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THE

# GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville

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By M.A.P.A.

Volume 28, No. 5

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

May 2009

## Rhododendron Festival, May 16 and 17

Spring: new beginnings, new life bursting with the color of the jonquils sticking their beautiful yellow heads up through the snow, red bud trees popping out with the reds all over the mountain, yellow bells, dogwoods, azaleas and one of the most outstanding is the familiar flower of the mountain - the Rhododendron. What better time to cele-



brate the season than when everything is being made new.

A BonFire, prepared by the Boy Scouts Troop 106, will kick off the weekend of Festivities Friday night, May 15th at 6:30 p.m. at The Brow Park on north Cool Street. While you warm by the fire and toast marshmallows, enjoy a night of fun and entertainment by Lisa Crow Whatley and her group. Food, coffee, hot chocolate and soft drinks will be available.

Be sure to go by the MAPA Booth!!  
'RHODODENDRON PLANTS FOR SALE',  
Get your plants early they go >>>FAST<<<

Vendors with a variety of (one-of-a-kind) hand crafted items include jewelry, stick furniture, leather goods, wood carvings, paintings on tile and window panes, knitted and crocheted items, stained glass, pen and ink drawings, framed prints of pressed flowers, hand made quilts and much more. Also available will be Tupperware, Mary Kay

Cosmetics, fresh vegetables etc. Stock up on unique gift items for the special people in your life for birthdays, anniversaries, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas, etc. (These wares are not available in retail stores.)

Entertainment by "The Sharps" on Saturday May 16th from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. include gospel, blue grass, oldies, etc. Sunday afternoon May 17 entertainment includes "Kathie's Kickers"; Silverliners line dancers from Fort Payne and the Single Club Dancers.

HOW MUCH WATERMELON CAN YOU EAT??? Enter the watermelon eating contest and find out how much you can eat!!!! This event will be held on Saturday. YOU MUST GO BY THE MAPA BOOTH TO SIGN UP. Cash prize for the winner.

Food Vendor choices include Smoky Joe's BBQ, southern favorite catfish, caramel apples, kettle corn, Coney Island hot dogs, chocolate bananas, Dessie's pinto beans with corn bread and onions, home made fudge, buttermilk coconut pie, and much more.



The GRAND FINALE is the drawing for the much coveted Hand Made Quilt. For a donation of \$1 you receive one ticket, for a

donation of \$10 you receive twelve tickets (a real bargain.) Tickets will be available at the MAPA Booth under the Pavilion. The drawing will be held at the MAPA Booth at 4:30 on Sunday afternoon. You don't have to be present to win.

If you plan to stay overnight we recommend you get your reservations now. There are several Bed and Breakfast accommodations available. If you would like a list, make your request by E-mail to [dessiebm@charter.net](mailto:dessiebm@charter.net)



and Dessie will E-mail you the choices with phone numbers etc.

The various restaurants offer a variety of fine cuisines at reasonable prices, while in Mentone you have the opportunity to try their specials.

The Mentone Rhododendron Festival is sponsored annually the third week-end in May by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, (or better known as MAPA), a non-profit organization

formed in 1982 for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and unique qualities of life in the Mentone area. Pick up a free copy of "The Groundhog," MAPA's monthly newspaper at the MAPA Booth. While here become a member of MAPA and receive a monthly copy of "The



## THE GROUNDHOG

PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 5, 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  
Circulation.....Marie Dillenbeck  
Contributing Writers.....John Baty,  
Linda Brown, Ronda Bruckno, Sara  
Jacoway Chastain, Marie Dillenbeck,  
Evelyn Graves, LC Moon.

### MAPA OFFICERS

President.....Page Cunningham  
Vice President.....Dessie Brown  
Secretary.....Marie S. Dillenbeck  
Treasurer.....J. P. Nation  
Parliamentarian.....Amelia Kirk Lolli  
Members-At-Large: Evelyn Graves,  
Sara Wilcox

Festival Chairman...Dessie Brown  
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

256-634-4390 for advertising.

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

**DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIAL  
FOR THE GROUNDHOG IS  
15TH DAY OF EACH MONTH  
PRECEDING PUBLICATION.  
PLEASE ABIDE BY THIS!!**

## Attention Groundhog Readers:

The economy has affected the publishing industry as well as other industries.

There has been an increase in printing costs and postage (with another postage increase in May), and it is impossible for The Groundhog to pay those expenses along with salaries, commissions, and other expenses incurred each month, and continue to produce the quality paper that we now enjoy. Advertisers are adversely affected by economic conditions as well, and they are not paying timely for their advertising.

Due to these extreme circumstances, effective July 1, 2009, The Groundhog will charge a \$15.00 annual subscription fee (July 1 - June 30) to all subscribers who wish to receive their issue by mail. We will continue to provide single copies at the locations listed free of charge.

Complete the form below and mail it along with your payment. Please remember to advise us of any changes in your address.

**Bruce's Foodland (Fort Payne)**  
**DeKalb Co. Library (Fort Payne)**  
**Welcome Center (Sulphur Springs)**  
**Valley Head Drug Store**  
**Tigers Inn**  
**Mentone Market**  
**The Store, Mentone**  
**Crow's Nest (Mentone Hitching Post)**  
**Tourist Association (Fort Payne)**  
**DeSoto State Park**  
**Kilgore Pharmacy**  
**Windwood Farms Restaurant**  
**Little River Hardware**  
**The Clip Joint**

## MENTONE TOWN COUNCIL

The Mentone Town Council met on Monday, March 9, 2009, at 6 PM, at its regular meeting. Mayor Hammond called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Hammond, Larry Sanders, Gail Chambers, John Paul Verdon, and Wesley Griffith. Gerald Bailey was absent. Also present was Chief of Police Lamar Bray and Assistant Chief Jeremy Bell. Visitors present were JP Nation, Dewey Crow, Jeffrey Hedrix, Paul D. Todd, and Charlie Bain.

Larry Sanders made a motion to accept the February 9, 2009, minutes as written. Gail Chambers seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

After a review of the financial report, Wesley Griffith made a motion to accept the checks written for February. Larry Sanders seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mayor Hammond reported that Hudson Materials had brought a load of cold mix and the town would start filling in the potholes on Mentone streets.

A two hour NIMS class for elected officials is available. Christy Hardin would be glad to meet with all three mayors and councils (Mentone, Valley Head, and Hammondville) at the Armory in Hammondville. The police report included the number of warnings, assists, arrests, and miles traveled.

Larry Sanders inquired about the annual time and sick leave that an employee could accrue. At present, under the Leave Policies for the Town of Mentone, there is a maximum of 240 hours annual leave and a maximum of 240 hours sick leave may be accumulated. Larry Sanders made a motion to increase the number of hours that can be accrued for sick leave from 240 to 480. Gail Chambers seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mayor Hammond reported on the visit from Senator Richard Shelby who spoke at Skyline Camp on March 7. The Senator was introduced by the mayor and Wesley Griffith gave the invocation. There were 50 to 60 people who attended the meeting. After Senator Shelby's remarks, he answered constituents' questions for over an hour.

Under new business: Mayor Hammond reported that Steve Flannigan had cleared out near the big rock at Brow Park so that there would be a better view.

Jeffrey Hendrix, from the DeKalb Advertiser, came to the meeting to talk about the April 2nd Edition and inquired if the Town of Mentone would take out an ad. There will be a special edition of 50 pages that will come out and there will be 7500 printed, with 5000 being mailed out and the rest put in racks through the area. After a discussion, Gail Chambers made a motion to do a quarter page in color for \$200 in the DeKalb Advertiser April 2nd Edition. John Paul Verdon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The council discussed repairs to the damaged rock wall going down the mountain on Alabama 117. It is ALDOT's responsibility to repair the wall.

There being no further business, John Paul Verdon made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wesley Griffith, which passed unanimously.

**NOTICE:** We reserve the right to reject, without explanation, any advertisement or article submitted to **The Groundhog** for publication, and we reserve the right to edit submitted articles.

Use this form to subscribe to **The Groundhog**.

