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Volume 21, No. 3

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

March 2003

A 90-Year History of Service and Grace

By Laurie Dell

Eloise Brown was born on a cold February morning in 1913. Within just three years, she lost her mother in a typhoid fever epidemic and, after the tragically young death of her father, went to live with her maternal grandparents. She was raised in Wildwood, Georgia, in the home of Judge and Mrs. Thomas Jefferson Fuller. Very bright and active in school activities, she graduated from high school as valedictorian in June of 1930. By this time, she had met the dashing Robert Donald Brown through an aunt in Sulphur Springs. Anxious to begin their life and to travel with a play in which they were performing, they married in October of that same year.

After a brief time in Sulphur Springs, they moved to Valley Head to work with and live with Donald's brother, Dixie and his wife, Alba. After moving to their own home in Valley Head, their two children were born, Eldonna in October of 1932, and Robert Barry in July, 1934. During this time, Donald was stricken with rheumatic fever, which would cause him difficulties the remainder of his life.

While the children were still toddlers, they moved to Kaolin, AL, to a house that was one of the oldest in the state. Imagine raising two children in a home with no electricity and no indoor plumbing! When Eldonna was ready to begin school, the family moved back to Valley Head and lived there until 1950.

Eloise and Donald were very active in the church, Valley Head Methodist. Eloise was Sunday School teacher and served as President of the Methodist Women, and Secretary of the Official Board. She was renowned for her Eastern Star participation, often serving as Worthy Matron.

As the children entered high school, Eloise and Donald began to plan their dream home, which Donald would build on land they had purchased on Hwy 11. Meticulously following Eloise's design, their new home was completed in 1950, and the family moved in.

Unfortunately, Donald only lived in the house three years, suffering a serious stroke on Christmas Eve of 1952, and he died in May of 1953.

Eloise remarried in 1955, to Dr. Hubert Crocker of Chattanooga, and this marriage ended after a little over 20 years.

Eloise is an accomplished artist in several fields. She is a talented oil painter doing both still lifes and portraits. She wrote many songs, and was a member of the International Songwriters Club. But she is best known for her gift with the written word, specifically in poetry. Very few events happen in Valley Head or the surrounding area for which she is not contacted to contribute a poetic piece. She is published in several anthologies, and is a member of the International Who's Who in Poetry. She was a charter member of the Alabama State Poetry Society and a member of the DeKalb Poets.

But all of her time is not dedicated to the arts. In addition to her activities with the church, she is active in many civic and philanthropic organizations. She served for many years as an election official and was inducted into the Alabama Voter's Hall of Fame. She was a Captain in the UGF campaigns for over 10 years, and was a founding member of the local chapter of AARP. She continues to this day to believe that each member of society must do their part to contribute to the civic and benevolent well-being of their community.

Eloise is the matriarch of a large and growing family. She lost her daughter to cancer in 1997, but Barry is doing well and is active in the Paulowina Growers and many other business



Eloise Brown at her Surprise 90th Birthday Celebration held at Western Sizzlin. Her cake is decorated in yellows and pink - her favorite color, with the words, Happy Birthday, Grandy.

Continued to Pages 12 and 13.

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MAPA MEETING

www.MentoneAlabama.org



There will be no meetings in January and February. The next meeting will be the first Tuesday in March, March 4, 2003.

The MAPA telephone number is 256-634-8339. The MAPA website is www.MentoneAlabama.org.

•PUBLIC NOTICE•

MENTONE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Meeting dates for 2003

•April 17 •July 17
•October 16

Other special or called meetings will be posted as required.

The regular meetings are on the 3rd Thursday, and all meetings are held in the town public meeting room at 5 p.m., and are open to the public.

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!

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

My husband, son and I enjoy visiting Mentone. Actually, so does my brother and family as well as my sister and family. The Saturday before Thanksgiving each year we meet at the lodge and spend the night.

My Dad served DeKalb County as Probate Judge in the mid-50's - Jim A. Johnson. My aunt, Virginia Perkins, lived for many years in Mentone. My name is Patsy Johnson Stockton. Mother was Ola Shirey - Geraldine/Dad Jim Johnson - Tenbroeck. My brother Jimmy and wife - Jay Dell Lindsey, graduated from Fort Payne High School in 1957.

M husband, son and I certainly enjoyed the Fall Fest. We hope to come to the Spring Fest in May.

As I mentioned earlier, we hope to get back to Mentone for the Spring Fest, and possibly sooner.

My Dad enjoyed telling stories about Milford Howard and the Chapel.

I commend MAPA for efforts and success in preserving Mentone's history.

Sincerely,

Patsy J. Stockton

Murfreesboro, TN

WATER NOTES

Water customers on Co Rd 639, 641, 644 and Rd 9000 now have water on their lines and meters set. You must call 634-9106 for us to turn the water on after your state licensed plumber makes the connection at the meter for your house service. No billing will be done in the month of March. You will get a bill for a whole month in April whether connected or not.

The recent dog ordinance is in effect. If you need a copy, please come to the Town Hall and a copy will be made available to you.

At the next Town Council meeting on March 10, there will be a final reading of the Nuisance Ordinance that has been posted about town.

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(1) SPEND YOUR WEEKENDS IN MENTONE. A Brand new Cottage (1200 sq. ft.) with two bedrooms, and up with Gas Fireplace, and Whirlpool Tub in Bath. Open kitchen, dining, with Tile and Hardwood floors. Living Room with Gas Fireplace. Wrap-around deck. C/H/A, city water, located on a wooded lot. \$129,000.



(2) A-FRAME CHATEAU. 1.8 acres of Landscaped yard. Open living area. Kitchen. Bdrm-bath, private deck. Upstairs has 2 large bdrms, bath w/garden tub. C/H/A. 1,200 sq. ft. Garage. Fenced. Located Hwy 117, Mentone. Priced to sell. \$118,000.



(3) FARMHOUSE WITH 1.8 ACRES, MENTONE. Oak frame outside, oak floors inside. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with tile shower and clawfoot tub, living room with stone fireplace. Open country style kitchen dining area. Large covered front porch. Detached garage, city water, paved road. \$85,000.



(4) 2 STORY HOME ON CUTLER AVE, MENTONE. 3 Bdrm 1 1/2 bath, updated with Metal Roof, 12x16 deck, kitchen-dining combo. Living room w/gas free standing fireplace, cozy den, Large Bdrm with second story balcony. All appliances stay. Located on a level one-acre lot with large Oak trees and lots of wild flowers. \$72,000.



(5) CABIN ON DRY CREEK, which is always flowing. 2 bedroom 2 bath in good condition. Bottom and board siding. Covered porches and a deck. Located on 2.7 acres, Sulphur Springs Rd. \$71,000.



(6) WEEKEND COTTAGE ON LITTLE RIVER. Private location with 12 acres and 350 ft on the East Fork. 2 story cottage with bonus room and bedroom upstairs, greatroom, kitchen, bedroom and bath on main. Large deck. All this for \$470,000. Reduced \$164,500.



(7) EARLY 1900s TWO STORY FARMHOUSE, located on Cutler Ave. Mentone. High Hedges and Oak Trees make a beautiful setting in town. 2 Bdrms upstairs, living area and bath. Living area, kitchen & Bath on the main level. Screened porch. Pine floors, walls, and ceiling throughout. \$95,900. (Photo to the left.)

OTHER PROPERTIES

(10) MOUNTAIN RIVER ESTATES is located between Mentone, Alabama and Cloudland, GA., on Alabama Hwy 117. There are river front and mountain stream tracts ranging from 3+ to 14+ acres in size. The middle fork of Little River runs through the property with over a mile of clean pristine water, containing both whitewater and placid pools. The property is situated on the Lookout Mountain Parkway. This secluded, unspoiled area is a perfect getaway for retirement or a second home. All homesites have access to electricity, and city water is planned to reach the development by 2003.

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

(12) SIX WOODED LOTS (100x150), across from Sunset Park, DT Mentone, a rare find with Rock Formations, City water and perked. Perfect for the Cabin you have always dreamed of. \$40,000.

(13) WILD RIVER COMMUNITY (1 Tract left) 220x300 on the East Fork of Little River. Secluded and Scenic, with pools and Rapids. \$30,000.

(14) 7.8 ACRES AVAILABLE IN CHEROKEE COUNTY, MENTONE. Old Homesite with large trees and field. City Water and Private Rd. Located in East Fork Little River Estates. \$35,000.



(8) COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT PROPERTY IN MENTONE. Possibilities are plentiful. Rustic style Gift Store, landscaped grounds with fountains. Nursery area with three Greenhouses. Storage buildings. Equipment for houses to remain. List of inventory upon request. Located with 1.45 acres. \$76,500.



(9) GREAT PLACE TO GET AWAY IN QUIET MENTONE. Common areas for hiking and lakes for fishing is available at the location of this Custom built cabin in Laurel Creek Lakes. Open Greatroom, kitchen/dining. Pine V-Groove Cathedral ceiling. Tung/Olive walls with a diagonal-horizontal design. Tile Bath with whirlpool tub. Loft bedroom with bath. 8x36 screened porch and 8x36 covered front porch. Handmade doors and raised pine cabinets. Located on 3 acres. \$135,000.

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LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN NATURAL HEALING OUR NATIVE MEDICINE CHEST

By L.C. Moon

Lookout Mountain is home to a variety of plants that can make your winter months of coping with cold, flu, and sinus symptoms more pleasant. When our immune system is weak enough for a virus or bacteria to begin causing us symptoms, it is time to start building the immune system. Often times, sickness comes in times when we have been stressed mentally or physically and/or experienced extreme changes in temperature or environment. I generally start building my immune system when these situations present themselves even before the symptoms begin. Symptoms are the body's way of fighting off bacteria or virus. They are unpleasant reminders to ourselves that we have an imbalance within that needs to be strengthened.

Echinacea is the most common herb thought of for treating cold and flu symptoms. Echinacea Purpurea is a wonderful immune simulator that is always in my medicine chest to ward off viral or bacterial infections. Lookout Mountain has **Black Eyed Susans** (Rudbeckia) in abundance and it is a viable alternative to Echinacea. Native Americans historically used the root of Black Eyed Susan for colds according to Peterson's Field Guide to Eastern/Central Medicinal Plants. Peterson's also states that the root juice is beneficial for earache. Even more intriguing to me was the information provided by Dr. James Duke in his book, The Green Pharmacy, in which he gives the results of a lab test that proved Rudbeckia extract to be more beneficial to stimulating the immune system than Echinacea extract.

Boneset is what I would reach for if a cold or flu took hold of me. It was employed in folk medicine for flu epidemics dating back to the 19th century. Boneset is known for alleviating the aching in the bones that is common with cold and flu. Taken cold it is known to aid in treating a fever. When given hot, it will cause perspiration, evacuation of the bowels, and possibly vomiting, depending on the amount you take and your chemistry. Boneset is known to have a tonic effect on the stomach, liver, bowels, and uterus. It is also known for relieving congestion and treating bronchitis.

