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Volume 23, No. 5

"Neighborly "News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

May 2005

MENTONE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION



Senior Luncheon on March 16, 2005

L/R: 1st row: Gertrude Cox, Willie Haynes and Gertrude Killingsworth; 2nd Row: John & Inelle Hurt; (Background) Bill Blalock, Dot Blalock, and Raymond Brown

Photos by Joan Fischer

By Evelyn Graves

Confident that a committed group of individuals can make a difference, local citizens established the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF) in 1993. A nonprofit organization, MERF continues to dedicate itself to enhancing the quality of life in our community by capitalizing on available resources.

The mission of the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation is to enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources.

MERF's first project was the purchase of the Community House--a center for diverse programs serving people of all ages and walks of life. Older

people gather there during the day, where they can socialize over lunch or help children with homework. In turn, these children benefit from the love and wisdom of their mentors.

Support of MERF has been rich and varied. The local Boy Scout troop, camps, and churches have generously donated time and energy while local artisans, carpenters, musicians, storytellers, and senior citizens have offered their talent and expertise.

The directors and friends of MERF invite you to join their efforts toward enhancing the quality of life in our community by capitalizing on available resources. MERF welcomes support in terms of expertise and skills, and is open to a

discussion as to how MERF can meet the education-related needs in the community. Financial contributions in the form of grants and other charitable gifts are always welcome and vital to the ongoing community and school programs. The ultimate goal of MERF is to harness and direct the valuable resource of opportunity--to build a healthy, vital, forward-looking community.

The original belief that commitment makes a difference still rings true. The commitment of a few grows into the commitment of many, allowing dreams and possibilities to become realities.

MERF'S GOALS ARE:

- To tap the rich natural and cultural resources of the Mentone area
- To provide collaborative learning experiences for people of all ages
- To supplement basic educational needs of the community schools
- To provide a central location for a variety of recreational experiences that serve the entire community
- To provide a place for senior citizens to come together
- To provide learning experiences for parents
- To promote good physical health
- To foster appreciation of the arts.

MERF'S PROPOSED OPPORTUNITIES ARE:

- Parenting seminars
- Study skills workshops
- Tutoring
- Hot lunches for senior citizens
- Introduction to computers
- Literacy training
- Fiddlers group
- Book club
- Nutrition workshops
- GED (high school equivalency) classes

MERF's Board of Directors is composed of local educators, merchants and parents: Bill Berry, John Corey, Carol Hazell, Sue Henry, Dorna Hutcheson, Linda Lawton, Kathy McMunn, Walt Pullen, Joyce Smith, and Sarah Wilcox.

MERF has been able to provide funding for a part-time art teacher, a part-time music teacher, and a part-time Spanish teacher at Moon Lake School, as well as to provide

financial assistance to teachers attending education seminars, and assistance with the cost of field trips for students. Volunteer assistance is provided to students for tutoring after school. During the winter months, a luncheon is served each Wednesday for the senior citizens of the community. There is a great deal of anticipation on the part of the seniors to attend the luncheon. They enjoy the fellowship and interaction with others of their own age group, and they are always insured a delicious, nutritious meal.

Another enjoyable activity at the Community House is the Book Club which meets every third Thursday at 10AM. Members receive their book assignment for the next meeting, and they discuss the book which has just been read. Everyone looks forward to that time of sharing.

(See additional photos in center pages.)

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

THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

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

MAPA OFFICERS

President.....Bernise Crow
Vice President.....Dot Crow
Secretary.....Marie S. Dillenbeck
Treasurer.....Homer Crow
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Member-At-Large.....Dessie Newberry
Member-At-Large.....Lucille Crow

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

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P.O. BOX 50, MENTONE, AL 35984
www.MentoneAlabama.org

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MAPA MEETING

The Mentone Area Preservation Association met at 6PM, April 5, at the fellowship hall of the Church of God of Prophecy.

Present were Bernise Crow, Lucille Crowe, Dot Crow, Marie Dillenbeck, Greg Coe, Page and Margaret Cunningham, Dessie Brown, Evelyn Graves, Ruby Brock, Jack Jones, Dorothy Shelden, Margaret Baker, Rebecca Davis, and Jane Bouldin.

President Bernise Crow called the meeting to order and Ruby Brock gave the invocation.

The minutes of the March meeting were read. There being one addition, Leroy Crowe was present at the last meeting. The minutes stand as read with that addition.

Homer Crow, Treasurer, passed out copies of the treasurer's report, which was accepted. He stated that he would be getting rhododendron from McMinnville, TN, and needed someone to help pick them up. Greg Coe volunteered to help Homer with the festival setup and also to be chairman for the next festival with Homer's help. Volunteers to man the MAPA booth are: Marie Dillenbeck and Jane Bouldin on Saturday morning. Jim and Penny Lyday and Dot Crow Saturday afternoon. Tom and Lynn Donald on Sunday morning. Margaret Cunningham Sunday afternoon. Homer reported that Cotaco Creek will be able to furnish the sound system. His report included update of vendors: 25 as of the meeting, and 150 applications mailed out. Ken Kirby has volunteered to clean up the parking lot donated by Sharon Barron. Greg and Page agreed to assist with setting out the booth stakes. The quilt to be raffled off is made by Maudell Tidwell from Dawson.



Evelyn Graves gave a Groundhog Report.

Page Cunningham made a motion to change the time of the MAPA meeting from 7PM to 6:30 PM due to the lateness of the hour of the meeting for the older members. After a discussion, by general consensus of the members, the meeting was changed to 6:30 PM each 1st Tuesday of the month.

Jack Jones who will be 87 years old on May 25 announced that he was opening up Jack's Gallery and invited the members to come to his book signing, *No Rocking Chair Yet*. The date is April 28 through May 1st and he will be on the porch of Jack's Gallery at 4238 AL Hwy 117, next to the Hummingbird House. Jack will also have the No. 1 booth at the Rhododendron Festival.

Greg Coe volunteered to be the festival chairman if Homer and others who are more familiar with festivals would continue to help.

It was announced that the members should try to attend the May 3rd meeting of the Alabama DOT to support each person's position on the bridge replacement issue. The meeting is at Moon Lake Elementary Gymnasium from 4:30 to 6:30PM.

Dorothy Shelden won the door prize.

Evelyn Graves and Dessie Brown volunteered to bring refreshments next month.

There being no further business, Dessie Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Marie Dillenbeck. The meeting was adjourned to enjoy refreshments furnished by Page and Margaret Cunningham.



Quilt made by Maudell Tidwell from Dawson, AL. The colors of this beautiful quilt are shades of purple, lavender, and pink. The quilt will be raffled off at the Rhododendron Festival on Sunday, May 1st at 4PM. Tickets are \$1.00 each and can be purchased at the festival. MAPA appreciates everyone's participation in the purchase of the tickets as the funds are used for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MENTONE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2005

APRIL 21

JULY 21

OCTOBER 25

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 5PM IN THE TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM.

JACK THOMAS 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Jack Thomas and wife, Anne

On Saturday, March 19, 2005, family and friends celebrated Jack Thomas' 70th birthday at Little Ridge Farm, home of Cindy Connors and Don Smith in Valley Head, Alabama.

Mr. Thomas was born on March 24, 1935, to Carrie Ford Thomas and Jack Thomas, Sr., in Doerun, Georgia. He presently resides with his wife, Anne Thomas in Woodstock,

Georgia. Those attending were Anne Thomas, Woodstock, Georgia; Pat, Mike, Timothy and Natalie Rhodes, Woodstock, Georgia; Brandy Rhodes and Mike Pankow, Alpharetta, Georgia; Cindy Connors and Don Smith, Valley Head, Alabama; Dan and Florence Smith, Rainsville, Alabama; Mike Connors and Beka Plasko, Marietta, Georgia; Crystal Connors, Sumter, South Carolina; Dennis and Teresa Barron and children, Carrie, Caleb, Miranda, Will and Robin of Cumming, Georgia; Alicia, Anthony, Katie and Jackie Garrett, Canton, Georgia; Cory Nichols, Canton, Georgia; and Dawn and Ferrell Barrington, Beulah, Alabama.

