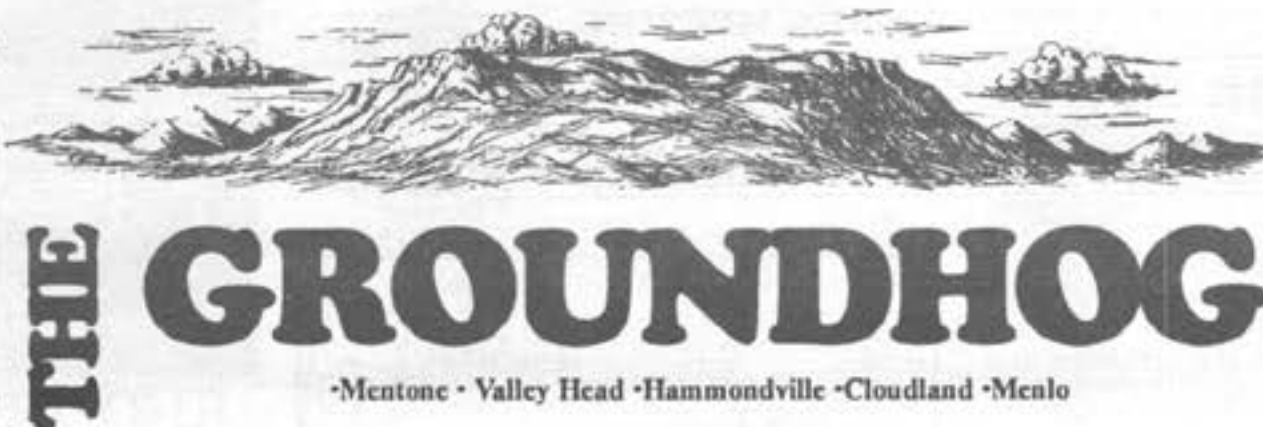


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Volume 20, No. 3

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

March 2002

SCOUTS TO PARTICIPATE IN WEST NILE VIRUS CLEANUP PROJECT APRIL 6

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

In cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and the Alabama Department of Health, the Town of Mentone is sponsoring Boy Scout Troop 106 in the West Nile Virus Cleanup Program. Let's all get behind this effort to clean up our yards, streets, and all of Mentone.

Our motto is if we can save one life or person from being extremely ill, it will be worth the effort. This disease is not like what we have dealt with before and there is no vaccine available as yet.

Robert McReynolds of Scout Troop 106 has selected the West Nile Virus Cleanup for his Eagle project. He proposes to clean everything up within the town limits of Mentone. However, if someone outside the city limits requests help with things they need cleaned up, the scouts will help.

Robert McReynolds and Joshua Hughes attended the March 11 Town Council meeting and presented their proposal. The Town Council voted unanimously to support this project.

As the scouts are cleaning up, if anyone refuses to cooperate with them to clean up the property, they will simply leave it alone. However, after the scouts are completely finished, the Town Council of Mentone will pass an ordinance requiring citizens to have everything cleaned up.

Four dumpsters will be provided by the Town of Mentone. These dumpsters will be placed at the following sites: Mason Park, Little River Hardware, Brow Park, and at Tom's Drive-In. PLEASE DO NOT PUT ANY SCRAP METAL IN THE DUMPSTERS. These items will be picked up separately by the use of pickup trucks and trailers, as will any used appliances and other large items, including automobiles and automobile parts, lawn mowers and motors.

Please cooperate by filling in the form on the back page of this issue and returning it to the town hall. This form must be back in by March 30th, as the clean up will begin April 6. This form asks for your name,

address, phone number, what you have that needs to be cleaned up, such as automobiles, tires, appliances, other miscellaneous items, whether you will get it to the curb, or whether the scouts need to clean this up.

All Adopt-a-Mile organizations or individuals are requested to help with their adopt-a-mile to coordinate their cleanup with April 6 weekend, if not before.

The scouts will be needing all the help they can get from the community as this will be a huge undertaking and can only be accomplished with cooperation from the residents. This is your chance to get your property cleaned up before the mosquitoes have a chance to multiply. Please help make Mentone safe and assist the Scouts as they work to make Mentone cleaner and safer.

If you have any questions, you may call the Mentone Town Hall at 634-4444.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

- Friday, March 15, starting at 4 PM, American Legion Hall, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 215, All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser (See notice elsewhere.)
- Sunday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day
- Friday, March 22, Spring Begins
- Thursday, March 28, 4 PM., Waterworks Board Meeting, Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Saturday, March 30, 2:30-4 pm (CA time) Easter Egg Hunt at Tri County Volunteer Fire/Rescue, Cloudland, GA
- Sunday, March 31, Easter (Check the Church Page for Sunrise Services)

- Monday, April 1, APRIL FOOL'S DAY
- Sunday, April 7, Daylight Savings Time TIME TO CHANGE CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR
- Monday, April 8, 6 PM, Town Council meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Tuesday, April 9, 12:30 P.M., Rhododendron Garden Club, Mentone Community House for business meeting, then a trip to Glass Farms
- Tuesday, April 9, 7 PM, American Legion Post 215 Meeting, American Legion Hall

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See Page 2.**

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

THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

Editor.....Evelyn Graves
Associate Editor/typesetter.....Marie Dillenbeck
Contributing Editors.....John Baty, Ruby Brock, Linda Brown, Eloise Brown, Marilyn Campbell, Bernise Crow, Marie Dillenbeck, Dowe Foreman, Evelyn Graves, Sue Schwarz, L.C. Moon

MAPA OFFICERS

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Vice President.....
Secretary.....Marie S. Dillenbeck
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Member-At-Large.....Dot Crow

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

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

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

MAPA MEETING

www.MentoneAlabama.org

Next MAPA meeting is April 2,
7 PM at Dessie's Kountry Chef



"We hereby dispense with the reading of the minutes, and Mrs. Gough will hereby dispense the doughnuts."

THANK YOU

I would like to say thank you to everyone who took such good care of me when I had my knee surgery. Special thanks to Dowe Foreman, Jane Galloway, Liz Jones, Jane Morgan, and many, many more. Thank you. I am still in therapy. With the Lord's help, I will be better soon. Please keep me in your prayers.

Love, all of you, Gail Crider.



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-PUBLIC NOTICE-

MENTONE PLANNING
AND ZONING COMMISSION
Meeting dates for 2002

• March 21 • June 20
• September 19 • December 19

Other special or called meetings
will be posted as required.

The regular quarterly meetings are on the 3rd Thursday; and all meetings are held in the town public meeting room at 4 p.m. and are open to the public.

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In cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and the Alabama Department of Health, the Town of Mentone is sponsoring Boy Scout Troop 106 in the **West Nile Virus Cleanup Program**. Let's all get behind this effort to clean up our yards, streets, and all of Mentone. Our motto is if we can save one life or person from being extremely ill, it will be worth the effort. This disease is not like what we have dealt with before and there is no shot available as yet.

Our appreciation goes to all those involved in obtaining and mounting the flags along Highway 117, especially Linda Brown, who spearheaded the project after the request came to the council. They are beautiful, and I am told more are on the way - maybe one or two state flags will get included. I hope that our young people who have not had to experience war and depressions will admire what our flag stands for and treat it with respect.

After several meetings, the Oaklath Mayors Association (of which I am a member) has gotten some input into the planning of a new jail for the county. One thing we all agree on is that it is badly needed and soon.

After a survey of vehicle tag receipts, it appears that the tax collector's office has not been collecting our

Mentone Motor Vehicle Tax. They have been advised, so you should see an amount in the block labeled 'city' when you purchase your tags.

The Alabama Department of Transportation held a public involvement meeting at the Mentone Community House on Thursday March 7, 2002 for Project BR 204 (503) replacement of the **Whatley Bridge** on Highway 117 at Little River near Four Roads at the state line. The bridge will be located adjacent to the old bridge on the west side. It will be plenty wide, 44 feet. Skyline Bridge at Little River we hope will be next and not too far in the future. Every time you get an opportunity, speak to our commissioners, senator, and representative. Remember, this is election year. And just a reminder - political signs under our ordinance are considered temporary. In no case are they permitted on the public right of way of state or county. In order to be placed on private property, one must have permission or ask prosecution.

First Federal Bank of Fort Payne has purchased the property across from the Post Office, hopefully for a bank in Mentone. They have advised that they will work closely with first-time home buyer applicants and provide counseling services to prospective buyers in such areas as mortgage financing procedures. For

further information about this program under the current Affordable Housing Program of the Federal Home Loan Bank in Atlanta, contact them in Fort Payne at 845-1077.

The Beautification and Senior Activities Committee will soon receive 300 seedling trees - red maples, black gum and green ash, from the **National Tree Trust**. We plan an April 13th work party.

Water Board: Our grant applications to RDA for a new tank and rehab of old lines is still processing along. Our water losses are so high that several lines which are not included in the grant have made us borrow money to replace some on an emergency basis. In some cases it is more prudent and economical to replace them than to patch them. We should have the Mason Street, Douglas Street, and part of Highway 117 in the downtown area relocated and in service within the next week. Then we will be able to disconnect several thousand feet of old galvanized and cast iron lines. Due to more costs implemented in the processing of water by governmental regulations under the Clean Water Act, our costs from Fort Payne have increased this month. Therefore, we will have to pass this cost on, probably in the month of April.

Easter - The Gift of Hope

At this holy season of rebirth
When new life comes to an eager earth,
As each blade of grass and leaf of green
And beautiful blooms color the scene
Of Springtime's beautiful perfection—
All are proving the glory of resurrection,
Brown bulbs buried deep beneath the sod,
Come up to beauty and speak of God.
How can doubt darken any living heart
Who can be aware and a feeling part
Of the resurrection of Spring that surrounds us
And the boundless blessings that abound for us
The joyous assurance and peace we achieve
By firm faith in God's promises if we
Trust and believe
He is always as near as your praying breath,
His love will enfold you safe in death.
He promised "Where I am, You shall be—"
How wonderful the peace and joy of
Heaven's eternity!
The gift of hope in His resurrection
Assures us of attaining Heaven's perfection.
Remember how precious are these fleeting days,
Lift up your hearts in anthems of praise.
Rejoice, be happy in this holy season,
Be constantly aware of its wonderful reason.
As a drab brown bulb rises to beauty's perfection
More beautiful we shall rise in resurrection—
Accept the gift of hope that Easter represents—
It cost a humble price for our redemption

—Elnise Brown

THE NEW LIBRARY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library will soon open for the students and citizens of the Mentone area. We welcome your input and your involvement! Please help us decide when the facility should be available for public use by completing the simple form below and returning it to:

Moon Lake Library
P. O. Box 481
Mentone, Alabama 35984

1. Please check *any two* days of the week that you would like the library to be open to the public:
☐ Monday
☐ Tuesday
☐ Wednesday
☐ Thursday
☐ Friday
2. Please check *one* time block that you would like the library to be open to the public:
☐ 5-7 p.m.
☐ 5:30-7:30 p.m.
☐ 6-8 p.m.

If you would be willing to serve as a volunteer during the library's public hours, please complete the following:

Name _____

Home Phone # _____ Work Phone # _____

Volunteers will be contacted with further information and for training.



Mrs. Sally Wheat Teacher of the Year

In December 2001, the Teachers of the Year were named at Gaylesville's High School. One of the recipients was Family Consumer Sciences teacher Mrs. Sally Wheat. She received her degree from Jacksonville State University. Mrs. Wheat has been teaching for four years, three of them at Gaylesville. The biggest reward of teaching for Mrs. Wheat is having the opportunity to be with young people and helping them learn skills that will help them live healthier and happier lives.

Mrs. Wheat decided to become a teacher because she has a strong desire to teach the principles of strong family values through Family Consumer Sciences education.

When asked how she felt about receiving this award, she stated, "I feel honored to be chosen teacher of the year."

Sally has worked hard in helping her students learn the materials they will need in life.

Mrs. Wheat is the former Sally Sharp who graduated from Valley Head High School in 1994, and was awarded a 1-year full tuition scholarship to Jacksonville State University based on leadership qualities. While at Valley Head High School, she was editor of the yearbook, secretary of the Beta Club, historian of the Student Council, member of the Bible Club, and member of the Pep Club.

Sally is the daughter of Nancy and Darrell Kelly and the late Tony Sharp. She is married to Shawn Wheat, and they live in Gaylesville.

Congratulations, Mrs. Wheat!