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Have The Groundhog delivered to your mailbox! Give The Groundhog for a birthday present or as a special gift for someone you love. If gift, please give the name and complete address of recipient. Renew your own subscription. Just \$15/year. Send your check payable to:

**MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION (MAPA)**  
PO BOX 50, MENTONE, AL 35984

## ATTENTION ADVERTISERS

- Due to increases in printing costs the following price changes will become effective with the June 2009 issue, the rates for advertising in the Groundhog will be as follows:
- Classified Line ad: \$10.00
- 1/8 page (vertical or horizontal): \$40.00
- 1/4 page: \$125.00
- 1/2 page (vertical or horizontal): \$225.00
- Full Page: \$325.00
- Color Charge: \$125.00
- The sizes listed are the only sizes offered by the Groundhog.
- Please remember that all ad copy must be submitted no later than the 15th of each month. Please contact Evelyn Graves with any questions at 634-4390.

## Dianna's Upscale Resale Shoppe moves

By Sarah Jacoway Chastain

Upscale Resale Shop opened a little more than a year ago. It was cute and cozy with upscale clothes and gifts. In the beginning, there were two consignees and one employee, owner Dianna Carden. It filled a niche in the shopping community both for shoppers who wanted to dress attractively at a bargain price and people who had clothes that were in good condition and stylish that they no longer wore. It was open two and a half days a week.

Start a business that accommodates the needs of the community and surrounding area and they will come and come they did. Soon there were 105 consignees and things were beginning to get crowded. People were looking for more than just gifts, clothing and accessories but there was no more room. Dianna was enjoying the business that she opened as therapy to help her deal with the loss of her son.

She realized that it was time for a change so she and her husband, Harold, bought a building in January. It had been a hosiery building, home to an appliance store, a 5 & 10 and other businesses. They began the daunting task of remodeling it in February. They finished it just in time for the grand opening on April 16. The building maintains much of its industrial feel with high ceilings and exposed duct work. The desk is made out of a shipping crate that they found in the building. Dianna explained, "We moved to accommodate more consignees and increase product lines." Six

windows along the front of the store display an attractive sampling of what can be found inside.

The space and merchandise isn't the only thing that's increased. There are more days to shop and more hours to do so. The store is open Wednesday through Friday from 10-5 and Saturday from 10-2. There's a new friendly face on the scene as Joan Byrum joins Dianna in assisting customers. This summer Dianna's two granddaughters, Hope and Anna will work for her.

New product lines include Bee Bops flip flops just in time for spring as well as Maggie's, flip flops with interchangeable straps and buttons. There is also a line of new handbags and stylish hats for summer.

They are carrying custom made jewelry by local artist, Kelly Twilly. The necklaces, earrings and book marks are made of gem stones. With room to expand, look for new product lines in the near future.

They are now carrying furniture, household items, candlesticks, lamps, pictures, etc.

Dianna's Upscale Resale Shoppe is located at 62 Winston Place, phone 635-0805.



## Happy Trails David....

Mentone's long-time mail carrier David Tucker will make his last round on Friday, May 1 and then drive off to the adventure of retirement! David has worked for the Postal Service for over 32 years serving the communities of Henegar and Mentone. Currently, he serves over 600 families and travels 100 miles every day in the Mentone area. We all appreciate the wonderful service David has provided and we will miss his wave and smile as he makes his daily rounds. David and Marcia live in

Mentone, so you will still see him out on the road. He will probably be on two wheels instead of four because he plans on spending more quality time on his motorcycle! Safe travels David!



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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

# MAY

Monday, May 4, 11, 18, 25, 5:30PM, Mentone Fire Department Volunteers

Tuesday, May 5, Mapa MAPA meeting, 6:30 PM

Thursday, May 7, National Day of Prayer

Sunday, May 10, Mother's Day

Monday, May 11, 6PM, Mentone Town Council Meeting, Town Hall meeting room, open to the public

Tuesday, May 12, 10 AM, Rhododendron Garden Club,

Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 PM, American Legion Hall, Post 215 Meeting

May 15, 16, 17, MAPA RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 16, Armed Forces Day

May 22 - SCHOOL YEAR ENDS

May 25, MEMORIAL DAY

Thursday, May 28, 4PM, Mentone Waterworks Board Meeting, Board Room, open to the public

**Art show here on the farm,**

**May 9, from 10:00-4:00**

**Sweet Seasons Art at the Barn**

Spring Art Sale featuring regional artists and artisans.

2339 County Road 608, Valley Head, AL 35989, (256) 635-6791

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The **2009** meeting dates for the **Valley Head Water Works Board**, 101 School Street, Valley Head, AL will be as follows:

**Monday, May 11**

**Monday, June 8**

**Monday, July 13**

**Monday, August 10**

**Monday, September 14**

**Monday, October 12**

**Tuesday, November 9**

**Monday, December 14**

**Monday, January 10, 2010**

All meetings will be held beginning at 4:00PM in the Valley Head Water Works office in the board room. Should there be any changes in the date, time, or place, a notice will be posted in the lobby of the Valley Head Water Works Building. A notice of any special or called meeting will also be posted in the lobby of the Valley Head Water Works Building prior to the meeting date and time. The location of the meeting will also be posted.

The **2009** quarterly meeting dates for the **Mentone Planning Commission**, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be on the **3rd Thursday** of the following months:

**Thursday, July 16, 2009**

**Thursday, October 15, 2009**

**Thursday, January 21, 2010**

All meetings will be held beginning at 5:00PM in the Mentone Town Hall meeting room. Should there be any changes in the date, time, or place, a notice will be posted on the bulletin board at the Mentone Town Hall. A notice of any special or called meeting will also be posted on the same bulletin board prior to the meeting date and time.

The **2009** meeting dates for the **Mentone Waterworks Board**, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be at 4PM, on the 4th Thursdays as follows

**Thursday, May 28**

**Thursday, June 25**

**Thursday, July 23**

**Thursday, August 27**

**Thursday, September 24**

**Thursday, October 22**

**Tuesday, November 19**

**Thursday, December 17**

All meetings will be held beginning at 4:00PM in the Mentone WaterWorks office in the board room. Should there be any changes in the date, time, or place, a notice will be posted on the bulletin board of the Mentone Town Hall, adjacent to the water office. A notice of any special or called meeting will also be posted on the same bulletin board prior to the meeting date and time.

The **2009** meeting dates for the **Mentone Town Council**, 5972 AL Hwy 117, Mentone, AL will be on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6PM, as follows:

**Monday, May 11**

**Monday, June 8**

**Monday, July 13**

**Monday, August 10**

**Monday, September 14**

**Monday, October 12**

**Monday, November 9**

**Monday, December 9**

All meetings will be held beginning at 6:00PM in the Mentone Town Hall meeting room. Should there be any changes in the date, time, or place, a notice will be posted on the bulletin board at the Mentone Town Hall. A notice of any special or called meeting will also be posted on the same bulletin board prior to the meeting date and time.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### BIRTHDAYS

2 - Jill Whitten, Ella Voils

3 - Oline Cochran, in memory

4 - Oleda McCurdy

5 - Emily Hilliard

6 - Jessy Mayhew

7 - Herman Jones, Jr.

8 - Regan Broome

14 - Kim Jones Patterson, Jeanne

Bare, Jay Broome, Lois Wood, in memory

15 - Gail Gaylord

16 - Amy Kirby

17 - Margaret Cunningham

20 - Alexis Manifold, Tom Tullis,

Mary Ann Jones

21 - Anne H. Ransome, Susan Flynn

22 - Bobby Brown, Caitlyn Kirby, John Streatfield

23 - Cotton Baggett, Nathan Baggett

24 - Amber Hilliard

25 - Jimmy Wright, Billy Wright, Jack E. Jones

26 - Lynette Pinson Smith, Norma Baker

27 - Jan Jones Pinson, Christy Voils, Hank VanAppledoon

28 - Dennis Hicks

30 - Shelly Shanklin

31 - Valeria Blalock

### ANNIVERSARIES

6 - Claud & Sharron Burke, Toby & Rachel Manifold

7 - Tammy & James Hill

10 - David & Cheryl Baker

16 - Amy & Preston Kirby

20 - Chris & Christina Stokes

27 - Donnie & Ella Voils



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845-1451

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AL Highway 75  
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## SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

The 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.

**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, Valley Head. 635-1001.

Visitors are always welcome at the **Valley Head United Methodist Church**. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at 9AM.

**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 AM, Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor- Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

**The Harmony Grove Baptist Church** located on County Road 239 invites you to attend Sunday School at 10AM and worship at 11AM. Sunday evening service is at 5PM. Thursday evening service is at 5:30PM.

**Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church** on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Mass Services at 11AM each Sunday; Scripture and Communion Services at 6PM on Tuesdays.

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM Sunday, Bible class or Lent/Advent services every Wednesday at 6:30PM. Steve Schrader, Pastor - 845-4314. Everyone 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 at 6PM, and Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:30PM.