Great food, fellowship, fun, and memories were shared and enjoyed by all.



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NO ROCKING CHAIR YET BOOK SIGNING

Jack Jones' has a new book, No Rocking Chair Yet, and he will be having a book signing on the porch of his new gallery, **Jack's Gallery**, at 4238 AL Hwy 117 East, in Mentone, April 28 through May 1st. He will also have his artwork on display and for sale in Booth No. 1 at the Rhododendron Festival during the weekend of April 30 and May 1 this year. At the book signing at **Jack's Gallery**, publisher David Carney, from Meridianville, will be here with Jack's new book, No Rocking Chair Yet. Come sit in the rockers on the porch of **Jack's Gallery**, at 4238 AL Hwy 117 East, in Mentone.

Also, in Jack's Gallery, other artists will have an opportunity to display their art on special wooden easels.

Jack will be signing his new book, "No Rocking Chair Yet" on Friday, April 29, at 2PM, at his art gallery. This is his book written at 87 years of age. Come by and buy your signed copy of the book, meet Jack, and "Sit a Spell."

Mentone Wedding Chapel

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



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

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MOON LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Calendar of May Events

- Thursday, May 5: Cinco de Mayo Celebration / Field Day Activities
- Friday, May 6: Weather Day Holiday
- Thursday, May 12: Kindergarten-Grade 2 Awards Program (8:00-9:30 a.m.)
- Thursday, May 12: Grade 3-Grade 6 Awards Program (9:30-11:00 a.m.)
- Thursday, May 12: PTO Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- Friday, May 13: Weather Day Holiday
- Wednesday, May 18: Kindergarten Graduation (9:00 a.m.)
- Thursday, May 19: Grade 6 Graduation (9:00 a.m.)
- Thursday, May 19: Head Start graduation (12:30 p.m.)

All May events (except Cinco de Mayo / Field Day) will occur in the school gym.

Please help support Moon Lake during the upcoming Coca-Cola truckload sale, which will extend from May 2-10, with delivery of products on Thursday, May 12. You can save money on a wide variety of Coca-Cola products while supporting your community school! Thanks for your valuable help in this fundraising activity.



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RECIPE CORNER

By Sue Schwarz

It is May and I have a hard time believing that this year is going by so fast. We are enjoying the lovely spring weather and flowers, and before we know it, we will be complaining about the heat. Recipes this month are two that we have tried recently and like, so maybe you will enjoy them, too.

TURTLE BARS

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 1 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup pecans, coarsely chopped
- 3/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup toffee-and-chocolate baking pieces (such as Heath or Skor)

Heat oven to 350. Combine the flour, confectioners' sugar, and butter in the bowl of a food processor. Pulse until a crumbly dough is formed. Press the dough firmly into a greased 9-by-13-inch pan. Bake until golden, about 13 minutes. Whisk together the condensed milk, egg, and vanilla. Pour the filling over the baked crust, sprinkle the pecans, chocolate chips, and toffee pieces evenly over the filling. Bake until the filling is set, the edges are golden brown, and the toffee is melted, about 25 minutes. Cool completely in the refrigerator, about 2 hours. Cut into 32 bars.

GREEN CHILE CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

- 8 corn tortillas
- 3 Tablespoons cream cheese
- 2 medium boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cooked and finely sliced
- 2 green onions, finely sliced
- 2-1/3 cups green chile sauce
- 1-1/3 cups grated cheddar, Asadero or Monterey jack cheese (or a combination)
- shredded lettuce
- chopped tomato
- 1 medium avocado, peeled, seeded and chopped
- 1/4 cup sour cream (optional)

Spread 4 of the tortillas with cream cheese and place in a 9x11 baking dish. Arrange half of the chicken breast on top of tortillas, sprinkle with onions and drizzle half the green chili sauce over. Top with the remaining four tortillas, the rest of the green chile sauce, and layer the cheese over the whole casserole. Bake in a 375-degree oven for 15 to 20 minutes until the cheese is melted and bubbly. Serve with lettuce, tomato.

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North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District Report

During this past month our volunteer fire department has responded to the following calls:

Activity Report:

Structure Fire	0
Brush Fire	4
Vehicle Accident	1
False Alarm	0
Natural Disaster	0
911 Response	0

Do you like to play golf? Come help the fire fighters raise money to support the operations of the NLMFPD while playing golf at the beautiful Lil' Mole Run course here in Mentone.

The second annual Golf Tournament will be **Saturday, June 4th-7:00 am**. Prizes, Select Shot, 18 Holes, 4 Player Teams, Shotgun Start.

Have fun while supporting the first line of defense for Mentone and the surrounding area.

To register your Team contact:

Tom Emory @ (256) 634-4487 or
Richard Harrison @ (256) 634-4320.

Fire Fighters are also selling biscuits and Bar-B-Q at the Rhododendron Festival April 30-May 1st Brow Park in Mentone.

Ready and Willing

Donations are tax deductible and may be mailed to:

**North Lookout Mountain
Fire Protection District
P.O. Box 154
Mentone, AL 35984**

Golf Tournament Planned

Would you like to play golf and feel good about helping a good cause at the same time? On April 4th there will be the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament at Lil' Mole Run to benefit the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District Volunteer Fire Department. Fire Fighters organize and work the event themselves. Last year their first tournament was a wonderful success. Sixteen teams entered raising more than \$3,000.00 to contribute to the support of their Volunteer Department. Like all agencies the monthly expenses have to be paid as well as the maintenance of equipment and fuel for the trucks. In addition, each fire fighter needs very expensive gear to protect them while fighting fires. None of these expenses are covered by the Town of Mentone Funds. It is all done through volunteer donations.

There is a lot of excitement about this 2nd Annual Tournament. It is a fun way to help assist in the valuable work these volunteer fire fighters are committed to. They, too, have families and jobs that require their time and attention but they still volunteer to protect the citizens and the property here on the mountain.

If you golf, come. If you don't golf but want to show your support donations are welcome. You might also pass the word to your "golfing buddies" and show them what a beautiful golf course is right here in Mentone. Just another surprise on this "secret side of the mountain."

The golf tournament will begin at 7:00 am at Lil' Mole Run. The cost per person is \$50.00 with teams of 4 playing 18 holes. There will be cash prize for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers. There will also be prizes for closest to the pin and longest drive.

Contact Rusty Chambers (256) 516-2009 day
(256) 634-4537 night

OR Richard Harrison (256) 634-4320.

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April 12, 2005, Minutes, By Gethryn Giles

The Rhododendron Garden Club met on April 12, 2005, at the Mentone Community House. There were 15 members present. Frances McCain was a guest. Vice-President Harriett Lillich called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

After the pledge to the flag, Lucy Fowkes gave the devotional. The hostesses were Shirley Hussel, Jenny Rogers and Margaret Baker.

The minutes of the March 8, 2005, meeting were read and approved.

Announcements:

•Petals from the Past will have a show, "Antiques in the Garden" in Jemison, April 22-23.

•The Southern Accents Home Tour will be in Beatrice and Natchez, AL, April 16.

•Remember to recycle ink cartridges - take them to Marie Dillenbeck at the Town Hall.

•On Thursday night, April 14, there will be a Community Meeting at the Mentone Community House to discuss the bridge replacements on Highway 117.

•The meeting with representatives from the AL Dept of Transportation about the bridges will be on May 3.

•Ann Wright has broken her leg and is in rehabilitation.

