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in Print**

THE GROUNDHOG

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and
Area Merchants

Volume 10, No. 5

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

May 1992

MAY '92 CALENDAR

-Mark Yours!-

MONDAY, MAY 4TH

Mentone City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
Town Hall

TUESDAY, MAY 5TH

Mentone Area Preservation Assn. (MAPA)
Meets, 7 p.m. Town Hall

THURSDAY, MAY 7TH

National Day of Prayer Observance, Brow
Park (at St. Joseph's Church if raining).

Mentone Heritage Foundation, 7 p.m.
St. Joseph's Church, public invited

May-on-the-Mountain (7th-9th)
Music festival, Sand Mountain 10th year
(205) 657-5700

SUNDAY, MAY 10TH

Mother's Day

FRI-SUN., MAY 15TH-17TH

Rhododendron Festival
Downtown Mentone

SAT-SUN., MAY 16TH-17TH

First Spring New Salem Mountain Festival
New Salem, GA 706/398-1988

MONDAY, MAY 25TH

Memorial Day

TUESDAY, MAY 26TH

Last School Day for DeKalb County students



PAYDAY AT BATTELLE-Coal miners and foundry workers line up to receive their wages.

Battelle

By EMILY C. SMITH

Everyone in DeKalb County in 1904 knew about **Battelle**. The town of Battelle had nearly 300 homes all with running water, a post office, a commissary and the furnaces of the Lookout Mountain Iron Company. The town and the iron company were founded by Col. John Gordon Battelle about five miles north of Valley Head, Alabama.

Today, no structure remains at the site of this once thriving community, only a few scattered bricks and some stone work and occasionally a brambly rose bush or a patch of jonquils tell that people once lived here. Even ghost towns with their still standing empty buildings show more evidence of life than Battelle.

At the turn of the century, the deposits of iron ore and coal in DeKalb County attracted the interest of investors from the northern United States. Col. Battelle, along with J.H. Frantz organized the Lookout Mountain Iron Company with \$1 million in capital stock mostly raised in Ohio. Col. Battelle was a successful businessman with interests in several mining operations.

The location seemed ideal. The raw material for iron could be hauled to the factory from the shortest distance possible in Alabama. Battelle lies in a valley between the coal outcroppings of Lookout Mountain and the iron deposits of Ore Ridge. On paper, it was the most economical iron plant in the South.

The location showed promise when during the Civil War, John Levi Barnard of Valley Head operated a foundry at the site of Battelle for the Confederate government.

Col. Battelle began building the foundry and started mining operations. Houses for the workers and their families were built. Spring water was pumped into a large wooden tank and piped to the houses.

A depot was built for the trains that brought people to Battelle and took away the iron they made. A commissary supplied the residents with all they needed.

There was one problem, though the locally available raw materials appeared to be abundant on the surface, the supply proved to be insufficient for a long term operation. After producing between 80,000 and 85,000 tons of pig iron, the blast furnace shut down and Col. Battelle's company filed for receivership in 1906.

The iron plant was dismantled in 1917 and sold to the British government. They shipped the parts to the Tata Iron Works in Calcutta, India, making it the only furnace to operate on two different continents. It took two years to move the furnace to its new location.

The Fort Payne Journal ran a news article on February 26, 1919 reporting that 40 to 50 houses at Battelle were bought by Fort Payne residents. The houses were torn down and rebuilt to help meet the demands of a housing shortage in the neighboring town.

"Tear down one city to build up another - such is the situation with reference to the sale of a vast number of deserted houses which are being sold to the public and salvaged at Battelle, which in the hey day of its glory seemed destined to become one of the larger boom cities in this part of the country until the collapse of the boom there some years ago," the article said.

Although the Lookout Mountain Iron Company failed, Col. Battelle's other successful investments enabled him to leave a sizable inheritance to his son Gordon. When Gordon died in 1923, the

continued on page 14

MAPA becomes life member of Heritage Foundation

The Mentone Area Preservation Association became the first life member of the newly formed Mentone Heritage Foundation when they voted to make a \$1,000 donation at their April meeting.

The goal of the Heritage Foundation is to acquire the old Mentone Springs Hotel and operate it as a community center. Their plans include having a museum, meeting rooms and a restaurant.

Wanda Simmons, this year's Rhododendron Festival Chairman announced that the line-up of craftspeople was exciting for the festival, May 15-17.

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Congratulations to local heroes

By Emily Smith

At the April "Radiovision" broadcast from the Fort Payne Opera House, The Rev. Howard Finster was featured. Rev. Finster grew up in Valley Head, and served churches there and in Fort Payne.

He has achieved fame in recent years as one of the country's most acclaimed folk artists. A visit to his prayer garden outside of Summerville in the Pennville community is a great experience. The variety of paintings, drawings, sculptures and other works are interpretations of visions Finster has been given.

Finster calls his works messages and his messages have been noticed by popular music groups such as "The Talking Heads" and the Athens, Georgia band "R.E.M." They have both used Finster's art on their album covers and his messages are reaching an audience that traditional evangelists might not have the opportunity to touch.

It may not seem amazing to those of us who live in this area that an artist like Howard Finster was raised here. After all, we know plenty of creative people who contribute in so many ways to our life.

Many of our local craftspeople will be showing their talent at the many festivals this month.

The Rhododendron Festival is scheduled for May 15-17 and will feature artists, craftspeople and musicians. That same weekend, the New Salem Community will have their annual crafts show. The Finster Festival in Summerville was held May 2-3 and drew a large crowd.

Congratulations to Ed Jones who was named "Wagon Trainer of the Year" recently.

For the third year in a row, the Jones' mules, Tom and Jack, pulled his wagon in the annual Alabama Wagon Train from Boaz to Montgomery. This is an eight day trip that ends at the Southeastern Livestock Exposition and PRCA Rodeo.

After the lead wagon had to pull out, Jones took over and set the pace for the rest of the wagon train.

Driving past Jones' home on the "back road" to Mentone is always a treat. His horses and mules, so well cared for, are fun to see.



THE GROUNDHOG

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

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In case of errors in advertisements, The Groundhog assumes liability only for the actual space that is incorrect in the advertisement.

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

The deadline for all material for The Groundhog is the last day of the month preceding publication.

May 26 will be the last day of school for DeKalb County young people. The Groundhog wants to send special congratulations to the graduating seniors in our area.

School is harder now than it was when we were students. Just try helping a seventh grader with his math if you don't believe it!