**The Fort Payne Christian Center** and Pastors Ken and Elaine Hollman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10 AM, Wednesday evening at 6PM. God Bless you.

**Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA)**, 5760 Gault Ave., NE, Fort Payne, AL. Rev. Billy Dempsey, Pastor, Sunday School 9:45AM; Sunday Worship - 10:55AM.

**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.

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

**The Mentone Revival Center** and Pastor LeRoy Nichols and wife, Nell, invite everyone to join in worship on Sunday at 10AM and 11AM, and Sunday night at 6PM. Wednesday night 6:30PM. Homecoming is August 10. Brother Charles Elrod will be preaching and the Faith Walkers will be singing. 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.

**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. Daniel Lee of Rainsville is the pastor.

**Moon Lake Baptist Church** invites you to worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9:45AM, with classes for all ages. Morning Worship is at 11AM. The Lords Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March, and June at the morning worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 5:00PM and Sunday Evening Worship at 6:00PM. On Wednesdays, Team Kids; Youth Bible Study and Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting are all at 6:30PM. Rev. Terry Turner is the regular pastor at Moon Lake.

**Alpine Community Church**, 115 Hwy 337, Menlo, GA. Pastor and Rev. Tommy Pledger welcome each and

everyone to worship service, Sunday morning, 11AM, GA time; Sunday School 10AM GA time; Wed. Night Bible Study, 7PM GA time.

**Cove Road Baptist Church**, County Road 631, Mentone, Alabama. Brother Marlin Starnes, Interim Pastor, welcomes all to Sunday School - 9AM (10AM GA time); Church Services 10AM (11AM GA time); and Sunday night services 5PM (6PM GA time).

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

**Mentone Community Church** Schedule: Sundays: Sunday School 9:30AM; Worship 10:30AM; Family Service or Small Groups 6:30PM. Wednesdays at 6:30PM: Pioneer Clubs; Youth Group; Adult Bible Study.

**Mentone Church of God of Prophecy** regular service times are Sunday School at 10AM, with worship at 11AM. Evening services begin at 5:30 on Sunday and 6 on Wednesday. Rev. Dean Clair invites everyone to attend.

**Valley Head Baptist Church** 40 Days of Purpose Bible Study. Beginning Easter Sunday Morning, April 12 - 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. through Sunday, May 17.  
*Why was I created?  
Why was I born?  
What is the purpose of my life?*

*What is the true meaning of life?  
Who is God?  
Why do I need to know God?  
Is there any more to life than what I am experiencing right now?*  
For more information call 256-635-6880

### Special Events at St. Joseph's on the Mt. Episcopal Church, Mentone

Our Sunday morning service continues to be held at 10:30AM, and we welcome you to join us as we continue to celebrate the 50 days of Easter. We have light refreshments and coffee following our morning service and all are invited to stay.

St. Joseph's will participate in the Rhododendron Festival this month, by having a booth in the church parking lot located at 21145 Co. Rd. 89, next to the Mentone Inn. We will sell hot dogs, with chips and a cold drink, and have easy to carry desserts for sale also. The proceeds will go into our Prayer Garden fund. The location of the garden is on the south side of the church property, and has been a dream for the church and community for a long time..



## DEVOTIONAL

By Evelyn Graves

In these times of political, economic, domestic, and spiritual struggle in our nation, do you ever wonder if God has forgotten about you? Do you feel lost and insignificant in the chaos and confusion in the world?

We can be assured that God keeps His promises. Many of His promises have already been fulfilled. He promised to send a messiah to save His people from their sins. That promise was fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ. The prophecy of Isaiah concerning the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ was fulfilled. Jesus promised that He would ascend back to the Father to make intercession for us. That promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on the people who were gathered in the upper room waiting for his coming. In Matthew 10, Jesus tells us how much He cares for us. He tells us that not even one sparrow falls that He is not aware of it, and assures us that even the hairs of our heads are numbered and not one hair falls that He is not aware of it, and He tells us how much more valuable we are to Him than the sparrow.

There are many songs that have been written about God's love and care for us, but I especially like this one:

*"Why should I feel discouraged, Why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for Heaven and home,  
When Jesus is my portion, my constant friend is He,  
His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me.*

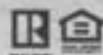
Chorus:

*I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
For His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.*



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## Welcome To Mentone!!



One of DeKalb County's most beautiful settings. While you are here, enjoy the Rhododendron Festival May 15-18, and please stop by our New Office. We always look forward to a visit from our neighbors and friends.



**NEW LISTING!**  
**LISTEN TO THE RIVER FLOW** over the dam at Lake Lahusage. It's just across the road from this lovely, well-crafted Mentone home with rustic log-veneer exterior, stacked stone foundation & chimney; HW & tile floors; main-level Master Suite; full front porch; screened back porch; att 2-car gar; loft studio/3rd BR; SS appl pkg; real stacked stone fpl; 1926 sq ft; 2.62 mostly-wooded ac; concrete drive. \$239,000. (18868)



**NEW LISTING!**  
**LEVEL, EASY-CARE YARD** leaves you time to enjoy walks along the quiet country lane. Enjoy breezes on the covered front porch or opt for the more private screened back porch. Natural hickory flooring; alder wood cabinetry; stacked-stone fpl; main-level MABR suite. Wrought-iron railed balcony leading to 2 guest BRs & lg guest bath. A Mentone country house that instantly feels like home. \$229,000 (18867)



**BUY ONE...**  
**CHARMING BUNGALOW FARM**  
Screened front porch, cozy living mountain stone hearth and surrounding heater, central heat and air conditioning, 1 bath. House and 10 acre lot buy it with 18.8 acres for \$170,000 total available & additional cabin. (18587)

OR



**...BUY BOTH!**  
**MENTONE GETAWAY CABIN** snug-wooded acres. Open living space one flavor. Sleeping loft. Efficient More acreage available. Up to 20.8 acres total & add'l house. \$80,000. (17038)

**SOLD**  
Cottage, Cabin and 20.8 Acres Total



**MENTONE**  
**TRULY THE BEST BUY ON THE BROW!**  
Newly-constructed cabin on the brow in the heart of Mentone offers 3BR/2BA, peeled pine handrails, exposed beams, hickory cabinetry, rock foundation, wood & tile floors, beautiful tile work in MABA shower area, front & back porches (one with great browside views!), stone gaslog fireplace, 1368 sq ft living area. Beautifully built, beautifully priced! Now \$269,000. (18615)



**NEW LISTING**  
**THAT IDYLIC BLEND OF CHARACTER & convenience!** 1940s charmer was home to the very first telephone in the area & has had only 2 owners since its construction. Surprisingly spacious w/4BR/2BA; formal DR; LR; sunroom; newly remodeled kitchen. Original HW floors & glass doorknobs! Storage in attic & unf bsmnt (where there is also a 1-car garage) All this situated on 3.3 lovely acres w/magnolia, dogwoods, oaks & azaleas. Paved circle drive & an outbuilding complete this property. Vintage charm with all the modern conveniences! \$119,500. (18863)



### LOTS and LAND

**5.34 AC NEAR SEQUOYAH CAVERNS.**  
Easy commute to Chattanooga. Possible **SOLD** or two, or your own. Just off Hwy 11. Private, but easy access. Great Price! \$25,000. (18740)

**38 ACRES WITH STREAM** on Lookout Mtn, already divided into lots, each with frontage on water & road. Within sight of new JSU Canyon School, just down the road from the canyon itself. Reduced to \$299,000. (18605)

**FUNKY COOL GETAWAY!** Cheap chic classic 1974 Air Stream Land Yacht and 1-ac lot. Make it your fun place to stay now, build a cabin later. Put your decorative flair to work and give it the OOMPH! it needs. Possible weekend rental opportunity? Lot and yacht only \$25,000. (17127)

**15 AC & SPRING-FED POND IN MENTONE** offers great fishing; fenced pasture area; old homesite w/lg shade trees; sm barn; septic tank; power & public water in place. Currently used as horse pasture. \$150,000 (18104)

**2.77 ACRES WITH LOTSA POTENTIAL** and a 42X32 concrete building to boot! HWY 35 location. Building has enclosed **SOLD** garage/bay areas. P. frontage on Hwy 35, short drive to Little River Canyon. \$29,000 (17709)