Golden Seal is known to be a natural alternative to antibiotics because of its ability to destroy bacteria. Unlike antibiotics, it is known to stimulate the immune system and cleanse the mucous membranes. Golden Seal contains B Complex vitamins, calcium, potassium, vitamins A, C, & E. It also aids in the functioning of the colon, liver, pancreas, spleen, Lymphatic & respiratory systems, according to Prescription to Nutritional Healing Second Edition. Caution should be taken if you are pregnant, have diabetes, glaucoma, or cardiovascular disease. Prescription for Nutritional Healing recommends that you buy an alcohol-free extract of Golden Seal.

Mullien's soft fuzzy Leaves are often used for treating lung ailments, coughs, and colds. The dried leaves are smoked to relieve lung congestion and have been since the early native Americans. North American Herbology says that an external application is used for tonsil inflammation and sore throat. It also states that the green buds are infused in oil for earache, though I have used the small yellow flowers in an oil infusion for earache with great results.

Elder berries, flowers, leaves and roots are known to soothe the respiratory tract while stimulating the circulation and immune system. Elder is known to contain vitamins A, C, B complex, as well as calcium and potassium.

Lobelia (Lobelia inflata), also known as Indian Tobacco, is a potent herb that should be taken with great respect. It is known to be beneficial in treating colds, flu, bronchitis, fever, and viral infections. It is also known to be beneficial for spasms and pain, from which it is always nice to have relief.

Horehound contains vitamins B-complex, A, C, & E. The flowers and leaves of this plant allow the mucous that builds in the bronchial tubes and lungs during illness to become more fluid so as to move through more freely. Horehound is also an immune booster that is beneficial for hay fever, sinusitis and problems of the respiratory tract.

The inner bark of **Wild Cherry** is known to be an expectorant for relentless coughs. It is also known to

be beneficial for sore throat, pneumonia, bronchitis and all the symptoms that go along with cold and flu. Caution should be taken not to harvest the inner bark in the fall because wild cherry bark contains a toxin that is more prevalent in the fall bark.

Smooth Sumac (Rhus Glabra) leaf tea is known to benefit asthma symptoms and the bark tea is known to treat fevers. A man came in the store the other day and said the berries boiled up and made into syrup cured his cough. The berries are also said to be high in vitamin C, which makes sense since they taste so much like lemons.

Nettle is a blood purifier that can expel phlegm from the lungs and stomach. In homeopathic preparations, it is used to treat sore throat and whooping cough.

Chickweed contains vitamins B6 & 12, C & D. It reduces mucous in the lungs.

Wild ginger root is known to aid in relieving stomach and head aches. It is also said to be beneficial in treating whooping cough and colds. In aromatherapy, it is said that, if you use ginger oil as a foot rub, it will decrease fever.

It is wonderful to live in such an ecologically diverse environment where the medicine chest is just outside your door. Within this article is a lot of basic information regarding the healing effect of these plants, though most of them have many more beneficial actions. It is wise to consult your healthcare provider if you are taking medications or are not familiar with an herb.

Many of you know that I am now at Little Mountain Nursery (used to be Blackburn's Nursery) on AL Hwy 117 in Mentone. You can find preparations of the herbs listed or place an order for ones that are not readily available in the store. I have recently added extracts from Shimbone Valley Organic Farm. These herbs are grown and made into extracts by Ginger Kogelschatz in Menlo, GA, with great love and respect. I am carrying many organic herb teas as well. Stop in and see me, write PO Box 224, Mentone, AL 35984, or call (205) 616-3148 or (256) 634-3334 for more information.



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Have you ever seen so much rain? There is water everywhere. It seems that just when some of the water has dried up, more comes down. At least we have not had the ice and snow that some places have. My grandson, Marc, lives in Nashville and he has had a lot of very nasty weather. Some very tragic events have happened this year because of the weather. One of the worst was the loss of two children when the car that they were in was swept away by flood waters. I'm sure that quite a number of people in the north have died because of the cold and the tremendous amount of snow and ice.

One of the things that I love to do is be with the children at Moon Lake Elementary School. The school has grades kindergarten through sixth. The students are so eager to learn and excited about life. Today, I have been with Mrs. Sarrell's kindergarten class. We have a Partridge Peas Junior Garden Club meeting every month. Because the weather was so nasty, we did an inside activity this month. The object of the meeting was to teach them about recycling. The project was to make a collage of a tree using pieces of a jigsaw puzzle for the leaves. Of course, all trees have to have animals live in them, so we put a bird, a chipmunk and a bushy tailed squirrel in the tree. It was a wonderful project and we had a lot of fun. They sang songs for me before I left--and they are all great musicians, watch for them to produce a CD before long!

Another program going on at Moon Lake School now is the Renaissance Reading Program. This program uses the talents and time of adults in the community to help one or more students with their reading skills. Gaining the things that we do is read to a class, let a child read to us and help them to increase the speed of their reading ability. If you think about it, so many things in life depend on our ability to read well. The students even improve in math when they can read and comprehend what they are reading. Remember reading problems?

Along the same line of thinking, the Moon Lake Book Club is alive and doing well. We are reading, "All Over But the Shoutin'" by Rick Bragg for March. I haven't read it yet, but the preface states that it is a story of a family around Birmingham, Alabama. The author states that he decided to write it after the death of his grandmother. This made him realize that his family history needed to be preserved. Maybe we should all take a lesson from this. The only problem with me doing mine is always hearing my Dad say, "We had better not shake the Cochran/Lewis family tree too hard, no telling what might fall out!" Maybe he knows something that I don't. If you want to read

a book a month and come on the third Thursday morning to discuss it with others who have read the same book, let some of the members know. We will bring you up to date and even order the books for you. We don't assign a book to any one person to report on, we all talk about them.

In last month's Groundhog article, did any of you catch that I spelled the contraption used to roll up the rope on a well wrong? I spelled it "windless" and the correct term is windlass. My Dad caught it and brought it to my attention. The spell checker on my computer didn't catch it. I suppose it could have thought I was talking about a time with no wind. After all, computers do not have a brain. I was very glad to know the correct term. Thanks, Fraser!

The Town of Mentone has been very concerned about the trash that has been left around that could collect water and breed the mosquito that can possibly carry the West Nile virus. We have already heard that this illness will be more widespread this year than it was last year. In keeping with this line of thinking, we contacted a government agency who is concerned with this same subject. They sent a woman to Mentone to assess the situation. It was my pleasure to ride around Mentone with her to show her where some trouble spots might be and also to let her see what kind of things have been thrown out on the roadsides. She found that overall Mentone is in much better condition than most towns. We do have a few trouble spots, she thinks that we can work together and eliminate these. She will see what help is available and research other solutions to the problems and get back in touch with the town.

One of the spots that illegal dumping has been taking place is on the side of Tutwiler Gap Highway. She had a solution to this problem without researching it. She said to ask the highway department to place large rocks along the side of the highway where cars are able to pull off and unload garbage. As always, when some people break the law, we all suffer. This is the only place on that highway that you can pull off, thus her solution would cause a problem if someone needed to stop because of car trouble. Maybe, the highway department could put the large rocks at the back side of the pull-off against the trees. Then cars would not be able to back close enough to unload the large pieces of garbage that are there now. Whoever is doing this could just stop and the problem would be solved very easily. There is a hefty fine for dumping illegally and people who use this road are watching. Other areas need to be cleaned up and the litter on some stretches of main roads needs to be picked up on a regular basis. If you want to take a certain area to keep clean, call 634-4444 and tell them. We will see if we can still get the signs placed along the road saying that you are doing this. I think that the signs were a part of the "Keep Alabama Beautiful" campaign.

The Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library has regrouped recently. This was something that everyone who was involved felt needed to be put into place. The school part is still the same, with the students using all facilities during the school hours. The only change has been the organization of a new Board of Directors, which now consists of all community members and a liaison representing the school.

The new chairperson is Jan Wilkinson. I am a member of this board and feel that we have come up with some wonderful plans for the library. We have seven members and have put into place seven committees. Each board member will serve on one of these committees.

Beginning in April we will have new hours for the Community Library to be open. We will continue to be open on Tuesday, from 5:00-7:00 pm. We will also be open on Saturday morning, beginning April 5, from 9:00-11:00 am. On Saturday, we are planning programs for children and adults. Some of the programs include a reading time for children, perhaps with illustrations by puppets. All plans are now being fine tuned and a complete listing of programs will be available in the next issue of The Groundhog. A list will also be posted in the library as soon as it becomes available.

Ways of raising money to support the community side of the library are also being considered. As of right now, we do not have a regular income. Therefore, we cannot form a budget, which is a necessity to apply for grants and other help. We are working on programs such as, "Friends of the Library" which would enable persons to pledge an amount each year to support the library.

The Board of Directors will be meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 4:00 pm in the library. Part of our recently adopted By-laws states that all meetings are open to the public and we invite you to come and see what is being planned. To present a matter to the Board of Directors you must be on the agenda for that meeting. To be on the agenda for any monthly meeting, contact Jan Wilkinson, 845-5048, at least two days before a meeting date. The next scheduled meeting will be March 17 at 4:00 pm.

The library is something that all residents of the Mentone area can use and be proud of. Please use it and become involved in the working of it. It is a lot of fun and I have learned more about library procedures than I ever thought I would know.

We are very grateful to Anita Cash Banks for sending boxes and boxes of books to the library from the school where she works. We are in the process of going through these, one book at a time, and keeping what we feel will be useful in the library. The others we plan to put in a book sale. We will probably have books for sale in the local festivals, as well as the annual yard sale that happens in August.

March seems to be the month to keep body and soul together. If I say that I am glad that we have made it through February without bad weather, someone always says, "But we still have March to get through." As those of you who have lived here several winters know, March can be a bad month, weather wise. We have had blizzards, ice storms, and other such "unmentionables" in past years. Let's hope that this one is kind to us. Remember, "If March comes in like a lion, it goes out like a lamb." I have never known if the reverse is true.

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Hershell Pruitt (L) and Tom Emory (R)
trying out Hershell's new turkey fryer. They
were delicious Christmas turkeys!!