Business: Jan Wilkinson reminded members that Earth Day at Moon Lake School is Monday, April 18. The day will begin with an assembly and program at 7:45 a.m. and planting will start about 8:30. Members are asked to work in the gardens at the school on Friday, April 15, in order to prepare for the children's work on Monday. The Shed has offered to sell flats of flowers at reduced prices for use on Earth Day. Several members agreed to purchase a flat.

Linda Brown reported on the plant sale held by the DeKalb-Cherokee Federation on April 2nd. The federation cleared about \$600.00. The desserts furnished by members of this club were appreciated.

Linda Brown and Virginia Setze helped at the Home and Garden Show in Rainsville.

The DeKalb-Cherokee Federation Spring Luncheon will be on April 30 at the Guest House in Fort Payne. The cost is \$15 per person. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m.

Margaret Baker recommended that the club sponsor an event next spring which would bring a well-known speaker to Mentone--perhaps Jason Powell of Petals of the Past or someone like him. She suggested that we work with others in the community who would be interested in helping sponsor such an event. Margaret and Dianne Kuehl, 1st Vice President-elect, will work on this and bring a recommendation to the club.

The program for this meeting was to work in the Heritage Garden at the Community House.

The next meeting will be the Spring Luncheon at 12:00 noon on Monday, May 9th, at the Wildflower Cafe. Cost is \$12.00 per person. Treasurer Virginia Setze will collect the money.

Camp Juliette Lowe

By Ruth Laney

I am Ruth Wilheit Laney, former Chairman and now member of the Board of Trustees of Camp Juliette Low. I have a second home on Highway 157 in Chattooga County, Georgia. I always find a copy of *The Groundhog* when I am in residence.

In the March issue, I noticed an article on Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts. She had close ties to "our" mountain.

From the Story of Camp Juliette Low by Florence Fleming Corley and updated by her daughter Florrie Corley Johnson for our 75th season in 1997, one finds that Juliette Low was well acquainted with Cloudland, Georgia. Her family had friends who summered here. In 1921, Juliette Low came to the mountain to purchase land for a training camp for Girl Scout Leaders. The Ledbetter brothers sold her 10 acres of land on what is now Cloudland Park Club. Here, she founded the camp still named for her. She oversaw the building of the Juliette Low Lodge which, along with the original ten acres of land, was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1987. Two of the four original "witness trees" are still standing today. After the beginnings of the camp, Juliette Low visited the camp on three memorable occasions.

The Girl Scouts divested themselves of their camps during the Depression. Camp Juliette Low was turned over to a non-profit board of Trustees, which has owned and operated the camp ever since. The Girl Scouts asked that the Trustees keep the name since it is the only camp with which

Juliette Low was personally associated. The camp is no longer associated with the Girl Scouts, but is a non-profit summer camp for girls. Camp Juliette Low now encompasses over 330 acres on the Georgia part of Lookout Mountain in Cloudland.

2005 marks the 83rd summer of operation for Camp Juliette Low. Camp Juliette Low operates for 8 weeks every summer. Our heritage is important to us, and girls still live in floored platform tents and learn to be one with the out-of-doors. We serve young women ages 7-17. Many of our campers are third or fourth generation campers. We have a very active alumnae organization which returns for an Alumnae Reunion with our families each June. Our web site is www.cjl.org.

We were saddened on March 13 to learn that our long-time Business Manager and friend of those on the mountain and in Summerville, Dr. Joseph F. Specht, Sr., had died in Texas. Joe led the camp as business manager from 1949 until his retirement in 1989, and remained on the Board of Trustees as Secretary-Treasurer until 1994.

I found on the website for Mentone and *The Groundhog*, a summary of Camp Juliette Low, so you are aware of our existence, but many of your readers may not be aware of us. Please feel free to visit at any time. Our caretaker, Brian Meadows, is in residence throughout the year, and the camp is open this year from May 31, until July 23.

BEST WISHES ON *Mother's Day*

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ST. JOSEPH'S ON-THE-MOUNTAIN EPISCOPAL CHURCH JIMMY MCCARY SCHOLARSHIPS

St. Joseph's is now accepting applications for the Jimmy McCary Scholarship Fund. This fund has provided many scholarships to students from the Mentone and Valley Head area for quite a few years and applications from qualified candidates will be taken until June 1, 2005.

Priority is given based on financial need and academic record. Before the scholarship is awarded, proof of admission and enrollment must be provided on an official form from the school. The scholarship is available for a maximum of four years. The student must maintain a course load of 8 credits per semester and must maintain the equivalent of a 2.8 grade point average on a scale of 4 in order to qualify for the succeeding years. To obtain an application, contact the church office, 634-4476 or Gethryn Giles at 634-3661.

Update from the Mayor of Mentone

Every mayor and council in recent memory has been concerned with the safety of the bridge at Skyline. Lack of funding had prevented the state from doing anything substantive with the bridge. At a meeting at the Mentone Community House in October ALDOT Division Engineer Johnny Harris stated that the bridge over the middle fork of Little River (at Whatley's) was scheduled for work in 2005/2006, and the bridge over the west fork (at Skyline) was scheduled for work in 2007. Later in October, there was a multi-vehicle accident at the Skyline bridge. After the accident, we urged all area citizens to express their concern over the safety of the bridge to our state officials--ALDOT Director Joe McInnes, Senator Lowell Barron, and Representative Todd Greeson.

In response to many letters, phone calls and emails, Senator Barron arranged to have Director McInnes come to Mentone for a town hall meeting. To my knowledge, that is the first time the state highway director has ever come to Mentone for such an event. As a result of the meeting, Mr. McInnes announced that the bridge project at Skyline would be fast tracked. ALDOT also agreed to put up permanent blinking lights at the approaches of both the Skyline and Whatley bridges. In addition, Senator Barron and Representative Greeson funded the blinking lights at the school zone at the town's request.

On Tuesday, May 3rd, 2005, I urge all area citizens to attend the Public Involvement Meeting between 4:30 and 6:30 PM at the Moon Lake Elementary School Gym. Representatives of ALDOT will be available to answer questions. There will be no formal presentation, but rather "an open house" format. Interested parties may arrive at any time during the meeting schedule. Proposals for the bridge will be displayed around the gym. Citizens may leave their written comments at the meeting or mail comments within 10 days of the meeting to: Johnny L. Harris, Division Engineer, ALDOT, PO Box 550, Guntersville, AL 35976-0550.

The Town of Mentone appreciates the efforts of Senator Barron, Director McInnes, and the representatives of ALDOT in response to our concerns. Personally, it is my hope that in the near future we will have a safer bridge with the least possible impact.






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While thinking about gifts, you will find just the right graduation gift, or just what Dad wants for Father's day next month. Maybe it's something from the Rock Shop, or yard art? Come by and browse on any Saturday or Sunday, noon to 6:00pm, GA time.

Mountain Mamas is located on GA Hwy 48 in Cloudland, GA, a half mile east of the GA/AL state line. Be sure and check out our web page www.mountainmamas.com.

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The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW



The month of April was most pleasant with many trees bursting out with new leaves, birds singing and building nests, daffodils blooming, and my snowball bush had two big fluffy balls right in the top. My son-in-law, Gregg Cooper, gave it to me for Mother's Day last year.

Homer has worked every day on some phase of preparation for our Rhododendron Festival, which was planned for earlier in the year, this time. We have had two work sessions at our house with the board members and had a fun time doing it. I cooked dinner for us (we all like to eat), something simple I could prepare ahead of time. The first session, we counted out twelve quilt tickets and folded a letter to go along with them explaining our goals for MAPA, put them in envelopes, along with a small stamped envelope with our return address, and mailed them to our out-of-town members. Their response was overwhelming. Some sent \$100.00, some \$50.00, many \$20.00 or \$25.00. Many thanks to everyone. We filled out tickets to match their donations and put them in the box for the drawing for the beautiful quilt made by Maudell Tidmore of Dawson, AL. So, we had another work session with food. We invited Gregg Coe to join us this time. He and Page Cunningham worked hard distributing flyers and selling quilt tickets all over the area. Many thanks to them.