**NEW LISTING!**  
**CABIN UNDER CONSTRUCTION** in Northend, highest elevation subdivision in Mentone area. Walking distance to village of Mentone (less than a mile). 4BR/2BA, stone fpl, 325' of porches (back porch is screened) Balcony off MABR. Approx 1600 sq ft. 1.5 stories, on beautiful 3-acre wooded lot w/sm stream. Cypress floors, grove pine walls. All appliances. (18887)



**NEW LISTING!**  
**AN UNFINISHED WORK** of art & craftsmanship in the mountain traditional style. Magnificently begun this 2,100+ sq ft cabin features a covered front porch, side deck, small balcony off MABR suite. MABA w/whirlpool tub & sep shower; hickory cabinetry; stone wood-burning fpl. Hardwood and tile floors. 2BR/2BA. Working price of \$150,000. (17386)



**MENTONE**  
**CONSTRUCTION IS NEARING COMPLETION** on this well-crafted mountain cabin that features a covered front porch, side deck, small balcony off MABR suite. MABA w/whirlpool tub & sep shower; hickory cabinetry; stone wood-burning fpl. Hardwood and tile floors. 2BR/2BA. Working price of \$150,000. (17386)



**BACK ON MKT!**  
**THEIR LOSS IS YOUR GAIN!** The deal fell through, but you can get an even better deal now. Downtown Mentone area, just behind the hotel. No, it's not much to look at, but give it some time, money & elbow grease & have a cute little getaway or investment. Shoot, just the lot would be worth the price. 2BD/1BA Zoned R-4. The price is even better now. Only \$40,000. (18409)

# Easter Egg Hunt

Not even the chilly weather kept 115 children from joining in the fun of the First Annual Community-Wide Easter Egg Hunt held Saturday, April 11, 2009 that was sponsored by the Mentone area churches. The children were first treated to a short Easter story on the steps of the Mentone Community House and then were given the Signal to find their quota of the 2970 candy-filled eggs that were hidden earlier by the youth of area churches. The eggs were hidden all around the Community House, the walking track and the amphitheater so there was plenty of hunting space for each child.

After the hunt the children had their choice of several activi-



ties including playing on the inflatable slide or bouncer, eating a lunch that included a grilled hotdog or snacking on cotton candy made on site. When everyone was ready to go home, they were given a treat bag for the road.

Many thanks to all the area churches who took part in planning the event and who shared the cost of financing all

the activities. Thanks also to the MERF board for allowing the use of the Community House. Special recognition goes to the parents who took the time to allow their child to participate in the Easter Egg hunt.

Be watching in October for information on the Second Annual Halloween Festival also held by area churches.



## CLUB VBS: TRUTH TREK NEWS RELEASE

Join an archaeological expedition through the Egyptian desert and experience a great adventure with **Moon Lake Baptist Church** Club VBS: Truth Trek.

**Moon Lake Baptist** invites all children age 3 through grade 6 for our annual Club VBS. The trekkers (kids, that is) will participate in a journey filled with exciting Bible stories, cool crafts, and theme-related recreation games and snacks.

We are happy to offer this fun-filled adventure to the children in our community. We have trained a fine team of trek guides (teachers, that is) for this incredible experience.

Club VBS: Trek Truth will be held at **Moon Lake Baptist** starting with a Kick-off on **Sunday, May 31st at 4:30pm**. VBS Truth Treks are on **May 31st through June 5th** (after kick-off). We'll begin each day at **6:00 p.m.** and conclude at **8:30 p.m.** For more information, please call Carolyn Hendon at 634-4704.

Come and enjoy the trek with us!

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# An Eagle in the making

After completing all the other advancements in scouting, a boy scout is required to complete an Eagle Project in order to be awarded the highest rank a boy scout can achieve, Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Project must be approved before starting on it, it must benefit an organization other than BSA, such as a school, or a community or religious institution. Fund raising is permitted only for materials or supplies to carry out the Eagle Project. The scout is responsible for working a certain number of hours on the project, for planning, organizing, lining up volunteers & materials, and showing

leadership skills in seeing his project through to completion.

For my Eagle Project I wanted to do something at Little River Cemetery. My project is to build a handicap ramp, to repair the information board, to cap the section markers,

people for their donations in time, materials, skills, advice, work, tools and encouragement: Walt Pullen, Kenneth, Kathy & Kerri McMunn, Lyle Nicely, Rusty Chambers, Joe Smith, Darlene Owen, David Gilbreath, Ben Spears, Luke

Rd. Mentone, AL 35984 and mark for Boy Scout Eagle Project.

*Thank You,  
Kaleb McMunn*



Blalock, Brayden West, Bleu Stone, Matt Stanley, Kenneth Kirby and Nelson Stallings.



and to apply for Alabama Historical Commission/ National Register of Historic Places.

\* I would like to thank these

If you would like to donate to Little River Cemetery for materials or for a historic marker, Send checks to Little River Cemetery 5510 E. River

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# NOTICE

The Mentone Water Works is accepting applications for the position of Office Manager. Previous experience working with a water utility would be beneficial, but not a prerequisite. Applications may be picked up at the office in Mentone on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays between 8AM and 2:30 PM. Starting employment date is June 1st.

## Fort Payne High School Class of 2009 — Valedictorian KARA MILLER

The Fort Payne High School class of 2009 Valedictorian is Kara Miller. A resident of Mentone, Kara is the daughter of Glenn and Linda Miller. She will be attending Indiana Wesleyan University, where she has been awarded scholarships and grants totaling \$85,650.

Kara is pursuing a career in the medical field; she hopes to one day use her education in foreign missions. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Key Club, and has received numerous other academic awards. She is also an active member of Mentone Community Church.



## RE-ORGANIZING SALE SNAPPY GRAPHICS

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# Southern Properties

## 845-6000 Agency, Inc.

2107 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne

SouthernPropertiesAgency.com



**These listings are exclusively  
in the Mentone area.**

**To view ALL of our listings,  
check out our website at:  
SouthernPropertiesAgency.com**



**LAKE FRONT LIVING...** Walk right out the back door to custom built wooden decks and walkways to your own boat dock on Lake Lahusage. This 2 bedroom, 2 bath cottage with pine floors, wood burning fireplace and screened porch, 2-story 2-car garage with apartment possibilities can be yours for only \$369,900. (16822)



**IN-TOWN CHARMER** - Walk to downtown Mentone from this 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath cottage featuring wood floors, cathedral ceiling and gazebo all on 1 acre with more available. Call today! \$149,900 (16659)



**A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY** is found in this log cabin. Featuring 2BR/1BA on main floor, L-shaped living/dining/kitchen combo with wood flooring throughout. Upstairs has 2 sleeping areas and bath with unique footed maids tub. Cozy front and back porches. This cabin is sold turn key. Make your appointment today. \$239,000 (18871)



**LOOKING FOR A MOUNTAIN GET-A-WAY?** 3BR/1BA home just minutes from Mentone. Completely remodeled, this home is move-in ready! New kitchen appliances include range, refrigerator, microwave, and washer/dryer. Updated wiring, new CH&A, fresh interior paint, and rock fireplace. Sitting on two lots with a covered back deck, nice mature trees and outbuilding. \$106,000 (17931)



**OH WHAT A DEAL!** Quaint downtown bungalow in need of a little TLC. Features include 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood and vinyl flooring, office/dining nook, metal roof and lots of potential. \$65,000 (18783)



**MENTONE** - Log home surrounded by 2.8 +/- acres with an in-ground pool. This property features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, eat-in kitchen, spacious living area, large utility, central heat & air, covered porches on 3 sides and a 16 x 32 in-ground pool. This unique property has lots to offer. \$154,500 (18616)



**LOCATED ON LAKE LAHUSAGE** you will find this 1 bedroom, 1 bath cottage home. Positioned on a treed lot with boat dock in place. Pack your bags and bring your canoe. \$149,900 (17906)



**WATERFRONT IN MENTONE!** Enjoy your leisure in this mountain home with 4.5 acres, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, cathedral ceiling, all kitchen appliances to remain, and you can finish the bottom floor for more space. \$275,000 (18474)



**YOUR OWN PRIVATE SANCTUARY...FOUND!** This 36+/- acres featuring a pond and small cabin with 2 bedrooms and 1 bath may be just what you've been waiting for. This wooded acreage offers you lots of privacy and activity. Call today. \$199,500 (18238)



**THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE MANY, BUT PROPERTIES LIKE THIS ARE FEW!!** This beautiful traditional 5 bedroom, 4 bath brick home on over 40 rolling acres has ceramic kitchen with island and all the extras. Approximately 18 acres cleared, nice large barn and livestock pond. \$429,000 (14651)