Birthday Column

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY/
ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO

- 1-Erica Blalock
- 3-Dustin Blalock, Nate Wilson,
Laura Martin
- 4-Ruth Porter, Durrell Owens
- 5-Elko Key, Shelby Langley
- 6-Inez Guffey
- 11-Marie Hunt
- 12-George Shankles
- 17-Donnie and Lisa Strickland (anniv)
Mary Jane Hunt
- 18-Sherryl Lewis
- 19-Thomas Jacob Shepherd
Michelle Moore, Savannah Smith
- 20-Wanda Simmons
- 21-Brittany Hester, Wanda Black,
Donna Bouldin
- 22-Jimmy Cooper
- 23-April Blansit
- 24-Rick Chapman, Jimmy Phillips
- 25-Evelyn Graves
- 26-Angie Laney, 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-Aylee Delenn Tucker,
Denee Jenkins
Ruby Daniel (in memory)

Birthday Column

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY/
ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO

- 1-Jared Hulan
- 2-Milton Chambers, Mary Pearson,
Effie Harrison, Annie Harrison
- 3-Alfred Chambers
- 4-Georgette McGee, Katie Brandon,
Jamie Phillips
- 5-Jana Goss, 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
- 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
- 21-Lauren McGee
- 23-David Mays
- 24-Junior Flemming
- 25-Mary Brown (in memory)
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

By Evelyn Graves

For the past two weeks, I have been sorting through boxes of things from the attic of my mother's house. I cannot be happy to just dump these boxes and save myself some time in disposing of them. I have gone through them, envelope by envelope, page by page, reading the contents of each one, and actually placing myself back in time to a totally different era.

When I emerge at the end of the day—dusty, smelly, and misty-eyed, it is difficult for me to leave these treasures; and I can understand why my mother could not dispose of them. These things represent eighty-seven years of her life from the time of her birth until the time of her death. I have enjoyed pictures of my mother as a child, my grandparents, my great-grandparents, my great, great grandparents, my uncles and aunts, my great uncles and great aunts, my cousins, and my mother's friends. They also include letters and pictures of my father's family, who were such a vital part of my mother's life, since most of her life was spent at Mentone. There were World War II letters from Fred and Leck Jones, and from Mother's two brothers, Jim and Charles Ellis. There were World War I pictures and memorabilia, as well.

Since my mother spent thirty-four years at Moon Lake School teaching Mentone's children, these were probably the most interesting and valuable treasures I have uncovered. There were school pictures of every child she taught from 1944 to 1978. There were notes to the teacher from various children, there were valentines, birthday cards, Christmas cards, and notes from parents that were noteworthy.

As I sorted through this memorabilia, I began to swell with pride as I realized again that Moon Lake School has produced some outstanding students who have done some outstanding things with their lives.

I found various pieces of work that Billy Berry had produced in second grade. I found newspaper clippings where he was interviewed as an outstanding student by *The Birmingham News*. We all know Billy now as Dr. Bill Berry who heads the Moon Lake learning center as principal and administrator. Not only is he renowned in this community, but he is making a difference in higher education as he teaches at Northeast Community College and Jacksonville State University. Mother was so proud of him and his accomplishments.

There were pictures of Jim and Dallyne Jones' children as first and second graders. There were newspaper clippings of their accomplishments as they grew up, there were announcements of their engagements and weddings. They have all been successful in their chosen careers.

There was a newspaper clipping of Sharon Dowiat (now Dovie), as she states the correct spelling and pronunciation of her name has been all along—and nobody ever said Sharon would not be bold enough to make that change if she felt it should be made) when she finished high school at Fort Payne with high honors. There was also a high school graduation invitation from Sharon with a note enclosed which read: "Here it is. I promised you this. I ordered only two invitations - one for you and one for my scrapbook." I know Mother must have felt quite honored to have been the recipient of such a valuable document. Sharon received her law degree several years ago

and now is a practicing attorney, and she may be seen on the weekends on Channel 31 as an anchorwoman. I had the privilege to be Sharon's Sunday School teacher when she was in high school, as well as to work with her in a youth choir. What an accomplished pianist!

There were various sketches by Jimmy Frazier among the boxes. Mother always told me, "That child will become a great artist some day—just mark my word." She was right again. She had an unusual insight for recognizing the potential of her students.

Among the collection of things that Mother could not dispose of was a beautiful letter written by Ruby Kirby. The letter followed the untimely death of their daughter, Hazel. Ruby was writing to thank my mother for what she had done for Hazel and telling her how much Hazel loved her. I especially remember the circumstances surrounding Hazel's death because it touched us all. Hazel did, indeed, love my mother. She asked Mother at school if she might spend the night with her the next evening. Mother told her that she could. Hazel came to school with her little bag packed to spend the night. She was so excited, but as the day went on, Hazel became very ill. She was running a high fever and having chills. Mother made her as comfortable as possible by making her a little bed in the back of the classroom on a table, and Mother covered her with her own coat because it was bigger and warmer. She told Hazel that she felt that she needed to go home that night so that her mother could look after her since she was sick, and that she could come another night. As sick as she was, Hazel insisted that she wanted to spend the night with Mother. They reached an agreement that she would go home. Hazel passed away that night! This was a terrible experience for my mother. She loved that little girl. It was a sad time for the community, especially since the family had already lost one little girl, Kathryn, who was named for my mother. She stood too close to the open fireplace and her clothes caught on fire and she burned to death. Don't ever think that a teacher's job ends when she leaves the school every day. She carries each child in her heart for the rest of her life.

There were so many cards and letters that I had written to Mother, and there were letters that she had written to me when I was away at school. After reading these, I felt that Mother and I had visited together for days. My mother had a way of knowing my needs, and she was always able to say or write something that gave me confidence or assurance just at the time I needed it most.

I would like to share one letter that Mother wrote to me and tucked inside a birthday card for my 44th birthday. My life was always full with being a mother to a "ready made" family, with a management position that was most demanding, with being a pastor's wife, and, as I am sure all women question themselves from time to time, I asked myself, "Am I doing the best that I can? Am I meeting the needs in the lives of my family? Am I spending too much time on my job? Is my family getting the leftovers of my life?" At just such a time as this, I received this letter from Mother:

"Now you are 44, happily married, and a grandmother. You mean so much to me now, as you always have. I've always appreciated the fact that you were different from the average girl in that you set your

moral standards higher and were never willing to compromise. You enjoyed giving of yourself to others which often required sacrifice. You accepted Christ as your Savior at an early age and have never wavered in your faith. This has been a blessing to me.

"You were careful in choosing your friends all through the years—wonderful friends who years later tell me of the great influence you have had on their lives and how much they love you. I am proud of the way you have learned to accept the responsibility as wife and mother in your home and the friendly welcome you extend to your and Jimmy's friends and to Sandra's relatives. I can see the respect they have for you, and it makes me proud that there is a good relationship between you. I am proud of the way you have matured into a devoted wife and mother, still willing to sacrifice for the ones you love.

"Very few mothers can boast of having a daughter who never spoke unkindly to her or rebelled in any way, from childhood to the present. I know it wasn't always easy for you because at times I carried such a load with my responsibilities at home, school, church, sewing for the family, gardening and canning, going to summer school, taking care of ill parents, and experiencing poor health myself for a period of time. I probably showed impatience at times, but I didn't mean to, and I never ceased to love my children more than anything or anybody in the world. I find myself depending on you so much now—you and Jimmy—and I appreciate the patience he has shown me. I pray that I will never get to be a real burden. I love you, Mother."

What a birthday! What a mother! When I reread her rough draft of this letter I found in the attic, I could only say, "Wow, she really overestimated me!" Isn't that the way with mothers?

I found hundreds of school papers of Mother's from high school through college. They are so beautifully written, and she was rewarded for her efforts with excellent grades. It is not often that a mother and daughter have the opportunity to attend college together, but we did, and that was a wonderful experience. We helped each other, challenged each other, and at times competed with each other. Those are times that I will never forget.

If you haven't cleaned out the attic lately, take time to do it. You just don't know what you might find. I have sold "the homeplace" to Tom and Kristen Emory (from the Mentone Market), and I am trying to empty it of its contents. I did not realize what a wonderful experience it would be. My granddaughter, Katie, was working on a project for her English class yesterday at my house, and she was doing a collage of *Treasure Island*. I thought about the treasures that I have found, and they are much more precious than those found by the crew in *Treasure Island*. They are treasures of the heart.

There may be more articles on "The Things I Found in the Attic" because I have many boxes yet to go. I just needed to share these things with you now.

Rhododendron Garden Club

The monthly meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was held February 11, 2003, at the Mentone Community House. The meeting was opened with a devotion by Margaret Baker and the Pledge of Allegiance. Refreshments were served by hostesses Gethryn Giles, Virginia Setze, and Janet Spahr who charmed us with a Valentine's day theme.

There were no minutes read and the Treasurer's report was given by the president, due to the absence of the treasurer.

Committee reports consisted of the junior garden club activities and the gardening therapy committees. Linda Brown reported that The Partridge Peas were doing projects using recycled materials. Dee Matlock reported that she has plants for shut-ins for Easter. She requests that we give names of shut-ins to her.

Old Business: Various sites for the May Luncheon were discussed. Two choices are available to us and we are asked to make our choice known to the telephone committee member who calls us to remind us of the March meeting. The two places available to us are the Mentone Inn, which can accommodate us and will cost approximately \$12.00. Marilyn Campbell presented a proposal for having luncheon at the American Legion, catered by the Legion Auxiliary. The price will be \$10.00 with the proceeds going to the legion auxiliary to aid them in sponsoring girls to attend Girls State.

Mary Summerville will be President of the Alabama State Garden Club. A reception for her will be held in Hoover, Alabama on April 6 between 2 and 4 PM. We, as a club, will pay \$10.00 to pay for cost of the reception.

Treasurer, Diane Kuehl asks that dues be paid in April. Bylaws state that they are due in April and it would be easier to have year-end paperwork done if the dues were paid in a timely manner.

Martha Wood brought forth the suggestion that we cut back meeting times to three or four less a year. After discussion, it was suggested that the new board discuss it and make changes they deem necessary. Changing meeting times will necessitate a change in the bylaws to reflect new arrangements.

Dorothy Cyr announced that Earthday is April 21st and that due to that day being Easter Monday, Tuesday, April 22nd will be the day that we will work at Moon Lake School. There was a discussion concerning the litter problem on the Road between highway 117 and East River Road. The Garden Club will include litter pickup in that area into the Earthday work activities.

Martha Wood presented the program which was an information-packed presentation of resources for Gardeners. She discussed books, magazines and Internet sites. Martha shared a lot of her favorite books and many members brought books to the meeting. We were all inspired by the wide range of information available and learned some valuable tips as to what to look for in a book that we are considering purchasing.

The meeting was adjourned until March 11. The March meeting will be a work time at the Heritage Garden preceded by a business meeting.

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

DeKalb County Genealogical Society Meeting

The DCGS will meet March 8th, at 10:00 a.m., in the Hunt Room of the DeKalb County Library. We urge all members to be present.

We will present two speakers for the day: Martha Barksdale from Collinsville and Martha Stanley from Fort Payne.

Mrs. Barksdale will speak from her vast knowledge of the history of Collinsville, its historical significance in DeKalb County, and its cemeteries. This will be a very interesting program for genealogists and historians alike.

Mrs. Stanley will acquaint us with her many associations with Lineage Societies and the importance of proper documentation when doing genealogical research. Even if you are not preparing papers for membership in one of these Societies, the "proof" of your genealogy research lies in proper documentation.