Lynn Donald has done a good job of advertising for us and we appreciate that very much.

Patty Tucker, Director of the DeKalb County Tourist Association, sent out the news releases to newspapers, radio, and TV for us. Thank you, Patty.

The merry month of May brings more beauty to our area in the natural beauty of rhododendron, mountain laurel, sweet shrub (Carolina all spice), sweet williams, and many other small wildflowers.

May is a busy month. Schools are closing here in our county and many activities associated with schools will end also. Many festivals and decorations will take place. And it's gardening time!! The last week in April was warm and dry enough to work outside and plant flowers and vegetables.

Homer has received many beautiful cards since his surgery to replace two discs in his neck. He is doing quite well and the pain has eased quite a bit. He has even done some yard work, but has not been lifting anything heavy. He received a card from our friends, Rev. Harry and Margaret Russell of Lakeland, FL. Harry sent one of his inspiring poems, which I am including with this article. We hope to have them visit us again soon. They spent a week with us once, and we really enjoyed it. Harry loves to sing my type of music, and Margaret accompanies him on the piano.

Gregg and Linda Frith had lunch at the Wildflower restaurant recently and visited a little while with me. I

was happy to see them. Linda has had a battle with cancer, but seems to be doing better, like our daughter, Joyce. We appreciate all your prayers for Linda and Joyce. The power of prayer is beyond measure.

I have met a very nice lady who is in the process of moving here. She and her husband, whom I haven't met, have bought a house near where Rick Chapman lives near DeSoto State Park. Her name is Kerri Brethoff. I hope I spelled it correctly, if not we will do it next time. She is excited about the area and we will enjoy having her here. Her husband works out of town, but is trying to get a position nearer, maybe in Chattanooga.

We are planning to have music at the Hitching Post one Saturday night of the month. I think maybe the first Saturday night. Margaret Baker and her partner, Rebecca Davis, are doing the planning and securing artists for these concerts. Larry Hall, one of our Mentone artists did a good show with Rebecca's son, A.J., playing the drums on April 2nd. Larry is a good guitarist and song writer. The weather was cold, but I sat through the first half and went downstairs to sit by a heater for the second half. I could hear the singing from there.

We look forward to the May concert by the Sacred Harp Singers. Please come and enjoy it.

We are grateful to Jerry and Betty Grantland and the Cotaco Creek for furnishing entertainment along with different bands for the Rhododendron Festival again this year. The Cotaco Band is back in business with seven members, and they have two blue grass groups with them. They will entertain for our bonfire Friday night and all day Saturday on the brow at the Rhododendron Festival arts and craft show. We have never been able to pay them for their worth. They are sweet, loving people, and we appreciate them more than we can put into words.

It takes a lot of planning and working to keep a festival going. This will be our twenty-first one. We have improved on some phases, lost on other, but are a little more organized. We used to have the Groundhog Classic Run from the hitching post to the 4-way stop at Tutwiler Gap, about 2.3 miles. There were different age groups, 30 years up and another 30 years and younger. Also a fun run for those who were not competing. Prizes were given to the winners.

Also, we used to have a beauty pageant for several years where we selected a rhododendron queen who rode in the parade and received a scholarship to Northeast Junior College, \$100.00 and other gifts. The two runners up received \$50.00 and other gifts. I loved seeing the pretty young girls from our area dressed in their lovely gowns. It was lots of fun, but I couldn't handle it by myself and couldn't get enough help, so I gave it up.

Keep our dates in mind, and we hope to see you at the festival, April 30th and May 1st.

Stop by & chat with Bernise at CROWS' NEST ANTIQUES Antiques collectibles, glassware, books 256-634-4548 
--

Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF)

(Continued from page 1)

Photos by Joan Fischer



Willie Haynes



Bill Bialock, Dot Bialock, Raymond Brown

Mentone



Educational



Resources



Betty Johnson and Mattie Golden



Judy Dowlat from Moon Lake Community Library
checking out a book for Gertrude Cox (seated)



Foundation



James Johnson being served
by Moon Lake School Beta Club student



Senior Luncheon sponsored by MERF and hosted on March 16 by Mentone United Methodist Church who prepared and served the meal. (F) Linda Brown, Carrie Ruth Kirby, Barbie Hester, Carol Hazell. (B) Marilyn Blanton Campbell, Karen Saferite, Barbara Bialock, Rev. Jackie Brown and Rev. Les Brown.

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CO. RD. 103, MENTONE - Ranch style home offers great room, kitchen 2 bedrooms, 1 full bath and 1 half bath. Attached garage & detached carport. Lovely 2.41 +/- acre lot. Restricted. (No.G-004)



SOUTH BROW DRIVE, CLOUDLAND - 83.25 acres of prime development property. Beautiful brow tract features panoramic & unrivaled brow view. Signature 2-story home with downstairs living area, kitchen, dining area & sunroom. Upstairs offers 4 bedrooms & 3 full baths. Call for details & additional information. Listed at \$1,400,000. (G-111) MLS #11527788



ALSOBROOK ROAD, CLOUDLAND - Away from the hustle and bustle! Located in a secluded area off the beaten path, this ranch-style home has been totally remodeled. Large great room with kitchen/dining area, spacious master suite with walk-in closet, 2 additional bedrooms * & full bath. all new flooring, fresh paint, new decking, new kitchen cabinets, new bathroom fixtures. Located on private 1+/- acre lot. Asking \$94,800. (No. G-013) MLS #540882 REDUCED



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1st Birthday!



Emma Renae Lee

Emma Renae Lee celebrated her first birthday December 24, 2004. Her parents are Matt and Ginger Lee of Mentone. Grandparents: Larry and Kathy Gray, Mentone. Great Grandparents: Junior and Mary Jane Gray, Mentone; and James Pell and the late Clara Pell of Mentone. Happy 1st Birthday, Emma! We love you.

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The

Church News

By Evelyn Graves



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

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

The **Valley Head Methodist Church** Sunday Worship is at 10 AM. Pastor is Wayne Nesbitt. Everyone is welcome to attend the services.

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: 9:30-10:45AM. 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. Rd 239 (Hawkins Road). Sunday School is at 9:45AM; Morning Worship is at 11AM; Evening Worship is at 6PM; Wednesday Night Prayer service is at 6PM.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds mass services at 10:30AM each Sunday; and Communion services at 5PM on Tuesdays.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular worship services are at 10AM and Sunday School at 9AM. 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 10AM, Worship Service at 11AM, Wednesday night youth meeting with snacks, lessons, and activities at 6PM, and Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:30 PM.

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

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

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

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

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 10AM; Worship - 11AM, Alabama time. Everyone is welcome. Phone: 706-862-2607.

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10AM, Worship at 11AM. Wednesday Bible study at 6PM. 256-634-4147.

The **Mentone Revival Center** and Pastor Leroy Nichols and wife, Nell, invite everyone to join in worship on Sunday at 10AM worship and 11AM worship and Sunday night at 6PM. Everyone is welcome.

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

Mentone Community Church Sunday School 10AM; Sunday Worship 10:45AM; Sunday evening service 6:30PM. Wednesday evening service 6:30PM with Bible study and Teen class. Nursery provided for all services. Pastor Rick Haworth welcomes all.

The **Mentone Church of God of Prophecy** Sunday School is at 10AM, with Worship at 11AM. Evening Services begin at 6PM. Rev. Charles Flannigan invites everyone to attend regular services.

