described as on-the-job training for Pastor. He will be under the supervision of his mentor and the Pastor, Rev. Gary Faith, from Trinity Lutheran Church in Gadsden.

His duties will include teaching Sunday School and Bible Class, preaching, conducting the Sunday morning liturgy, making calls, and other duties that are performed by Pastors. Schrader is in his fourth year of the year education and training program requirement that will result in his being ordained as a Pastor for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. He is a member of the first class of DELTO students.

The program began in an effort to fill pastoral vacancies in the Southern District. All students are currently employed in other career fields and taking and completing seminary courses and requirements in their spare time. Being an ordained minister will be the second career for the men involved in the program.

Schrader and his wife, Mindy, have three children: Stephen B. Jr., a student at Auburn University, Becky Thielmann of Cincinnati and Gary, a senior at Fort Payne High School.



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BOY SCOUT TROOP 106 WINTER COURT OF HONOR

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

On Saturday, January 7, 1999, Troop 106 met for their winter Court of Honor. Scoutmaster David Gilbreath said it was the biggest attendance of any Court of Honor, especially in light of the frigid temperatures that night. Even so, there was food left over from their covered dish supper, because there was so much to choose from, and all of it was delicious.

Guests recognized included Danny Cook, of Summerville, GA, who was recognized and thanked as the person who takes care of the recycling of cans for the scouts; Wayne Henson, activities director in Trussville; Marilyn Campbell as the person who "waters" the troop when they are out working in the community; and Marie Dillenbeck as the one who covers the scouts in *The Groundhog*.

The troop committee consists of Chairman, Jim Ellis; Unit Coordinator, John Hurt; Scouting Coordinator, Brandol Jones; Treasurer, Diane Gilbreath. John and Jan Wilkinson and Jim and Dallyne Jones were recognized as "being there" when needed.

Surprise guest included Curt Miller, the first Eagle Scout in Troop 106.

Special guests included the Simpson family from Waxhaw, NC, who went on the Philmont trip: Jerry Simpson, and sons Jordan and Justin. Jerry's wife, Sheila, was present, but did not take the Philmont trip.

Third Assistant Scoutmaster, Dan Tweedell, was introduced.

Tom Oberle assisted Bill Berry in handing out the awards. Many of the boys receive a rank card and level of achievement. The following received their Boy Scout Rank or were on the verge of receiving it:

New members: Clark Crow, and Cathy Crow, mother's sash; Andrew McCole and Rachel Lee, mother's sash; Keith Miller and Linda Miller, mother's sash; Josh Tweedell and Lisa Tweedell, mother's sash; Paul Davis, and Robert Brown.

Merit Badges and rank: Greg Carreker: wood working, citizenship in community; Tenderfoot rank, Lisa Smith, mother's sash. Robert McReynolds: camping and hiking. Jason Oberle: swimming, emergency preparedness, advanced through two ranks: 2nd class and now 1st class,

Monica Oberle, mother's pin. Andrew Habel (in school in Mobile): environmental science, medicine, swimming, riflery, archery, computer, citizenship in the community, first aid, family life, personal management; Star scout. Joshua Hughes: first aid, woodcarving, safety, environmental science, archery, fish and wildlife, management; star scout. Peter Hurt: dog care, Marsha Hurt, mother's pin. Ben Stewart: small boat sailing, canoeing, orienteering, rowing, wilderness survival, insect study, family life; communications; star scout, Beverly Stewart, mother's pin. Marlin Cox: citizenship in the nation. Paul Whittle: canoeing, fish and wildlife management, citizenship in the community.

Bill Berry gave a brief review of their trip to Philmont. The story appeared in the February issue of *The Groundhog* on the front page and continued on page 5.

Crew Chief Josh Simpson, spoke a few words.

Each boy who went to Philmont received a framed picture of the troop taken at Philmont.

Jerry Simpson, of Waxhaw, NC, said he had a 23-year goal: to go to Philmont; and he finally had the opportunity to go. After a brief statement, he presented David Gilbreath with a framed photograph of a Philmont landmark.

Glenn Miller, Chaplain, who was video taping the court of honor ceremony, was thanked for his contributions; as was Marsha Hurt who painted the base camp and a mountain that was on display in the fellowship hall at Moon Lake Baptist Church where the honor court meeting was being held. The exhibit was hung at the VFW Fair this past fall.

At the winter court of honor, this year, the first annual James A. Berry Strength of Character Award-- named after Jim Berry, who was a staunch supporter of the scouts, and who died last year--was awarded to Peter Hurt for showing strength and noble character. Peter was the unofficial assistant crew chief at Philmont this past year, and was the first recipient of the James A. Berry Strength of Character Award.

Troop 106 earned the Baptist Award of Excellence for the fifth year. Only two other troops in the nation have achieved this status.

The court of honor ceremony was a rewarding experience for all of those receiving honors and their families and guests.

DeKalb Children's Advocacy Center,
DeKalb County Schools, and DeKalb's
Future Homemakers of America Club

Presents

Naomi Haines Griffith

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Rainsville Civic Center

Topic: *Understanding the Families of School Children.* This topic examines the families that "child bring to school" in an effort to enable participants to understand the child in a more holistic way. Special emphasis given to understanding neglectful and abusive homes and how they influence children and their behavior.

Naomi Haines Griffith is a true Southerner, growing up in Alabama and Mississippi. She holds a B.S. from University of North Alabama, an M.A. from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, and a Masters in Social Work from the University of Alabama. She worked in North Carolina and Alabama child welfare system from 1979-1984 when she became Executive Director of PACT, a pioneer child abuse prevention agency she helped to found. From 1994-1997, she served on the State Board of the Alabama Department of Human Resources.

Since 1988, Naomi Griffith has become a national speaker and consultant on child welfare issues, speaking at conferences throughout the United States and Canada. A known storyteller and family systems specialist, she uses humor and her own experiences to challenge and inspire audiences in business, education, juvenile justice, mental health, child abuse prevention, family violence systems.