We urge a large attendance to hear these two fine speakers. If you are a member or aspiring member, please plan to join us. Refreshments will be served immediately following the meeting. Visitors are always encouraged to attend.

Brenda C. Abbott Publicity Co-Chairman DCGS
abbottb@mindspring.com

UDC, DeKalb Chapter #1454 Meets

The February meeting of the DeKalb Chapter #1454, UDC meet on Sat. Feb., with 11 members and 1 prospective member present. Regular business was attended to and plans were finalized for the UDC Coloring Contest winners to be honored at a tea in March on our next meeting day. The winners will be notified by invitation of the time and place. There is much interest in this contest every year. It is open to all 4th graders in our 11 county schools and 1 city school. Substantial prizes are given to the local winners, as well as the Chapter winners. We encourage you to contact your child's teacher next year if you have a boy or girl who will be a fourth grader. The contest is held early each year, with the winners honored in March.

Joyce West, Registrar and Past-President, presented a certificate of membership to our newest member, Barbara Goodwin. We are happy to have her and know that she will be an asset to our organization.

Our program was presented by Debbie Johnson, assisted by Brenda Abbott, on use of the Internet to research your ancestors. Use of ancestry.com and many other websites of interest were demonstrated and handouts of helpful links, as well as public sources, were provided by Debbie. If you have ancestors who fought for the Confederacy in the War Between the States, we encourage you to attend our meetings. We will welcome you and help you with your application should you decide to join us. We meet the 3rd Saturday of each month from Sept. to May. Please watch this newspaper for the time and place of our next meeting. You may also email me at: abbottb@mindspring.com or call me at (256)845-5436 Brenda Abbott, Publicity Director

DeKalb/Cherokee Federation Meeting

The DeKalb/Cherokee Federation of Garden Clubs met recently to discuss several upcoming events.

The first event will be the Landscape Design Study on February 27, at 6 PM, in Henagar's Ruritan Building. This class will be presented by Ann Houston, Master Gardener and Landscape Design Consultant. Mrs. Houston will teach a second class on March 27th, to be held at the same time and location.

March 15 & 16 are the dates for the Home and Garden Show, held at the DeKalb County Schools Auditorium. The Federation will have a booth this year, and each club is asked to contact Linda Brown, chairman, with the names of the people who will be able to assist in the booth or help in the Hospitality Room.

The Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon of the DeKalb/Cherokee Federation will be held on Saturday, April 26, at the DeSoto State Park Restaurant on Lookout Mountain. Registration begins at 11:15 AM. The theme for this year's luncheon is *Angels Among Us*. In keeping with the theme, Autumn Brown, a 13-year-old young lady with a beautiful singing voice, will entertain the garden club ladies beginning at 11:40 AM. Lunch will be served at noon, and will be followed by the meeting. New officers will be installed by Mary Summerville, President of Garden Club of Alabama. There will also be a drawing for a garden shed, with all donations to benefit the fall flower show. If you are interested in obtaining a ticket, please contact any garden club member. If you need more information concerning this event, please contact Celestine Darnell, luncheon chairman, or any garden club president.

DeKalb/Cherokee Federation of Garden Clubs is a member of The Garden Club of Alabama, District 11, Deep South Region, and The National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.

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Tracy 48, Menlo/Cloudland - New home features 3 BR, 2 BA, open, airy great room w/double fireplace, pine floors, master suite on main level. Other amenities include metal roof, wrap around deck, cedar shake siding, circle paved drive, very private secluded 2 acres with winter brow view. \$155,000.



County Road 103, Cloudland - Specious, rustic cedar home has 3 BR, 2 BA, great room, eat-in kitchen/dining area combined, home office, double garage, nice front porch & rear deck, recent CHA, metal roof, paint, situated on 1 acre, landscaped, some rock formations, winter view. \$129,000.



County Road 80 near Menlo - 1994 modular features 3 BR, 2 BA, great room, dining area combined, kitchen w/all appliances & lots of cabinet space and bar, master w/walk-in garden tub, rear porch, front deck, just remodeled, new paint, carpet, linoleum, light fixtures, bath fixtures, doors. Situated on 2.24 level acres. Priced at \$51,000.

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Chetree, Blowing Rock Circle - Rustic 1-1/2 story, 3 BR, 2 BA, wrap-around deck, rock work, winter view. Heated at the foot of Lookout Mtn. on 10 acres, private, 2 years old. \$128,500.



Chattooga Drive - Lake Weiss lake front, neat 2 BR, 1 BA, newly remodeled, vinyl, windows, hardwood, berber, CHA, screened porch, dock, seawall, double lot, private, great area. \$150,000.



Menlo Area - Country home features 2 BR, 1 BA, roomy kitchen, nice size den, side porch, some recent remodeling, situated on 8 acres w/barn and pond. \$78,500.

LINE ADS

Foot of Lookout Mtn. Hemphill Road 0+/- AC with a view, county water, gas, restricted, 5900 AC.

Foot of Lookout Mtn. East Tologa Rd. 8+/- AC, good area, wooded, 5900 AC.

Tologa Area 28 acres, great view of Lookout, water, gas, wooded and pasture, restricted, 5900 AC, or offer.

Mentone Area Co Rd 633, 20+/- acres, gate driveway, some fencing, private, \$60,000.



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It's a Girl!!!

Emily Grace Wheat

Shaun and Sally Wheat, of Gaylesville, would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Emily Grace, born January 14, 2003. Grandparents are Darrell and Nancy Kelly of Gaylesville; Kathy Blalock of Mentone; Ronald and Cindy Wheat of Mentone, and the late Tony Sharp.

March, The Beast

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

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

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

Roaring in the hurricanes
In brutal destructive force,
It floods all the streams and lanes--
And changes each one's course.

It is a strong fighting beast,
But only for a season--
Meek as a lamb, snowy fleeced--
It will surrender to "April's reason."
--Eloise Brown

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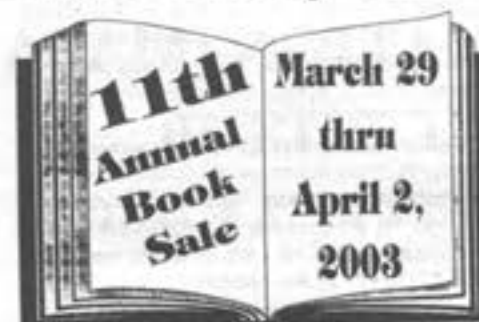
Edward Jones

DeKalb County Library 11th Annual Book Sale

Donations of items for the 11th Annual Book Sale to benefit the DeKalb County Library are now being accepted. Due to limited space, encyclopedias and magazines will not be accepted for this year's sale. Items accepted include books, both hardcover and paperback, for adults and children. Videotapes, CD's, games and puzzles will also be accepted.

The Fort Payne Culture Club members have begun to prepare for the sale, scheduled for March 29 through April 2, 2003. Use these cold, rainy days of winter to clean closets and storage areas, bringing the items listed above to the library. Please remember to donate items that you would want to purchase. Your donations now and purchases later will make this a successful sale.

DeKalb County Library



Donations Taken Through: March 22, 2003

Mentone Wedding Chapel

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



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

[Candle Lit Ceremonies • Music • Photography
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To arrange your wedding or renewing of your wedding vows, call

256-634-4181



The
**Church
News**
By
EVELYN GRAVES



Sunday morning services at Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church are held at 9:00 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 devotion 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. 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 238 (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 9 PM on Tuesdays.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, dedicated their new sanctuary and church building on Sunday, Oct. 13, at 3PM. Their new location is at 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular worship services are at 10 AM and Sunday School at 9 AM. Steve Schrader, Pastor 845-4314. All are welcome.

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 pm.

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.

Presbyterian Church worship service at Cloudland begins at 10 AM, (EST), and the Menlo service 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 Calvary 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. Singing April 27, 7:00 GA time. Special Singers will be the Brown Brothers.

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 11AM, 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 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 any of their services or activities. Two Morning Services with Children's Church are at 9:45 AM, with Sunday School at 10 AM, and the second service at 11 AM. 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 Garraway welcomes new comers.

ML Carmel Community Baptist Church, 1041 Yankee Rd, Cloudland, GA 30731, 706-398-7016, 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; Wednesday 7 PM - Mid-week Prayer Service; Thursday 7-8 PM - Bible Discussion. We need Piano Player, Music Director, Children for Sunday School and You!

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. Contact the church at 634-4476 for more information on any events or services. Everyone is welcome to join in worship services or special events.

The Mentone United Methodist Church services are at 11 AM each Sunday. Sunday school is at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome. The Pastor is Les Brown. The Ethel Brown Unit of UMW meets on the 1st Wednesday at 2 PM in the fellowship hall, and the Mountain Laurel Unit of UMW meets on the 3rd Monday at 12:30 PM at the church.

MOUNTAIN MAMAS CRAFTS & ROCK SHOP OPENS

By Mary Alice Stout

Mountain Mamas Crafts and Rock Shop will open for the 2003 season at noon (GA time) on Friday, March 28. It is our NINTH YEAR! The Shop is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6:00pm, until December 1. Mountain Mamas sells consignment items made by over 50 women artists. New art and craft items arrive every week. During a visit to Mountain Mamas you will find locally and regionally made pottery, candles, fabric items (rugs, pillows, wall hangings, handmade soaps, folk and yard art, collectibles, bird houses, a large variety of rocks and crystals, and home made jams.

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

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



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Continued from page 1

activities. She has 6 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild on the way. Her family and friends recently celebrated her 90th birthday with a large function in Fort Payne. She is much loved by her family and all who have been blessed to come in contact with her over the last 90 years.

Editor's note: Eloise has lovingly written a column for The Groundhog for many years. Valley Views has appeared in practically every issue since the inception of the paper in February of 1982. We are grateful for the time and effort that she has dedicated to the paper and its readers. Much of her poetry and prose has been shared with this paper, its subscribers, and the general distribution throughout The Groundhog delivery area.

Thank you, Eloise, for all you have done for the communities in which you have shared not only your talents, your time, and yourself, but your hard work and devotion to community service.



Pictures (2 above and one below) from the Surprise Birthday Party at Western Sizzlin held on Saturday, February 1, 2003. Eloise's birthday is on February 3, and this was really a surprise party for her. She was not aware that they were doing anything. Eloise thought a celebration was going to be on Sunday.



Eloise at an early age



Eloise Brown as a young woman in her teens



Eloise,
We Love You
Evelyn and I
The Groundhog

oise's past and from her 90th Birthday Party



Eloise Brown, Eastern Star Worthy Matron and granddaughter, Cindy Brown (now Meadows)
Eloise was in the Eastern Star for over 30 years.