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A SURVIVAL KIT FOR EVERY DAY

Submitted by Marty Smith

Toothpick: to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others... Matt 7:1

Rubber Band: to remind you to always be flexible, things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out...
Rom 8:28

Band-Aid: to remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else's...
Col 3:12-1

Pencil: to remind you to list your blessings every day... Eph 1:3

Eraser: to remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and it's okay...
Gen 50:15-21

Chewing Gum: to remind you to stick with it and you can accomplish anything with Jesus... Phil 4:13

Mint: to remind you that you are a mint to your heavenly father...
John 3:17

Candy Kiss: to remind you that everyone needs a kiss or a hug every day... John 4:7

Tea Bag: to remind you to relax daily and go over that list of God's blessings... 1 Thes 5:18



Jesus Christ

Please Take His Hand

A babe was born in this world of mine
A cherished prize in a season of time
A babe sweet and small

But soon he grew so strong and tall
He walked the earth and spread the news
God is great from every view

He performed many a miraculous sign

He turned the water into wine

He loved and taught the crowds below

Through this world we must go

Take your hand and place it in mine

I'll show you things of great divine

We follow him far and near

For his voice we want to hear

He taught us things we need to say

Like our father which art in heaven

When we pray

He made the crippled to walk

and the blind to see

No greater love is there for you and me

With outstretched arms

they nailed his hands upon a tree

A crown of thorns upon his head

A blood-stained ground was plain to see

The pain he suffered for you and me

The look of love filled his eyes

That night in dark and stormy skies

In three days he arose again

Taking with him all our sins

A BABE A CHILD A MAN

JESUS CHRIST

PLEASE TAKE HIS HAND

—Kathy Blalock

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AMERICAN FLAGS DISPLAYED IN MENTONE

By Linda Brown

Did you see the flags flying in Mentone to celebrate President's Day? Getting these flags upon the poles and flying was the combined effort of many people. Gail Chambers, who was attending the town council meeting, casually mentioned what a nice thing it would be if Mentone had flags flying from the utility poles in the town. This idea grew and, after more prodding from Gail, the town decided to see what could be done to promote this project.

The organization that has come to be the first one to ask about flags, The Woodmen of the World, was contacted. Ovie Blalock is a representative of this organization and when he was asked if they could furnish the flags, he said, "Yes, we can, and the poles, too. We can also order the brackets to put them on." The town asked him to order all of this and let them know when everything arrived. In about two weeks, Ovie was calling to say that everything had arrived and would be provided at no cost to the town.

The next order of business was to get the brackets put on the poles. Rusty Chambers, Assistant Fire Chief of the Volunteer Firefighters of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District was contacted and immediately put a crew together and installed the brackets. Now, the flags needed to be attached to the poles. Since the poles were designed to stand upright, there was a problem with putting them at the angle necessary to display them from a utility pole. This dilemma was soon solved by Ovie Blalock and Dobby Brown. They drilled a hole in each pole and secured the flag with wire. Now the flags were ready to hang and Rusty enlisted the help of Jon Chambers, Kevin Worthing, and other volunteers and put the flags up! Not only did they put them up, but they also took them down after five days of display and stored them in the town hall. The American Legion and the Woodmen of the World were consulted as to the proper time to leave the flags up. After much discussion, it was decided that five days would be about right. The next scheduled time for displaying the flags will be Easter Weekend.

After seeing the flags flying, Ovie decided that more were needed. He has ordered about twenty more flags. What a sight that will be when they are all installed and flying! This project has turned into a true community effort and many favorable comments have been heard concerning this endeavor.

Some concern was expressed regarding the lighting of the flags. Members of the American Legion were contacted and they concurred that there is enough background light from the streetlights to light the flags at night. Because of this concern that the correct flag etiquette might not be followed, much research was done to be sure that we honored and showed respect to the American Flag, a symbol of which we are all very proud.



Here, in very concise form, is a simple listing of the proper handling of the American Flag:

- It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. Often nearby street lights will provide fitting illumination.

- The flag, when carried in a procession with other flags, should be either on the marching right or in front of the center of a line of flags.

- When the flag is displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right.

- The flag should be raised briskly, and lowered ceremoniously.

- The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle, train or a boat.

- The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.

- The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water or merchandise.

- The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.

- The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free.

- The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

Copied from, *Let's be Right on Flag Etiquette*, distributed by The American Legion, National Americanism Commission, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206



Lent Reminds

The season 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 survive.

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

Lent reminds of a garden - Gethsemane,
Where Jesus went to pray in agony—
Facing cruel 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.

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

—Eloise Brown

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ACRES - cabin - pond - creek
- timber - private - backs to
Dirtseller Mtn. \$2,000 Per
AC. Owner Financing (G-68)

Laurawood - 8+/- AC - One
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Rock Formations - Very
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SCOUTING REPORT

BOY SCOUTS-David Gilbreath. On January 19th, a rainy workday was held at Jim Berry Hall, but work was accomplished. There will be more workdays needed to complete the current projects.

On January 28th, Phil and Marsha Hurt taught an excellent study for the Family Life Merit Badge.

February 8th-10th the Scouts took a camping trip to Rock Door State Park in Tennessee. This is the home of the famous "Fiery Grizzard".

John Oberle's Eagle Scout Project is working with the new School/Community Library Project in the handling of their books. There was a work day at the Community House on February 25th.

The Board of Review met at the Jim Berry Hall on March 4th.

Junior Leadership Training was Friday and Saturday, March 8th-9th.

Council JLT will be March 16th-17th, April 5th-7th and April 19th-21st for eight days of training.

Troop 106 will be hosting the Spring Camporee April 12th-14th. They already have four events to aid with parking; these are fund raising projects for the troop.

Summer Camp is scheduled for July 7th-13th at Comer Scout Reservation.

CUB SCOUTS-Mike Bare. The Blue and Gold Banquet was held on February 6th with 45 attendees. The Pack has doubled in size with 22 scouts and 9 leaders. There have already been five rank advancements and 15 activity awards achieved this scouting year and 14 of the scouts have nearly achieved their Arrow of Light, which is the Cub Scout equivalent of Eagle Scout. Daniel Hughes crossed over from Cubs to Boy Scouts on December 1st.

In other news, the Cub Scout Camp-out will be down close to Montgomery in March and the Webelos Building is progressing with work being done by Ovie Blalock and Bobby Brown and others.



Rhododendron Garden Club

By Sue Schwarz

The regular meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was called to order February 12, 2001 by Martha Wood, Vice President. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said and the devotional was given by Peggy Roark who shared a tribute to Mentone from one of her and Tom's favorite books. Dorothy Cyr was hostess and delighted us all with her creative refreshments.

The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved as was the Treasurer's report.

It was announced that the Cherokee-DeKalb Federation luncheon will be held at the Minvale Life Center in Fort Payne on April 27 at 11:00. The Federation is celebrating 50 years of existence. The cost will be \$10.00 per person and it is due to Ann Houston by April 17th.

Margaret Baker, Horticulture Chairman, gave us a handout regarding developing garden paths and a handout listing resources for seeds.

Martha Wood shared with us an issue of *Alabama Gardener* and gave us information as to how we could subscribe to it.

Jan Wilkinson moved that the Garden Club buy a white dogwood for the Partridge Peas to include in the landscaping for the Mentone Library site. The motion was seconded by Lucette Dix and carried.

Linda Brown moved that the RGC give annually an amount not to exceed \$50.00 to the community library to buy gardening reference books. Dallyne Jones seconded the motion and it was carried.

Dorothy Cyr requests help with Earth Day Activities at Moon Lake School, on April 22.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be in the Mentone Community House on April 9, at 12:30. After a brief meeting, there will be a trip to Glass Farms.

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

BIRTHDAY COLUMN

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

Happy April Birthday/Anniversary wishes to: ●1-Jared Hulan; ●2-Milton Chambers, Mary Pearson, Effia Harrison and Annie Harrison; ●3-Alfred Chambers; ●4- Georgette McGee, Katie Brandon, Jamie Phillips; ●5-Jana Goss, "Possum" Heather Moses, Chris Black, Kaitlyn Dean; ●6- John Chambers, Jennifer McGee; ●7-Gail and Milton Chambers (Anniv.); Shannon Chappell, Venna Livingston; ●9- Ashley Hartline; ●10- Lisa Moore, Lindsey Carter; ●11- Josie Crider; ●12-Tommy Dodd; ●15-Frances Rosario Blix, Tommy Blansit; ●17-Linda Kilgore Patterson, A.J. Palmer; ●19- Anne Hampton; ●20- Carrie Patty; ●23- Lauren McGee, David Mays; ●24- Junior Flemming; ●25- Mary Brown, Olive Jones, Jennifer Robertson; ●26- John Moore; ●28- Janie Dukes, Kaitlyn Hester; ●29-Jimmy & Pat Hathcox (Anniv), Jim Whisenant; ●30- Shane McMahan; ●31-Mandi Browder.

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PUBLIC SAFETY AWARENESS DAY

Chattooga County Emergency Service Agencies are hosting a Public Safety Day.

Come out and see you're public safety teams and their equipment in use.

See demonstrations by:

- Life-force Air Medical Services
- Georgia State Patrol Aviation
- Georgia State Swat Team
- The CEMA Mobile Command Unit
- GBI Bomb Squad
- and other Local and State Agencies

There will be six helicopters, clowns, food and lots of fun. These are our tax dollars so come see how we put them to good use.

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9:00 am

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NEW DESIGN STUDY CLUB

Submitted by Bobby Barone

A new Design Study Club has been organized, to operate as a committee of the DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs. Club membership will be limited to members of the federation, which consists of eight garden clubs in DeKalb and Cherokee Counties. Fort Payne GC, Azalea GC of Fort Payne, Rhododendron GC of Mentone, Rainsville GC, Flowering Dogwood GC of Henagar, Ider GC, Kaolin GC of Valley Head, and Cedar Bluff GC.

The Committee, appointed February 11 by Federation President Reita Grant, consists of Peggy Benefield, chairman, Lois Fuller and Celestine Darnell.

At the organizational meeting of the club on February 21, at the Community Bank Building in Rainsville, it was decided to meet monthly at the Runtan Building in Henagar on the fourth Thursday at 6 PM. The first five programs will be:

- Basics of Floral Design on March 28
- Traditional Mass & Creative Mass Designs on April 25
- Traditional Line Mass & Creative Line on May 23
- Reflective Design & Functional Table Exhibit on June 27
- Stable Design and Framed Spatial on July 25

Additional programs to be announced.

If you are interested in becoming a member of a garden club and the Design Study Club, please call Bobby Barone at 845-7848.

DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs is a member of Garden Clubs of Alabama, Inc.; District II, and National Garden Clubs, Inc. Deep South Region.

Saint Patrick

Patrick, patron saint of Ireland,
A dedicated Christian fire brand,
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
recognized

A large number of priests he ordained
Fame and acclaim he forever abstained.
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 the green,
We remember St. Patrick with highest esteem!

—Eloise Brown

DeKalb/Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs

A special meeting of the DeKalb/Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs was held recently at Western Sizzlin. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize plans for the 50th Anniversary Spring Luncheon and to discuss the Fall Flower Show.

Celestine Darnell, chairman, reported that plans for the 50th Anniversary Luncheon needed the approval of the members of the board, before her committee could continue. After some discussion concerning the floral arrangements, napkins, menu, and cost of the event, a vote was taken and the committee was given permission to continue with their plans. This will be a wonderful celebration of the past 50 years in the history of the federation! All garden club members are invited to participate. Each club was given an assignment: Azalea will be responsible for the programs, Cedar Bluff will handle registration and name tags for the members, Rhododendron will make place cards and name tags for the head table, Ider, Fort Payne and Rainsville will do all table decorations and place settings, Kaolin will handle distribution of the door prizes, and Dogwood will do the year books. The cost will be the same as in previous years, \$10.00 per person. Last day to make your reservation will be April 17th and the Luncheon will be held on April 28th at Minvale Life Center. Registration will begin at 11:00 AM, Lunch will be served at noon and the meeting will begin at about 12:30.

Peggy Benefield, chairman, passed out proposals for the Fall Flower Show. Since it is the year of the rose, she suggested that our theme be "2002-Year of the Rose". She also had named each of the divisions and had a description for each category. We were asked to read it over and offer our opinions at the next meeting. Each club will be responsible for a different aspect of the show, such as placement, dismantling, registration, etc. It takes many hands to make this the wonderful show that it is, so please be willing to help out when you or your club is asked.

In further business, president Reita Grant appointed Peggy Benefield, Lois Fuller and Celestine Darnell to organize a Design Study Club.

Dr. Dorsey Waker is planning a basic skills workshop to assist people with such skills as repairing a dripping faucet, painting a room, etc. Ann Wright, and her committee, will work with him to plan a basic landscape class, to be included in this workshop.