Naomi Griffith is a member of the Alabama Corporate Foundation for Children, a former board member for Alabama Children's Trust Fund and has worked as a consultant to the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse. It has been observed that Naomi weaves her common sense pragmatism and 30 years experience working with children and families into inspirational and heart-warming stories that motivate audiences both personally and professionally.

CEU'S will be offered. Teachers, parents, law enforcement officers, those working in the criminal justice system, other community members are encouraged to attend.

Teachers, parents, law enforcement officers, those working in the criminal justice system and other community members are encouraged to attend.

North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District Volunteer Fire Department

By Gail Chambers

Plans are being made now for the annual yard sale. A definite date has not been decided yet. We are asking for donations of clean, "gently" used items for this sale. A fund has been set up for the purchase of a newer model tanker truck. A goal of \$50,000 has been set for the purchase of the truck. There is \$8,500 (approximately) in this fund already. The department is confident that, with the community's help, we will be able to raise the amount needed in record time. All donations are tax deductible. To make a donation to the Newer Truck Fund, make your check or money order payable to NLMFPD, P.O. Box 154, Mentone, AL 35988.

Volunteers are needed in all areas of the fire department. If you would like to fight fires, work on a committee, or help some other way, please contact Chief Jim Roberts, Chairperson, Gail Chambers, for more information.

Training sessions are in the process of being planned. Operation of the "Jaws of Life" and CPR re-certification Dates will be announced later.

As always, thanks for your continued support.

The Volunteer fire Dept. is missing several folding chairs. If anyone has borrowed them and forgotten to return them, please return them to the department. Thank you.



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A Friendly Valley View

By
ELOISE BROWN

February has been a very short month—but then—aren't they all! But there seems to have been a lull—not much doing or going.

The Valley Head UMW was cancelled because of weather and sickness. So, also, was the Sunshine Club. The weather man cheated us—He had foretold awful weather—with snow, etc.—but it turned out to be a beautiful day—but cold—so, it was better that the few of us who were well, stayed home.

My cousins, Bill and Blanche Fuller, from Madison, AL, spent Sunday with us, two weeks ago. Emily and Barry Brown prepared one of their healthful lunches for us. Bill and Blanche had returned recently from an extended tour of Turkey and Greece and brought an album of very interesting pictures and also some lovely gifts for Emily and me.

Lillie Bowden enjoyed immensely her visit with her great granddaughter, Kaley, age 9, and great grandson, Wil, age 3, in Land of Lakes, Florida. She stayed with them while their parents went on a vacation trip.

Thomas and Jeff Hincey, from Centre, AL, visited Ed Ringer recently.

There are many people sick. It's good to hear that Rev. Charles Jenkins is home and much better after a stay at BMC-DeKalb. Catherine Crumbley is in serious condition at BMC-DeKalb; and Dr. James Quimby is in a Birmingham hospital, very serious. His son, Robert, has been here and hopes to take his dad with him when he is released. Ruth Pickett is confined to home because of illness and Mary Holleman is not well. Joe Waters is home after a stay at BMC-DeKalb, his wife, Helen, is sick. We hope the very best for all who are sick.

Valley Head has lost two good citizens when Willis Gatlin (Sulphur Springs) and Paul Burnett died recently. We sympathize deeply with their families. Paul's wife, Ruth, is a patient at Siskin's in Chattanooga for therapy for a broken hip. We hope she will be able to come home soon.

Dale Gilbert, who is Christine and Walter Brook's son-in-law—came to their house with other members of the family and showed beautiful pictures of his trip to Bangkok, Thailand. His company sent him there for a twelve-day trip to demonstrate equipment they sent and to teach the use of a computer.



Saint Patrick

Patrick, patron saint of Ireland,
A dedicated Christian firebrand.
Was born in Scotland in three ninety six.
He was captured by pirates' scheming tricks,
When just sixteen and sold as a slave—
Six years to herding cattle he gave,
With cunning, persevering spunk,
He escaped to France and became a monk.
He visited Rome in four thirty one,
And Pope Celestine's good favor won—
He was sent as missionary to Ireland by the Pope.
His work was productive of remarkable scope—
Twelve thousand people he personally baptized.
Established three hundred sixty-five churches
to be recognized,
A large number of priests he ordained,
Fame and acclaim, he forever obtained.
There must have been much joy and celebration
When he drove all the snakes out of the nation,
Or at least, this was added to his reputation.
Today, with the wearing of Shamrocks green,
We remember St. Patrick with highest esteem.

—Eloise Brown

Doris and Jim Carmichael attended a banquet given by ALFA at their home office in Montgomery on Feb. 25, for ALFA retirees. The next day, they attended the Awards banquet at the Civic Center for the present employees. The retirees were recognized at the banquet. They really enjoyed these two affairs.

Sadie Cooper had a good visit with her Aunt Hazel Johnston in Rossville, and they visited her other aunt, Stella Brewer, in Fort Oglethorpe.

Michelle and Robert D. Brown and Billy, spent Valentine weekend in Birmingham, and joined other members of her family, to help her mother, Mary Grace Schilleci, celebrate her 80th birthday. Michelle and Robert have started their new house on a pretty knoll opposite Barry's house.

Chris Brown, Scott Meadows, Glen Carden, Darrin Smith, and Larry Richardson, among others, went to Gulf Shores for the weekend for deep sea fishing—haven't heard the results.

Congratulations to Amber Hannah, who was the runner up in the DeKalb County Spelling Bee, also to Selina Couch, who was chosen to represent Valley Head High School in the D.A.R. Good Citizen Group, and to Catinna Marie Brown, Lisa Somerville Jones (who made all A's) and Norman Alexander Jones, (who made all A's) and achieved the Dean's List of The University of Alabama. Also, Leslie M. Bunch, who will be included in National Register's "Who's Who in Executives and Professionals," and all other achievers!

Steve and Beth Woods are delighted to have their son, Josh, home on leave from the Navy. He is stationed near Pearl Harbor.

Lent Reminds

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

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

The season now, when the seemingly dead earth
Awakes to beauty—reminds of rebirth,
A time when brown bulbs reach up for life
And burst into color and fragrance to survive.

The Dogwood glories in its blooms with sacred blood
And a crown of thorns symbolized in each bud,
Reminding of its gain instead of loss—
Never again to be crucifying cross.

