

**Celebrating
14 Years
in Print**

THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone • Valley Head • Hammondville • Cloudland • Menlo

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Volume 14, No. 5

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

May 1996

It's Rhododendron Festival Time Again On The Musical Mountain in Mentone!

By Bernise Crow



The Rhododendron Festival is around the bend, and things are developing according to plan. We hope to see many people here who return for our annual festivities when we celebrate the lovely blooming rhododendron and mountain laurel.

We have varied entertainment planned for the 18th and 19th of May at the main part of the festival. Terry Hutcheson will entertain on Friday evening (the 17th) at the bonfire, along with another visiting group called Cotaco Creek.

On May 11, at 8:00 p.m., we have our beauty pageant upstairs at the Hitching Post. This is very special to those of us who work with it. This is our 14th year since renewing the pageant. It was an all-out county affair in the 40s and a much bigger event with maybe 40 contestants. Marjorie Bruce was queen one year, and Jean Kirby and Marjorie Jones Berry were contestants at a later event. We offer a special invitation to all former queens to please come and enjoy the fun. Jerry Waters will be emcee, Terry Hutcheson will sing, and Barry Crow will furnish piano music. Molly McCanless, David Wassom, Judge Clyde Traylor, Karen Herndon will be the judges. Please come and see how much fun we have, and enjoy the beauty of our young girls who participate.

Karen Wright will have cloggers to perform on Sunday at Brow Park. We are using as much local



1995 Rhododendron Queen and her Court:

L/R: Tammy Leigh Gilbert (third Princess); Rhea Armstrong (second princess); Anna Everett (first Princess); Tammy Camp (1995 Rhododendron Queen); Jerry Waters (emcee)

talent as possible because we have plenty of it.

We have nice rhododendron plants for sale, and, of course, chances are \$1.00 each on a lovely

queen-sized, log cabin pattern quilt made by Lola Mae Blalock. (See photo on page 2.) Mickey and Sherman Gough are handling quilt ticket sales, and there are some at the Hitching Post you can purchase.

The "Dish" tea room at the Hitching Post will furnish dinner for the judges, prior to the queen contest.

Jack Jones will handle the parade, the Valley Head High School Band will play and march in the parade, and the queen and her court will be featured.

Lane Traylor will do boat rides at DeSoto Falls, assisted by Homer Crow.

Homer is General Chairman of the Festival. If you have questions, you may call 634-4664.

We will have devotions Sunday morning at 9:00, at Brow Park, led by Jimmy Graves. Doreen Waters and hopefully Lou Ann Johns will sing, and Barry Crow will play piano.



SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

- Monday, May 6, 7 p.m., City Council Meeting, Mentone Town Hall
- Tuesday, May 7, 7 p.m., MAPA Meeting, Town Hall
- Wednesday, V.E. Day
- Sunday, May 12, Mothers' Day
- Saturday, May 18, Armed Forces Day
- Monday, May 27, Memorial Day (Observed) (Traditional Memorial Day is May 30)
- Monday, May 27, 8 a.m., Moon Lake School Awards Day
- Friday, May 31, last day of school

- Friday, May 31, 9 a.m., Moon Lake School Kindergarten Graduation
- Saturday, June 1, 10 a.m., Moon Lake School 6th Grade Graduation
- Friday, May 31, 7 p.m., Valley Head Graduation Football stadium
- Monday, June 3, 7 p.m., City Council Meeting, Mentone Town Hall
- Tuesday, June 4, Democratic Primary
- Tuesday, June 4, 7 p.m., MAPA Meeting, Place To Be Announced

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THE GROUNDHOG

P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984



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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. Call Evelyn Graves at 634-4390 for advertising.

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

The deadline for all material for The Groundhog is the 22nd day of the month preceding publication. The Publication is due out by the first Tuesday of each month.

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MAPA BIRTHDAYS

MAY/JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Hedwidge Salord May 1
Nicole Vernon May 6
Elvina Lowman May 15
John O'Rear June 9
Amelia Kirk June 20
Bud Simmons June 23
Sue Schwarz June 29

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Mickey Gough outside Wal-Mart in Fort Payne, Ala., offering \$1.00 chances on a lovely queen-sized, log cabin pattern quilt made by Lola Mae Blalock.

MAPA members clean up their Adopt-A-Mile section on Highway 117. Sherman Gough organizes the cleanup at least two times a year. Members, Bernise, Sherman, Mickey, Marie, and Homer are shown just before going out to clean up their mile.



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Vennie Pearce Dies

Mrs. Vennie Low Pearce, 101, of Selma, passed away April 19, 1996, at Warren Manor Nursing home in Selma.

Funeral services were held April 21, from Burt Funeral Home Chapel in Valley Head. Burial was in Little River Cemetery in Mentone.

Mrs. Pearce, born April 23, 1894, a native of Hayesville, NC, was the daughter of Marion and Iowa Low. She was an Episcopalian and manager of Maxine's Hat Shops over the southeast. Mrs. Pearce's great-aunt was Juliette Low, founder of the Girl Scouts of America.

She was the aunt of Madeline V. Porter and the great-aunt of William C. Porter Sr.; Arthur Cleveland Porter Jr.; Patti Porter Barlow; and Judi Elizabeth Porter of Selma; and the aunt of James Barrett of Portsmouth, NH; and Sam Barrett, Atlanta, GA. Mrs. Pearce was preceded in death by her husband, Leon Charles Pearce.

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The Recipe Corner

By
SUE SCHWARZ

Well, I am back on the porch at Mentone and thrilled to have finally stopped the Huntsville paper and had our mail forwarded. It seems to have been a longer than usual winter. In honor of spring, I am sharing a wonderful recipe for "Rhubarb and Strawberry Crumble," and one of those nice standby recipes I've clipped from *Southern Living* and enjoyed, called "Cowboy Coffee Cake," which is quick and easy.

Rhubarb and Strawberry Crumble - serves 6

- 1 lb rhubarb, trimmed and cut into 1/2" pieces
- 1 pt. strawberries, hulled and quartered
- 1/2 C granulated sugar
- 2 T all-purpose flour

Crumble Topping

- 1/2 C rolled oats
- 1/3 C all-purpose flour
- 1/2 C packed light brown sugar
- 1 T butter, softened
- 1 T vegetable oil
- 1 T apple or cranberry juice

Preheat oven to 375° F. Combine filling ingredients in a large bowl tossing together to combine. Transfer mixture to 1-1/2 qt. baking dish or deep 9" pie plate. Combine oats, flour, brown sugar, butter, and oil in a bowl; with a fork or your fingers, work ingredients together until crumbly. Add juice and stir just until mixture is evenly moistened. Distribute topping over fruit and bake 35-40 minutes until fruit is bubbling and topping is golden. Serves 6. Serve topped with vanilla ice cream.

Cowboy Coffee Cake

- 2 cans refrigerated buttermilk biscuits
- 1/4 C butter or margarine, melted
- 1/3 C firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/3 C chopped pecans
- 1 t ground cinnamon

Arrange biscuits in a lightly greased 9" round pan overlapping edges. Combine remaining ingredients. Spread evenly over biscuits. Bake at 350° for 22 minutes or until done. Serve warm.

A DOG'S PRAYER

By Beth Norman Harris

(For the animal lovers)

Treat me kindly, my beloved master, for no heart in all the world is more grateful for kindness than the loving heart of me.

Do not break my spirit with a stick, for though I should lick your hand between the blows, your patience and understanding will more quickly teach me the things you would have me do.

Speak to me often, for your voice is the world's sweetest music, as you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail when your footstep falls upon my waiting ear.

When it is cold and wet, please take me inside, for I am now a domesticated animal, no longer used to bitter elements.

And I ask no greater glory than the privilege of sitting at your feet beside the hearth. Though, had you no home, I would rather follow you through ice and snow than rest upon the softest pillow in the warmest home in all the land, for you are my god and I am your devoted worshipper.

Keep my pan filled with fresh water, for although I should not reproach you were it dry, I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst. Feed me clean food, that I may stay well, to romp and play and do your bidding, to walk by your side, and stand ready, willing, and able to protect you with my life should your life be in danger.

And, beloved master, should the great Master see fit to deprive me of my health or sight, do not turn me away from you. Rather hold me gently in your arms as skilled hands grant me the merciful boon of eternal rest--and I will leave you knowing with the last breath I drew, my fate was ever safest in your hands.

From Between the Counters

By
BRUTUS



Dearest loyal and devoted readers. By now, all moi's public knows that the great one's fame has spread to the TV world (Ch. 31, Huntsville). Two young lads (both had to be disciplined with show of fangs and deep growls) came bearing hated cameras to feature moi for the evening news. Since no extra lights were brought for the filming, a splendid chance was lost to highlight moi's glistening, rippling coat of incredible tan and white. "Compost breath" Al obtained a copy of the flawless one caught on tape and will show it in the Superette soon. (Eat your heart out, Lassie!) On to Hollywood.

Did moi not predict the spring arrival of Japanese beetles, horseflies, and flatlanders? Remember where you heard it first!

Converts from out of state are stumbling in, blinded by the beauty between the counters. Sandy, Sara and Mary Virginia Griffin from Calhoun, GA, danced through the door of the Superette only to skid to a stop awed by moi's exquisiteness. Sandy fell backward into the oranges, as a matter of fact!

No sooner were the dazed Griffin sisters carried from the scene, than in dashed the Wilson lasses from Marietta, GA. Susan, Megan, and Ashley stared in wonder and disbelief at the unspeakable vision before them. What could moi do but stand up and stretch, flexing moi's out-of-this-world's muscles. The three sisters were struck dumb and had to be led away to their van where cold cloths were placed on their faces. (It's hardest on the young, innocent ones.)

Then, in marched Col. (ret) Frank and Elaine Persons who had made a pilgrimage from 24 Solano Ave. in St. Augustine, FL, to see for themselves the "Wonder of Mentone," Moi. A hush fell over the Superette, and it was evident that no military experience had prepared Col. Persons for this kind of excitement. He and his lady left shaking all over! ("If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen," as street person Jack Lusk says.)

Flatlanders have nearly squeezed local admirers out of the store. Five-year-old Dekoto Dooley from Menlo, GA, has just pushed to the front of the crowd to gaze in wide-eyed wonder on the canine vision before her. She tried to squeal, but no sound could escape her tiny lips. (Awestruck, it's called.)

There is no end in sight of young flatlanders today. (Maybe they should be called, "Flatlanders-in-training.") Tiny Katie Cienney (6) from Peachtree City, GA, is peeping in the door, too timid and thunderstruck to approach the incredible paws. (This trauma will prepare the little one for jolts in her later life!)

Now, we have Johnny Bell from Jacksonville, FL, who is visiting Jim and Pat Garrett, shoving his way to the front of the mob. Surely Bell doesn't expect preferential treatment because he's visiting locals. (A flatlander by any other name is still a flatlander!)

Cody Ballenger (5), Cloudland, GA, comes in regularly to give sugar to moi. "Bring up a child...etc.) What a sweet and intelligent little lad. He knows already, in his few years, when he stands in the shadow of greatness!

Finally...a LOCAL mountain child! Andy Cash is like a breath of fresh air. What great sugar he gives and even shares his ice cream sandwich--moi's favorite thing in the whole world--unless, unless it's a mirror.

The season of travelers checks, cameras, and you-know-what (F.L.) is upon Lookout Mountain. Gird your loins--and let the games begin!

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MOM'S THE WORD!



Mentone Grapevine

By
PAT SEYMOUR

The Valley Head Band Boosters will have their annual Auction on Saturday, May 4, at 6 p.m. in the high school auditorium. There are lots of nice items to be auctioned off including a book about the band Alabama autographed by each member. Ya'll come, now, you hear?

More than 150 friends attended Howard and Jo Carson's 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration on April 21 at the Winston Place in Valley Head. Beautiful and delicious refreshments were prepared by Billie Harper.

George and Jo Beaubé have just returned from a marvelous vacation in Mexico. Going by way of El Paso, Texas, they were joined by daughter Ann and her husband Arturo Garcia. According to George, they spent most of the time eating and shopping!

Gladys Goss got tangled up in her garden hose and fell, breaking her hand and wrist. She is improving, but is still quite sore.

Bill Schwarz is on the mend after a recent hernia operation. First a hip replacement and now a hernia! Let's hope this is the last of Bill's hospital visits!

Leland Cox has suffered several small strokes and is unable to walk. He is in UAB Hospital in Birmingham. All of his many friends wish him a speedy recovery. Now Gertrude has fallen at home and broken or cracked several ribs. Why do bad things happen to good people?

George and Hattie Lide have kept the interstate to Birmingham hot with visits to check on family there. What would those relatives do without this wonderful, caring couple?

Charlie Rogers was surprised last week with a birthday party attended by about 15 of his close friends. The hostess was Jewel Collins and Rock Castle Cafe was the site of the gala evening, complete with some great presents! Congratulations, birthday boy!

It was a sad day for diners in Mentone and Valley Head when the I-59 Truck Stop closed at Sulphur Springs. Patrons will miss that famous Bar-B-Q and banana pudding!

That pretty new face at the Mentone Inn is Tara Waller, daughter of Frances Waller, Inn Keeper. Tara will be assisting her mother at the Inn while attending college part time.

Norma Williams is back at home from rehab in Birmingham and would love to hear from her Mentone friends.

Michelle Hopper had a bad wreck on Baty's curve recently and really messed up her car. Other than cuts and bruises, Michelle escaped unharmed. Not so her car!

Robert and Ilene Green and Kenneth and Gail Chambers have just returned from a weekend motorcycle trip to Gulf Shores. Those four kids have the most fun traveling on those motors!

Friday, April 26, marked the end of an Era! Harvard Hester cut his last head of hair at the barber shop in downtown Valley Head. Mr. Hester has been cutting hair and shaving faces for 41 years in the same barber shop.

The Valley Head PTO will meet on Monday, May 6, at 6:30 p.m., in the auditorium. Kindergarten graduation will be held at that time, also. Everyone is invited. The Valley Head Band Spring concert will be held on Tuesday evening, May 14, in the auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

Friends of Fraser Cochran, father of Linda Brown, will be delighted to hear of his engagement to Jewell Jones of Ider. Wedding plans are not complete at press time.

Joel and Sue King are moving to Hamilton, Ala. They are selling their home on County Road 647. Doug and Karen Powell will be occupying the King property. (Karen is Charlie Bains' daughter.)

In March, Shirley and Bobby Knowles became proud grandparents again. This time the new daddy is Billy Jones.

The newest addition to the family is named Chelsea.

Rick Chapman was taken by helicopter to BMC Montclair the last day of April, and is in intensive care and in critical condition. Keep him and Betty, his wife, in your prayers.

The new owners of Jackie Wright's (Kerby) farm will be taking up summer residence in Mentone in June or thereabouts. Inga and Tom Clause have been on the lookout for a cheaper and cooler place to spend their golden years in, and they seem to have found it here in Mentone. They have been living in the Florida Cays (Keys) since they left their home in Maine. Inga and Tom have two grown sons named Jerry (eldest) and Tom (youngest). No joke, folks, that's the truth!