We know that a lot of hard work by the students, parents and teachers has gone into getting this year's seniors to the final commencement exercises at each school. Their dedication and determination deserves our recognition.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I received a Groundhog today in the mail- I was so glad. I am not out much to pick one up off the counter.

I enjoyed your article very much about the late Hal Howe. My late husband L.P. (Sonny) Wood and I owned and operated "SonLib Trade Center" for 38 years, from May 1936.

Howie Howe would come in the store and talk. My late husband Sonny's aunt and uncle, the late Mr. and Mrs. Sam W. Farr operated the commissary all the time the Lake Lahausage Hotel was being built. Hal remembered working for them- Lamb, Hogue, Sage were the investors building the Hotel. My husband, Sonny, lived in Summerville. He would come up on weekends and when there was no school and stay with the Farris. He was 14 years old, I believe Hal Howe was a bit older. Mr. Howe always referred to my late husband and me as being his Georgia politicians. I think everyone liked Mr. Howe.

Just thought you would like to know. So glad Cloudland, Menlo are joining the Groundhog. The people that have "Cloudland Trade Center" are doing a great job.

Sincerely,
Lib Wood, Cloudland

Dear Sirs,

You may find it amazing that someone in Singapore is interested in Mentone!

We spent many lovely times in Mentone when we lived in Atlanta and hope to be able to return someday.

Enclosed, please find our check for \$10. If you need more money to cover overseas postage for the Groundhog, please let us know.

Signed, Mary Cassidy,
Singapore

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Nestled in the shelter of the east brow of Lookout Mountain, Hidden Hollow is 135 acres of beauty and retreat from the hustle and bustle of nearby Chattanooga.

Hidden Hollow Country Inn and Log Cabins is on Georgia Highway 136 between Trenton and Chickamauga, Georgia. It is only two hours from Atlanta or Birmingham and just 30 minutes from Mentone.

Bonny Jean and Tommy Thomas are the innkeepers of Hidden Hollow. The accommodations run from a quaint country inn to honeymoon cabins, family cabins and rustic camping cabins. The country charm of Hidden Hollow is repeated with quilts on the beds and braided rugs on the floors.

In the Honeymoon Cabin, as well as other cabins and rooms, there is no telephone. Televisions are limited. The great porches and availability of lawn games, hiking trails and canoes on the spring fed lake urge visitors to enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

The Thomases invite their guests to experience "unhurried leisure" at Hidden Hollow.

One of the regular activities at the resort is country dancing. The Thomases enjoy teaching and calling basic level Western Square Dancing, New England Style Contras, International Folk Dancing and Appalachian Circles. Every other Thursday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. they meet in the great rustic dance hall with a growing group of dancers.

"This is a fun level of dancing and we hope no one will feel pushed," Mrs. Thomas said.

"We want everyone who is interested in learning to dance or who already knows how to come and join us," she said.

The dance hall doubles as a recreation hall for group "hoedowns," workshops or meetings, and a chapel for country weddings.

For more information on Hidden Hollow call the Thomases at 706-539-2372.



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The flower's common names are scrambled as a clue.

All photos by Bruce Bon Fleur, 1992.



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The steady hum of the lawnmowers gives the sound of accomplishment and contentment. It makes me know that peace surrounds us and all is well. Winter has passed and spring has arrived. The mockingbird gives out melodious sounds from the highest oak tree, tulips are blooming along with bright azaleas; the grass is bright green with the first burst of spring growth and little bluets cover areas of the meadow. New life is pulsating in the trees as sap rises and leaves make an appearance. Somehow it is forever new and refreshing to see the fresh greenery after the dormancy of winter. The only "fly in the ointment" is the allergy problem for those of us with watery eyes and noses. We just get a good antihistamine and enjoy the beauty of the earth, even with pollen flying around us.

The house needs some deep spring cleaning, but I had rather be outside digging in the soil, setting out new plants, or pulling weeds. This is the best therapy in the world - to dig, plant, and see things grow.

It is a pleasure to drive out Cove Road past Bill and Ann Wright's beautifully landscaped home. The results of their tireless labor of love is a joy to everyone who visits or passes by. I think the secret (other than hard work) to the beautifully

manicured lawns and gardens is organization, with a schedule that includes a little work every day. I am a little spasmodic with my work, working hard a few days and a week may pass before I get back to it.

Lester Smith, of Chattanooga, had the most outstanding rose garden in the area. His roses won national prizes. He said he only worked a few hours a week, but he never varied his schedule of caring for them. His plan was carefully executed and was not too demanding.

The faithful old blooming shrubs and trees are very pretty now. I enjoy the huge snowball bushes at the Arthur Goss (Lightin) home on 117. They are so full of white fluffy balls it almost looks like snow had fallen on them. The lilacs will be blooming soon, along with Beauty Bush. Both these plants require very little care and are very rewarding with their grand show every year. Our show of native Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel will be ready in about three weeks. They are faithful every year and we are proud to show them to our visitors to the Rhododendron Festival.

Homer and I have traveled to several countries and seen formal gardens of Versailles, Fontainebleau, and the fabulous gardens at the castle in Vienna, Austria, but nothing compares with the beauty of our native Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel viewed from a boat on Little River near DeSoto Falls State Park. It is hard to describe the soft, fluffy orchid mass of flowers on the sloping banks of the river. I call them hanging gardens. Every year they seem more lovely.

We have had an unusual spring - it got warm in February, cold in March, warm the first of April, and cold the last of the month. This is hard on all growing things. The Rhododendron are tough and may not be hurt by the extreme temperatures. Some of our bushes have large buds ready to open in a week.

Our visitors of the month at the Hitching Post were our former neighbors in Chattanooga - Marvin and Jody Trew. Marvin is a great organist, and we hope to have him play for us one evening at the old Mentone Springs Hotel.

Also visiting was the granddaughter of Simmie Vernon, Daisy Sanders, who built the log cabin preserved in the center of the Episcopal Church. She said that he also helped build the Mentone Springs Hotel, working there when he was fifteen years old as a helper. She was very interested in the fact that we are trying to restore the hotel, and took membership blanks for the rest of her family. They held their reunion here in Mentone a few years ago, and there were about 150 of them. They meet in Tulsa, Okla. this year in May and she was sure all her relatives would want to be members of the Mentone Heritage Foundation.

Bankhead Cemetery Memorial Day planned

Memorial Day will be observed at Bankhead Cemetery in Mentone on May 24. This year the Constantine Brown Family will be honored.

