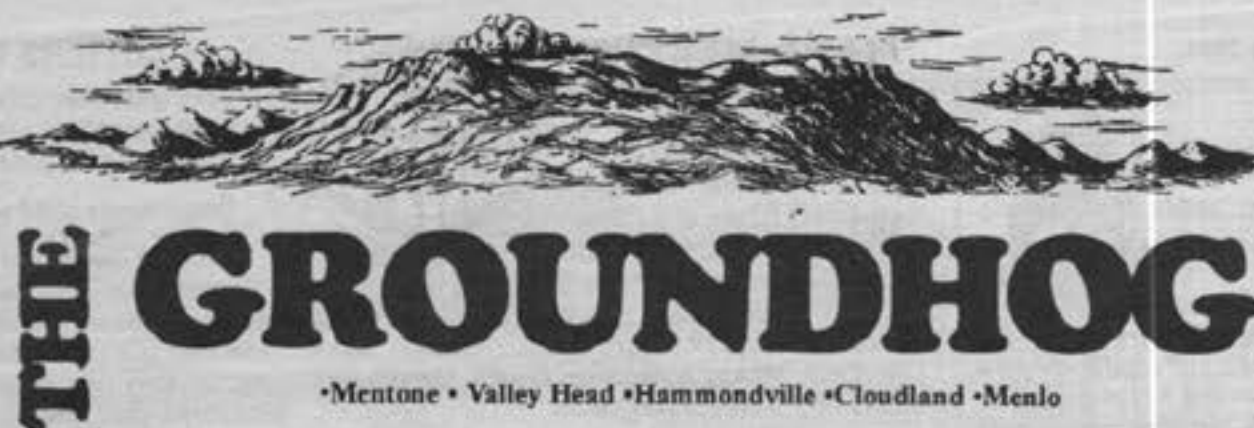


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THE

GROUNDHOG

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By M.A.P.A.**

www.MentoneAlabama.org

Volume 21, No. 5

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

May 2003



**Extra, Extra,
Be All about it...**

NEEDED

Good looking

**Cars, Trucks, Women, Children,
Glowns, Apes on mopeds.. Marching
Bands, Balloons ETC..**

IT IS The Parade

You have been waiting for.

**If your kid, dog, cow, or partner was
good this year, put a banner on it and
put it in the parade.....**

May 17, 2003 @2:00

Register with Glenda @ 634-4836

to reserve your place . Do it today.

**If you can't put you Mama in it, at least
Bring her to see it.**

Any ideas or input will be greatly appreciated.

RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL

**MAY 17 - 18, 2003
BROW PARK
MENTONE, AL**

**ARTS AND CRAFTS
BY
LOCAL AND AREA ARTISTS**

LOTS OF FOOD

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
WITH
COTACO CREEK AND GUESTS**



Wooden items



Oil paintings



Native
Rhododendron
Plants



Hand made



Country

Gospel

Rock & Roll

Native American

Handmade items

Pencil drawings

Latest book
by
Mother/son authors

Bluegrass

Folk

R&B

2003 RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL

May 17-18, 2003

Brow Park

Mentone, AL

Bonfire with Music and Square Dancers

Chance on Hand Made Quilt

**The Parade is set for Saturday, May 17. If you would like to be in the
parade, call the number above.**

Come out and enjoy the weekend of festivities.

**To Subscribe to the Groundhog,
See Page 2.**

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THE GROUNDHOG

P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984
www.TheGroundhog.com



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

THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

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

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Vice President..... Dot Crow
Secretary..... Marie S. Dillenbeck
Treasurer..... Bernise Crow
Parliamentarian..... Mickey Gough
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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 15TH DAY OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

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MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION (MAPA)

P.O. BOX 50, MENTONE, AL 35984

www.MentoneAlabama.org

Your membership/subscription is tax deductible.

MAPA MEETING

www.MentoneAlabama.org

The April 1 meeting was held at the the Mentone Community House at 7 PM.

Present were Jim & Penny Lyday, George Walker, Ruby Brock Rick Chapman, Tom & Lynn Donald, Corinne Caplano, Dessie Newberry, Dorothy Shelden, Marie Dillenbeck, Mickey & Sherman Gough, Marsha Hair, and Sonny & Frances Gilbreath.

Jim Lyday gave the invocation. The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given.

Under old business, the Rhododendron Festival, was the topic of the evening and reports were made. Glonda Hollis agreed to be the parade chairman again this year. Jack Jones and assistant, Pam Bettis who helped at the Colorfest, have already been working on flyers and mailouts.

Prior to adjourning for refreshments, Sherman Gough, Adopt-A-Mile Chairman, announced that the mile still needed cleaning.

The MAPA telephone number is 256-634-8390.

The MAPA website is www.MentoneAlabama.org.

The MAPA meetings will be held at the Mentone Community House at 7 PM the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be May 5 at 7PM. Everyone is welcome.

NOTICE

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

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

The Groundhog

www.TheGroundhog.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Polly and Alfred Chambers
3519 Hwy 117
Mentone, AL 35984

Dear Friends and Family:

Recently Alfred and I experienced difficult circumstances when Alfred was in the hospital and I fell sustaining serious injuries and also was hospitalized. We both want to express our thanks for the outpouring of love and hospitality we were shown. We received visits, flowers, calls and cards from friends and family and are so grateful for the words of encouragement, as well as the meals so lovingly prepared for us. Our children Milton, his wife Gail, and Kenneth along with his wife Gail, and some of our numerous grandchildren have stayed with us and helped us in so many ways. Help also has included several long trips to the hospital and doctor. We want to give a special thank you to Rusty Chambers and Michelle Black and our beautiful grandchildren and their spouses.

We also had several out of town visits from grandchildren and great grandchildren. One of our granddaughters, Kim Castleberry, the middle child of our deceased daughter, Juanita McNutt McClure, came over from Columbus, Mississippi, to stay with us for several days. Brian and Kyle McNutt visited from Atlanta, Georgia, and Alfie Chambers visited from the Gadsden area. Our family of three children has grown to many. Juanita had three children and one grandchild. Kenneth and Gail had three children and several grandchildren and Milton has four, along with Gail's precious children. They also have several grandchildren, too. We love and appreciate our family, which has grown to include church family and our Mentone family. We could not possibly list all the many wonderful people individually who have helped us in this time of need, but want all of you to know how much it has meant to us. Thank you all for many kindnesses and your love.

Love, Polly and Alfred Chambers

Dear Editor

We are concerned about all the litter on the sides of our roads. It could harm our animals and environment, plus it looks awful. Everyone, please recycle and use a trash can. Thank you.

Tiger Cubs,
Cub Scout Pack 106
Mentone



Angela J. Wood
Owner and AL/GA Broker

6090 Highway 117, South
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Lookout Mountain Parkway
Mentone, Alabama 35984

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(1) **SPEND YOUR WEEKENDS IN MENTONE.** a Brand new Cottage (1550 sq. ft.) with two bedrooms, one up with Gas Fireplace, and Whirlpool Tub in Bath. Open Kitchen, dining, with Tile and Hardwood floors. Living Room with Gas Fireplace. Wrap-around deck. CIMA, city water, located on a wooded lot. **REDUCED \$119,900.**



(2) **A-FRAME CHATEAU.** 1.5 acres of Landscaped yard. Open living area. Kitchen. Bdrm-bath, private deck. Upstairs has 2 large bdrms, bath w/garden tub. C/H.A. 1,200 sq. ft. Garage. Fenced. Located Hwy 117, Mentone. Priced to sell. **\$119,000.**



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



(4) **2 STORY HOME ON CUTLER AVE, MENTONE.** 3 Bdrm 1 1/2 bath, updated with Metal Roof, 12x16 deck, Kitchen-dining combo. Living room w/gas free standing fireplace, cozy den, Large Bdrm with second story balcony. All appliances stay. Located on a level one-acre lot with large Oak trees and lots of wild flowers. **REDUCED \$70,000.**



(5) **CABIN ON DRY CREEK,** which is always flowing. 2 bedroom 2 bath in good condition. Batten and board siding. Covered porches and a deck. Located on 2.7 acres, Sulphur Springs Rd. **\$79,000.**



(6) **WEST FORK SUBDIVISION** 6.5 acres with paved road frontage. 148 ft on the River. Partially cleared with a spectacular view from the building site. **\$48,000.**



(7) **EARLY 1900s TWO STORY FARM HOUSE,** located on Cutler Ave. Mentone. High Hedges and Oak Trees make a private setting in town. 2 Bdrms upstairs with sitting area and bath. Living area, eat-in Kitchen & Bath on the main level. Large screened porch. Pine floors, walls, and ceiling throughout. **REDUCED \$75,900.**



(8) **ONE OF A KIND LOG, STONE AND CEDAR SHAKE LODGE.** This unique find is complete with Heart Pine Plank floors throughout. Open Great Room and Loft with built-in beds. Stone fireplace in Living area, and the custom kitchen with a stone fireplace. French doors open to the sleeping porches and master Bdrm. A must see, with much more to offer. **\$295,000.**



(9) **COMPLETELY REMODELED AND LIKE NEW.** One level Ranch-style home, with Mother-in-Law apartment. 3 bdrm, 3 bath, Living room with stone Fireplace. Separate Dining room. New Kitchen cabinets, counters, flooring. New Roof, lifetime warranty windows. Screened porch and breezeway. Wired Generator. So much more. containing 3.6 acres M/L. Hwy 117, with commercial potential. **\$145,000.**



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

OTHER PROPERTIES

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

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

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

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

(15) **WILDLIFE ABUNDANT** on these Three 20+ acre Tracts. Mostly Open Land, Rolling hills, ponds. May be purchased individually or together. Priced \$2,000 an acre. Located in Mentone area with deeded access road.

(16) **BUILDING LOT IN CLOUDLAND, GA.** Nice wooded lot with city water available, paved road frontage. Surveyed and perked. Contains .95 acre. Located on Golfcourse Rd. **\$7,500.**

(17) **CANYON VIEW FOREST,** adjoins National Preserve, and Wildlife Management. 5 acre tract, wooded with drive, power, well installed. Private access behind locked Gate. Overlooks Little River Canyon National Preserve.

TOO MANY PROPERTIES TO LIST THEM ALL.

If L.M.P.R. doesn't have it, L.M.P.R. will find what you're looking for.

L.M.P.R. is licensed in Georgia, as well as Alabama.

Want to sell or looking to buy that special place in the mountains?

Call Angela J. Wood. Multi-state Broker.

TRIP TO THE SMOKIES

(Written this past winter)

By John Baty

A little bit ago, I came into the house to rest and warm my cold fingers. I also wanted that 3/8 inch drill bit which I had noticed in the house and not back in its place in the bit box in the shed. I found it on the corner table where I had placed it with good intention of carrying it back to its proper place.

While I was warming my fingers and trying to decide whether to do anything else outside, the phone rang.

I answered and after some popping and clicking and some children's voices in the background, a fast-talking lady launched into a prepared pitch to persuade me to buy a trip to the Smoky Mountains.

I replied to the effect that she needed someone else for a prospective vacationer other than me. I said that it was cold up in the Smokies and there was plenty of smoky water vapor in the air right here.

She then asked why I did not want to go on vacation in the Smoky Mountains—I replied that I was born and grew to adulthood in the mountains. That I knew about rocks and water and heights and grand views and was no stranger to the awe and heady euphoria of primitive

terrain. I asked her if she had ever spent the winter in a mountain shack with only a wood-hungry old smoking fireplace for heat? The water bucket frozen and the dipper stuck tight in the ice. Had she ever slept on a mattress filled and padded with cornshucks and hay? Had she ever eaten bacon from a muddling, which had been too long in the saltbox? Had she ever cooked corn meal or flour that was full of weevils, seasoned with rancid lard, which had been too long exposed to the air? Had she ever drunk blinched milk that was beginning to sour? Had she ever wrapped her shoes and legs with tow sacks (burlap bags) and tied them with bailing wire so she could go out and kill enough squirrels for a meal? Had she ever been stranded without an automobile and the roads rutted and muddy beyond travel and develop a severe toothache? Had she ever hand-stitched a bag from flour sacks, filled it with salt and heated it in front of the fireplace and held it on her jaw to relieve that toothache? Had a dentist ever told her that she had neglected her teeth so long that to repair them with any satisfaction was impossible? Had she ever lain on those rough

mattresses while her fever was 103°F and waited for her kin-folks to walk several miles out to call a doctor from a distant town and waited in great discomfort and no little fear while that doctor tried to bring his car up those muddy, rutted roads to bring her medicine for the fever, and anti-bacterial medicine which would damage liver and kidneys if you were lucky enough to be able to keep it down? Had she ever heated a "smoothing" iron by the fireplace and asked a family member to iron her aching, rheumatic back? Had she ever walked out of those mountains to a distant school to learn how to add and multiply and how to read? Had she ever tried to save enough money back there in those hills so she could pay board and tuition at some distant "boarding school?"

And had she ever stood on the rock prominences of a mountain and inhaled the misty air, which shrouded everything in a fog so thick that only "instinct" led her safe back to her home?.... "Yes," I told her, "I have seen them mountains and I have lived there for more than three score years and" The phone clicked as she hung up the receiver!

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CLOSED Tuesday

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SCOUTING REPORT Boy Scout Troop 106

The Spring Camporee March 28-30 was a great success. A wheelchair bound group from Birmingham came up and the scouts used wheelchairs to play basketball and other activities. Mike Bare was awarded his Wood Badge.

Jon Mayhew has completed his Eagle Project, which was to get the area behind the old parsonage cleared of the trash and wood from the cutting of the decaying trees. Several loads of firewood were delivered in the area to those who are not able to cut their own. There is more firewood available if anyone needs it or knows of someone who will be in need this next winter. Jon still lacks two Merit Badges, but these should be completed soon.

April was again a busy month for Troop 106. There was a "Leave No Trail" Campout April 21st, led by Mike Bare. On April 28th, Phil and Marsha Hurl taught the Family Life Merit Badge.