If you are not in a garden club but would like to be, there is one nearby! We have eight clubs in the federation, and you would be welcome to join any one of them! If you need more information, please feel free to call me at 845-7848 and I will help you find the closest garden club.

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

Submitted by: Barbara Barone, Publicity Chairman

Valley Head Volunteer Fire Department

By Marty Smith

The Valley Head Volunteer Fire Department (VHVFD) has been busy preparing for an evaluation by the Insurance Service Office (ISO). This evaluation is very important to the community. Insurance rates are determined in part by the ISO rating of the fire department. All aspects of the fire protection activities of the department are evaluated, i.e. fire fighting, rescue procedures, equipment, fire hydrant flow, pumper operation, individual equipment etc.

The VHVFD is especially proud of the new pumper truck acquired over a year ago. This piece of equipment has improved the response time, pumping capability, safety of the operators, and the confidence of the operators to get the job done. The recently passed ad valorem tax has made equipment such as this available in many smaller communities.

Fire Departments throughout the county have formed an association, pooled resources for training equipment supply purchases, and support. This spirit of cooperation and support in emergency situations has improved the fire protection throughout the area.

The VHVFD has recently completed a fund raising drive that raised almost \$4,000.00. This was a great response from the citizens and firms in the area. The department is grateful for this tangible expression of support and pledges to do the best job possible. These funds will be spent only on equipment and supplies.

The Town Council Committee, which oversees the Volunteer Fire Department, and the Department determined that the community would be better served by the firemen spending time on training than on fund raising activities such as road blocks, fish fries, etc. In the future, this fund raising will be an annual affair in November of each year.

Through the efforts of the DeKalb Fire Association, the department has received a defibrillator to be placed on the truck. Personnel are being trained and this service should be available in the coming weeks.

The twelve volunteers are all unpaid fire fighters who give their time responding to emergencies, training, and community service. Their sleep, weekends, and family time are often interrupted to provide fire protection. The community is grateful, and thankful for their service!

Thank you Valley Head Volunteer Firefighters: Chief Brian Howard, Dewayne Grisham, Jim Phillips, Carl Tubbsville, Dennis McDonald, Chad Mosher, Jason Burch, Alex Hatfield, Toby Crider, Jim McCray, Andy Beason, and Stacy Howard.

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Sanctity of Life Service

The Sanctity of Life Service was held Sunday, January 27, 2002, at First Baptist Church, Fort Payne, and it was a memorial for all the children who have lost their lives to abortion since January 22, 1973, and to the millions of parents who grieve in silence.

The guest speaker was Hon. Michael O'Dell, District Attorney of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Alabama. He has been a leader in local and statewide efforts that promote the well-being of children. He and his wife Betsy are parents of three daughters.

Save-A-Life of DeKalb County, Inc., is a non-profit organization which does not charge for its services. Its goal are:

1. To save the lives of unborn children and to minister to women in crisis.
2. To assist area families, churches, and schools in understanding and communicating the Biblical view of sexual morality.
3. To unify and equip area Christians through cooperative ministry.

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Patrick H. Tate

Tate qualifies for District Judge

Fort Payne Attorney Patrick H. Tate, who also serves as Mentone's town attorney and prosecutor, has qualified for the office of district judge in the upcoming Democratic Primary.

Tate was admitted to the Alabama Bar in 1971 following graduation from The Cumberland School of Law of Samford University. He served as a military police officer with the U.S. Army for 2 years and opened his law office in October 1973. He has been engaged in the private practice of law in Fort Payne for the past 29 years.

He served as Mentone's first Municipal Judge when the Municipal Court was organized in late 1977 and served until 1983 when he became town attorney and prosecutor and continued in that capacity since 1983.

He helped with the formation of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District in the late 70's.

He is married to the former Karen Crow of Mentone and they have 3 children, Mary Beth, a 3rd grade teacher in Rockmart; G. Patrick, a senior at the University of Alabama; and Barbara Ann, senior at Fort Payne High School.

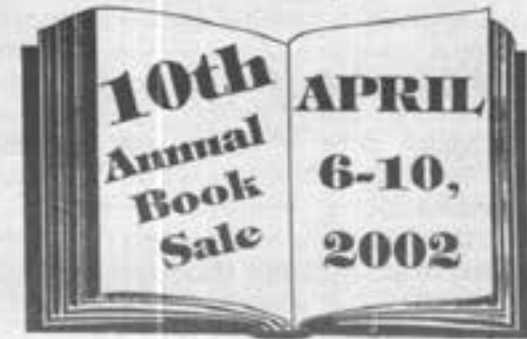
Tate is a member of the Alabama Bar Association, Alabama Municipal Judges Association, and Alabama Municipal Attorney Association.

The Tates are members of First Baptist Church of Fort Payne.

Easter Bunny to visit
Tri-County Volunteer
Fire/Rescue March 30,
2:30-4 PM (GA time)

Prizes and
Refreshments.

DeKalb County Library



Donations Taken Through: March 22, 2002

The donations of books for children and adults, both paperback and hardback, as well as videos, puzzles and games will continue to be received at the DeKalb County Library until March 22, 2002. Magazines and encyclopedias will not be accepted this year.

The first day of the book sale will be Saturday, April 6, with Wednesday, April 10, being the final day of the sale.

The Fort Payne Culture Club sponsors this sale. This year marks the tenth annual sale. All proceeds from this sale are used to purchase items that are not covered in the budget for the library. Please participate in this event by donating items by March 22 and then attending the sale to make purchases on April 6-10.



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NOTICE

www.MentoneAlabama.org. MAPA's web site, has a "Directory" to help visitors to our community find the places, things, and services they might want—much like the Yellow Pages in the phone book. If you have any information for the Directory, please submit it via e-mail to Listings@MentoneAlabama.org.

If you already have a listing there, please make sure it is correct and up-to-date. Thanks for your help!

In Memory of Clyde Hoyt

We have lost another dear friend - Clyde Hoyt, who we used to visit in Sebring, Florida. Clyde had been ill for some time and passed away on February 24.

Clyde was a good man. Some of you will remember when he and his wife, Beverly, built a nice home here at Mentone a few years ago on the Parkway. They sold that place to Bob and Marion Solomon and returned to Sebring. Later, they moved to Colorado to be near their daughter, Mary.

Beverly was president of the Rhododendron Garden Club while they lived here, and many of you know their son, Doug, who has his accounting office in Valley Head.

We extend our sincere condolences to the Hoyt family.

Bernise Crow



The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

It is a blustery, snowy and cold day as I write on this twenty-seventh day of February. It was ten degrees on our brow deck this morning and is supposed to be even colder tonight. I guess Old winter is blowing what may be his last blast of the season. Daffodils and creeping phlox are blooming; robins are hopping on the lawn; the maples are budding, so we know spring is almost here. We had one apple tree blooming two weeks ago. I guess we won't be gathering any fruit from it.

On days like today, it is pleasant to just sit inside and plan things, watch the beautiful birds, and just be content to have a warm place to do nothing!

You will tire of my "bird" talk, but they are such a pleasure for us (Joyce and Coy love them, too!). One morning, Joyce looked out and she saw some huge birds fly across the yard. When Homer and I looked, they had landed on an oak tree - three beautiful pileated woodpeckers! These birds don't usually come close to the house, but we hear them call to each other. They were recently on the endangered list, but I am not sure if they still are.

Dick Keefer said he had to stop his car one recent morning to let about twenty wild turkeys cross the road right in front of our house - and we didn't see them! I have seen turkeys a few times, but never a flock that large. They are stately, gorgeous birds when the sun shines on them, giving them an iridescent glow.

The purple finch and cardinals brighten many mornings for us. The goldfinch are getting some of their summer color back. They turn sort of a grayish brown in wintertime. Last week, I saw an eastern bluebird in the front yard. I hope it finds suitable nesting here. They are very particular about their nesting sites. Their houses must be cleaned out every year. They will come in pairs and check the houses to see if they are just right for a nest. The robin, however, (maybe due to laziness) will build in the same nest as long as it lasts.

We are so blessed to have these colorful little feathered friends to sing to us and to brighten the landscape. I've never learned to identify a species by its song, but I enjoy listening to them. I miss the mockingbirds here on the mountain. In Chattanooga, they seem to sing from every tree. I do hear them occasionally at the Hitching Post.

Seems our Mayor Britt has created, and appointed members to, several committees to get things accomplished in our area and I think it's a great idea. He is trying to get everyone involved in projects for the enrichment of our town, which subsequently benefits residents in surrounding areas, also.

Homer and I attended a meeting last week hosted by Glenda Hollis of the Mentone Inn, of the Tourism group. They are doing all they can to support the

Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Department. A musical event is planned for March 14 and 15, to be held on the lot by the Mentone Inn. It promises to be a very good show with donations going to the Fire Department. This is good. We certainly need to support our fire department. Department volunteers were recently on the spot when the Mentone Spring Hotel had a kitchen fire. They quickly put that one out. Thanks to those dedicated men and women. If the hotel burned, probably the White Elephant Galleries would go, and if the wind was blowing, the whole square might have burned!

Many thanks to Glenda Hollis for cleaning the trash, weeds, leaves, etc., from around the shrubbery along the sidewalk. I thought some landscape artist had done it when I saw how neat it looked. That was a really good deed that created a nice view for our tourists driving through or for any of us walking to the Post Office. MAPA will be cleaning their "country mile" soon. Since the weather is so uncertain during March, it may be April before we can clean it well.

Homer's brother, Jesse Crow, has been in the hospital in Gadsden for almost a week, suffering from pneumonia. He couldn't breathe and was in awful pain last week. His doctor had him in intensive care for three days, two of them spent on a breathing machine. He was feeling much better at the time of this writing. We pray that he will be home soon, fully recovered.

Homer and I had fun last week - or I did! Lawson Auction in Chattanooga had a sale of all the leftovers (mostly junk) in their building. I bought a pickup truck load of goodies. The fun part was unloading to see what kind of "stuff" was worth keeping and what to take to the dump! Joyce and Coy had fun sorting through it all. Coy found some items he wanted and Joyce found an electric clock with a lighted front that looks like the rising sun (shades of the '70's). This is fun!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

I had trouble coming up with a topic for this month's article. Homer suggested I write about nothing. So here goes.

Nothing, according to Webster: no thing; not anything; nought; insignificance; unimportance; something of little or no value, seriousness importance, etc.; triviality.

Nothing, according to Crow: the basis of this article...

To think of nothing is to not think. Catch 22. However, to write about nothing can fill pages. We've all read it at one time or another. "What a nothing book." We've all watched it at one time or another. "What a nothing movie." We've all listened to it at one time or another. "What a nothing speech." And now, I'm typing it. Not an easy task. It's either pecking out "n - o - t - h - i - n - g" or " " (blank). Try it. See what I mean?

Well, maybe next month we'll explore something. Happy St. Patrick's Day! (Now that's something!)



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Tri-County neighbors finish their chili.
Left to right: Pat Nolan, Corinne Caplano,
Ellen Spangler, Ann Marevis, Katherine
Dalenburg, and Susan Cheronos

(Photo by Mary Alice Stout)

TRI-COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE/RESCUE EVENTS

by Mary Alice Stout
EASTER BUNNY TO VISIT

The Easter Bunny will be hiding eggs at Tri-County Headquarters on Saturday, March 30, from 2:30 to 4:00pm (GA time). Children are invited to come and find the eggs. Prizes will be given to the child who finds the most eggs and the finder of the golden egg. There will be refreshments for everyone.

The activities will take place at TRI-County Headquarters, Cloudland, GA, at the GA-AL state line on GA highway 48.

Contact persons for the event are Chief Howard Durham (706-862-8400) and Assistant Chief Janet Harris (706-862-2128).

CHILI SUPPER A SUCCESS

The recent Tri-County chili supper fund raiser was a success. Assistant Chief Janet Harris says "I'd like to thank the community for their support. Your contributions have helped pay this year's insurance for the fire/rescue vehicles."



A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The DeKalb County Genealogical Society meets the second Saturday (except December) of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the DeKalb County Public Library, 504 Grand Avenue, Fort Payne, Alabama. There is usually a guest speaker and a short business meeting. Membership is \$10.00 a year per individual or \$15.00 a year per family. Visitors are always welcome and invited to attend often. This is a great way to meet others who are researching names in this area.



The OPEN sign is out at MOUNTAIN MAMAS MOUNTAIN MAMAS OPENS 8TH SEASON

By Mary Alice Stout

Mountain Mamas Crafts and Rock Shop will open for its eighth season on Saturday, March 23rd. The store is open from noon to 6 pm (GA time) every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through Thanksgiving. Mountain Mamas is located on Lookout Mountain in Cloudland, GA. The shop is just 1/2 mile from the GA/AL state line on GA highway 48.