The Brown family were early settlers in the LaHausage area. Constantine Brown bought 80 acres from the railroad in 1879 for \$100 and built a



Mr. and Mrs. James Johnson

National Day of Prayer Observance

For years the first Thursday in May has been proclaimed as the National Day of Prayer throughout America. For the past several years, the churches in Mentone have joined in this observance to acknowledge together our dependence on God and to pray together for His guidance of our nation and its people.

The churches of Mentone invite everyone to join an interdenominational gathering at Brow Park on Thursday evening, May 7, 1992. In case of inclement weather, the gathering will move to St. Joseph's church.

At noontime Mentone church bells will ring for several minutes as a reminder of the National Day of Prayer.

The North DeKalb Ministerial Association is the sponsor of the Mentone event. Contact The Rev. Tim Smith of St. Joseph's Church for more details at 205-634-4731.

Moon Lake Boys 4-H Club

The Moon Lake 4-H Club met April 7, Richard Fuller, club president, called the meeting to order. Haley Hilliard, Ken Miller and Brian Daniels led the singing of "America, The Beautiful." Lee Worthey gave a devotional.

The Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H Club Pledge were led by vice-president Allen Gray. Garrett Collins read the minutes of the last meeting and called roll.

4-H Agent Shackelford presented a program on 4-H Forestry. The club watched a movie and talked about trees. They learned how newspapers are made.

cabin. He married Anna Bell May from Gaylesville, AL. They raised four girls and seven boys.

When the coal mining operation at Lahausage was at its peak, the Brown's took in boarders. During the big noon meal, the Brown children would often dance to the music of a fiddle for the entertainment of the guests.

For more information on the Bankhead Memorial Day observance, contact Charlene O'Rear in Mentone at 634-4841.

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All Smiles, All Winners! - From left, Jaqueline Annette Williams, 2nd runner-up; Tiny Miss Menlo 1992, Evie Ann Jones; and Brandi Leann Durhan, 1st runner-up.

Menlo Poetry Winner

Menlo Elementary School learned recently that Jennifer Johnson, a sixth grader from the school, received an honorable mention in the Georgia State Poetry Society's state competition with 190 other middle school entries. Only seven honorable mentions were awarded.

Jennifer is the daughter of James and Tammy Johnson. She lives in Mentone. She enjoys reading and writing poems and stories. Jennifer was invited to read her poem at the annual spring meeting of the Georgia Poetry Society at Clayton State College in Atlanta on April 18.

Duke TIP Program Sponsors Recognition Ceremony for Local Gifted Students

TIP, the Duke University Talent Identification Program, is sponsoring a recognition ceremony to honor some of Alabama and Georgia's most talented seventh-graders. Matthew Swords who attends Menlo Elementary School will be one of over 585 students recognized for their academic achievement May 30 at Wright Center Concert Hall, Samford University in Birmingham.

All students attending the ceremony scored as well or better than the average college-bound high school senior on either the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College Testing Assessment (ACT). These tests are administered as part of an annual Talent Search, which TIP has operated since 1980.

Matthew is the son of Raymond and Terrie Swords of Gaylesville.

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Penny Flariety named Miss Spring Fantasy

The Valley Head Band Boosters named Valley Head High School senior Penny Flariety as Miss Spring Fantasy at their Spring Fantasy pageant in April.

Miss Flariety was also the winner in the photogenic, academic and interview categories. Leslie Gunn was first runner up and Wendy Manifold was second runner up as well as the congeniality winner.

In the ninth to tenth grade age group, Krystee Tillman was the winner. Tamra Hall and Chrissy Norman were the runners up. Sarah Tucker was named most photogenic and congeniality. Chrissy Norman took the academic prize.

Julie Yates was the winner in the seventh to eighth grade age group. She also won the academic prize. First runner up Jennifer Robertson won the photogenic prize and Tammy Camp was second runner up.

The fifth to sixth grade age group was won by Emily Frazier. Kimberley McElhaney and Jennifer Hammon were the runners up. Valerie Chappel was named most photogenic.

In the third to fourth grade group, April Aldridge was the winner. Tonya Webb and Beth Moore were the runners up. Crystal Durham was awarded most photogenic.

Crystal Shea Bethune won the first to second grade age group. Jana Goss and Emily Terrell were the runners up and Nicole Hulan took the photogenic prize.

Taylor Hollis and Kenya Sharee Bain shared the winner honors for the girls aged five to six years. Tracey Bree Anne Haney and Megan Ashley Tuxbury were the runners up. Megan also was named most photogenic.

In the girls ages three and four years, Alisha Gorham was the winner and named most photogenic. Runners up were Sydney Johnson and Laura McCullough.

The youngest girls up to age two category was won by Shanise Smith. Hanna Foote and Kristen Hope Wright were the runners up. Little Heather Daniel took the photogenic prize.

In the young boys division, Jeremiah Robertson was named winner. Marcus Crider and Alex Johnson were named runners up. Alex also was named most photogenic.



A "Close Knit" Cluster - From left, Suzanne Knox, Virginia Barkley, Mary Smith, Burma Green, Charlene Powel (instructor), Gladys Hurt and Rose Pickle, father every Monday evening, 7 p.m., at the Menlo Library to learn crocheting and knitting. Beginners, as well as advanced crafters are invited to participate in this ongoing program.

Town Council Notes

Mayor Max Cash reported one serious water leak under Highway 117 near Tom's Drive-in was located and repaired at the Mentone Town Council regular meeting, April 6 at 7 p.m. The town is considering the purchase of monitoring equipment to locate leaks in the water system.

The council voted to replace the motor on the police car. Police Chief Ferguson believes sugar was put into the gas tank and caused damage to the motor. Councilman Don Brock suggested that a locking gas cap be purchased for the car.

A letter of resignation was received from Councilman Ep Meadows. A replacement for his seat will be named at the next council meeting.

Elections for the position of Mayor and Councilman will be held Aug. 25. Candidates must qualify with the city clerk, Catherine Bailey by July 25.

Ethel Manifold has completed coursework to become a magistrate.

Attorneys for J.P. Nations and the Davenports addressed the council on the matter of opening a road on Linchapey Drive.

Dan Beck, representing Nations said Mentone is the fastest growing community in DeKalb County. He said Nations wants Mentone to open a city street the town already owns and that it shows up on several maps.