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

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

—Eloise Brown

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The Recipe Corner

By
SUE SCHWARZ

Hello to all our friends and readers in this wonderful month of March. If you are looking for a little change in some old standards, this is the place for you. I pulled out an old recipe a neighbor gave me many years ago when the goal was to fix up something fast, easy, and that eight- and ten-year-old children would eat. The casserole is 'Chicken Frisco' and is easy and tasty and a little change from 'tuna hot dish'. The other entry this month is one I found in a Senior Center newsletter here in Huntsville. There is not a name attached to it, so I'll just credit the Senior Center for it. It is very good and, I think, if you think more in the line of making soup, that you could add more broth to it and call it soup. Happy cooking.

Chicken Frisco, Susi Freese

1 small can boned chicken
1 one pound can tomatoes (I use stewed tomatoes)
8 oz fine noodles, cooked and drained
1 C grated cheese
1 onion, chopped
1/4 C chopped celery
1/4 C chopped bell pepper
1/2 stick of margarine
salt, pepper to taste
chopped parsley (optional)

Add margarine, cheese, onion, celery, pepper and spices to noodles. Mix well, then stir in tomatoes and chicken. Mix well and bake in a greased 2-quart casserole at 350° for 40-50 minutes. Serves 4.

Cabbage Stew

1-1/2 pound lean ground beef browned and drained well
1/2 medium head cabbage coarsely chopped
1 cup diced celery
1 cup chopped onion chili powder to taste
1 one-pound can pinto beans (not drained)
1 one pound can tomatoes mashed

Brown beef, then layer cabbage on hamburger meat in large pot, layer onions next, then layer celery. Add water until it peeks through ingredients. Sprinkle with chili powder. Simmer until cabbage changes color. Add one can pinto beans and tomatoes. Return to stove and simmer as long as you like. If you like things a little spicy, try Trappey's pintos with jalapeno peppers and Rotel tomatoes with jalapeno peppers.



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 fruits unwary bloom,
To shrivel, sear and devour
If they venture from their tomb.

Roaring in the hurricanes,
In brutal destructive force—
It chews up all in path insane,
And spits them 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

Mentone Methodists Unite to Spread Valentine Cheer in Outreach Project

Saturday, February 13, the United Methodist Women of the Ethel Brown Unit and the United Methodist Women of the Mountain Laurel Unit all of Mentone United Methodist Church joined forces to help the children of the church with an outreach project of delivering valentines and lots of Christian love, to say nothing of excitement to ladies in The Fountains and Crowne Health Care of Fort Payne. The group of ladies from the Ethel Brown Unit consisted of Mrs. Barbara Blalock, President, Mrs. Marilyn Blanton Campbell, Vice-President, Mrs. Linda Brown, Secretary-Treasurer, and Mrs. Linda Hill. The group of ladies from the Mountain Laurel Unit consisted of Mrs. Carol Brown Hazell, Mrs. Barbie Hester, Mrs. Karen Wright, President, Mrs. Barbara Petersen, and Pastor Linda Tucker. The children in the group consisted of Master Alex and Miss Kayla Hazell, Misses Kelly and Paige Wright, Master Tyler and Miss Brittany Hester, and Master Mikey and Misses Sarah and Megan Petersen.

At The Fountains, the ladies and the children assembled in the parlor on the first floor, and most of the residents they were visiting came to them. The reason for that was simple. The residents live in rooms that were never intended to receive entire delegations of people at one time.

First, Miss Dessie Bailey came in, and she was presented a brightly colored bag of valentines the children had either made or at the very least adapted to suit themselves. Miss Bailey opened each one and matched the valentine to the smiling face of the child who had made it.

Mrs. Lydia Speed joined the party next, and she too was presented a lovely bright colored bag of valentines. She matched up each of the children with the valentines they had made as well as matching up children with mothers and grandmothers.

Mrs. Ruby Daniel has been to church at Mentone United Methodist recently enough that she already knew most of the children. Mrs. Daniel was presented a brightly colored bag of valentines that she enjoyed very much.

Mrs. Lottie Davenport was busy playing the piano for Sunday School, so she was not available and had to be located. Her valentines were delivered to her in her room, and she was every bit as pleased as the other ladies had been.

Mrs. Peggy Howe was visited by part of the group somewhere other than the parlor, and she was presented her bag of valentines there. Mrs. Howe was pleased, too. She was very interested in hearing from her friend and former neighbor from Mentone, Mrs. Helen Hill, who now lives across the street at Crowne Health Care of Fort Payne. Mrs. Linda Hill, Mrs. Helen Hill's daughter-in-law was in the group and was able to give Mrs. Howe an up-to-date account of her friend.

The biggest valentine of all—really, it was a poster—was taken to Mrs. Helen Hill at Crowne. The children and the ladies got out and trooped across the parking lot and the street and then up the hill in the terrible wind to Crowne where they went into the room in shifts to visit Mrs. Helen Hill. Mrs. Hill was extremely well pleased with her poster, and, while she was not able to speak due to the effects of a stroke, she gave each and every one of the children to understand that she was indeed pleased. Mrs. Hill also wanted to hear from her friend and neighbor from Mentone, Mrs. Peggy Howe, who lives across the street at The Fountains. In view of the fact that it had only been a few minutes since the Mentone United Methodists had seen Mrs. Howe, they could give a fresh report.

After the valentines had all been delivered, the children and the ladies of the Mountain Laurel Unit adjourned to Taco Bell for a lunch of Mexican food, and the ladies of the Ethel Brown Unit along with Pastor Linda Tucker went to Western Sizzlin for lunch.

Mr. Cecil Baty still lives in his own home at Mentone and leads a very active life. The children had a brightly colored bag of valentines delivered to him to brighten up his day since he was not at home that particular time to receive them. Everybody involved—church people and residents alike—in that project received a definite blessing from it, and the ladies all asked the children as well as the adults to come back to visit them again.