SPRING RE-OPENING SALE March 23, 24, and 29, 30, 31. All Mountain Mama pottery, candles, rocks & stones will be 10% OFF the marked price!

Mountain Mamas sells handmade items from over 40 women artists, mainly from Alabama and Georgia. Items for sale are constantly changing as new crafts are brought in as others sell. You can usually expect to find pottery, candles, rugs, birdhouses, dolls, gemstone earrings and necklaces, fabric art, photos, watercolors, soap, jam, pickles, and a wide variety of rocks and stones.

In the old log cabin next to Mountain Mamas is the **MOSTLY SHOP** (opened last summer). This contains collectable and second-hand items.



Enjoy a fine dining experience on the brow of Lookout Mountain.
You'll love the sunsets and good food at Cragmere.

Friday-Saturday 5-9 p.m. DeSoto Parkway - Mentone
For reservations, call Bonnie at

(256) 634-4677



The RECIPE CORNER

By
SUE SCHWARZ

March is here and with it my mind turns to spring vegetables. I am repeating a couple of my favorites. Recipes shared with family and friends are always good and fun. Bill and I especially enjoy asparagus and my sister-in-law shared a great recipe with me that I am passing on to you for Cream of Asparagus Soup. The second recipe is for potato salad. It is one that my friend Loretta shared with me and is quite simple. You can use regular or light mayonnaise with it. I have found that sometimes the light mayonnaise needs a little water or milk to thin it. I hope you enjoy these favorites of mine and also take time to enjoy this lovely spring weather.

LORETTA'S POTATO SALAD - Loretta Breaselle

2 Pounds red potatoes cooked, cooled
and cut into bite-sized pieces
1/2 Cup green onions chopped

Dressing:

1 Cup mayonnaise
1 T mustard (Dijon or plain)
1 T vinegar (If you enjoy balsamic or
specialty vinegars, try some of them)
1 hard boiled egg, chopped
1-1/2 teaspoon dried dill
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Combine potatoes and green onions in a bowl. Combine ingredients for dressing and add to the potatoes. Enjoy.

CREAM OF ASPARAGUS SOUP - Dorothy Hewlett

1 pound fresh asparagus
3- 1/2 C chicken broth
4 T butter or margarine
4 T flour
1/2 C light cream
1/2 t salt black pepper to taste

Trim asparagus and cut into 1/2-inch pieces. Cook until tender (12-15 minutes) in chicken broth. Drain, reserving the broth. Melt butter or margarine in deep saucepan, add flour and stir to prevent lumps; then gradually add chicken broth which has been drained from asparagus (stirring until thick and smooth). When mixture has thickened, add cream and asparagus. Makes 4 servings.

**KAOLIN
GARDEN
CLUB**

meets on the
2nd Monday of each
month at 5 PM
at Valley Head City
Hall. Contact Marty
Smith for more
information.

Pig Out For Legion Ladies Piggy Bank

by Marilyn Blanton Campbell

In a statement issued at Mentone on February 28, President Mickey Gough said, "Please remember that the ladies of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 215 are working hard to get ready for our fund-raiser on Friday, March 15, at the legion hall on Cove Road in Mentone. That is the red building up behind the Mentone Superette. Our fund raiser will consist of a massive spaghetti supper for which we are planning to charge \$5.00 per person with a wonderful array of sinfully delicious desserts to choose from as the bonus. We plan to serve pasta, an extremely good meat sauce, garlic bread, and fresh green salad, with your choice of dressings as well as a choice of drinks and desserts.

We plan to start serving early--at 4 o'clock--so that we can feed all the people who either want to get home before dark or who have some place else they need to go, and, right now, we plan to be serving until we run out of food. As ridiculous as that may sound, in the past, that has happened to us.

Our ladies are few in number to start with, and we have put off having a fund raiser as long as we could get away with it. That means it has been several years since we asked for the community's support, so we are asking now that everybody, who can, please come by and either eat with us at the legion hall or enjoy a take-out plate at home. We have no intention of sending anybody home hungry, so come and "pig out" with us. We will be glad to have you, and our piggy bank will be glad to have your money.

Please keep in mind that the work we do is indeed laudable. We are the people who send a rising senior girl from Valley Head High School to Girls State every summer. Year after year, the girls who have been to Girls State have returned and reported learning a lot about state and local government, having a wonderful time, and making new friends they are looking forward to seeing again. Anybody who has ever talked to one of our young ladies who attended Girls State, is aware of how important that one week can be in a girl's life. That experience gives a perfectly safe opportunity for the girls to peek at what college life can be like, and the young ladies enjoy that.

We are also the people who send cards to the veterans from DeKalb County, who now live in the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville. We send cards to the general population of the Fann Home twice a year-at Valentine's Day and at Christmas. We send personal cards to our veterans at New Year's, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Fourth of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and their birthdays. That is nine times per year. We have a committee that shops for the cards and sends them out at the proper time. They do good work.

In the past, we used to go visit our DeKalb County veterans, who live in the Fann State Veterans Home, but our numbers have thinned due to illness and death to the extent that we do well to get our cards sent these days. For years, we had small numbers of hard-core faithfuls, who were there for everything we did, but those ladies are not as well physically as they used to be, and it goes without saying that we have difficulty getting anything accomplished purely because we lack the numbers we need.

Occasionally, a situation arises at the legion hall that requires the help of the auxiliary ladies. In recent memory, we have had to replace the stove and the refrigerator as well as providing curtains for the entire meeting areas-that is both the men's and the ladies' assembly rooms.

Every year, we put out an appeal for new members, but we hardly ever hear from anybody who wants to join us. The men's legion has the same problem with time and ill health taking a toll on their numbers as well. Without new blood, I do not see how many of our organizations are going to manage to survive for long. When we attend district meetings, it is nothing in the least uncommon to see other units that have one or two persons who attend meetings of any kind, and that is all. Considering our numbers, I suppose we do reasonably well, but everything we do is so very difficult for us because there are so very few of us. That few cannot hold out to do everything.

We are definitely hoping that everybody will turn out to join us for our spaghetti supper fund-raiser the evening of March 15.

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More from "I Remember"

written by Lamar Fine/ Edited by Mary Agnes Fine

My Stay of Execution

"When I get you home, I'm going to wear you out!" I had heard those words before; and I'm sorry to say my Mama didn't make "idle threats." She made "promises."

I couldn't help it. I was a little boy, and little boys are supposed to "act up" in church. Okay, maybe we're not supposed to, but it just seems to come natural. I wasn't a bad kid. Really! I was just "active." I think the word back then was "rambunctious," but at any rate it meant that I couldn't sit still, no matter how hard I tried. And the worse place in the world to try to sit still and "behave" was in church.

I grew up in church, but that didn't mean "sitting still" and "behaving" came natural, at least not to me.

"Sitting still in church" is one more piece of evidence to prove that girls are not normal. They seem to be able to do it without any problem.

"Look at Becky," Mom would say. "See what a nice little lady she is."

I didn't want to look at Becky. And I could have cared less what a "nice little lady" she was. Besides you could tell she never had any fun at church. She never got dirty. Somehow, although I'm not sure how, I always managed to get dirty at church. I didn't plan it that way. It just happened. (Lots of things "just happened" back then.)

But back to this particular Sunday. Daddy had to work, so he wasn't there. I liked it better when he was there. Although he didn't let me get away with much, he seemed to understand how hard it was for a little boy to "be quiet" and "sit still in church," and somehow it was easier to do when he was there.

First of all, the preacher was boring. He had talked way too long. It was ten 'til twelve and he was still going. (I knew what time it was because I kept asking Mom every five minutes. Do you know how I know it was every five minutes? Because she frustratingly continued to answer, "It's five minutes after the last time you asked.")

I don't know why, but church was extra boring that day. The only good part was we took communion, which meant we got to get out of our seats for a few minutes, go down to the altar, and drink grape juice out of those little tiny glasses. I still don't know why they used those little bitty glasses. There was hardly enough in them to get a swallow. If they weren't going to give us any more than that, what was the point? But at least it got us out of the pew for a few minutes and broke the monotony for a little while.

Oh yeah, there was one other good thing that happened. Becky got in the way while me and the guys were playing "King of the Hill" between Sunday School and church, and I got to push her down and get her new dress all dirty. (Mom wasn't too happy about that either. I don't know why. I thought it was funny.)

But anyway, back to church. After communion, things got really boring. I sat there and tried to be good. Honest, I did, but I couldn't help it. It was that "stupid preacher's" fault. He shouldn't have been so boring. (Mom really gets mad when I call him "stupid." I don't know why. He is. Daddy said so, but she doesn't get after him when he says it. She just gives him one of her looks.)

It's strange how sometimes you need information at the most inopportune times, at least Mom always seemed to think they were inopportune. Like that day in church, I really needed to know what time it was all those times. And I thought "What are we having for lunch?" was a legitimate question. And so was "Can we go out and eat today?" I couldn't help it. I was hungry. They should have fed us more than that little piece of cracker with our grape juice. How do they expect you to sit through a whole sermon on just that?

"I got to go to the bathroom" was another legitimate statement. After all, when you got to go, you got to go. (Actually, I didn't have to go, but I was sure if I stood there long enough, I could do it, and it sounded like more fun than sitting still in church.)

Finally, finally, finally the preacher shut up (Mom hates it when I refer to the preacher ending his sermons as him "shutting up") and the song leader led us in the closing hymn. Mom had one more final warning for me before church was over.

"Stay away from that communion table!" She said, and I could tell she was just about at her "boiling point," as she often put it. I just hoped she wouldn't "boil over." I had seen it before and it wasn't a pretty sight.

The little kids gathering at the communion table after the service to "finish off" the left over sops of grape juice was tradition. Who was I to defy church tradition?

As soon as church was over, Mrs. Gaheedy, the communion lady, asked me and the other kids if we wanted to help her "clean up" the grape juice.

Mom had always told me to respect my elders and to do what I was told, (especially when I was asked to "help" someone. She was also real big on me "cleaning up.") So naturally I thought helping the other kids "finish off" the communion elements would make her proud, even though she had told me not to. But then it happened!

"It wasn't my fault! Honest! Tony did it! I didn't have nothing to do with it..." I was just doing what Mrs. Gaheedy asked me to do. Besides, he had already had seven of the little cups. I'd only had four... And he shouldn't have hit my arm. I didn't drop it! He made me! It's all his fault!"

But my defense was in vain. And I could tell by the look on Mama's face when she came up into the pulpit to "get me" that I was in trouble... Major Trouble.

Okay, so a little grape juice had spilled on my new white shirt and tie. (You see, that's a good reason little boys shouldn't have to wear ties... She didn't buy that excuse either.) Not to mention, (I wasn't going to mention it,) that Tony, not me, had spilled a whole glass of grape juice on the new carpet.

I guess you know by now where the "When I get you home, I'm going to wear you out" part came in.

She yanked me up and I didn't even bother to tell her "I haven't finished my grape juice." I could tell I was finished. The ride home was not very pleasant. It was too quiet. And when I tried to remedy that, she sternly said, "Young man, I think you've said enough already."

When your Mom starts calling you "Young man," you know you're in trouble. I could tell I was going to get it. Daddy wasn't home to bail me out, although I knew he would have gone along with Mom on this one, and Mam-maw had already tried, but Mom had quickly told her, "Mother, let me handle this," and Mam-maw immediately got quiet like me.

To say Mom had "reached her boiling point" was the understatement of the year. Not even an eleven hour call from the governor was going to help me now... Looking back, I don't guess I got a lot of "whippings," but I got enough to know when Mom wasn't fooling, and she wasn't fooling now.

Only the grace of God could save me now, and since I had caused all the commotion at church, I wasn't counting too heavily upon his saving grace. And I knew I was right, as we pulled into the driveway and Mom said, "As soon as I get you into that house, I'm going to wear you out."

She stopped the car, reached for my hand, (I wasn't going voluntarily) and together we headed for the basement door. She let go of my arm just long enough to reach into her purse for her house keys, and although this was my chance to "make a break for it," I knew better. That would only make it worse.

The deeper she dug in her purse, the more aggravated she became, and I was becoming more and more nervous. The waiting was as bad as the "getting it."

Suddenly, I began to see a hint of silver lining to the dark cloud that was hanging over me. Could this really be happening? Was God's saving grace really coming through? I wasn't sure, but at least there was a glimmer of hope. A few minutes earlier I had none.

Finally, with the exasperation of the morning showing on her face, she again took my hand and said, "Come on."

"Where are we going?" I was almost afraid to ask.