Wedding Picture of Larry and Eldonna Root
L/R: Larry and Eldonna Root; Eloise Brown;
and Barry and Emily Brown

Eloise Brown

There is a lady in our town
Who's known quite well you see,
And if I told you all she's done
You'd say you would agree.
Her mailbox says a lot you know
About her classy style
And in her car I've seen her run
Beyond the extra mile
She pinches pennies she would say
And she's thrifty to the core.
And often you will see her car
Parked at the Thrifty Store.
I knew her when she was a star
And did she ever shine.
And of this line I'm sure you guess
The secret you must know.
There is a hog from in the ground
Whose messages you read
She writes a column month by month
Recording every deed.
She's recognized by those who know
How verse and prose are penned,
So, Eloise, I'll close this verse
And trust I'm still your friend.

John Jones
1 Feb, 2003

Poem written by John Jones and presented to
Eloise at her Birthday Party

Eloise Brown at 90

February 3, 2003

Dorn like us all but with grief to bear, losing both parents, went to grandparents for care
In Judge Fuller's house she grew like the weeds, with aunts and an uncle to help with her needs
Swept away by her true love while yet only a girl, he married her quick to get such a pearl
Happy together, they started their life--she was very contented to be Donald's wife
A log cabin they had, with no water inside, but always a milk cow and chickens outside
Along came Eldonna and then Brother Bear, a move in to town for more room to share
Donald sold lumber and bought land with a flair, and soon they owned deeds to a whole valley there
A new house was needed to go on their land; it had to be special and carefully planned
Soon it was built but what would they think, the stonework was local, the rest turquoise and pink
A showplace it was, all modern and new, with windows galore and some balconies, too
Her life took a turn not long after this, as Donald passed on after one final kiss
The daughter and son soon had kids of their own, one staying near home, one to Maryland flown
But all of the grandkids came back all the time, sure in that house great things they would find
It was home to any fairy tale they could make; they would hang from the landings and fish in the lake
And they always listened to rules she would make, except for the ones about playing with snakes
She stayed busy with painting and writing poems, and sewing a wardrobe for her and her home
Eastern Star and the church kept her running around, UGF always called to get plans off the ground
As a new generation came through the door, she met them with hugs, and dinner, and more
She might be a little bit slower these days, but you try and tell her to ease up her ways
She'll say I can't go like I did anymore, but then she'll be off to the market or off to the store
At 90 she's lived through happy and sad, peaceful and trying, good times and bad
No matter if she's Grandy or MaMa or Mother, we just want her to know how much we love her.



The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

Time marches on. Winter has been long, wet and cold. Never in many years have we had ice on the river and lakes. Homer made a beautiful picture of DeSoto Falls with huge icicles formed on each side of the heavy flow of water. The children were throwing pieces of ice that just skimmed across the frozen surface of the river. We had several days when the temperature was not above freezing. So the ski slopes at Cloudmont were full. "Whichever way the wind doth blow, someone is glad to have it so." Skiers were having a great time.

It's been a good time to stay indoors, build a good fire in the fireplace, read good books, eat popcorn and watch a movie! January and February are my months for rest and recreation. My antique shop is closed in January—sometimes open on weekends, weather permitting. The old Hitching Post is hard to heat, but sometimes visitors come right on in and don't seem to mind the cold.

Homer and I have stayed at our home in Chattanooga most of January and February and enjoyed every minute of a good restful time. We burned a lot of wood just for the pleasure of sitting by the fireplace and watching it. Homer did a few repairs while there, but not enough to tire him. Aren't we the lazy ones? But we are back and into our usual routine, with a little more vigor to attack some jobs here.

Outside, the daffodils and tulips are full of buds and will be blooming soon. The robins are hopping all over the front lawn, and I saw a bluebird inspecting the bird houses. They start early and one must be just right to serve as a home for the female laying her eggs. The male checks it out first, then he brings his mate and both inspect it. They will not build a nest where an old one was left. Quite the opposite from some birds that look for an old nest so they don't have to hunt straw, twigs, strings, etc., with which to build. We once had a robin build in the apple tree at the Hitching Post and use it for two consecutive years. The nest either blew down last year or we shook it down trying to get apples from the top of the tree. So there was not a nest there the third spring.

Correspondence has taken a new twist now—mostly done by e-mail on the computer. Mildred Burgess (Homer's sister) keeps us informed of Darla's health problems. She is doing fine at last report. Wayne Smith (a Crow relative calling himself "Little Bear") sends us many humorous e-mails to brighten our day. Floyd Crow sends good ones, some comical and some filled with good old common sense. We get wonderful religious ones from Charles Roe, our good friend in Gadsden. He and Faye (her name is Fay Roe, so I call her "Pharaoh") have a house on County Road 89, not far from the 4-way stop. They come here on weekends in the summer. Charles has written some beautiful poems about the Mentone area. He has time to do that since retiring from his position as administrator at Baptist Hospital in Gadsden.

Linda Brown and I spent a nice morning with Flo Kirby this week. She and Kenneth have a lovely home not far off busy Highway 117, but one drives down a long road by a manicured pasture area and it seems like it is way out in the country. I enjoyed our visit so much, it was hard to keep my mind on the reason for us meeting there! We were the nominating committee for officers of the Rhododendron Garden Club to be presented at the March meeting. Linda, very efficient and well organized, knew where to find those who

were not at home when we called. They were playing bridge and we got several offices filled from one call. I won't divulge names yet, but I think we have a good slate of officers who will be compatible with each other and are very capable of being great leaders.

While there, we sat on the sun porch (yes, there was sun that day), and I loved watching the birds at the feeder and the view of a nice pond on the back side of the house. Flo is such a sweet person. It is a joy to be a guest in her home.

Kenneth came in for a few minutes to show me a picture of some Crows (relatives!) and see if I could recognize anyone. It was a large group and I could only guess at the identities of some. He is going to show the picture to Dorothy Crow. I thought I saw a resemblance to Grace Crow in the group—probably a relative. All Crows in this area are related. Kenneth's grandmother, Maggie Kirby, was a Crow, related to Homer. Bobby Brown's (Linda's husband) mother was Mary Kirby, Maggie's daughter. That would make Bobby related to Homer. This is so interesting and can get complicated. Homer has compiled a little booklet from gathered information that explains some of this history.

My cousin, Barry Cooper, has gotten so involved with our genealogy that he is studying DNA now to be sure the ancestors he has discovered are of our lineage. I like the little stories that accompany the history. Our Coopers were all members of Sand Springs Baptist Church, near Rome, Georgia. We got copies of old church minutes and found that my uncle was turned out of the church for dancing! Then, one ancestor was ex-communicated for fighting. Later, we read that they were delegates to a convention, so evidently they were re-instated. Although they were all respectable community leaders, churches were very strict back then. We had fun reading about them.

Well, I'm off to get logs for the fireplace. Maybe find that book I started, pop some corn, nap...

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Please drive carefully and watch out for our children - they may not be watching out for you!

Children don't always obey traffic rules, but please see that you do - especially in and around school zones. Give our kids the opportunity to grow and learn proper safety. Give our kids a brake - the future depends on it!

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VFW/AUX POST 3128 FT. PAYNE, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNERS:
L/R: Post Commander Dave Cochran; 4th Place: Derek Killian, 12th Grade, Ft. Payne, HS; 3rd Place: (not available for picture) Adam Smith, 9th Grade, Sylvania HS; 2nd Place: Amanda Neele, 9th Grade, Sylvania HS; 1st Place: Monica Neely, 12th Grade, Sylvania HS, also tied 3rd place in District; Voice of Democracy Post Chairman: Virgie Murdock



VFW/AUX POST 3128 FT. PAYNE, PATRIOTS' PEN ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS:
L/R: Post Commander Dave Cochran; 1st Place: Liz Jordan, also 1st place in District, 7th Grade, Ft. Payne Middle School; 2nd place: Natasha Terrell, 8th Grade, Crossville HS; 3rd Place: Corden Pack, 8th Grade, Sylvania HS; and Patriots' Pen Post Contest Chairman: Virgie Murdock



VFW/AUX. POST 3128, FT. PAYNE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AUDIO/ESSAY AND PATRIOTS' PEN ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNERS:

- 1st Place: Monica Neely, 12th Grade, Sylvania HS
- 2nd Place: Amanda Neele, 9th Grade, Sylvania HS
- 3rd Place: Adam Smith, 9th Grade, Sylvania HS
- 4th Place: Derek Killian, 12th Grade, Ft. Payne, HS

PATRIOTS' PEN ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS:

- 1st Place: Liz Jordan, also 1st place in District, 7th Grade, Ft. Payne Middle School
- 2nd place: Natasha Terrell, 8th Grade, Crossville HS
- 3rd Place: Corden Pack, 8th Grade, Sylvania HS

The voice of Democracy Program is a National Audio/Essay competition designed to give 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade High School Students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to our country. The program focuses on an annual patriotic theme. The 2002-2003 theme was "FREEDOM'S OBLIGATION".

The State Winners receive at least \$1000, and the National First Place winner could win \$25,000 in National Scholarships.

The National Patriots' Pen Program is an Essay Contest conducted nationwide by VFW/Aux. Post. Our contest gives students in the 7th and 8th grade the opportunity to express their opinion on an announced theme and improve their writing skills while they compete for worthwhile awards and prizes. The National Contest Winner received a \$10,000 U.S. Savings Bond. This year's 2002-2003 Theme was "MY PLEDGE TO AMERICA".

This is an annual event that is usually conducted in the fall term of each school year. We encourage students from all schools to participate in these contests.

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Elizabeth Manning, Kendra Stone and Kara Miller modeling their red jumpers

Sewing Classes in Progress

By Evelyn Graves

Basic sewing classes got off to a good start with four students: Carolyn Robertson, Kara Miller, Kendra Stone, and Elizabeth Manning. The class is taught by Evelyn Graves.

The first garment made by the class was a jumper, which turned out beautifully. The students are currently finishing pajama pants, which went very quickly and very well. They are progressing rapidly in their skills. They will be doing another garment of their own choice beginning next week.

If you have no sewing skills and would like to learn to sew, we plan to begin another basic sewing class on Tuesday evening, March 4.

For more information, telephone Evelyn Graves, 634-4390.



Carolyn Robertson modeling her finished jumper. She chose khaki for her fabric.



Evelyn Graves instructing Kendra Stone



Elizabeth Manning cutting out a pair of pajama pants

Sewing Classes

A new basic sewing class will begin on Tuesday evening,

March 4, at 4:30 PM

at the Montone Community House

Call Evelyn Graves

at 634-4390

for more information.



Kara Miller intent on sewing her pajama pants



TRI COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE/RESCUE NEWS

By Mary Alice Stout

CHILI SUPPER - Homemade chili (with or without meat), grilled cheese sandwich, homemade sweet rolls and drinks-all will be served by the Tri-County Volunteers on Saturday, March 9, from 4:00pm to 7:30pm GA time. \$5 for adults, \$4 for children.