In May, the Troop will assist with parking at several events including a company picnic on the 10th at Comer Scout Reservation and the Rhododendron Festival at Brow Park the third weekend of the month.

The summer schedule is already filling up with Summer Camp June 8-14 and the trip to Mammoth Cave Kentucky July 19-22.

Reservations have already been made for the 2004 trip to Philmont. These reservations are getting harder and harder to get. They are usually taken up on the first day they are opened. We had several parents calling trying to get through. The dates will be August 7-19, 2004. This is always an exciting trip and usually a once-in-a-lifetime event for the scouts involved.

Cub Scout Den 106

Arrow of Light Ceremony
Honoring Jacob Tweedell
Saturday, May 10 - 2:00 p.m.
Jim Berry Scout Hall
Refreshments will be served
following the ceremony

THANK YOU!!

The Mentone Softball Team would like to thank the following for their support: Mentone Market, Morgan Drugs, Ruby Tuesdays, Marie Dillenbeck, and Quality Cleaning.

The League Tournaments will be starting on Tuesday, May 6, at the Fort Payne Sports Complex. To find out the dates and times of play, you may call the complex at 845-5120. Come out and see them play. The members on the Mentone team are:

Mark Evans	Brent Black
Joey Richey	Randy Moody
John Cowart	Jason Goss
Garrett Collins	Ben Haygood
J.J. Wigley	Bobby Browder
Kevin Puckett	Nathan Owen
Kevin Worthey	

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Legacy

She could not give her children gold
So she gave them faith to have and hold.

She could not give them royal birth ...
A name renowned throughout the earth.
But she gave them seeds and garden spot
And shade trees when the sun was hot.

She could not give a silver spoon
Or servants waiting night and noon.
She gave them love and a listening ear.
And told them God was always near.

She could not give them ocean trips
Aboard majestic sailing ships.
But she gave them books and quiet time,
Adventures found in prose and rhyme.

She could not give them worldly things
But what she gave was fit for kings.
For with her faith and books and sod
She made each child aware of God.

From Way of Life Literature

This is a copy of the letter recently mailed to residents in the area of coverage by the Volunteer Fire Fighters. As stated, we have over 800 property owners in this coverage and could not possibly have the names and addresses for every one. If you did not receive a letter and wish to make a donation; Send it to: NLMFPD, PO Box 154, Mentone, AL 35984. (You may use the box below to send the information and donation.)

NORTH LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DIST.

P. O. BOX 154
MENTONE, AL. 35984

Gail Chambers: Chair
Board Members: Marilyn Blanton Campbell,
Frank Hill, Ken Kirby, Greg Henry
Secretary and acting Treas.: Linda Brown
Fire Chief, Jim Roberts
Asst. Chief, Rusty Chambers

April, 2003

Dear Resident,

Your Volunteer Fire Dept. in Mentone serves an area of approximately forty square miles, consisting of over 800 properties including homes, businesses, churches, a school and several youth camps.

Our Volunteers attend meetings, training sessions, and maintain vehicles and equipment on their own time. They do this without payment of any kind, except having the satisfaction of knowing that they helped someone during a time of need.

As you may know, our operating expenses continue to escalate. This is due, in part, to the expense of maintaining older equipment and maintenance of the fire hall itself.

The upkeep and operations of the fire department are covered by fund raising activities, donations, and a special tax which has enabled us to purchase much needed equipment and more recently a new fire truck.

Magnolia Joe's

Mentone's newest eatery featuring a healthy natural alternative to your every day eating experience. Served upon a bed of delight tossed with fun and excitement.

Lunch: 11-2 Thurs - Sat.

Dinner: 5-9, Thurs - Sat.

Sundays 11-4

Presenting Magnolia Rose and Joe as the owners.
Come join us for good food, fun, and conversation.
Reservations for dinner and Sundays suggested.

256-634-1404

Accepting Visa MasterCard Cash

Due to the projected revenue from the special tax, we were able to qualify for a low interest rate Federal loan through the Rural Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, having failed to obtain a Federal Grant the past two years. The new vehicle's cost is \$135,000 and we were able to finance this over a 20 year period.

However, we have set a goal of paying this loan off in 10 years or less, which will require doubling up on our annual payments of \$10,560 per year. WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT!!

We are again applying for a Federal grant this year to replace our old and inadequate First Responder brush truck. We simply cannot finance another vehicle purchase until the first vehicle is paid for.

You can help us continue to improve our service to your community with your generous contribution. Our goal is to raise at least \$10,000 in additional funds per year to enable us to make payments on the new truck of approximately \$21,000 annually.

Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope for your convenience. Your contributions are tax deductible and will be greatly appreciated. Sincerely,

Gail Chambers, Chair

NORTH LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DIST.

P. O. BOX 154
MENTONE, AL 35984

Name: _____

Mail Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

911 Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount of Donation \$ _____

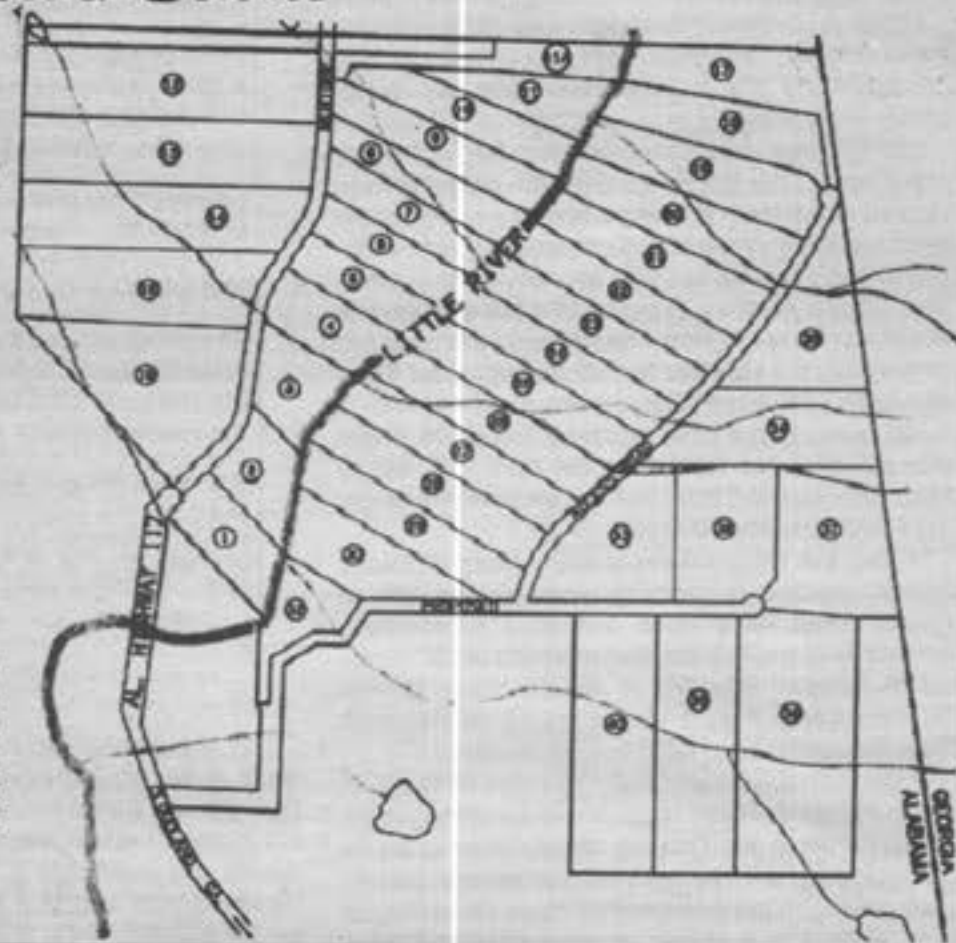
Mountain River Estates



Mountain River Estates is located between Montone, AL, and Cloudland, GA, on Alabama Hwy 117. There are riverfront and mountain stream tracts ranging from 3+ to 14+ acres in size. The middle fork of Little River runs through the property with over a mile of clean pristine water, containing both whitewater and placid pools. The property is located 1-3/4 hours from Atlanta and

1-1/2 hours from Birmingham and is situated on the Lookout Mountain Parkway. This secluded unspoiled area is a perfect getaway for retirement or a second home. All homesites have access to electricity and city water is planned to reach the development by 2003.

Call 1-800-272-1386



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

March 28, 2003

Ms Evelyn Graves
111 Wells Street
Montone, AL 35904

Dear Evelyn:

Your articles about the things you have found in the attic are wonderfully sentimental. I have enjoyed reading of your discoveries, and I am reminded of the value of the cherished memories which such discoveries represent.

The loss of one's parent begins a difficult process of adjustment, and the things in the attic are an important part of that process. Each old letter and photograph helps reconcile us to our loss, and you are fortunate to have your family treasures to comfort you.

You are very thoughtful to remember my interest in old Montone postcards and memorabilia. I consider your reference to my collection to be a high compliment, and I am grateful for your expressed willingness to share with me your "things in the attic."

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely, David A. Rains

4-3-03

Dear Evelyn:

The postcards which mean the most to me are those given by friends. The gift of three cards from your Mom's attic is especially meaningful, and I appreciate being entrusted with these pieces of your family history.

Thank you for your contribution to my collection, and for your friendship, which these cards represent.
Sincerely, David

Congratulations



Clay Sanders

Clay Sanders was inducted into the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society at North Georgia College and State University on April 15, 2003. This honor requires a grade point average of 3.5 or higher with no grade below a B. He is a freshman enrolled in their pre-med program majoring in Biology and Chemistry. Clay's extra-curricular activities include being the starting shortstop for the NGC&SU Saint's baseball team. He is the son of Charles and Sandra Smith Sanders of Gainesville, GA, and the grandson of John and Bobbie Smith of Montone, Alabama.

Mentone Wedding Chapel

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



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

[Candles • Linens • Music • Photography
• Flowers • Reception • Lodging • Limestone]

To arrange your wedding or renewing of your wedding vows, call

256-634-4181

The
**Church
News**
By
EVELYN GRAVES



Sunday morning services at Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church are held at 9:00 AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Rev. Jerry Davis and Rev. L.A. Smith are alternate speakers for those services.

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

The Valley Head United Methodist Church prayer meeting is Wednesday night at 6 PM. Bible study Wednesday night at 6:30 PM. A prayer chain has been formed. Sunday School is at 9 AM each Sunday and Worship is at 10 AM.

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

The Harmony Grove Baptist Church invites everyone to come and worship with them. God's Country Church is located on Co. Road 239 (Hawkins Road). Sunday School is at 9:45 AM; Morning Worship is at 11 AM; Evening Worship is at 6 PM; Wednesday Night Prayer Service is at 6 PM.

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

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular worship services are at 10 AM and Sunday School at 9 AM. Steve Schrader, Pastor 845-4314. All are welcome.

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

Anyone interested in observing the Sabbath and Holy Days. Call 845-2246 for time and location.

Presbyterian Church worship service at Cloudland begins at 10 AM, (EST), and the Menlo service begins at 11:15 AM (EST).

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

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

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

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10 AM; Worship at 11 AM; Wednesday Bible Study at 6 PM. 256-834-4137.

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

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

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

The Mentone Church of God of Prophecy wants to invite you to attend their services. Sunday School is at 10 AM, with Worship at 11 AM. Evening services begin at 6 PM. Rev. Charles Flannigan invites everyone to attend regular services and the special Easter service. There will be an annual egg hunt for the children.

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

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

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church atop Lookout Mountain in Mentone, Alabama, regular services are Sunday at 10:30 AM, with a time for fellowship after the services. Contact the church at 634-4476 for more information on any events or services. Everyone is welcome to join in worship services or special events.

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

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to attend any of their services or activities. Two Morning Services with Children's Church are at 8:45 AM, with Sunday School at 10 AM, and the second service at 11 AM. GAs meet at 4:30 PM, Discipleship Training and Youth Choir meet at 5:00 PM, followed by Evening Worship at 6:00 PM. On Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Children's Bible Study meets in the Fellowship Hall, the Youth have Bible Study and Recreation Time, Adults meet for Bible Study and Prayer.

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**NORTHEAST ALABAMA ADULT
EDUCATION PROGRAM 23RD
ANNUAL GED GRADUATIONS
MAY 9, 2003**

The Northeast Alabama Adult Education Program will hold its Twenty-third Annual GED Graduation for GED recipients on Friday, May 9, 2003, at 7:00 P.m. at the DeKalb County Schools Coliseum in Rainsville. The graduation will honor all GED recipients from DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall Counties. Robert Reeves host of WHNT TV's "Mornin' Folks", which is broadcast on Huntsville's Channel 19, will be on hand to assist in the presentation of certificates.

Through adult education, many individuals have had the opportunity to get their GED, which enabled them to secure or upgrade their employment or attend college or technical school. Many others have enriched their lives by learning to read and write. Adult education has lessened the burden for our welfare system because it has helped many public assistance recipients to become self-sufficient. The GED graduation is one way to express congratulations to those students who have worked so hard.

Any adult (including those who did not attend adult education classes) who has successfully completed the GED Test and has not previously participated in a graduation is invited to be a part of this ceremony. All family and friends are also welcome to attend the graduation exercises. Those interested in participating in the GED graduation or anyone needing more information should contact the adult education program at 636-2957 from 8:00AM to 4:00PM, Monday through Friday.

Garage Sale

Friday, May 2, 1-6 PM
Saturday, May 3, 9AM-6PM
111 Wells St, Mentone
Items from Kathryn Jones Estate

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LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

By Linda Brown

If you haven't visited the Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library, please do so. It is a wonderful facility and such a nice addition to the community of Mentone. You can come by during the hours the Community Library is open. These hours are: Tuesday, 5-7 p.m. and Saturday, 9-12 a.m. The Tuesday hours will be for you to check in and check out books and use the research facilities of the library. The Saturday hours will be for the same activities and we will be having summer programs for the children from 10 to 12 a.m. We will be open one hour before starting our programs, if you want to come by earlier. The special programs will begin on May 31st and the last one will be August 2nd. The library will not open on July 5th, due to the Independence Day holiday.