Mentone Church of God invites you to attend their church. Sunday School - 10AM; Morning Worship - 11AM. Sunday evening-6PM. Wednesday evening - 6:30 PM. New Pastor Randall Beagles welcomes all.

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church A place of prayer, thanksgiving, and celebration. Come by any time to pray and give thanks. Open 24 hours every day. Sunday service is at 10:30AM.

The **Mentone United Methodist Church** services are at 11AM each Sunday. Sunday School is at 10AM. Pastor Les Brown welcomes everyone. The Ethel Brown Unit of UMW meets on the 1st Wednesday at 11AM in the fellowship hall and the Mountain Laurel Unit of UMW meets on the 3rd Monday at 12:30PM, subject to change due to scheduling.

Moon Lake Baptist Church welcomes you. The Sunday schedule is: Bible study 9:45AM; Morning Worship - 11AM; Children's Choir Practice - 4:30PM; Youth Choir, Disciple-ship Training & YGAs - 5PM; Evening Worship - 5PM; Adult Choir Practice - 7PM; Wednesday: Team Kids, Youth & Adult Bible Study - 6:30PM. Young Women's Prayer & Share Group meets each Wednesday evening at 5:30PM.

Cove Road Baptist Church invites all children of the surrounding area to attend children's church. Parents are also invited for SS and church. *SS at 9AM; Worship at 10AM. Sunday Evening Worship at 5PM. All times CST.

Lea's Chapel Baptist Church welcomes you to worship with us. 10AM Sunday Bible Study, 11AM Morning Worship, 6PM Evening Worship, Wednesday 6-8PM Awana (ages 4 to 18); 6:30PM Praise and Prayer Time. Located at 4212 County Road 751. 635-1001.

The **Fort Payne Christian Center** and Pastor Ken & Elaine Holleman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10AM. Wednesday Evening at 6:00 PM. God Bless you.

Dial-A-Devotional

634-0103

is provided daily by Evelyn Graves as an extended ministry of the Moon Lake Baptist Church. Feel free to call any time of the day or night.

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And a good time was had by all! That could easily be the description of the book signing by author, Frank Chappell, on April 9. I have read about half of his book, Dear Sister, and find it to be very interesting. It is a collection of letters written by brothers who were fighting in the Civil War. The letters offer an accurate account of that period in history. They start off with the food being good, there are plenty of blankets, their clothes are warm and dry and everything is pleasant. They state that they are proud to be Confederate soldiers and are eager for the fighting to start. As the war progresses, everything gradually changes. There is not enough food, they are cold at night and their clothes are getting very thin and worn. Some of the letters ask their sister to send wool socks to them. They seem to be very lonely and homesick. The letters are printed word for word with no editing. This gives a true picture and proves that "war is hell." If you want one of these books, call any member of the Moon Lake Community Library Board of Directors and they will put you in touch with Mr. Chappell.

The program of the library starts to slow down about this time of the year. However, the library will be open each Tuesday and Saturday all summer. Our volunteers will continue to be there for you to check books in and out and for you to do any research using the materials available. The library is a good place to come and rock and read. We have a big rocking chair that is very close to the material about Mentone and the surrounding area. Sorry, you cannot check these books out, but you can read them during the open hours and you can always make a copy of any item. Our copies are only ten cents per copy. We use the money collected from fines and copies to buy paper, tape and other materials needed to keep the community side of the library running smoothly.

We will not have a summer reading program for children this year. Last summer the attendance was not enough to warrant the time and effort that are necessary to present such a program. This program and all others provided by the Moon Lake Community Library are staffed by the FRIENDS of the library. In the future, if enough interest is expressed by the public to look into doing a summer program again, the members of the Board of Directors will certainly discuss the matter and make a decision.

I hope that all students of the Mentone area, including those who attend Valley Head School, will use the library this summer. Students can check out the books belonging to the school and those on the community side. Moon Lake students can do this by using the number they had for school. Other students younger than sixteen can apply for a library card so long as a parent or guardian signs the application with them. Those sixteen and over have the same privileges as adult patrons.

If you have any ideas that might help to promote the use of the library, please tell a member of the board or drop a note to The Groundhog. Marie will get the information to us. We have almost exhausted our supply of ideas. We are willing to try almost anything. I'm sure that our limited hours are a hardship for many of you. That is the reason we stay open on one evening and on Saturday morning every week. When we set these hours, we were hoping that everyone could make it to the library at one of those times.

The last special day with the Moon Lake Elementary School will have happened by the time you get this issue of The Groundhog. This will be,

"Clowning Around" with Judy Dowiat. I'm sure that this will be fun for all of the students. It is certainly something different. Some of you may not know Judy. She was a part of DeKalb County Library for many years and is best remembered for driving the Bookmobile. She is married to Roger Dowiat who has roots in Mentone. Judy worked at Moon Lake School several years ago and you can find her picture in some of the Moon Lake School annuals that are in the library. Judy has now joined the FRIENDS of our library and is a member of the Board of Directors. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have her knowledge and experience at our disposal. She is a wonderful person. Thank you, Judy.

Not long ago, Karen Saferite asked me if the community library would like to have a copy of as many Moon Lake Elementary School yearbooks as she could find. I told her that would be great and I would put them on the shelf with the area history material. She found quite a number and many are from several decades ago. They cannot be checked out, but you are welcome to go to the library and look at them. Thank you so much, Karen, for thinking of this and for collecting them for the library.

Don't forget that we plan to have our annual Book Sale under the front shelter of the library during the Longest Yard Sale in August. We will continue to take paperback books until then. Also, we have accumulated several boxes of hardback books that are duplicates of what we have or won't be put on the shelves for other reasons. These will go into the yard sale, so come by and see what we have. Lately, we have been given the collections of several estates so you might find a first edition.

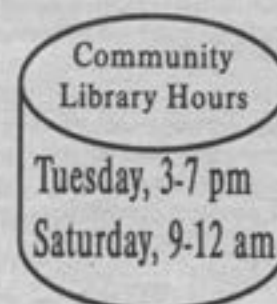
Dianne Kuehl has trained three new volunteers to work in the library. More volunteers are needed to help us keep the library open for the public during our advertised hours. Dianne can train you during the month of May on any Tuesday. The next training will be this fall as Dianne works with one of the summer camps in Mentone. If you are interested in being a volunteer, call me at 634-8006.

The meeting concerning the bridge over the West Fork of Little River on Alabama Highway 117 will be Tuesday, May 3, 2005, in the Moon Lake Elementary School Gymnasium from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.. If you are concerned about the safety of this bridge, you need to attend this public meeting regarding the proposed project of a change to the bridge. Representatives of the Alabama Department of Transportation will be hand to answer any questions during this time. Written comments may be made at any time prior to, at, or within ten days following the meeting and may be mailed to: Johnny Harris, Division Engineer, ALDOT, PO Box 550, Guntersville, AL 35976-0550. It is very important that all views regarding this bridge be presented to the ALDOT engineers, so make an extra effort to attend the meeting and if you cannot attend, write your comments and mail them to the address above.

This reminds me of the story about a man who lived in a foreign country that was in great turmoil. Other nations were invading this country and taking prisoners. The man stated that as each enemy came to take his friends and neighbors, he did not stand up and try to stop the invasion because he was not a part of the particular group that was being taken at that time. As time passed, the soldiers came for his ethnic group and there was no one left to stand up for

him. Let's not be like this man, stand up for what you believe is the right action in this situation.

**OPEN HOURS: TUESDAYS, 3:00 - 7:00 P.M.
SATURDAYS, 9:00 - 11:59 A.M.**



GED Graduation at NACC and Snead

A Chinese proverb states, "There are many paths to the top of the mountain, but the view is always the same." It's time to recognize and express our congratulations to a group of climbers in our community who have worked their way to the top of the first mountain of education. They have climbed up a different way from most and have encountered obstacles and detours along the way, but they have now received their GED.