**MENTONE** - Over 200' of breathtaking brow view of mountains and valley located within walking distance to Historic Mentone. Put your special touch on this partially finished cabin with 2 rock fireplaces and a 2-car carport. \$325,000 (18270)



**MENTONE TREASURE!** Over 300' of the most private and panoramic brow frontage in downtown Mentone with impressive rock entrance, retainer walls and century old trees. Restore this 3BR/2BA home to its original splendor which features a living room w/rock fireplace, Florida room, dining room and screened sleeping porch all overlooking a fabulous view. Also included is an in-ground pool and pavilion. Walking distance to Downtown Historic Mentone. \$650,000 (18271)



**MOUNTAIN MAGIC!** Enjoy the comforts of this magnificent Heritage log home currently under construction in Northbend. Property offers 2 bedrooms plus an open loft for possible 3rd bedroom, 2-1/2 baths, pine floors, covered front porch and side deck all situated on a 3.32 acre wooded lot. \$285,900 (16884)

# Southern Properties

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**ENJOY THE GORGEOUS VIEW OF THE LAKE** from this NEW construction in Mentone offering 2BR/2BA, large open living room with fireplace, spacious kitchen with dining area, master bath with garden tub and more. Call for your appointment today. \$159,900 (15985)



**IF WALLS COULD TALK** you could hear all the great stories this family and home has shared for over 50 years. Now this comfort and warmth is offered to you with 3 bedrooms, pine floors, den and storage basement in downtown Mentone. \$119,000 (16803)



**BREATHTAKING VIEW!** You can enjoy the view year round from this one-level brick home. This property is situated on DeSoto Parkway and is "just around the corner" from DeSoto State Park and Mentone. 3BR/2BA, living and dining combination, wood burning fireplace, spacious kitchen with breakfast bar, sunroom and large deck. \$475,000 (17082)



**ON THE PARKWAY!** You can be the proud NEW OWNER of the property known as Little River Cafe located on DeSoto Parkway minutes from Mentone and Fort Payne. Offers a fully equipped kitchen, dining room and large porch, stage for entertainment and a rustic atmosphere in a charming renovated old home. Located between DeSoto SP and Little River Canyon. \$100,000 (17527)



**YOU WILL FALL IN LOVE** with this custom built log home situated on a private, wooded lot of over 2 acres in Mentone. This unique property offers log and pine walls, great room with wood burning stone fireplace, dining area, sleeping porch, kitchen with hard rock maple counter tops, open front cabinets. 2BR/2BA complete the downstairs. Upstairs, an open loft with built-in beds and space enough for extra guests. Offered for \$325,000. (16773)



**ENJOY LAZY AFTERNOONS** and watch the sun set on the large deck of this fabulous like-new custom built home on the brow in Mentone. Features include pine floors and walls, gas log fireplace, cathedral ceiling living area, 3 bedrooms AND a loft, full appliance package, privacy fence, and so much more. You'll wish you had brought your overnight bag. \$348,500 (17847)



**COME SEE THIS BROW LOT** in Mentone featuring a unique log structure that you can use to get-away from it all. The log structure has been moved to this site and offers an open living space with 1 bedroom and a bath. You'll have plenty of acreage to build something new or just enjoy the atmosphere of days gone by. \$279,900 (18256)



**NATIVE MOUNTAIN FOLIAGE** creates a level of privacy for this 3 BR/ 2BA brick house overlooking the West Fork of Little River from the back yard. Split BR design, large family room with cathedral ceiling and mountain stone wood-burning fireplace, screened porch, 2 storage sheds, (1 with electricity), an attached 2-car garage and CH&A. \$249,000 (16371)



**MOVE UP TO RIVERFRONT!** Get an open and airy feeling throughout this 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home. Features include an oversized state-of-the-art kitchen with eating area, stone fireplace, wood and tile floors, oversized back porch and boat dock. Appealing landscaping with large native stones. Many windows to soak up the views. A must see for \$549,000. (17781)



**NORTHBEND...** A gated subdivision. Your family will love this rustic cabin under construction nestled in a wooded 1.8 acre tract featuring great room with vaulted beamed ceiling and fireplace. There are 2 bedrooms each with walk-in closets, 2-1/2 baths and loft/den. Bring your rockers and enjoy the front porch and rear grilling deck. \$165,000 (16721)



**LIVE AND PLAY ON THE WATER!** Enjoy 200' of frontage on the East Fork of Little River in this waterfront home featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, rock floors as well as some carpet, all appliances, wood burning fireplace, and storage building. Call for more details. \$347,900 (18278)



**LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEWS!** Custom log home with vaulted ceiling great room, stacked rock fireplace, large kitchen/dining, spacious loft for extra living/sleeping/storage, walkout basement/game room, separate basement storage. Enjoy year-round unsurpassed views, large deck and screened-in porch. Private location in a restricted subdivision near Little River Canyon. \$349,000 (18235)

**10 ACRES WITH 300' ON LITTLE RIVER** with lovely views, nice timber and natural landscaping. Co-broke with Prime Realty. \$100,000 (16843)

**NATURE LOVERS' DREAM! HIDDEN LAKES SUBDIVISION** - Lot listed at \$59,900 (17585)

**2 LOTS** on the middle fork of Little River near Lake Lahusage. \$99,500 Each (18527)

**OAKWOOD SUBDIVISION** - Great building lot offering 3.5 +/- acres with possible owner-finance or trade to qualified buyer. Property does have mild restrictions. \$29,900 (18770)

**11.8 ACRES WITH 500' ON LITTLE RIVER** with lovely views and natural landscaping. Co-broke with Prime Realty. \$120,000 (16844)

**BROKEN DAM @ LAKE LAHUSAGE!** Waterfront lots starting at \$66,000 (17333)

**4 ACRES** with 300' of brow frontage and gorgeous rock formations. \$265,000 (17175)

**BEAUTIFUL WOODED 3.4 ACRES.** Paved road frontage, great location off Hwy. 117 and minutes from town. Non-restricted area. Cattle and horses okay! Call today! \$21,000 (18751)

**PRISTINE RIVER LOT** with 150' +/- frontage. \$195,000 (17782)

**HIDDEN LAKE SUBDIVISION** bordering Little River National Preserve offers a gated community for people of like interests. \$95,000 (18406)

**LAKE ON THE BROW** - 1 acre lot on the lake. \$59,500 (17384)

**43 +/- ACRES IN MENTONE!** 800' on Brush Creek. Possible Owner financing available to qualified buyer. \$259,000 (18729)

**100' BROW LOT** off Scenic Drive in Mentone. \$125,000 (18311)

**INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!** Lookout Mountain Nursery is for sale. This business opportunity has several greenhouses with inventory included all situated on 8 +/- acres. Property has no restrictions. \$69,900 (16393)

**NEW DEVELOPMENT** located off Co. Rd. 106 close to DeSoto State Park and DeSoto Falls. \$35,000 each. (17060/17061)

**3 +/- ACRES** on the E. Fork of Little River. \$165,000 (17568)

**LAND and LAKE!** 40 +/- acres with a 5 +/- acre lake with Brush Creek running through it. \$225,000 (18869)

# FIRST PSA – NACC – GED GRADUATION

The famous football coach Vince Lombardi commented that "The greatest accomplishment is not in never falling, but in rising again after you fall." It's time for us to acknowledge the accomplishments of a group of adults, who have risen above their obstacles and circumstances and are now reaping the fruit that came from hours of labor in the classroom.

The Northeast Alabama Adult Education Program along with Northeast Alabama Community College is excited to announce their Annual GED Graduation for the Northern part of the tri-county area. **The ceremony will take place this year on Friday, May 8 2009, at 7:00 PM** at the DeKalb County Schools Coliseum in Rainsville on Highway 35.

It is also a good time to remind others that attending GED classes is an important step on the road to victory. Our children need to see us reach for our dreams, whatever they may be. With today's economic difficulties and increasing unemployment, we all need to make ourselves as "marketable" as possible. Most of our adult education classes operate year-round, so no time can be better than the present for getting started. Anyone interested in taking classes or participating in the GED Graduation should contact the Adult Education Office at 638-2957 or 882-0021 between 8:00 and 4:00 PM or visit them on-line at [www.nacc.edu/adulted](http://www.nacc.edu/adulted)





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## SAMUEL LANGHORNE CLEMENS

Nov. 30, 1835—April 21, 1910)

ohn S. Whitaker

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, who is better known by his pen name, Mark Twain, was born in Florida, Missouri, a small village of exactly one hundred people. His father was John Marshall Clemens and his mother was Jane Lampton Clemens. The parents had been married in Adair County, Kentucky, then they moved to Jamestown, Tennessee, and then in 1835 to Florida, Missouri. There were six children born to the couple: Orion (1825), Pamela (1827), Margaret (1830), Benjamin (1832), Samuel Langhorne (1835), and Henry (1838). Margaret and Benjamin died before reaching the age of ten years.