The Davenports' attorney, Roger Killian wants the circuit court to decide whether the road should be opened or not.

Mentone's attorney, Pat Tate was also on hand to advise the city of their rights.



Lemaster announces candidacy for Superintendent of Education

Joe Lemaster has announced his candidacy as a Democratic candidate for the position of DeKalb County Superintendent of Education in the June 2nd Democratic Primary.

Lemaster and his family reside in Rainsville. Mickie, his wife, is a teacher at Plainview School. His children Hannah, 14, and Gabe, 12, also attend Plainview School.

Lemaster has a Bachelor's Degree from Jacksonville State University, a Master's Degree from the University of Alabama, and a AA Certificate in Administration and Supervision of Schools from the University of Alabama.

For the last 18 years Lemaster has been employed in the DeKalb County school system. His experience includes serving as elementary teacher, high school teacher, and as assistant principal at Plainview School. Lemaster has been Principal at Grove Oak School for the past two years.

As Superintendent, Lemaster says that he will be a full-time Superintendent, devoting all his time and energy to one special interest group - the children of DeKalb County.

Lemaster asks "For Kids Sake" please vote and support him for DeKalb County Superintendent of Education in the June 2 Democratic Primary.

Paid political announcement by Joe Lemaster

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Princess Creations and Porcelain Dolls by Pat Keyt of Dalton.

American Pine Furniture from Jack and Gail Higginbotham in Fort
Payne.

Custom made jewelry from Leonard and Charlotte Colley of
Cleveland.

A special Rhododendron Festival tee-shirt made by Tommy
Sprayberry from the Chickamauga General Store.

Pottery from Pat Sheriff of Birmingham and Darlene Keith of
Mentone. Baskets and Wooden Dough Bowls from Cora and B.L.
Kelly of Rainbow City.

Caned chairs and baskets from Margie Summers of Summerville.

Flea market items from the Mentone American Legion Auxiliary
and St. Joseph's Church.

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Mentone, Alabama - On Lookout Mountain Parkway



May 15-17 is the date to mark to attend the annual Rhododendron Festival in Mentone.

Each spring, craftspeople from all over the southeast come to the festival to display their beautiful and unique handcrafted items. Festival goers number in the thousands.

Activities at the festival range from boat rides on Little River, the perfect vantage point to enjoy the lush purple rhododendron in full bloom, to a beauty pageant, great food and entertainment.

The fun starts Friday night, May 15 at 7 p.m. with a bonfire and singing across from the Hitching Post. Terry Hutcheson will emcee the Friday night program.

Boat rides leaving from the picnic area at DeSoto Falls will begin Saturday morning. Craftspeople will be set up and ready for customers that morning as well.

Entertainment throughout the day Saturday and Sunday will be provided by Tony Goggans. His lively style of contemporary country and gospel is always enjoyed. He will introduce several other entertainers and performers.

The Mentone Area Preservation Association will offer rhododendron for sale at their booth as well as chances on a queen-sized quilt made in Mentone.

At 2 p.m. Saturday, there will be a parade featuring the contestants in the Rhododendron Queen Pageant. The new queen will be crowned by Janet Hutcheson, the reigning Rhododendron Queen at the pageant Saturday night.

The activity continues on Sunday until winners of drawings are named.



Janet Hutcheson



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A Friendly— Valley View

By
ELOISE BROWN

Ed Ringer visited his nephew, David Ringer and family in Florence, Mississippi. Then, he went to Birmingham to attend the Board of Directors meeting of Alabama Retired Teachers Association and State Convention, where he was re-elected Vice President. They have about 17,500 members. Congratulations, Ed!

The Valley Head U.M. W. met at the home of Mary Holleman March 24 for a Day of Prayer, attendance was good. Venna Livingston led the program. We had a lovely covered dish luncheon. We were honored to have our District President Joyce T. Neal from Gadsden with us. After the meeting, Geraldine Hawkins and I took her to Mentone and showed her the sights.

Gladys Cobble and Billie Pickett attended the Annual Reunion and picnic of Cobble Muse Hosiery Mill last Saturday April 25 at East Lake Park in Chattanooga.

Dot Blackburn and Martha Gibson spent a week in Houston, Texas with their grandson and great grandson, eight month old Matthew Blackburn Gibson while his parents, Jane and Mark Gibson went to Hawaii. Dot said it was hard to tell who was entertaining whom.

We hated to give up Adis and John Barnard who have moved to an apartment in Huntsville with their daughter, Jean Cassidy. The Jeff Mannings have moved into their house.

Frances Longshore celebrated her eightieth birthday with her daughter and son-in-law Dr. and Mrs. Ben Cashion at Haleyville, AL. They also had dinner with Ben's parents, gene and Marilyn Cashion at Hamilton, AL.

The Sunshine (Homemaker's) Club met for their March meeting with Karen Freeman. Present were: Jewell Palmer, Vernitice Young, Sue cooper, Gladys Cobble, Evelyn Clark, Bess Baurle, Lillie Bowden, Ruth Pickett, Addie Hall, Geraldine Hawkins, Ilean Lowry, Jean Jones, Sadie Cooper,

and Eloise Brown. Bess Baurle reported on the district meeting at Centre. About 280 people attended. Bess won a beautiful cyclamen plant as a door prize.

Eleanor Woodall and her daughter, Peggy, from Knoxville, were recent overnight guests of Laura Margaret Allison.

Addie Hall had as her visitors her granddaughter, Beth Mares and daughters Bereana and Leanea who were moving from Germany to Honduras as Beth's husband Brian is being transferred there. Addie had returned from a week's visit with her daughter, Mary Porter and family, son Tom Hall and family and daughter-in-law Jimmie Hall and family.

The April meeting of the sunshine Club was at the home of Vernitice Young. Sue Cooper gave the devotional. Karen Freeman presided and Gladys Cobble read a poem. Others present were: Evelyn Clark, Jewell Palmer, Eloise Morgan, Geraldine Hawkins, Lily Bowden, Carmel Gifford and Eloise Brown. It was announced that the National Extension Homemakers Council Board had voted to change the name. Our new name will be Alabama Association for Family and Community Education or A.A.F.C.E. We are undecided as to what we will do locally. Jimmy and Van Cooper, who were on their way to Destin, Florida, took Sarah Lee Cooper to visit Barbara and Harlan Cooper at Montgomery. (Barbara, Harlan and Sarah Lee went to Lake Martin camping at the Wind Lake Campground.) Oline Roberts also went along and visited Mozelle and Frank Hixon at Millbrook, AL.