Congratulations go to Jackie Wright's eldest son, Levon Kerby, whose first son, James, graduates from high school this year. He will be going on to college in Kansas where Levon and Una reside.

On the Saturday before Easter Sunday, Jeffrey Bullock fell and broke his right forearm, just above the wrist while skating at the Skate Center in Ft. Payne. At first, he thought that he would not be able to attend school, but his mum put him straight very quickly!

Apologies go to Mrs. Sandra Dixon who sent birthday wishes to her sister via the March issue of The Groundhog, only to find that it never made it into the paper. Sorry Sandra.

Congratulations to William and Mariam Bullock of Dog Town whose two residing grandchildren, Gary and Heather, will be doing their First Holy Communion on Mother's Day.

Prayers and get well wishes to Ernie Knight of Mentone who sustained quite severe back injuries while cutting a tree. As the tree fell, a branch hit him across the back. Then, to top it off, while he was trying to mount the steps of his home, Ernie fell and did tremendously more damage to his back. From last reports, he will probably be wheelchair-bound, but we hope not. There is a large amount of technology out there, now.

Joy Hester's Ice Cream Parlor is reopened in Valley Head. (See her ad elsewhere in The Groundhog for times the shop is open.)

Phyllis Lewis opened her new "This 'N That Shop" on Wednesday, May 1. She has new ladies' clothing and jewelry, and lots of good used clothing, as well as many other items. Her shop is located in Valley Head across from Citizens Bank. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Ken and Carol Busby have returned from a five-day cruise to Cosmell, Mexico. Traveling with 2000 other passengers, they were on the "Ecstasy," the largest of the Carnival Cruise Line ships. Ken won the trip through his insurance company and was the only salesman in his district to win a trip. While their parents were away, Kenny, Alisha, and Christopher stayed with grandmother Estelle Busby.

Everyone in the area is excited about the new Klassic Pizza that's opened in Hammondville beside Rock Castle Cafe. The subs and pizzas are delicious! (See ad elsewhere in The Groundhog.)

Congratulations to Tammy Hopper who made the Dean's List at Gadsden Business College for the winter quarter 1996. Also, kudos to honor students at Northeast: Tammy Cooper, Nagma Kham, Carrie Whited, Carolyn Wooten, Angela Carden, Michael Harper, and Judy Windon, all of Valley Head. From Mentone, academic honors were won by Matt Pilson, Jennifer Keith, and Karen Stelle.

Little Daniel Smith, son of L.A. and Lisa Smith, was taken to the hospital last week and put under the croup tent. His mother and daddy are tending him at home now.

Navy Ensign Val E. Schmidt recently graduated from the submarine Officer Basic course. Schmidt is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Schmidt, Mentone, Ala., owners of the Blossom Hill Bed and Breakfast.

Congratulations to Bill and Jo Ann Cash who were married 33 years on April 19.

It was with much sorrow that the Mentone community learned of the death of Butch Manifold's grandmother, Ruby Manifold, 81, who died April 26, 1996.

Marilyn Blanton Campbell left Mentone April 11 headed to the Fourth Annual Oxford Conference for the Book on the campus at Ole Miss (April 12-14) in Oxford, MS. John Berendt, author of Midnight In The Garden Of Good And Evil, was one of the speakers, and Marilyn actually got her copy of his book autographed. Hearing Berendt read was a highlight of the conference. Bailey White also read at the Conference for the Book, and Marilyn was fortunate enough to get copies of White's books, Mama Makes Up Her Mind And Other Dangers Of Southern Living, and Sleeping At The Starlite Motel And Other Adventures On The Way Back Home, auto-

graphed as well. Nancy Lusk did not attend the conference, but her copy of Bailey White's Mama Makes Up Her Mind, etc., did, and Marilyn was able to get it autographed, too. While attending the conference, Marilyn stayed in the lovely home of Mike and Judy Canerdy at Myrtle, MS, and arrived back in Mentone the morning of April 15.

Get well wishes go out to Jack Jones who fell off a ladder in Florida and had to have eight stitches taken in the back of his head. Hurry home, cowboy!

Welcome to Jerry and Marsha Cardwell, who have recently moved to Valley Head from Titusville, Fla.

Deepest sympathy to the families of:

- Evie Watson Blansit, 68, who died April 11, 1996.
- Vennie L. Pearce, 101, who died April 19, 1996.
- Dian King, 44, who died April 19, 1996.
- R.K. Lee, 78, who died April 21, 1996.
- Ruby Manifold, 81, who died April 26, 1996.

Happy Birthday: • 7, Jarrod Pellitier; • 8, James Wilborn; • 12, Van Moore; • 13, Blake Hulan, Charlotte Roden; • 15, Shirley Collins, Ruby Gifford, Tyler Blansit, Treavor Lewis; • 17, Beth Moore; • 23, Becky Mays, Lynn Owens, Glen and Wanda Black (anniversary); • 25, Clint Croston; • 28, Adrian Robertson; • 31, Rodney Bell.

In honor of Mother's Day, let me close with a favorite childhood poem my grandmother recited to me frequently. Maybe you remember this verse:

Which Loved Her Best?

"I love you, Mother," said little John;
Then forgetting his work, his cap went on,
And he was off to the garden swing,
Leaving his mother the wood to bring.

"I love you, Mother," said Rosy-nel,
"I love you better than tongue can tell,"
Then she teased and pouted full half the day,
Till her mother rejoiced when she went to play.

"I love you, Mother," said little Fan,
"Today, I'll help you all I can;
How glad I am that school doesn't keep!"
So she rocked the baby till it fell asleep.

Then, stepping softly, she took the broom,
And swept the floor and dusted the room,
Busy and happy all day was she,
Helpful and cheerful as child can be.

"I love you, Mother," again they said--
Three little children going to bed;
How do you think that Mother guessed
Which of them really loved her best?

Remember your mother, or someone who is like a mother to you, on **HER** day!

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THE ART OF THE DOWSER

By Ernest H. Smith

Over the years, the Lookout Mountain area, in Northeast Alabama, has had many fine dowsers. Even I can dower a well and have done so on several occasions. So, bear with me for I know something of what I write. As recent as 1985, I dowsed the spot for my own new well.

Dowsing is a method of using a divining rod to locate underground water for the purpose of drilling a well. Those who engage in this practice are called dowsers. Many people call this witching, including some dowsers, but that word is a misnomer. To use the word witching implies that witchcraft is involved. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The divining rod can be as simple as a single or forked switch of any wood you happen to fancy or one or two metal wires, tent hangers, work fence, or one or two metal rods. There are some more complicated and ornate appearing divining rods custom made for show. The embellishments serve no functional purpose, but do perhaps dazzle the spectators. The divining rod or rods are held by hand in a certain way as best shown by an experienced dowser.

The first thing that a dowser looks for, before he begins his task, are signs of water in the area to be searched. One good sign of water near the surface might be indicated by certain trees. Where trees are present that have lower limbs growing in a downward direction is a sure sign that a strong underground stream is nearby. I've seen this occurring in trees for some distance. The divining rod always agrees that water is nearby.

One theory behind this fact is that such limbs as described are nothing more than airborne roots reaching downward for life giving water. All plants, trees are large plants, have a tendency to grow roots in the direction of nearby water, as well as lean and grow in the direction of light.

When water is found, the divining rod will dip either slightly or strongly, depending on the size of the stream and the depth it lies beneath the surface. Of course, a stronger pull on the divining rod means a large stream near the surface.

The claim by some dowsers that each dip of the divining rod at the indicated spot for water, gives the number of feet to the water is pure quickery. Likewise, the claim by some dowsers that the mineral content of the underground water can be predetermined, (that is before the driller makes his tap), by certain methods, has not proven out.

Some dowsers do balance a copper penny on a stick and pass it over the dowsed spot for the well. If iron is present in the water, the stick is supposed to wiggle or bend or do this that or the other. The amount of wiggle is supposed to indicate the amount of iron in the water. Rarely do you see any wiggle at all, unless you count the wiggle these charlatans make in collecting their fee and bearing it before the results are known. They're probably afraid that the water might have so much iron that it would quicken the filings in your teeth before the dipper reaches your mouth.

Next, there are dowsers who claim that only certain people have the gift for using a divining rod. Some dowsers say that only one in each family in every seventh generation will have this gift. I don't know why they say this unless they're trying to boost their feeling of self importance or add mysticism to the practice of dowsing. Personally, I'm sure they've greatly exaggerated the rarity of people having the necessary qualities for becoming a dowser. Over the years I've seen a few people who couldn't seem to make a go of it, but the numbers were far too small to arrive at any estimate of percentages.

Women can become expert in dowsing which brings up an interesting fact. In thinking back over the years, I don't recall having seen a professional female dowser. This fact may be due to a throwback to that dark era when witch hunting was a favorite pastime. I don't think that any lady today would fancy being called a water witch. Even the legendary Granny Dollar didn't claim dowsing among her many talents, unless it might've been a part of her rain dance. (Granny Dollar was a part Cherokee Indian lady whose presence once graced our mountain area. In death, she has attained celebrity of legendary proportions, of which much has been written.)

How and why dowsing works is still as much a mystery as ever. Sure, there're many theories, but I don't think any of them hold water.

ing rod, it is still a living thing and is dipping to life giving water it so desperately needs. This has some logic about it, due to the grafting factor, until you remember that metal divining rods work just as well.

Another theory is that electrical pulses from the human body are passing through the metal divining rod seeking a watery ground. It's true that wet feet will sap energy from the body, but whether or not anything happens when you're high and dry is doubtful. In any case, that ole twig just mentioned works just as well and shows this theory down. We all know that wood is not a conductor of any electrical properties.

And, then there're a few dowsers who say that it's all just a case of mind over matter. They explain that certain people have a keen mind that emits brain waves in search of the object they desire. If this were true, I'm sure they'd be looking for something besides water. Anyway, while all dowsers I've known were of average intelligence, none would likely qualify as a rocket scientist.

In mentioning scientist, I'm reminded that all members of the scientific world discount dowsing as pure "hawg wash", which doesn't bother me all that much. Some scientists seem to take a perverse pleasure in further confusing a troublesome issue, even when the proof slaps them in the face.

You must wonder by now why I accept some aspects of dowsing while discounting others, since none of it can be proven by any logical explanation. The answer is that I go by the track record. Dowsing has a high rate of accuracy while some of the other things do not. Also, when I take up a divining rod and search a large area and feel and see it dip time after time and day after day at a particular spot, I know that something is happening.

The first time I used it, I'd hoped to dispense it, since I'd never believed in it. It worked for me, and I couldn't deny it. I've been a convert ever since.

If any reader has a theory about how dowsing works, I'd like to hear it. Perhaps you know the truth.

In summary, I'll leave all the theories to others. The fact that it does work has been very beneficial to mankind. Although fewer wells are being drilled at this time, piped water being available in many areas, the services of a good dowser are still needed from time to time. Hopefully, it will never become a lost art.

Once there was a time when a good dowser could draw a fair sized crowd of spectators. Some dowsers would add a flair or "ham it up" for the purpose of entertaining the small crowd. I've seen some of the younger more acrobatic dowsers do back flips pretending that the pull on the divining rod was yanking them this way, that way, and the other. Of course, when the divining rod dipped to water, the spectators would always clap.

Can you imagine people in this day and time going to a dowser? It's amazing how little it once took to entertain folks. Of course, this was before the days of the one thousand and one things they now pursue.

In going back again to my own experience in dowsing the well I needed in 1985, I engaged a driller who had the pneumatic rotary type drill that can drill a well in a matter of hours instead of the days or even weeks it takes the old up and down churn drill.

My driller happened to be a man who swore by dowsing and wouldn't set his drill until the correct spot had been found by a dowser.

I told him that I'd already dowsed the spot and that this was where I wanted my well. Nevertheless, he brought in his own dowser to check the area. I'd never seen this dowser before and he wasn't told that any dowsing had taken place. None of the places I'd found water had been marked. Yet, he immediately found every one of these spots, and marked the spot where I'd found the strongest stream. This should convince even "Old Doubting Thomas" that dowsing has some credibility.

My driller then began to sink his well.

At about sixty feet, he hit a stream he couldn't completely blow out, and estimated the well input at about 35-45 GPM. He went on down to eighty feet in order to have plenty of depth for the pump and a reservoir of water.

The driller told me that it was the best well he'd drilled in more than ten years. His dowser got the fifty bucks, but I didn't mind. I was pleased to get such a good well.

Miss Spring Fantasy Beauty Pageant Winners

April 20, 1996

DIVISION ONE:

Winner: Allie Blalock
1st Runner Up: Andrea Bray
2nd Runner Up: Allie Rhodes
Photogenic: Andrea Lynn Bray

DIVISION TWO:

Winner: Rebecca Bradbury
1st Runner Up: Megan Bray
2nd Runner Up: Arden Shanklin
Photogenic: Kayla Peek

DIVISION THREE:

Winner: Paige Ashby
1st Runner Up: Bryanna Poore
2nd Runner Up: Dustie Nix
Photogenic: Paige Ashby

DIVISION FOUR:

Winner: Charles Lofly
1st Runner Up: David Atkins
2nd Runner Up: Alex Whatley
Photogenic: none

DIVISION FIVE:

Winner: Shainee Smith
1st Runner Up: Jessica Templeton
2nd Runner Up: Patti Grider
Photogenic: Jessica Templeton
Spirit: Tiffany Keef

DIVISION SIX:

Winner: Samantha Rhondes
1st Runner Up: Brandi Hawkins
2nd Runner Up: Amber Carrier
Photogenic: Brandi Hawkins

DIVISION SEVEN:

Winner: Almeda Parker
1st Runner Up: Autumn Cook
2nd Runner Up: Jacklyn Davis
Photogenic: Almeda Parker

DIVISION EIGHT:

Winner: Stacey Hyde
1st Runner Up: Ashley Hultem
2nd Runner Up: Sharve Jenkins
Photogenic: Beth Shirley

DIVISION NINE:

Winner: Anna Rieley
1st Runner Up: Brooke Garrett
2nd Runner Up: April Pierce
Photogenic: Tricia Goodman
Academic: Valerie Chappell
Congeniality: Valerie Chappell

DIVISION TEN:

Winner: Terri Campbell
1st Runner Up: Wendy Hyde
2nd Runner Up: Jennifer Robertson
Photogenic: Terri Campbell
Academic: Wendy Hyde
Congeniality: Brandi Shirley

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About Our Town

By
LINDA BROWN



Spring has finally arrived and it was certainly worth waiting for! Everything is sooooo green and the flowers that did manage to bloom have really outdone themselves. With the new leaves and flowers always come the tourists and summer people, so there are more people in Mentone now. We need to be especially watchful for bikers and joggers, they are sure to be more plentiful as camp season opens.