In 1839 the family moved to Hannibal, Missouri. Hannibal consisted of three or four streets running in one direction, and eight streets the opposite direction. The most significant fact about the town was that it lay alongside the Mississippi River. Robert Fulton (1765-1815) had built the first successful steamboat in America in 1807. The ship, the Clermont, featured side-paddle wheels. It wasn't long until these type boats began commerce on the Mississippi River. They stopped regularly at Hannibal each morning and evening.

Although there was no library in Hannibal, newspapers brought news to the town. Saturday nights tended to be rowdy; SLC (Samuel Langhorne Clemens) and his buddies liked to slip out of their homes and watch a fist fight. The Clemenses owned a slave for a time, but necessity forced them to sell. The kitchen was the center of SLC's home, and he delighted in his mother's cooking, although it was not extravagant. The local school was a typical one-room school. SLC enjoyed the weekly spelling bee on Friday and won several of these. Sundays were special for the Clemens family. They went first to the Sunday School classes, and then listened to a long sermon as they sat on slab pews.

Death came for SLC's father March 24, 1847. He had been in a very cold rain and contracted pneumonia, which caused his death. Thus, at the age of eleven years, SLC became fatherless.

In 1848 SLC became an apprentice to a printer named Joseph Ament. His wages were the bare necessities of life: room and board and a promise of two suits of clothes during each of the two-year apprenticeships. SLC did his apprenticeship very well.

SLC's older brother, Orion, bought a local paper, the Hannibal Journal, and he began working as a journeyman printer for a salary of \$3.50 a week. Many problems developed, and SLC discovered he was losing money (or working for nothing) in this venture with his brother. In 1853 young SLC decided

to leave Hannibal for St. Louis. Here he stayed with his sister Pamela, and secured a job as a printer. Soon he had enough money to travel to New York City. Wanderlust burned in his feet. He stayed in the big city for the summer and then moved on to Philadelphia. His salary was paid in gold coins. He sent one coin home to Orion to buy a silk handkerchief for their mother. During the winter he toured Washington, D.C., and with the advent of spring moved back to New York City.

In 1854 Orion had purchased a newspaper in Muscatine, Iowa. It was here that SLC made a surprise visit to see his family and then began working for his brother. But soon, in 1856 SLC left Muscatine, intending to visit South America. He had read about adventures there. He worked for a short time in Cincinnati, Ohio, earning enough for the trip to South America. He was twenty years of age.

On the river boat trip to New Orleans, SLC made a change of plans. He decided that he wanted to be a pilot, and, after talking to the captain, Horace Bixby, the agreement was made. The Mississippi River became SLC's "university." For the next two years he began learning the ways of being a good pilot. After the two-year stint as a cub pilot, he became licensed as a pilot. Following this were two years as a fully-licensed pilot on the great river. But things would change.

The Civil War came in 1861, stopping all commercial trade on the river. SLC managed to catch a boat going upriver to St. Louis. He went on to Hannibal and learned that some of the local boys were forming a group called the Marion Rangers to fight for the southern cause. The group soon broke up, and all that SLC received was a sprained ankle.

He decided to go to Keokuk, Iowa, to see Orion and learn what was going on. Orion told him that he had been appointed Secretary of the Nevada Territory, that he needed a secretary, and would SLC accept the position. He accepted.

Thus, in July 1861, the two brothers began the 1700-mile trip to the Nevada Territory. The trip was made in two phases: first to Salt Lake, Utah, which took eleven full days; and after a two-day stopover, on to Carson City, Nevada, which required six days.

In December, SLC joined a party who were looking for silver. Near Uniontown, the group began seeking the elusive ore and did some digging over a seven-day period—all to no avail. A tired, weary SLC returned to Carson City to join his brother.

For a brief period SLC thought he might find gold in Aurora, but this effort was also futile.

The Territorial Enterprise in Virginia City, Nevada, had published a few of his articles. An offer came in 1862 from the editor offering him a job as a reporter. Traveling from Carson City to Virginia City by foot, he accepted the

position. It was while he was working here that he began using the pen name, "Mark Twain." It was an old river term meaning the water was two fathoms deep (12 feet). This depth was enough for a safe passage of a boat.

SLC was finishing his third winter with the Territorial Enterprise when he decided to visit San Francisco, California. A local paper there, the Morning Call, hired him as a reporter. Also, the Californian began publishing some of his writings. In San Francisco he managed to ride the Ajax, a ship bound for Honolulu, and there he reported on the various sight of the islands: water falls, volcanoes, cannibalism, flowers, the pineapple industry, and the people. These reports would be mailed to the Sacramento Union. And he did this faithfully while in the islands. Also, while he was in Hawaii, a boat containing fifteen half-starved men whose boat had been burned, arrived. Their sources of food and water in their boat were completely exhausted during their forty-three day ordeal. SLC went to the hospital where the men were recovering and wrote the stories of their survival. When he came back to California, he sent the articles to Harper's Magazine, and they published them.

SLC decided to do even more: he would rent an auditorium and lecture about his Sandwich Islands adventures (so named by their discoverer, Captain James Cook in 1778). This speech, given in October, 1866, was the beginning of many that would follow. Every seat, four hundred in all, was taken. Admission was one dollar. And the audience enjoyed the lecture, also.

SLC thought a trip around the world would be a good way to extend his writing topics. Making his way to New York City, he rode on a chartered boat for a cruise of the Mediterranean Sea area. He kept a steady stream of letters and articles to various magazines. These were made into a very popular book, *The Innocents Abroad* (1869).

When SLC returned to America, he was a famous person. Also, during the winter of 1869-70, he was lecturing profitably.

On February 2, 1870, SLC was married to Olivia Langdon, who was from Elmira, New York. They finally settled in Hartford, Connecticut. Their first child was a boy named Langdon, who didn't live quite two years; and then, three daughter followed: Susy, Clara, and Jean.

As so many writers have done, SLC wrote about his experiences, especially experiences on the Mississippi River and his many travels. Although SLC was agnostic, his works were not greatly affected by his views. There were, however, occasional bits of pessimism that emerged to show some of his bitterness. For what then do we remember about SLC? What features of his writings proved to be lasting? For one thing, he was a realist; he wrote about and described things as they really

were. In *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Huck and a run-away slave, Jim, were drifting down the Mississippi. Each town at which they stopped spoke a different dialect of the English language, and SLC was a master of these slight differences in the language. He wrote exactly what the people spoke. Also, there are many detailed passages describing the great river.

From the pen of the gifted writer, volumes of literature flowed. These can be divided into three categories: travel, novels, and nonfiction.

### TRAVEL BOOKS —-Roughing It (1872)

- A Tramp Abroad (1880)
- Life on the Mississippi (1883)
- Following the Equator (1896)

### NOVELS

- The Gilded Age (1873)
- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876)
- The Prince and the Pauper (1881)
- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, (1885)
- A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1889)
- The American Claimant (1892)
- Tom Sawyer Abroad (1894)
- Pudd'n head Wilson (1894)
- Tom Sawyer Detective (1896)
- The Mysterious Stranger (1916)

### NONFICTION —-What Is Man?

The short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," (1865) is considered to be the work that put him on the road to fame. (Note that this list of writings by SLC is not inclusive of all his works. There are many others.)

In the closing years of his life SLC began to develop heart trouble. His last days were a definite, dignified fight against disease. Death came to the great author in the early evening of April 21, 1910, in his summer home at Redding, Connecticut. He was buried in Elmira, New York.

NOTE: You might get the opportunity to visit Hannibal, Missouri. Of particular interest are the Mark Twain Cave, the cave featured in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and the Mark Twain Home and Museum featuring many items connected with the life of Mark Twain. Also, each July the city of Hannibal features the National Tom Sawyer Painting Contest. (Learn how to get someone to paint your fence!) Finally, another place to visit is The Nook Farm, which contains the Mark Twain House in Hartford, Connecticut. (This particular house was built to resemble a Mississippi River steamboat.)