BAKE SALE - Saturday, April 12 at the Tri-County Headquarters, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Cookies, cakes, brownies, and pies will be available. you may special order any item by calling Assistant Chief Janet Harris (706-862-2128). The money earned from this bake sale will be used for Tri-County's Annual Easter Egg Hunt and party.

EASTER EGG HUNT - Saturday, April 19, beginning at 2:00pm. More details next month.

HOLIDAY DINNERS - During the past holiday season, Tri-County Volunteers provided a turkey dinner with all the trimmings to senior citizens and shut-ins. Tri-county and community members cooked, boxed, and delivered over 100 meals in the Cloudland/Mentone area. Most of the food was donated by Menlo's Lucky's and the Cloudland Lookout Restaurant, and from Summerville-Ingles, Sav-a-lot and Wal-Mart. We are very grateful to all who were involved in making this dinner a part of the season of giving. Tri-County Volunteer Fire/Rescue is located at the AL/GA state line where AL Hwy 117 and GA Hwy 48 meet.



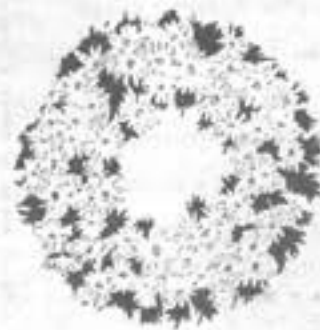
Tri-County Volunteers prepare Holiday Dinner. L/R: Charla Welch, Jill Neel, Annette Durham, and Donna Smith



60th Birthday Celebration



Pictured above is Dorothy Shelden, of Mentone, a local senior receiving her Holiday Dinner



Edna Morgan - Jan. 28, 2003

On Sunday afternoon, Edna Morgan celebrated with a party at Ruby Tuesday's in Scottsboro, with Randy and Cathy Carson; Jerry, Robin, Blake, Jared and Reid Hulan.

Miss Alabama, Scarlotte Deupree, Visits Moon Lake Elementary School



Miss Alabama reading to the Kindergarten Class

The reigning Miss Alabama, Scarlotte Deupree, visited Moon Lake Elementary School on February 19, as part of her statewide program to promote literacy. While at the school, she read stories to students in lower grades and spoke to an assembly of students in upper grades. Her presentation advanced the ideals of perseverance in the face of defeat and of the importance of being a literate citizen. She was first-runner-up to the current Miss America at last September's pageant in Atlantic City.

Deupree is a native of Sylacauga and now lives in Birmingham and attends Samford University.



Miss Alabama with the second grade class



L/R DARE Officer Tony Bartley, Valley Head and Moon Lake SRO Jillian Bailey Wooden; DeKalb County Board of Education Coordinator Donna Taheri; Sheriff Cecil Reed; Scarlotte Deupree, Commission President Sid Holcomb; DeKalb BOE Coordinator Gelane Nelson, and Moon Lake Principal Bill Berry



Rhododendron Garden Club

The monthly meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was held February 11, 2003, at the Mantone Community House. The meeting was opened with a devotion by Margaret Baker and the Pledge of Allegiance. Refreshments were served by hostesses Gethryn Giles, Virginia Setze, and Janet Spahr who charmed us with a Valentine's day theme.

There were no minutes read and the Treasurer's report was given by the president, due to the absence of the treasurer.

Committee reports consisted of the junior garden club activities and the gardening therapy committees. Linda Brown reported that The Partridge Peas were doing projects using recycled materials. Dee Matlock reported that she has plants for shut-ins for Easter. She requests that we give names of shut-ins to her.

Old Business: Various sites for the May Luncheon were discussed. Two choices are available to us and we are asked to make our choice known to the telephone committee member who calls us to remind us of the March meeting. The two places available to us are the Mantone Inn, which can accommodate us and will cost approximately \$12.00. Marilyn Campbell presented a proposal for having luncheon at the American Legion, catered by the Legion Auxiliary. The price will be \$10.00 with the proceeds going to the legion auxiliary to aid them in sponsoring girls to attend Girls State.

Mary Summerville will be President of the Alabama State Garden Club. A reception for her will be held in Hoover, Alabama on April 6 between 2 and 4 PM. We, as a club, will pay \$10.00 to pay for cost of the reception.

Treasurer, Diane Kuehl asks that dues be paid in April. Bylaws state that they are due in April and it would be easier to have year-end paperwork done if the dues were paid in a timely manner.

Martha Wood brought forth the suggestion that we cut back meeting times to three or four less a year. After discussion, it was suggested that the new board discuss it and make changes they deem necessary. Changing meeting times will necessitate a change in the bylaws to reflect new arrangements.

Dorothy Cyr announced that Earthday is April 21st and that due to that day being Easter Monday, Tuesday, April 22nd will be the day that we will work at Moon Lake School. There was a discussion concerning the litter problem on the Road between highway 117 and East River Road. The Garden Club will include litter pickup in that area into the Earthday work activities.

Martha Wood presented the program which was an information-packed presentation of resources for Gardeners. She discussed books, magazines and Internet sites. Martha shared a lot of her favorite books and many members brought books to the meeting. We were all inspired by the wide range of information available and learned some valuable tips as to what to look for in a book that we are considering purchasing.

The meeting was adjourned until March 11. The March meeting will be a work time at the Heritage Garden preceded by a business meeting.

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

DeKalb County Genealogical Society Meeting

The DCGS will meet March 8th, at 10:00 a.m., in the Hunt Room of the DeKalb County Library. We urge all members to be present.

We will present two speakers for the day: Martha Barksdale from Collinsville and Martha Stanley from Fort Payne.

Mrs. Barksdale will speak from her vast knowledge of the history of Collinsville, its historical significance in DeKalb County, and its cemeteries. This will be a very interesting program for genealogists and historians alike.

Mrs. Stanley will acquaint us with her many associations with Lineage Societies and the importance of proper documentation when doing genealogical research. Even if you are not preparing papers for membership in one of these Societies, the "proof" of your genealogy research lies in proper documentation.

We urge a large attendance to hear these two fine speakers. If you are a member or aspiring member, please plan to join us. Refreshments will be served immediately following the meeting. Visitors are always encouraged to attend.

Brenda C. Abbott Publicity Co-Chairman DCGS
abbottb@mindspring.com

UDC, DeKalb Chapter #1454 Meets

The February meeting of the DeKalb Chapter #1454, UDC meet on Sat. Feb., with 11 members and 1 prospective member present. Regular business was attended to and plans were finalized for the UDC Coloring Contest winners to be honored at a tea in March on our next meeting day. The winners will be notified by invitation of the time and place. There is much interest in this contest every year. It is open to all 4th graders in our 11 county schools and 1 city school. Substantial prizes are given to the local winners, as well as the Chapter winners. We encourage you to contact your child's teacher next year if you have a boy or girl who will be a fourth grader. The contest is held early each year, with the winners honored in March.

Joyce West, Registrar and Past-President, presented a certificate of membership to our newest member, Barbara Goodwin. We are happy to have her and know that she will be an asset to our organization.

Our program was presented by Debbie Johnson, assisted by Brenda Abbott, on use of the Internet to research your ancestors. Use of ancestry.com and many other websites of interest were demonstrated and handouts of helpful links, as well as public sources, were provided by Debbie. If you have ancestors who fought for the Confederacy in the War Between the States, we encourage you to attend our meetings. We will welcome you and help you with your application should you decide to join us. We meet the 3rd Saturday of each month from Sept. to May. Please watch this newspaper for the time and place of our next meeting. You may also email me at: abbottb@mindspring.com or call me at (256)845-5436 Brenda Abbott, Publicity Director

DeKalb/Cherokee Federation Meeting

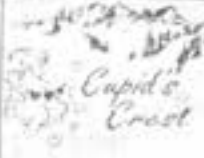
The DeKalb/Cherokee Federation of Garden Clubs met recently to discuss several upcoming events.

The first event will be the Landscape Design Study on February 27, at 6 PM, in Henagar's Ruritan Building. This class will be presented by Ann Houston, Master Gardener and Landscape Design Consultant. Mrs. Houston will teach a second class on March 27th, to be held at the same time and location.

March 15 & 16 are the dates for the Home and Garden Show, held at the DeKalb County Schools Auditorium. The Federation will have a booth this year, and each club is asked to contact Linda Brown, chairman, with the names of the people who will be able to assist in the booth or help in the Hospitality Room.

The Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon of the DeKalb/Cherokee Federation will be held on Saturday, April 26, at the DeSoto State Park Restaurant on Lookout Mountain. Registration begins at 11:15 AM. The theme for this year's luncheon is *Angels Among Us*. In keeping with the theme, Autumn Brown, a 13-year-old young lady with a beautiful singing voice, will entertain the garden club ladies beginning at 11:40 AM. Lunch will be served at noon, and will be followed by the meeting. New officers will be installed by Mary Summerville, President of Garden Club of Alabama. There will also be a drawing for a garden shed, with all donations to benefit the fall flower show. If you are interested in obtaining a ticket, please contact any garden club member. If you need more information concerning this event, please contact Celestine Darnell, luncheon chairman, or any garden club president.

DeKalb/Cherokee Federation of Garden Clubs is a member of The Garden Club of Alabama, District 11, Deep South Region, and The National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.



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Beginning April

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(4) HWY 117 IN MENTONE. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath modular home comes with a fully equipped kitchen, living room, dining room, central heat and air, 50x30 shed/garage and a nice landscaped yard on over 1 acre. (Commercial Possibilities) Call today for all the details. \$89,000.



(2) NEW CONSTRUCTION - Adorable cabin at Mentone, private location, two bedrooms, 2 baths, central heat and air, fireplace with open loft overlooking living area. Private like. All on 5.71 acres. \$99,000.



(3) COUNTRY COTTAGE IN MENTONE - offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, rock fireplace, pine floors, a wet weather porch and 5 wooded lots. WAIT, there's more-this home is fully furnished including the beds and linens as well as the coffee pot. You can own this get-away today for \$74,500.



(4) ROOM TO ROAM - this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home offers lots of extras. Great room with cathedral ceiling, wood floors, separate recreation room, 2 car garage with large storage room, barn and fenced pasture on 48 private acres connecting DeSoto State Park. \$249,900.



(5) LOOKING FOR A MOUNTAIN RETREAT - This is it! A self-contained cabin, office building that could be converted into living quarters, numerous RV and camp sites all on 15+ secluded acres adjoining DeSoto State Park. \$335,000.



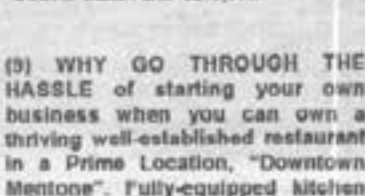
(6) LOCATED ON DEBOTO PARKWAY, this home offers 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 kids, wood floors throughout, screened porch, deck with hot tub, 1 bedroom guest cottage, greenhouse and 3-car garage with storage room...too many features to list them all! A must see to appreciate - only \$249,900.