I realize that spring has come when I start to think that this will probably be my last article until fall. The camping season is really getting geared up. What was set in stone this winter now is being changed daily. You could not believe the impact that the Olympics in Atlanta are making on the camping in Mentone. Some sessions that usually fill up before Christmas have just now filled. Parents are telling me daily that they will probably come and get their camper for a day or two to attend some Olympic event. Some campers have canceled because they are in the opening ceremonies and they must practice for three weeks in advance. The only reason for missing a practice must be accompanied by a written doctor's excuse. The latest was a change in sessions because the Olympic committee wanted to test their equipment for swim meets in Birmingham on the local swim teams. This camper was on the swim team and, therefore, this would all affect him. Mentone is sure to have more people coming through because Highway 117 is the shortest way to Atlanta from a lot of places. If you don't think that this is true, count the "eighteen wheelers" on 117 on any given day.

Many things are going on in Mentone right now. Some of it good and some not so good. But we'll get through it one way or another. Mentonians are a hardy stock and it takes a lot to get them down. One important thing that will happen this year is the election of a mayor and city council. This is a hard and often thankless job. I hope that we will have several candidates for each office. Watch for dates and more details later. I'm sure that The Groundhog will cover the campaigns and election thoroughly.

Speaking of politics, I've already seen some signs for county candidates posted on road right-of-ways. This can pose a hazard if they obstruct the driver's view or even if they divert the driver's attention trying to read them. If you think that the signs are in an inappropriate place, remember the name and consider not voting for that person. One sure way to stop this is to let the candidates know that this is costing them votes.

I want to take this time to thank all of you who have told me that you enjoy this article. Sometimes it's easy to think of a subject and sometimes you go to the well and the bucket comes up dry. Sometimes things happen that are easy and fun to discuss and then things happen that cannot be discussed. I enjoy writing the article but I would like more input from all of you. Tell me what you like and don't like. I'll try to change the format to your liking.

Take care of yourselves and enjoy the summer. I'll be back in the September issue. I love you all.

GARDEN HINTS

By Madeleine Bullock

A great way to save space in the garden is to stake or trellis some of your vegetable plants. For that, you will need a 4'-6' long stake and tie the main stem at 1 inch intervals as the stem grows. Apparently, this works best on cucumbers when you plant American cultivars. To trellis this type of cucumber, erect a 5' feet tall wire trellis down the center of a 4'-5' wide row; then plant the cucumber seeds on either side of the trellis; then train them to climb the trellis.

Now a little word of experienced advice on using the wire trellis, one year I did use it and I did get a bumper crop of the little picklers that my family and I prefer, but I lost the vines after a particularly violent thunder and lightening storm. They got fried!

If you plan on having more than a couple of tomato vines and staking takes up a lot of time, another easier way is coralling them. Set your stakes every 10 feet along a row where the tomatoes are planted or you plan to plant them, rather than tie them to the stakes; rope them in using rolls of seam binding or baler twine or old sheets torn into strips. Here's how to "rope" them in:

●1. Tie the "rope" onto the first stake; ●2. extend it down the row on one side of the plants to the next stake; ●3. wrap the rope around the stake, landing it out on the opposite side of the plants. ●4. Continue extending the rope down the row on this side of the plants to the next stake; ●5. wrap the rope around this stake, landing it out on the opposite side. Continue in this serpentine pattern to the end of the row. ●6. Make the return trip back up the row, working on the opposite sides so that the plants are enclosed with rope on both sides.

SPRAYS AND DUSTS

Usually, when you spray insecticides on the plant, it just drips and rolls off the leaves; and when you dust with powders it goes practically everywhere except where you want it to go. If you are in the mood to try another way, this one should work, it's reported to, anyway. Put your powder in an old cotton sock, then go out in the early morning and just shake the sock over and between the plants you want covered. At this time of the daytime, leaves are covered with dew, and the powder that comes through the sock is very fine and slowly floats down and all around the plant, and sticks to the droplets of dew, even the underneath gets coated.

Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) may be one of the most effective broad-spectrum, environmentally safe fungicides known. It's effective against a wide range of fungi and has been successfully tested as a bicarbonate spray on a variety of vegetables, including squash, cucumbers, melons, pumpkins, and tomatoes. Tests indicate that the mixture—a simple solution of baking soda, water and horticultural oil—controls powdery mildew, leaf blight, gummy stem, anthracnose, leaf spot, and even early blight on tomatoes. It was found to be a very effective protectant and eradicator for both black spot and powdery mildew on roses. To make your own "plant bicarb," mix 2-3 teaspoons of baking soda in one gallon of water along with 2-3 tablespoons of ultra fine horticultural oil (Baking soda alone is effective, but adding oil improves the results. The oil helps the spray to stick to the leaves and also clears pathogens from the feeding parts of aphids.) Use the spray as soon as you see signs of fungal infection on a plant. Apply it once every five to seven days, and continue the treatments as long as there are signs of infections.

It is reported that excellent results are gotten with this recipe

for a homemade insecticidal spray for aphids, whiteflies and spider mites: ●Prepare a concentrate by combining one tablespoon of liquid dishwashing detergent with one cup of vegetable cooking oil. To make the spray, mix one to two-and-a-half teaspoons of the oil/detergent mixture with one cup of water. Apply the spray to infested plants once every seven days. Vegetable oil can cause phytotoxic (poisonous to plants) burn on some plants—particularly cabbage, cauliflower, and squash plants. With those plants, use a lower concentration of oil or just use soap solution alone.

Isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol) is one of the most effective and most overlooked insect sprays around, most sprays are water-based and just roll off the backs of insects. But alcohol penetrates the bugs' waxy cuticles and leaves them susceptible to all sorts of things—if nothing else, they lose body moisture and die. It is effective against mealybugs, whiteflies, red spider mites, aphids, fungus gnats, and scales. For a whole-plant spray, combine 1-2 cups of rubbing alcohol with 1 quart of water. Test spray a small area on one plant first, wait a day, then check for any damage to plants. Rubbing alcohol also increases the effectiveness of insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils—add one-half to one cup of it to one quart of spray. Remember the "rule of 140"—if you are thinking of spraying your plants with horticultural oil or some other oil-based spray, add the outdoor temperature in Fahrenheit to the relative humidity in percentage, if the total is 140 or more, wait for a cooler or less humid day to spray, as high temps with high humidity have a big determining effect on whether plants will suffer phytotoxic burn after they've been sprayed.

There's a new use for lime in the garden: pest control. A hundred years ago, they used coal dust, toad dust, ashes, etc., etc. (any dusty product) as a pest control, so an organic vegetable farmer tried hydrated lime, and a tool was also made that delivers a fine dusting very quickly. About a dozen or so holes were punched in the bottom of a 3-pound coffee can and duct tape was used to attach the can to a tomato stake about one and a half feet from the bottom. The can is filled with the lime and covered with the plastic top, then it is stamped next to plants as you walk down the row. Again, it's best done early in the morning when the leaves are still coated in dew. The hydrated lime is reported to control flea beetles, cucumber beetles, squash bugs, and Colorado potato beetles. Be careful on summer squash, the lime can burn it. It helps your sweet potato vines from marauding deer. NOTE: hydrated lime is caustic to eyes and skin. If used, be sure to wear appropriate protective gear as you would with insecticidal or fungicidal spray or dust. Please be sure to protect yourself whenever you use ANY kind of chemicals, whether you think it safe or not, one never knows when an allergic reaction may occur.

Well, I hope that you all had a wonderful Easter holiday and all the kids are looking forward to the summer holidays. I know that I am, as maybe then I will get to sleep a little longer in the mornings; but then that's the best time for garden chores—before the heat flattens you and tries to liquefy your flesh, and the humidity keeps you with a perpetually blocked or stuffy nose. The hot moist air fills your lungs, and you wish that you appreciated more that short spell in the sauna years ago, (when you used to go to them to get moistured up—when you lived in a high altitude place) at least you knew that you could put an end to that stickiness whenever YOU wanted.



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Ralph Hammond Hammond and Van Gogh

Submitted by Mary Holleman

and taken from an article written by David Moore, *The Arab Tribune*, dated Jan. 17, 1996

For Ralph Hammond, the man who is the immediate past poet laureate of Alabama and is serving a second consecutive term as President of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, writing a book of poems on Vincent Van Gogh and exploring the painter's life through the word art of poetry was almost a matter of destiny.

Hammond is writing a volume of poems on Van Gogh, his absolute favorite among a number of favorite artists. It's a tour by free verse and sonnet of a life most strange and tragically ironic. It's a project that has been begging Hammond's exploration for 60 years or more.

To date, Hammond, a resident of Arab, has composed 23 poems for his Van Gogh project, writing them sporadically when the spirit hits him. Most of them center on particular events in the artist's life.

Now, Hammond is reaching a point in the project when he wants to draw a time line of Van Gogh's life and fit poems into the most pertinent and interesting holes left to fill. At last count, he has come up with 21 ideas for possible future poems.

"Indeed,
every poem is a journey,
every journey is a poem."

"The Journey Begins," final lines.



May 1987 - (L/R) 1st row: Dowe Clifton, Dewey Scott, Regina Galloway, Kent Kerby
2nd row: Carl Jones, Suzan Jones, and Mark Galloway (Photo submitted by Jane Galloway)

Auction

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From the Collection of Grady Hammond AUTHENTICATED CIVIL WAR STORIES



ADVANCE THE FLAG OF DIXIE

On the morning of May 6, 1864, as the Battle of the Wilderness wore into its second day, Federal troops smashed through Robert E. Lee's line along the Plank Road. While Lee rallied his panicked men, James Longstreet's Corps arrived in the literal "nick of time." Taking position near the colors of the 5th Texas, bullets zipping about his head, Lee personally attempted to lead the Texas brigade into battle. The enlisted men, however, would not permit it. "Lee to the rear" they shouted. He did as they wished, and the Texans charged into the fray, buying 15 minutes of precious time for the Army of Northern Virginia.

Happy Birthday ☺ Happy Birthday



Sarah Lauro

Sarah Lauro was three years old on April 16. She is the daughter of John and Lorelei Lauro of Springfield, Va. Sarah has an older brother, Justin, an older sister, Kara, and a younger sister, Kristen, born 12/12/95. Her grandmother is Marie Dillenbeck of Mentone, and her great grandmother is Dorothy Shelden of Las Cruces, NM.



Hunter Stone

Hunter Stone celebrated his 3rd birthday on March 16, with a Batman party at DeSoto State Park with all his friends and family. He received many great gifts, a fishing pole, and roller blades being his favorites.

Hunter's parents are Barry and Wendy Stone of Mentone. His grandparents are Gary and Cathy Crow of Mentone and Joe and Mary Stone of Fort Payne.

He has two great grandmothers, Bea Crow of Mentone and Jewell Hilyer of Fort Payne.



Hunter Willbanks

Hunter Nathaniel Willbanks, son of Tony and Leah Willbanks, will turn 1 year old on May 29th. His grandparents are Darrell and Nancy Kelley of Gaylesville, the late Tony Sharp of Mentone, Roger and Henrietta Willbanks of Fyffe, and Kay Willbanks of Valley Head.



Lindsay Huff and Katie Huff

Lindsay Huff celebrated her birthday on April 9. Lindsay's younger sister, Katie has a birthday herself in May. Her parents are Steve and Barbara Huff of Cleveland, Tn. They are the nieces of Bill and Velendia Miracle of Valley Head.



Alex Blackburn

Alex Blackburn will be 4 years old on May 5, 1996. Her parents are Al and Vickie Blackburn of Mentone. Grandparents are William Blackburn of Mentone; Helen and Winford Crabtree of Ft. Payne; Jim and Martha Gaines of Dalton, Ga.; and Albert and Toni Stone of Calhoun, Ga. She has an older brother, Wil.



It's a Beautiful Girl!

Melanie DeAnne Potts of Valley Head announces with pride the birth of her daughter, Anna Jensen Potts, born January 2, 1996, at BMC DeKalb. She weighed 6 lb. 14 oz and was 19-1/2" long. Her happy grandparents are Eugene and Karen Potts of Valley Head and great-great grandparents are Naomi and the late Hoyt Potts of Mentone, and Betty and the late Lonnie Killebrew of Cadiz, Ky.



It's a Girl!

Shane and Cindy Grider of Valley Head would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Sydnee "Paige." She was born February 12, 1996, at BMC DeKalb, and weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. Paige has one big-brother, Justin (6), and a big sister Patti (4).

Cissy and Johnny Crider announce the birth of their daughter, Josey Marie Crider. She was born on April 11, 1996, the same day of the month as Juanita Oliver, her great grandmother's birthday. She has a brother, Marus (4). Her grandparents are the late Leon Crider and Bessie and Slue. Her great, great, great grandmother is Ruby Young of Sulphur Springs.



Trey Galloway

Trey Galloway, son of Tory Galloway, turned 8 years old on March 2nd.



Kaleigh Galloway

Kaleigh Galloway turned 6 years old on March 19. She is the daughter of Tory Galloway.

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BROW ROAD #89 NORTH OF MENTONE 7.6 acres with 240 ft. of brow frontage. Has been surveyed and perked. Includes a wet weather waterfall. All for \$33,500.

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Rhododendrons by the River

(This seasonal article and others to follow are from a scrap book belonging to long-time Mentone resident Mary Wiegand. The large scrapbook of her favorite seasonal articles by various authors was found recently in a storage chest at Madapercu by Don & Yvonne Brock.)

They stand out in radiant, flame-like loveliness against the background of hemlocks—coral, white, rose-colored, magenta, lavender, rich purple, clustered around the Little River. There is a cool, damp smell of woods after a hard shower. The ferns are particularly lush and luxuriant. The sun is struggling out from behind the gray clouds, but the atmosphere is still reminiscent of the rain in its clean, pungent fragrance; in the sound of the winds in the evergreens, like the surf at sea; in the noisy clamor of the clear Little River, breaking in cascades over its stones, and in the multitudinous song and chatter of the birds, vying with this energetic stream in happy rivalry.

Rhododendron, Rose-Tree; a beautiful name for this queenly shrub. That which seems a little way off to be a single flower—an especially richly petaled rose—is itself made up of a whole cluster of blossoms, fragile, lily-like, of exquisite texture. There is one bush which at first seems pure white (and so one would expect it to be from its name - album elegans), but as we examine it searchingly, as the golden butterfly or the great furry bee that is just now penetrating to the heart of one, we find it is not snow-white, but the most delicate, indescribable shade of lilac or mauve (its closed buds, indeed, a deep violet), and within, on the upper petal, are innumerable little golden flecks, with stamens and a pistil vivid and rose-tipped.

Suddenly a breeze lifts the blossoms and tosses them lightly, like spray on the crest of a wave, bringing out new delicate, iridescent hues, giving new brightness to the glossy foliage, with its young leaves emerging in clumps of a paler green. Beyond, up the river, extend the mountain laurels; they are mostly in bud, as yet, but the buds with their intricate flutings are little miracles of coral, like rare sea-shells, though, when they are open, they will be colored the faintest pink. Across the path, a golden-orange azalea glows and burns like a flame, and further up the hill, there are conflagrations of them flashing out from the darker foliage.