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**Well's Restaurant**  
de Mentone Springs Hotel, Hwy 117 downtown Mentone  
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(6) 634-4040

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r-Sun 11-4 pm

**okout Muffin Coffee House**  
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ch, Wi-Fi, Tue-Sat 7-3 pm  
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akfast: 7-10 am, Lunch: 11:30-2 pm  
ner: Sun-Thur 5-8 pm, Fri-Sat 5-9 pm  
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y 11, Hammondville  
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n-Sat 9-8 pm  
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y 117 in downtown Mentone  
ge Variety of Sandwiches, Salads, Dinners  
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(6) 634-4560

**ers Inn Family Restaurant**  
wntown Valley Head  
akfast, Burgers, Chicken, Lunch Specials  
n-Fri 5-2 pm  
(6) 635-6855

**dtower Café & Gift Shop**  
y 117 in downtown Mentone  
ak, Chicken & Seafood  
ch: daily 10-2 pm, Dinner: Thur-Sat 5-8 pm  
nday Brunch, Wi-Fi  
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**ndwood Farms Restaurant**  
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## COFFEE BUCKET

John Baty

Sometimes when a person's mind surfs the back trail old stories are recalled which made sufficient impression that they are remembered years later. One such is with me tonight. Always, the appropriateness of digging up the bones of someone else's folly is in question. We will write the skeleton of an old story we heard fifty-five years ago. The tale was recounted by the late Chad Hawkins, Principal, Valley Head High School. He gave no names for the young men involved so I will follow his lead. Possibly, some older person may recall the event.

Uncle "Doc" White owned and operated a sawmill and cotton gin on the bank of the spring branch where the park is at present in the gap of the ridge west of Valley Head.

Two young boys of a family around Cloudland toward Cherokee County brought a wagon load of cotton to the gin at Valley Head.

Returning home with the cash

proceeds from the sale of the cotton, the boys hid the money in the coffee bucket.

The road descending into the small canyon which was the sight of the abandoned Lahausage coal mines, was rather steep, rocky and dark. In the darkness of night it was a spooky hollow.

I would guess the boys were on alert as the wagon reached the bottom of the hill and the creek.

Suddenly a man's voice shouted for them to "hold it." In fright the younger of the boys yelled back: "Don't shoot! The money is in the coffee bucket!"

When the man emerged from the shadows, the voice belonged to the late Charles Scott, prominent Fort Payne lawyer. He reputedly said: "I don't want your damn money. I'm hunting one of my foxhounds. Have you boys seen one?"

Mr. Scott then told the boys to get on home and keep their mouths shut about their money.

Third hand and aged for over half a century, this version may have some errors.

That is how I remember it.

## RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB NEWS

LINDA BROWN, SECRETARY

Whoever said, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going" must have been talking about the five faithful members of the Rhododendron Garden Club who arrived at the M.E.R.F. Community House on April 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Linda Brown, Marilyn Blanton Campbell, Dianne Kuehl, Peggy Roark and Jill Whitten decided to bypass the business meeting and immediately start to work in the Heritage Garden as planned. The Heritage Garden is the flower beds and shrubs which were planted by the owners of the house over the many years that it served as a private home. There are many plants in the garden which are native to this area and are well established in the yard. The garden club has adopted the care of the garden as one of their projects.

Though few in number, these members made a good showing in the front and on one side of the house. They raked, pruned and mulched the rhododendron and azalea plants. Some of the hemlock branches were hanging too low and these were lopped off to permit more light and air into the yard.

A big THANK YOU goes to Ken Kirby for removing the unsightly boxwood at an earlier time. This and the cleaning of the front yard presents a much more welcome view when looking at the house. This gives it more, "curb appeal."

Next meeting: May 12, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the M.E.R.F. Community House.

The members will gather in the parking lot to car pool for the trip to DeSoto State Park for a wildflower walk and a brown bag lunch.

**The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of Northeast Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs; District II; The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.; and the Deep South Region.**

## Meet the Author

The Moon Lake Community Library hosted their annual "Meet the Author" event on Saturday, April 11 at 10:00A.M. at the library. Author Hank Willett talked about his book, *In the Spirit: Alabama's Sacred Music Traditions*. He told how sacred music traditions have been developed, nurtured, and sustained in Alabama for some two hundred years. He talked about and played recordings of Sand Mountain's Sacred Harp singers, South Macon County Moan and Prayer events, Seven-shape-note Gospel Music in Northern Alabama, Bluegrass Gospel music of many brush arbor and camp meetings and other sacred music traditions of Alabama. His talk was received by an interested and enthusiastic audience.

Mr. Willett was a founding member of the Alabama Folklife Center for Traditional Culture and he continues as an active member. He is a member of the Mentone Arts Council and the Ft. Payne Arts Council. He and his wife, Ruth, now reside in Mentone.

Author Hank Willett at the Moon Lake Community Library, April 11, 2009.



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**WHAT A VIEW.** 11.2 acres on the West Brow with amenities already installed. Over 600 ft on the Brow with Rock outcroppings. Bonus-Mobile home, till that dream home \$239,000 (18543)



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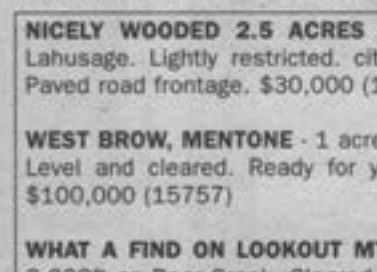
**WALK TO MENTONE FROM THIS COZY COTTAGE!** Sit and enjoy the sunsets from the screened porch. 2bdrms, 1bth. Completely furnished. Great for weekend getaway or home. \$179,000 (18891)



**FLAT LANDING EAST FORK.** 3 acres with over 250 ft on the River. High wooded bluffs to view the water below. Enjoy the coolness of a mountain swim. \$135,000 (18776)

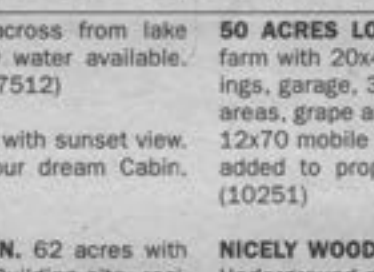


**NATURAL CEDAR CABIN.** 2 bdr, 2 bth. Columbian cedar walls (nice aroma) when enjoying the large open great room. Stack stone FP. screen porch and access to Little River. \$174,000 (18541)

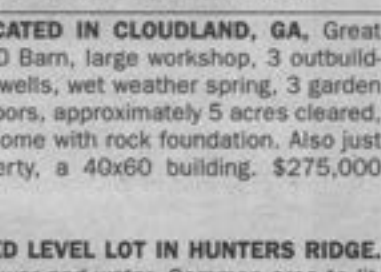


**NICELY WOODED 2.5 ACRES** across from lake Lahusage. Lightly restricted. city water available. Paved road frontage. \$30,000 (17512)

**WEST BROW, MENTONE** - 1 acre with sunset view. Level and cleared. Ready for your dream Cabin. \$100,000 (15757)



**WHAT A FIND ON LOOKOUT MTN.** 62 acres with 3,000ft on Bear Creek. Cleared Building site, residentially timbered. Rock formations, hiking trails, wildlife abundant. \$330,000 (16806)



**50 ACRES LOCATED IN CLOUDLAND, GA.** Great farm with 20x40 Barn, large workshop, 3 outbuildings, garage, 3 wells, wet weather spring, 3 garden areas, grape arbors, approximately 5 acres cleared, 12x70 mobile home with rock foundation. Also just added to property, a 40x60 building. \$275,000 (10251)

**NICELY WOODED LEVEL LOT IN HUNTERS RIDGE.** Underground power and water. Common area to little river, a short walk from this lot. \$40,500 (18866)

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## TWIN OAKS AT LAHUSAGE

(A Gated Mentone Community)

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Twin Oaks is quickly becoming one of Mentone's most desirable destinations.

**Lots start at 2.5 acres.**

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(16731, 16789, 16790, etc.)