The Northeast Alabama Adult Education Program along with Northeast Alabama Community College, are excited to announce their GED Graduation for the Northern part of the tri-county area. The ceremony will take place this year on Friday, May 6, at 7PM at the Northeast Alabama Community College. The ceremony for the Southern part of the tri-county will take place on Friday, May 13, at 7PM at Snead State Community College.

The Adult Ed offices are located on the campus of Northeast Alabama Community College.

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(1) IMMACULATE 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH with open Living, Kitchen area. Sun Room with a view of the large pond and creek. Surrounded by nature and open field with fruit orchard. All on 8 acres. \$179,900.



(2) COTTAGE IN VALLEY HEAD. All interior remodeled and freshly painted. Pine Floors and antique doors. New Vinyl siding, 3 bdrm, 1 bath, Butcher Block counters and all appliances. Lots of windows in Living Room and Sunroom. C/H/A. All on 4 acres with Large Shade trees. \$93,500.



(3) UNDER CONSTRUCTION. The peace and tranquility of this beautiful mountain setting can be yours from this cozy cabin. The cabin features a wood burning fireplace, 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Laundry facilities, and a large living area with complete kitchen. A large screened porch with grilling deck opens off the kitchen. Heated and cooled area is 1056+/- sq. ft., with another 169+/- sq. ft. in the porch and deck. The exterior of the cabin is rough cut siding with a metal roof (30yr.) The interior is finished with drywall and pine flooring. The wooded lot is approximately 1.41 acres. \$149,000 Unfurnished; \$159,000 Furnished. (Photo to left)



(4) BRAND NEW, Weekend Getaway Cabin with 2 bedrooms 2 baths. Tin roof, Rocking Chair Porch. On a private wooded Acre. \$89,000.



(5) WEEKEND COTTAGE ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON. Over 10 acres with 650 ft of Canyon Frontage. 2 bdrm with sleeping loft. 2 baths, newly remodeled kitchen with all appliances and the cabin is furnished. Very Private. Call for appt. \$175,000



(6) MENTONE FARMHOUSE, with 4.46 acres to Room. 2 Bdrm 1.5 bath. Country Kitchen, Pine Floors throughout. Deck and outbuildings. Newly Re-wired, plumbed, C/H/A, Vinyl siding and a Root Cellar. \$118,500.



(7) CHARMING BRICK BUNGALOW. Nestled on a 1.65 acre corner lot. 3 Bedrooms, 1 bath. Living room with fireplace, separate dining, wood floors, C/H/A. Level, fenced back yard. Quiet setting, Mentone. \$72,000.



(8) WEST FORK SUBDIVISION 5.9 acres with 700 ft on the River. Trails throughout, Large Hardwoods, and abundance of Unique Foliage. Private yet only minutes from Mentone. \$78,000.



(9) INVESTMENT PROPERTY 2 bdrm 1 bath cottage in Mentone, with One acre. Needs some cosmetic work. Sold as-is. \$51,500



(10) VICTORIAN STYLE-THREE STORY Home on the BROW, Mentone. Over 4500 sq. ft. 6 Bdrms, 4-1/2 baths. Marble Foyer entrance, 2 parlors, Dining Room, Living, Kitchen w/Breakfast Nook, tile counters, Oak Cabinets. Wrap-around Porch, 2 car garage. The list goes on and on. Screaming B&B. Situated on 1.2 acres with a wonderful Sunset View. Priced \$495,000.



(11) UNIQUE LOG, STONE, AND CEDAR SHAKE LODGE. Custom through and through, complete with Heart Pine Plank floors. Open Great Room with stone fireplace. Loft with built-in beds. Commercial kitchen, with fireplace. French doors open to the sleeping porches and Master Bedroom. A must see, with so much to offer. Storage shop which can be turned into guest quarters. Small log cabin on the private 2.3 acres also. \$274,500.

OTHER PROPERTIES

(12) 15 ACRES majority pasture with pond site. Paved road frontage, Mentone Area. City water available. Level. \$56,250.

(13) 7.25 ACRES, on CO RD 106, City water available, mostly cleared with lake site, Large Oak Trees, where the Old Homeplace used to be. \$56,000. REDUCED \$49,000. (SOLD)

(14) 80 ACRES OF WOODED BROW PROPERTY with creek and waterfall. Private drive with bridge. Great views. \$240,000.

(15) HIDDEN BROW ESTATES, Cloudland, GA. Spectacular Views East side. 7.5 acres, 500 ft. of brow frontage, private, large Rock bluffs, \$162,500--will divide.

(16) 10 ACRE PARCEL, Co Rd 633, wooded, drive, quite, private location. \$35,000.

(17) ONE AND ONLY LITTLE RIVER CANYON. 3 acre tracts with a view of the Canyon Bluff. Very secluded and access private rd. with locked gate. Call for appt. \$40,000 and up (11959) LMP143

(18) 2.18 ACRES ON HWY 117, Mentone. No restrictions. Wooded with city water available. \$20,000.

(19) WEST FORK SUBDIVISION. Private, yet only minutes from Mentone. 2 lots with combined footage on water of 593 ft. 4.4 acres wooded, on the cul-de-sac. \$65,000.

(20) 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 \$8,000.

(21) RUSTIC COTTAGE, Downtown Mentone. 1 bedroom, 1 bath, screened porch. Owner finance. \$39,900.

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A Friendly—
**Valley
 View**
 By
ELOISE BROWN

Last month, I wrote a true resurrection story about a yucca plant, that after 42 years of seeming death, burst into beautiful bloom. This month, I have a true resurrection story of my own. More than ten years ago, I went across the road to the old house place and dug up a part of a wisteria vine and brought it and set it out here in the back yard by a dead cedar tree, hoping it would cover it with lavish bloom. I checked it eagerly every spring, but there was no sign of life. Suddenly, this spring, it burst into bloom and covered the tree—so beautiful! Now, if it will only do it every Spring—if not for me, for everyone else and add so much beauty to the world!

My granddaughter, **Laurie Dell, and her husband, Andrew**, came from Pasadena, Maryland, April 14 and stayed until April 18. They were very busy all the time they were here.

My cousins, **Bill and Blanche Fuller**, came from Madison, AL, April 24. They brought lots of dinner and spent the day. We were joined by Barry Brown.

Jason Meadows, Chad Mosher, Clint Phillips, Nathan Keith, and Jason Owens spent the week-end of April 23 camping and trout fishing at Cherokee National Forest in Reliance, TN.

Sadie Cooper enjoyed Sunday dinner with John and Jean and Roy and Bonnie Jones and family, recently.

Oline Roberts is visiting her son, John, and his wife, Dianne, in Cullman, AL.

Christine and Walter Brooks went to St. Augustine, FL, April 8-11. They visited Christine's brother, Cecil Hales, in the nursing home and visited his daughter, Betty and Billy Porter and their children, William, Ethan and Amy. They drank from the fountain of youth and saw beautiful peacocks strutting around—some solid white. The azaleas were so beautiful all along their way.

I was invited to a **book signing at Valley Head School**, April 15. The first grade classes had written a book and illustrated it. Each student had written a page and they were all very clever. They read them—some prize winners, and I read my poem, "To A Good Book." They were so nice, attentive and sweet. They had nice refreshments. I felt so honored to be included. It was very inspiring that the students are being encouraged to express themselves in this way.

I was thrilled and amazed to see the school, too. I hadn't realized so many nice buildings had been added. It is a school for which everyone can be proud!

Welcome to Valley Head to **Rev. and Mrs. Zack Richards**, the new pastor and wife of Valley Head Baptist Church. We hope they will be very happy here.