But, it is down in the hollow by the river that one lingers longest, amid the violets and rose colors and purples. And, as one turns away reluctantly, with backward glances, one gets the full beauty of them clustered at the foot of the hemlock-covered hill—that mass of deep green, somber, save the pale green spring tips of the branches. Against this background the fragile blossoms, swayed by the wind, wooed by bees and butterflies, fling out their challenge of fleeting, but long-to-be-remembered, loveliness.

North DeKalb Ministerial Association

By Don Brock

The North DeKalb Ministerial Association was inspired by Psalms 133:1-2 (A Song of degrees of David.) "Behold, how good and how pleasant [it is] for brethren to dwell together in unity! [It is] like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, [even] Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments."

The Association was formed between churches and ministers in the area to promote Christian fellowship. All ministers are invited to participate in the Association. Open membership meetings are held regularly. These meetings are a good time of food, fellowship, planning, and prayer. All interested churches and ministers are encouraged to inquire through any of the officers or members (President Don Brock 634-4164, or Vice President Gary Moore 635-0032).

The North DeKalb Ministerial Association is pleased to participate in the "Christmas for Children" each year. Be watching for other community activities involving the churches and ministers of North DeKalb County.

With a purpose of promoting fellowship among churches and ministers outside the city of Fort Payne, throughout north DeKalb county, annual community services include Easter, National Day of Prayer, Baccalaureate, and Thanksgiving.

I hope all local readers, joined together as one Nation under God for the 45th annual National Day of Prayer, May 2, 1996, held at 6:30 p.m. in Mentone Brow Park. As we honor God, He promises to hear and answer our prayers. This is a time of concerted intercession to ask for the Lord's blessings on America. It is a time to unite with us and encourage others in your community to celebrate this unique and wonderful opportunity to glorify Him. "All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord." Psalm 86:9 (NIV) Join with Americans across the country to celebrate our fundamental religious freedom to pray.

The next regular Association meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 9, 1996, 12:00 noon, at the Kountry Chef Restaurant in Mentone. The meeting will focus on the Alabama School Prayer Law and the pending DeKalb County litigation. All interested parties are invited to attend.



Lisa Huskey and Steve Patterson

Lisa Huskey and Steve Patterson celebrated their 5th year anniversary on 3-16-96. They live in Hermitage, TN. Steve is employed by: American General Life Accident Insurance Co. Lisa is employed by: Special Promotions, Inc. Parents are Robert B. Huskey, Joyce Huskey of Mentone, Ala., and Charles and Marie Hampton of Nicksin, TN., and the late Steve Patterson of Memphis, TN.

Lisa Huskey Patterson celebrated her birthday on 3-2-96. She is 27 years old.



Robert B. and Joyce Huskey

The families of the Huskeys and friends wish Robert B. and Joyce Huskey a very Happy Anniversary on April 16. And many more to come! We love you both.



Joyce Hemphill Huskey celebrated her young birthday on April 13. Many more!

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The Church News

By
EVELYN GRAVES



fellowship dinner following the service and more singing in the afternoon. There will be no service that Sunday evening. •The regular schedule for services is Sunday School at 10 a.m., worship service at 11 a.m., discipleship training at 6 p.m., and evening worship at 7 p.m. Wednesday evening prayer service is at 6:30 p.m. RAs, GAs, and Acteens meet at 5 p.m. alternately with the Youth Choir on Wednesday evenings. •There is a singing every second Sunday night at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited for this special time.

Anyone interested in joining the Church of God of Prophecy softball or volleyball teams, please call Donna Brock at 634-4164. •Pastor Brock is directing the Alabama Men's Retreat May 3-4, 1996, at Camp Boothe near Birmingham. All men, age 16 and up, are invited to attend. Call the church at 634-4459. •The church is sponsoring a golf tournament at Lil Mole Run in Mentone Saturday, May 11, 1996. Call 634-4459, 634-4164, or 634-4438. •A very special program is planned at the church for Mother's Day, May 12, 1996. Everyone is invited to attend. •Be sure to visit our booth at the Rhododendron Festival in the Brow Park. Stop for a meal, cake or pie, or just say hello.

Mentone Revival Center celebrated several birthdays in April. We celebrated a very special birthday Sunday, April 21, after our morning church service. Our new Pastor Junior Fleming received a surprise birthday dinner. Most of his family attended church with him that Sunday morning. One of his family members received a healing in our service Sunday morning, and Sister Linda Hall received healing in her hands also. The Lord is really moving and blessing at Mentone Revival Center. •The ladies are planning a yard sale and a bake sale on May the 18th below Sister Polly Chambers house on Hwy. 117. There will be lots of items, so come by and see our goods. The proceeds will go towards our building fund. •We are also planning a trip to Lake Winnepesauka for the whole church. This trip will be to celebrate the birthdays of Miles Bagley, Audrey Ginnery, and Megan Smith. We would like for anyone out there who might read this to come by and visit with us and worship with us. •We also have a Christian Daycare at Mentone Revival Center. If you need child care, come by and check our facilities. The hours for Daycare are from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday. •Our Sunday school is at 10 a.m.; morning service starts at 11 a.m.; evening service starts at 6 p.m.; Wed. night service is at 6:30 p.m. •We also would like to wish each and every Mother out there a very Happy Mothers Day. See the special Mother's Day poem on this page. It is a special poem for all mothers.

Several members of the Mentone United Methodist Church will be attending the Folk Festival at Camp Sumatanga Saturday, May 4. All those who are going will be leaving at 10 a.m. and should bring \$1.00 for the entrance fee and some spending money for lunch and activities. Everyone is welcome to come. •The UMW meets Thursday, May 9, at 2 p.m., in the fellowship hall. Catherine Bailey has the program, "All are God's Children." Dr. Pat Seymour has the refreshments. This is a change from the regular schedule. The June 6th meeting will be a covered dish lunch at Hope Walker's. •The Methodist Conference has assigned Rev. Bill Giddons, a retired minister, Gadsden, Ala. He will be arriving in June.

J.O.Y.

The Just Older Youth will meet on Thursday, May 23, at 11:30 AM, at the Moon Lake Baptist Church fellowship hall. Please bring a covered dish and a friend and enjoy the meal and fellowship. This is a non-denominational, community-wide function, and you are invited!

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To My Mother In Heaven

Dedicated to Elizabeth Ann Stephens

Mom, we sure love you and miss you, too,
If only you were here, the things we could do.
So, Mom, as you're looking down from Heaven above,
I know you'll see we all miss your sweet love;
As it was about two years ago when you gave up this life,
And left my dad longing for his dear wife.
Now, on this Mother's Day, as it draws near,
without a doubt in our Hearts you'll be here.
So, Happy Mother's Day, Mom, as life goes on,
Because you'll still be in our hearts
when this Mother's Day is gone.

From: Joseph, Jerome and Michael Stephens

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is set aside
to honor motherhood,
A role which never quite receives
the praises that it should...
It's a day when we feel grateful
for all that mothers do
to make our lives more comfortable,
more pleasant for us, too...
It's a day for realizing
how much they've always cared,
How much they have sacrificed
and how much they have shared...
It's a day when we recall the love
they've never failed to show...
It's a day we want to tell them
We appreciate them so.

With warm thoughts and special wishes
on this Mother's Day!!

Submitted by
Mentone Revival Center

REACH FOR YOUR DREAMS

A dream is a magical thing
You can mount upon a wing
And soar over everything
You can climb so high
Until you touch the sky
Take a shuttle into space
Or fly to a far away place

Explore the oceans deep and wide
Till you reach the other side
Fulfill your wildest dreams
And hope for everything
Look through a rainbow
Wish upon a star
Never forget how special you are.

There's always a special place
For everyone in the human race
Follow your dreams everyone
Look for them in the setting sun
Give praise to our Father above
His love comes on the wings of a dove.

Jeremy Dupree
(dedicated to my mother)

Moon Lake Baptist Church will have a Ladies' Spring Celebration on May 11, with food, singing, an exciting program, and a fashion show. The men will serve and clean up afterwards. •The deacons and yokefellows are meeting each Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. to listen to a tape entitled, "Ministry That Works." •The Annie Armstrong Easter offering was \$2000.00 this year. •Children's Church got off to a great start. Any child who needs to be picked up for this program may call the pastor or Kathy Young. •The children and grandchildren of Mrs. Alma Crabtree invite all friends and relatives to attend her 90th birthday celebration on May 12 between 2-4 p.m. at the church fellowship hall.

There will be a children's program at the Mentone Wesleyan Church on Sunday, May 5, at 6 p.m., with refreshments in the fellowship hall following the program. The children will be in charge of the entire service. •On Mother's Day, there will be a special Mother's Day observance honoring all mothers in the service. There will be no service that evening, so time may be spent with the mothers.

The UMW of the Valley Head Methodist Church will meet on May 7 with Adelaide Biddle. Venna Livingston will be in charge of the program. •Sunday School is at 9 a.m. every Sunday and Worship is at 10 a.m. Visitors are welcome.

The Valley Head Baptist Church will have a revival May 5-8, at 6:30 p.m., nightly. Dr. Charles Jenkins, pastor, will be the evangelist, and DeVann Jackson will conduct the music. The puppets will perform on two of the nights. •On May 11, there will be a Mother-Daughter banquet at 6 p.m. with a guest speaker. •On May 26, the church will have a gospel group, "Heartfelt" in the evening service at 6 p.m.

St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church observed National Day of Prayer on May 2. •A seminar on preparing to greet a new minister will be held on Saturday, May 11, at 2 p.m., and on Sunday, May 12, at 9 a.m. •On Sunday, May 26, worship will be at 9 a.m. for that day only. Bishop Stough will be present for confirmation of children and adults. •The regular schedule at St. Joseph's is Sunday School at 9 a.m., with 30 minutes for fellowship from 10 to 10:30 a.m., and Worship is at 10:30 a.m. •Communion is observed on a regular basis on Wednesday, at 12 noon.

The Mentone Church of God will have a Men's Fellowship meeting on Sunday, May 5, at 5 p.m. The Men's Fellowship will be sponsoring a community picnic on Saturday, May 25, at 2 p.m., at the church. There will be a bonfire that night. •The church will participate in the Bankhead decoration service on May 26.

Howard's Chapel (The Church in the Rock) holds worship services each Sunday at 10 a.m. Visitors are always invited to attend the worship services and to visit the chapel at other times. Vacation clothes are fine for the service.

Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church invites you to attend their services at 9 a.m. each Sunday morning. Reverend Jerry Davis and Reverend L. A. Smith are the speakers on alternate Sundays.

There will be a revival at the Union Hill Baptist Church May 12-16, at 7 p.m., with Reverend Roger Graham from Nazareth Baptist Church speaking each evening. There will be special music in each service. Everyone is invited to attend. •May 5th is the annual Homecoming. There will be a special service on that date. Reverend Jeff Fuller, former pastor, will be bringing the message in the morning service. There will be a

Pictorial Review of Moon Lake



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MOON LAKE SCHOOL NEWS

By Evelyn Graves

Dr. Bill Berry would like to express appreciation to all the parents, grandparents, and other relatives and friends who assisted students and teachers during Moon Lake School's first annual Earth Day celebration.

Together, these people and the students and staff of Moon Lake began the ongoing development of an ecosystem study area. Also involved in the project are the Rhododendron Garden Club, Boy Scout Troop 106, and Friends of Little River. The ecocenter will encompass a butterfly garden and a natural wetland near the school's gym.

Ann and Bill Wright were presented a plaque in recognition of their inspiration toward and their active participation in the genesis of this project.

Awards Day will be Monday, May 27, at 8 a.m. Kindergarten graduation is Friday, May 31, at 9 a.m., and 6th grade graduation is Saturday, June 1, at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited to come to these three events which will be held in the school gym.

The next PTO meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the school.

There was a good turnout at the spring festival on Saturday, April 27. There were festival type games. The favorites were the dunking booths. Several of the teachers were dunked, along with Dudley Easter. Delicious grilled food was served, a Maypole dance was performed by the fifth and sixth grade girls. A puppet show, "Rick and Roger" was presented by Karen and Richard Powell, Garnett Smith, and Glenda Ingram. Everyone had a good time, and all the proceeds will go to building a new fence around the playground.



Dr. Bill Berry's Sixth Grade class planting their first tree. The 6th grade class will plant a tree each year on Earth Day.



School's 1996 Earth Day Activities



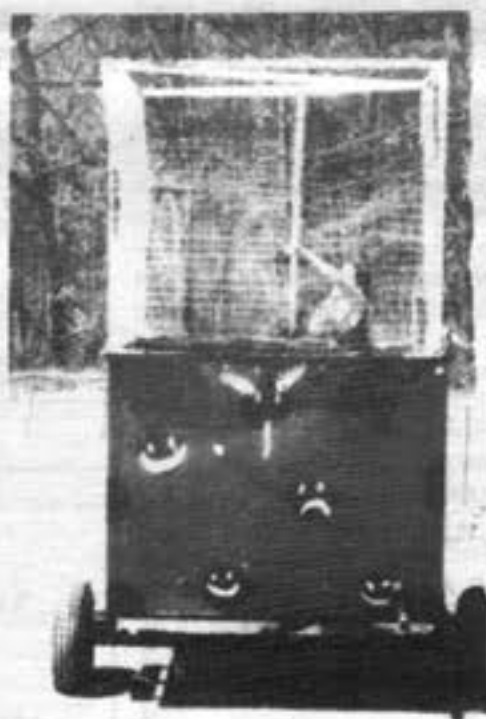
WE'VE GROWN

in provided by Connie Hughes, PTO. president) have grown. Notice improvements in the school building and in several new buildings. The main school building is the building provided by DeKalb County, completed for the most part and in use for the school year. The larger new lunchroom, also provided by the county, has been in use since March. Becky is proud of the new facility. Just as the school property is another building, the Headstart Program. It is not far from the school. The new program in our community center, with parents and teachers from Moon

new school bus to get the children to school. Never content with what we have, we are forever striving for new things for the children. New restrooms are to be added to the rear of the building, and a new wing for all the buildings.

is the most recent addition. In the gym, this is a project that has a lot of planning and a lot of people have been a joint effort of the Garden Club, Boy scout Troop 106, the students, teacher, parents, and community workers. It is a work in progress. Basically a garbage dump and a place for the children and the adults. We have an outdoor classroom and give children the opportunity to experience the way things grow in harmony in nature.

Flowers shown on these two pages are the result of the planting in the ecocenter. Adult volunteers, including parents, are helping the classes in the planting process. The ongoing project.



Donnis Barkley being dunked at the Spring Fest at Moon Lake on Saturday, April 27.

—THANK YOU—

The Rhododendron Garden Club, the Moon Lake PTO, the students, the teachers, parents, Boy Scout Troop #106, would all like to extend a big THANK YOU to Tommy Gifford for all the work he has done to make the ecocenter possible. He has spent many hours moving the dirt, cleaning up the area with his heavy equipment, and in general, donating his time to this worthy project.

THANKS!!

Moon Lake School Honor Rolls

5th Six Weeks

1st GRADE

All A's

Barnabas Bettis
Mark Corey
Melissa Crane
Erica Cryer
Michael Hawkins
Alex Hazell
Katie Herndon
Julie Ingram
Justin Smith

A's & B's

Logan Chambers
Whitney LaBuda
Phillip McNutt
John Meadows
Jacob Meadows
Heather Phillips
Jed Platt
Justin Scott
Kelly Swindall
Angel Wesley

2nd GRADE

All A's

Jared Bare
Katie Gray
Marie Hunt
Sarah Hurt
Kellye Phillips
Emily Tipton
Cayla Voils

A's & B's

John Baxter
Laura Floyd
Melissa Harrison
Lori Hope
Tyler Huskey
Brandy Manning
Kirby McMunn
Joshua Rogers
Phillip Waller

3rd GRADE

All A's

Fawn Kitchens
Andrew McCole

Amanda Johnson

Keith Miller
Matt Hawkins
Joshua Smith
Rachel Bryan

A's & B's

Kristen Addison
Colby Baty
Erica Campbell
Paul Davis
Sarah Dodd
Catrina Ingram
Kelly Wright
Emily Platt
Jessica Meadows

4th GRADE

All A's

Emmy Corey

A's & B's

Kim Brisendine
Kyle Hooks
Ashley LaBuda
Ashley McSpadden
Donna Daniel

5th GRADE

All A's

Tiffany Bare
Stuart Hurt
Kerri McMunn
Kiley Young

A's & B's

Justin Dingler
Joshua Hughes
Kelly Owen

6th GRADE

All A's

Ben Corey
Jana Goss

A's & B's

Tessie Baty
Jerry Lee Brisendine
Peter Hurt
Eddie Manning



A Friendly Valley View

By
ELOISE BROWN

If you noticed that last month's column was better and more interesting than usual, it was because it was written by friends, who pitched in and did it for me. Everyone has been so thoughtful and good to me. I appreciate every kind deed and every prayer so much.

Everyone knows that DeVann Jackson has a beautiful voice, and it is a joy to hear him sing. Would you believe that his pastor, Dr. Charles Jenkins, stopped him in the middle of a song at the song service at the Valley Head Baptist Church, and told him to quit singing! You can imagine his shock! Of course, his shock became joy when he discovered the service had turned into a surprise reception honoring him for his graduation from University of Alabama at Huntsville. He received his B.S. degree in Computer Science at the Braun Civic Center in Huntsville, April 20. Several from Valley Head attended the ceremony.

Congratulations and best wishes to Vesta Hawkins who celebrated her 92d birthday on April 24. Nancy Hawkins came from Birmingham and spent several days, and her granddaughter, Lynn Roberts, and children, from Memphis spent the day with her.

Gladys Cobble has returned from Greenville, S.C., where she attended the wedding of her granddaughter Miriam Cobble to James Currie Spivey, April 3. After their honeymoon trip, they had their reception at the Peace Center Amphitheater in Greenville, which was attended by Ruth Pickett, and Helen Bracken and Becky and Nicole Stott.

Among those enjoying the Senior Citizens' Prom on Sat., April 6, at the Fort Payne High School Gym, were Ruth and Bert Pickett, Priscilla and Willard Monroe, Louise and Charles Hammond, Peggy Bentley and Bob Farlano.

Sadie Cooper and Ruth Hammons joined a Julene tour to Crossville, Tenn., and enjoyed the play "Meet Me In St. Louis," at the Cumberland County Playhouse. They also visited the Coke and Coal Mines Museum at Dunlap, and had a delicious lunch at a Colonial tea room and gift shop at Pikeville.

Juanita and Eugene Smith, Peggy Bentley and Bob Farlano joined a group from the Fountains for a trip to beautiful Callaway Gardens. Cora and Charles Barnes, from Clanton, spent Sunday afternoon with the Smiths, recently.

I'm sorry I had to miss the interesting meeting of the Sunshine Club at Leona Chadwick's home on April 25. Those present were Gladys Cobble, who gave the devotional, Ruth Pickett, Jean Jones, Violet Barker, Verence Hawkins, Jewell Palmer, Lillie Bowden, Sue Cooper, Bess Bauerle, Evelyn Clark, Susie Clark, Glenda Savage, Anna Daniels, Billie Harper, Vivian Stiles, Joy Hurt, Ann Wright, and Leona. Billie Harper demonstrated cake decorating, and Ann Wright answered questions about growing plants.

Christine Brooks spent Sunday, April 28, with her sister, Jimmie Clements, in Rainsville. Mrs. Clements has been ill for some time. We hope she will soon be much better.

Eldonna Root, my daughter, from Pasadena, Maryland, came on Saturday before Easter, and spent a week with me. Nineteen members of the family came together for Easter dinner at my house.

Venna Livingston had her family together for Easter weekend.

The Valley Head Baptist Church will have a revival at their church, May 5 thru 8, at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Charles Jenkins will deliver the message, and there will be special music and puppets. They are planning a special mother-daughter banquet for Sat., May 11, at the church, with a special speaker. On Sun., May 26, at 6 p.m., at the church, there will be blue grass gospel music by the "Heartfelts."

Sincere sympathy to Geradine and Howard Hawkins in the loss of their son, Randall, and to the survivors of Mrs. Ruby Manifold and all others who have lost loved ones recently.

Sharee Jenkins, through a P.E. program at school, won tickets to Olympic Soccer games to be played July 25, in Birmingham. Several from Valley Head are planning to attend. Sharee was second alternate in the beauty pageant at Valley Head High School. Ashley Holcomb was first alternate and Stacey Hyde was the winner in that class. In the Senior Division - Brandi Shirley won Miss Congeniality. Jennifer Robertson was second alternate, Wendy Hyde won first alternate and scholastic award, and Terri Campbell was crowned by the 1995 Miss Spring Fantasy, Alison Meadows. I'm sorry I don't have a list of the other winners, but all of them were lovely winners. Awards Day will be May 17 at the school. (Editor's note: See the list of all the winners in the Miss Spring Fantasy Beauty Pageant elsewhere in *The Groundhog*.)

Christina and Jamie Hulan will graduate May 18 from Cumberland College in Williamsburg, KY. Jamie will be commissioned into the Army as Second Lieutenant the same day.

Jennifer Davis McGee, who has the beauty shop in the old post office building, has a new baby daughter.

Phyllis Lewis has opened her new store in Valley Head, and there is a new pizza and sandwich shop in Hammondville. We wish for them much success.

Juanita and Eugene Smith are planning to go to Central, N.C. for her 50th class reunion at Central Wesleyan Academy and Eugene's 45th college reunion.

Ansley McGinnis came from Florence, S.C., and took her mother, Laura Margaret Allison, to Jackson, MS, to the Mississippi Arts Pavilion, where they viewed palaces of St. Petersburg--Russian Imperial Style. There were rooms from four palaces--300 years of Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, Gatchina and Pavlovsk. They were greatly impressed by the gorgeous floors, ceilings, and furnishings, and the wonderful embroidery and needlework on tapestries, etc. They enjoyed it immensely. The exhibit will be there until Aug. 31. They also enjoyed an art exhibit of Italian paintings. All of Laura Margaret's family members are planning to meet at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, N.C., for the Mother's Day weekend--Happy reunion!

The Valley Head UMW will meet at the home of Adelaide Biddle, Tues., May 8, at 3 p.m.

The auction to top all auctions is over. I have a rocker that looks like the one that sold for \$453,500. I feel that more worthy people have rested in its seat. I wonder if I could get \$40 for it. Most of us have fake pearls like the ones that brought \$211,500--some people's sense (or lack of sense) of values astound me!

Happy Mother's Day to everyone!

All who have a mother living, have the blessing of sharing and giving; if she is no longer here, she leaves memories precious and dear--a solace and comfort forevermore, to live in the heart's treasure store.

God Bless All Mothers

God bless all mothers in the world today,
Turn their thoughts to Thee to humbly pray
For wisdom and patience to live each day
As examples for their children to see
Of what all Christian citizens should be--
True to principles and trusting in Thee.

May mothers be loving and ever be kind--
Firm, dependable and gently remind
Of the helping hand they can always find,
Leading and guiding in the right way.
Give them strength and wisdom, dear God, we pray,
Bless all mothers in the world today and always.

--Eloise Brown

Mom's
the Best

May, How Can Earth Bear Thee?

May, how can Earth bear the wonderful rare
ecstasy you bring in beauty's wild fling?
Gems of emerald green sparkle on the scene,
Oaks and willows wear golden tassels fair,
Pines both high and low, hold candles aglow.
Buds burst as they swell, exuberance tell
in colors so bright they seem to take flight.
In lacy, cool shade, where gay shadows played,
graceful ferns uncurled, blissfully dew-pearled;
Waking from their sleep, elfin flowers peep,
shyly lift their head from their velvet beds;
Honeysuckles bloom with fragrant perfume,
Birds joyfully sing and dance on the wing,
Mating and nesting, no need for resting;
By the rippling pond, frogs call accents fond,
Twilight brings the thrill of the whippoorwill.
Beautiful, fragrant play day of vagrant
Nature as she feels like kicking up heels--
May, your perfection is Heaven's selection--
How can earth bear thee, beauty's ecstasy--
The joy that you bring with the heart of Spring!

--Eloise Brown

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PRESCRIPTIONS



Pictured are district director JoAnn Pearson, left, and Barbara Richey, membership specialist

UGF Spotlight Girl Scouts of North Alabama

Girl Scouts across the USA has a membership of more than 3 million; 7300 members live here in North Alabama and approximately 500 of those live here in DeKalb County.

Each fall, recruitment and activity flyers are distributed through schools, churches, recreation centers and community organizations encouraging girls to join Girl Scouts. However, girls (ages 5-17) can join at anytime by contacting a community volunteer organizer or the district office.

JoAnn Pearson, is the District Director for DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall Counties. Her office is located at Camp Trico in Guntersville. Ms. Pearson says volunteers are needed in many different areas and encourages anyone needing more information about becoming a volunteer, starting a troop, or becoming a Girl Scout to call her at 582-0093.

An exciting event for DeKalb County girls scheduled to take place this summer is the 1996 Day Camp. "Pass it on Down", which will be held at Sylvania Lake Park June 24-28 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. daily. Any girl in first through 12th grade can attend.

In addition to girls, DeKalb County seniors have been invited to participate. Ms. Pearson says Eva Hays, Day Camp Director, Pam Whitley, Assistant Camp Director, and Denise McAbee, Business Manager, are working with Debbie Murphy of the DeKalb Council on Aging to plan an exciting program on "old fashioned fun."

DeKalb Girl Scouts recently worked with the Council on Aging during "Be Your Best Week." Girls adopted senior shut-ins and are providing "cheer boxes" throughout the year.

Ms. Pearson says she and Carol Beddingfield, Council on Aging Director, formed a partnership that will involve senior volunteers working with Girl Scouts. Pearson says, "Girl Scouts are thrilled to be able to learn from vital and active seniors. Carol and I feel that senior volunteers will enjoy working with our girls and adult volunteers. It's a perfect partnership."

The uniforms and books have changed over the years. Now Girl Scouts are learning about computers and space technology, but the standards of the Girl Scout Law: honesty, fairness, helpfulness, cheerfulness, consideration, respect for self and others, and a commitment to protect and improve the world and its resources are still the heart of all Girl Scout activities.

Financial assistance is available so that no girl is denied membership or the opportunity to experience the Girl Scout program because of financial need.

Girl Scouts of North Alabama is one of 14 agencies funded by United Givers Fund of DeKalb County. UGF funding helps pay operational expenses of providing the Girl Scout program here in the county.



Blalock signs with Berry College: Pictured are: (standing) Chattanooga State Assistant Coach Eddie Bryant and Head Coach Kendra Bell; (seated) Berry College Coach Connie Guinn and Jamie Phillips Blalock of Mentone.

Blalock Signs With Berry College

Jamie Phillips Blalock, former Valley Head Lady Tiger, will continue her career at Berry College, a NAIA Division II member. Jamie completed two years with Chattanooga State Technical community College.

She has a 35-minute drive to Berry from Mentone, where she lives with her husband, Heath. "The Berry campus is huge, that will be a big difference," Jamie said.

She averaged 8 points, 5 assists, and 5 rebounds per game this year. "I'm a country girl, and Berry has a country setting. When Coach Connie Guinn offered me the scholarship, I committed."

Said Chattanooga State Head Coach Kendra Bell: "I'm real happy for Jamie. I think she'll be a good fit for Berry."



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MOTHER'S INFLUENCE

Dr. Pat Seymour

If my mother, Flora Seymour, had lived just a little while longer, she would have moved to Mentone with me. Our family had vacationed here for four generations. Since making Mentone my home, I have met many mothers of daughters (such as Jo Beaubie) who are also reflective of the thoughts in this essay. On this Mother's Day, may I honor them, along with my own dear mother.

Nature often offers metaphors more elegant than any we can manufacture. In the redwood ecosystem, all seeds are contained in burls, tough brown clumps that grow where the mother trees trunk and root system meet. When the mother tree is logged, blown over, or destroyed by fire, the trauma stimulates the buds' growth hormones. The seeds release, and trees spring up about her, creating the circle of her daughters. The daughter trees grow by absorbing the sunlight their mother cedes to them when she dies. And they get the moisture and nutrients they need from their mother's root system, which remains intact even after her leaves die. Although the daughters exist independently of their mother above ground, they continue to draw sustenance from her underneath.

I am fooling only myself when I say my mother exists now only in the photograph on my dresser or in the outline of my hand or in the armful of memories I still hold tight. She lives on beneath everything I do. Her presence influenced who I was, and her absence influences who I am. Our lives are shaped as much by those who leave us as they are by those who stay. Loss is our legacy. Insight is our gift. Memory is our guide.

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STOP R-T ZONING

(Transient Residential Zoning)

By Randle & Charlotte Rice

The Big Question

What did Mr. Wright say to Mr. Franks before Mr. Franks got his license on July 7, 1995? Did Mr. Wright tell him that the Tourist Home was a Conditional Use in the R-1 District limited to 3 overnight guests with no meals served? It appears that the City Officials have gone to a LOT of trouble trying to correct the "ERROR" that was made in issuing the license to Mr. Franks.

On July 7, 1995 Mr. Sam Franks was granted a license to carry on the business of "Tourist Home" in the Town of Mentone, for the Year ending December 31, 1995 operating under the name of "The Berry House". The license was signed by Max Cash, Mayor and Catherine Bailey, Town Clerk.

I have a COPY OF THE LICENSE issued by the City Officials on July 7, 1995 to Mr. Franks for a Tourist Home. Mr. Franks told me, "I went in the City Hall after CONSULTING with Jimmy Wright and the license was issued to me before I closed the deal on my property". He also said, "I've done everything they've asked me to, everything they've told me to".

On December 15, 1995, Mr. Pat Tate, attorney for the Town of Mentone, wrote a letter to Mr. Sam Franks which says in part "it appears that the business license was ISSUED IN ERROR by the Town Clerk". It also says the "the Mayor and Council are considering non-renewal of your business on January 1, 1996".

Why the Amendments

The following is a quote from the minutes of the Mentone Planning Commission Public Hearing of February 26, 1996:

"Jimmy Wright explained where the proposed change will be and that the change is being considered because Sam Franks WOULD LIKE TO ESTABLISH a Bed and Breakfast in a house he recently purchased. This house is at 69 Linchpney Road and is known as 'The Martha Berry House'. The proposed change would ALLOW him to do this."

The term "Bed & Breakfast" appears to be very innocent sounding but it is NOT mentioned even once in the Zoning Ordinance. A Tourist Home or an INN with an UNLIMITED number of guests is not allowed in an R-1 District! Why should it be allowed just because one piece of property is designated an R-T District. It still remains in the MIDDLE of the R-1 District, no matter what you call it.

My question is, WHY should the City amend the Zoning Ordinance to give profit to one person without regard for the water problems, traffic hazards, police protection complications and disturbing the peace considerations within the neighborhood. These items have been vigorously discussed by nearby property owners (not just us) and the opposing views appeared to be ignored.

A Reasonable Bed & Breakfast

The following is a direct quote from the Zoning Public Hearing of April 16, 1996:

Randle Rice: "The Transient Zoning that we have here could be served quite well by a Tourist Home that's already in the Zoning Laws. The Tourist Home allows now, with the amendment that was given on December 21 meeting of the Zoning Commission which has not yet been ratified by the Council, would give the opportunity for a resident - any resident - within R-1 Zoning the ability to rent out three bedrooms and to be able to feed the people who stay in those three bedrooms, anytime. But, it would be limited to three bedrooms. Now, this is a proper organization of what you would call a Bed & Breakfast, and that's what the purpose of allowing three bedrooms is. The purpose that the City Officials put that limitation in for was to limit large numbers of people coming into a residential area which would classify it as a danger for the traffic in the area. Because, most residential areas in Mentone are one-lane roads and the increase in traffic would be significant. It's my opinion that this proposed R-T Zoning is an effort to put in an amendment to the zoning ordinance which effectively allows the City Officials to put a COMMERCIAL INN and RESTAURANT in the middle of any residential subdivision in Mentone."

The present Town of Mentone Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations provide for a Tourist Home for a Conditional Use in the R-1 Zoning District. The definition of Tourist Home is "An accessory use in a private dwelling that supplies temporary accommodations to not more than three overnight guests for a fee." Please notice that there is no provision in the definition for serving meals to guests.

Mr. Franks' Bed & Breakfast

The 1996-97 Phone Book for Mentone carries a listing for: BERRY HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST THE 69 Linchpney Rd Mentone634-4334 in the white pages and an additional listing in the Yellow Pages under the Classification "Bed & Breakfast Accommodations".

The Tourist Home Definition under the Ordinance does not provide for meals for the Overnight Guests to be served which is part of the advertised services of a "Bed & Breakfast". Therefore, Mr. Franks was not licensed to operate a "Bed & Breakfast" using the "Tourist Home" license which he was granted on July 7, 1995.

Mr. Franks stated in a public hearing that he had performed a major renovation to his property that involved modifying it to have 9 bedrooms with baths and redecorating inside. He further stated that Dave Blalock had put in a new septic tank system for him.

The City Struggles with Options

What went wrong? Again, what did Mr. Wright say to Mr. Franks before the license was issued on July 7, 1995? Why did Catherine Bailey issue the license? Why did Max Cash sign the license?

WHY did the City attempt to amend the Zoning Ordinance four times in the last five months?

- December 21, 1995 - Amendment to change Tourist Home from 3 overnight guests to 3 bedrooms with meals for guests.
- February 26, 1996 - Amendment to change zoning of both sides of Lookout Mountain Parkway from the Mentone Inn to Sunset Avenue from R-1 to B-1 Zoning District.
- April 16, 1996 - A package of NINE amendments to create a new Zoning District called Transient Residential (R-T).
- April 16, 1996 - Amendment to change Mr. Sam Franks' property at 69 Linchpney Road from R-1 District to R-T District.

It is obvious to even the casual observer that the City Officials are making an effort to amend the Zoning Ordinance. None of the amendments above will change, modify or improve the Zoning Ordinance to benefit the general welfare of the community. It appears that the only reason for these proposed amendments is to accommodate Mr. Franks' request for SPECIAL ZONING that is NOT ALLOWED under our existing Zoning Ordinance. Please refer to the Groundhog of March, 1996 on page 19 for more information regarding this on-going process.

A Question of Responsibility

The City Officials who issued the license to Mr. Franks on July 7, 1995 issued it to him BEFORE he owned the property. The closing for the purchase of his property was July 21, 1995. First of all, it appears that the City Officials should not have issued a license to anyone who did not own the property to be licensed. If Mr. Franks wanted to insure the availability of a license after he purchased the property, the City Officials could have written him a letter that explained to him what would be required under the Ordinance in order to qualify for a Tourist Home License.

The letter or consultation could have made the following procedure clear to him which required that this procedure be followed before a license could be issued.

Were the proper procedures followed for Conditional Use before the license was issued?

"Section D. Conditional Uses. (A direct quote from page 32 of Ordinance)

"Conditional uses listed in the zoning districts may be appropriate in that district, subject to review and approval by the Board of Adjustment. In determining whether such uses are appropriate for a specific location, the Board shall consider the impact of the proposed conditional use on surrounding property, public streets, utilities and other public concerns. The Board may require measures such as vegetated buffer strips and/or privacy fencing between adjoining property, as well as other limitations of use, operation, location, ingress and egress, height, and other public concerns, as conditions of approval for a conditional use. All such requirements shall be binding upon the use of the property.

"Conditional uses shown on the Zoning Map at the time of adoption of this Ordinance may be expanded or reconstructed and additional buildings may be constructed on the premises without further

conditional use approval by the Board of Adjustment, provided that all such construction conforms to the provisions of this Ordinance.

"Conditional uses identified in each of the zoning districts, shall be permitted only after approval by the Board of Adjustment at a public hearing as stipulated herein

"1. Application. An application for a conditional use shall be filed with the Secretary of the Board on forms provided by the Secretary and shall be accompanied by

- "a. A non-refundable application fee of \$25.00.
- "b. A legal description and boundary map of the subject property.
- "c. A vicinity map showing location of the site in relation to the surrounding area and zoning of the site and adjacent property.
- "d. A site plan, drawn to scale, showing: the location, use and dimensions of all existing and proposed structures, points of ingress and egress to the property; all public and private roads; off-street parking areas; and buffers and greenbelts.
- "e. Any supplemental information which will assist the Board in reviewing the proposed conditional use.

"The application and accompanying materials shall be filed with the Secretary of the Board at least 14 days prior to the Board of Adjustment hearing at which the conditional use is to be considered

"2. Notice of Hearing. Upon receipt of a conditional use application and accompanying materials, the Secretary shall place the request upon the calendar for hearing. Owners of property adjacent to the property which is the subject of the conditional use, as their names appear upon the plats of the Tax Assessor, shall be notified by mail of the date, time, place and nature of the public hearing, at least seven days prior to said hearing."

What about R-T Zoning

I have made an effort to organize exactly what would be in the R-T Zoning Ordinance if the amendments were passed concerning Permitted Uses, Conditional Uses and Related Definitions.

Permitted Uses

- Detached Dwellings
- Tourist Homes
- INN, where meals may be served to overnight guests, but does not include a restaurant which serves meals to the general public.
- Accessory Structures

Conditional Uses

- Home Occupation
- Institution Uses such as: cemetery, church, school, public park, town hall, library, museum, post office and community center
- Group Care Facility
- Utility Uses such as: towers and antennas more than 150 feet in height, electric sub-station, water storage tank, above ground wastewater pump, wastewater treatment plant or facility
- INN WITH A RESTAURANT which serves meals to the non-resident general public

Definitions which will be especially applicable:

Tourist Home. An accessory use in a private dwelling wherein a fee is charged to provide overnight accommodations. Meals may be served to overnight guests, but a tourist home may not include a restaurant which serves meals to the non-resident public.

INN: A COMMERCIAL facility for the housing and feeding of transients, which is contained in whole or in part in a building which was previously a private residence.

Accessory Structure. A structure detached from a principal building on the same lot and customarily incidental and subordinate to the principal building or use.

Problems with R-T Zoning

There are some significant problems here and I would like to point them out

THE AMENDMENT PROCESS

If the R-T Zoning Amendment should become law, the amendment process will not end there. A separate amendment would be required for each and every applicant that would be approved for R-T Zoning

The Amendment process should not be taken lightly.

A quote from C.J.S., Zoning and Land Planning Law Library says

"It is generally the rule, subject to some exceptions, that amendments or other changes in zoning regulations or classifications should be made with caution, and only when changed conditions clearly required a modification of the regulations, or where it appears that the original zoning was erroneous, mistaken, unwise, or unjust; and this rule is particularly applicable to piecemeal changes from original zoning".

UNLIMITED NUMBERS:

- The original "Tourist Home" was limited to 3 persons in its definition. The new "Tourist Home" definition has no limit whatsoever
- In the original Ordinance, the only reference to INN was in the RD District and it was limited to 20 rooms. There was no definition of INN. The new "INN" definition and reference has no limit whatsoever.
- The definition for "Accessory Structures" is unchanged but in its application it is potentially drastically changed. Under the new definition of INN and Tourist Home, there is no limit to the number of people who can be served and this could create a need for large parking facilities which would then allow the construction of a concrete parking deck. Accessory structures is NOT a Conditional Use, it is a Permitted Use
- Note that it has been recommended to the City Council that they approve an R-T District Classification in the MIDDLE of the Residential District (R-1) where I live

R-T Zoning allows a COMMERCIAL Zoning in the middle of any RESIDENTIAL district.

These are direct quotes from the March 21, 1996 meeting discussing R-T Zoning

Randle Rice. "What you're doing is saying that R-1, where we have it, you can come in and you can put a Bed & Breakfast in the middle of it if you want to?"

Jim Wright: "No, sir. No, sir." (End Quote)

Jim Wright. "This (R-T Zoning) allows us to change the classification in a spot. It's not 'Spot Zoning', it's not like 'Spot Zoning'." (End Quote)

Jim Wright. "Where you DON'T allow a Bed & Breakfast or you DON'T allow a Tourist Home, you can do the same thing in ANY District in Merton." (End Quote)

Jim Wright. "Well, it don't necessarily have to be up and down the brow, IT CAN BE ANYWHERE." (End Quote)

Spot Zoning" is not Legal

The definition of "Spot Zoning" is as follows:

"'Spot Zoning' is zoning of a small area within the limits of a zone, in which are permitted uses different from or inconsistent with those permitted in the larger area." (End Quote)

It appears that the Transient Residential (R-T) package of amendments is premeditated and intentional "Spot Zoning", pure and simple, by definition.

"'Spot Zoning' is invalid where the ordinance does not form a part of a comprehensive plan of zoning or is for mere private gain as distinguished from the good of the common welfare." (End Quote) Nine cases have been cited which prevailed with this one legal point

It appears that Mr. Wright's comments are inconsistent. They contradict one another and they conflict with the definition of "Spot Zoning".

Current Status of R-T Zoning

To review the position against R-T Zoning, the following major points should be considered.

R-T Zoning will be a District made up of "Spots" which are not part of a comprehensive zoning plan

R-T Zoning will be decided on a one-by-one basis and can affect YOU.

R-T Zoning will allow a COMMERCIAL INN and RESTAURANT to be put in a private residential area.

R-T Zoning will allow a single individual to profit by taking away the privacy of his neighbors

R-T Zoning will destroy the purpose of zoning laws to separate commercial and residential areas.

Our attorney has demanded appeals to be scheduled by the Board of Adjustment

State law requires that the Zoning Officials STOP any further action on R-T Zoning until the Board has ruled on these appeals

Watch for Public Hearings

Please watch the Post Office for announcements of any Public Hearing related to the R-T Zoning. If you see one posted, please be there.



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KAREN W. ALBRECHT

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Subject to the Action of the Democrat Primary June 4, 1996
Runoff June 25, 1996; & General Election November 5, 1996

Pol. Adv. by Karen W. Albrecht, 10705 Co. Rd. 121, Valley Head, AL 35989

ELECT BUTCH Cassidy Superintendent

BECAUSE EXPERIENCE COUNTS

Subject to action of the Democrat primary June 4, 1996, and runoff June 25, 1996
Pol. Adv. by Butch Cassidy, P.O. Box 201, Rainville, AL 35968

★ VOTE FOR & ELECT ★ STANLEY NELMS

Board of Education - District 1

Subject to the Action of the Democrat Primary June 4, 1996
Runoff June 25, 1996; & General Election November 5, 1996

"Your Vote & Support Will Be Appreciated"

PD. POL. ADV. BY STANLEY NELMS, 380 UNION GROVE RD., S. CROSSVILLE, AL 35962



VOTE FOR CORONER DEKALB COUNTY ALTON GREESON

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE
PAID FOR AND BY ALTON GREESON
FORT PAYNE, ALABAMA 35967

SUBJECT TO PRIMARY JUNE 4, 1996

"One Who Has the Experience"
★ VOTE FOR ★

Willard A. Israel

Member DeKalb Co. Board of Education
District #1

Subject to the Action of the Democrat Primary June 4, 1996
Runoff June 25, 1996 & General Election November 5, 1996

Your Vote & Support Will Be Appreciated

PD. POL. ADV. BY WILLARD A. ISRAEL, 17890 HWY. 68 W. CROSSVILLE, AL

VOTE FOR AND ELECT
H. WAYNE

PARKER DEKALB COUNTY CORONER

Your Vote And Support Will Be Appreciated

PD. POL. ADV. BY H. WAYNE PARKER, 206 15th ST. S.W., FT. PAYNE, AL 35967
Subject To Action Of Democrat Primary June 4, 1996, Run-off June 25, 1996
and General Election Nov. 5, 1996



★ VOTE FOR AND ELECT ★

CHARLES D. WARREN

Democratic Candidate for

DEKALB COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

YOUR VOTE AND INFLUENCE ARE APPRECIATED

Subject to action of the Democrat primary June 4, 1996, and runoff June 25, 1996
Pol. Adv. by Charles D. Warren, Henagar, AL



Re-Elect

TOM WILSON

DeKalb County Coroner

Your Vote & Support Will Be Appreciated

Pol. Adv. by Tom Wilson, P.O. Box 1850, Rainville, AL 35960

Subject to the Action of the Democrat Primary June 4, 1996
Runoff June 25, 1996; & General Election November 5, 1996

VOTE FOR AND ELECT

CHARLES (Muscles) HOUSTON

REVENUE COMMISSIONER OF DEKALB COUNTY

Your Vote & Support Will Be Greatly Appreciated.

Subject To Action Of Democrat Primary June 4, 1996, And Runoff June 25, 1996
Paid Political Advertisement Paid For By Charles Houston, 4056 Co. Rd. 52, Dawson, AL 35963

CARY CHANDLER

FOR

DEKALB COUNTY CORONER

YOUR VOTE IS APPRECIATED.

PD. POL. ADV. BY Cary Chandler, P.O. Box 1905, Rainville, AL 35964

Subject to the Action of the Democratic Primary June 4, 1996
Runoff June 25, 1996; & General Election November 5, 1996

Gorman House Is Listed In The National Register

The Dr. J.A.Gorman House, commonly known as the "Hanging Cottage," in Mentone, has recently been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Constructed during the period 1917-1922, the "Hanging Cottage" perhaps best represents the finest surviving example of the Rustic Bungalow style in DeKalb County.

Located on the brow of Lookout Mountain, its rustic style blends in well with its natural surroundings. This two-and-one-half story wood frame building has 17 rooms, a stone foundation, clapboard and board and batten exterior walls, and large 12-foot wide L-shaped wraparound porch supported by original debarked log timber posts.

The National Register of Historic Places is a prestigious nationwide listing of buildings, structure, objects, and districts that possess architectural and historical significance.

It is administered in Alabama by the Alabama Historical Commission, the official state agency responsible for helping Alabamians preserve their historic resources.



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located within The Mentone Inn, invites you to join us on May 12, for a MOTHER'S DAY luncheon you will remember. We will be serving on the porch. Seatings will be at 12:15 and 2:00. Call for reservations.

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(1) OWN YOUR OWN WEEK-END PARADISE with 150 feet on the East Fork of Little River. 3 bedroom, 1 bath cottage, and detached garage with upstairs room. Fish from your own private dock or canoe down Little River. Co-Broke with Cloudland Realty. \$75,500.



(5) LOFTY CONTEMPORARY on the Brow of Mentone. Offering 3 or 4 bedrooms - 2 baths. Fully equipped kitchen—pine floors—dressing room, and solar room. Floor to ceiling glass in the 2-story living room produces a feeling of openness to the outside from both floors. Appointment only. \$225,000.



(8) WATCH THE SEASON CHANGE IN THE VALLEY BELOW from in front of the rock fireplace of this 3 bedroom, 2 bath, custom log home. Fully equipped kitchen, pine floors, exposed beams in living room, and central heat and air on a 7.2 acre brow lot above Mentone. Ready to move into and start enjoying the fantastic view from the large deck where you can spend many lazy afternoons. \$139,500.



(2) LIKE NEW—LOW MAINTENANCE BRICK HOME with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large eat-in kitchen, and fireplace with insert. Room for expansion in this 3/4 basement with full bath. Sitting on a low maintenance lot with adjoining land available. \$75,000.



(6) TAKE A HEALTHY LOOK AT COUNTRY LIVING and breathe the clean air at this 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 year old home on 4 acres. Front porch, screened back porch, a single car garage, barn, and gazebo. All appliances and furniture to remain with house. A must see at only \$72,500.



(9) Own from Highway 117 to Cutler Ave. Downtown Mentone - 100' lot on Highway 117 zoned B-1 - 2 bdrm, 1 bath, rental house on 3 lots and 2 lots on Cutler Ave. All for only \$68,500



(3) 3-bdrm, 1 bath FARMHOUSE on 40 acres. Hardwood & Pine Floors, Rock Fireplace - 2 car garage - equipment shed & Greenhouse. \$78,500.



(7) COZY COUNTRY COTTAGE - 1 acre wooded lot on East Lake Drive. Less than 2 years old. 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, large living, dining & kitchen. Fireplace. Front & Back porches. 2 car carport & detached garage. REDUCED to \$79,500.



(4) MENTONE BROW - Spectacular View-Beautiful, unique, unusual describes this finished home which offers three bedrooms, one full bath (with Jacuzzi), two one-half baths, great room with wet bar and fireplace, kitchen area features ceramic counter-tops and an island with custom hood, range, disposal, dishwasher and refrigerator. A two-car garage, glass-enclosed octagon-shaped casual pool with patio overlooking pool, sauna, shower area, recreation room with pool table, hot tub, and decks are just some of the amenities. All this and approximately 700' of brow frontage! Shown by appointment only to qualified buyers. Great for a restaurant. \$295,000.

OTHER LISTINGS

(10) THE WEST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER flows quietly by these 3-acre wooded lots with 300 feet of River Frontage. Restricted for property owner's protection. Prices starting at \$20,000.

(11) 13 BROW LOTS with additional acreage across the road for a mini-farm. Just over the Georgia line. Restricted. Co-Broke with Cloudland Realty.

(12) OVERLOOK THE BREATHTAKING GEORGIA VALLEY from this 3.76 acre West Brow lot, about 10 miles north of Mentone. Lightly restricted. Co-Broke with Cloudland Realty. Only \$22,000.

(13) LAKE ON THE BROW - Where else can you find magnificent sunrise and lake view in the same place? Only at Lake on the Brow. Restricted building lots 10 minutes from town. NOW OPEN—PHASE II - look now while the choice is prime—starting at only \$12,500.

Susan Collins Residence - 634-4695

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Vegetables
Both Night & Day

J. R. Bain: a "Jack of All Trades," But Born to Farm

By Pat McKenzie



Seated: Pat McKenzie, J.R. Bain, Evelyn, Bobbie Smith
Standing: Charles, Mary Porter, and Johnny

Not pictured: Ethel Manifold (Photo taken in 1984 at J.R.'s 70th Birthday)

Editors note: In last month's issue, two paragraphs were inadvertently omitted from the lead story. The Groundhog regrets this omission and reprints the narrative contained on page 8 of the April issue, beginning with the paragraph prior to the omission, so that it reads as follows:

Then, in 1956, while visiting his daughter, Ethel Manifold, and son-in-law, Jim, in Harvey, Illinois, he found the job of his life. He became a railroad switchman for the Indiana Harbour Belt Railroad. It was hard, unreliable, and at times very dangerous work. During his 21-year railroad career, he was arrested for tying up a major highway crossing with the train because he could not get the yardmaster's approval to move the train. He also suffered a traumatic head injury in an accident while riding in the caboose. But he loved trains and his work.

Tragedy struck the family in 1958 with the sudden death of his wife, Katherine. Life again was tough for J.R. trying to work inconsistent hours on the railroad, taking care of a teen age son and a seven-year-old daughter, and running a household. But, with God's and his daughter, Mary's, help, he survived the next two years.

Through the Church of God Evangel, he acquired a penpal. The relationship blossomed into a romance, and he married his penpal, Evelyn Averett of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in 1960.

During his railroad career, he always managed to pursue his love of farming. If not a small garden in the back of the house, it was acres of land loaned to him by a couple of widows. He provided fresh vegetables to many church members, family and friends, and even sold produce to a large grocery chain.

The family lived a very full and rewarding life in Harvey until a heart attack in 1977 caused J.R. to take early retirement. In 1978, J.R. and Evelyn retired to Mentone where they still live.

J.R.'s contributions to life are his six children by wife, Katherine: Bobbie Sue Smith, Ethel Manifold, Mary Porter, Charles Bain, Johnny Bain, and Pat McKenzie; 19 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren. Throughout his Christian life, he has been very active in the Church of God. J.R. attributes his richness of life to his faith in God, a loving family, and hard work.

*"Let knowledge grow
from more to more."*

— Alfred, Lord Tennyson
1809 - 1892



Mr. and Mrs. Matthew David Pilson, and wedding party
Hawkins-Pilson

Tammy Michelle Hawkins and Matthew David Pilson were united in marriage on October 28, 1995, at Saddle Rock Camp in Mentone.

The bride is the daughter of JoAnn Hawkins of Valley Head and the late Brad Hawkins. Parents of the groom are Mr. Bill Pilson of Mentone and Debra Pilson of Clearwater, Fla.

Grandparents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. George Frazier of Valley Head and Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hawkins of Valley Head.

Grandparents of the groom are Mrs. Wilda Pilson and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Rogers, all of

Clearwater, Fla., and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stephens of Jupiter, Fla.

Matron of honor was Mrs. Lea Long of Fyffe. Bridesmaids were Helen Ooms of Amsterdam, Holland; Mrs. Felicia Barbee of Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.; and Mrs. Michelle Heimann of Clearwater. Flower girls were: Jade Hawkins, Brittany and Erica Frazier.

Best man was Keith Langston of Mentone. Groomsmen were Tom Shanklin of Valley Head, Jeff Crow of Mentone, and Brad Heimann of Clearwater.

The couple are now at home in Mentone.



Rhonda Jannette Owens
**Scholarship
is awarded**

Rhonda Jannette Owens of Valley Head has been awarded a two-year Academic Scholarship to Northeast Alabama State Community College where she will major in education.

Rhonda will be a 1996 graduate of Valley Head High School where she is the Senior Beta Club vice-president, Fellowship of Christian Students vice-president, chosen for Senior Class Who's Who, and ranked number four in the senior class.

She is on the Sign Language Team and Mime Team at High Point Church of God. She is also a Children's Church worker and substitute Sunday School teacher.

She is the daughter of Deborah and Brady Wooten.



Karen Christine Davis
**Scholarship
is awarded**

Karen Christine Davis of Valley Head has been awarded a two-year Academic Scholarship to Northeast Alabama State Community College where she will major in social service.

Karen will be a 1996 graduate of Valley Head High School where she is a member of the Beta Club, band president, and president of Fellowship of Christian Students. She was voted Miss Band, received the Optimist Club Leadership Award, and received Senior Who's Who.

She is a member of the High Point Church of God and is the Sunday School secretary, Children's Church Clown, Sign Team Member, and FTH teacher.

Karen is the daughter of Leonard and Barbara Davis.



The Menlo News

BY OVIE "BO"
BLALOCK

Menlo and Cloudland college scholars continue to being honor to their hometowns. Floyd College recognized Carla Jean Duberry, Cloudland, and Alice Denise Butler, Salvatore Thomas Guerra, Amelia Kay Howard, Benjamin A. Sellers, Sharon Brian Spillman, and Lisa Gale Cordell, Menlo, as Dean's List Scholars. Congratulations all around!

Tina Michele Corbitt is the author of a poem published in "A Voyage To Remember," a collection compiled by the National Library of Poetry. Mrs. Corbitt's work is entitled, "Honest Flame." She is the daughter of Louise Shaw, Cloudland, and Ray Shaw, Menlo, and the wife of USMC Cpl. Randy Corbitt.

Menlo Principal Lynn Hall participated in a basketball game against the American Mini-Trotters Midgets at the Chattooga High School recently.

Congratulations to Jesse Collins and Nikki Maton from Menlo Elementary who took part in the Special Olympics held in April at Chattooga High School. Menlo is really proud of you two!

Best Mfg. did a great job in cleaning up a recent oil spill in Menlo, according to Menlo City Superintendent Sid Swords. "They have done a good job," continued Swords.

A timely letter to the Georgia State Poetry Society from Pat Zeller and Menlo faculty member Linda Espy resulted in a visit to Menlo School by poet Jean Mehavier. She worked with the students in writing poetry. This was the kickoff for the program, "Poetry in the Schools." After group efforts at composing verse, several students began penning their individual verses.

At a recent Menlo Council meeting, the group voted to set up a meeting between the council its engineer Eddie Schnock, and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). The meeting will seek answers to the town's lengthy pursuit of a well to provide drinking water for the town.

In other action, the council approved two water tie ins on the water system pending a looping project that will be completed next month. The group also heard that the City received a check for \$1,036.98 from the Chattooga County Clerk of Court's office as restitution in a case where tires were cut on a vehicle owned by the city.

Deepest sympathy to the families of the following:

- Hazel K. Hill, 58, who died March 22.
- Michael Anthony "Tony" Dempsey, 39, who died April.
- David Huskey, 74, who died April 1.
- Louise S. Herod, 84, who died April 2.
- Edna Switzer Majors, 81, who died April 3.



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MENLO ELEMENTARY HONOR LISTS

Menlo Elementary School's honor lists for the third nine-week grading period follow.

SUPER STUDENTS

First grade: Jessica Blackmon, Savannah Blackmon, Michael Brown, Cassy Chance, Stephanie Cordell, Autumn Dodd, Brandon Fountain, Cody Goza, Bailee Hawkins, Kursten Hedgis, Jeffrey Hill, Skyler Hughes, Haven Hurley, Levi Jackson, Lyndsey Little, Stephanie McGill, Will Murray, Emma Pickle, Allie Prince, Emily Sink, Nicholas Smith, Samantha Swartwood, Allison Willis and Brett Wilson

Second grade: Allen Ballinger, Casey Beaver, Adam Blackwell, Klein Borgschulze, Tiffany Byrd, Melody Cooper, Slater Cordle, Spencer Davis, Thomas Dotson, Annette Durham, Brandi Durham, Amanda Hegwood, Melissa Hensley, Heather Hill, Ross Hudgins, Lori Hunter, India Jones, John Marmet, Jessica McGuire, Mary Morris, Nia Oran, Trevor Pledger, Whitney Price, David Robinson, Chelsey Ward and Dana Yancey

Third grade: Hope Burge, Branch Harper, Bryanne Hatt, Sarah Hedgis, Sara Jane Hunter, Miranda Hurley, Tabitha Justice, Cassie Maloney, Matthew Middleton, Tiffany Nidetch, Maggie Rich, Shannon Sammons, Ben Swords, Justin Swords and Nikita Williams

"A" HONOR ROLL

Fourth grade: Freddy Bryson, Courtney Duke, John Hall, Katie Kerce, Donni Lee and Jana Ward

Fifth grade: John Brown, Anna Dotson, Caris Farrar, Anna Hall, Brittany Hudgins and Casey Luther

Sixth grade: Sunny Smith

Seventh grade: Jonathan Hegwood, Ashley Montgomery and Sarah Kerce

Eighth grade: Rebecca Dunn and Leslie Knox

"A-B" HONOR ROLL

Fourth grade: Chris Blackmon, Derek Bullard, Kasey Carter, Jana Cooper, Erica Dover, Chase Hegwood, Kim Middleton, Sean Nidetch, Keri Beth Petitt, Anna Prince, Ashley Wilcox and Susan Wofford

Fifth grade: Michael Crowe, Amanda Gentry, Clint McMurrey, Matt Riggs and Jennifer Whitt
Sixth grade: Tessa Brock, Jennifer Carroll, Erin deMesquita, Guthrie Frazier, Ryan Hudgins, Leslie Hurley, Ryan Jarrett, Steele Lee, Lindsey Nixon, Nigel Plant, Brian Precise, Ashley Swicegood and Matthew Treadaway

Seventh grade: Robert Brown, James Durham, Lauren Kellett, Nikki Mereles, Christina Ray and Greg Smith

Eighth grade: Daniel Hunter, Emily Johnson, Joseph Swords, John Toles and Gina Treadaway

MOST IMPROVED STUDENTS

First grade: Skyler Hughes and Haven Hurley

Second grade: David Brown and Amanda Wigley

Third grade: Jonathan Hensley

Fourth grade: Nikki Maton and Elizabeth Smith

Fifth grade: Michael Crowe and Anna Dotson
Sixth grade: Tessa Brock, Nicole Hartman and Brian Precise

Seventh grade: Shirley Cooper and Joe Smith

Eighth grade: Charlie Rutledge



BALLPLAYER

Luke Bandy, eight, is the son of Donna Bandy and the late Duell Bandy. His grandparents are John and Betty Bandy, Shilbone Valley, Menlo, and Wick and Joyce Phillips, Harrison, Tenn.