This property is co-developed by Little River Properties



**NOTHING SAYS MENTONE LIKE A SUNSET ON THE BROW.** Build your dream home on this 5 acre wooded lot with 200 ft. of brow frontage. \$220,000 (16428)



**BROW LOT LOCATED IN SCENIC MENTONE.** Enjoy sunsets and the view of the Batelle Valley below. 200 ft. of brow frontage located on 5 acres. \$220,000 (16427)



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**ENJOY MENTONE** from your own cabin tucked in the woods. This 2 bedroom, 2 bath cabin has a fireplace, two porches, and much more. \$174,900 (17765)



**BROW PROPERTY** with wonderful view of Ft. Payne below. 7 wooded acres great for single family or multi home development. \$109,900 (18669)

**I LOVE WEEKEND CALLS!**

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**PROPERTY FOR SALE** On Co. Rd. 940. 10 Acres On The Back Edge. Nice Wooded Land. Call 256-634-4844

**COMPASSIONATE, PROFESSIONAL,** special education teacher seeking to serve elderly patient care. First Aid/CPR certified. Taught seven/profound mentally challenged students. Excellent references. Call (706) 936-2555 or (706) 857-6800. Leave message.

**FOR RENT - Fabulous** Mentone retreat home. Private, 2 bedroom, 2 bath plus loft. Amazing rocks, woods and landscaping. Call Elan 256-634-8000.

**OWN PART OF A BROW HOME.** Need 3rd investor to

purchase Mentone vacation home on 1 acre west brow/spectacular large deck sunset views. The buy-in cost is \$100k for 4 months of time per year. Would consider 2 investors at \$50k each for 2 months per year. Call 256-634-3055.

**BUY GUNS** or Gun Collections. Call 256-634-8245

**NEW 2 BR, 2 BA LOG HOME** with loft, hardwood floors, deck overlooking lake. A wonderful RETREAT on paved County Road 106, 1.66 pasture+ wooded acres, city water. REDUCED: \$169,900. Offered by RETREAT REALTY, INC, contact Jeani Bazan, 706-978-9906.

**CHARMING 2 BR/2 BA CABIN** fully furnished, view of the lake from the wrap around deck & screened porch; on wooded 2.52 acres. Nicely landscaped, lots of upgrades, don't miss this incredible RETREAT! REDUCED: \$219,000. Offered by RETREAT REALTY, INC, contact Jeani Bazan, 706-978-9906.

**RARE OPPORTUNITY! LOT #24 FOR SALE** - 2.79 acres, mostly hardwoods, bordered by common area and creek, very private! Great building lot! \$50,200. Offered by RETREAT REALTY, INC. Contact Owner/Broker, Jeani Bazan, 706-978-9906.

**HOUSE FOR SALE IN VALLEY HEAD** - 13 acres w/pond, 4BR/2BA, well water or city water, 24x30 shop, 10x30 lean attached. Long paved drive with Bradford Pear trees, 8x2 storage bldg., 28x60 double-wide included. 3BR/2BA, fireplace, garden tub, new septic tank. Call 256-635-0275 or 619-1287 (cell phone)

**LOOKING FOR HOME TO BUY IN GERALDINE AREA.** 256-635-0275 or 619-1287. 3-4 bedrooms, 3-5 acres, no more than 8, on bus route.

**2 BR, 1 BA HOME WITH ACREAGE.** Screened porch, 1 car carport needs work. Recently rented. 3 miles from town. On city water. \$49,900. Ronda 256-634-4333 or 256-516-4663. www.walmsmountainproperties.com

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**A CREEK RUNS THROUGH IT!** Willis Creek, pasture, and some wooded areas make this almost 24 acres worth the wait! Plenty of Hwy 11 road frontage, privacy with fencing, and plenty of places to build those weekend campfires for the kids! Ride your ATV, your horses, or spend lots of time just walking within it! Beautiful views. Quiet, and lots of peace offered in this tract. Broker/Owner. \$299,900. (18071)



**PANAROMIC NORTH MENTONE BROW LOT!** Views for miles, paved road frontage, just minutes from downtown Mentone. Great location for your weekend get away. \$149,900 (18573)



**2 FOR THE PRICE OF 1 SALE!** Home and Cabin both on 5 acres with detached garage/workshop, garden spot and lots of paved road frontage. REDUCED to \$219,000 (18331)



**COZY LOG HOME** located in Mentone on a beautiful wooded lot. Woodburning insert, hardwood floors, front and rear porches, loft area, metal roof. \$169,000. (17256)



**MANUFACTURED HOME ON 1.7 ACRES!** Features include 3 bdrm/2ba, outbuildings, above ground pool with decking, close to 1-59 and Hwy 11. Priced at only \$72,400 (18618)



**LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN** - 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, split bedroom design, beautiful hardwood and ceramic tile floors, single carport, serene setting. \$99,500 (18552)



**3 BEDROOM MOBILE HOME** - approximately 1.6 acres (+/-), CH/A, large front porch, double carport, gravel drive, various mature trees. \$29,000. (18494)



**SPRING TIME IN PARADISE** - take long walks in the woods that surround this three bedroom retreat. You'll love the screened in porch while watching wildlife in your own back yard. Price reduced \$163,400. (17090)

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Travels close to home

# Cullman, Alabama

By Sarah Jacoway Chastain

This begins a series on short trips that can be made in one day. Each article will include something special to see or do and a good place to eat while you're there.

Cullman and the surrounding area is an interesting town to visit. Cullman County has many historic sites for visitors to the area to enjoy. There are several sites registered on the National Trust for Historic Sites in Washington, D.C. — the Crane Hill Masonic Lodge, Shady Grove Methodist Church, The Green-Owens House and The Stiefelmeyer



Building. Other nationally registered sites include Clarkson Covered Bridge, Ave Maria Grotto and the L&N Railroad Depot.

There are three historic districts in the City of

Cullman — the downtown business district, the residential district of "Die Deutsche Kolonie Von Nord Alabama" (The German Colony of North Alabama) which consists of mostly Victorian type architecture and the Betz Addition Historic District which is composed of 72 residential structures dating from the 1800s.

For more information on these, contact the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, (256) 734-0454.

All the streets in Cullman including those in the residential area are extremely wide. They were designed so that a horse and wagon could turn around in the street without having to back up.

Ave Maria Grotto has been a destination for DeKalb residents since its dedication in 1934. As a child growing up on a farm, there were no week-long trips to the beach or other vacations destinations. When I was out of school in the summer, my dad was busy in the fields and my mom was



equally busy growing a garden and then preserving its bounty. However, we always managed a few one-day trips so I didn't know that I was missing anything. Ave Maria Grotto

was one of those one day trips. Even as child, I appreciated the details that went into 125 small stone and cement structures.

Ave Maria Grotto, known throughout the world as "Jerusalem in Miniature" was created by Brother Joseph Zoetl, a monk of St. Bernard Abbey, for almost 70 years. He built the first structures in 1912 and the last, the miniature of the beautiful Lourdes Basilica Church in 1958, when he was almost 80 years old. His building of miniatures began as a hobby after he was appointed to the power plant.

He was recycling before there was a name for it. The structures are made of stone, concrete and unwanted donated materials including broken plates, costume jewelry, ceramic tile, beads, marbles, seashells, etc. One structure prominently features cold cream bottles like the ones my mother used.

Brother Joseph gathered his ideas for his creations from extensive readings of history and the Bible. Of all the things, he constructed, he had only seen about six. All the others were constructed from photos or their printed descriptions.

Many of the structures invoke feeling of great reverence such as the scenes from the Holy Land. Others remind us of some of our country's important sites such as the Alamo the Statue of Liberty. The replicas of Cathedrals show various forms of architecture, some quite elaborate and other simple. Patriotism is represented by the miniature crosses honoring the graduates of St. Bernard who died in the wars and conflicts that our

country has been engaged in since World War II including Korea and Viet Nam. There's even a little bit of humor with "The Chipmunks Crossing" where we all dutifully stopped, looked and lis-



tened but saw no chipmunks.

Recently a group of senior adults from Fort Payne toured Ave Maria Grotto. Some admitted that they hadn't been in 50 years or more but on reflection, wondered why. Carl Eldredge, age 93, had never been. When asked what he thought about it, he summed it up for all, "I think it was something."

What would a trip to Cullman be without a trip to All Steak Restaurant in downtown Cullman. A variety of daily specials always include country cooked vegetables but the highlight of any visit to All Steak is without a doubt, their home baked orange rolls.

For more information about Ave Maria Grotto, you may call (256) 734-4110 or visit their website at [www.avemariagrotto.com](http://www.avemariagrotto.com). All Steak Restaurant is located at 314 2nd Ave SW; phone 256-734-4322. Happy travels.

**Next month will feature a visit to the Museum of Natural History in Anniston to see the exhibit on the inner workings of the White House with lunch at Classic at Noble.**