Master Gardener Ed Campbell Speaks to Rhododendron Garden Club

By Marilyn Blanton Campbell

On Tuesday, February 9, 1999, the Rhododendron Garden Club met at the Community House on Highway 117 in Mentone with President Jan Wilkinson presiding. Dorothy Cyr gave a devotional reading from the scriptures, gave an inspirational talk about pomegranates, and led the group in prayer. After the devotional interlude, the ladies were served a delicious luncheon of two kinds of homemade soup—potato in one pot and vegetarian vegetable in the other—cornbread, broccoli cornbread, pimento cheese sandwiches in miniature on two different kinds of bread, homemade dill pickles, apple crisp with whipped cream, chocolate cherry cookies, honey roasted peanuts, cherry cheesecake with pecan accents, and soup crackers served with a choice of iced tea or cola in red cups. Mrs. Ann Wright's oriental style arrangement of winter mahonia greens with yellow accents complemented the table that had been presented covered by a bright red tablecloth and accented by white napkins with charming red valentine designs on them.

When the meeting resumed, Mrs. Ann Wright led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Wilkinson welcomed the ladies and recognized hostesses, Barbara Blalock, Linda Brown, Ann Wright, Ruby Daniel, and Marilyn Blanton Campbell.

Secretary Marilyn Blanton Campbell called the roll, and the ladies answered with the common and botanical names of a favorite bush, tree, or plant. Mrs. Campbell went on to read the minutes of the January meeting, and those were adopted as read. Treasurer Barbara Blalock gave the financial reports.

Under committee reports, Karen Wright reported that the Ecoteers and Junior Gardeners at Moon Lake School did not do butterflies for the town hall Christmas tree this past Yuletide season. However, they do have plans to celebrate Arbor Day the last full week in February and Earth Day. The Moon Lake School will be removing the gravel and placing sod in an area located between the cafeteria and the main building, and Mrs. Karen Wright reported that they would be needing help with that project in the future. The ladies of Rhododendron Garden Club are always ready to listen to any botanical project the local school happens to have in progress.

Under old business, President Jan Wilkinson announced that the ladies should bring to the April meeting their plants and seeds for replanting the Heritage Garden that fell victim to the drought last summer, and she specified that the ladies should bring either plants or seeds that have a specific meaning to them—i.e. where the plants or seeds came from, who the plants or seeds came from, and why the ladies particularly wanted those plants or seeds.

Under new business, President Wilkinson had a letter from Mrs. Rieta Grant, who will be Flower Show Chairman at the fair in Fort Payne this autumn. Mrs. Grant was asking for help

with the flower show and encouraging the ladies to volunteer to participate. Wide ranging opportunities for service about President Wilkinson also announced that Bill Elliott will be taking a bus to the Southeastern Flower Show in Atlanta—February 20 at a cost of \$25 per person leaving from the Wal-Mart parking lot at 7:30 a.m. and returning at 10 p.m.

The Sickness and Worry Report caught the ladies up on birthdays and general community misery. Dorothy Cyr wished a Happy Birthday, and several ladies were remembered as being either ailing or shut in.

Rather than having their regular drawing for a door prize raise funds, the hostesses sold valentine mugs to the ladies who wanted them. Most of the ladies present brought their own mugs, and it was indeed interesting to see how each lady's personality came through in her mug.

President Wilkinson introduced the speaker, Ed Campbell, Master Gardener and owner of a new nursery. He spoke about "How, What, and When to Prune and Fertilize." Mr. Campbell brought in with him his favorite pruning tools—the ones actually used in real life—and showed them to the ladies explaining as he went how, when, and why to use each one. There is a big difference in listening to a person talk when he is aware that the speaker knows from experience exactly what he is talking about and in hearing the speaker who has simply "read all the books" on the subject at hand. The advice Mr. Campbell gave on pruning was to thin fruit trees to get light to the branches where the fruit is actually formed.

Mr. Campbell also discussed when and how much water and fertilizer to use. It is a matter of economic necessity to people in the nursery business that their plants flower properly because the general public will not buy a plant that is not flowering. On the subject of annuals, Mr. Campbell gave the ladies advice to "dead head" at least once each week if they expected to have flowers as opposed to having their plants go to seed. The formal meeting as such adjourned, and Mr. Campbell accompanied the ladies next door to the Butterfly Garden: Ecocenter at the Moon Lake School where they showed their own (and the school children's) handiwork, and Mr. Campbell viewed it all with what the ladies consider deserved appreciation.

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 District II, and the DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Club.

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 9, at 12:30 p.m. at Community House. Barbara Blalock has the devotional. Hostesses are Patti Bryan, Karen Wright, Mary Crow, and Roy Truett. At roll call, members are asked to name a native spring plant. The program will be "Dazzling Dahlias" with Mrs. Eddie Nance.



Shamrocks signs of spring

By Dianne Wright

Council on Aging

March is full of the promise that spring is upon us. What could be greener than St. Patrick's Day? The shamrock is most recognized symbol of St. Patrick's Day. It is a small three-leafed plant known as a trefoil, which is in the clover family. Shamrock grows wild in Ireland, and because of Irish climate of damp winters, the shamrock is fresh green all year long.

Other than March, it is hard to buy shamrock plants in our area. Seeds can be found, but they usually do not produce shamrocks in time for St. Patrick's Day. The growing time for this plant is approximately three months until maturity. You could buy a shamrock plant that already has leaves on it and replant it into a raised container.

After it produces small flowers, the plant will go to seed. Collect the seeds and keep them in a cool, dry place until they are ready to plant them in December. Next year you will have a home-grown crop of shamrocks for St. Patrick's Day.

Keep in mind that this type of plant likes soil that is rich in lime. Lime can be added to any potting soil. So plant your shamrocks and remember to keep the "Luck of the Irish."



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The John Morrison Family

Mr. Morrison lives in the Birmingham, AL, area, and recently mailed this photo to Bernice Crow. Bernice said that John Morrison helped prepare the initial Bylaws for the Mentone Area Preservation Association. Mr. Morrison ran the Lookout Mountain Christian Camp in Mentone several years ago. On the back of the photograph is the message: "The Morrison Family says Hello!"