(7) 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 10 minutes from Fort Payne and Mentone. The lunch crowd is waiting, so don't take too long! \$129,500.



(8) 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. \$198,000.



(9) WHY GO THROUGH THE HASSLE of starting your own business when you can own a thriving well-established restaurant in a Prime Location, "Downtown Mentone". Fully-equipped kitchen and dining room that seats 125 people, both turn key and financial information furnished to serious buyers. Don't miss this golden opportunity. \$397,500



(10) ENJOY LIFE UNINTERRUPTED in this custom built get-away on 4 secluded acres. Two bedrooms and 2 baths with wood floors and a fireplace offer a cozy atmosphere and a front and back rushing creek to complete the picture. Hurry before someone buys the cabin of your dreams for only \$125,000. (CONTRACT PENDING)



(11) CALM YOURSELF IN THE PEACEFUL SETTING of this 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Features include a 2-story living room with soft and wood burning fireplace, large country kitchen, whirlpool tub in the master bath, 3 hot tubs and a 20' above-ground pool. Also comes with over 21 acres, stocked pond, barn, shed, storage building and view of Lookout Mountain. \$199,900.



(12) RELIVE THE GOOD OLD DAYS in this distinguished older home made of sturdy stone. The 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, office, living room, dining room and kitchen have all been totally renovated within the last year AND it comes with a view of Lookout Mountain. Buy it today and move in tomorrow. \$122,500.



(13) ALL THIS HOUSE needs is a new owner-it already has new paint, new carpet, new hot water heater and a new roof. Add maintenance-free brick and 2 acres and you have a great starter or retirement home. Call on this 3 bedroom today. \$79,500.



(14) RUSTIC STONE PATH leads to this hand-hewn log cabin on the edge of Lookout Mountain. The two story living area features a mountain stone fireplace and exposed beams. Master bedroom is on the main floor with large bedroom and sleeping loft on the second floor. Front and back porch with open deck and a great view. \$225,000.



(15) ROCK AND FRAME HOUSE with large living room, eat-in kitchen, 3 bedrooms, one bath, wood burning fireplace, covered front porch, garden spot, 2 acres, all for \$38,500.



(17) NO DOWNTOWN SKYLINE SPARKLES below this Mentone "brow" home. Almost maintenance free, featuring 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, large eat-in kitchen with island, cozy living room with fireplace, den/pool room with pool table already there. Great decks to view the picturesque valley, wooded countryside and farmlands. \$310,000.



(18) RUSTIC MOUNTAIN LODGE minutes from DeSoto State Park - can be used for single family or commercial business. Great location for hunting, four-wheeling, or just relaxing. Pine and rock floors, great room with fireplace, 2 loft bedrooms with cat walk, screened and open porches, hand crafted cabinets and doors. Two-room guest-house included. Buy with 5 acres for \$150,000, or all 20 acres for \$195,000.



(19) SATISFY YOUR APPETITE for private living and roominess with this enticing log siding and mountain stone refuge. The great room features vaulted ceiling, huge stone fireplace, kitchen island, recessed cooking area, cabinets and cozy dining area. Large master bedroom and bath with Jacuzzi and walk-in closet. Log canopy on front and covered patio on back, 2-car garage and attic storage. Located on five acres with pond in Laurawood. Too many amenities to mention...call for more details. \$279,000.



(16) AFFORDABLE DREAM - Wake up to beautiful living for real world price. This "like new" house offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, great room and den. The large front porch looks out on 2.56 landscaped acres with paved drive. Only minutes from downtown Mentone. REDUCED TO \$114,900.



OTHER LISTINGS

(23) OVER 8 acres on West Fork of Little River close to Mentone on a paved public road with access to city water, 965' of river frontage, several building sites allowing for subdivision or keep as a whole. \$135,000.

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

(25) Just listed 4.3 +/- acres on DeSoto Parkway. Only \$49,500.

(26) Almost 900' on the West Fork of Little River, gently rolling and heavily wooded all within 1 mile of Mentone. \$70,000

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

(28) PRIME PROPERTY on Hwy 11 North. This 130 +/- acre tract enjoys the setting of the valley with pristine views of pastures, ridges and Willis Creek which meanders through the property.

(29) 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! \$422,000

(30) LAND AND LAKE...40 +/- acres with a 5 +/- acre lake and Brush Creek runs through it. The lake was stocked with Bass and Bream 2 years ago and is approximately 35' deep. Don't wait-act today! \$180,000.

(31) VACATION IN YOUR BACK YARD - 25.8 +/- acres at the end of the road, heavily wooded with Laurel Creek running through the property. Ready to build your dream cabin or subdivide. Only minutes from Mentone or DeSoto State Park. \$2890 per acre.

(32) Brew Property...1.7 +/- acres on County Road 166 near DeSoto State Park. \$34,000.



(20) CUSTOM BUILT 4 year old log home. Features include 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large country kitchen with all appliances, living room with cathedral ceiling, exposed beams, rock fireplace with insert, wood floors and open stairs to 2nd floor. Include a full front porch, 2 side decks, one car garage and 1.7 +/- acres and you are ready to move in. Reduced to \$136,500. Co Broke with Prime Realty.



(21) LOG HOME with 8 acres on Lookout Mountain. Features spacious living room with large rock fireplace, dining room, and a step-saving kitchen. This home has 2 bedrooms, 1 bath and sits on 8 private acres with rolling pastures, pond, and barn. Call today! \$138,000.



(22) ALMOST NEW CABIN with 3 bedrooms on Road 9002 in Mentone on 2 +/- acres with access to Brush Creek. Fresh paint inside and out, spacious living room with wood burning fireplace, decks upstairs and down, all appliances and it is ready to move in. \$129,900.

MOON LAKE 3RD 9 WEEKS HONOR ROLL

1st GRADE (A)

Amber Crowe
Johnnie Frost
Brittney Harrison
Michael Langston
Adam Miller
Mikey Petersen
Tristan Smith
Blue Davis-Stone

1st GRADE (A&B)

Andrew Crowe
Kanissa Smith
Wade Gardner
Bath Durham
Adam Faulkner
Lily Harrison
Jillian Hope
Danielle Powell
Taylor Poff

2nd GRADE (A&D)

Allie Blalock
Michael Chambers
Amber Hilliard
Austin Jones
Alex Whatley
3rd GRADE (A)
Kaylee McMunn
Daniel Phillips
Tiffany Easler
Haley Saferite
Kayla Powell
Hope Carden
Megan Addison
Christian Henry
Brandon Davis
Raven Brown
Caitlin Kirby
Savannah Pinegar

3rd GRADE (A&B)

Sinjin Smith
Alley Hatfield
Ryan Wilks
Tyler Hester
Brandi Miller
Jessica Howard
Gage Foster
John Spangler
Morgan Webb

4th GRADE (A)

Brittany Bain
Tyler Blancit
Hunter Stone

4th GRADE (A&B)

Starla Cash
Katie Crabtree
Josh Faulkner
Trey Kincer
5th GRADE (A)
Keisha Powell
Diane Spangler
Brandon Willingham
5th GRADE (A&B)

none

6th GRADE (A)

Vance Carden
Jessica Easler
Ashley Henry
Brittany Hester
Daniel Hughes
Kara Miller
Jamie Sherwood
6th GRADE (A&B)
Maggie Hollis
Nathan Jones
Avery Kaltwasser
Sierra Nicely
Megan Smith

MOON LAKE SCHOOL NEWS

PTO will meet on Tuesday, March 11, 6:30 P.M.

The report cards for the third 9 weeks will go home on Monday, March 17.

Standard Achievement testing will occur the week of March 31.

The week of April 7 is Spring Break.

After Spring Break, MERF will sponsor an art teacher for Moon Lake, as in previous years, during the final six weeks of school.

(The Groundhog staff apologizes for the errors in last month's issue in the article for the Moon Lake Who's Who and Class Favorites. It is being reprinted in its entirety with the corrections.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S 6TH GRADE WHO'S WHO!

BEST ALL AROUND

Newley Ingram & Heather Smith

MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

Vance Carden & Sierra Nicely

MOST COOPERATIVE

Vance Carden & Ashley Henry

MOST SCHOOL SPIRIT

Frank Graham & Brittany Hester

CUTEST

Avery Kaltwasser & Jamie Sherwood

NEATEST

Avery Kaltwasser & Tiffany Trautman

MOST STUDIOUS

Daniel Hughes & Jamie Sherwood

MOST TALENTED

Nathan Jones & Ashley Henry

MOST ATHLETIC

Newley Ingram & Kara Miller

APPLE POLISHERS

Thorn Rich & Jessica Easler

MOST DARING

Danny Green & Maggie Hollis

FRIENDLIEST

Dustin Cash & Tiffany Trautman

MOST DEPENDABLE

John Whitaker & Heather Smith

QUIETEST

Jesse Stoker & Megan Smith

LOUDEST

Steven Barkley & Jacqueline McGee

CLASS CLOWNS

Daniel Hughes & Jacqueline McGee

MOST HELPFUL

Frank Graham & Jessica Easler

MOST CREATIVE

Nathan Jones & Sierra Nicely

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S CLASS FAVORITES!

MR. & MISS MOON LAKE

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Avery Kaltwasser & Jamie Sherwood

MR. & MISS 6th GRADE

Avery Kaltwasser & Heather Smith

MR. & MISS 5th GRADE

Kaleb McMunn & Leanna Webb

MR. & MISS 4th GRADE

Hunter Stone & Katie Crabtree

MR. & MISS 3rd GRADE

Raven Brown & Caitlin Kirby

MR. & MISS 2nd GRADE

Gage Jones & Abigail Lee

MR. & MISS 1st GRADE

Tristan Smith & Amber Crowe

MR. & MISS KINDERGARTEN

Levi Owen & Amelia Saferite

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I am behind with much of my news--in fact--some is old news. I spent Christmas week in Pasadena, MD, with my granddaughter, Laurie Dell and her husband Andrew. They met me at the airport, Sun., Dec. 22, and we went directly to open house at Lisa and John Pitt's home. Mon. night we went to Romano's for dinner. Christmas eve, Andrew's parents, Rev. and Mrs. Robert Dell, came from Hagerstown to spend the night. Two couples came from church for dinner. Donna Rodman gave her interesting monologue of the Christmas Angel. Rev. Dell read the Christmas story. Laurie played the tape of a song she had composed and sung at church, and gifts were exchanged. The Dells brought the "Age Defying" pancake mix from Pat Robertson' TV program, and we had pancakes for breakfast. Christmas night we were invited to Eleanor and Richard Werble's home for a lovely dinner party and exchanging of gifts.

Jason Meadows joined us the day after Christmas and we went to Annapolis and toured the Naval Academy and drove across the Bay Bridge to see the spectacular exposition of lights. On Friday, while Laurie and Andrew took Jason for a tour of Washington, Warren and Shirley Darby took me and a couple of their friends from Florida, to the beautiful Sunset Restaurant at Glen Burnie for lunch. Saturday, we were joined by some of their friends from church for lunch at the Steak House.

Venna Livingston had a good Christmas with her family at the home of her daughter, Sue Mosley and husband, at Loganville, GA. The center of attention was thirteen-month-old great granddaughter, Alison Reed and her harmonica. Grandson, Wade, had killed two deer.

Peachie and David Cearley from Alpharetta, spent Christmas with her mother, Laura Margaret Allison and Aunt Elizabeth Coleman. Ansley and John McGinnis, from Florence, came after Christmas for several days.

Former and present volunteers of the Valley Head Center of the Community Action Agency, met for a Christmas covered dish party at the Center. Among those attending were Gloria White, Venna Livingston, Edith Dean, Reva Hunt, Beverly Wicks, Euna Freeman, Ruby Brock, Norvell Franklin, Orene Ledbetter, Bonnie Hixson, Faye Bell, Clara Coots, Mickey Gough, Glenda Pope, Billie Harper, Crystal Hawkins, Vianne Chesser, Melba Fuller, Virginia Wothers, Kathleen Stanley, Earline Foster, Adelaide Biddle, Carolyn Millican, and Maureen Hammond. 38 volunteer awards were presented. Debra Rhodes presented her own medal to Murrell Haney at Violet Hill Church on Sunday, as she could not attend.

Billie Harper was hostess for the Sunshine Club's Christmas party at her beautifully decorated home. Among those attending the covered dish feast were Ruth Pickett, Veronica Hawkins, Ada Campbell, Lois Fuller, Suzy Campbell, Estie Palmer, Sue Clark, Lillie Bowden, and Eloise Brown.

Bart Rountree, from Knoxville, visited his friend, Katie Freeman, recently.

Dot and Bill Blackburn enjoyed a visit from the Youth Group and their directors of the Valley Head Baptist Church, recently.

Lillie Bowden, Karen Freeman, and Jo Welch, attended the funeral of Lillie's nephew, Terry Whitehead, at Fort Valley, GA., on Feb. 5.

Reid Hulan celebrated his 6th Birthday at

Burger King in Rainsville, Jan. 17, 2003. His parents are Jerry and Robin Hulan.

Evelyn Elrod was honored with a surprise birthday party for her 90th Birthday with a large attendance at New Oregon Methodist Church.

Ruth Pickett's grandson, Marine Matt Pickett, has been sent to Camp Pendleton, CA. Ruth's brother, Roy Card, of Chattanooga is recovering from heart surgery--four bypasses.

New Home Baptist Church had a special service, Feb. 23, honoring their senior members with a breakfast, gifts, and special music by the Joe Stephens Singers from High Point. Brother Lamar Willoughby brought the message. Walter and Christina Brooks were among those honored.

My step grandson, Rick Crocker, his wife, Julie and baby son, Jonah, from Milner, GA, spent the day with me, recently. We had lunch at Tiger's Inn and visited the Falls and other points of interest at Mentone.

I wish everyone could have shared my surprise 90th Birthday Party, Feb. 1, at Western Sizzlin. I mean it was really a shock! Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought I would ever have a party like that. It made me feel so blessed and gave me a lift that will last, because of the love expressed and shown--but made me feel humble and undeserving. I am so grateful to everyone who came and had a part in any way and believe it or not--each member of my family can really keep a secret!

The Jonquils are up and growing and eager to bloom--"Welcome sweet Springtime, we greet you with song!"



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Botanist Mary Alice Stout begins at The Shed on February 28th

Mary Alice Stout Feb. 24th at The Shed

The Shed has hired a wonderful local resident. Her name is Mary Alice Stout. She starts Feb. 28th. Mary's background will be a great one to have here at The Shed. Mary has a botany degree, which will come in handy with helping customers with plants. We have so many new programs going it will be a great comfort to have her near. Mary, you are quite welcome here, and it is a pleasure to introduce you to our community.

We are working closely with the Master Gardeners of Ft. Payne and the County Extension. New programs are here. If you need information on fire ant protection or just need information on spraying trees, we will have it available, as well as many other brochures that are a must for you to look over.

Mary will be here to help sell, as well as be our botanist person. Mary will be here part time. She will also be working for Mountain Mama's which is located about 3 miles from our nursery. So, if she is not here she will be there. We are glad to have the community recognize Mary and her expert opinions on plants.

Many new things are going on at The Shed, many displays are being made, and a lot of advertising is being done. You should see us on the Weather Channel soon. We not only will be advertising with them, but also will have many new signs. Just keep looking for The Proven Winners Sign—it is coming. Some day we will get a new sign for the nursery. It will take some time; meanwhile, just look for The Proven Winners Sign coming soon.

When I mention Proven Winners, that means improved plants for our area. They are winners because they have withstood the heat and withstood the cold. We plan on having a Proven Winners seminar.

Many new plants have been arriving and lots and lots of potting has been going on. I cannot wait until spring—watching things grow from being dormant or being small seedlings to maturing to a decent size has made me very excited.

This year, we are doing many displays by Proven Winners, as well as doing displays by Martha Stewart.

This was our dream and is going to be a very nice dream for you. I can only say that the excitement has begun.

We have two new houses one is our Foliage House—it will have house plants and succulents in it. We have many displays that we will be working on at the end of March for April and May. Our newest house we just finished is gutter connected to one of our new houses from last year. It is quite full from end to end with perennials in it and all sorts of sun-loving perennials. Our house from the year before last is now shade loving perennials and a native plant house. Our other 2 houses are full with more woody perennials—Daylilies and shrubs that will not come out until time to come out because we do not want to winter burn them. Many new arrivals have arrived in trees and fruit trees. So that is an update about the remodeling at The Shed.

Humm, for me there is much to be thankful for—one is that I have been healed and this truly is a miracle for me. I'm feeling better each day as each day goes by and will eventually get my strength back—hopefully, soon. I have my good days and my bad days; but more good than bad, as the Lord is by my side and is guiding me to a wonderful recovery.

I thank God every day for allowing me to live and be here for you. David's old saying is "God put you on this earth to replenish it, he will not take you away from doing what you love best—that is being a loving wife and caring mother, not just for us but for your plants." He has a reason for everything—we think it was to make us closer to God, for we were working ourselves to death. He said rest and I would not. So, I had to learn to rest; and I did for almost a year, which felt like eternity.

This is all for now for I'm limited to space although you know I love to write; and for those who said I should be a writer—I am to you, the community. I enjoy writing for you and will continue to do so. Come see me. We will love to have you. Cheryl & David Baker

VALLEY HEAD SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

The Valley Head PTO sponsored the annual Science Fair on Monday, February 24. This event is for all students in grades 4-6. The winners were:

4th Grade

- 1st – Trevor Lewis
- 2nd – Payton Day
- 3rd – Kyle Brooks

5th Grade

- 1st – Elizabeth Pottier
- 2nd – Nathan Hannah
- 3rd – Alex Sibert

6th Grade

- 1st – Cody Atkins
- 2nd – Ariana Beard
- 3rd – Brittany Miller

Over all winners were:

- 1st – Trevor Lewis
- 2nd – Elizabeth Pottier
- 3rd – Cody Atkins

The PTO would like to thank all of the judges who gave of their time to help with this event. There were many great projects. It was obvious that all of the participants put in a lot of hard work on their entries.



Ft. Payne Civettes Annual Indoor Rummage Sale National Guard Armory in Fort Payne

Saturday, March 22

from 7:30 am to 11:00 am

Various items such as clothes,
household goods, etc. will be available.
Proceeds go to our scholarship fund.
Thank you for your help.

NORTHEAST ALABAMA ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

PRESS RELEASE- FEBRUARY 2003
ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Would you like to get your GED, learn to read, or learn the English language? If so, then the Adult Education Program would like to help. We currently have classes in all of these areas, as well as a civics class for immigrants. If you, or someone you know, might be interested, then contact your local board of education or community college, or call our office at (256) 638-2957. Classes are currently being held 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
Monday & Wednesday 5 - 8 PM
Phone: 845-6008

ESL CLASSES

DeKalb County Career Center, Fort Payne
(Employment Office)
Tuesday and Thursday 3 - 5 PM
Phone: 845-6008

Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce
Monday & Tuesday 9-11 AM
Phone: 638-2957

Collinsville Public Library
Monday & Wednesday 12:30 - 2:30 PM
Wednesday 4 - 6 PM
Phone: 524-2323

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CIVICS CLASS
DeKalb County Career Center
Fort Payne (Employment Office)
Tuesday & Thursday 5 - 8 PM
Phone: 845-6008

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Photo taken at DeSoto Falls on Saturday, February 22, 2003. The night before we had a lot of rain.

Photo taken by Marie Dillenbeck

**MOON LAKE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

NEW COMMUNITY HOURS

**TUESDAY 4 - 6 PM
THURSDAY 5 - 7 PM**

**Mentone
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Open 8:00 am - 12 noon
1:30-4:15 pm

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God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Psalm 91:1.

I'm sure we have all seen times that we wanted to get away from every thing and every body. The best place to hide is in the secret place of the Most High. To be able to abide under the shadow of the Almighty would not only be a safe place, but a very peaceful place. This world has very little peace to offer us, but we can find peace in Jesus. So, seek Him while He may be found. Jesus Loves Us All!



April 6

SENIOR LUNCHEONS
at Mentone Community
House Wednesdays,
11:30 a.m.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

- Tuesday, March 4, 7:00 pm, MAPA meeting at Dessie's Kountry Chef
- Monday, Mar. 10, 6 P.M., Town Council meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Tuesday, Mar. 11, 12:30 P.M., Rhododendron Garden Club, Mentone Community House
- Tuesday, Mar. 11, 6:30 P.M., American Legion Post 215 Meeting, American Legion Hall
- Wednesday, Mar. 12, Girl Scouts Founded, 1912
- Monday, Mar. 17, ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- Friday, Mar. 21, SPRING BEGINS!!!!
- Thursday, Mar. 27, 4:00 pm., Water Board Meeting, Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Tuesday, April 1, 7:00 pm, MAPA meeting, place to be announced
- Tuesday, April 8, 12:30 P.M., Rhododendron Garden Club, Mentone Community House
- Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 P.M., American Legion Post 215 Meeting, American Legion Hall
- Sunday, April 6, Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Monday, April 14, 6 P.M., Town Council meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Wednesdays, Senior Luncheons at Mentone Community House. Lunch served at 11:30 a.m.
- See elsewhere in this issue the new hours for the Community Library

The DeKalb County Library Bookmobile Schedule:

Mentone at Town Hall parking lot
on Wednesdays

• March 12, 26 • April 9, 23

• May 7, 21 • June 4, *

The Bookmobile is in
VALLEY HEAD

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

and in **HAMMONDVILLE**
on the same days from 2:30 to 3:30