ALL GRADES LISTED ARE FOR GOING INTO THAT GRADE WHEN SCHOOL STARTS NEXT YEAR

The program for kindergarten through 3rd grade students will be, Books Ahoy! This will be a fun way for children to learn about things that are in, under and around bodies of water. We will be doing many fun projects and activities.

Top Secret Adventures will be the program for 4th through 6th grade students. They will become master detectives and solve many difficult cases. "Elementary, my dear Watson." For those under sixty years of age, this is a famous quote by Sherlock Holmes, one of the greatest. Come and see how much fun being a detective can be!

We have adopted Blue and Gold, puppets who seem to be a dog and a cat, to tell us what will be happening at the library this summer. Watch for them all over Mentone.

We are so excited about a new item that will be available to everyone this summer. We have Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library bags. These bags are printed in the school color of royal blue. They are just the right size to hold books and/or papers, pencils and other necessary items. You may have one by becoming a FRIEND of the library. This can be done by a donation of \$20.00 or more. This donation will be used for the expenses incurred by the community library. A form is included in this article. You may mail it, along with your donation, to MLESCL, PO Box 154, Mentone, AL 35984. You may then pick up your bag during the open hours at the library. Forms will also be available at the library and from any member of the board of directors.

You may also become a FRIEND and receive your bag at the Book Booth (number 22) in the upcoming Rhododendron Festival on May 17th and 18th, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day. We will also have lots of books for sale at the booth. There will be novels, resource books, paper backs and many other books for sale at very reasonable prices.

There will be a training for volunteers to work in the library this fall. We need YOU! All of our present volunteers enjoy this time at the library. You can sign up to do this at the Book Booth also. Come by and see us, we can give you details on any of our programs.

Become a FRIEND of Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library

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Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount of Donation \$ _____

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MOON LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY SUMMER PROGRAMS

EACH SATURDAY

MAY 31 - AUGUST 2 10 - 12 a.m.

(Except July 5th, the library will be closed for Independence Day)

The programs for Kindergarten through Third Grade will be, Books Ahoy! A fun time of learning about the ocean and all that lives there. Games, crafts, books and other fun activities!

The programs for Fourth through Sixth Grade will be, Top Secret Adventures. Go on an adventure each week to a far away land. Clues will be given to find the what, where, why and how of the mystery. Fun for all!

MOUNTAIN LIFE SPRING CELEBRATION

By L.C. Moon

Behind the Mentone Springs Hotel during the month of April, the Grand Opening of Mountain Life was taking place. Lots of locals and quite a few tourists stopped in to help us celebrate the new store and the new life budding all around us this spring.

The Saturday before Easter we had big turnout. Lots of familiar faces came to enjoy the beautiful day, as well as to show their support for Mentone's All Natural Specialty Store and Ginger Kogelschetz Medicinal Herb Plant Sale. I had a nice response to the natural Easter egg dying, which included dyes with rosebuds, apple leaves (donated by Joan of the Mentone Market), orange peels, blueberry jam, cranberry and grape juice. As promised, we had a gift basket to give away--the grand prize winner was Cathy Werhenberg, and the 1st runner up was Danny & Kim Stone, both of Mentone. The samples of the organic baked goods were delicious. The caper for the day was Appalachian-style music by Dewey & Steve Blalock.

Last month, I wrote that we would be including more all natural foods and books. Mountain Life now has a small freezer and refrigerator so that we have organic whole grain and sprouted bread and tortillas on hand, as well as local hormone-free eggs. To all who have made requests--we have, to the best of our ability, been able to accommodate you with much success. We are carrying new and used books on subjects regarding nature, i.e., nature study, crafts, gardening, etc., health and alternative healing and personal growth. Mountain Life is now taking books about these subjects on consignment.

During the Rhododendron Festival, we have asked Dewey and Steve Blalock to come play fiddle and guitar to fill the air in true Mountain Life fashion. I hope you will stop in to get a dose of true Appalachian-style music and to celebrate spring.

(256) 634-3333, PO Box 224, Mentone, AL
35984 aruallove@aol.com



We had a beautiful Easter Sunday. My granddaughter, Robin Darby, her husband, Ray, and daughter, Kirsten, came from Collierville, TN, on Friday evening and stayed until Sunday evening. We went to church Sunday morning, then joined twenty-three other family members at Shoney's for Easter dinner.

These news items were sent to me last month, too late to get in:

Stella Pierce was surprised with a birthday supper at the home of Cecil and Peggie Cox on March 4. Others present were Lee and Diane Pierce and Margie, Heather and Brittany Daniel.

"Valley Head Elementary School is proud to have 4th grade teacher, **Brenda Wisner**, back at school. Keep her in your prayers.

Margie Daniel is much better since her surgery for a ruptured disk in her neck. Hope she will be delivering mail again.

"Keep remembering **Trevor Smith** when you pray."

All "Old timers" remember the **Culpeppers** who lived in Valley Head long ago. They were a big family who were faithful members of Valley Head Methodist Church. I received a call on Mar. 20 from L.B. in Pell City, AL. He was a twin brother to R.B. He is now 82 years old and retired from the State Health Dept. He and his sister, Juanita Searcy, of Chattanooga, are the only family members left. He is a long-time subscriber to *The Groundhog* and wanted me to know how very much he enjoys it.

Maureen Hammond reports that her grandson, Elliott Yamada, has a job in Dalton with Burkette Hathaway, which he likes very much. After twelve weeks, he will be sent to Texas. Her granddaughter, Camilla Yamada, will graduate from Bowdoin College May 24, which Maureen and other family members hope to attend. She has a job teaching in New York City.

Ed Ringer spent Easter weekend with his nephew, David Ringer and family in Florence, Mississippi.

Joe Pickett is taking courses at North East Community College preparing to be a nurse.

Several people from Valley Head attended the play, "Fiddler on the Roof," at North East College. They said **DeVan Jackson** was great in the leading role. His daughter, Hannah, also did well in the play.

Brent Cooper, Janet and Jimmy Cooper's son, is a patient at BMC DeKalb. We hope he will recover quickly and completely.

Adelaide Biddle came from her home in Dallas, GA, to attend the retired banders luncheon at Western Sizzlin, April 18.

Ted Holleman has been feeling worse. Hopefully, he is feeling better now and will continue to improve.

Congratulations to **Susie and Scooter Clark** on their 54th wedding anniversary.

Karen and Luke Freeman, Debbie, Jeff and Natalie Martin and Lane attended the graduation of **Lee Martin Freeman**, April 25, at Jacksonville State University. She received a Bachelor of Science management degree.

Ben Freeman is home from Richmond, VA, for a few days. He has finished his internship with his present company.

Matt and Susan Freeman went to Mallorca, Spain, because of her aunt's death.

Congratulations to **Nelson and Elizabeth Ellis** on their golden wedding anniversary. Sat. night, April 26, Robert and Marla Ellis and Paul and Kelly Ellis entertained with a lovely dinner party at Robert and Marla's home at Rainsville, with about twenty present in honor of the occasion.

Edith and Alvin Cox went with the Good Sam Motor Home Club to Joe Wheeler Dam, near Florence, AL, April 11-14. Nine motor homes went.

The **Hammondville Volunteer Fire Dept.** will sell good barbecue plates for \$5.00 at the Hammondville Fire station, June 6 and 7.

Roy Jones and wife, Bonny, and children Rebecca and John Paul, came from Chesapeake, VA, for a two weeks' visit with Roy's parents, John and Jean Jones.

Ruth Pickett's granddaughter, Brandi McDade, and her two sons, Jaxon and Preston, spent Friday, April 21st, with Bert and her. Their daughter, Patti Spencer, also spent a few days with them, recently.

Susie Clark was hostess for the **Sunshine Club** at her home, Thurs., April 24. Those present were Elizabeth Bauerle, Lillie Bowden, Verence Hawkins, Estie Palmer, Ann Wright, Jewell Shelbourne, Ruth Pickett, and Eloise Brown.

My cousins, **Bill and Blanche Fuller**, from Madison, spent Sunday, April 27, with me and Barry and Emily Brown. We ate lunch at the Cracker Barrel in Tiftonia.

Thirty-four family members, including two sisters, brother and sister-in-law, great niece, and all children and grandchildren, except a grandson, who is a Marine at Camp Pendleton, in CA., met at Ryan's Restaurant in Chattanooga, to celebrate **Ruth Pickett's 80th birthday, April 5.**

Welcome to the world, **Lily Meadows**, born April 11, at BMC DeKalb to Katherine and Scott Meadows. Her grandparents are Cynthia and David Meadows of Valley Head and Debbie and Charlie Frazier, formerly of Mentone, now Illinois. Great Grandparents are Barry and Emily Brown of Valley Head, and I am her great, great grandmother.

I was resting in a chair between Goody's inner and outer door, Sat., before Easter. Suddenly a tiny Mexican girl, about three years old, came out the door ran straight to me, hugged my neck, started talking like I was her long lost grandmother. A woman was with her with a baby boy. She introduced him as her baby brother—that much I understood. She talked a blue streak—I could only understand she was a sweet little girl—a stranger, whose love blessed three people—the woman with her, who was enjoying it so much; the little girl, who was so happy and loving; and I felt like she was a little angel sent to give me a special blessing. Sometimes a seemingly small thing—if done with a loving touch—can mean so very much!

I received lots of calls about the earthquake—from Auburn, two from California—including one from Martha Dean Dobbins Smith—former resident from Valley Head and Mentone. She heard only part of a news report and wanted to know what had happened. She is also a long-time subscriber to *The Groundhog*, and told me how much it means to her. I appreciate, so much, all concern and appreciation.

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a very special day—
To honor all mothers in a special way
To show love and appreciation
For their years of devotion and dedication,
For their examples and helpful advice,
For their generosity and willing sacrifice
With arms open wide to shelter and protect
Teaching how to merit success and respect
Always their dependable loving care
And their strength thru faith and prayer,
Praying for ultimate happiness
And for God to guide and richly bless.
These are characteristics of a true mother
Whose love compares with only one other
Jesus—as he hung on the cross in agony
His mother's grief and John he could see
And was concerned for his Mother's welfare
Consigned her to his beloved disciples' care
So should children's concern for mothers be
Thru out all of life to eternity.
All who have a mother living
Have the blessing of sharing and giving
If she is no longer her
She leaves memories precious and dear
As solace and comfort forever more
To live in the heart's treasure store.

....Eloise Brown

May, How Can Earth Bear Thee?

May, how can Earth bear the wonderful rare
Ecstasy you bring in beauty's wild fling?
Ev'ry hue of green sparkles 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 dense fragrant shade where gay shadows played
Graceful ferns uncured blissfully dew pearled—
Waking from their sleep, elfin flowers peep
From their velvet beds, shyly lift their heads
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 Whip poor will—
Beautiful, fragrant, play day of vagrant
Nature as it feels like kicking up heels
Heaven's selection May, your perfection
How can Earth bear thee, beauty's ecstasy—
The joy that you bring with the heart of spring?

....Eloise Brown



UGF SPOTLIGHT ON AMERICAN RED CROSS-DEKALB COUNTY CHAPTER

When you think of Red Cross, you probably think first of "giving blood or a disaster of some type." But, did you know that the American Red Cross is the only agency designated to provide emergency communications for the U.S. Military? For instance, if family members, locally, have an urgent need to contact a service member overseas, this can be done through the DeKalb County Chapter of the American Red Cross. The local chapter verifies the emergency (which must be highly important such as a death, birth, or family illness.) The message is then passed on to one of the two Red Cross communications centers and is then transmitted to a Military Camp or Base where Red Cross staff members are assigned. From there, the message is delivered to the designated service member as quickly as possible. Many times, the verified red Cross message is the determining factor for granting emergency leave. This process also works in reverse: Service Members may send urgent messages to their relatives through Red Cross staff. Local Red Cross chapter workers will then contact the family members in their home communities immediately.

The Dekalb County Chapter of the American Red Cross provides this vital communication link between service members and their families, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. According to Linda Clark, local Chapter manager, the Dekalb County Chapter has seen a large increase in their services to military since the terrorist attacks on our country. Clark said, "More than ever, we at the Dekalb County Chapter of the American Red Cross are committed to supporting our military men, women, and their families."

Wherever United States Military Troops are located, Red Cross employees and volunteers are there to meet the special needs of Military Personnel stationed around the world. Red Cross staff and volunteers, both at home and abroad, serve side-by-side with our troops wherever they are deployed.

Red Cross services are about people, not numbers—but looking at the numbers can help put the sheer scope of human impact in perspective. Services to Armed Forces in 2002 nationally included: More than 475,000 military families assisted, nearly 477,000 incoming calls received, more than 732,000 outgoing calls from the armed Forces emergency Services Center, more than \$4 million in emergency financial aid to 4,200 service members, families, retired military and widows of retired military personnel, and nearly 340,000 National Guard and Reserve personnel briefed through the "Get to Know Us Before You Need Us" program in communities throughout the United States. The Red Cross receives no governmental support for these or any of their other services. All Red Cross services are provided free thanks to voluntary donations and, locally, the support of United Givers Fund of DeKalb County.

The local Red Cross office is located in the Activities Building at 111 Grand Avenue SW, Suite 103, in Fort Payne. For more information about Armed Forces Emergency Services or any other Red Cross service, contact Linda Clark at 256-845-0202. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Dekalb County Chapter of the American Red Cross is one of the 13 member agencies funded by United Givers Fund of DeKalb County.

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THANK YOU!!

I wish to thank the ones who brought food and sent cards and their support in the death of my son, Ernest Frazier. I also thank the people in Fort Payne for all the flowers and their comfort in words and support.

Thanks to Joe Robertson for the words he spoke over Ernest. Ernest worked for Joe for 5 years as a truck driver, so Joe knew him well.

Thanks to the piano player, also the girl who did the songs.

Thanks to everyone for their support and comforting words. They mean so much to me.

Ernest's mother, Helen Frazier

The Origin of TAPS

We in the United States have all heard the haunting song, "Taps." It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of a soldier. It was his own son.

The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as "Taps" used at military funerals was born.

Day is done, Gone the sun, From the lakes, From the hills, From the sky, All is well! Safety rest. God is nigh. Fading light. Dims the sight. And a star, Glims the sky, Gleaming bright From afar, Drawing nigh, Falls the night. Thanks and praise, For our days, Neath the sun, Neath the stars, Neath the sky, As we go, This we know, God is nigh.

I too, have felt the chills while listening to "Taps", but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and didn't know if you had either, so I thought I'd pass it along. I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before.

REMEMBER THOSE LOST AND HARMED
WHILE SERVING THEIR COUNTRY.

Submitted by Huey Mathews

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The RECIPE CORNER

By
SUE SCHWARZ

Well, we can all relate to the songs: "I'm all shook up" and the song with lyrics "I felt the earth move" this morning. We were rudely awakened with the earthquake. I guess that tells you that I am a bit late getting this column together. I have tried a couple of simple recipes that I hope you will enjoy. One is an easy pimiento cheese recipe and the other is a shrimp chowder which is low in fat and high in flavor. Enjoy and enjoy the beautiful springtime here on the mountain.

SHRIMP AND CORN CHOWDER

- 3 cups chicken broth
- 3 cups diced red potatoes
- 1 (16 oz) package frozen white shoepeg corn, thawed
- 1 bunch chopped scallions
- 1/2 pound thawed shrimp, peeled, deveined, and cut into 1/2 inch pieces
- 1/3 cup heavy cream or sour cream
- 1 T fresh lemon juice.
- Salt and pepper to taste

In medium saucepan, boil broth and potatoes 5 minutes. Add corn and white portion of scallion; simmer 8 minutes. Remove 2 cups; puree in a blender. Return to pot; stir in shrimp. Cook until shrimp are bright pink. Stir in cream, lemon juice and scallion greens. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Serves 4

PIMIENTO CHEESE

- 1-1/2 cups mayonnaise
- 1 (4-ounce) jar diced pimiento, drained
- 1 t worcestershire sauce
- 1 t finely grated onion
- 1/3 t ground red pepper
- 1 pound of sharp cheddar cheese shredded

Stir first 5 ingredients in a large bowl; stir in cheeses. Store in refrigerator up to one week. Yield: 4 cups.

Mentone Saturday Night!

Yes, there IS a "Mentone Saturday-Night." Well, maybe not every Saturday, and maybe not what you'd expect. But even though they do "roll up the sidewalks" around 8:30, you can still have a pretty good time.

Recently, for instance, my husband and I had been working in the yard most of the day and neither of us felt much like fixing dinner, so we decided to let Dessie's do it for us. When we got to the restaurant, ready for "the world's best catfish," we discovered that Mike and Tena would be singing in about a half an hour. We figured we could add a dessert and coffee and stick around for the show. Mike whispered to us that a surprise birthday cake was on its way for their niece during the first break. Tena whispered that L.M.'s birthday was that night too, and there'd be another cake for him. So much for ordering dessert! Sure enough, about a half hour into the first music set, Joy and Cathy showed up with L.M. in tow and a big box containing a gushy, yummy cake.

So many people kept showing up - all spur-of-the-moment folks like us. Ginger and Ed had come up from their farm in Menlo to have a "date" at the restaurant. Our neighbors Jerry and Wanda showed up, then Tenzin, Susan, and later Sandra and her son Adam. I couldn't see who else had come, since our long table was around a corner, but I knew that every table was filled!

And the entertainment was spontaneous and great fun. Mike and Tena were really "on" that night, creating a wonderfully festive atmosphere for the birthday honorees. They got us rockin' with Elvis tunes and, would you believe, "New York, New York." We all just had to dance! Later, Susan was persuaded to sing "Delta Dawn" as only she can, leading the whole company in the chorus. Then L.M. did his touching rendition of "Amazing Grace" while Bobbette snapped photos.

I heard from Glenda that some of her guests at the Mentone Inn had been at Dessie's and said they had no idea such great fun happened in this quiet little mountain village! Here was a gathering of friends and acquaintances, with music, song, and celebration - and very little of it was planned. It's the kind of thing that happens here quite frequently, and it's one of the many things that makes Mentone such a wonderful place to live.

Jane Faile

(Editor's note: These two items were omitted from the last issue.)

"Gather the Women"

During the first week of March, women from Mentone and the surrounding area gathered to celebrate International Women's Day with a variety of activities. The events, sponsored by the Mentone Council for Cultural Creativity, were part of a global network organized to gather women's voices to "deepen our connections, find our common truths, and nourish and create our visions for living in a world where peace and love prevail."

The first night's activity, held at the Mentone Inn, focused on voicing our intentions for the week and experiencing our connections with the millions of other women around the world who were gathering at the same time for the same purpose. In the center of the circle was a beautiful antique bowl that had belonged to the grandmother of one of the women present; we each lit a candle to float in the water in the bowl as we voiced our hopes. It was a time of reverence and prayerfulness.

During the second evening, we gathered at a private home to honor our female ancestors and to listen to their voices in our hearts. The third gathering was at a beautiful organic farm in Menlo, where, as thunder and rain swirled outside, we discussed the concept of "forgiveness" and washed our hands in herb-scented water, hoping to release much of the anger, fear, and despair that are the fruits of an inability to forgive ourselves.

At the fourth meeting, again at a private home, women gathered to tell their stories of their spiritual growth and change. The Friday gathering was held outside at Moondance, where we sat around a fire and shared ideas about how to protect our environment by doing simple things like recycling, picking up litter, and becoming aware of how much water we use and how we can conserve.

Saturday's events were held at Rock Ridge Retreat Center and Heartwood. This was a day of enjoying our connections, walking outside in the beautiful spring weather, practicing healing yoga, dancing, singing, and playing together. Sunday morning, at Mountain Grove B&B, there was a sunrise gathering to share what each of us saw as a new beginning at this point in our life cycle.

Men in the Council supported the women's gatherings in a variety of ways: firewood collecting, site preparation, and litter pick-up on Highway 117 in Mentone. Throughout the week, the women who gathered considered ways to raise the level of peace in the world by raising it in our own hearts.

Jane Faile

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By Evelyn Graves

At last the attic has been emptied of its contents. The last boxes have been searched, and the remnants of them have either been thrown into the garbage can or placed gently in plastic boxes, and the lids have been sealed to protect them from further yellowing and aging, and with each box, I feel as though I am preserving a large portion of my life - my heritage, my memories, and the things that were most important to my mother as she carefully preserved them as well.

The "homeplace" is taking on a different look as Tom and Kristen are carefully restoring a large part of it to its original state, but adding their own touches that will make it most adaptable for their own family's use. The screened porch on the front has been removed, leaving an open porch like it was when I was a child. My brother and I spent many happy hours on that porch, swinging in the porch swing, playing with Tip, our beautiful shepherd dog, who protected us from danger at all times. He was gentle and loving, but he did not allow anyone or anything to threaten our safety. During summer showers, I loved to turn a big rocking chair over on its arms on the porch, drape it with a hooked rug, and crawl up inside, making a wonderful hiding place until the thunder quieted. For some reason, Mother did not think this was such a good idea. She insisted that I come into the house until the thunder and lightning had stopped, and she did not think the rug was a good idea either because she said it probably was dusty. Oh well, you just can't have everything it seems! The house is built with the chimney in the center of the house and fireplaces in four rooms. Daddy had closed the fireplaces and built closets over them because we needed the extra space. Tom has now exposed the fireplaces again, and they plan to use two of them. The partition between the formal dining room and one of the bedrooms has been removed, and the space is open, allowing the two rooms to be converted to a family room, and it is now possible to stand in the kitchen in the back part of the house and look straight through to view the Mentone Methodist Church. Other changes are being made, and I am excited to see the completion of this project. I believe Tom and Kristen are planning to have an Open House so that we all may see what they have done.

Back to the attic findings - I found the file cards from my wedding. I counted over six hundred gifts received. It was a snowy, icy day on December 30, 1967, and I am sure that the weather played a large part in the number of people who attended, but Moon Lake Baptist Church was filled to overflowing, and many people were standing outside and on the porch in the cold. It was truly a wonderful day, even though I awakened the next day with a horrible case of flu and our wedding trip was shortened when we had to return home.

I found a cute letter from Marjorie Jones (Berry) to my mother who was spending the summer at Jacksonville in school. It was postmarked August 8, 1948, when Marjorie was fourteen. She stated, "Did you know that I have gone to setting people's hair? Mrs. Shortridge was my first victim. I haven't seen her since. She did come up every night." It was obvious from the tone of her letter that she felt Mrs. Shortridge's absence had something to do with her hairdo. Mrs. Shortridge was a summer resident from Birmingham who owned the big white house and prop-

erty where Morris and Ramona Beck now live. Daddy and Mother rented one of her cottages when they first married. That is where my brother was born. Mrs. Shortridge was a frequent guest to dinner at my grandparents' house, and she always commented, no matter what day of the week it was, as she sat down at the table, "Another Sunday dinner!"

There was a letter from Aunt Foye Jones telling Mother that she was writing while she was waiting for the iron to get hot. (I am sure she still ironed with flat irons that were heated on top of the stove; we did.) It seems that she had done the washing for my brother and me while Mother was away. She said, "Evelyn Ruth's green dress was not mildewed, just dirty." This hard for me to believe that my clothes were that dirty, but then Mother was away. Mother truly believed that "cleanliness is next to Godliness."

There was another letter from Aunt Foye offering help when Mother was in the hospital. She was always such a big help to our family when there was a need. She loved my mother and they enjoyed many years together as teachers. She was close to me as well. I remember that she came and set out jonquills in the yard of my new home in March before her death in May. She always enjoyed doing something for me. I miss her so very much.

There was a letter from Mrs. Willie Shropshire, fifth/sixth grade teacher at Moon Lake, after she had left Moon Lake. She had invited me to come spend a few days with her that summer, and she was telling Mother in the letter, "Evelyn Ruth was so nice, and we really did have a great time the few days she was here." This makes me feel good that I behaved while I was there. Later on, about the time of my high school graduation, I found a very sweet letter she wrote to me, using the salutation, "My precious little girl," and following it with many complimentary things.

Letters from teachers are always graciously received by students, and the same thing is true when students write letters to teachers. I have found so many letters to Mother from students that she treasured. I found a note that reads, "I love, love, love, love, love Mrs. Jones so much that I cannot forget how beautiful she is. I love you so much now I can't forget." The letter was signed, "Tony." I have tried to remember who this could be. It was in a box of "stuff" from the early 50s. I know that it could not be Tony Tipton because he came later, so I wonder if it could be Tony Blalock? Kenneth Chambers has told me many times that if it had not been against the law for a six year old to get married, he would have married my mother in a heartbeat. He had a very big crush on her. She was beautiful and sweet, and I can understand that children loved her.

I found a beautiful card from Montez Perkins to me, "You're always doing thoughtful things. Or saying something nice. That's why this greeting just for you. Brings specially good advice...Please never change a single bit. As days and years go by, Because you're very wonderful, The way you are, that's why!" Montez was always such a lovely person, and after growing up together, I had the privilege of working with her for several years. She was just as sweet in the workplace as she was at church and at home.

I found a beautiful picture of Eleanor Pullen (Tate) taken from the Times-Journal in 1963. She is showing one of the new vehicle tags being sold in DeKalb County that year. There was a letter from Cord Powell, Jr., to my brother, dated September 12, 1954. He is

The Things I Found

congratulating my brother on his forthcoming marriage in December. It is signed, "A real friend, PFC Powell." Many of you will remember Junior and Rebecca and later Rachel. They attended school at Moon Lake. I have often referred to Junior in later years as being "The Forz" of Moon Lake School.

There were several letters from Mrs. Edith Lyday (Jim's mother) who taught school at Moon Lake for many years. She was a sweet lady, and she and Mother were good friends. She was especially fond of my brother. He mentions her quite often. He did not like school, but she was one of the positive influences in his life.

There was a beautiful card from Mrs. Maria D. Ellis to Mother while she was recovering from surgery. Mrs. Ellis and Mother taught together at Moon Lake, and I was fortunate to have her for a teacher. She was a lovely lady, and was always thoughtful in remembering others. Her daughter, Mary Holleman, is so much like her mother. Mary and I worked together at Camp DeSoto after I had retired from my job with the State of Alabama, and I will always remember those years with fondness. We worked together so well and enjoyed our time together.

There were several letters and cards from Eva Jones (Johnson) to Mother while she was away in school. Eva was Daddy's sister who was assistant postmaster at Mentone. Eva was a kind and caring person. Her death at an early age was difficult for all of us. I still miss Eva after 35 years.

I found a letter from my aunt, Mildred Ellis, to me just prior to my wedding. She expressed how happy she was for me that I was getting married and stated, "Charles and I both think Jimmy is very nice and he is handsome too! I have said several times that I thought you would make some minister a wonderful wife, and now that it's about to take place, I am thrilled to death. We feel that Jimmy is a very lucky fellow and we hope that you will both have a long, happy life together." Uncle Charles (Mother's brother) has since passed away, but Mildred still writes to me and is still a part of our family. (I just had to share that letter for Jimmy's benefit - he is handsome!)

I found a copy of *I Speak for Democracy*, written by Elizabeth Ellen Evans, copyrighted in 1954 by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, National Association Radio & Television Broadcasters, Washington, D.C. Much of it is timely today, and much of it seems like a long time ago as it speaks of our religious freedoms, and as it addresses the Communist and the Fascist. There are so many other threats that America faces today besides these two parties. I will not attempt to reprint all of it, but if you do not have a copy and would like to have one, call me and I will be happy to send you a copy. Every loyal American needs a copy for himself.