Ro's Kreations
Now exhibiting at the White Elephant Antique Galleries in Mentone. You can still find all the same unique gifts, handcrafted items, wreaths, scents, —something for everyone—
Regular hours at the White Elephant are:
Mon, Wed-Sat - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, 1-5; Closed Tuesday

Health Nugget

By Dowe Foreman
Hidden Sugars

Recently, the U.S. Dept of Agriculture did a study on how much sugar Americans eat each day. 20 teaspoons of sugar each day was the average. That's 320 calories! And this does not include natural sugars found in fruits, legumes, or milk. This is sugar that has been added to food.

Applesauce is one food that has natural sugar, but unless you buy the unsweetened variety, you'll be consuming about 3 teaspoons of extra, unneeded sugar. All this for a half cup of Motts applesauce. (Unsweetened is just as good.)

When reading a list of ingredients on your favorite cereal or food, make certain it doesn't have extra hidden sugars. These sugars can come in any number of forms or names, such as: white, brown, raw, or cane sugar; corn syrup; high fructose corn syrup; honey; molasses; or sorghum syrup.

Sugar has 16 calories per teaspoon and virtually nothing else as far as nutrients. We need to remember that our bodies are the temple of God, and that we need to treat ourselves better to live longer and to feel better while doing it!

Information from Tufts University

VEGAN RECIPE

From Cooking School
Dried Fruit Butter

1 C dried fruit (raisins, dates, figs, apricots, prunes)
3/4 to 1 C warm water

Cut fruit into pieces (except raisins). Place with water in sauce pan and bring to boil. Remove from heat and let sit for 5 minutes. Then blend in blender on high until smooth. Tasty on toast, muffins, etc. Yield 1-1/4 cup. Can be frozen.

PLEASE USE AN APPROPRIATE AND CLEAN OR IDENTIFICATION LABEL FOR YOUR RECIPE

• ☺ • Happy Birthday • ☺ •



L/R: Samantha Rhodes (10)
and Dustie Nix (6)

Samantha Rhodes will celebrate her 10th Birthday on March 15th. Her mother and stepfather are April and Darrell Nix; father and stepmom are Joel and Delores Rhodes of Mentone; Grandparents are Faye and Sammy Collins of Valley Head; and Mary and Jerome Rhodes of Ft. Payne.

Sister, Dustie Nix, will celebrate her 6th Birthday on March 21st. Her mother and father are April and Darrell Nix. Grandparents are Faye and Sammy Collins of Valley Head; and Sue and Dale Nix of Section.



Erica Blalock (5)
and Dustin Blalock (1)

Erica Blalock (5), March 1st, and Dustin Blalock (1), March 3rd, celebrated their birthdays together on Sunday, March 1st, with a party at home in Mentone. Their mom and dad are Rhonda and Barry Blalock.

Grandparents are Ovie and Barbara Blalock of Mentone, and Bruce and Carolyn Crain of Menlo.

Great grandparents are Catherine Bailey of Mentone, Flora Jennings of Summerville, and Bert and Billie Crain of Menlo.

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Bryan College News Release

February 24, 1999. DAYTON, Tenn. - Eighty-two high school seniors, including one from Mentone, Ala., visited Bryan College recently to compete for six Presidential scholastic and music awards, the most prestigious grants made by the college.

Kenneth Miller, son of Glenn and Linda Miller of Mentone, participated in the interview process for the Presidential Scholarship, a \$6,000 grant made to one incoming freshman each year who plans to major in the biblical studies area. To qualify, the student must have a 3.6 high school grade average and an ACT score of 26 or an SAT score of 1180. The award is renewable annually for students who maintain a 3.5 grade average on Bryan's 4.0 scale.

Kenneth, a student at the Alabama School of Mathematics and Science in Mobile, is a member of Students Against Drunk Driving, the Key Club, the cross country team and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is a member of the National Honor Society, an Eagle Scout and member of the Order of the Arrow. He is active in his church and works part-time at his school.

Bryan is a four-year Christian liberal arts college offering bachelor's degrees in 14 areas. The college has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report for five consecutive years as being among the Top Tier of Southern liberal arts colleges.

DeSoto Rescue Squad News

By Jennifer Smith, 1st Lieutenant

Hello, friends! It has been a while since our last article, and I apologize. There just doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day. Is anyone else having that problem?

We have been working on our building when the weather permits. Our office is finished, the new lighting is hung, and we are working on running the electricity. After that, warm weather work: re-roofing and painting the exteriors.

We also recently purchased two new much-needed radios and received one extra from the County Rescue Association. They have approached our state representative about additional communications equipment.

On Feb. 22, we hosted the quarterly county meeting at the Community House. It was a very well attended meeting with the majority of rescue squads represented. Danny Butler, president of the DeKalb County Rescue Association, conducted the meeting. Rick Little, the EMA director, was also in attendance.

We would like to express our condolences to fellow squad member, Gail Crider, and her family, on the passing of her mother, Margaret Fann. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

We are still actively seeking new members, so please feel free to drop in at a meeting or locate one of the officers listed below.

Thank you for your continued support!

The DeSoto Rescue Squad is a non-profit, all-volunteer Emergency Medical Response Unit. Your contributions and support are greatly appreciated.

Richard Douthat, Capt. 634-4813

Jennifer Smith, 1st Lieu 634-4577

Lisa Scott, Sec/Treas 634-4207

P.S. Anyone wishing to help with our building renovations, please give one of us a call.

Now is the time to make your Donations for the Annual Library Sale conducted by the Fort Payne Culture Club

**Books
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Dekalb County
Library Sale

Donate through
March 31



Preparations have begun for the April Spring Sale conducted annually by the Fort Payne Culture Club to benefit the DeKalb County Public Library.

As always, contributions for the sale are welcomed. Popular with sale customers are:

- hard cover and paperback books,
- large print reading materials,
- children's books,
- games and puzzles,
- video tapes and CD's.

Now is a good time to go through and round up things you are ready to donate.

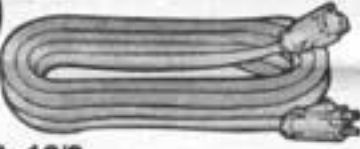
Help make this year's sale the best every by bringing to the DeKalb County Library items you want to make available to others, while helping the library as well.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

- Wednesday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day
- March 18, 4 p.m., Mentone Planning & Zoning Commission meeting, Town Hall
- March 20, 6 p.m., Annual Band Auction and Bingo, Valley Head High School
- SPRING BREAK, March 29-April 5

- Sunday, April 4, Easter and 7 AM Easter Sunrise services, Lee Crowe property, Mentone
- Sunday, April 4, Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Monday, April 5, 7 p.m., Mentone Town Council Meeting Town Hall
- Tuesday, April 6, 7 p.m. MAPA meeting,

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THE WHITE ELEPHANT

**A Face Lift
By Evelyn Graves**

Recently, I opened the door to The White Elephant and was met with the scent of potpourri and a newly-painted hallway leading to the center of the building, which is the office and cashier's station for the shops inside. There I met Louis and Judy Pierce, who leased The White Elephant in October, 1998. Judy had worked as manager of the establishment since 1997, but it was only in October of last year that she and Louis leased the building. Since that time, they have done an enormous amount of work remodeling the building, and erecting attractive corner cabinets in each of the hallways where china, crystal and curios are displayed. They have made available 24 rooms for rent -- 12 downstairs and 12 upstairs. They have moved most of their own collections into the hallways where shelves are neatly lined against the walls, displaying their various antiques, collectibles, and uniques.

All of the 24 rooms have been rented but one, and there is a waiting list for the downstairs rooms. Interesting names have been given to the shops by the renters. Some of the names I observed are: "Mentone Trading Company," "Ro's Kreation," "Serendipity," "Yesterdays," "It's a Girl's Thing," "Mona Lisa," "Simple Folks," "Intuitiques," "Maypoles," "Curios and Cobblestones", and there are three more dealers moving in.

There is a huge variety of items among the various dealers - glassware, antiques of all kinds, including furniture; crafts of all kinds - woodworking, hand quilts, paintings by local artists, clocks, decorative hand painted tables, chests, trunks, boxes, wooden trays; primitives of all types - old tools and tool boxes - many more.

Louis and Judy not only own the business, but they manage it as well. The reason why so many people are desirous of renting a room, they do not need to be on the premises to make their own sales but can work other jobs and come periodically to restock their merchandise or rearrange what they have, and Judy records their sales, accepts the money from their customers, and they rest assured that everything is being taken care of in a business-like manner.

There is a large variety of merchandise because one of the stipulations when a room is rented is that the merchandise must not be in direct competition with the existing vendor. There are so many personalities evident as I toured room to room I found a Victorian touch, a country look, a hint of Spanish in the decor, an eclectic displays, and a feeling of de-jà vu.

Louis and Judy like what they are doing. They love to meet people, and they love Mentone. They have planned a lot of different activities as the weather improves. In the latter part of March, there will be a fiddler who will fiddle on the front porch for the entertainment of tourists and passers-by. The fourth week in May there will be a Rhododendron Fair sponsored by The White Elephant, and it will be called "Historic Mentone Hotel Square Rhododendron Fair." There will be prizes given away during the fair, the most exciting one being a Mentone Getaway for one night at Mentone Springs Hotel with \$250 being given away for a shopping spree in Mentone. There will be other prizes given throughout the fair also. This event will take place May 22-23. There will be 50 outside spaces available for vendors to display their wares. A \$35 deposit which is refundable at the end of the week-end will hold a spot for you. Call 256-634-4529 for information or to rent a room or reserve a space for the Rhododendron Fair.

More information will appear in the April issue of *The Groundhog* concerning the Rhododendron Fair.

The White
Elephant



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UGF-FUNDED AGENCIES - MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN DEKALB COUNTY

Contributors to the annual United Givers Fund Campaign help to provide many needed services and programs for DeKalb County residents.

THE DEKALB COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Q. What is the mission of THE AMERICAN RED CROSS?

A. The American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization, led by volunteers, that provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. It does this through services that are consistent with its Congressional Charter and the Principles of the International Red Cross Movement.

Q. What types of services are available to local residents through the DeKalb County Chapter in the event of a community disaster?

A. The DeKalb County Chapter is responsible for training and being prepared for any type of disaster that could occur in DeKalb County. Their primary goal is to meet the immediate needs of those affected by the disaster by providing food, clothing, and shelter.

Q. The local Red Cross Chapter was very visible following the tornadoes that have occurred in the county during recent years. When does the "tornado season" begin in DeKalb County and what can families do to prepare for this type disaster?

A. The State of Alabama will enter the peak "tornado season" soon (March through May.) Alabama also has a secondary tornado season in the fall. However, tornadoes can occur at any time of the year. The National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross urge each family to develop a family disaster plan. They have prepared "A Preparedness Guide" which includes tips on tornado safety and information on preparing a disaster plan for your family.

Q. How does the local Red Cross Chapter help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies?

A. They offer courses in CPR and First Aid, Community First Aid & Safety, HIV-Aids Education, Water Safety, Responding to Emergencies. In addition, informative brochures and booklets are available free of charge through the local Red Cross office. They even have a brochure that offers information on Pet First Aid. Another brochure offers information on putting together a Disaster Supply Kit and there's one on the Y2K problem titled, "Y2K - What You Should Know."

Q. How does the local Chapter help to maintain a reliable, safe blood supply for the community?

A. By hosting and recruiting blood drives and donors to meet the patient needs in area hospitals. The DeKalb County Chapter's goal for this year is 2,100 units.

Q. Is the American Red Cross a government agency or does it receive any government funding?

A. No, the American Red Cross is not a government agency nor do they receive government funding. The programs of the American Red Cross are made possible by the voluntary services and financial support of the American people. The American Red Cross was chartered by Congress in the early 1900s, however, to furnish volunteer aid to the Armed Forces in time of war and to serve as the link between the people of the United States and the Armed Forces. The DeKalb County Chapter provides a variety of special services to members of the US Armed Forces and their families here in the county.