Everyone have a happy month of May and a very **Happy Mother's Day!**

Mothers' Day

Mothers' 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 in agony—His mother's
 grief and John He could see.
 And was concerned for His mother's welfare—
 Consigned her to His beloved disciple's 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 here, She leaves
 memories precious and dear.
 A solace and comfort forever more
 To live in the heart's treasure store.
 Yes, Mother's Day is a very special day
 To commemorate and celebrate in a precious way.
 Honoring and remembering every mother—
 Who is more special than any other.

...Eloise Brown

Favorite Month

My favorite month is May.
 When every blooming day
 Has beautiful things to say.

When skies so sparkling clear,
 Smile on earth and draw it near
 With breezes gentle and clear.

Sprinkling land with colors gay,
 Earth and Heaven seem to say,
 "Spring flings loveliness in May."

...Eloise Brown

For Noble Souls

Thank you, God, for noble souls,
 As they strive for righteous goals,
 Despite the world's sinful lust,
 Stand firm for right as their trust.

To current trends do not conform,
 But strive the world to transform;
 Altho economy restricts,
 Their conscience their will convicts.

They count not the grief nor cost,
 For principle, naught is lost,
 For all of Heaven is gained
 When true to good they remained.

True to ideals, lessons learned,
 Special respect they have earned—
 Proved themselves great noble souls,
 Worthy of the highest goals.

...Eloise Brown

86TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR ALFRED CHAMBERS

By Evelyn Graves

April 2 was a big day for Alfred and Polly Chambers as their children, Kenneth and Gail Chambers and Milton and Gail Chambers surprised them with a birthday party celebrating Alfred's 86th birthday (which was actually on April 3).

The event was held at the Mentone Revival Center fellowship hall at 2PM. A wonderful lunch was prepared, and 49 guests, which included family and friends, were present for the occasion. Alfred received many gifts and cards.

Gospel music was provided by the family, as various family members played guitars and sang. "Happy Birthday" was also sung to Alfred.

The children of Alfred and Polly's deceased daughter, Juanita, were not present for the birthday celebration because they had a nice visit with their grandparents the week before. Those visiting were: Bryan McNutt, Kyle and Jennifer McNutt, and Kim and Chris Castleberry.

The birthday celebration was a happy day not only for Alfred but for the other family members who also have April birthdays: Milton Chambers, John Chambers, and Alan Chambers. Milton and Gail have a wedding anniversary also in the month of April.

Alfred was delighted with his birthday party and that all of his family had gathered to honor him.

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New Life

By Evelyn Graves

After reading Eloise's Valley View column for last month about resurrection, I felt that I just must share my own personal story.

Some ten or more years ago, my mother had Russell Wright Nursery come to my house and do some landscaping. She purchased eight dogwood trees for the back and side yards. Only three of them survived. One tree bloomed after two or three years with white blooms. One of them put on heavy foliage every spring but never bloomed, and "the runt" never put on leaves or bloomed. My husband, who passed away in November, told me every year, "That tree is dead. It is not going to bloom. You had just as well let the mower cut it down." I would always break a small twig of it, examine it carefully inside and out and reply, "I believe it still has some life." He would smile at me patronizingly as he often did when I was insistent about things, knowing all the while that the little tree had no life.

This spring, the large tree put on its leaves and bloomed, the tree that had always put on leaves but no blooms broke forth in white blossoms--hundreds of them--and guess what? The little dead tree put on leaves and I was so excited! Then it burst into beautiful pink blossoms! I thanked God first for the Spring blessing He had given me--and then I felt so strongly that Jimmy, my husband, had had some input with Him because he knew how much this meant to me. I thanked them both. This is not the first time that death has ended in resurrection!

Wedding



Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Hinds

On March 12, 2005, at 2:00 pm. Charles W. Hinds and Lynn M. Castleberry were wed in Holy Matrimony at Howard's Chapel in Mentone, AL. Reverend Fred Higgins, pastor of the Chapel, performed the ceremony. Lynn's son, Fred, and daughter, Colleen, stood in attendance with Colleen being the Bride's Maid of Honor. Also standing in attendance as the Groom's Best Man was friend Terry Patty. Reception followed at the Mentone Community House.

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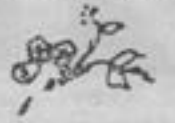
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Visit our web site at : www.SouthernPropertiesAgency.com



(1) MENTONE COTTAGE WITH ACREAGE! Cozy cottage with 40 wooded acres near DeSoto State Park featuring 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, double French doors, wood burning fireplace, cathedral ceiling, ceramic flooring and 2 storage buildings. \$209,900 (PLS #12724)



(2) A RARE FIND - Established summer home featuring 1 bedroom, 1 bath with 3 living areas (2 with mountain stone fireplaces) and access to large deck overlooking the valley below. Sitting on over 2 acres with almost 500' on the West Brow of Mentone. Priced at only \$399,000. (PLS #13085)



(3) ALMOST NEW CABIN on the brow near DeSoto State Park! You'll feel right at home in this cabin on the brow featuring 2 bedrooms (1 up & 1 down), 2 baths, open living room with rock fireplace, kitchen cabinets with tin inserts, sunroom, unique wood ceiling, large back deck, enclosed landscaping and so much more. \$289,500 (PLS #12951)



(4) VALLEY HEAD CHARMER - Quaint and charming 3 bedroom, 1 bath cottage with living room, formal dining, kitchen, utility, screened front porch, CH&A, detached garage/storage, all on a corner lot. \$77,000.



(5) Looking for a MOUNTAIN RETREAT - 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. \$395,000. (PLS #10908)



(6) LESS THAN 1 MILE from downtown Mentone and sitting on over 1-1/2 acres, this home offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, an open porch on front and a sunroom on the back. All appliances to remain including washer and dryer, 2-car carport with workshop and a 20x24 building for extra storage... office... craft shop...etc. \$89,900 (PLS #11605)



(7) NEW CONSTRUCTION IN CRESTLINE SUBDIVISION - This new 1 bedroom, 1 bath frame cabin has 640 sq. ft and features a rock fireplace and foundation, wood floors and walls, central heat and air, front and back porches and sits on 1.19 acres. Call today for your appointment. \$96,500 (PLS #13364)



(8) MENTONE - Rustic Cabin - Currently being remodeled - 1 bedroom with bedroom loft, living and dining room has cathedral ceiling, kitchen with ceramic tile countertops, utility, front porch, wooded area. \$95,000 (PLS #13047)



(9) NEW CABIN ON BRUSH CREEK! You can be the first owners of this all NEW 2 bedroom, 2 bath home with vinyl siding, metal roof, laminate and ceramic flooring, central heat & air, 550' screened porch/deck and so much, much more all on 1.31 acres. Call for more details \$119,000. (PLS #13267)



(10) ESTABLISHED TIRE BUSINESS! This 40x100x14 metal building houses 3 lifts, 4 roll-up doors, concrete floors, Office, 2 restrooms, space heaters & window air unit and all inventory included. Call today for more information. \$199,900.



(11) You'll never want to leave this 4 bedroom, 3-1/2 bath home with open kitchen and great room with fireplace, sun porch, formal dining room, 10' ceilings, transom windows, authentic Heart Pine floors and so much more. The large back deck overlooks beautiful rock formations with a fabulous brow view. The property also features a detached double garage with storage and an additional bedroom with bath upstairs. \$449,000. (PLS #12933)



(12) Lovely 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with lots of room to expand. This home was built in 1925 and is filled with character. Features include an over-sized living room with fireplace and dining area, spacious kitchen including a large island workspace with a vegetable sink and eating area, sunroom with fireplace, large bedrooms, wood flooring throughout, lots of storage, screened porch with rock floor, front and side covered porches, back deck. Enjoy the 250' of waterfront on West Fork of Little River. Must see \$199,500 (PLS #13474)



(13) Main house is built around a pre-civil war hand-hewn log structure with a stone wood burning fireplace, exposed beams and pine floors. Master bedroom is on the main floor with private sleeping porch overlooking a large mountain stone water pond with waterfall. Also included are two separate self-contained guest quarters. All connected by stone patios, walkways and decks. Abundantly landscaped with rhododendrons, bulbs, hemlocks, 2 additional water ponds, and much more. \$199,500 (PLS #13474)



(14) Learn the secrets of the valley while sitting in the hot tub on the deck of this cozy 1 bedroom 1-1/2 bath cabin. All wood construction with a gas fireplace. \$309,000.