I found hundreds of cards of all types and notes from me and from my brother to Mother and to Daddy and notes from the grandchildren to Mother and Daddy. This note from Jan Jones Pinson, my oldest niece, says so much. Jan was the first grandchild, and we all adored her. She was a tiny little thing and still is, weighing about 100 pounds. My father absolutely worshiped her when she was a little girl. She spent almost every weekend with us, and she loved sleeping with "Granddaddy." Long after the lights had gone out and

the Attic - PART 3

Everything was still and quiet, a little voice could be heard, "Tell me about Peter Rabbit, Granddaddy." In a strong, deep voice, laced with love and tenderness, my daddy would begin the story of Peter Rabbit his own version of it - where he and Jan got in his pickup truck and went to the store for ice cream and they picked up Peter Rabbit along the way. They each chose a flavor of ice cream, and the story went on. They had tired of the traditional story of Peter Rabbit and their own variation was the favorite. As I read this and from Jan, I thought that it was very appropriate. "I remember growing up and sharing special times with you, Granddaddy. You always thought of fun things to do and interesting things to see and talk about. But what I remember most is the love you showed me. Your warmth and kindness made me feel as special as the times we shared...I hold those memories close to my heart, and I still cherish our time together, because even though I've grown and changed in so many ways, I'm still just as proud that you're my granddaddy."

Jan's two little sisters were precious and they held a very special place in their grandparents' hearts. Jan now has a beautiful 20-year-old daughter who attends Chattanooga State and works a regular shift at Hamilton County Nursing Home as well. She loves elderly people, and even after Mother and Daddy were no longer physically able to entertain them as they had the granddaughters, she did not mind. She enjoyed being with them anyway. Lynette received her acceptance into nursing school last week. Out of 400 applicants, 100 were accepted, and she was in the top 20 percent. We are proud of Lynette. Mother would be so proud of the granddaughters if she could know of their accomplishments.

When I married, a ten-year-old little girl came with me. Her mother had died with cancer when she was seven, and she was spoiled and difficult. My parents made no difference in her and the other granddaughters, and she had a special place in their hearts. Since she lived in the area and the other girls lived away, she had the opportunity to spend more time with them. Daddy taught her to drive and let her take his pickup out in Mentone when she was twelve years old. One trip was all she made because I stopped that! I found a card in the attic that Sandra sent to my mother on a special occasion. "Today I thought of you, the beauty of your life...your quiet ways, the kindness you freely display...your gentleness and concern when you sense a need in others...your ability to be helped by someone, giving support and encouragement...the warmth you bring, the joy you impart, the blessing you are! Today I thought of you, and it was a special moment! Thank you for always being there for me. I love you, Sandra". Sandra was very close to my parents. She visited them on a regular basis and did what she could for them. I found a picture in the attic of the nursing graduates from Anderson State Junior College in 1979. Sandra was one of the 48 members of the class. We are proud of Sandra. She is a great person and a compassionate physicians' assistant in ambulatory surgery at Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga.

I would like to share a copy of a letter from the one written by Roy Exum of Chattanooga Times to

my husband which has been a real blessing to us. Jimmy (my husband) was nightwatchman at Camp DeSoto at the time, in addition to pastoring a church. Roy Exum's daughter, Mary Cady, was a camper. Jimmy had found her standing by a tree crying with homesickness, and he had put his arms around her and held her close and comforted her as he would his own daughter or granddaughter. She wrote a sweet little note to Jimmy thanking him for helping her through that experience. In a few days, he received this letter from Mary Cady's father: "Rev. Graves, a 'mutual' friend of yours and mine

forwarded along the precious note you recently received from my Mary Cady, and please know that on this day I gave thanks to Jesus Christ for sending you into my daughter's life. I know your daughter on a far different scale, she helping with surgery on me, enough for me to realize that I'll be a lucky man indeed if my daughter grows up to be half as fine. Sandra is a very special person, and the way she cares for others is something I hope Mary Cady will one day understand. Sandra also goes beyond the call of duty, time and time again, and I feel certain God has big plans for her life - just the same way He does for all of us. Rev. Graves, thanks again for being so marvelously kind to someone so very dear to me. I would hope that you will call on me if ever I can help you in any way. Warmest regards, Roy McDonald Exum." This was the beginning of a beautiful relationship with Roy which we have enjoyed through the years. Sandra has two wonderful children, Allen and Katie. Allen is a senior at Auburn, waiting hopefully for his chance at Vet School. Katie is in ninth grade at Fort Payne High School and is an excellent student as well. Sandra is a great mother, and her children know that she will always be there for them.

I found the minutes of a business meeting of the Moon Lake Baptist Church on Sunday morning, September 28, 1902, which reads: "Met on the banks of the beautiful stream near Mr. S. A. O'Rear's house. When the opportunity was extended for membership, Guy Burgess, Charlie Mason and Joe Wingfield all came forward and presented themselves to the church by experience. On motion they were all received by the church on their Christian experience. After prayer by Bro. Painter, Bro. Weaver went down in the water and in the presence of a multitude of people, the following persons were buried with Christ in baptism: Claude Green, Emma Baty, Minnie Burgess, Emma Lou Jones, Davie Yonker, George Jones, Leonard Matheny, Charlie Mason, Joe Wingfield, Annie Burnett, Tinie Baty, Inez Brown, Louis Mason, Eldridge Jones, Horace Jones, Frank Green, and Guy Burgess. The congregation returned to the house. The converts were placed on front seats. The right hand of church fellowship was extended to them. Bro. Weaver then preached a missionary sermon to a very large audience. After preaching, collection was taken for foreign missions, \$9.28 received. This closed the revival services and we feel that the community is greatly revived in the working of the Holy Spirit. We are constrained to thank God for His goodness and mercies toward us. We should be greatly encouraged in doing the work of our Master. A. J. Weaver, Moderator, R. T. Ellison, Church Clerk."

I have enough attic findings for one more article. It will consist mostly of collections of things from teacher/principal meetings that Mother saved that are of interest, along with a philosophical writing by my mother that I had never read until I discovered it in the attic. I also found a number of beautiful charcoal drawings that she had done in an art class at UTC. I am hoping to be able to do something with them in the near future. I would love to be able to share a satire with you that I wrote in 1985 when I was confined to bed with mumps for seven weeks. It brought back a lot of memories, and only now can I laugh about that horrible experience.

Thank you so much for your interest in my articles. I have received hundreds of calls from people I know and almost as many from people I don't know telling me how much they have enjoyed them. I believe we can all relate to things from the past.

Ed. note: After the second part of "The Things I Found in the Attic," Ann Still telephoned me to tell me how much she had enjoyed the article and to read to me a letter to her son when he was born. This letter was from Charles White McGehee who, along with his wife, Jean, were the first editors of The Groundhog. I asked Ann to send a copy of the letter so that I might share it with you. Many of you enjoyed, as I did, the writings to the McGehees, and many of you will remember with fondness Randy and Ann Still, who are former owners of Cragmere Manna. Ann is my first cousin, and she and I have always been very close. Following is the letter from Andy's baby book, written by Charles McGehee.

6 August 1987

Dear Andrew,

In the course of your lifetime you will receive many letters--some bearing good tidings, others not so pleasant. Quite selfishly I hope this is the very first of all the letters you receive and that it attains a prominent place in your book.

First, I want to impress upon you that you were very much wanted; you have entered into a most accepting environment. This will make its mark upon you and tend to make you an accepting person.

My wife Jean and I first knew your father. He has befriended us through some bitter winters and shared with us some wholesome experiences. In time we came to know your mother and were with them at their beautiful wedding on the brow of Lookout Mountain.

Your mother is a graceful combination of quiet charm and unusual competence. Certainly she will provide a center in many a storm. Between the two of them they will realize, I hope, that praise is the most effective of all discipline.

Many people will influence your development. As time goes on, I trust you will provide your own most constant influence. Don't let people program you program yourself. When the time arrives for you to choose a political party, religion, or profession--let it be your own mature choice.

Obey your parents. In due time obey that wise inner voice which you can cultivate from the books you read, the people you encounter, and the experiences you endure.

Life is neither good nor bad; it is what we make of it. I have every confidence that you will make your life one of meaning and constant enrichment. Welcome to this planet! We're glad you're here.

Cordially

Charles W. McGehee



Karen Kwiatkowski with 2 of her gourds
(Photo by Mary Alice Stout)

UNIQUE GOURDS AT MOUNTAIN MAMAS CRAFTS AND ROCK SHOP By Mary Alice Stout

Karen Kwiatkowski has returned to the northwest Georgia region and brought her gourd art back to Mountain Mamas. If you have been a regular visitor to Mountain Mamas, you will recognize Karen's art. She has been away for 2 years earning her Master's Degree. Currently she is the librarian at NW Georgia Technical College in LaFayette, GA.

Karen began painting on gourds 10 years ago when she visited her friend, Peggy Baumgartner, the famous gourd painter from Vinemont, AL. Since that time Karen has been "hooked on art." Her unusual work is unique because of the way in which she incorporates natural materials (leaves and flowers) into her gourd creations. Karen says, "My appreciation of nature and the environment began years ago when I worked as an environmental reporter for a newspaper in Florida." Currently she is creating a gourd that incorporates a bird nest made of local moss. Mountain Mama Co-owner, Mary Alice Stout, helped Karen collect the abandoned nest from the back porch refter of Mountain Mamas Shop. When this gourd gets completed, we'll try to get a photo of it to The Groundhog.

We have several "brand new" artists to arrive at Mountain Mamas this year. One is a friend of Karen's, Allison Mattingly of DeLand, FL. The information on her background hasn't arrived yet but her painted gourds have. Her specialty seems to be creative art work on very large gourds. Her gourds have names such as "Golden Daze, The Ancients, and Mother Nature." If you spend a few moments with "Mother Nature," you almost feel like you are walking in the Garden of Eden! It's a must see work of art.

Mountain Mamas is full of arts and crafts on consignment from regional women. If you would like to place items on consignment, call Mary Alice Stout at 706-862-2142 for information.

The Shop is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 6:00pm (GA time) or by appointment—again call Mary Alice. Be sure to visit our WEB PAGE at www.mountainmamas.com. We are located on GA Hwy 48, just 1/2 mile East of the GA/AL state line, where AL Hwy 117 ends. Our phone is answered when we are open—706-862-6481, or e-mail us—mountainmamas@alltel.net.

TRI-COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE/RESCUE NEWS

By Mary Alice Stout

HAM & KNIFE SHOOT is planned for Saturday, May 3, 10:00am (GA time), at the Phil Keys' old home place on Gilreath Mill Rd in Cloudland. Call Jamie Harris at 706-862-2697 for directions. Sandwiches and cold drinks will be sold. A rain date has been set for Saturday, May 10. Fire-fighting and rescue supplies will be bought with money raised.

Tri-County sends MANY THANKS to our supporters who baked and bought home baked items at our April Bake Sale. The sale was a great success because of you!

MORE THANKS--If you see Wanda, Howard, or James Durham, Charla Welch or Mary Alice Stout, please tell them thanks for attending a recent class on terrorism presented by the NW Georgia Police Academy. We pray that this extra training may never be needed.

VOLUNTEERS are always NEEDED and WELCOME. For information, call Chief Wesley Welch at 706-862-6519, or Assistant Chief Janet Harris at 706-862-2128.

Eleventh Annual Book Sale huge success

The Fort Payne Culture Club and the staff of the DeKalb County Public Library, thanks everyone for the role which you played in making the eleventh annual book sale successful. We raised more than \$9,000 - the largest amount yet.

All proceeds from the sale go to the library, enabling the staff to purchase equipment and materials to better serve the patrons of DeKalb County.

The success of the sale depends upon the help of many people like you who give of their time and resources. We appreciate your contribution to this worthwhile project.

With sincere thanks, Joanne Durham, Book Sale Chairman, Fort Payne Culture Club, 400 Forest Avenue North, Fort Payne, Alabama 35967

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Preslie Kara Gifford



Lydia Dawn Gifford

STATE FINALISTS IN THE NATIONAL AMERICAN MISS ALABAMA PAGEANT

Miss Preslie Kara Gifford, age 5, the daughter of Scott and Suzan Gifford of Valley Head; and Miss Lydia Dawn Gifford, age 10, the daughter of Steve and Connie Gifford, also of Valley Head, have been chosen as state finalists in the National American Miss Alabama Pageant.

The Pageant will be held at the Sheraton Birmingham in Birmingham, AL, on May 24th. Preslie will compete in the talent competition (which is optional), where she will do a ballet routine to the song of "The Rose" designed by Kim Foshee at the Fort Payne School of Performing Arts. She will also compete in sportswear and photogenic competitions; each competition has a cash prize of \$250.00, crown and trophy. Preslie attends Kindergarten at Wills Valley Elementary. She loves art, dancing, playing dress-up, and pretending to be her teacher, Mrs. Pridmore.

Miss Lydia Gifford will also compete in sportswear and the photogenic competitions, and the same prizes are awarded in her division.

Lydia attends Williams Avenue Elementary where she is in the 4th grade. She loves gymnastics, dance, and swimming. She wants to be an archeologist when she grows up. She is looking forward to the pageant and is very excited.

This pageant program is based on inner beauty, as well as poise, presentation, and offers an "All American Spirit of Fun" for the whole family and friends. This pageant will not allow make-up and has certain rules for age-appropriate

dress. Emphasis is placed on the importance of gaining self-confidence, learning new skills, learning good attitudes about competition and setting and achieving personal goals. These girls are going to a 3-day event with get-acquainted parties for the contestants and dance rehearsals for pageant night.

Also, as part of their scoring (10%), they have to be involved in community service. They are required to bring a stuffed animal and a children book to present on stage to firemen and policemen to aid in their work with children. They will be judged on formal wear, 30%, personal introduction on stage 30%, interview 30%, and community involvement 10%.

Preslie's division is called Miss Alabama Princess, and, if she wins, she will represent Alabama in the National Pageant in California. Lydia's division is called Miss Alabama PreTeen, and she will also represent Alabama in the Nationals in California.

The girls will win a VIP trip for 2 to Disneyland, \$1000 in cash, an exciting trip to Hollywood, a modeling scholarship, and the official state banner, crown and trophy.

We are very proud of our young ladies and are excited about this 3-day event. We would like to thank all of the businesses of Valley Head and Hammondville who sponsored Preslie and Lydia. If you would like to sponsor Preslie and Lydia, please call 635-0050 or 635-0073. Your contribution is tax deductible.



APRIL WAS CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH

By Linda Gupion

2000-2002 Corresponding Secretary, TN UDC Division

The first shots fired over northern aggression were heard over 140 years ago on April 12, in Fort Sumter, South Carolina. For four years, husbands, sons, brothers, and friends fought for a cause they believed and supported. Enduring tremendous physical and mental pain and the threat of death with every step, they fought for their country as the women were left behind to maintain their families.

Many women became nurses and replaced their male counterparts. Women ran farms or businesses, made uniforms and supplies, while other women became spies for the cause. Not only gathering information but also delivering that information to those in the front lines under the most perilous conditions. Often these women were captured and sent to prison for being spies.

Four years after the war started on April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee and General U.S. Grant met at Appomattox to end the War. After signing the surrender, General Lee mounted his faithful horse Traveller and returned to his men to tell them, "Go to your homes and resume your occupations. Obey the laws and become as good citizens as you were soldiers."

Confederate History Month gives a specific time to stop and remember the ones who suffered for a cause that they so deeply believed. Soldiers who obeyed the commands of the General until they died.

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Notes from the Mayor

A dog ordinance was passed by the Town Council on February 10 due to complaints from so many citizens. The basic part has to do with vicious or dangerous dogs and female dogs in season. If you have any questions, a copy of the ordinance is at the Town Hall.

We have previously advised water customers that it is illegal for anyone to cut meters on. Although you may know how to do it, it is not permissible by state law any longer.

Telephone numbers:

TOWN: 256-634-4444;

Police - 256-634-0704

PO Box 295, Mentone 35984

WATER: 256-634-9106;

PO Box 535, Mentone, AL 35984

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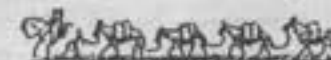
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LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN NATURAL HEALING: Miracles of Spring

By L.C. Moon

As spring sets in upon the mountain, the excitement of the birds' songs bring healing vibrations. My 3-year-old daughter, Tsoi, and I listen to a bird and mock its call, "chirpy, chirpy, chirp; chirpy chirp." I tell Tsoi that I imagine them to be saying, "pretty, pretty day; pretty day."

Natural healing is not only what you ingest physically into your body. Nature has a way of healing or bringing you back to center and balance. Spring has its own glorious way of filling the senses to rid us of the melancholy that often sets in after a long winter. The new life experience in spring inspires me to create myself refreshed and renewed.

All of the new life of spring is a reminder that miracles exist. Within each seed is a miracle waiting to grow. What better time than spring to embrace true faith that you are your best healer—mind, body and soul. With true faith, you can experience the plant world's full potential of aiding in healing.

Watercress is one of the May miracles of spring that I've been grateful to include in my diet. The peppery tasting plant is high in vitamin C—enough so that it is useful in preventing illness according to John Lust, author of *The Herb Book*. Watercress is also a natural source of vitamins A, B, & E, as well as minerals: iodine, iron, copper, phosphorus, magnesium, manganese & calcium. Lust says that watercress is effective in stimulating glandular activity and treating gout, digestion, phlegm-filled throat, anemia and eczema; though, he warns against the use of it daily in large amounts because of kidney damage. I believe this is due to watercress' high vitamin C content, because excess Vitamin C cause kidney stones. Ironically, though, Indian Herbology says that Native Americans used watercress medicinally to treat kidney stones and disorders. Watercress is also known to treat scurvy, skin afflictions, impure blood, goiter, bronchitis, heart trouble, rheumatism, lethargy, and more. According to my research, using watercress as a garnish daily is safe. Drinking a tea daily over an extended period of time is not recommended.

Watercress is well deserved to be discussed with the miracles of spring. A water dwelling plant with the internal knowledge not to flourish in a polluted stream, watercress speaks to us, "Where I grow, pure, clean water flows." With true faith, nourish yourself with some watercress added to your soup, salad, or sandwich. If you miss the spring harvest, a word to the wise is to wait to harvest until the cool of fall because the heat of summer makes the peppery taste less palatable.

If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at (256) 634-3333, PO Box 224, Mentone, AL 35984; laruallove@aol.com; or stop by the new store—Mountain Life—located behind the Mentone Springs Hotel.



Vickie Coffee Vaughn
Agent

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Reminiscing seems to be in the minds of all our journalists lately. I suppose for me, it's because I'm older. I have enjoyed Evelyn's writing about going through her mother's memorabilia in the attic. Mrs. Katherine Jones must have kept everything as I do. The names of people she mentioned were those I knew. Of course Katherine taught most of the people who lived in Mentone a few years ago, even my son, Barry, was one of her pupils in the second grade.

Evelyn spoke of knowing Mrs. Bunnell and that surprised me. One year when I was fifteen years old, I stayed with Mrs. Una Bunnell for three weeks until her chauffeur and maid could come from Miami. The house where she lived is close to what we knew as Windward Inn. Bill Pullen built the house in 1940, the smaller cottage was built for her son when he came to visit, and there was a garage apartment for the chauffeur and maid.

This was a great learning experience for a country girl who had never had modern conveniences or been anywhere. Mrs. Bunnell was a lovely person, very wealthy and cultured. We would listen to Kate Smith sing on the radio as there was no television then. She had a crank type telephone and I had never used one. You can't imagine the thrill I felt ringing the phone and getting the operator in Valley Head who said "Number, please." The old phones were fun and good gossip machines. Anyone on that party line could pick up the receiver and listen to the conversation and did, sometimes joining in.

I had never used an electric iron. We had the old flatiron that we heated on a wood burning stove or by the fireplace. One day she asked me to iron a blue satin night gown for her. I got the iron too hot and burned a piece of her gown the size of the iron! I was never so embarrassed. She just laughed about it but never asked me to iron again. I think she laughed about a lot of things I did. At least I could wash dishes and sweep floors.

One day we had pork chops for dinner and as she bit into one she broke a tooth from her lower plate of false teeth. She packaged it and told me to meet the postman and mail it to Miami. She told me to insure it but didn't tell me for how much. Mr. York wanted to know the contents of the package and he estimated we insure it for \$100.00. When I went back to the house, Mrs. Bunnell wanted to know how much we insured it for and when I told her she laughed again. She had paid \$1000.00 for the plate! Anyway, the package arrived safely and she got it back okay.

I read several good books while staying with her. I would lie in bed and read by electric light which was a luxury for me since we didn't have electricity at our

house. I remember especially enjoying "How Green Is My Valley."

She would have fruit sent from Florida and Guava Jelly which I thoroughly enjoyed. (I always buy some when we go to Florida.)

I'm sure she had another good laugh as I took my guitar along and would play and sing for her. Her son asked if I would like to play with Gene Autry in the movies! Pleasant memories. I think of her every time I pass the house where she spent her summers. Knowing Una Bunnell was an educational experience for me that I'll never forget.

Life is a learning process. The more people we meet, the more we learn. Someone said "I never met a man from whom I couldn't learn something".

Today I've been writing intermittently while keeping shop at the Hitching Post. I had a man and his wife come in from Summerville, Georgia, who remembered coming to the square dances here. Then we talked about the many changes in our lifetime from having unpaved roads to electricity. It's amazing how much our lifestyle has changed in my lifetime. Our children cannot imagine being without electricity and television. When I rode the bus to Moon Lake School, we were prepared not to expect the bus to be on time in the winter months. None of the roads were paved and the bus would get stuck in the mud occasionally. A bus driver had a hard time then keeping the bus running. Hwy 117 was not paved until 1941. I remember that because Homer worked as a flagman. Mr. Sam Cash was the janitor at Moon Lake and would have the big coal burning heater going full blast when we arrived by bus about 8:00 a.m. He was always jolly and we enjoyed his company. He would usually have a Bible question for me about something unusual. I can just hear him laughing when he stumped me and I couldn't find the chapter and verse.

Eva Green Clark and I got into playing checkers. We would grab the board as soon as the bell rang for recess and play until it rang again for class to begin. I don't think I have played a game of checkers since then. Of course that was in the winter months when we couldn't go outside. When the weather permitted, we played volleyball or softball. We didn't worry about the rules, we just played.

We finished the ninth grade at Moon Lake at that time. Mr. Premon Hall was the principal and taught 8th and 9th grades in the same room. The only problem I remember was laughing at something someone would whisper to me and I guess I laughed or giggled out loud. One time Roy Kirby and I were both laughing and Mr. Hall put us outside with each of us on our separate tree stump and he gave us spelling words from the open door. I think he enjoyed it as much as we did. Roy mentioned that event every time I saw him as long as he lived. Ernest Smith was in my class and taught me more math than I learned from the teacher. He was a smart boy. Lovejoy Jones was in our class and I think Lester Jones was a year behind us as he was younger. One day Mr. Hall had to leave for an hour or so on some kind of business and all of the 8th and 9th graders crawled out the windows and played volleyball until he returned. We didn't get punished that time.

We have lost friends and loved ones here in Mentone during the last month. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Harrison passed away very close together. I still think of the little building near Bankhead as Tom's drive in. They both worked in the store and had good food and

a small grocery store. They were dear people. Onzie Smith, whom we have known most of his life, passed away near the same time. Then we were shocked to lose our beloved sister-in-law, Frances Crowe. She was a beautiful lady in both appearance and personality. She was a role model for all of us who loved her. She and Clyde, Homer's brother who is deceased, lived in Clinton, Tennessee, but they are interred here at Bankhead cemetery. We will count our blessings that we were privileged to know and admire a lovely lady and treasure beautiful memories of her. Frances was a sister of Betty Johnson.

Lucille Crowe had a birthday recently and we had dinner with her at Dessie's Kountry Chef restaurant along with her son Leroy and wife Joanne, Dorothy Crow, Elizabeth Romans, Dewey and Pam Crow, and Homer, me and our son Coy. We had a good time, good food and fellowship.

What beautiful spring days we have had in April. The hope of resurrection beats strong in my breast when I see things that looked dead rise up with fresh new life. How wonderful it is! Alleluia! Alleluia!

We attended the sunrise service on Easter morning held at the little amphitheater behind Moon Lake School. Rev. Bill Russell, pastor of Moon Lake Baptist Church, hosted the occasion; David Tucker, our mail carrier, led the singing and Rev. Randy Addison did the sermon. Then the men of Moon Lake Baptist church served a breakfast to everyone at the community house nearby. They can really cook!! We enjoyed scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, grits, gravy, coffee and orange juice. It was such a kind expression of love on Easter morning. Thank you, gentlemen.

Let us live each day to the fullest. When we rise each morning we should give thanks for the privilege of living and being able to enjoy every day's simple pleasures.

May is a beautiful month with so many flowers and rhododendron and mountain laurel blooming all around us. Our rhododendron are blooming now and we hope there will still be some blooms when we have our festival. It is also a busy month, with many festivals, decorations, high school proms and graduations.

My visitors of the month at the Hitching Post were John and Gusic Evans of Murphy, N.C. They found Mentone on the web site. They have a festival there and said President Jimmy Carter visited it once.

Enjoy our lovely spring weather and have a Happy Mother's Day!

Stop by & chat with Bernise at

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Wedding Announcement



Mr. and Mrs. Scott Dutton

Carla Rene King and Durwood Scott Dutton were married on February 15, 2003, at Moon Lake Baptist Church in Mentone, by Jerry Moses, uncle of the bride. Music was provided: Dottie Regan, played the piano, and Julie Medder, soloist, accompanied on her guitar. The bride was given in marriage by her father.

Parents of the bride are Lamar and Cheryl King of Mentone. Parents of the groom are David and Sonia Dutton, of Calhoun, GA.

Grandparents of the bride are Fay King of Harrison, TN, and Luther King, Jr., of Mentone.

Grandparents of the groom are Martha Moses and the late Charles Moses of Sulphur Springs.

Maid of Honor was Amy Scott, friend, of Fort Payne. The bride's maids were Melanie Roden of Prichard, cousin; and Britney McAdams of Atlanta, cousin. The flower girl was Amber Tackett of Mentone, cousin. Ushers were Brian McAdams of Mentone, cousin; Eric King of San Diego, CA, brother of bride; and Nicholas King of Mentone, brother of bride. The guest book was kept by Karen Clifton.

Dennis Dutton and Dean Dutton, of Calhoun, GA, brothers, served as best men. Ringbearer was Trevor Dutton of Calhoun, GA, nephew of groom.

A reception was held at Moon Lake Fellowship Hall, and music was provided.

After a honeymoon on a cruise to the Bahamas, the couple will live in Peach Tree City, GA.

The bride and groom are employed at Georgia Bureau of Investigations, Atlanta, GA.

Moon Lake Elementary School Scholars Bowl Winners



Bottom (L/R): Kara Miller, Brittany Hester, Ashley Henry, Jamie Sherwood, and Michael Harrison; Middle (L/R) Sierra Nicely, Brandon Willingham, Ethan Crider, and Jessica Easler; Top (L/R) Megan Smith, Heather Smith, Vance Carden, Daniel Hughes, and Nathan Jones.

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DEKALB COUNTY

122.9 ACRES, LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, ON BEAR CREEK - over 1/2 mile of creek frontage on Bear Creek. Perfect building site to overlook and hear the tranquil water, nestled in the tall trees, Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel. Paved road frontage. Priced at an unbelievable \$1,900.00 per acre.

HAMMONDVILLE, LEA CHAPEL - 8 to 113 acres, wooded, level to rolling, county road frontage. Priced at \$1,400.00 per acre.

323 ACRES IN MENTONE, AL - level to rolling terrain, streams, several lake sites, pine plantation planted 2001. Excellent for deer and turkey hunting. Price \$1,350.00 per acre.

PELL CITY

495 ACRES WITH NO BUSINESS CREEK RUNNING THROUGH THE MIDDLE! Great location for development, located only 8 miles North of Interstate 20, Pell City. Beautiful rolling hills with a 50 acre lake site. Paved road frontage and county water. Priced at \$1,500 per acre.

580 ACRES ON SHOAL CREEK MTN - Level to rolling terrain. Pine plantations with approx. \$190,000.00 of merchantable timber. 27 acres proposed lake site. Excellent doves and turkey hunting. Priced \$1,450.00 per acre.

ASHVILLE

518 ACRES, ASHVILLE - road frontage on U.S. Hwy 221, 1 mile South of Ashville High School. Level to gentle rolling, small creek, and merchantable timber. Price \$1,450.00 per acre.

DOUBLE BRIDGE RD, ASHVILLE - Approx. 1,300 acres with paved road frontage, 3,000 ft. on Big Canoe Creek. Will consider subdividing. Price \$1,450.00 per acre.

STERLE, AL

8050 ACRES ON I-85 - Road frontage on Steel Station Rd., U.S. Hwy 411 and approx. 2 miles on Interstate 59. Excellent industrial and commercial location. Priced at only \$2,800.00 per acre.

ETOWAH COUNTY

1037 ACRES, CANNON GAP RD. - On Dry Creek Mountain, paved road frontage and beautiful views. Will subdivide. Price \$1,450.00 per acre.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

12,500 ACRES - Tracts range from 4.5 acres to 3,200 contiguous acres. Just minutes from downtown Centre. Will consider subdividing. Prices start at \$1,400.00 per acre.

CALHOUN COUNTY

PIEDMONT, 572 ACRES - Just 3 miles South of town on Dry Creek Rd., level to rolling. Price \$1,450.00 per acre.

ESTES, ROAD 20-180 ACRES - Level to gently rolling, beautiful views, paved road frontage, county water, planted pines. Price \$1,500.00 per acre.

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NOTES FROM THE TOWN HALL

IT IS THAT TIME OF SEASON AGAIN WHEN WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE WEST NILE VIRUS AND CARRIERS SUCH AS MOSQUITOES, HARMFUL INSECTS, OR RODENTS. WE HAD HOPED TO HAVE A SPRAYING PROGRAM IN USE THIS YEAR, BUT IT APPEARS WE WILL BE UNABLE TO BECAUSE OF THE COST. HOWEVER, WE CAN ALL HELP BY KEEPING OUR YARDS MOWED, CLEANING UP CANS, BARRELS, TIRES, AND JUNK MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT WHERE THE MOSQUITOES BREED. WE WILL BEGIN ENFORCING ORDINANCE NO. 2003-2 IN MAY. IT IS CALLED A NUISANCE ORDINANCE. COPIES ARE AVAILABLE AT TOWN HALL. THIS ORDINANCE BECAME EFFECTIVE IN MARCH. IT ALSO DEALS WITH OLD RUN DOWN HOUSES, BARN, AND SHEDS, WHICH ARE REFERRED TO AS A "NUISANCE."

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE REGULATION AND CONTROL OF VICIOUS OR DANGEROUS ANIMALS BECAME EFFECTIVE IN MARCH. THIS IS ORDINANCE NO. 2003-1.

THIS IS JUST A REMINDER THAT ZONING ORDINANCE 92-1 IS STILL IN EFFECT. ANY REMODELING, STRUCTURAL CHANGES OR SIGNS TO BE ERECTED REQUIRES A PERMIT. ANY TRADESMAN, WHO DOES REPAIR WORK FOR OTHERS IS REQUIRED TO HAVE A LICENSE FROM THE TOWN OF MENTONE OR FACE A PENALTY OF \$500.00. PLUMBERS, ELECTRICIANS, AND GAS FITTERS MUST BE LICENSED BY THE STATE. ALSO RESIDENTIAL BUILDERS MUST BE LICENSED BY THE STATE.

OUR GRANT FOR SIDEWALKS AT THE CAUTION LIGHT IS ON HOLD UNTIL THE NEW GOVERNOR HAS THE TIME TO SIGN IT. ALTHOUGH GOVERNOR SEIGLEMAN SIGNED IT LAST AUGUST, IT SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN CAUGHT UP IN POLITICS. NO STATE FUNDS ARE INVOLVED, ONLY FEDERAL.

THE COUNTY NOW HAS SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS IN EFFECT. A SUBDIVISION CONSTITUTES THE DIVISION OF A PLOT/LOT INTO TWO OR MORE PARCELS.

MOON LAKE SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to first grade teacher, Jennifer Gorham, who was featured in this year's Best in DeKalb as Best Teacher in DeKalb County, and congratulations to the Moon Lake Elementary School Scholars Bowl team who won first place in the county, beating every other county school during the recent championship!

Many thanks to the Rhododendron Garden Club and other local citizens and parents for their active and invaluable part in this year's Earth Day activities in the various garden areas of Moon Lake's campus.

The Moon Lake Junior Beta Club will sponsor a Blood Drive Thursday, May 1, at the school from 7:30 AM to 8 PM.

During the week beginning Monday, May 5, Moon Lake teachers and students will observe Aerospace Week with special activities scheduled for each day. Friday will feature Field Day and a display of student art created during Kat Griffith's tenure as Moon Lake's art teacher, sponsored by Mentone Education Resources Foundation.

Families and friends are invited to participate in aerospace activities and to visit the art display on Friday in the school gym.

Moon Lake is currently holding a Coca-Cola product truckload sale with 23 different types of items available, at greatly reduced prices. Money raised will be applied toward summer expenses of the school. The sale goes until Monday, May 12, with delivery on Thursday, May 15.

This year's awards programs will occur in the school gym on Thursday, May 15, for students in Kindergarten through third grade, and on Friday, May 16, for students in fourth through sixth grades. Both programs will begin at 9 AM.

Kindergarten graduation will occur at 9 AM on Monday, May 19. Sixth grade graduation will be held on Tuesday, May 20, at 6:30 PM. Both graduations will occur in the school gym. Wednesday, May 21, is final day for students.

WATER

WE ASK EACH AND EVERY ONE TO PLEASE WATCH FOR POSSIBLE WATER LEAKS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE EARTHQUAKE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE SHAKING AND ROLLING OF THE PIPES MAY HAVE JARRED A JOINT LOOSE ENOUGH FOR IT TO LEAK A LITTLE, THEN COME COMPLETELY LOOSE. PLEASE, IF YOU SEE ANYTHING, LET US KNOW. YOU SHOULD CHECK YOUR OWN LINES FOR POSSIBLE LEAKS.

OWNERS HAVING WATER LINES INSTALLED FROM THE METER TO THE RESIDENCE ARE REQUIRED TO EMPLOY A STATE LICENSED PLUMBER TO HOOK THE METER UP.

THE REHAB GRANT FOR THE OLD LINES, NEW TANK, AND WATERBOARD OFFICE IS STILL IN THE REVIEW PROCESS. HOPEFULLY, WE WILL GET CLEARANCE SHORTLY.

WATER LINES ON GRAY ROAD AND ALPINE ROAD ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION. WE SHOULD HAVE COUNTY ROADS 643 AND 631 TO COVE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH UNDER CONSTRUCTION SHORTLY.

WE ARE APPLYING FOR AN ADDITIONAL DROUGHT GRANT TO GET WATER TO COUNTY ROAD 646 RESIDENTS, DOWN TO FRANK MASON'S FARM.



HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY



Bent Rings

by April Creager

I was at work today, and I smashed my hand between a door and a wall. It kind of hurt but not as bad as it could have. See I like to wear rings, and I have four on right now, two on each hand. When I pulled my hand out between the door and the wall, I realized that I really hit my rings and not so much my hand. When there is that much pressure against any of my rings they seem to lose their form.

Sure enough I pulled off my rings, and they were all bent out of shape! The thing that made me so upset was that, one of these rings is very valuable. Not only did it cost a great deal of money, but it has meaning too, and it belongs to my mom! I looked at the ring and (really) my first thought was, mom's going to kill me. I also thought that maybe I shouldn't wear it any more?

The more I looked at the ring, and tried my hardest to re-shape it the more I realized how that ring resembles my life!

Like the ring, my life is valuable, bent out of shape and yet still useable!

What would happen if I stopped wearing the ring? It would no longer fill its purpose!! It was designed to be beautiful and bring glory to its owner!! Like my life, I was designed by God to be beautiful and bring glory to Him. Though the ring is a little bit out of shape now, it can still fulfill its purpose! So, my life will be with God.

It amazes me how even little things like this can teach us lessons and remind us how important we are to GOD!!!! What little thing is God using in your life to teach you your value?

JOY

(Just Older Youth)

Senior Adult

Evangelism Conference

Monday, May 5

9a.m.-3p.m.

First Baptist Church, Trussville

Conference Theme:

"Seniors Sharing the Savior"

Lunch will not be provided

We will find a nearby restaurant.

Van will leave the Moon Lake Baptist

Church at 8:30 a.m. With a stop for

biscuits at Hardee's in Ft Payne



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(1) HAWK 117 IN MENTONE. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath modern home comes with a fully equipped kitchen, living room, dining room, central air and air, 20x30 shed/garage and a nice landscaped yard on over 1 acre. (Commercial Possibilities) Call today for all the details. \$65,000.



(2) NEW CONSTRUCTION - Adorable cabin at Mentone, private location, two bedrooms, 2 baths, central heat and air, fireplace with open loft overlooking living area. Private lake. All on 5.74 acres. \$99,000.



(3) COUNTRY COTTAGE IN MENTONE - offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, rock fireplace, pine floors, central air and 2 wooded lots. There's more - this home is fully finished including the beds and linens as well as the coffee pot. You can own this get-away today for \$23,500.



(4) ROOM TO ROAM - this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home offers lots of extras. Great room with cathedral ceiling, wood floors, separate recreation room, 2 car garage with large storage room, barn and fenced pasture on 46 private acres connecting DeSoto State Park. \$249,900.



(5) LOOKING FOR A MOUNTAIN RETREAT - This is it! 8 self-contained cabins, office building that could be converted into living quarters, numerous RV and camp sites all on 13+ secluded acres adjoining DeSoto State Park. \$339,000.



(6) LOCATED ON DESOTO PARKWAY, this home offers 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 full wood floors throughout, screened porch, deck with hot tub, 1 bedroom guest cottage, greenhouse and 2-car garage with storage room...too many features to list them all! A must see to appreciate - only \$239,900.



(7) LITTLE RIVER CAFE. A well-known and established business featuring a fully equipped kitchen and dining room with large porch for outside eating, stage for entertainment, and a rustic atmosphere in a charming renovated old home. Located between DeSoto State Park and Little River Canyon and only 10 minutes from Fort Payne and Mentone. The lunch crowd is waiting, so don't take too long! \$129,500.



(8) THIS CUSTOM BUILT HOME offers 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, large eat-in area kitchen, entertaining sized living room with fireplace and a multi-purpose basement that could serve as a guest room, office or hobby room. The rock and wood construction blend home and nature all on 2.9 acres. Once you see it, you'll want to own it. \$199,000.



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



(11) CALM YOURSELF IN THE PEACEFUL SETTING of this 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Features include a 2-story living room with ion and wood burning fireplace, large country kitchen, whirlpool tub in the master bath, 8 ft x 16 ft and 8 ft x 30 ft aboveground pool. Also comes with over 21 acres, stocked pond, barn, shed, storage building and view of Lookout Mountain. \$168,500.



(12) RELIVE THE GOOD OLD DAYS in this distinguished older home made of sturdy stone. The 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, office, living room, dining room and kitchen have all been renovated within the last year AND it comes with a view of Lookout Mountain. Buy it today and move in tomorrow. \$122,300.



(13) ALL THIS HOUSE needs is a new owner - it already has new paint, new carpet, new hot water heater and a new roof. Add maintenance-free brick and 2 acres and you have a great starter or retirement home. Call on this 3 bedroom today. \$79,900.



(14) RUSTIC STONE PATH leads to this hand-hewn log cabin on the edge of Lookout Mountain. The two story living area features a mountain stone fireplace and exposed beams. Master bedroom is on the main floor with large bedroom and sleeping loft on the second floor. Front and back porch with open deck and a great view. \$229,000.



(15) ROCK AND FRAME HOUSE with large living room, eat-in kitchen, 3 bedrooms, one bath, wood burning fireplace, covered front porch, garden spot, 2 acres, all for \$92,000.



(17) NO DOWNTOWN SKYLINE SPARKLES below this Mentone "brow" home. Almost maintenance free, featuring 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths, large eat-in kitchen with island, cozy living room with fireplace, den/pool room with pool table already there. Great decks to view the picturesque valley, wooded countryside and farmlands. \$300,000.



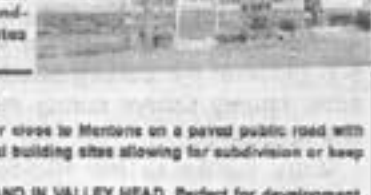
(18) RUSTIC MOUNTAIN LODGE minutes from DeSoto State Park - can be used for single family or commercial business. Great location for hunting, four-wheeling, or just relaxing. Pine and rock floors, great room with fireplace, 2 left bedrooms with cat walk, screened and open porches, hand crafted cabinets and doors. Two-room guest-house included. Buy with 5 acres for \$190,000, or all 20 acres for \$130,000.



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



(16) AFFORDABLE DREAM - Wake up to beautiful living for real world prices. "Like new" house offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, master room and den. The large front porch looks out on 2.66 landscaped acres with paved drive. Only minutes from downtown Mentone. \$114,500.