The DeKalb County Chapter of the American Red Cross is a non-profit organization and a member agency of United Givers Fund of DeKalb County. Linda Clark, Chapter Manager, says the DeKalb County Chapter of the American Red Cross has many volunteers working with Disaster Services, Health and Safety, and at DeKalb-BMC. Volunteers play a vital role in the organization, helping them to expand their programs and make them accessible to everyone in DeKalb County.

Red Cross will hold their annual membership drive during the month of March, which is National Red Cross month. Their ad campaign this year is "Help Can't Wait, So we'll Be There."

For more information on Red Cross services, call them at 845-0202 or stop by the Red Cross office located in the Activities Building at 111 Grand Avenue SW - Suite 103 in Fort Payne.

CASA, CARE ASSURANCE SYSTEM FOR THE AGING AND HOMEBOUND.

Q. What is the mission of CASA?

A. Casa helps to fill gaps of unmet needs of the elderly and homebound in DeKalb County by utilizing compassionate community volunteers that are willing to share their resources. This allows CASA clients to maintain their independence, dignity, health and safety.

Q. What are some of the services available through CASA that might help an elderly person be able to remain in their own home longer?

A. Many times, CASA volunteers install smoke detectors, handrails, ramps, or grab bars to help make the home safer or more accessible for the elderly. Sometimes minor home repairs are needed. Sometimes the home needs an extra heater in the winter or a fan in the summer to make the home more comfortable.

Q. Transportation seems to be a problem faced by many older people who are no longer able to drive themselves to doctor appointments or to the grocery store. How does CASA help with this?

A. CASA is the only agency that provides out-of-county transportation for medical treatments not available locally and when there is not another option for their families. Mostly, its the elderly clients who have needed this service but disabled and homebound persons of all ages have also been assisted.

Q. What about local transportation to the doctor, pharmacy, or grocery store. Does CASA provide this service also?

A. Yes, this is probably the service most in demand. Also, if the person is physically unable to do their own grocery shopping or bill paying, volunteers will shop "from a list" or run other errands as needed.

Q. A CASA service that is very reassuring and sometimes vital to the well-being of an elderly or homebound person is your "Telephone Reassurance Program." How does it work?

A. At a regular time daily, a call is made to the homebound person to be sure that person is doing okay and their needs are being met. If the person doesn't answer, an immediate check is made.

Q. Who refers those in need of services to CASA and is there a charge for any of the services?

A. Referrals come from hospitals, nursing homes, and all social service agencies. Also, referrals can come from friends, neighbors, church or family members who are aware of an elderly or homebound person's needs. There is never a charge for CASA services and the only criteria is "need" and the inability to find the needed service from another agency or family member.

Jonnie Baker Justice, Executive Director for CASA of DeKalb County, says volunteers are needed in all areas and says even if you have only a couple of hours to spare each month, CASA can use you. CASA volunteers are caring individuals of all ages who want to help make a difference in the lives of the elderly and homebound. Ms. Justice says she would like to work with more church groups and encourages teams from churches, corporations, or youth groups to become CASA volunteers.

In addition to the services already mentioned, CASA maintains a food pantry, a clothes closet, and a "loan" closet (heaters, fans, blankets, wheelchairs, etc.) Their CASA Garden, a joint effort of CASA, the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department and Master Gardeners of DeKalb County, will again provide fresh produce for many area families this summer.

The CASA program is funded by UGF of DeKalb County, the State of Alabama, fundraisers, and individual donations. CASA of DeKalb County is one of five such agencies in the State.

For more information on CASA services or to become a volunteer, call them at 845-2049 or stop by their office located at 310 NW 14th Street in Fort Payne.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Q. When was the first Scouting Program started in DeKalb County?

A. The Scouting Program was first started in DeKalb County in the mid-1920's. It is now the largest youth organization in the county with over 1500 youth and approximately 250 adult leaders/volunteers here in the county.

Q. What is the "Mission Statement" for the Boy Scouts of America?

A. It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential.

Q. Has the traditional scouting program or its mission changed over the years since it's organization here in the United States almost 89 years ago?

A. The organization's basic value-based programs continue to emphasize the development of good character, leadership skills, and good citizenship. All programs stress the mental and physical fitness traits needed to help prepare today's young people to make the right ethical and moral decisions in today's society.

Q. What are some of the programs available for older youth?

A. In addition to the Cub & Boy Scout Programs open to all boys 6-18 years of age, we have the Exploring and Venturing Programs which are open to both boys and girls 14 to 20 years of age.

Q. How do these programs differ since they are open to the same age group?

A. The Exploring Program's focus is basically on helping youth "explore" various career interests. Currently there are 12 Explorer Posts in the County. Post 200 was organized at DeKalb BMC for those interested in the medical field. The Venturing Program is an exciting new program. A "Venturing Crew" made up of youth and their adult leaders develop a program of meaningful and fun activities. Some of the activities might include "high adventure" trips, weekend camping trips, backpacking, arts and hobbies, horseback riding, service projects and more. While outdoor activities are major aspects of Venturing, there are many opportunities for youth to learn new skills.

Q. Can Scouting really make a difference in a young person's life and their success as an adult?

A. Research shows that young people who stay in scouting five or more years are more likely to develop strong values that will stay with them the rest of their lives. Also, studies have shown that former Scouts tend to achieve higher education and incomes than non-scouts.

Jackie Pettit, Sequoyah District Executive, says the DeKalb County Scouting Program provides great opportunities for our youth. He says Camp Comer, located on Lookout Mountain near Mentone, is a real asset to the area. The Camp, established in 1963 on over 1000 acres, held the first summer camp in 1966 and currently hosts over 5000 youth annually. The 1999 Camping Session will be held at Camp Comer in June and July.

Other spring and summer activities include: The "Friends of Scouting" Campaign which runs from January through May; the District Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Race, which will be held on April 10 at the Old Recreation Center on Hwy. 35 in Fort Payne; a Spring Camp-O-Ree, which will be held at Little River Mouth Park April 30-May 2; and Cub Day Camp, which will be held at Camp Jackson in Scottsboro June 14-17.

To find out more about these upcoming events or to obtain more information on the various Scouting Programs available in DeKalb County, contact the District office at 256-237-1777 or Jackie Pettit at 256-997-0338.