"We're going to your Mam-maw's. I've locked myself out of the house."

As some of the older folks at church would say from time to time, especially when they were really feeling the spirit, "Thank you, Jesus."

Mam-maw had an extra key to our house. While we were there, she invited us to eat lunch with her and Pap-paw. Then after lunch, Pap-paw said he needed to "borrow me" to help with a project he was working on in the chicken lot.

By this time, Mom appeared ready to "forget the whole ordeal" and move on. She still had to cook supper for Daddy. Needless to say, I spent the rest of the afternoon at Mam-maw and Pap-paw's.

"Thank you, Jesus."

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Lamar & Mary Agnes are also available to speak to your club, church, civic or other organization. For more information, call them at (706) 375-2062.



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN GALLERY OPENS

Lookout Mountain Gallery, a showcase for fine arts and crafts, opened March 1 atop the Hitching Post in Mentone, Alabama. The second floor of the historic building, where bands once played and mountain guests danced, now displays handwork—everything from woodturnings to watercolors to chandeliers to pottery.

The artist and craftsman co-op features paintings of Abbie Brooks and Sigi Campbell, pottery of Sue Cannon, Mae Gray and Jan Cordle, metal sculpture of Julie Clark, photography of Deb Hebert and Paul Grant, basketry of Connie Hornsby, woodturning and wood items of Mike Hubert, mission furniture of Triple Oaks Sawmill, cut iron furniture and lighting of Steve and Harriet O'Rear, and jewelry of Beth Welch. Many of these contributors were part of the original Mentone gallery in the Mentone Springs Hotel and are now exhibitors in the Wildwood Gallery in Wildwood, Georgia.

The gallery is a "fair weather" venture, open weekends and when the weather permits. Entry is through The Crow's Nest Antiques.

Lookout Mountain Gallery contact:

Harriet DeWitt O'Rear

1487 Moon Lake Road

Cloudland, Ga. 30731

706-398-0858

hdewitt@mindepring.com

😊😊Happy 9th Birthday😊😊



Sarah Lauro

Sarah Lauro will celebrate her 9th birthday on April 16. She is the daughter of John and Lorelei Lauro of Springfield, VA. She has two sisters, Kristen and Kara, and one brother, Justin. Sarah is in the 3rd grade.

Sarah is the granddaughter of Marie Dillenbeck of Mentone and Walt Dillenbeck of Belding, MI; and the late Frederick and Patricia Lauro of Greatneck, NY. Her great grandmother is Dorothy Shelden of Mentone.

We love you and we all wish you a very happy 9th birthday!

Readers' Oath

Students promise to become life-long readers

(Written by Debra Angstead,
Missouri-NEA)

I promise to read
Each day and each night.
I know it's the key
To growing up right.

I'll read to myself,
I'll read to a crowd.
It makes no difference
If silent or loud.

I'll read at my desk,
At home and at school,
On my bean bag or bed,
By the fire or pool.

Each book that I read
Puts smarts in my head,
'Cause brains grow more thoughts
The more they are fed.

So I take this oath
To make reading my way
Of feeding my brain
What it needs every day.

Moon Lake Elementary School Scholastic Book Fair "Dive Into Reading"

Would you encourage your child's love of reading if you could? Of course. What's more - you can!

Moon Lake Elementary School will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair with the theme of "Dive into Reading" on May 6-10, 2002. This book fair will provide exciting books and educational products for our young readers.

The school will also be hosting a Family Event and Open House during that week on Thursday, May 9, 2002. Our monthly PTO meeting will begin at 6:30 in the gym followed by Open House and Book Fair beginning at 7:00 in our new Media Center. Door prizes will be given at the Open House. Everyone is invited to attend.

When you visit the Book Fair, look for the Classroom Wish List display to see how you can help build classroom libraries at Moon Lake.

The Book Fair helps us promote learning while raising money for special school projects. Call 634-4113 for more information on the Scholastic Book Fair or our Family Event.

MOON LAKE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Monday, March 28:

Friday, March 22:

Friday, March 29:

Mon., April 1-Fri., April 5:

Mon., April 8-Fri., April 12:

Thursday, April 18:

Monday, April 22:

third 9 week report cards go home

student holiday/staff inservice

student & staff holiday

Stanford Achievement Tests (grades 3-6)

Spring break

PTO meeting (6th grade program)

Earth Day activities--students and staff will work alongside Garden Club members and community volunteers to rejuvenate and expand campus landscaping. Everyone is invited to join this exciting annual event!

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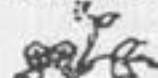
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**Richard L. and Hazel Blake
of Sulphur Springs, AL
celebrated 50 years of marriage**

Richard L. and Hazel Blake of Sulphur Springs, AL, celebrated 50 years of marriage on February 20. They were joined for Sunday brunch at Guntersville State Park Lodge on February 17 by their children, Brad and Shirley Wilkes, Huntsville, AL; Nathan and Nancy Peppers, Albertville, AL; Wesley and Lisa Blake, Fort Payne, AL; and Cole Blake, Sulphur Springs, AL. Their four grandchildren and two great grandchildren also joined them.

Congratulations on 50 years of marriage!

**Large Attendance at the
"We Love You, Jimmy & Evelyn Graves"
Sunday**

The Fellowship Hall of Moon Lake Baptist Church was the place to be on February 10th! Many visitors joined the members of Moon Lake Baptist to celebrate Bro. Jimmy Graves' 48 years as minister of the Gospel. No celebration honoring Bro. Jimmy would be complete without including a recognition of his loving wife, Evelyn.

A delicious meal was served by the ladies of the church. A place of honor on the dessert table was taken by a beautiful cake with red roses. After the meal, the group gathered in the sanctuary for presentations of a plaque and a love offering. Special music was presented by Russell O'Dell and the Wisner Family. Jimmy joined the Wisners for *How Great Thou Art*.

The evening was concluded with a message, *Love the Lord and Love Your Neighbor*, by Bro. Alton Vaughn of Minvato Baptist Church. Bro. Alton said that Jimmy Graves exemplified these two commands of Jesus in Luke 10:27. He challenged each one present to also follow these commands.



**Hayley Brianne Woodard
and Ian Clark Blair**

Hayley Brianne Woodard and Ian Clark Blair are the children of Melanie and Jamie Blair of Clover, SC. They are the grandchildren of Wally and Myrtle Meeks and R.V. Webb of Lafayette, Ga.; David Wright of Mentone; and Roy and Marti Blair of Fairview, PA. They are the great grandchildren of Willie B. Langston and Bill and Ann Wright of Mentone.

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A man in Grand Rapids, Michigan, incredibly took out a \$7000 full page ad in the paper to present the following essay to the people of his community.

HOW COULD YOU? ©

By Jim Willis, 2001

When I was a puppy, I entertained you with my antics and made you laugh. You called me your child, and despite a number of chewed shoes and a couple of murdered throw pillows, I became your best friend. Whenever I was "bad," you'd shake your finger at me and ask "How could you?" - but then you'd relent and roll me over for a bellyrub.

My housebreaking took a little longer than expected, because you were terribly busy, but we worked on that together. I remember those nights of nuzzling you in bed and listening to your confidences and secret dreams, and I believed that life could not be any more perfect.

We went for long walks and runs in the park, car rides, stops for ice cream (I only got the cone because "ice cream is bad for dogs" you said.), and I took long naps in the sun waiting for you to come home at the end of the day.

Gradually, you began spending more time at work and on your career, and more time searching for a human mate. I waited for you patiently, comforted you through heartbreaks and disappointments, never chided you about bad decisions, and romped with glee at your homecomings, and when you fell in love.

She, now your wife, is not a "dog person" - still I welcomed her into our home, tried to show her affection, and obeyed her. I was happy because you were happy. Then the human babies came along and I shared your excitement. I was fascinated by their pinkness, how they smelled, and I wanted to mother them, too. Only she and you worried that I might hurt them, and I spent most of my time banished to another room, or to a dog crate.

Oh, how I wanted to love them, but I became a "prisoner of love." As they began to grow, I became their friend. They clung to my fur and pulled themselves up on wobbly legs, poked fingers in my eyes, investigated my ears, and gave me kisses on my nose. I loved everything about them and their touch - because your touch was now so infrequent - and I would've defended them with my life if need be. I would sneak into their beds and listen to their worries and secret dreams, and together we waited for the sound of your car in the driveway.

There had been a time, when others asked you if you had a dog, that you produced a photo of me from

your wallet and told them stories about me. These past few years, you just answered "yes" and changed the subject. I had gone from being "your dog" to "just a dog," and you resented every expenditure on my behalf. Now, you have a new career opportunity in another city, and you and they will be moving to an apartment that does not allow pets. You've made the right decision for your "family," but there was a time when I was your only family.

I was excited about the car ride until we arrived at the animal shelter. It smelled of dogs and cats, of fear, of hopelessness. You filled out the paperwork and said "I know you will find a good home for her." They shrugged and gave you a pained look. They understand the realities facing a middle-aged dog, even one with "papers." You had to pry your son's fingers loose from my collar as he screamed "No, Daddy! Please don't let them take my dog!" And I worried for him, and what lessons you had just taught him about friendship and loyalty, about love and responsibility, and about respect for all life.

You gave me a good-bye pat on the head, avoided my eyes, and politely refused to take my collar and leash with you. You had a deadline to meet and now I have one, too. After you left, the two nice ladies said you probably knew about your upcoming move months ago and made no attempt to find me another good home. They shook their heads and asked "How could you?"

They are as attentive to us here in the shelter as their busy schedules allow. They feed us, of course, but I lost my appetite days ago. At first, whenever anyone passed my pen, I rushed to the front, hoping it was you that you had changed your mind - that this was all a bad dream...or I hoped it would at least be someone who cared, anyone who might save me. When I realized I could not compete with the frolicking for attention of happy puppies, oblivious to their own fate, I retreated to a far corner and waited. I heard her footsteps as she came for me at the end of the day, and I padded along the aisle after her to a separate room. A blissfully quiet room. She placed me on the table and rubbed my ears, and told me not to worry. My heart pounded in anticipation of what was to come, but there was also a sense of relief. The prisoner of love had run out of days.

As is my nature, I was more concerned about her.

The burden which she bears weighs heavily on her, and I know that, the same way I knew your every mood.

She gently placed a tourniquet around my foreleg as a tear ran down her cheek. I licked her hand in the same way I used to comfort you so many years ago. She expertly slid the hypodermic needle into my vein. As I felt the sting and the cool liquid coursing through my body, I lay down sleepily, looked into her kind eyes and murmured "How could you?"

Perhaps because she understood my dogspeak, she said "I'm so sorry." She hugged me, and hurriedly explained it was her job to make sure I went to a better place, where I wouldn't be ignored or abused or abandoned, or have to fend for myself - a place of love and light so very different from this earthly place. And with my last bit of energy, I tried to convey to her with a thump of my tail that my "How could you?" was not directed at her.

It was directed at you, My Beloved Master, I was thinking of you. I will think of you and wait for you forever. May everyone in your life continue to show you so much loyalty.

A Note from the Author: If "How Could You" brought tears to your eyes as you read it, as it did to mine as I wrote it, it is because it is the composite story of the millions of formerly "owned" pets who die each year in American & Canadian animal shelters.

Anyone is welcome to distribute the essay for a non-commercial purpose, as long as it is properly attributed with the copyright notice. Please use it to help educate, on your websites, in newsletters, on animal shelter and vet office bulletin boards. Tell the public that the decision to add a pet to the family is an important one for life, that animals deserve our love and sensible care, that finding another appropriate home for your animal is your responsibility and any local humane society or animal welfare league can offer you good advice, and that all life is precious. Please do your part to stop the killing and encourage all spay & neuter campaigns in order to prevent unwanted animals. -Jim Willis

Please pass this on to everyone, not to hurt them or make them sad, but it could save maybe, even one, unwanted pet.

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dow air. Outhouse, with 6 wooded acres at Little River Canyon National Preserve, and the Wildlife
Management land. Located at Canyon View Forest. \$62,500.

(10) MOUNTAIN RIVER ESTATES. A River runs through it! Direct access from the Lookout Mtn. Parkway, on
AL Hwy 117. Minutes from Mentone and Cloutland, GA. Three to 7 acre Riverfront Tracts starting at \$29,500.
Five to fifteen wooded stream tracts from \$21,000. Restricted covenants apply.

(11) ELEVEN ROOM HOME IN VALLEY HEAD, consisting of 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, den, living, dining, laundry,
kitchen, breakfast room, sun room. Also screened porch, carport, and separate garage/workshop on 3 lots.
\$66,000. Reduced \$55,900.