(20) THE BEST OF EVERYTHING has gone into this compelling 3-story home on the West Brow of Mentone. Over 4000 square feet features 4 BR, 4 BA, great room with fireplace, large living room with fireplace, his & hers bath, heated Jacuzzi in upstairs bath, hardwood and marble floors, screened porch downstairs and glassed observation porch upstairs. A "view" from every room. Call for more details. \$448,900.



(21) ESTABLISHED OLD HOMEPLACE in HISTORIC MENTONE. House is over 100 year old and restorable. These 18.89 acres is home to several primitive barns and sheds all surrounded by huge Oak trees. Retreat to an era gone by for less than \$100,000.



(22) ALMOST NEW CABIN with 3 bedrooms on Road 9002 in Mentone on 2+/- acres with access to Brush Creek. Fresh paint inside and out, spacious living room with wood burning fireplace, decks upstairs and down, all appliances and it is ready to move in. \$129,500.

OTHER LISTINGS

(23) OVER 8 acres on West Fork of Little River close to Mentone on a paved public road with access to city water, 965' of river frontage, several building sites allowing for subdivision or keep as a whole. \$120,000.

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

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

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

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

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

(29) LAND! Surround yourself with trees, gentle rolling pastures, water, and a beautiful view of Lookout Mountain. 37 acres of prime property located on Hwy. 11 between Fort Payne and Hammondsville is a dream come true. Call today! \$422,000.

(30) LAND AND LAKE...40 +/- acres with a 5+/- acre lake and Brush Creek runs through it. The lake was stocked with Bass and Bream 2 years ago and is approximately 35' deep. Don't wait - act today! \$190,000.

(31) VACATION IN YOUR BACK YARD...20+/- acres at the end of the road, heavily wooded with Laurel Creek running through the property. Ready to build your dream cabin or subdivide. Only minutes from Mentone or DeSoto. \$2,000 per acre.

(32) Snow Property...1.74+/- acres on County Road 168 near DeSoto State Park. \$37,500.

(33) 3.88 +/- Acres on the brow near DeSoto State Park. \$64,300.

(34) OPPORTUNITY AWAITS - 10 acres on Hwy 117, East of Mentone. 3 mobile homes and 2 one bedroom apartments and room to grow. Outside the city limits - no restrictions. Let your income pay for the property. \$198,900.

(35) RETREAT, RETREAT, RETREAT - if for any reason you want to or need to, this 40 acres is partly cleared and partly wooded with a large lake and wooded stream. Great for hunting cabins or full-time residence. \$179,000.

About Our Town

By
LINDA BROWN



Just when we thought nothing could shake us up, here comes an earthquake, of 4.9 magnitude, no less. After the initial shock that Mentone had experienced an earthquake, I found it to be very interesting. What happened three miles under the topsoil of my yard? Three miles below the fire ant beds, below the daylily patch, below the earthworms and even below the rocks that we always hit when we try to dig a hole? Where did the noise come from? What moved deep inside the earth that caused a boom that could travel that far? What would it have sounded like if we were down there where it happened? Did large plates slide across each other or did they move so far apart that there is a new crevice there now? So many questions and where do I find the answers? Maybe a geologist will read this and send the answers to The Groundhog.

Another aspect of the experience was the number of different explanations of what people thought had happened. The most common seems to be a tornado, but when they looked outside there were no clouds, the stars were shining. Another thought was an explosion, either of a gas line or a meth lab. Still another idea was an airplane crash or a train derailment. The most interesting to me, and I must research this more, was that it was the second coming, as predicted in the book of Revelation in the Bible. All who thought this, said they immediately knew this wasn't what it was, because they did not hear trumpets! What an interesting array of ideas! No wonder it's so hard to be a judge or a lawyer, everyone perceives each experience differently.

One thing that we observed at our house was the absence of noise after the rumbling had stopped. Our animals did not make a sound, the frogs stopped chirping and even the crickets were silent. It was as though the world was standing still for a time. We have large porches around our house, and, as you may have decided, we go outside anytime something different occurs. We must be a very curious or a very stupid family, we go outside when bad weather is predicted. The weather report will say that a storm is headed for Mentone, seek shelter immediately. We go outside to see if we can see the storm!

Earth Day at Moon Lake Elementary School was wonderful! The wind was blowing and it was very cold, but all of the students put on their coats and came outside. Several members of the Rhododendron Garden Club were waiting for them to come out. Together they cleaned the weeds from the Butterfly Garden and other areas of the school grounds. Then they planted

seeds, set out bedding plants and made the entire grounds a place of beauty. One garden club member said that she was now hooked on Earth Day, it was her first time to work at the school with the children and she loved it!

Before the work outside can be started, all of the students assemble in the gym. Each grade has a skit that is designed to encourage the students to not litter and to take care of the earth. This year they outdid themselves. One grade had a robot that recycled paper; it ate the paper and then recycled it into notebooks. Another had written a rap song, complete with rhythm instruments (garbage cans) and the wonderful dancing of Mrs. Bunch. Was that a rendition of the moon-walk? The Kindergarten class showed the talents of Timmy the trash eating dog. When pushed across the floor, he sounded very much like the popcorn push toy that your toddler had. Each class had a wonderful skit with much thought and hard work going into each. The hit of the show was, Miss Thecan. She was an old lady who had litter and garbage hanging all over her clothes. Everywhere she went she scattered garbage. Someone had to walk behind her and pick up the litter. She was looking for some of her cousins, who display the same family trait of littering, but she could not find any among the students of Moon Lake Elementary School. I think she was so disappointed at not finding any relatives, that she went to live with John Wilkinson, maybe he will give her a home and put up with her littering!

There is a new program being started in Mentone, the Council on Aging has frozen meals that can be picked up in Fort Payne and delivered to people here. Each person will have five meals delivered to their home every Monday morning. We only have about ten signed up so far, but are looking for more. The requirements are that a person be sixty years or above and not have the resources to shop and cook for themselves. They also must have access to a freezer and a microwave oven. Each recipient can give a donation of five dollars for five meals if they so desire. If not, then they receive the meals just the same. If you or someone you know would like to be considered for this service, you can call the Mentone Town Hall (634-4444) and give them the information. We will then contact the Council on Aging and someone will come to Mentone and conduct an interview. We also need people who are willing to carry these meals to the homes. If you can do this, call the town hall also. You will need to be at the town hall about nine each Monday morning and delivery of meals should take from one to two hours.

Recently, Marie called me from town hall and said that a woman was there looking to find the burial place of her grandfather. I was on my way to the post office and told Marie I would stop by and talk to her. She was looking for John Norton Crowe's final resting place. We determined that he was not buried in any of the cemeteries in Mentone. Later, I had a chance to look at some records I have on that family and found that he may have been buried in Birmingham. I told her that she had many cousins in town and to not say anything derogatory about anyone while she was here.

Almost everyone is related to someone else here in Mentone. I will send her what information I have and maybe this will help her with her searching. John Norton was the son of George Washington Crowe and Mary T. King. He was a brother to Uncle "Doc", Aunt Addie, Aunt Bertha, Aunt Georgia and Grandmother Maggie Kirby. These are the siblings that I knew, there were others. If anyone knows the story of John's death and where he is buried, please call me. I have the address and phone number for his granddaughter and will send the information on to her.

One of my articles recently mentioned the method of drawing water out of a well by the means of a windlass. Now someone has asked what the correct term is for the long slim well bucket that was used for the narrow cased wells. These buckets were lowered into the well, let fill up with water, drawn up and emptied into another bucket by the means of pulling a lever at the top of the bucket which was connected to a stopper in the bottom and this released the water. If you know the name of this type of bucket, let us know.

When I think about the different ways that we could draw water, it amazes me. We had one method of drawing water from the cistern, which was a well dug to catch rain water. For this we had a large bucket connected to a windlass or sometimes connected to the strong arm of one of my brothers. If the rope broke or came loose from the windlass, then we would draw the water up by the hand-over-hand method. The water from the spring was always drawn by this method. There was no structure to hold the rope, so we just let the rope pile on the ground beside the spring. The drinking water was drawn with the long slender bucket connected to a rope and wound around a windlass. Later, the well for drinking had a pump. This was much more sanitary and also much easier.

Imagine drawing enough water for drinking, cooking, bathing and washing by one of these means. Washing was an all-day job. We only washed once a week and by the time everything was washed and hung on a clothes line, the first items washed and hung up were dry and ready to take down, fold or iron, and be put away. Then, if Mama had her way, the wash water was used to mop all of the floors and to scrub the porches and the outdoor john. But that's another story.

Count your blessings, among which is the blessing that the earthquake didn't do much damage and no injuries were reported; plant a garden; one tomato plant counts, enjoy the spring weather; I saw two rose-breasted grosbeaks at my bird feeder today, my bird book states that I will only see them in May, do a good deed; need ideas, call me, and enjoy life.

Look for all of the summer programs planned for the Moon Lake Community Library in this issue under the title, Libs From the Library. Also, look for a copy of the letter recently mailed from the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District.

Anyone desiring someone to come and speak on World War II and the present war, please call Thomas Williams at 845-2246. I will be happy to speak to schools and other groups.



LOWER EAST BROW OF LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

This magnificent cypress home is truly one of a kind. Tiled entry leads into 24x34 great room with beautiful oak flooring, massive fireplace and dentil molding. The wall of Anderson windows in great room provides panoramic view in all directions. Wonderful deck with hot tub overlook the valley. 2 bedrooms, tiled sunroom,



kitchen, dining, wet bar, 1-1/2 baths, utility also on main floor. Large master loft and bath with marble tub grace the second floor. Separate guest house, walled garden, heated garage and shop are included. Call for more details. (No. G-0021)



MENTONE COMMUNITY ATOP LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN - FORMERLY "The Bistro" Restaurant. Loc. on 2.34 ac. tract w/200+ ft. frntg. along AL Hwy 117, property is centrally located. Only 15 mi. from downtown Ft. Payne & minutes from Mentone & Cloudland, this uniquely attractive bldg. has approx. 1,275 sq. ft. floor space w/575 sq. ft. apt. loc. at rear of the bldg. Complete w/2 dining areas. It will seat approx. 50 guests & incld. outdoor patio that will accommodate approx. 32 during warmer months. Most windows, carpet & linoleum, plumbing, electrical & CHVAC are all new. 3 septic systems serve the property, more than adequate for the 3 BA. Property also incld. 16'x30' workshop & 24'x24' carport. No equipment. (A-107)

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LAKE ON THE BROW - Lot #66
- 2+/- acres. Asking \$39,900.
(No. A-058)



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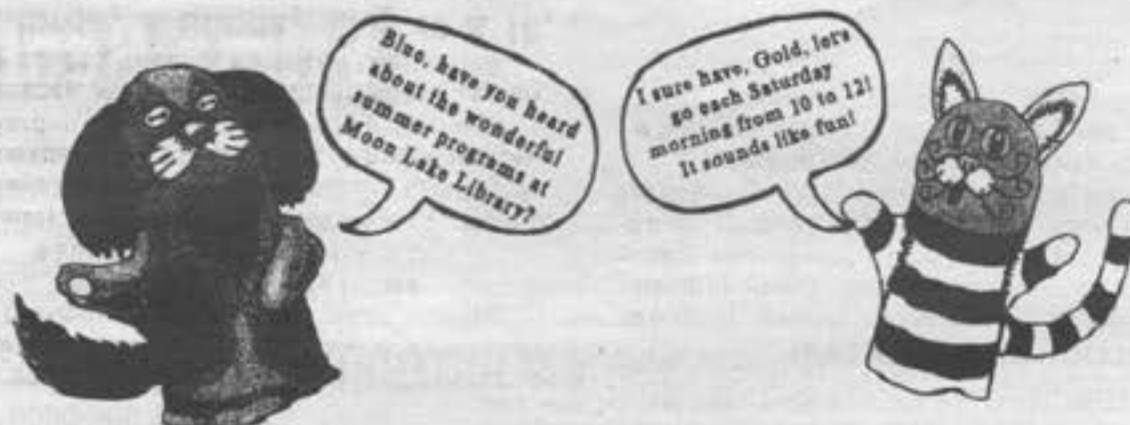
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MOON LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY SUMMER PROGRAMS

EACH SATURDAY

MAY 31 - AUGUST 2 10 - 12 a.m.

(Except, July 5th, the library will be closed for Independence Day)

The programs for Kindergarten through Third Grade will be, "Books Ahoy". A fun time of learning about the ocean and all that lives there. Games, crafts, books and other fun activities!

The programs for Fourth through Sixth Grade will be, "Top Secret Adventures". Go on an adventure each week to a far away land. Clues will be given to find the what, where, why and how of the mystery. Fun for all!

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

- Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 pm, MAPA meeting, Mentone Community House
- Sunday, May 11, MOTHER'S DAY
- Monday, May 12, 6 P.M., Town Council meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Tuesday, May 13, 12:30 P.M., Rhododendron Garden Club, Mentone Community House
- Tuesday, May, 13, 6:30 P.M., American Legion Post 215 Meeting, American Legion Hall
- Saturday & Sunday, May 17 & 18, RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL on the Brow

- Sunday, May 18, 10 AM Little River Church Decoration Day Services and Dinner on the grounds, business meeting and singing following
- Sunday, May 25 Bankhead Decoration Day Services and Dinner on the grounds, business meeting and singing following
- Tuesday, June 2, 7:00 pm, MAPA meeting, Mentone Community House



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also,

2 Tim 1:5

Paul, in writing to young Timothy about the faith that was in him and reminding him of where it came from. What an example he had to follow! On this Mother's Day, let's remember the many good things our mothers did for us and take time to thank them and show our love to them.

Happy Mother's Day!

The DeKalb County Library

Bookmobile Schedule:

Mentone at Town Hall parking lot
on Wednesdays

from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

•May 7, 11 •June 4 *on vacation

The Bookmobile is in
VALLEY HEAD

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

and in HAMMONDVILLE

on the same days from 2:30 to 3:30

Mentone Post Office Hours

Monday - Friday

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

Saturday 8:30 a.m.-10:30 am

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