Applications for St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Jimmy McCary Scholarship Fund now available

St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church now has applications for the **Jimmy McCary Scholarship Fund**. This fund has provided many scholarships to students from the local area for quite a few years, and we will be taking applications from qualified candidates **BEFORE MAY 1, 1999**. The guidelines for these scholarships are:

- 1. We must receive a fully completed scholarship application and family financial statement by the established deadline each year. Forms received after the deadline will generally not be considered since we have limited funds and a large number of applicants.
- 2. This scholarship is ordinarily only available to Mentone and Valley Head residents.
- 3. We give priority to financial need and academic record.
- 4. The scholarship is only available to recent high school graduates unless special circumstances apply and an exemption is given.
- 5. Before the scholarship is awarded, proof of admission and enrollment must be provided on an official form from the school.
- 6. The schooling involved must lead to a degree or, in some cases, professional certification.
- 7. Once enrolled, the student must maintain the equivalent of a 2.8 GPA on a scale of 4.0 in order to qualify for the succeeding year, and the Scholarship Committee should have those academic records with the new application.
- 8. The scholarships are available for a maximum of four years.
- 9. The student must maintain a course load of 8 credits per semester or equivalent in order to qualify. We recognize that this may vary according to the program you are in, but we want to assure that the student is on a track to complete the program in a reasonable period of time.
- 10. We do not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, or gender, so all applications will be given equal consideration.

If you are interested in applying for a St. Joseph's Jimmy McCary Scholarship, please send a request for an application and financial information form to:

The Scholarship Committee
St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 161
Mentone, AL 35984-0161

Please include a typewritten or printed name and address and phone number in order for us to send you these forms.

(See schedule of events on Page 18.)



The Town of Mentone is no longer providing a courtesy dumpster, sign up with Arrow Disposal Service immediately

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

The Town of Mentone has instructed Waste Management to remove the courtesy dumpster at the Little River Hardware. This dumpster has been provided as a courtesy to allow residents to dump their garbage until they signed up with the waste care provider. This dumpster is to be removed during the week of March 8th. **There will be no dumpster available for the public.**

You must contact Arrow Disposal Service at their office in English Village Center at 1000-B Gault Ave., S., Fort Payne, AL 35967. This office is just around the corner from the Alabama Museum and Fan Club and across the street from the old football field. **The local number is 845-1580. The toll free number is 1-877-845-1580.** Call these numbers if you are signing up as a new customer or go to their office.

Residential garbage pickup service will be billed by the quarter, at the rate of \$40.41 (\$13.47 per month for a three-month period).

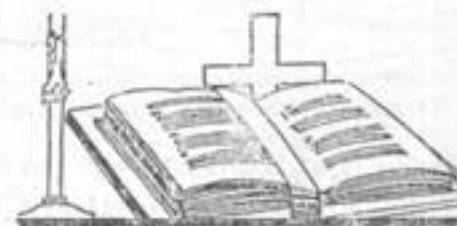
All old customers should have been changed over to the Arrow Disposal Services system. If you live in the city limits of Mentone, DeKalb County, (or outside the city limits), and need garbage service, Arrow Disposal Service is now the residential franchise contractor, having been awarded the contract by the DeKalb County Commission effective February 1st, and by the North DeKalb Solid Waste Disposal Authority (consisting of the towns of Mentone, Valley Head and Ider). Waste Management will no longer be handling residential service in DeKalb County or the towns of Mentone, Valley Head, and Ider.

Current customers of Waste Management, Inc., should have been changed over to Arrow Disposal Services. During the month of February, most of the old containers were replaced by a new container for those who have paid their bill. This process will continue until all City Environmental/Waste Management containers are replaced.

The Town of Mentone is no longer providing courtesy dumpsters. All residents have had time to change over or sign up with the new service company. If you currently do not have a waste disposal service, **YOU MUST CONTACT ARROW DISPOSAL SERVICES IMMEDIATELY.**

If you have previously sent a deposit to Waste Management, and received no service, you should be receiving your original check or money order in the mail. If not, they are again mailing out refunds on March 25. If you have not received your refund within a week after that day, call their office in Huntsville at 1-800-333-7705.

Remember, that state and federal law prohibit the burning or on-site disposal of household garbage.



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matt 6: 31.

Why worry about tomorrow? God is still in control. Many are worried about the year 2000. What will we have to live on? Will there be food or water, or what will be taken from them? But Jesus said, "Your heavenly father knows that ye have need of all these things and if ye seek first the kingdom of God," He will take care of the rest. So believe Him and trust Him.



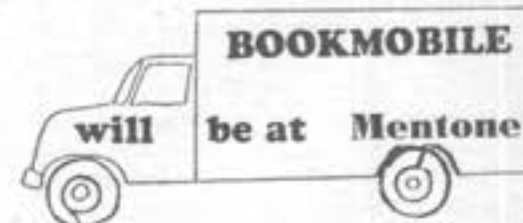
April 4th

"Thank You"

The family of Thomas Gardner expresses their appreciation to everyone who brought food, sent flowers, cards, and in any way extended support and sympathy during Tom's sickness and death.

We love you all
Dorothy, Tim, Dean & Holly

The DeKalb County



will be at Mentone
on Wednesdays
from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

●March 3, 17, and 31

●April 14 and 28

●May 12 and 26

●June 9 *

●July 7 and 21

*Bookmobile's Vacation

Selina Darlene Couch named Valley Head Good Citizen Candidate



Selina Couch

Congratulations to Selina Darlene Couch of Valley Head School, who was selected as the Good Citizen candidate from the school to participate in the annual Phillip Hamman Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award. She is the daughter of Doyle and Patsy Couch. Her

activities and achievements include: Senior Beta Club; Bible Club; Freshman Math Award; Presidential Improvement Award (10-11); Biochemistry Award.

She has helped provide Christmas fruit baskets for the elderly and participated in other activities to aid the elderly.

Selina spends much of her out-of-school time as waitress at Western Sizzlin Restaurant. She enjoys reading, riding horses, watching movies, and spending time with her family.

Her future plans include attending Northeast State Junior College to major in computer science, also, to marry, become successfully employed, and be an independent and productive community member.