Jean and John Jones were hosts for Rodolph Dixon from South Carolina. He stayed at the Humble House for five days. Dixon is a missionary to Peru on furlough and was one of five missionaries who spoke at the Baptist Mission Conference here. The others were Horace Ward, a prison chaplain from North Carolina, Billy Nutt, state Director of Missions from Montgomery, Vernon Stevenson from Louisiana Resort Missionary and Mark Grumble, missionary from Nova Scotia. They had a very successful week with five girls saved. In all, eight were baptized on Palm Sunday.

The new post office is progressing rapidly. The tentative date for opening is July. Jerry Hosch will be the Postmaster. The new Fire Hall is being built by the City Hall. Valley Head is growing!

Randal Hawkins spent Easter weekend with his parents, Geraldine and Howard Hawkins. Geraldine had laser surgery on her eyes recently.

Hammondville citizens are rejoicing over the failure of the de-annexation bill.

The Way It Was

Mentone Area news from Twenty Years Ago, May, 1972

Mrs. Joe Lemaster of Jacksonville, she being the former Mickie Blalock, was honored by the WMU of the Moon Lake Baptist Church with a Miscellaneous Shower at the Educational Building. After several games were played she opened the large variety of useful and beautiful gifts.

Voters elected Democratic candidates John Sparkman for the U.S. Senate and Tom Bevill for the House of Representatives. Republican nominees were Red Blount and Ed Nelson.

State Senator Ken Hammond of Valley Head kicked off his campaign for the presidency of the Public Service Commission in Montgomery.

Debbie Roberts of Valley Head celebrated her birthday May 9th and her grandmother Violet French celebrated her birthday May 10th.

Sunday May 14 was the annual decoration day at Bankhead Cemetery, Ruby O'Rear said this is "A day when we all look forward to meeting with friends and relatives."

The Rhododendron Garden Club met at the home of Mrs. Ray Blalock. The main event of the meeting was a tour of her beautiful flower garden.

The usual Mother's Day big dinner was enjoyed at the home of Mrs. Claud McNutt. Attending were Mr and Mrs. Jim Burrough of Rossville and girls Diane, Becky and Vicky, Mr. and Mrs. Max Galloway, Juanita and Garry, Tony, Mark and Regina of Mentone, Millard McNutt and Harold McNutt of Valley Head Mr. and Mrs. Sam McNutt of Chicago called.

Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church celebrated its centennial in Valley Head, Sunday, May 28. The church was organized at Winston Place, the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Overton Winston.

Mentone Dixie Youth Baseball got underway with a game between Mentone and Rising Fawn. Mentone won 5 to 2. Contributing to the win were Danny Collier, Russell Wright, Jeff Holleman, and Tony Crow.

Things were really hopping at the Senior Citizens Prom. It was so much fun to see everyone having such a good time.

I have a bird (probably several) in my yard, that sings "Pretty, pretty, pretty." It thinks the world and everything in it is pretty. It that is the only song it knows, I would say that is a "pretty good" song Don't you agree?



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Three Business Women

By BRUCE BON FLEUR

A love of natural beauty; the enjoyment of sharing it with others; and, an eye for details, might best describe the obvious similarities between Angela Wood of Mentone, Kimberly McNutt of Valley Head and Michele Anderson of Hammondville.

The additional fact that each of these young area women are entrepreneurs in business here solidifies their mutual interests and current life's work.

All are happily married, and appreciate their husbands' encouragement in pursuing their respective commercial endeavors.



Angela Wood

Angela Wood is Mentone's

newest real estate broker. She recently passed her state exam and is actively establishing her office, Lookout Mountain Properties, in part of a building owned by her parents, Olive and Jack Jones.

While it is real estate "showing people what I've enjoyed my whole life," that winds her up, it is her time spent horseback riding mountain trails and gardening that provide the peace and relaxation she seeks, after literally "roving around and wading through the hills, valleys and streams on Lookout Mountain."

Angela believes her personal experience and lifelong contact with the mountain especially qualifies her to "show people property and help them make a wise vacation, relocation or retirement property decision."

Kimberly McNutt, also a native, is owner of the Valley Head beauty salon bearing her name. She is, in a phrase, like the mountain where she was raised - solid!

She is solidly committed and openly expressive of her Christian beliefs and how they apply in her business and personal lives.

"We treat people in our shop the way we

would want to be treated - friendly, caring, attentive to their needs and desires," she states.

With regular clients from as far away as Chattanooga, Huntsville and Sand Mountain, evidently Kimberly's professionalism and personal attention is coming across.

Her shop at any given time is likely to be filled with pre-school children, parents and older customers, all in a friendly and somewhat miraculous "controlled" atmosphere.

"Dowe, my stylist, and I just love making something beautiful out of a totally out-of-shape head of hair, young or old or in-between," she said.



Kimberly McNutt

Kimberly offers almost any beauty and hair service imaginable tried and true, as well as the newest in styling techniques, professionally rendered.

"From Day One the Lord has opened doors for this business," Kimberly explains. Apparently He is continuing to do so, as the salon will soon be moving across the street to a new and larger location.

"Attention to details and design in preparing landscapes, while allowing for the natural and



Michele Anderson

beautiful creative forces in plants to work in harmony," is the task and joy of Michele Anderson, Hammondville, everyday at Valley Garden and Design.

Her professional landscape design office, along with

recently added herb and perennials greenhouse, is located just south of Valley Head. Along with husband Brad, Michele has created an almost perfect yet still unfinished example of just exactly what it is she sells - beautiful landscapes.

Encouraged several years ago by a friend in a related field, Michele attended Atlanta Art Institute, graduated in 1991 and recently was certified to pursue her profession by the State of Alabama.

Like Angela and Kimberly, Michele too "enjoys sharing her appreciation of naturally beautiful things, while adding my personal touches, hopefully enhancing what is potentially there."



THE HISTORIC MENTONE SPRINGS HOTEL - Built in 1884 and filled with history and charm, this structure has been many things. Once a hotel, private residence, an antique shop, art center and restaurant. It's waiting for your ideas. **Priced at \$220,000.**

FIND PEACE OF MIND - Enjoy the spring flowers as you walk down the stone stairway to Little River. With this beautiful setting, this home may be the one you are looking for with three bedrooms, two and one-half baths and two extra buildings which could be guest cottages. (One building has been a beauty shop.) On this five acres there are fruit trees and blueberry bushes, also fenced for horses. **Priced at \$110,000.**

YOU'LL HAVE A YARD FULL OF SPRING FLOWERS at this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home located on 8 acres near Mentone with a small pond. **Priced at \$73,000.**

ENJOY NATURE FROM YOUR SCREENED PORCH - This perfect retirement home has 2 bedrooms and is located on Dogwood Avenue in a secluded wooded area with no grass to mow since it is surrounded by natural woods. If you have a green thumb, this home has a small greenhouse. **REDUCED TO \$64,900.**

ACREAGE AND LOTS

THE PERFECT PLACE - That log cabin you've always wanted is just waiting to be built on these beautiful wooded building sites. With access to Little River, city water and only a mile from DeSoto Park, truly the Perfect Place. Prices \$9,500 to \$18,500.

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Newcomers Who Make a Difference



-Rock Rockenbach, Valley Head

By Emily Smith

A successful insurance agent in California, Richard "Rock" Rockenbach began to contemplate his retirement a few years ago. He and his wife, Helen, wanted to move someplace where the property values were reasonable and their retirement dollars would go as far as possible. They also hoped for a moderate climate and an area with scenic beauty.

The Rockenbachs are both natives of Illinois with family in the Midwest and in Florida. The area of Tennessee and North Georgia seemed appealing because it is midway between those two parts of the country.

When a friend of theirs suggested Alabama their first reaction was lukewarm.

Our friend said, "Don't discount Alabama," Rock told the Groundhog. "We came out and looked and we really liked what we saw."

They chose property along Will's Creek on the ridge overlooking Will's Valley and hired Dave Blalock, a Mentone contractor to build their retirement home. Then they returned to San Diego.

"That was a frightening thing, to sign that contract and not be here during the construction," Rock remembered.

The end result is a beautiful home, very open with windows looking over the valley. A western influence is evident in the a number of prints of horses, cowboys and Indians. Helen's talent in photography also takes the spotlight with pictures of several scenes around Valley Head.

The Rockenbachs found their neighbors very friendly, in spite of warnings by people 'back home' that they wouldn't be accepted.

"We're 'Yankees,'" he said with a wink. One of the first people who befriended them was their neighbor, the late Brownie Tuttle.

Although the Rockenbachs moved to Valley Head to retire, the alarm of a possible expansion of the Hammondville landfill and more recently de-annexation of the landfill from the jurisdiction of the town caused a group of concerned citizens to rally together.

The group which includes Gary McKenzie, Tony Hammonds, Doris Carmichael, Dot Blackburn, Maynard and Maurine Donahue and others was instrumental in calling attention to the potential threat of water contamination for most of the communities in North DeKalb County that any expansion might bring.

Legislation introduced in the senate by Hinton Mitchem for de-annexing the landfill was recently stopped at the Alabama of Representatives by State Rep. Ralph Burke. Burke found a flaw in the bill.

Rock hopes the group will stay together and go on to improve the area by urging local residents to clean up their property. He was influenced by his mother, a Finnish immigrant, who he said believed that white paint and elbow grease would do anything a world of good.

"We have a beautiful area here and we need to keep it that way. Let's keep the community spirit up," he said.

Another project Rockenbach undertook shortly after his move to Valley Head was to construct a historic marker for the church's of the town. The marker was dedicated last fall by the Valley Head Woman's Club.

He donated the materials for the sign and along with Joe Underwood cut letters, painted and assembled it.

Rock joined his neighbors recently to rebuild the wooden bridge over Will's Creek on the road leading to their houses.

"I know that community effort gets things done," he said.

The move to Valley Head returned Rock to the familiar world of farming and cattle. He grew up on a farm in Northern Illinois and taught agriculture for a time. He was also the principal at a school in a town that he says is much like Valley Head.

After college at Illinois State University, he was drafted by the Detroit Lions to play football. An injury in pre-season training cut that career short. He was named to the Illinois Athletic Hall of Fame both as a player and as a coach.

He became an life insurance agent for Mutual of New York and had agencies in Flint, Michigan, Santa Barbara and San Diego, California. Twice he served as president of the Certified Life Underwriters.

The Rockenbach's family consists of Rock's daughter Heidi, a fire fighter in California and son Richard, a senior at the University of Alabama and Helen's son, Nick, a junior at Alabama.

Along with the many community activities he has become involved in, Rock enjoys raising a herd of Polled Herefords in the pasture land of his new home.



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Just about everybody gets a headache once in awhile, so why should you be unduly upset if you happen to be suffering from one?

If you've been celebrating with friends and eat or imbibe too much, it certainly would not be unusual to wake up with a headache the next day. But that kind of headache usually goes away as soon as you're eating and drinking sensibly again, and getting enough sleep. But what about the other kinds of headache?

Some illnesses, such as flu, include headache among the symptoms. But if you're in reasonably good health, you have a right to wonder why you suffer from headaches. A resort to aspirin and other medication may dull the pain for a while, but if the headaches persist you should seek treatment. Among the causes of persistent headache are problems with the cervical vertebrae, the spinal bones in your neck. If they are out of alignment, this could cause headaches until you get the treatment you need.

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Mentone Merchants Meeting Held

The Mentone Merchants Association met the fourth Wednesday evening of March at the Kountry Chef Restaurant. During the meeting a motion was made and seconded to have a Gospel Music Festival in The Edward Mason Park in downtown Mentone the fourth weekend in April.

Jim Lowe, a Nashville figure who worked with the Grand Old Opry for 40 years, wrote and recorded many songs. He now has a recording studio in Henagar and was the Master of Ceremony for the occasion which was held April 25 from 2 to 6 p.m. and April 26 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Local and out of town guests participated. Local merchants donated gift items for the door prizes.

Plans are being made for the 1993 Gospel Music Festival. If you would like to participate or just think this is a good idea and would just like to listen, let the Merchants Association hear from you. Write: The Kountry Chef, P.O. Box 425, Mentone, AL 35984.

Valley Head Woman's Club

Ginni Stone from the Hospice program spoke at the Valley Head Woman's Club meeting in April. The meeting was held at Mrs. Van Cooper's Home.

Mrs. Stone told members about the Hospice Program. They work with terminally ill patients and their families.

Hostesses for the meeting were Mrs. Van Cooper, Mrs. M.W. Donahue and Mrs. Claude Howe. Mrs. Maxine Wright gave the devotional.

The next meeting is a luncheon at the home of Mrs. Harol Skelton. New officers will be installed. The club will not meet during the summer months.

Rhododendron Garden Club

Members of the Rhododendron Garden Club met at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in April. Jill Whitten presented a program on homes and gardens in Ireland and England.

Mrs. Whitten is the daughter of Jack and Estelle Watson of Mentone and Birmingham. They made a trip to Ireland and England with George and Hope Walker and stayed in Bed and Breakfast inns throughout the country side. Mrs. Walker is the current president of the Garden Club.

Hostesses for the meeting were Alyce Springer, Anne Jackson and Lynette McCary. Hattie Lide gave the devotional.

A luncheon will be held in May.



Recipes needed by Valley Head PTO

(Reprinted from The Times-Journal, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1992)

By Judy O'Daniel

The Parent Teacher Organization of Valley Head needs recipes for a cookbook members are compiling. Sandy Hulan, PTO president, urges former graduates, teachers, lunchroom personnel, bus drivers, or anyone who attended VHS or has been involved with the school in any way to send in recipes for the cookbook.

Recipes can be from any category but they need to be accompanied by the name of the person submitting the recipe and relationship of that person to the school, along with dates.

Teachers need to indicate their years of service and subjects taught. Graduates need to include their year of graduation and, in the case of women graduates, their name at that time as well as now. Coaches should indicate the sports coached and their dates of service. Support personnel also need to specify their years of service.

Cookbook committee members Kathryn Carden and Ellen Wright, along with Sandy, are busy typing the recipes we have already received to get them ready for the printer; but we need more. Send us 3 or 4 of your favorite recipes right away to Valley Head School, P.O. Box 145, Valley Head, AL 35989, or you may call 845-2261 or 635-6228 and arrangements can be made to pick up your recipes.

WATERGATE CAKE

1pkg. white cake mix 3 1/2 oz. Pistachio
3 eggs instant pudding
3/4 cup oil (Crisco) 1/2 cup coconut
1 10-oz. club soda 1 cup finely chopped
 pecans

Mix all ingredients together. Pour into greased and floured 13x9x2-inch pan and bake 45 minutes at 350°.

ICING

1/2 cup coconut 1 1/2 cups milk
3/4 cup finely chopped 3 1/2 oz. pkg. pistachio
pecans instant pudding
2 env. Dream Whip (3 oz.)

Beat all ingredients, except coconut and nuts, until thick. Spread on cooled cake, then sprinkle coconut and finely chopped nuts over top.

Sandy Hulan, PTO President 1991-92

Polly Cameron records her music

Polly Cameron, co-director of Camp Saddlerock and a long time resident of Mentone, has made a cassette recording featuring some of her favorite religious and secular songs. It will be available for sale May 15.

The talented camp director has delighted audiences at Saddlerock's closing night ceremonies, churches and local clubs for many years.

She began playing the guitar at the age of ten when she was a camper in Mentone at Skyline. Polly majored in music in college, studying both piano and voice.

The selections on the tape include the songs "Pray for Me," and "House at Pooh Corner." There is also a medley of religious songs such as "Eagle's Wings" and "Father's Eyes."

To order copies of the tape, write to Polly Cameron at P.O. Box 238, Mentone, AL 35984. The cost is \$10 and Polly will mail the cassette or deliver them in Mentone.

Zoning Draft Approved

The Mentone Planning Commission approved the final draft of the town's new zoning ordinance at an April 23 public hearing.

Two public workshops were held in earlier in April and in response to public concern several changes were made to the subdivision regulations and zoning map. A copy of the approved regulations and zoning map are on display at the Mentone Town Meeting Hall.

The draft will go before the town council to be voted on as an ordinance at the regular council meeting May 4 at 7 p.m.

CAJUN RED BEANS AND RICE

1 lb. dried red beans, soaked overnight	2 cloves garlic, crushed
1/2 lb. salt pork	1 TBSP. salt
2 qts. water	1 tsp. red pepper
3 cups chopped Bermuda onion	1 tsp. black pepper
1 bunch green onions, chopped	2 dashes Tabasco
1 cup parsley, chopped	1 TBSP. Worcestershire sauce
1 cup bell pepper, chopped	1 4-oz. can tomato sauce
1/2 cup celery, chopped	1/4 tsp. oregano
	1/4 tsp. thyme
	1 lb. sausage, cut in 1/2 inch slices

Cook beans and pork in salted water slowly for 45 minutes. Add vegetables, seasonings and tomato sauce. Cook slowly another hour, stirring occasionally. Add sausage, for extra body, and cook 45 minutes more. Cool, but do not necessarily refrigerate. Reheat and bring to boil, lower heat and simmer gently 30-40 minutes. Serve over rice. Serves 8.

VARIATION: For barbecue red beans: add 1 TBSP. liquid smoke and 1 cup barbecue sauce.

Patsy Sax, Business Teacher since 1989

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Continued from page 1

Battelle Memorial Institute was founded in Columbus, Ohio. The Institute is considered the world's largest independent, charitable, nonprofit, tax-paying research and development organization. They have offices and research facilities all over the world.

The Institute played a role in developing xerography in the 1940's. They worked on the atomic bomb in World War II and continue to work in the area of nuclear power and several other fields of research.

Today, the Battelle property is owned by R.B. "Bear" Brown of Valley Head. Brown runs a hunting and fishing club on 2,500 acres of land. He says that during hunting season this year, hunters bagged 25 deer. There are five lakes at Battelle stocked with large and small mouth bass, bream, catfish and trout.

In recent years, the Pepsi Cola Company explored the possibility of selling bottled water and considered the spring at Battelle. Brown says they sent a research scientist from the Battelle Foundation to test the spring.

The scientist found the water in the spring pure and of good quality but Pepsi abandoned plans to sell bottled water.

Brown said the although the scientist had worked for the Battelle Institute for several years, he was unaware of the connection between Col. Battelle and the Lookout Mountain Iron Company in Alabama.

Landmarks of Fort Payne has preserved the late Robert N. Mann's photographic collection of Battelle. Mann was the first child born at Battelle and was county historian of Cherokee County

About Our Town

By
LINDA BROWN



Have you ever seen the leaves on the trees turn green so fast? Suddenly it's Spring! Spring always brings out three things; termite, motorcycles and the desire to plant a garden. Many people in Mentone have already planted nice gardens. As I write this it is 40 degrees, I hope the cold doesn't hurt all of the tender growth. I would really like some early tomatoes.

Many things happen in the Spring. One of the most important to Mentone is the preparation to open camps. Many local people are involved in this preparation. Some build and repair or remodel buildings. Others cut and clean up trees. Then there are those who clean and beautify the grounds and the buildings. Perhaps the most important are the ladies who cook all of that delicious food. I think the camps help Mentone and I know that Mentone helps the camps.

The Mentone Planning Commission has had three public meeting to inform everyone of the

and a past president of the Cherokee County Historical Society.

The photographs show the people and life of this big iron operation at the turn of the century.

new subdivision regulations and zoning ordinances. They were all well attended, but I was disappointed that more people were not present to see what has been proposed. Our goal is to make suggestions that will keep Mentone a good place to live. We have tried to preserve the present and prepare for the future.

Another event being prepared for is the Mentone Crafts Festival. The dates are Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28. Gates are open from 9AM until 4PM. The admission charge is \$2 for all over 12 years of age. We would like to involve as many people of this area as possible. If you belong to a club or organization that you think would like to be a part of the festival, or if you would like to have an exhibit space, please call me, Linda Brown, 205/634-4755.

Recently I read a magazine article describing the many advances being made in understanding how the brain functions. While talking with a friend I told her that I would like to live five hundred more years. Then I could see all of the high-tech advances that are sure to be made. She reminded me that they will not all be good and asked if I was prepared to deal with the bad. I do believe that humankind will wake up, preserve their environment and improve the only planet we have to live on.

The celebration of earth day is certainly a good start. The organizations and individuals who have accepted the responsibility of keeping one mile of highway clean is a good start. The key to all of our problems may well be education. Schools, homes and churches all play an important part in the education of our young people. Before we vote for any candidate this election year let's determine how they stand on education and vote accordingly. Our children are our future. Happy Mother's Day and Happy Spring!!

CLOUDLAND REALTY

P.O. Box 205, Highway 48

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CLOUDLAND-This rustic contemporary cottage is ideal for either a permanent home or second home and features a great room leading off to a large screened porch, two ample sized bedrooms, bath and utility room. This affordable home is on approximately one acre of level ground and priced at only \$38,000. Call for an appointment.

CLOUDLAND-Two-bedroom, two baths, furnished trailer located on 1.9 acre lot with 200' on East Fork of Little River. Owner financed.

CLOUDLAND-Secluded 40 partially wooded acres at a bargain price.

CLOUDLAND-Approximately 55 beautiful acres 1/2 in pasture with man-made lake site remaining wooded with well, septic tank and house foundation. Owner financing available. \$1,200 per acre.

CLOUDLAND-Beautiful 263-acre farm with approximately 35 acres in pasture; fencing, 5-acre pond and some brow frontage. All of this plus own or financing. Don't miss this!

CLOUDLAND-Several nice wooded, secluded 3-row lots (bluffs) with owner financing available to qualified buyers. \$25,000 per lot.

MENLO (ALPINE)-Nice three-bedroom, 2 bath brick home has large living room with fireplace, eat-in kitchen, dining room, utility room, carport, central heat and air on nice level lot. Reduced to \$48,500 and shown by appointment only.

CLOUDLAND-Lookout Mountain Parkway. Nice large building lot with scenic view approximately two acres. Priced at \$15,000.

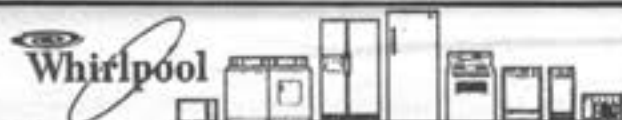
CLOUDLAND-1/2 mile of brow with frontage on Highway 157. Great investment opportunity! Owner financing available.

TELOGA-Two-story frame house on 10 acres with large barn and block outbuilding. Home has 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, living room, den with fireplace, dining room, large eat-in kitchen and open porch. Central heat and air all for \$89,000. Call for appointment now!

MENLO-Well insulated 3-bedroom home features central heat/air, thermal windows. Large landscaped yard and has above ground pool, with deck, patio, garage with attached carport and paved drive. Drastically reduced Call for your appointment NOW.

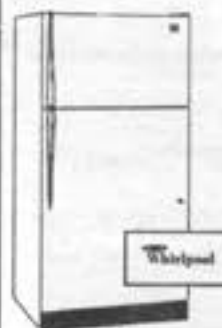
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CLOUDLAND-SPECTACULAR VIEW-Beautiful wood and mountain rock home less than a year old on a wooded 2.8 acre brow lot and featuring three bedrooms, two baths, great room with rock fireplace, kitchen with breakfast alcove and beautiful oak cabinets, garage and utility, deck, full daylight basement, central heat and air, other amenities too numerous to mention. Appointment only.



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NIPPERSINK LODGE. On Lookout Mountain at DeSoto Falls. Advance Reservations required. P.O. Box 172, Mentone, AL 35984. (205) 634-4387.

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Thursday, May 7

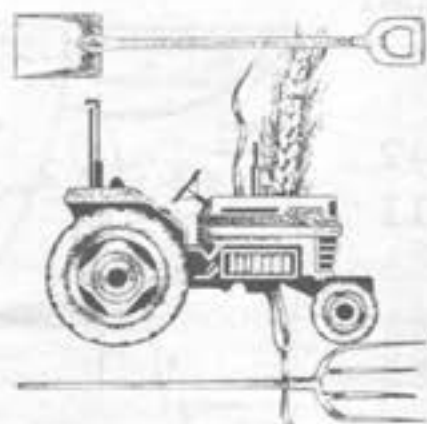
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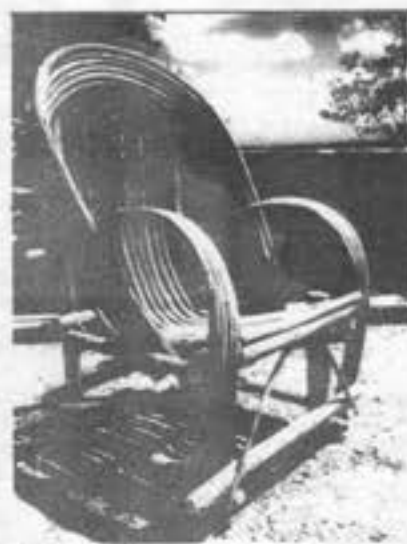
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