SPELLING BEE

Jeremy Flood, a seventh grader at Menlo Elementary School, participated in the 35th annual State Spelling Bee sponsored by the Atlanta Daily World and the Georgia Association of Educators last month. He had previously taken top honors in the school-level and county-wide spelling bees organized by the Chattooga Education Association and finished as the runner-up at the district level. This year was the second time Jeremy has participated in the state contest, earning him accolades from the state's top educators and Gov. Zell Miller.



Historic Elm Tree Cut

An American elm, believed by county historians to have been planted by Menlo founder, A.J. Lawrence, and recognizable in photos dating back to 1906, fell to the saws of the city's maintenance department in March. It was considered by local historians to be a landmark tree because it was the largest of the rare American elms in town and because of its position on Main Street. Dutch elm disease destroyed most of the American elms during the 30s historians said, but spared the American elms in Menlo. Local historians conceded that the old tree was sickly and would probably have died in a couple of years. "What it needed was emergency treatment," said a county historian, "but what it got was the Dr. Kevorkian treatment."



The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

The snowy white dogwood blossoms are so beautiful following the drab cold days that prevented our redbud from blooming this spring. If we miss one spectacular thing, another one will always follow. We never lose everything. So is the pattern of life; for every dark cloud there is a silver lining.

Time moves on and seems to be accelerating faster than I can keep pace.

Joanne, who was Smith at the time, wrote me that we could celebrate the 20th year of the re-opening of the Hitching Post. That is interesting. I didn't realize it had been that long. She and Fritz Smith saved the old building by repairing, cleaning, and opening it for business. They had antiques, a decorating service, and sold ice cream. I shall forever be grateful to them for saving a precious landmark. I lived in Chattanooga and used to feel so sad when I drove by and saw the windows and doors barred. It looked like a ghost area. Fritz also worked hard with Rev. Graham Glover building St. Joseph's Episcopal Church. He moved to Florida and died a few years ago. Joanne remarried and is living in Maine and has an antique shop there. Wonderful! We must visit her. She said she is meeting her mother and dad (Hope and George Walker) in England soon. Bon Voyage--and come to see us.

The tearoom is coming along. They should be open for business by the festival.

It was nice to send a listing of Bed and Breakfast establishments to those who requested information on lodging facilities. We have a good supply now.

The Mentone Springs Hotel is being cleaned and refurbished by the Wassons. It looks good. They plan to repaint the outside like it was originally--white with green trim and shutters. The Wassons have plans for restoration according to the traditional victorian style. The Heritage Foundation will have to recoup and try for some other place. We still want a museum and a public auditorium for concerts, plays, etc. We have many items purchased from the Whitehead estate for displaying in a museum, and I have Mrs. Alice O'Rear's pump organ, a trunk, and round dining table I'm saving for the museum. Also, I have the handmade crib that Miss Ruby O'Rear used when a baby. We have much history in our area that should certainly be preserved for future generations.

The White Elephant is under one ownership now, and Mr. Ratch plans to paint it and do more repairs. Hooray! I love to see things preserved.

Some members of the Vernon family were here recently. They are grateful that St. Joseph's has kept the log room, which was built by Simmie Vernon, intact. It is the focal point of the church, for a visitor's room. On cool church days, Jerry Smith builds a good fire in the usable fireplace. The Vernons gave Simmie Vernon's desk to the church for that room, along with his picture and those of other family members.

A little working and planning can make all homes and businesses look so much better. Things are looking up in Mentone.

We have been busy attending golden wedding anniversary parties. I didn't realize so many local couples wed in 1946. We attended Lester and Annice Crowe's tea in Oak Ridge at the Civic Center last Sunday afternoon. It was very well done by their children. Frances and Lucille Crowe accompanied us and we had a good time. But we missed Howard and Jo Carson's party, and they are very special to us. So we are thinking of having a cook out and invite all local couples to our house for a combined celebration. We will have ours in August and somewhere near September.

See you at the Rhododendron Festival.



RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB

By Mickey Gough

On April 9, 1996, members of the Rhododendron Garden Club toured the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham, Ala. Ten members: Jo Beabe, Betty Chapman, Mary Crow, Marjorie Gray, Mickey Gough, Lynette McCary, Frances Waller, Hope Walker, and Jan Wilkinson, went with one guest, Maureen Brewer.

The Botanical Gardens comprise 67 acres of flowers, trees, and shrubs. They say that more than 230 species of birds can be observed there.

The women were pleased that the weather was mild, the gardens beautiful, and they had a friendly guide to show them around. They toured the Wild Flower Gardens, Japanese Garden, and the conservatory, housing rare plants and a beautiful display of orchids.

After the tour, the women had lunch where they were joined by Harriet Westbrook, a friend of Lynette McCary, and a life-long friend of Frances Waller.

---NOTICE---

MAY LUNCHEON MEETING

The next meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club will be on May 14, 1996, at 12 noon. It is the annual luncheon and will be held at Desoto State Park. Hattie Lide has the devotional. Gladys Crane, Ann Jackson, and Ann Wright are in charge of the flower arrangements. If you are planning to go to the luncheon, please let Marie Dillenbeck know immediately, if you have not done so already.

Dues of \$10.00 are to be paid now. Send them to Flo Kirby, treasurer, P.O. Box 395, Mentone, AL 35984.

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OUTDOOR TIPS

Compiled by Dr. Pat Seymour

A MATTER OF TASTE: Catfish probe the bottom of lakes and rivers for food with their barbels, whiskerlike structures on their snouts. Many people call these "feelers," but that is really not a good name for them.

Barbels are covered with taste buds, like those on your tongue and the roof of your mouth. Although the barbels are somewhat sensitive to touch, their main role is to locate food. By tasting different objects, the buds help a catfish figure out if something is edible or not.

FISH TALES: •The sea bass changes gender as it matures. •The male sea catfish, or "hardhead," seems to be a caring father: He broods fertilized eggs in his mouth, fasting until the young are born. •The archer fish can shoot down insects perched on tree limbs and rocks by ejecting drops of water through a groove in the roof of its mouth. •The angler fish has its own built-in fishing outfit. A long spine, tipped with a bit of flesh, protrudes from its head. A curious fish, attracted to the fleshly lure, invariably winds up in the angler's enormous maw. •Like most fish, the flounder begins life swimming upright. As it matures, however, it begins to lie on the ocean bottom more and more, and the eye on the side facing down slowly migrates to the side facing up.

HEAVY BREATHING: Dogs do not sweat by using their tongues; their most important sweat glands are located on their feet. They are cooled by rapid breathing, which is why they pant.

WHY WE TASTE GOOD TO CHIGGERS. You may think they suck, but actually, they bite. Most people in this neck of the woods call chiggers red bugs. Although they aren't true bugs, the name isn't entirely inaccurate, because they are red. Specifically, they are red mites. If you've got a sharpshooter's eyesight, you can spot a chigger on your skin—a tiny red dot in the center of an itching welt. They don't suck blood, and the bite itself isn't painful. Instead, they attach themselves to the outer skin with tiny jawlike pincers, secreting an enzyme that dissolves the skin cells into a thick liquid they can then drink. The chemical reaction to the enzyme, not the bite itself, is what causes the itching.

Since it's all but impossible to resist scratching chigger bites (even when you're asleep), the best defense is to avoid chiggers in the first place. Insect repellents applied to the boots and pants legs are effective for walking through grass and knee-high brush. But remember, chiggers can also get on your upper body from trees and shrubs.

It's always best to take a hot bath, using plenty of soap, immediately after a summer trip into the woods. If a bath isn't practical, at least change your clothes. Be careful where you put the clothes prior to washing, however, chiggers can get into your house or tent by clinging to them.

If you do get chiggers, there isn't very much you can do about it except scratch. They seek out areas where your clothing fits tightly, and where the skin folds. Although they'll feed on you for only three or four days, the itch from the enzymatic reaction can last for as many as 10 days. Anti-itch creams will help.

TO MAKE excellent boiled "camp" coffee, put a tight handful of regular grind coffee for each cup in a pot. Break an egg into the coffee and stir its broken shell into the grounds until it makes a ball. Slowly add cold water, put the pot on the fire, and bring to a boil, then set it at the edge of the fire and let it simmer for 5 minutes before pouring. The egg binds the coffee grounds together and keeps them from floating free.

TO SEE if a gun fits you, close your eyes and mount the gun to your shoulder and cheek without moving your head. Now, open your eyes without changing the gun's position. If you are looking straight down the barrel, the gun fits you adequately. If not, the stock needs to be adjusted to fit you.

PAINT "DO NOT OPEN" on the door of your traveling dog crate and remember to warn hunting companions never to let your dog out of it. Unless the dog is under your control when it is freed, it's likely to bound off the tailgate straight into passing traffic.

TO BREAK in a stiff new pair of all-leather boots quickly, soak them in water, then wear with a pair of heavy socks over polypropylene liners until they dry on your feet. You need not go on a hike; just wear them for normal everyday activities until they dry—usually about 8 hours.

TENT TIPS

1. Muddy Terrain: When camping in wet weather, put a plastic bag over your boots before you bring them in. It will protect the floor of your tent and help keep your other gear clean.

2. Packing Poles: Carry your tent poles and ground stakes in a separate stuffsack to prevent them from poking holes in your tent.

3. Tent Storage: No matter how tired you are after a trip, never store your tent right away. Moisture from rain or condensation can rot the fabric. Set the tent up in a dry place after cleaning it with a damp cloth and let it dry completely.

4. Sun Exposure: Avoid setting up your tent in an exposed area for too long. Ultraviolet rays have been proven to damage a tent fly.

5. Tent Stakes: If you lose a tent stake or can't get one into rocky ground, tie the guy line around a heavy rock or log, and pile other rocks on top.

Sleep Like a Baby...In The Woods

There's more to sleeping warmly than a good bag

1. Tent Placement: Where you place your tent can have a great effect on how warmly you will sleep. Pick a campsite away from windy, exposed ridges and out of low valleys, where cold air settles. Wherever possible, set up your tent near a natural windbreak.

2. The Pad: When winter camping, use a full-length insulated sleeping pad to minimize heat loss. Self-inflating mattresses are great by themselves, but you'll sleep even warmer if you use a foam pad underneath it.

3. The Bag: Making sure your sleeping bag stays dry may involve taking extra steps, such as packing it inside a plastic garbage bag within its stuffsack (many stuffsacks are water repellent, not waterproof); ventilating your tent to minimize condensation build-up; or investing in a waterproof/breathable overbag.

4. Clothing: Since roughly half your body heat escapes through your head, it's always a good idea to wear a warm hat when you sleep. Non-cotton longjohns and warm socks can also help your sleeping bag live up to its temperature rating.

5. Food: Neglecting to fuel the body before sleep can reduce your ability to keep warm. Drink liquids, eat a good dinner, and give yourself a small, high-calorie treat before you retire.

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CLOUDLAND - Nice residential building lot in good neighborhood containing approximately 1/2 acre - \$4,500.

CLOUDLAND - Highway 157 - good camping lot - 60'x160' - Only \$1200.

MENTO - Approximately 12 acres just outside Mento city limits - level and wooded. Priced at \$3000 per acre.

LAKE LAHUSAGE - Summer Get-Away-Very rustic. 1 BR cabin on 2.3 acres - \$65,000. Co-Broker of Southern Properties, Inc.

MENTONE BROW - Brow lot with 240' of brow and road frontage - \$25,000. Co-Broker of Southern Properties, Inc.

CLOUDLAND - 4 bedroom, 2 bath house features living room w/fireplace, kitchen/dining, central heat/air, one car garage, all on approx 1.2 acres - \$75,000.

SUMMERVILLE - 3 bedroom, 1 bath home with carport, utility room, hardwood floors and electric heat on nice corner lot. A must see at \$47,500.

CLOUDLAND - Dreaming of your own business? This convenience-pkg. store located next to the Alabama line on Hwy 48 in Cloudland is your answer. Nice block building, CH/A, largest cooler on the North Georgia route, gas tanks and pumps, kitchen, plus outdoor BBQ pit on 5 acres. Lots of room for expansion and development. Land, store & inventory, all for just \$175,000.

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SATURDAY & SUNDAY

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NO ADMISSION CHARGE

Mentone, Alabama - On Lookout Mountain Parkway

View Rhododendrons From River Boat Rides at DeSoto Falls
Tickets \$2.50 ea.

- * Music, Stories, Bonfire--Friday, May 17th at 7:00 PM
- * Parade on Saturday, May 18th at 2:00 PM
- * Clogging--Quilting--Arts & Crafts
- * Rhododendron Queen Contest Saturday,
May 11th at 8:00 PM at the Hitching Post

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God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

To everything there is season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Ecc. 3:1

Time is the one thing we do not have enough of. We hurry from morning to night, but don't have time to visit, to go to church, to spend time with family and loved ones. Have we got our priorities in the wrong places? Time is valuable. Will you take time to honor your mother on her day? What could be better?

Happy Mother's Day!



90th Birthday Celebration

The children of Alma Crabtree request the presence of relatives and friends to help celebrate Alma's 90th Birthday at the Fellowship Hall of the Moon Lake Baptist Church, Hwy 117, Mentone, Alabama, from 2 to 4 on May 12, 1996.

RABIES CLINIC
AT LITTLE RIVER HARDWARE
MAY 18, 1996, 12:30 - TO 3 P.M.

AUCTION

Saturday: May 4, 1996, at 6:00 p.m.
in the Valley Head High School Auditorium.
Sponsored by the Valley Head Band Boosters.

--Thanks--

to everyone from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful, uplifting cards and prayers from all my friends in Mentone during the time I was in the hospital and in rehabilitation. It meant the world to me. I truly realized how many friends I have!
I love every one of you.
Norma Williams

Rhododendron Queen Beauty Pageant



Applications have been sent to the area schools for contestants for the Rhododendron Queen Beauty Pageant that will be held on Saturday night May 11th - one week before the festival, which is May 18 and 19.

This year, the winner will receive \$100.00, Plus a full two year scholarship at Northeast Jr. College.

4TH ANNUAL

WILDFLOWER SATURDAY MAY 4 & MAY 11, 1996

DESOTO STATE PARK NATURE CENTER

PROGRAM EVENTS

8:30 AM - ORIENTATION

9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM - GUIDED
WILDFLOWER HIKES

11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM - LUNCH BREAK

Lunch Served At the Lodge or Bring a Sack Lunch

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM - GUIDED

WILDFLOWER HIKES

FIELD TRIP LEADERS

Paul Franklin - May 4 - Audubon Society, Photographer

Linda Reynolds - May 4 - Naturalist, Guntersville

State Park - Herbs and Wildflowers

Dick Reynolds - May 4 - Naturalist - Dendrology, Wildflowers

Dot Threlkeld - May 11 - Huntsville Wildflower

Society - Wildflower Identification

Bill Threlkeld - May 11 - Huntsville Wildflower

Society - Wildflowers, Dendrology

Ken Thomas - May 4 & 11 - Ranger, DeSoto State Park -

Wildflower Identification