(12) ONE AND ONLY LITTLE RIVER CANYON. 3 to 5 acre tracts overlooking Canyon, come with waterfalls.
Property adjoins Wildlife Management Land. Many tracts to choose from and all on Private gate access.
Point and Bluff sections now available. Very secluded. \$25,000 to \$60,000. Appointment ONLY.

(13) 50 ACRES LOCATED IN CLOUDLAND, GA. Great Farm with 20x40 Barn, large workshop, 3 outbuildings,
garage, 3 wells, year around spring, 3 garden areas, grape arbors, approx. 5 acres cleared, beautiful hard-
woods. 12x70 mobile home with rock foundation. Many more amenities. Show by appt. ONLY! City water
access. Also just added to property, a 40x60 metal carport. \$179,000.

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

(15) 2 ACRE TRACT, located on Buckley Dr., Lookout Mtn. Unique with Rock formations, winter view, wood-
ed, "overlooks" small private lake. City water, and power access. \$12,000.

(16) UPSTREAM FROM DESOTO FALLS, on the west fork of Little River, sits a wonderful 3000 sq ft home. 3
bedrooms, 2 baths, rock fireplace, and appliances. Many other amenities. Enjoy the view from the
screened porch and deck, or swim in the pool. Call for a viewing today. \$266,000.
PRICE slashed to \$235,000. (SOLD)

(17) SIX WOODED LOTS (300x150), across from sunset Park, DT Mentone, a rare find with Rock Formations.
City water and perkadee. Perfect for the Cabin you have always dreamed of. \$40,000.

(18) TRACT #32 MOUNTAIN RIVER ESTATES, Over 3 acres. Property has natural Rock formations, covered
in native foliage. Creek with small waterfall, 323 ft on the Middle Fork of Little River, with good canoeing
access to Lake Lanoka. \$99,900.

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Sunday, Feb. 3, was my 89th birthday. (Yes, I'm beginning to get old enough to brag about it!) My granddaughter, Robin Darby and her husband, Ray, from Collierville, TN, surprised me by coming Saturday afternoon for the weekend. They came bearing gifts and a beautiful birthday cake. They took me to Western Sizzlin for dinner Saturday evening. Beverly Wright, my great granddaughter, called Sunday morning and asked us to meet them somewhere for lunch. So, we went to Shoney's and were joined by other family members: Cindy, David and Jason Meadows; Shane and Beverly Wright. We took the birthday cake and had a good lunch. I received a big box of gifts from my granddaughter Laurie and Andy Dell, in Maryland; and a nice box of "goodies" from my cousin, Frances Jacobson, in California; and several beautiful cards and nice phone calls. On Sun., Feb 10, at church my sweet church family sang "Happy Birthday" to me. It was a very special happy birthday!

Lillie Bowden was hostess for the Sunshine Club at her home, Jan. 23. Those present were Verence Hawkins, Evelyn Clark, Ruth Pickett, Leona Chadwick, Lillian Pickett, Susie Clark, Elizabeth Bauerle, Billie Harper, Jewel Shelburne, and Eloise Brown.

Van, Teresa, Lana and Sadie Cooper and Shirley Cook spent a weekend in Gatlinburg, recently. Van and Lana enjoyed, especially, the skiing.

Robert Phillips' sons, Tim and Jerry, visited him and brought him to visit his sisters, Dot Blackburn, (and Bill), and Opal Tatum. Robert is at Dogwood Haven, now, and seems to be doing well and is content.

Walter Brooks' brother, Ernest, and his wife, Emma, from Chattanooga, visited him and Christine, Feb. 25. They went to the Statum Grill at Scottsboro for lunch and shopped and then drove to South Pittsburgh for more shopping.

Evelyn Clark's son, Loy, and his wife, Margaret came from Birmingham and took her home with them to spend several days.

Mary Louise Mancuso and Ralph Weldon spent several days with Robert D. and Michelle Brown and family, recently.

Laura Margaret Allison's granddaughter, Courtney, and her husband, Bob Graham, from Columbia, SC, and Ansley McGinnis spent this weekend with Laura Margaret and Elizabeth Coleman.

Ed Ringer took his camera one day recently and drove to beautiful Gorham's Bluff, near Pisgah. He discovered that the old Pisgah High School had been moved there to be used for?

Oline Roberts visited her son, John Roberts and family in Cullman, recently.

Stella Pierce, Lora Dell Perkins, Joan Harrison and Margie Daniel went to Memphis, TN, Feb. 9, for the weekend. They visited Elvis Presley's Graceland Mansion, then they went to Mississippi and spent the night. On the way back home, they stopped in Tusculumbia to visit Lora Dell's cousin, Dora Cunningham, who treated the group to lunch at the famous Rocking Chair Restaurant.

Stella Pierce celebrated her birthday Feb. 20. Many happy returns--also to Brittancy Daniel, who celebrated her 8th birthday Feb. 4. She is in Miss Mary Keith's second grade class at Valley Head.

I believe Dot Blackburn had a birthday in February. Opal Tatum has a birthday March 3 and Mandy Brown will be 15 on March 4. Best wishes to everyone!

Venna Livingston called me and we had a good conversation. She is all right and enjoying a prayer group and her new home. One of her relatives called me, recently, for her address, so they will enjoy communicating. By the way, she said she enjoyed reading *The Groundhog*!--both Venna and her relative!

Mozelle Crow, Euna Freeman, and Marsha Tucker went to Cleveland, TN, and visited their cousin, J.D. White, and his wife, Opal. They enjoyed the trip and visit as it has been quite a while since they had seen them.

Our community is deeply saddened by the tragic death of Dwight Gray. His funeral was Monday, Feb. 25. He was such a nice young man--only 28 years old. Our love and sympathy is with his parents, Amanda and Charles Gray; his wife, Holly, and son, Daniel, and daughter, Haedyn Cole Mitchell.

Ed Ringer and Jim Carmichael went to the Wann Funeral Home in Chattanooga for visitation for Mary Lou Emmitt Hartline, widow of George W. (Buck) Hartline. She died Feb. 24, at her home in Flintstone, GA. They heard that her sister-in-law, Lucile Hartline, had died Sat., Feb. 23, at Warm Springs, GA. The Hartlines will be remembered as long-time residents of Valley Head.

Doug Hoyt's father died in Colorado. He will be buried in Sebring, FL.

It is so good to her that Juanita Smith was able to go to church and play the piano. She has had a rough time.

Edith Dean is recovering from back surgery.

Ruth Hammon is recovering at home after a stay at Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga.

We hope Ted Holleman is improving daily and will soon be able to be out. He and Mary are missed so much at church.

Mary Lou Carmichael and Adelaide Biddle from Dallas, GA., visited Ted and Mary Holleman last week; and, thankfully, Mary and Ted are feeling better.

Venna Livingston came down last Thursday and met Maureen Hammond and Mozelle Crow at Tigers' Inn for lunch. I hated to miss being with them, but I had a doctor's appointment.

E.T. and Bill Holleman have gone to Daytona Beach for several days.

The Sunshine Club met Feb. 28 at Ruth Pickett's. Lillian Pickett gave a devotional. I read "Ten Commandments for a Long and Peaceful Life--The Things That Count." Others present were Billie Harper, Lillie Bowden, Elizabeth Bauerle, Este Palmer, Ann Wright, Sue Clark, Leona Chadwick, and Evelyn Clark. The next meeting will be at Leona Chadwick's at Trenton, on March 28.

Stella Pierce and Lora Dell Perkins enjoyed a drive to Chattanooga recently. They ate at the Cracker Barrel and did some shopping. Continue to remember Lora Dell in your prayers.

It seems that the dog nappers are at it again. Lennie Phillips' two cute little dogs disappeared with out a trace. Of course, he was deeply hurt. Most people dearly love their pets. I don't know how people can be so low down--as well as the "litterers". They have no self respect or respect for anything. It is a desecration to the landscape along the roads. Oh well, as Judge Hatchett says, "Don't get me started to testifying in here!"

March 20 is the first day of Spring and March 31 is Easter--a beautiful time to anticipate and enjoy!

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
With brutal destructive force
Of avalanche of winds and rains
Blows many things from their source.
March is a strong, fighting beast,
But only for a short season,
Meek as a lamb snowy-fleeced,
It will bow to April's reason.

--Eloise Brown

Haiku

The thirsty willows
Wave their beckoning fingers
To the greening rain.
Hyacinths ring bells
Of lovely clustered pastels
In the fragrant breeze
The Crocuses raise
Their beautiful praying hands
To Heaven in praise

--Eloise Brown

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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. Rev. Jerry Davis and Rev. L.A. Smith are alternate speakers for these services.

The Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to attend Sunday School at 10 AM; Worship Service at 11 AM; Sunday Evening Worship at 6 PM; Midweek Service (Wednesday) at 6 PM; Brotherhood breakfast and devotional at 8:30 AM the first Sunday of each month; Women on Mission meet at 2 PM the second Tuesday of each month at different homes. Everyone is welcome to come.

The Valley Head United Methodist Church prayer meeting is Wednesday night at 6 PM. Bible study Wednesday night at 6:30 PM. A prayer chain has been formed. Anyone who would like to share their prayer needs are invited to call Verna Livingston at 635-6350 or Mary Holleman at 635-6241, so the church may pray for them. Sunday School is at 9 AM each Sunday and Worship is at 10 AM.

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, is currently holding services in the Woodmen of the World Hall in Valley Head. All are invited to attend! Sabbath School and Song Service: 9:30-10:45. Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnell.

The Harmony Grove Baptist Church invites everyone to come and worship with them. God's Country Church is located on Co. Road 239 (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.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds mass services at 10:30 AM each Sunday, and Communion Services at 6 PM on Tuesdays.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 114 First St. SW, Fort Payne, 845-4842, has regular Sunday services at 8 AM and Sunday School at 9 AM.

Walnut Grove Baptist Church, on Highway 11 north of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School at 10 a.m., Worship service at 11 a.m., Wednesday night youth meeting with snacks, lessons, and activities at 6 p.m., and Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Anyone interested in observing the Sabbath and Holy Days, please attend with us at 11 AM each Sabbath. Located 2 blocks on right on Hwy 85, off Highway 11, approximately 2 miles from Fort Payne. Call 845-2246 for information.

Pastor Rev. Garthard Gray invites the public to attend the Presbyterian Church worship service at Cloudland, which begins at 10 A.M. (EST), and the Menlo service which begins at 11:15 AM (EST).

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

The Mount Galvary Baptist Church, Cloudland, Georgia, welcomes everyone to come and take part in our church services. Sunday School at 10 AM; Worship Service at 11 AM; Sunday evening at 6 PM, and Wednesday evening at 7 PM.

Lighthouse Fellowship assembly has moved to Cloudland. Turn at the produce stand, pass the tennis court, and go to the stop sign. Go right two blocks. A church alive is worth the drive. Sunday School - 10 AM; Worship - 11 AM, Alabama time. Everyone is welcome. Phone: 706-862-2607.

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10 AM, Worship at 11 AM, Wednesday Bible Study at 6 PM. 256-634-4137.

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.

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.

Mentone Wesleyan Community Church invites you to join us for Sunday School at 10 AM and worship service at 10:45 AM. Bible Study Wed. 7:00 - 7:45 PM. Pastor Randy Addison welcomes all!

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 6 PM. Rev. Charles Flannigan invites everyone to attend.

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to attend Sunday School at 9:45 AM each Sunday. Morning worship and Children's Church are at 11:00 AM. First Place meets in the Fellowship Hall and GAS meet at 4:30 PM. Discipleship Training and Youth Choir meet at 5:00 PM, followed by Evening Worship at 6:00 PM. On Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Children's Bible Study meets in the Fellowship Hall, the Youth have Bible Study and Recreation Time, Adults meet for Bible Study and Prayer.

Mentone Church of God invites you to attend their church. Sunday School - 10 AM; Morning Worship - 11 AM. Sunday evening - 6 PM; Wednesday evening - 6:30 PM. Pastor LuRue Carraway welcomes new comers.

Mt. Carmel Community Baptist Church, 1041 Yankee Rd, Cloudland, GA 30731, 706-398-7018, now offers a 24 hour Prayer Line. Need Prayer? Just call and leave your message. Other activities include: Sunday School - 10 AM, Worship Services - 11 AM & 6 PM; Monday 7-8 PM - Informal Prayer Time; Wed 7 PM - Mid-week Prayer Service; Thursday 7-8 PM - Bible Discussion. We need Piano Player, Music Director, Children for Sunday School and You!

The Mentone United Methodist Church services are at 11 AM each Sunday. Sunday school is at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome. The Pastor is Frankie Jones.

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church atop Lookout Mountain in Mentone, Alabama, regular services are Sunday at 10:30 AM, with a time for fellowship after the services. Sunday School is at 9:30 AM. Contact the church at 834-4476 for more information on any events or services. Everyone is welcome to join in worship services or special events.

Sunrise Service, March 31, at 7 AM

On Easter Sunday, Moon Lake Baptist will sponsor a sunrise service at 7 AM. This service will be at the outside theater behind Moon Lake School; or, if the weather is bad, we will meet in the worship center of Moon Lake Baptist. Breakfast will be served after the service (7:30 AM) at the community house, or if the weather is bad, breakfast will be served in the fellowship hall of Moon Lake Baptist. We will have two morning services on Easter—one at 8:45 AM and the other at the regular time. There will be no evening services on Easter.

Mentone Wedding Chapel

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



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

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New Pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

By Dorothy Gyr

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 114 First St. W, installed Stephen Schrader as its Pastor on Sunday, March 10th, at the regular 8 AM worship service.

There was a reception honoring Pastor Schrader immediately following the service.

Pastor Stephen Schrader was born September 9, 1957, in Memphis, Tennessee, and was baptized at Immanuel Lutheran Church, December 22, 1957. He was confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church, St. Charles, Missouri, April 4, 1971.

He graduated from Southside High School, Gadsden, Alabama, in 1975. That same year, he enlisted in the Alabama Air National Guard and retired as a Master Sergeant in 1997.

He married Mindy Tholander in 1976, in Biloxi, Mississippi. They have three children; Stephen Jr., 25, who lives in New Orleans; Becky (Mrs. Doug Whitaker), 22, who lives in Cincinnati; and Gary, 20, who is a Junior at Auburn University.

Pastor Schrader is presently employed by the State of Alabama as a Conservation Officer Area Sergeant, and has worked for the state since 1980.

He received an Associates degree in Electronic Systems Technology from the Community College of the Air Force in 1994.

He graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary on February 24, 2002, as a member of the first graduating class of the Distance Education Leading to Ordination (DELTO) program. His Vicarage was served at Prince of Peace, Fort Payne. Ordination into the ministry of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, took place at Trinity Lutheran Church, Gadsden, Alabama, on March 3, 2002.



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HISTORY

(As told to me)

by John Baty

My Daddy told me of the following when I was a young man still living at home with my parents:

Some time in the 1920s, a young, good looking, blond man with a natural gift of gab moved his family to this area. His name was Curtis Springer. He soon revealed great and ambitious plans for developing the Mentone Area and building some summer camps. He bought my Grandpa's (John Riley Baty) farm, mostly on credit, and began building large poultry houses for laying hens, and started planting peach and apple orchards. He bought what is now Camp DeSoto and started expanding it. Mr. Springer hired my Daddy and Albert Cash, among others, to work the growing operation. The Camp was a camp for boys at the time and Springer bought two hounds (treeing hounds) for the purpose of furnishing some rural sport for the city-dwelling boys. --- Daddy said that the local merchants were apparently impressed with Mr. Springer's style and extended him some considerable credit. Things rolled in grand style for a time, but eventually, as is the case now as well as then, the rude subject of money reared its ugly head.

My Daddy, Norace Baty, and Albert Cash were fox-hunters. There were a goodly supply of other fox-hunters in the area: Taylor Blalock, Ray Blalock, Joe Jones, Hardy Jones, Marion Lowe, Frank Green, Lonnie Green and of course Norace Baty and Albert Cash, of Mentone. (There were others but my memory fails me here. I am sorry if I have omitted some obvious ones.) Lois Cooper (Lefty), Nevil (spelling?) Cooper (Windy), their father Oat (spelling?) Cooper of Valley Head, Ben Hammonds and Blev Hammonds of Hammondville. These were all active foxhunters at the time in question.

Marion Lowe, of Mentone, was an avid hunter and owned some of the best-bred hounds of that time. Hounds close up in pedigree to the famous Walker hounds Hub Dawson and Big Stride. According to my Daddy, Lowe had hunting acquaintances over a wide area of the South East. Somewhere, perhaps on some big organized hunt, one of Lowe's friends gave him a coyote. Mr. Lowe brought the coyote to Mentone, put one of his dog's collars bearing his name and address 'round the animal's neck and confined him in some sort of enclosure.

Now, at that time, 1920s, late 1920s, there were no coyotes in the wild in DeKalb County. The cousin to the dog was a rarity here and people were not familiar with him.

It may be that before the coming of the White Man to North East Alabama, indeed, before the coming of the Red Man, there may have been coyotes in this area. I have no knowledge of such. It would be a grand and interesting project to attempt to determine the true facts about the coyote in our area, but we simply cannot do all that we would wish to do. It is said that there are persons, persons who have been diagnosed as being depressed and having nothing of interest to occupy their time. I do not understand. Oh, my friends, there are so very, very, many interesting things I would wish to do! But my energy and time is short. And I know I will only be able to "scratch the surface."

Anyway it may have been. Mr. Springer saw the coyote and conceived of a grand scheme. He would get the coyote and use it as an interesting experience for the camp boys. He would show them the "Big Bad Wolf!"

He gave instructions to his workers to build a coyote pen and for them to make it strong and impressive.

I, your author, recall seeing the remains of that coyote pen. It was constructed of cement and blocks with galvanized steel pipes running diagonally in the walls for great support! A steel-barred door covered the entrance. It would have served as a dandy bank vault. The size was about four feet by six feet.

Into the impregnable vault went the coyote, still wearing Marion Lowe's dog collar. Someone asked, "What does a coyote eat?" Another answered: "Why Hell, they eat Chickens!" They had plenty of chickens with the large operation. One died every day or so, so they tossed the dead chickens into the coyote pen. Apparently the warm season was on them, as Daddy said that no one had the courage to clean out the rotting flesh from the pen and an almost unbearable stench resulted.

Along about that time, it became apparent that the entire operation was going to fail, as it had never really "paid its way."

One day there, Springer came by to see my Daddy and told him that he was leaving. His reason for the visit being that he wished to leave his considerable library of books with my Daddy as a gift for my oldest brother, Glenn Baty, who was a young boy at the time. Springer had left the books at Grandpa's house when he defaulted on the payments and Grandpa took possession again. I, your author, recall having played with one or two of the books when I was very young. The book was a massive, thick volume and had hundreds of strange and alien drawings. Only now do I understand that those crazy figures I colored green and red and purple and yellow were probably a comprehensive application of Euclidian Geometry to Newtonian Mechanics, Engineering drawing. Only one book of that considerable collection has survived to this day. It is a compilation of poems edited by Oliver Wendell Holmes. A younger member of the family possesses it.

My Daddy said that there seemed to be some urgency associated with Mr. Springer's leaving. Before he went, Daddy asked what he should do with the coyote. Springer indicated he had no further interest in the animal and that he would let Daddy and Albert decide about what to do with him. Perhaps release him.

Daddy and Albert were foxhunters. They knew what to do with a coyote.

About dusk that evening, they tied the dogs, then opened the strongbox door and set the coyote free. He was still wearing Marion Lowe's dog collar. He left in a run a little south by east. They gave him a good start, and then unchained the hounds. Soon, the dogs were rapidly fading out of hearing, running the East Fork of Little River, headed south. Two or three days later, the dogs staggered in, beat to a frazzle.

Some two weeks later, Marion Lowe received a package in the mail addressed with return Oneonta, Alabama. It contained his "coyote collar" and a short note, which read: "Lowe, what the Hell do you think you are doing turning wolves loose on us down here. I shot this one in my hen house eating on my chickens!"

None of the family heard any more from Mr. Springer for more than a quarter century. ---Then, one day, my sister in Mississippi heard a radio preacher from Death Valley, California, speak of his old friend Norace Baty, back in Mentone, Alabama. The preacher's name was Curtis Springer, and he was sporting a PhD in Theology.

Dr. Springer and family visited back here in the late 1950s, and I was able at last to meet the man I had heard so much about. He was, indeed, a remarkable gentleman.



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(2) **OWN A NEW HOME WITHOUT THE HASSLE OF BUILDING--** Perched on the edge of the mountain, this 2 bedroom, 2 bath all wood cottage with stacked stone fireplace can be a weekend get-a-way or permanent residence. A must see for \$169,000.



(3) **NESTLED AWAY IN MENTONE -** This 3 bedroom, 2-bath modular home comes with a fully equipped kitchen, living room, dining room, central heat and air, 20x30 shed/garage, and a nice landscaped yard on over 1 acre. Call today for acres of elite brow front property. \$250,000.



(4) **SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD,** this magnificent home with spectacular panoramic view has it all! Located on over 6 acres on beautiful Lake on the Brow, this 6-bedroom home has 10' ceilings, 2 master suites, 3 fireplaces, crown moldings throughout, wet bar, gorgeous kitchen and family room, huge deck, front gallery, pond, terrace and tons of glass to take advantage of the view. \$575,000



(5) **ALL THE SPACE YOU NEED** is right here! This custom built home offers 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, large eat-in area kitchen, entertaining sized living room with fireplace and a multi-purpose basement that could serve as a guest room, office or hobby room. The rock and wood construction blend home and nature all on 2.9 acres. Once you see it, you'll want to own it. Call today for your showing. \$225,000.



(6) **NESTLED AMONG NATIVE BOULDERS -** This chalet offers 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, den, sun-room, deck and a winter view of the westerly mountains. All within walking distance of city park and downtown Mentone. Call today to see this charmer. \$69,900



(7) **WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS?** Why not buy the Little River Cafe? A well-known and established business featuring a fully equipped kitchen and dining room with large porch for outside eating, stage for entertainment, and a rustic atmosphere in a charming renovated old home. Located between DeSoto State Park and Little River Canyon, and only 16 minutes from Fort Payne and Mentone. What a steal for only \$169,500.



(8) **BIG ON SPACE AND LOTS OF PRIVACY!** This 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath home on 11 acres has tons of extras! The full finished basement offers gameroom with fireplace and bar along with 2 bedrooms and bath. Upstairs the expansive screened porch has a beautiful view of the mountains and Sand Valley. Fenced and cross-fenced acreage includes a pond, 2 barns, coral, and a peaceful rock walk, trellis and flower garden area. All the work has been done so start packing! \$139,000

(9) **160 ACRES OF NATURAL BEAUTY** on Lookout Mountain—just minutes from DeSoto State Park and Mentone. Ready for your dreams—hunting club—weekend retreat or development. \$2,150 per acre. Will sell in larger tracts.

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

(11) **FOR LAND'S SAKE!** Just listed 4.3 +/- acres on DeSoto Parkway. Only \$49,500.

(12) **WEEKEND OR WEEKLY RENTAL AVAILABLE -** 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, will accommodate 8 people. For more information, call Susan Collins.

(13) **LAND AND LOCATION!** Almost 600' on the West Fork of Little River, gently rolling and heavily wooded all within 1 mile of Mentone. \$70,000

(14) **SURROUND YOURSELF WITH PRIVACY -** when you build your dream home on Lookout Mountain. 20 acres +/- offered as one tract inside Fort Payne City Limits and borders Hurricane Creek with water, power and natural gas available. Owner will finance with down payment. Call today for an appointment to go out and view this property with one of our agents today! \$4,000 per acre.

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(16) **WHAT A DEAL!** 4-1/2 acres on the West Fork of Little River. Gently sloping with great building sites. Lightly restricted. \$29,000.

(17) **NEW LOWER PRICE!!!!!! LAND..LOTS OF LAND!** Surround yourself with trees, gentle rolling pastures, water, and a beautiful view of Lookout Mountain. 57 acres of prime property located on Hwy. 11 between Fort Payne and Hammondsville is a dream come true. Call today! \$450,000 NOW \$422,000

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Pam Wheeler



FIVE GENERATIONS OF THE WILLIE B. LANGSTON FAMILY

Front Row: Great-Great Grandpa
Willie B. Langston holding
Lilly Mae Allen, and
Great Grandmother, Frances Day,
Back Row: Grandmother Lanita
Allen; and Jonathon Allen,
father of Lilly

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CHARM AND CHARISMA...IS WAITING FOR YOUR INSPECTION. This 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath in Mentone has central heat and air, and is situated on 3.6 acres. Call for your appointment today! Priced at only \$79,900.00

CHOICE INVESTMENT PROPERTY LOCATED ATOP LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN! This 80 acres of choice property has paved road frontage, water available, a road runs through the property. Excellent for subdividing. Your calls are welcome for the bargain. \$302,500.

TOUR MENTONE FROM YOUR OWN AFFORDABLE HOME WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF RESTAURANTS, SHOPPING AND PARK ACTIVITIES! This 3 bedroom home located in the middle of downtown Mentone is calling you. This property is perfect for those first-time home buyers at a very affordable price. It would also make a lovely gift or antique shop. Well worth your call! Priced at \$70,000.

OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN THE RUSTIC MENTONE AREA! Lovely gift shop with greenhouses and landscape business. Turn key business including 3 greenhouses, 2 water gardens, and a 3-bedroom residence. This is a successful business for that special person with the required GREEN THUMB. Don't miss this opportunity! \$275,000.

ALMOST LIKE LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE! Excellent for those weekend getaways and vacations, located in Mentone. Rustic log home offers 1 bedroom, 1 bath, open kitchen and living area, freshly painted interior. Includes storage building, and 1 acre. How could anyone go wrong with a price like \$43,500.

THIS IS A MUST SEE FOR EVERYONE who wants the comforts of the country and a nice sized home. This home sits on 1.5 acres and offers 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, open kitchen and dining area, central heat and air, unfinished basement. Beautiful view. Call now to schedule time for your tour. \$110,000.

THIS WOULD ALMOST REMIND YOU OF ROCK CITY! You can choose from 2 tracts located on Lookout Mountain in Valley View Forest. Both tracts have a view. Excellent for permanent residence or get away home. Tracts start at \$19,900. It doesn't cost anything to call!

A MAJESTIC CUSTOM HOME IS AWAITING AS YOU ASCEND SCENIC LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN! This showplace has both a great room and den with vaulted ceilings and fireplaces. French doors lead to an expansive wrap around porch. A panoramic view of the valley can be seen poolside. Three luxurious bedroom suites with baths abound. We welcome your calls. Priced at \$435,000.

WE HAVE SEVERAL BUILDING LOTS IN MENTONE AVAILABLE! Laurel Creek Lake Subdivision features three lakes, hiking trails, restrictive covenants, common area, and much more. Some lots have water available. Prices start at \$9,500.

Neil Colbert — 997-9059
Brenda Taylor — 845-7755
Joyce Williams — 845-4589
Ron Waits — 634-4693
Ronnie Campbell — 845-0412

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PRESS RELEASE- Reading- March 2002

1 out of 5 Americans can't read this sentence. So, sadly, those who need the following information may never know it. That is, unless you tell them. If someone you know needs to learn to read, or simply needs improvement in their reading skills, then free classes are available. Contact the Northeast Alabama Adult Education office at (256) 638-2957, or your local board of education, for more information. Classes are currently being offered at the following locations:

READING CLASSES

**Fort Payne First Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall**

Monday and Wednesday 9 - 12 Noon

Phone: 638-2957

**DeKalb County Career Center,
Fort Payne Employment Office**

Tuesday 5 - 8 p.m.

Phone 844-4709

ESL CLASSES

**DeKalb County Career Center,
Fort Payne Employment Office**

Tuesday and Thursday 3 - 5 PM

Phone: 844-4709

**Fort Payne First Baptist Church
Conference Room**

Tuesday 9 - 11 AM

Phone: 638-2957

Collinsville Public Library

Monday & Wednesday 12:30 - 2:30 PM

Wednesday 4:30 - 6:30 PM

Phone: 524-2323

Inglisia de Dios

Puerta Abierta (Kilpatrick Hispanic Church)

Thursday 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Phone: 638-2957

PRESS RELEASE- GED- March 2002

Would you like to earn more money at your job? Then get your GED. According to the Current Population Survey done in 1999, the average earnings for high school graduates was \$23,594. The same survey found the average 1998 earnings for people who were not high school graduates was \$16,053. What a difference a diploma can make! The Northeast Alabama Adult Education Program wants you to know that free classes are available for those wishing to obtain their GED. For more information, contact the adult education office at 256-638-2957, or your local board of education.

The Lookout Restaurant

"Atop Lookout Mountain"
CLOUDLAND, GEORGIA

(706) 862-2515

Reservations Necessary Friday and Saturday

About Our Town

By
LINDA BROWN



"The March wind doth blow and we shall have snow, and what will poor robin do then, poor thing?" "Beware the idea of March!" "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." All of these idioms serve to warn us that March weather can be anything from ice and snow to warm sunny skies. The temperature can range from single digits to high seventies. Watch for changes in the weather. Mother Nature is very unsettled this month.

The robins have already come to Mentone, I only hope that they get to stay. There are sometimes as many as twenty on the lawn. One interesting fact about them is that they never come near the bird feeder. They prefer to scratch in the dirt for worms. A wide variety of other birds do come to the feeder, including cardinals and finches. We also have lots of crows and at least one hawk that stays nearby. We have seen a very large owl a few times and hear owls quite often at night.

Recently, we had a very interesting skunk adventure. Before the very cold weather that we had the first of the month, we noticed an unusual amount of activity among all of the wild animals. One skunk, who seemed to be quite old, decided that our yard was easy pickings for whatever skunks need to survive. One Sunday afternoon he came out before dark and our dog spotted him. Minnie, the dog, is so tenacious that she aggravated him until he sprayed her. I immediately put her into pan of tomato juice and then a good bath. For at least a week, the house had the odor of skunk. Minnie didn't smell, but the house and porch did. We have not seen him again since the warmer weather came.

Have you been by the new library on the campus of Moon Lake School? This is going to be a wonderful asset to the town. It will be a library for the students during school hours and then open to the public for certain hours after school and on the weekends. The outside is almost finished and ready to be landscaped. The inside is getting the floor covering installed, so the cabinets and bathroom fixtures should be in soon. Some of the mobile units at the school now will be moved and the covered walkway will be extended from the school to the library. This will certainly be a nice addition to our community.

Three hundred trees will be delivered to Mentone during the week of March 10. The Beautification and Seniors Committee, which has been put into place by the town, will be in charge of these trees. The trees are coming to Mentone as a part of National Tree Trust's Community Tree Planting program. Our part of this grant will be to provide labor to plant the trees in and around Mentone. I think that the seedlings will be very small and the committee may choose to put them in pots until they are larger. Another option is to put

them out now and water and maintain them through the warm summer. Whatever they do, that is a lot of trees! As of this writing, they have not met, so no plans have been made as to where and when they will be planted. Ann Wright and Sam Franks co-chair this committee and will be setting the guidelines for this endeavor soon.

The Mentone Water Department has been doing a lot of work around the city. It seems that the lines are so old that many of them were leaking and losing water. Mentone's water loss is much higher than the average town because of the old lines. More of this type of repair will be necessary soon. It is messy but with time and good weather it will look neat and clean again.

Several comments have been heard about the work in Mason Park, the park beside the town hall. Some of the water lines that had to be replaced were in there, so while they had some large equipment available, they decided to cut some of the trees. All of these were already dead and in danger of falling. This, too, will take time to get it looking good again, but it will. Time is a great healer, no matter what the problem or situation. Of course, a little work and lots of good soil will do wonders. A friend of mine says that no matter what you are taking care of, if you feed it, keep it warm and keep it clean, most of the battle has been won. Can this theory apply to parks?

There is still nothing to report on the loan for a new fire truck. We think that the application is on a desk somewhere waiting to be reviewed. We know that it is tied up in the red tape of government. The Federal Government has appropriated more money for grants for fire departments for the year 2002. We had been told that this would not happen this year, but after the great response by the fire personnel after the attacks of September 11, they decided to offer these grants again. We are now in the process of applying for a part of this appropriation of money. We are asking for this grant to purchase what is called a brush truck. It seems that this type truck is more able to go into the woods where a fire might be. Forest fires are a major problem around Mentone. Much of the area served by the local fire department consist of wooded terrain.

Politics is starting to rear its ugly head in DeKalb County. I know that many people feel this way about the campaigns that are necessary for candidates to run for an office. Maybe we should be more patient with these efforts. After all, voting is one of the most democratic things we can do. No matter how many candidates you agree to vote for verbally, only you will ever know which button you push in the voting booth. Over the years, I have seen near disasters happen on the political scene while it was still so hard to "split" your ticket on old paper ballots. Now, nothing could be easier. You can vote any way you choose on the machines. Many times the Local candidates may not be running on the same party ticket that your choice of state officials are. When this happens, I urge everyone to do their homework and learn what choices will be best. So many times I have heard people come into the polls to vote and make this comment, "I just don't know who to vote for, I haven't kept up with the campaigns. I get so tired of hearing it all of the time." Listen to what the candidates have to say, read about their records in the papers, and make up your mind and vote as you think best.

This time of the year is a good time to reflect on your genes. Not the fact that you need new "blue jeans" as

they have come to be called, but on the similarities of the personalities in your family. I started thinking about this recently when I was relating some of the things my daughter, Gail, has done over the years to my Dad. He said, "You don't think she might be like her grandmother, Oline, do you?" We agreed that Gail and Oline have many of the same wonderful traits, such as their love of animals and the outdoors. Yet, they are three generations and sixty years apart. What we are is made up of so many factors that we can hardly call our soul our own. We are a part of everyone who has the same bloodline as we do. Also, everyone we meet becomes a part of our personality. When I look back at my family tree, I don't know how I can walk and chew gum at the same time! I have some real characters in my lineage and I suspect that you do, too. Take the time to do some research and find out.

March is a wonderful time to set out the seed and plant catalogs and order some new varieties for your garden. It is such fun to see how a new plant will do in your flower or vegetable garden. I have had quite a few failures in the last few years, but that is almost as much fun as a success. I did not have the quality soil to plant flowers until I moved four years ago. Since that time, I have tried many different plants and learned a lot through trial and error. I have found that the ones that do best are those I get from local growers when they have their own plant sales or swaps. Several organizations do this every spring, so watch the papers for the places and dates.

**HAPPY SPRING! HAPPY EASTER!
HAPPY LIFE!**

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and Ice Cold Beverages	•Videos
•Ball Meats and Cheeses	•Building Hardware
•Groceries	•Tools
•Kerosene	

West Nile Virus Cleanup Application Form

1. Name: _____
2. Address: _____
_____ Phone No. _____
3. Directions to residence: _____

4. Items to be cleaned/picked up: [Circle item(s).]

Tires	Appliances	Tin Cans	Open Buckets
Automobile and or parts			Construction Debris
Junk Lawn mowers and motors			Burn Barrels
Anything that can hold rain water			(Other: list below)

5. Items will/will not be at curb/roadside: (please circle)
6. Limbs and debris which can be burned, do not place in dumpsters.

Cut this form out and fill it out or pick up a form at the
 Town Hall, Little River Hardware, Mentone Superette, Ruby's Variety.
 Return it by March 30, so it will be included in the April 6 Cleanup Campaign.
 If you have any questions, please call 634-4444 (Mentone town hall).

This is an Eagle Project of Robert McReynolds, Mentone Boy Scout Troop 106, in cooperation
 with the Centers for Disease Control and the Alabama Department of Health. The Town of
 Mentone is sponsoring Boy Scout Troop 106 in the cleanup program.



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

James 1:21-22

There are some things we must lay aside, and there are some things we must receive. The word of God is so very important. We need to receive it with meekness, also to be doers of the word and not hearers only. We don't need to deceive ourselves.

Love and Prayers

Mentone Tourism & Special Events Committee Meeting

Monday Night, March 18, 2002.

At Town Hall

Six until Seven PM

Please Join Us for Input Into

Happenings in **Your** Community

We are developing a Calendar of events for the next 12 months.

We would love to know what you would like to see happen here.

Our first priority is our community.

Join us for **Mentone Presents:**

The DeKalb County Library Bookmobile Schedule for 2002

Mentone at Town Hall parking lot
 on Wednesdays
 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| • March 13, 27 | • April 10, 24 |
| • May 8, 22 | • June 5, * |
| • July *, 17, 31 | |

The Bookmobile is in
 VALLEY HEAD

on the same days from 1:15 to 2:15



Pig Out! Pig Out! Pig Out! Pig Out!

Who: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 215

What: All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser

When: March 15, 2002 starting at 4:00 p.m.

Where: Legion Hall on Cove Road in Mentone-the red building
 up behind the Mentone Superette

Why: 1) Send a rising senior to Girls State

2) Send cards to keep up morale of DeKalb County
 veterans in Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville

3) Meet emergencies that arise around the Legion Hall

What's to eat: pasta, sauce, garlic bread, fresh green salad,
 choice of dressing, choice of drinks, and array of desserts to choose
 from as a bonus

How much? \$5.00 per person

MENTONE RECEIVES COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING GRANT

for tree Restoration in Mason Park and Brow Park from National Tree Trust. The town will soon receive 300 seedling trees: red maples, black gum, and green ash. Come Saturday, April 13, and help the Seniors and the Beautification Committee plant them.

Bring your lunch.