(15) PEACEFUL SURROUNDINGS - This 3 bedroom, 2 bath manufactured home sits on 6 acres and borders Brush Creek. \$75,500. (PLS #12686)



(16) NEW HOME - This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home features a large living/dining area with 9' ceilings, Cathedral ceiling in the master bedroom with ceramic tile, and a 2-car garage connected with a breezeway onto the back porch. The full front porch overlooks a 1.156 wooded lot and is located in Mentone. \$149,000 (PLS #12777)



(17) Designed for leisure with a commanding view this cabin offers easy cleanup with all wood floors...walls and ceilings. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, gas fireplace and private deck with hot tub. This is the ideal place to relax. \$249,000.



(18) CABIN IN MENTONE - you will love coming home to this adorable cabin now being built near DeSoto State Park. Cabin features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, pine floors throughout, and rock fireplace. 8'x40' porches on front and back with Yellow Pine exterior and metal roof. \$149,900.



(19) WHAT A FIND, a 2 bedroom 2 bath log cabin with wood burning fireplace on the north brow of Mentone. Located on the bottom level of a 280' brow lot with a rock cliff behind and a fabulous view in front, this cabin offers ultimate privacy. Second bedroom and bath underneath the house with access from outside. Add the wood floors, rock walkways, and rocking chair porch and you have what it takes to make a stress free getaway. \$250,000. (PLS #13482)



(20) NEW CONSTRUCTION ON THE NORTH BROW IN MENTONE. This new home features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, gas burning fireplace, front porch, back deck and more with approx. 1000 square feet of living space. \$299,000 (PLS #13110)



(21) CABIN IN MENTONE - you will love coming home to this adorable cabin now being built near DeSoto State Park. Cabin features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, pine floors throughout, and rock fireplace. 8'x40' porches on front and back with Yellow Pine exterior and metal roof. \$149,900.

OTHER LISTINGS

(20) On a clear day you can see forever! The view is unmatched, the rock formations are incredible, the house you could build on this lot would bring you home to the place you've always dreamed of living. 1.82 wooded acres on the brow in Mentone. \$120,000 (PLS #13384)

(21) If you have picked your house plans, but have no place to build...call about this 4 acre parcel that has just been listed on County Road 627 in Mentone. \$28,000.

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

(23) 4.3+/- acres on DeSoto Parkway. Only \$44,900.

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

(25) 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. \$449,000. Price reduced to \$169,900.

(26) 3.68+/- acres on the Brow near DeSoto State Park. \$449,000. Reduced \$54,900. (SOLD)

(27) 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. \$158,500.

(28) RETREAT, RETREAT, RETREAT - This 40 acres is partly cleared and partly wooded with a large lake and wooded stream. \$479,000. REDUCED TO \$140,000.

(29) MENTONE - If you're looking for just the right place to build your weekend get away or even a permanent residence, this property is waiting on you. Wooded, although a proposed building site has already been cleared, this property is what you have been looking for. \$37,500 (PLS #11954)

(30) MENTONE Brow Property - 2.3 acres on the Brow of Lookout Mtn. Priced at \$200,000.

(31) MTN. RIVER ESTATES - Phase I and Phase II-building lots available starting at \$27,300. Restricted Subdivision. Waterfront available. Call for more details. (PLS #12967 & 12968)

(32) BROW PROPERTY...1.7+/- acres on County Road 166 near DeSoto State Park. \$37,500 (PLS #10133)

(33) NEWLY LISTED 4.23 acres on Hwy 117, just outside the Mentone City Limits. Property is suitable for residential or commercial, so call today for all the details. \$19,900

(34) HERE'S YOUR CHANCE...Acreage on DeSoto Parkway! 6.05 acres with no restrictions on County Road 89 near DeSoto State Park. Priced at only \$78,500.

**Alabama Department of Transportation
Project BR-0204 (512)
Bridge Replacement on Alabama Highway 117 over the
West Fork of Little River
Town of Mentone / DeKalb County**

The Alabama Department of Transportation will conduct a Public Involvement Meeting for the above project as follows:

**Tuesday, May 3rd, 2005
4:30 pm until 6:30 pm
Moon Lake Elementary School, Gymnasium
5866 E River Rd
Mentone, AL 35984**

The proposed project is the bridge replacement on Alabama Highway 117 over the west fork of Little River.

The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that any interested parties, including local governments, metropolitan, regional, state and federal agencies, and the general public have an opportunity to participate and share their views and comments throughout the various stages of the project development process. There will not be a formal presentation at the meeting, but rather an "open-house" format. Interested parties may arrive at any time during the meeting schedule. Representatives of ALDOT will be available to answer any questions relative to the project.

Written comments, which will become part of the official project record may be made at any time prior to, at, or within ten days following the meeting and may be mailed to:

**Johnny L. Harris
Division Engineer
ALDOT
PO Box 550
Guntersville, AL 35976-0550**

Any individual requiring special assistance due to a disability or sensory impairment should contact Troy Bell at the above address, by phone at 800-819-7418 ext. 234, by fax at 256-582-8922 or by E-mail at bellt@dot.state.al.us. Requests for assistance should be made no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, April 26, 2005.



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

Honor thy father and mother (which is the first commandment with promise) that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest live long on the earth. Phil. 6:2-3

May is a special month to honor mothers. If your mother is still alive, take time to do something special for her, tell her you love her and thank her for the many things she has done for you.

Make this a Happy Mother's Day!

NEW MENTONE WATERBOARD HOURS

The Mentone Water Board would like to invite you to visit our new office with the Red Door next to Town Hall.

Our hours are: Monday, Tuesday,
and Thursday 8 AM - 1 PM
Friday 8 AM - 2:30 PM

We are closed on Wednesday.

Thank you, Liz Perry, Clerk

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

**●Saturday April 30 and Sunday, May 1
RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL,
BROW PARK, MENTONE**

●Tuesday, May 3, 4:30 - 6:30PM. Moon Lake Elementary School Gymnasium, Alabama DOT Public Involvement Meeting on the Bridge Replacement on AL Hwy 117 over West Fork of Little River.

Be sure to attend and share your comments at the "open-house" format.

●Tuesday, May 3, 6:30 PM, MAPA meeting, Church of God of Prophecy Fellowship Hall

●Tuesday, May 3, 6:30 PM, DeSoto Rescue Squad, Mentone Community House

●Sunday, May 8, MOTHER'S DAY

●Monday, May 9, 12:00 PM Rhododendron Garden Club, Luncheon at The Wildflower Cafe

●Monday, May 9, 6PM, Town Council Meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public

●Tuesday, May 10, American Legion meeting 6:30 p.m., American Legion Hall

●Sunday, May 22, DECORATION DAY, LITTLE RIVER CHURCH Dinner on the Grounds after services

●Sunday, May 29, DECORATION DAY, BANKHEAD CHURCH Dinner on the Grounds after services

●Monday, May 30, MEMORIAL DAY

●Thursday, May 27, 4PM, Waterworks Board Meeting, Mentone Waterworks Board Room in the new water complex, open to the public

●For Moon Lake Graduation information, see page

●Look on the bulletin board at the town hall for the BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE