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THE

GROUNDHOG

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Volume 16, No. 11

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

November 1998

"Returning to our Roots"

By James P. Carmichael

Thanks to my daughters, Linda Thomas of Fort Payne and Emmy Ricketts of Tuscaloosa, I was recently able to return to my Scottish roots. Over the past few years we have been able to find some Carmichaels in East Tennessee and in Indiana. By finding these, I have received information about the Carmichael Estate in south central Scotland. Also, friends of Linda's, working for Heil Corp. of Fort Payne, happened to be transferred to Scotland during this period. As a favor to us, they visited the estate and sent us information and photographs. Because of this, our family talked of visiting Scotland, but never in my wildest dreams did I ever think of going.

Around Christmas 1991, our talk became more realistic. Soon after the New Year holidays, Emmy told Linda and me to get our passports because we were going to Scotland. I still couldn't visualize actually making the trip, but we proceeded to decide on a date, and Emmy started the wheels rolling by getting together with a travel agent. Thanks to e-mail, Emmy was able to communicate with Sir Richard Carmichael at the Carmichael Estate. We arranged to stay in one of the cottages on the estate grounds, and Worldwide Travel took care of the rest: plane, train, automobile, hotel, and theatre reservations.

On Labor Day, September 7th, we departed Atlanta at 4:15 p.m. CST. Traveling in the air for eight hours and taking into account the six hour time difference, we arrived in London at 6:25 a.m. Due to head winds on the way back, the flight over would take about 90 minutes less than our return. When we arrived at Gatwick Airport south of London, we gathered our luggage and quickly passed through customs, then hailed a taxi for the trip into London and Kings Cross train station. A different twist to the trip was our idea to take the train from London to Edinburgh in order to see more of the countryside. And it was worth the additional four

hours, as the landscape was beautiful, especially when we entered Scotland about two hours into the train ride. We traveled along the North Sea coastline for quite a distance before the scenery turned to lush, green hills dotted with thousands of sheep. The Flying Scotsman pulled into Edinburgh's Waverly Station around 3:00 pm, we gathered our luggage once again, and took off in our rental car to find the village of Biggar and the Carmichael Estate.

Emmy was our appointed driver. I might say she did a superb job of keeping us on the left side of the road. We had some tense moments, especially at their intersections called roundabouts, but all in all she did an outstanding job. After arriving in Carmichael and checking into our cottage in early evening, we were all so tired that everyone decided to retire early. The three of us had been up for over thirty hours at this point.

The village of Carmichael is located about one hour southwest of Edinburgh, between the towns of Lanark

and Biggar. Wednesday morning saw us venturing out in our Vauxhall (similar to Ford Taurus) to Biggar, where the town motto is "London's London, but Biggar's bigger." It is a picturesque little place, with those famous red telephone booths on several street corners. After eating lunch at "The Crown Tavern," we headed to Peebles, a Scottish border town known for its quaint shops and ancient churches. On the way we stopped at Dawyck Botanical Gardens, where we toured gorgeous, flowered grounds that were formerly private gardens for House, a castle-like home displayed prominently but kept off-limits to visitors.

Although we tried to keep on the straight and narrow to Peebles, after Dawyck we once again became sidetracked when we saw the sign for Neidpath Castle, overlooking the River Tweed. Oh, so much history here! It was hard for me to accept that we were standing

in a building which stood almost three hundred years before America was discovered. Finally, close to 4 p.m., we did make it into Peebles, and it was indeed so beautiful that we decided to return the next day to do it up right. We all did some shopping (the most luxurious

(Continued on Page 5.)



L/R: Sir Richard Carmichael, Jim Carmichael, Emmy Carmichael Ricketts, Linda Carmichael Thomas, Lady Patricia Carmichael. Sir Richard is wearing the chairman's medallion for the International Sheepdog Festival, which was being held in Carmichael while we were visiting.

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

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SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

●Monday, Nov. 2, 6 p.m. (NOTE TIME CHANGE)
Mentone Council Meeting, Town Hall

●Tuesday, Nov. 3, VOTING DAY (GO VOTE!)

●Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7 p.m., MAPA meeting,
Dessie's Kountry Chef

●Wednesday, Nov. 11, 6 p.m. American Legion Post 215
Covered Dish Supper, celebrating VETERANS DAY

●Tuesday, Nov. 24, 7 p.m. Community THANKSGIVING
Service at V.H. Methodist Church (See notice, elsewhere.)

●Thursday, Nov. 26, THANKSGIVING

THE GROUNDHOG

P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984



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.

Editor.....Evelyn Graves
Associate Editor/ typesetter.....Marie Dillenbeck
Contributing Writers.....Ovie Blalock, Ruby Brock, Linda Brown, Eloise Brown, Madeleine Bullock, Marilyn Campbell, Bernise Crow, Marie Dillenbeck, Maurine Donahue, Dowe Foreman, Evelyn Graves, Phil Harris, Lisa Moore, Bill Schwarz, Sue Schwarz, Jennifer Smith
MAPA OFFICERS

President.....Jerry Waters
Vice President.....Homer Crow
Secretary.....Corinne Caplano
Treasurer.....Dessie Newberry
Parliamentarian.....Bernise Crow
Member-At-Large.....Dorothy Crow
Member-At-Large.....Lucille Crowe

In case of errors in advertisements, The Groundhog assumes liability only for the actual space that is incorrect in the advertisement. Call Evelyn Graves at 634-4390 for advertising.

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

The **DEADLINE** for all material for The Groundhog is the **15TH DAY OF THE MONTH** preceding publication. The Groundhog is due out by the 25th of each month.

--PUBLIC NOTICE--

MENTONE PLANNING
AND ZONING COMMISSION
Meeting dates for remainder of 1998

December 17

All meetings are held in the town public meeting room at 4 p.m. and are open to the public.

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MAPA October MEETING



At the October 6th meeting, the general topic was the upcoming Colorfest for the weekend of October 16-18. (See center page for a write up and pictures.) Jerry Waters, president, announced that the board had made a decision to donate the sum of \$1000 toward the purchase of a new fire truck for the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District, and that MAPA had paid for the cost of printing the tickets for the Moon Lake Elementary School fundraiser to put a new floor in the gym. (See related article elsewhere.) Several members of MAPA made donations to this fundraiser after the meeting.

Jerry announced his resignation to be effective the day after the festival, citing the increase in his business due to the upcoming Christmas season. With the resignation, the board will have to select a new president.

President Waters thanked all the workers who had been preparing for the Colorfest. The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served while the members visited with each other and caught up on the news of the festival.



HAPPY
Thanksgiving
ONE
AND ALL



Do you have a picture or an article you would like to submit?

To submit pictures for an issue of The Groundhog, please get them in by the 15th of each month to either Evelyn Graves or Marie Dillenbeck. Copy or articles should be in no later than the 20th, so the paper can be printed on the 25th of each month. Thank you

Christmas in Mentone

By Bernise Crow

We are planning a celebration of the Christmas season in Mentone and want to urge everyone to be a part of it. We have had a musical mountain Christmas mentioned in our brochure for years, and we intend to follow through with it this year. We need volunteers to help install the Christmas lighted wreaths on light posts in the town. They are too heavy for one person to handle. Mr. Jack Johnston of the GTE phone company has helped us with them in the past. All wreaths need to be checked for faulty bulbs before Jack installs them. We want to have a community Christmas tree on the lot at the Mentone Inn, and we need someone to be responsible for getting the tree and setting it up. Another group will decorate it. We would like to have a tree lighting ceremony, complete with carol singing. We work with the North DeKalb Ministerial Association, to have a party for all children in the area. Corinne Caplano will be chairing this project and would appreciate everyone assisting her. The dates will be announced later. Let's have a beautifully decorated Mentone and surrounding area. Call 1-888-340-3381 or 634-4041 to volunteer.

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Legion Ladies Spaghetti Supper Is Big Success

by Marilyn Blanton Campbell

In a statement issued Monday, October 19, 1998, Mrs. Syble Tipton, President of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 215 at Mentone said, "We sincerely want to thank each and every person who supported our fund raising efforts by attending our spaghetti supper this past Saturday night (October 17) at the legion home on Cove Road in Mentone. We truly appreciate your help."

Mrs. Tipton went on to say, "In the past, we have had other fund raisers, and we learned from those to expect only a small crowd, but this time everything was different. We have never seen such a crowd show up for anything our unit has sponsored to raise money. We learned, too, at previous legion suppers, that we needed to cook our pasta right along as opposed to cooking it all at once, and we were doing exactly that when we were overwhelmed. Therefore, we especially want to thank those people who had to wait for their supper. We did the very best we could to accommodate everybody, but we did not quite make it."

"We sold a good few tickets ahead of time, and lots of other people just showed up hungry. We want everybody to know exactly how grateful we are for the support we have received from the community at large on this particular endeavor."

"This success will enable us to continue our support for the Girls State program, our policy of sending cards to the veterans from this county who are residents of the Floyd E. 'Tut' Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville, and our once per season trips over there to visit the veterans and take them balloon bouquets. From time to time, we make minor improvements around the legion home, and we have recently been able to purchase a very good second hand range for the kitchen area there to replace that hateful old thing that tried everybody's patience every time we used it."

"Again, we want to thank everybody for the support we have been shown by the community. We received especially good reviews on our food, and it seemed like everybody who attended most definitely enjoyed the occasion."

"It is not long until Veterans Day, and we would like to encourage everybody to tell at least one veteran this year that you appreciate his (or her) service to this country. The smile you receive in return for your thanks will very likely make your day."

SPORTS AFIELD

By
PHIL HARRIS



NATIONAL SPORTS AT A GLANCE

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

The Tennessee Volunteers whipped Alabama and are now in control of the SEC Eastern division. The Vols are in line for a shot at the Fiesta Bowl and a national championship. Tennessee reminds me of a team that won the national championship back in 1992. They find a way to win.

The Western division is still up for grabs. Arkansas is undefeated and Miss. State has one conference loss. Pre-season favorite LSU lost three in a row, but righted the ship against Miss. St. Alabama and Auburn are out of it, though they could decide who wins the West. If Auburn can somehow upset Arkansas this week, the winner of the SEC West may have three losses. That team could be LSU.

Nationally, Ohio St. and Kansas St. are in great shape. The Buckeyes are in a cream puff conference, and the K-State schedule makes people want a playoff system. It would be a shame if Kansas St. beat Nebraska and plays for a national championship. If UCLA and Tennessee win out, they will play for a national championship. Nebraska, Florida, and FSU need help to get into the national title hunt.

Groundhog Top Ten

1. UCLA 2. Tennessee 3. Ohio St. 4. Florida 5. FSU
6. K-St. 7. Nebraska 8. Texas A&M 9. GA 10. Oregon

PRO FOOTBALL

The Atlanta Falcons have gotten off to a pretty good start. Problem is the Falcons are not much better than the weak teams they have beaten. The NFC is weak from top to bottom. Minnesota is for real. I keep looking for weaknesses in the Vikings. I have been unable to find any. Green Bay and San Francisco pose the biggest threat to Minnesota for the NFC title.

Denver is head and shoulders above anyone else in the AFC. The Broncos may equal a feat only done by the 1972 Miami Dolphins. Denver would need some luck to go unbeaten—they definitely have a good enough team. Kansas City, Miami, and Jacksonville look good, but not good enough to beat out the Super Bowl champs come playoff time.

RACING

Rusty Wallace won the rain-shortened Dura-Lube 500 at Phoenix. Jeff Gordon is well on his way to winning the Winston Cup Points Championship. Gordon and Mark Martin have dominated the NASCAR circuit for the 1998 season. Gordon is the best driver in this new era of racing. Many folks love to see Gordon fail. You have to admit, whether you like him or not, he is good.

NBA

The lock out is threatening the whole NBA season. I think strikes are good for sports. It lets owners and players understand that the fans don't need sports. The sports need the fans. When the players and owners figure this out, they will scuttle the strike.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

The New York Yankees steamrolled to the World Series title. The Bronx Bombers swept San Diego in the best of seven series. San Diego whipped Atlanta because they played with more emotion and hit in the clutch.

One final note. I know what my Christmas cards will say this year: Ho! Ho! Ho! It's four in a row.

SPORTS ON THE SCENE

The Valley Head Tigers are the biggest surprise in DeKalb County this season. It took the Tigers six games to figure out how to win. Win they have. The hard work finally paid off. The Tigers have beaten T.W. Martin, Gaylesville, and narrowly lost to Collinsville 28-22. Valley Head is a good bet to

Has Coach Brown got the Tiger program going in the right direction? You bet! No one puts more into the Valley Head program than Coach Brown. It's good to see him get something back out of it. I have seen a lot of high school football games. And I have never been more proud of a football team and its coaching staff than when they defeated T.W. Martin 41-0. For the first since the retirement, it means something to wear the purple and gold! Go Tigers!

The high school football regular season is almost history. The AHSAA playoffs begin next week. It seems to be the same old ones in the playoffs year after year. Plainview won the 3A Area 14 championship over North Sand Mountain. Fyffe beat out Ider for the 2A Area 14 championship. Sand Rock won the 2A Area 13 title over West End. Collinsville won the 1A Area 16 championship. Crossville must defeat Litchfield to gain the runner up spot in 3A Area 13. Section, Valley Head, Pisgah, Geraldine, Sylvania, and Fort Payne will watch the playoffs. Here is a look at each area team.

Plainview (1-2) - The Bears began the season 0-2 and now are one of the top teams in Class 3A. Plainview plays arch rival Sylvania next. They probably will host Good Hope in the first round.

Fyffe (7-2) - The Red Devils have had a remarkable season. Low numbers and injuries have slowed the Devils. They just find a way to win. They face Geraldine in the season finale. They will host either Clay Co. or Lineville in the playoffs. Some reward, huh?

Ider (6-3) - The Hornets have battled tough odds against a very difficult schedule. They conclude the regular season with North Sand Mountain. Ider will travel to either Clay County or Lineville for the final round of the playoffs. Good Luck!

Sand Rock (7-2) - The Wildcats were impressive in defeating Geraldine for the area championship. Sand Rock has been mediocre all season. They are putting it together at the right time. They finish the season against Pisgah. Then, they will host Tanner in the first run of the 2A playoffs.

Collinsville (5-4) - The Panthers won the 1A Area 16 championship and have ended the regular season. Collinsville started the season at 1-4 and now have won four straight.

NSM (6-2) - Thundering Heard was runner up in 3A Area 14. They finish the regular season with Ider. The Heard will probably have to travel to Hanceville for the 3A playoff.

Crossville (6-3) - The Lions have battled with a very young team. Winning breeds winning, and Crossville is proof of that. The Lions must defeat Litchfield to qualify for the 3A playoffs. Ashville is the area champ.

Sylvania (4-5) - The Bulldogs had a chance to make the playoffs, if they could have beaten Sand Rock last week. They were shelled and finish the season against Fyffe. The Dogs lose some 14 seniors.

Valley Head (2-7) - The Tigers have turned the corner. Two wins may not seem like much to you, but it is to them. They finish the season against Section. A win would give this team three wins and a huge pat on the back. The seniors on the team can hold their heads high—they never quit!

Fort Payne (4-5) - The Wildcats knew it would go as far as Daryl Pnter would take them. He has been banged up all year. Another mediocre year for the Wildcats. They finish the season with once beaten Pinson Valley.

Section (2-6) - First year Coach Paul Ellis kept the Lions in every game. They have improved dramatically. The wins have just not come their way. The Lions finish the year at Valley Head.

Pisgah (1-8) - The Eagles are young and have hung tough all year. Coach John Kirby's Eagles have had a rough season. They end the regular season with Sand Rock. The future looks bright for Pisgah.

One final note, CBS (9-7) finished in fifth place in the fall softball league. Mentone (2-14) finished ninth.

That does it for another month. God Bless.

From Between the Counters

By
BRUTUS



Devoted fans and loyal readers, greetings from Atlanta. There's not much news from over here. Moi misses the slow life between the counters, but a magnificent canine such as Moi has gotta do what I gotta do, and that means GUARD DOG extraordinaire, besides being MAN'S BEST FRIEND to those who control the cats.

Al has been so busy he hasn't had much free time to "chat" with moi about Mentone happenings.

Moi knows that Halloween is right around the corner, so parents, watch out for your precious little ones, don't let anything happen to them.

Moi wishes you all "HAPPY THANKSGIVING."

NOTICE

New Mentone Water Customers in the Lee Crowe and Baty areas who have not already signed up at the Mentone Town Hall, must call or come in and give their name, 911 address & mailing address, along with a phone number, as soon as possible.

The \$85.00 deposits will be due beginning November 15. The water lines are already in and the Hokes Bluff Construction Company is going to start installing the meters. There are wooden stakes at the Town Hall, which you may pick up to indicate where you would like the meter to be installed on the right-of-way.

Please, if you haven't signed up, come and do so as quickly as possible.

Thank you
Town of Mentone

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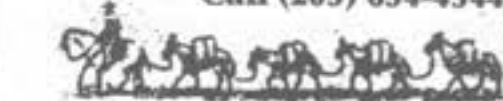
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Mentone Grapevine II

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

For those of you who know that Mentone is a bird sanctuary, you'll be glad to hear that Dr. C.O. Sennett has built a bird and wild life sanctuary on East River Road. Thank you, Dr. Sennett.

Alma Crahtree and her daughter, Rovene Truett had visitors Saturday, Oct. 17. Rovene's son, Jay Wideman and wife Paula; Paula's father, Clarence Brooks, and Mary Frances. They came to visit and attend the Colorfest. It was also Mr. Brooks' 86th birthday, but Alma said he hadn't realized it or thought about it. So, he was really surprised when he entered the dining room and everyone began singing "Happy Birthday, Brooks." Brooks received a beautiful card and gifts. On a large card was written, "Happy Birthday, Brooks." Alma's daughter, Dorothy Jean, and her two grandchildren, Rusty and Chasity Mallard, came. Alma went to the craft booths at the Colorfest with all her company—that is, after she cooked dinner for 10 people. Alma said on Monday morning she was rested and going strong, again.

Continue to keep Rev. Edmund Crowe in your prayers as he recuperates from the radiation therapy treatment he has recently undergone.

Barbara and Buddy Vetzal are in Mentone. They are looking for a place to settle in Mentone again. Buddy has recently been diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer, and needs your prayers.

Ginny Bosworth had an MRI done recently and the report was okay. Ginny still can't see well. She needs your prayers and would like to hear from her friends in Mentone and elsewhere.

Congratulations to Nikki Smith of Mentone and Ronald Bradbury of Valley Head, who were inducted into the Northeast Alabama Community College chapter of Mu Alpha Theta, a mathematics honor society.

Navy Fireman, William M. Lee, son of John and Cindy Gilbert of Valley Head, recently participated in a large training exercise aboard the aircraft carrier, USS Eisenhower. Lee is a 1995 graduate of Valley Head High School.

Andrew Habel of Mentone finished in First Place in the Doy Scout Top Gun Rifle Competition held Aug. 29. Habel attended Camp Comer. More than 450 scouts participated in the competition. Andrew received a trophy and a red hat. Congratulations, Andrew!

Continue to keep Jewel Baly of Mentone in your thoughts and prayers as she fell recently.

Sue and Bill Schwarz returned from their visit with Bill's daughter, Janet and her husband, Bob, out in Oregon, and took time to relax on their porch overlooking DeSoto Falls when they returned. It was quite a long driving trip, which they thoroughly enjoyed, but were glad to get back home. They took side trips to see parts of the beautiful west. Glad you're back home, Sue and Bill.

Linda and Scott Brubaker send word that their son, Nicholas, is doing great—he weighs 14 lbs. now and is 25" long.

Valley Head Masonic Lodge No. 394 was honored with a reception at the Valley Head Library on Monday, Oct. 26, at 6 p.m. Linda Hulan, librarian, thanked the Lodge members again for their donation to the library. Periodicals were purchased with the donation. Principal Gary Talley was unable to attend due to the critical condition of his mother.

Last month, it was reported that Lucille Crowe had cataract surgery recently. She had cataract surgery last year, not this year. OOPS! Sorry, Lucille. However, good news, recently, Lucille and her brother, Joel King and his wife, Sue, went to Washington to visit Lucille's son, Olen, and his family. They left Fort Payne on Sept. 21, headed for the northwest. They spent the night in Muskogee, OK, with Sue's brother. They went thru Dodge City, KS; Denver, CO, across the Rocky Mountains, on thru Salt Lake City, UT, on to Portland, OR, then to Longview, WA, and spent the weekend with Olen. While there, they visited Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Rainier, went thru

Yakima, WA., where the apple country is. The trees were loaded with bright red and golden yellow apples. From there, they went to the Glacier National Park in Montana, saw herds of deer and antelope, and pheasants. While out in the northwest, they saw beautiful mountain views with snow caps. They headed home, coming thru Indianapolis, IN, where they spent the night with Sue's daughter and son-in-law. They arrived home on Oct. 6, having traveled through 18 states and driving more than 6,000 miles. They "had a wonderful time," Lucille said.

This past week, Evelyn Bain lost her mother who lived in Tuscaloosa. Ethel Manifold-Gregory, Bobbie Smith and Evelyn attended the funeral in Tuscaloosa on Tuesday, Oct. 27. Keep Evelyn in your prayers.

On the way back from the funeral, they hoped they would be able to stop in and check on Ernest Smith, who is recuperating from several surgical operations in the past month. He is in Birmingham at Carraway Hospital. Please keep him on your prayer list. Ernest is Mentone's resident historian and has written several articles for *The Groundhog* and for other publications. He has done quite a lot of research and is an excellent writer.

Congratulations to young weather artists from Valley Head whose drawings have appeared recently in the *Times-Journal*: Ben Sharp, 6, of Valley Head (9/30); Jesse Bryant, 6, (10/3-4); Amelia Hannah, 8, (10/9); and Amber Carrier, 9, (10/16); Zachary David Craven, 9, (10/27).

Deepest sympathies to the families of the following who have passed away:

•Mrs. Pluma E. Clark Biddle, 91, of Valley Head, Oct. 8;
Happy Belated September Birthday wishes to Fena Smith who was 85 on September 13. Many happy returns, Fena.

Happy Belated October Birthday wishes to •6- Bryan Green (in memory of); •24- Kyle Rape, Marsha Bon Fleur, •30-Tony Goggans.

Happy November Birthdays to: •2- Roger Allen Brooks; •3- Sandy Hulan, Emily Platt, Phil Howard; •4- Pat Lewis; •5- Ronnie Robertson, Gail Worthey Chambers, Tracy Platt; •6- Tommy Harrison III, Duane Blalock; •7- Rhonda Lasser, Carolyn Shaw; •8- Jonathon Black (4 yrs.), Michael Harrison; Jason Owen; •9- Carol Hazell, Buddy Burnett, Laura Harrison McKenzie, Melissa Worthey Miller, Richard Green; •10-Velendia Miracle; •11- Andy Harcrow, Gerry Bain; •12- Ovie Blalock; •13- Lendell Chappell, Phyllis Carter, Kim Langston Railey; •14- Kenneth Hammond, Austin Harrison; •15- Lee Carden; •17- Randy Green (Conroe, Tx); Lorelei Dillenbeck Lauro (Va); LeLani Dillenbeck (Va); •18- Sharlie Harcrow; •19- Tara Cahill; •21- Carolyn Hicks, Keith Hadley, Gerald Bailey; •23- Dr. Pat Seymour (In Memory of), Beaver Fisher, Teresa Brown (Gulfport, MS); •24-Jessica Thornberry; •25-Robin Westbrook; •26- Krissy Worthey Harris, Bill Miracle, W.A. & Polly Chambers (Anniv.), Jan White; •27- Bill Schwarz, Carrie Ruth Kirby, Kim Worthey, Lesley Blalock; •28- Jo Beube, Maxine Wright, Florence Mays, Adam Tuxbury, Christina Armstrong, Patricia Kellett, Velendia and Bill Mincele (Anniv.); •29- Claudia Croston, Brian Blalock; •30- Joyce Blankenship.



WE SALUTE OUR NATION'S HEROES

THANK YOU

The Moon Lake Elementary School PTO, staff, students, and parents would like to thank everybody who participated in the fundraiser to put a new floor in the gym. They were successful in raising enough money to get started on the floor. The community support was just tremendous. Thank you all, so much.

The winners in the drawing on October 17, were:

Worth Construction, Ider, Al
Cindy Jones, Mentone
Karen Herndon, Mentone
Susan Hooks, Mentone
J.P. Smith, Menlo
Melanie Blackwell, Eleanor Moerlins, and Midgley
Joy Hester, Valley Head
Mabel Kirk, Mentone/San Francisco, CA
Bobby Lee Cook
Rhododendron Garden Club, Mentone
Rusty Chambers, Mentone
Ann Hyatt, Florida/Mentone
Kenneth/Flo Kirby, Mentone
Mary Jenkins, Maryland
Kevin/Tammy Womack, Sylvania

Valley Head School News

By Lisa Moore

The Valley Head PTO officers apologize for any inconvenience the cancellation of the October meeting caused. The meeting was canceled due to a few small last-minute problems.

The winners of the beautiful afghans given away by the 6th grade class were Raymond Blalock and Lisa Moore. Marsha McKinney worked very hard on these, and her hard work and talent shows. The money raised goes to the class trip to Space Camp in Huntsville.

Mr. Gary Talley's mother hasn't been feeling well, lately, and we send our get well wishes to her.

Congratulations to the exchange students who attend Valley Head High School. Their homecoming float won 1st place in the parade. They did an excellent job and had some great artists working for them.

Brandy Jackson was chosen as the 1998 Homecoming Queen. Her court consisted of Princesses: Tabitha Brisendine, and Amanda Goss. Her attendants were: 11th - Candace Fuller, 10th - Becky Mays, 9th - Lacie Clure, and 8th - Kelly Owen.

Before kickoff at the homecoming game between Valley Head and Gaylesville, a special ceremony was held to retire Ken Hammond's jersey. Ken graduated from Valley Head in 1978, and went on to play for Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN; and then played for the Dallas Cowboys. The Valley Head Class of 1978 held a special 20 year class reunion and some of the other players who graduated in 1978 were also present.

The Valley Head Band competed at the 1998 DeKalb County Marching Festival and received all superior ratings for the 14th year in a row. Congratulations to the band!



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Mountain Mama's is open only Saturdays and Sundays in November, except right after Thanksgiving, when there will be a big sale on everything in the store. They will close on Nov. 29, until it gets warmer.

"Returning to our Roots"

Continued from page 1.



Cottage at the Carmichael Estate where we stayed



Linda and Emmy at St. Andrews walking along the North Sea



The Carmichael Castle being restored at the Estate

cashmere sweaters imaginable) and we briefly toured Old Cross Kirk, a beautiful thirteenth century church.

Scottish weather is notoriously unpredictable, and we experienced a light shower when we left Peebles for nearby historic Melrose. Our research had turned up a lovely old inn, Burt's Hotel, which had been highly recommended for lunch. We were not disappointed, and a little over an hour later we headed to the outskirts of town to visit Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott. In the dining room was a beautiful bay window, overlooking the lush gardens below. The story is that Sir Walter had his deathbed moved to this window so that he might forever see his beloved River Tweed.

Lady Patricia and Sir Richard Carmichael (the chieftain of the Carmichael clan) had invited us to their home that evening to meet two other Carmichael families who were visiting the estate. Peter Carmichael and his family had come from Essex, England, and Ann and Jack Carmichael were vacationing from their home in Guatemala, where they own a rubber plantation. (A note from the "small world file": Jack and Ann's daughter and son-in-law own a summer home in Fairhope, AL-- so we did have a little something in common, after all.)

Afterwards, we drove to Lanark (Carmichael is situated evenly between Biggar and Lanark) and when stopping for "petrol," Linda and I solicited opinions on where to eat dinner. Food is taken very seriously in Scotland, and the dinner meal can take hours from start to finish. Thanks to the station manager's advice, we ate a wonderful meal at a quaint little tavern downtown.

The next morning, we were up early and ready to journey to St. Andrews, home of golf's prestigious British Open. St. Andrews castle, and one of the oldest educational institutes in Scotland, St. Andrews University. The drive was one of the most scenic so far. After crossing the Forth Road Bridge, which spanned the Firth of Forth, we followed the coastline for quite a distance, stopping along the way to admire the scenery. At St. Andrews, we parked on the beach beside the North Sea and walked up the sandy boardwalk to the velvety, green golf course. Although we weren't golfers, we enthusiastically spent the next hour in the Links Clubhouse buying gifts and souvenirs for friends and spouses, and enjoying a delicious lunch. Linda trekked up to the historic Old Course Clubhouse. This exclusive club is open to the public only one day a year - St. Andrew's Day, when they even allow women to tour the building. Emmy thought it was a little ironic

that women weren't allowed membership in St. Andrews Old Course, considering it was a woman who founded the course in the 15th century - Mary, Queen of Scots.

Upon returning to Carmichael that evening, there remained enough daylight to walk over the estate to the castle. Sir Richard had warned us that construction equipment would be scattered about; he is heading up the vast renovation which, from the looks of things, will take years to complete. It was easy to see, however, that it had once been a beautiful sixteenth-century castle and the three of us stood looking at it for a long time, trying to imagine what life there must have been like then.

Our last day in Carmichael was started by visiting the village church and graveyard, where we saw ornate seventeenth century headstones of the wife and daughter of James Carmichael. Inside the small church were more plaques commemorating different Carmichael family members, as well as some beautiful stained glass windows. Finally we saw the tiny Carmichael schoolhouse, which appeared to be in excellent condition and cheerfully painted and decorated. I have to say that it was really something to be in the buildings and around the land where our ancestors once worked and lived. That was truly the highlight of our visit.

For the remainder of the day, we drove to Edinburgh and toured Edinburgh Castle, which was the home of Mary, Queen of Scots. You tend to put history into perspective when you walk among walls built in the 1100's. We agreed it was no wonder the British regarded America as just an upstart, even after two hundred years. It rained most of the morning - if you ever go to Scotland, carry two things for sure: an umbrella and a raincoat! After the castle, Linda and Emmy found a comfortable place to seat me (the Royal Museum of Art), and left to shop on Prince's Street. Even though they promised to be back shortly, I now have the art museum film strip memorized and had to move outside to a park bench when the museum closed for the day. They eventually did return, however, (each said the other had taken an especially long time) and we made it back to Carmichael to pack for the next day's trip to London.

Once again we boarded the *Flying Scotsman* for King's Cross Station in London, and the trip reinforced the beauty of the countryside and coastline. Traveling at about 110-115 mph, it wasn't hard to see how the train got its name. In London, we spent the next day

shopping and sightseeing. While Linda and Emmy invaded Harrod's department store (where they ended up buying an extra suitcase in which to pack all of their purchases), I hailed a taxi and had it take me by landmarks such as Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, and Hyde Park. That evening the girls attended a musical, "Miss Saigon," at the Royal Theatre on Drury Lane.

The trip to Gatwick Airport took us about an hour and a half on Tuesday morning. Unfortunately, we did not get "bumped" up to Business Class on the flight home, as we had on the trip over, so things were a bit more crowded. I believe, however, we were so tired and full of stories to tell that our seats did not really matter.

Thanks to Linda and Emmy for making this a dream come true. And my special thanks and appreciation to Doris, who generously stayed with the grandchildren and made sure everything went smoothly at home. There is something very special about being able to see your family's "roots," and I will always treasure the chance I had to see mine.

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Cub and Michele have had a booth for the past three festivals in Mentone. They display the split rail fence and the stack rock fountains, planters, and bird baths.

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(1) **EAST BROW, CLOUDLAND, GA.** What a view from these 2 to 3 acre lots located off Hwy 157 North. Rock formations, wooded, private with 100 to 250 ft. of breath-taking edge of the world view. Starting at \$32,000. Owner financing.



(2) **100 YEAR OLD OAK TREES.** Shade the 3 bdrm, 2 bath Older Home Located on Cutler Ave., MENTONE. 2 story with Detached Garage, City Water, Cable, and Walking distance to Downtown. \$61,900.



(3) **12 ACRES ON EAST FORK LITTLE RIVER.** Wooded and Private with 330 ft. of Water frontage. Relax on the Large Flat rock in the middle of River. \$78,000.



(4) **LAUREL CREEK LAKES SUBDIVISION.** Wooded lots starting at \$8,500. Lakeside (3 left) and pasture lots (2 left) starting at \$12,500. Mentone area, County Road 106. Common areas for hiking and fishing. Restrictive covenants. Owner financing available.



(5) **MOUNTAIN RIVER ESTATES** Phase 1 & 2 now open. 3 to 5 acre tracts on the middle Fork of Little River. Located on Lookout Mountain Parkway, 4 miles from downtown Mentone and 2 miles from the Ga. line. River front tracts starting at \$27,500, and 4-15 acre wooded stream tracts.



(6) **ONE BLOCK FROM VALLEY HEAD SCHOOL.** Maintenance free vinyl sided, 3 bdrm, 1 bath, mostly Hardwood floor, ample closets, Carport, Fenced back yard. \$42,000.



(7) **WILD RIVER COMMUNITY.** 100x300 ft. lots on the East Fork Little River. Secluded and Scenic. \$10,000 each. ALSO AVAILABLE 29 acres with over 800 ft. of river frontage for canoeing, fishing. \$85,000.



(8) **FARM WITH A VIEW** 20 acres of pasture, on the West Brow of Lookout Mountain. 3 - Bdrm 2 bath custom-built Modular Home. Living room, Dining, Den with Rock fireplace, C/H/A, all appliances. Also a 30x40 Garage/storage building. Beautiful panoramic Vista. \$125,000.



(9) **187 ACRES ON THE EAST BROW LOOKOUT MTN.** Over 1,000 ft. of frontage. Rock formations, spring fed pond, artesian well, electric, and approx 8 acres cleared. Joining Wildlife Management and NP3. \$158,000.



(10) **CLOUDLAND, GA.** Home or business could be the agents of this 3 bedroom, 2 bath, approx. 1,500 sq. ft. completely fenced, stone fireplace, C/H/A, rustic pine paneled, on 1 acre. Located on Lookout Mountain Parkway, Hwy 48. \$48,000. May be leased for business. Call for details.



(11) **GET AWAY FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF CITY LIFE.** and enjoy the peaceful serenity of Little River Canyon. BONUS-2 Bdr, 2 bath home, 1-1/2 story with open Great Room, Stone fireplace, C/H/A. 7 acres with creek and Waterfall. Located Canyon View Forest. "WOW!" \$150,000.



(12) **MENTONE CONNECTION.** Two story Cedar and Log Home on the West Brow, 1 mile from Downtown. 4 Bdr (master 1st level) 5-1/2 baths. Hard Pine Plank Flooring in Living, Dining, Den, Kitchen. Fireplace w/insert, C/H/A, lots of storage and closets. Large Deck and Screened Porch for enjoying the Sunsets. 3 acres ML. \$240,000.

OTHER PROPERTIES

- (14) **INDIAN TRAILS** over 3 acre tracts on the highest point on the Brow overlooking North Fort Payne valley, to the Cumberland Plateau. City water available, access to and overlooking private lakes. Private access. Off Citadel Rock Rd. Restrictive covenants. \$80,000 each.
- (16) **20 ACRES** Wooded with Springs, Hollows, and Rock formations. Located on Co. Rd. 553, Mentone. \$48,000. Also available 10 acres and up ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,500 per acre. Owner financing to qualified.
- (14) **DEBOTO PARKWAY - (LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN PARKWAY)** 1.5 acres ML, wooded, city water and natural gas available. Minutes from State Park and Fort Payne. \$14,500.
- (17) **30 ACRES ON THE WEST BROW.** Old scenic road, minutes from State Park. Enjoy the privacy, peaceful woodlands, and panoramic view. Priced at only \$136,000. Owner finance.
- (18) **OAKWOOD ESTATES** - 3 plus acre wooded and Pasture tracts available. Located in Mentone, County Road 106. Restricted Covenants. For permanent or Vacation Residential Homes. \$8,500 to \$12,500.
- (13) **COTTAGE ON LAKE LAHUSAGE** - Furnished, Rustic 3 bdrm 1 bath, Fireplace, 2 decks and screened porch. All appliances. Also Efficiency Apartment above garage. Creek on the West Boundary. A unique structure with lots of Mountain Stone Accents. Dock on Lake.
- (20) **VALLEY VIEW FOREST.** 6 to 17 acre Tracts on East Brow overlooking Pleasant Valley and Weiss Lake, and adjoins National Preserve. \$10,000 to \$35,000.
- (21) **FOR RENT.** 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, cabin in Downtown Mentone by the week or Weekend. Also 1 bedroom, 1 bath Log Cabin, fireplace and large screened porch. Call for info. Angela Wood (1-888-256-1276)

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FIREFIGHTERS SAY PROPERTY OWNERS WOULD BENEFIT FROM LOCAL AMENDMENT ONE

The benefits of Local Amendment One (Act. No. 97-810), if approved in the upcoming election on Nov. 3, will far outweigh the cost, said Mike Leath, president of the DeKalb County Fireman's Association.

It would create a three-mill ad valorem tax in some areas of the county to generate additional funding for volunteer fire departments in rural areas.

Many firefighters have worked for years to get this type of act passed. Dick Keefer of Mentone and a member of the Board of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (NLMFPD), said that, "When passed, this Act would mean that the NLMFPD would realize \$10,000-12,000 each year to be used for anything except personnel." With the need for additional and/or new equipment and training, plus ongoing expenses, including insurance and upkeep of the equipment, the passage of this Act is greatly needed. It not only helps the NLMFPD, but other volunteer fire departments, also.

Insurance ratings are determined by the Insurance Service Organization (ISO), which inspects all fire departments to determine how well equipped they are to handle blazes, thereby analyzing the amount of money insurance companies should collect in premiums in anticipation of repairing or replacing burned homes.

Leath said the DeKalb County Commission would collect the money, but would not have any influence over how it is spent. The fireman's association would collect the funds and divide them equally among the volunteer fire departments. "It can't be used for personnel," Leath said.

"If a home is appraised at \$50,000, this will translate into \$15 a year," Leath said. "If that same homeowner can see the fire insurance rating drop by just one point, they can save between \$200-\$250 a year on their homeowners insurance."

According to the ISO, the average cost of insurance on a \$50,000 home is:

Class 10 - \$644	Class 6 - \$267
Class 9 - \$562	Class 5 - \$523
Class 8 - \$419	Class 3 - \$246
Class 7 - \$296	Class 2 - \$246

According to the ISO, the average cost of insurance on a \$100,000 home is:

Class 10 - \$1233	Class 6 - \$507
Class 9 - \$1065	Class 5 - \$480
Class 8 - \$792	Class 3 - \$466
Class 7 - \$562	Class 2 - \$466

This amendment will help Mentone, as well as other rural volunteer fire departments, since the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (NLMFPD) is located in Mentone and is a volunteer fire department. It will also help reduce insurance ratings by allowing NLMFPD to acquire and/or upgrade more equipment, and train personnel. Local president, Jim Roberts, along with the members of the board, ask that voters please vote YES on Local Amendment One (Act. No. 97-810).

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on

Local Amendment One
(Act. No. 97-810)

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GARDEN HINTS

By Madeleine Bullock

Now that El Nino has retreated, our weather should get back to what we consider normal--barring the effects of global warming.

This bit of important news seems to be a little late, but I will pass it on anyway. Researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported a higher than usual outbreak of botulism and are cautioning people to add lemon juice to any tomatoes that were canned, as the new fruits have been genetically altered to have less acid; therefore, the usual canning methods will not suffice. Also, the practice of foil-wrapped baked potatoes have led to botulism outbreaks. Potatoes are covered with *Clostridium botulism*, spores that germinate in the anaerobic (living, active, or occurring in the absence of free oxygen) environment created by the foil. The potato skin in foil does not get hot enough to eliminate botulism, then spores germinate as the low-acid food cools in the absence of air. Refrigerating foil-wrapped food soon after baking halts the production of toxin from germination spores before it hits dangerous levels. Baking the potato without foil or eating it soon after cooking prevents the problem.

Bottled oils with herbs or vegetables have also led to botulism outbreaks. They should be refrigerated after use and stored a few weeks at most.

Southern gardeners can usually work outdoors most of the year, and this is the time for planting bulbs, moving shrubs, pruning fruit trees, crepe myrtles, and dividing perennials. Begin preparing the perennial garden for winter by removing dead foliage and old flowers. After the first frost, which is predicted for the latter part of October, cut down dead stems and remove other growth that will die to the ground, leaving ornamental grasses and other winter plants.

This fall, I have noticed that my rose bushes and buds and various other plants have been suffering from black spot, powdery/downy mildew and/or mold which is not usual. Downy mildews are fungal diseases and the primary symptom is a white to purple, downy growth, usually on the underside of leaves and along stems, which turns black with age; upper leaf surfaces have a pale color. Molds are characterized by a powdery or woolly appearance on the surface of the infected part. Gray mold (botrytis) is a common problem on many fruits and flowers and thrives in moist conditions. It appears as a thick, gray mold or as water-soaked blighted regions of petals, leaves or stems. Peonies, tulips and lilies can be severely damaged in wet seasons. Destroy infected material, and space, prune and support plants to encourage good air movement. If you decide to use a fungicide, select the least toxic substance that will prevent or control the problem. Always take appropriate safety precautions when applying.

Oils seem to help prevent fungal rusts and mildews. A thorough spray of vegetable or light horticultural oil coats plant surfaces acting as a barrier to infection. Garlic also appears to be a fungicide, as well as an insecticide. Mix 5-10 cloves with one pint of water in a blender. Strain and spray plants. Horsetail infusion sprayed on plants may help prevent fungal diseases. Baking soda prevents fungal spores from establishing themselves on plants and may even prevent established fungi from continuing to develop. Dissolve one teaspoon of baking soda and a few drops of soap in 2 quarts of water and spray.

Sulphur prevents the development of disease organisms, however, it also damages important soil micro-organisms and beneficial insects, and it is moderately toxic to mammals, including humans. Copper is a powerful fungicide that kills disease organisms. It damages beneficial soil micro-organisms and beneficial insects and is more toxic than sulphur to plants. Copper sulfate has been used as an herbicide to control annual weeds, but repeated applications of any copper product will stunt plants. Copper sulfate is classified as very toxic to humans.



INDIAN AMERICAN EDUCATION/ INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN EDUCATION (IAE, INC.)

In a news release faxed on 10/14/98 to *The Groundhog* by Patricia Edwards de Ortega, Executive Director, IAE, she requested that certain information be printed to clear up a discrepancy that was discovered, which attached to IAE, Inc. In two departments of the State of Alabama: the Department of Revenue and the Secretary of State, certain errors occurred, which recently were corrected by these departments.

Since 1987, the Alabama Department of Revenue had a clerical error about IAE's Federal Identification Number in its records. IAE's number was attached to the Golf corporation, which we understand was only in existence for two years. (IAE had never even heard of this corporation until four weeks ago.) IAE was not even listed with the Department of Revenue because we did not have to pay state taxes. For the past ten years, IAE only had to send tax papers to the Attorney General, since we are a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. (All donations to IAE are considered a charitable tax-deductible donation.) Perhaps if we had been listed with the Department of Alabama Department of Revenue, IAE would have learned of this error earlier.

A letter from the Alabama Department of Revenue, dated September 22, 1998, addressed to Mrs. Edwards stated: "I am writing to provide clarification concerning the federal employer identification number (FEIN) assigned to IAE Inc. Our records currently reflect the FEIN of IAE Inc. was assigned to Golf Road Inc. Apparently, the Department of Revenue had previously received erroneous information which resulted in the assignment of IAE Inc federal employer identification number to Golf Road Inc. We have corrected our records based on the information provided."

A letter from the Corporations Division of the Office of the Secretary of State of Alabama, dated September 24, 1998, addressed to Mrs. Edwards stated: "Regarding your domestic nonprofit corporation IAE, Inc. recorded and filed in the Marshall County, Alabama, Judge of Probate's office on March 17, 1987. As you are aware, the date of the incorporation was inadvertently posted in our office incorrectly. In 1985, the Alabama Nonprofit Corporations Act specified the Judge of Probate's Office to forward a copy of all nonprofits formed to the Alabama Office of the Secretary of State for recording. For some reason we never received a copy of the IAE, Inc. Articles of Incorporation. Regrettably, we never learn of these omissions until we are contacted by corporation and we then correct our records. However, in correcting the omission of your nonprofit corporation from the Secretary of State's records, the date was entered incorrectly."

Because Marshall County failed to mail in 1987 IAE's incorporation documents to the Secretary of State and did not mail these documents until 1997, the Secretary of State assumed that it was a new corporation and noted incorrectly the incorporation date of 1997 instead of 1987. Therefore for nine years, IAE was not even listed with the Secretary of State and when it was finally listed, it was with the wrong date.

Though IAE was unaware of these errors, for ten years these errors have caused IAE to lose funding and other support from corporations (both inside and outside of the state), members of the Alabama legislature, other state entities, individual donors.

These errors created the impression that IAE was not a legal corporation and nothing that IAE said was credible, since what IAE said was different from what the state said. IAE does not cast blame upon the state. IAE did not check to see that information about IAE was at the state level and these departments were also unaware that they had errors in their records. Now that these errors have been corrected, IAE sincerely hopes to regain its credibility and support for implementation of IAE's Language/Cultural Center near Mentone and international "Distance Learning" programs.

Recently, USDA awarded IAE slightly over \$349,000. Someone asked, "How did you get this award when these errors existed at the state level?" USDA required our IRS determination letter and did not check with the state. This award will fund teleconference equipment and training for 3 schools in Alabama, 2 schools in Oregon, and 1 school in California. After installation of equipment, these schools will be connected to each other and to other states and countries."

Lookout Mountain's Natural Healing

By Laura Catherine, also known as Moon

Upon arrival on Lookout Mountain, I prayed that I would meet someone knowledgeable about alternative healing and the native plants and trees of the area. My prayers were answered the first day I opened Mountain Memories. I met Maralyn Wrigley, my neighbor, now friend and mentor, in the Log Cabin Village in the heart of Mentone, AL. Maralyn is a native of Lookout Mountain in the Little River Canyon area.

"I first became interested in herbs and alternative medicine back in the late 60s," Maralyn says, "when my oldest son developed juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, and my second son developed an intolerance to penicillin. I began a search for books with information I needed to help my sons. My oldest son's pain was so bad at times, I had to assist him when he walked."

"One of the first books I found was *Folk Medicine*, by D.C. Jarvis, M.D. He praised the usefulness of apple cider vinegar." Apple cider vinegar, honey, alternative medicine and prayers healed Maralyn's son, Dan Burt, of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Dan went on to run track in high school.

After her son was healed, Maralyn moved on to many other books on herbs. Today, her personal library consists of 30 books or more on herbs and alternative healing.

"For years, I read articles written by Mr. Tommie Bass," said Maralyn. "I acquired some knowledge from these writings. In the early 90s, I began to visit Mr. Tommie at his home in Leesburg, AL, near a place called Shinhone Ridge. I would go there with my list of questions, and always left with an answer to all. Mr.

Tommie was so well respected for his knowledge of herbs, he was asked to teach classes at Duke University." In Maralyn's library, she has a copy of one of Mr. Tommie's teaching books, which also has notes written on the pages regarding his studies with a Native American Medicine man.

"People came from everywhere to ask Mr. Tommie Bass advice on herbs and their uses," continued Maralyn. Not only was he willing to answer all of your questions, but just as willing to go out and fetch a handful of fresh herbs growing nearby so you could identify them first hand." Maralyn told me that Mr. Bass said for her to pass the knowledge on. That is just what she is doing for me and all that come to her in need.

"I will always be thankful for the time I spent with him (Mr. Tommie Bass)," Maralyn says. "I will always remember his words to me, 'You keep reading your herb books, young lady, and you will make a fine herbalist.' No sweeter person have I ever met, and I miss him dearly." Mr. Tommie Bass lived from 1908 to 1996.

Maralyn does not try to take the place of modern doctors. She still does not consider herself a healer, but she does consider herself an herbalist. I am thankful to know Maralyn. I hope we can bring you more stories and knowledge in the future.

If you need to get in contact with Maralyn or me, come see us on the weekends at Granny's Pastries and Mountain Memories in the Log Cabin Village, or write P.O. Box 224, Mentone, AL 35984.

Words to live by: An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.



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DESOTO RESCUE SQUAD NEWS

By Jennifer Smith

Hello, friends! Hope everyone is enjoying this cooler weather! We have been busy working on our building so, hopefully, we can be moved in by winter. We've just completed our office and the tin for the roof has been delivered. A painting session is next on our agenda. Besides working on our building, we have been busy making travel plans for the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads annual convention in Gulf Shores, Ala., this month. Several members from our squad go down each year for the classes and competitions that are held. We are all looking forward to it!

We would also like to welcome new member, Anthony Brown. Anthony lives in Mentone and is enthusiastically taking on his new responsibilities as a DeSoto Rescue Squad member. We are still taking applications, so any interested persons can contact any member, sit in on a meeting, or phone for an application.

Once again, we would like to thank everyone for their continue support. Thank you!

DeSoto Rescue Squad is a non-profit, all-volunteer emergency medical response unit. Your support is greatly appreciated. For emergencies, please dial 911.

Richard Douthat - Capt. - 634-4813
Jennifer Smith - 1st Lieut. - 634-4577
Lisa Scott - Sec/Treas - 634-4207

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AUTHENTIC LOG CABIN AT LAKE LANUSAGE - NEW floors, ceiling, tin roof and well pump! 1 BR, 1 BTH, large greatroom (with stone fireplace) and dining combination (16' x 36'), located across the street from the dam on almost an acre. A GREAT RETREAT! **PRICED AT \$55,000.00.**



CAN'T DECIDE, LAKE OR BROW PROPERTY? We have lake and brow homesites with common areas to each at Lake on the Brow Subdivision. Protective and Restrictive Covenants. Special Feature: adjoins the 14,000 ac. Little River National Wildlife Preserve! Provides hunting, fly-fishing, white water rafting, and beautiful mountain hiking, to mention a few recreational activities! **NOW OPEN, Phase II.**

WEST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER - 3 ac. tracts, 150' to 300' River frontage on the Pristine Little River. Choose from gentle flowing to the ever so soothing effect of the white water rapids! Protective & Restrictive Covenants.

NEW HOME ON THE EAST BROW - UNDER CONSTRUCTION at Lake on the Brow subdivision, 3 BR, 2 BTH, great-room (with cathedral ceiling and stone fireplace), kitchen (with built-in), breakfast area, formal dining room and master suite. Central heat and air, 2 car garage and a bonus room. **ALL ON ONE LEVEL! PRICED AT \$195,000.00.**

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On the veranda at Nippersink Lodge in the autumnal splendor of the woods on the bank of the Little River just above DeSoto Falls, the Rhododendron Garden Club met at 12:30 p.m. on October 13. President Jan Wilkinson called the meeting to order and explained how each of the ladies was supposed to go through the list of names in the year book, talk to the next person directly above her (and present), get two personal facts about that person, and then report at roll call after the serving of refreshments.

In the absence of Vice-President Flo Kirby, Mrs. Dallyne Jones read an inspirational devotional consisting of the poem "Beauty Distilled By Solitude" by Ruth Bell Graham (Mrs. Billy Graham) and selected recitations from the Psalms. Mrs. Lois Pearl led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Wilkinson welcomed everybody and thanked the hostesses—Mrs. Geraldine Disney, Mrs. Hope Walker, Mrs. Dianne Kuehl, and Mrs. Betty Chapman—who served a light lunch of chicken casserole, a cranberry aspic creation, and a broccoli and onion salad in a contrasting sour sweet dressing with coffee and tea and pizelles ever so lightly dusted with powdered sugar as a sweet.

Secretary Marilyn Blanton Campbell called the roll, and the ladies present answered with the name of a native tree, and the facts about the person immediately preceding them on the club roster. Secretary Campbell continued with the reading of the minutes from the August meeting, and those were adopted as read. The Rhododendron Garden Club had no regular September meeting, as they met at Lookout Mountain, Inc., in Valley Head, with ladies from all the various garden clubs in the DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs. Benny Campbell gave his traditional annual demonstration of various floral designs using this year's theme for the VFW fair—"Discover America—The Beautiful"—in preparation for the flower show at the VFW DeKalb County Agricultural Fair in Fort Payne. Benny Campbell always presents lots of useful information in addition to giving a good show, and the federation ladies see his demonstration as the high point of the garden club year.

Treasurer Barbara Blalock gave the financial reports. Mrs. Blalock was the Flower Show Chairman for the DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs, and she gave a report on the show. It was a tremendous success especially considering the dry weather and the fact that so few people had anything in the way of flowers and/or foliage to show. Each garden club had a club member do a floral design and place it in an elegant archway under extremely flattering lights. The club's design, done by Mrs. Rovene Truett on behalf of the group, won the blue ribbon in that category. The club took great pride in winning the blue ribbon. For their educational exhibit on the gardens at Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson at Charlottesville, Virginia, the club won a yellow ribbon. A tremendous amount of work went into the exhibit. The idea was to inspire interest among the public at large in restoring, maintaining, and visiting the gardens at various historical sites. The DeKalb Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs see that as a very important endeavor and want to promote it. There were handouts from that exhibit left over after the flower show, which were distributed during the meeting.

Mrs. Ann Wright reported on the Ecoteers and Junior Gardeners at the Moon Lake School. There are four groups ranging from kindergarten through grade three, and the plans are for them to study "Wildlife of Alabama," "Plants of Alabama," "Earth Day Activities," "Air Quality Control," "Solid Waste Management," "Hazardous Waste Management," and "Waterways of Alabama," as well as making butterflies to decorate Mentone's Christmas tree at the Town Hall. Mrs. Wright had with her beautiful posters for use with each lesson.

Under unfinished business, the Special Projects Report was given by President Jan Wilkinson. The Rhododendron Garden Club shares jointly with the Mentone Area Preservation Association the responsibility for cleaning out around and main-

taining the rhododendrons along the boardwalk in Mentone, and it was reported that this is M.A.P.A.'s year to do that. The Heritage Garden at the Community House was also included in the Special Projects report. Because of the very dry weather there was little work done. Treasurer Barbara Blalock reported that a donation had been made to the Heritage Garden, and President Wilkinson asked ladies to bring plants to the next meeting for re-establishing the garden.

Mrs. Heather Nicely reported on the condition of the gardens at Moon Lake School. The watering that the ladies of the Rhododendron Garden Club did this summer was very much appreciated by the plants concerned. It was necessary to haul water over there, which was a major undertaking. Since then, a hydrant to accommodate a hose for watering the gardens has been installed by Lyle Nicely—and the ladies were extremely grateful for that. Mrs. Nicely went on to tell about the effort that is under way to provide the students at Moon Lake with a gym floor that is wood. Over the years, Moon Lake students have suffered from broken arms, legs, teeth, etc., due to playing daily on a concrete floor that becomes even more dangerous in wet weather when the least little bit of moisture makes the surface as slick as if it had been greased. A motion was made by numerous ladies to have the Rhododendron Garden Club buy one ticket for the Moon Lake PTO's fund raiser, and lots of people seconded the motion. Before the meeting ended, Treasurer Barbara Blalock had written and presented the check to Mrs. Nicely. (Note: the Club won \$200, which they promptly donated back to the school.)

Under New Business, President Wilkinson reminded the ladies that the afternoon of November 29, at 2:00 p.m., at the DeKalb County Library (this is the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend) the DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs will be having their Every Light A Prayer For Peace Ceremony. That is a very short—roughly 20 minutes—and extremely meaningful service to lead the community into the Christmas season especially in this era of continual war and rumor of war (particularly in Eastern Europe), and the ladies of the Rhododendron Garden Club would like to encourage everybody to attend.

The Sickness and Worry Report caught the ladies up on community misery and birthdays.

There were multiple drawings for door prizes. Mrs. Mary Crow won the main prize which was a lovely framed copy of Sidney Lanier Gibson's poem, "Mentone," and a distinctive lapel pin featuring a floral arrangement emerging from a container fashioned by local artist Sandra Johnson of Valley Head, both of which were provided by Mrs. Rovene Truett from her shop called Ro's Kreations on Alabama Highway 117. Mrs. Ruby Daniel won the flower arrangement that featured fall flowers in an attractive array of autumnal hues. Treasurer Barbara Blalock and Mrs. Lois Pearl also won extremely healthy looking Jade Plants.

With a simple, "She knows," President Jan Wilkinson concluded her introduction of Mrs. Ann Wright who gave an extremely interesting overview of native trees. Mrs. Wright, who used *A Key To Common Trees Of Alabama* by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System as her text, started off with the arbutus looking Post Oak that was so named because people used it to make various kinds of posts, and she made the point that anybody who had one of those was lucky, because they are not that common any more. She concluded with the Buffalo Nut tree and tried to hit the high spots in between.

The White Oak tends to grow some 60 to 90 feet tall and quite straight, lives from 500 to 1000 years, and is one of the prettiest trees we have. Normally, in the fall, its leaves turn red. It is usually identified by either its bark or the shape of its leaves. The Loblolly Pine grows rapidly and makes a pretty shade tree when it stands by itself. The Virginia Pine tends to retain its cones rather than dropping them. Mrs. Wright also talked about the Jack Pine.

The Tulip Poplar has brittle wood, and the roots tend to be invasive getting into everything. The Sugar Maple grows from

60 to 75 feet high. The Red Maple was mentioned. The Silver Maple has troublesome roots that get into everything and should be avoided. It is best left where it grows in the woods.

The Hickory tree grows tall and straight, has bright yellow leaves in the fall, and produces nuts that are usually difficult to crack and pick out, but they have a good flavor. Black Walnut trees also produce delicious and highly flavored nuts that are difficult to crack and pick out, as well as wood that requires up to seven years of air drying before it can be made into furniture, paneling, etc.

The Wild Cherry is a tree that most people would not want to have in their yards purely because most of them have web worms, but it has berries that birds enjoy very much. A Sycamore tree grows rapidly, is long lived, and is beautiful in a wet site, but it is entirely too messy to have in anybody's yard. The Box Elder was mentioned just in passing. The Beech Tree is naturally tall and has leaves that look like parchment at the bottom.

The Black Gum is remembered by many Southerners because of the so-called "toothbrushes" that folks who used to dip snuff made by chewing its twigs. The Service Berry was named that because it was in bloom when the circuit riding preacher came around to do all the weddings, christenings, etc., in the spring. The "Grandsie Greybeard" or "Fringe Tree" has berries that birds like to eat and white flowers that hang like long whiskers, smell especially good, and upset many people's allergies.

Dogwoods, particularly at higher elevations are being plagued by insects, diseases—the most dreadful of which right now is anthracosis—and stress problems. The pink dogwood is native. The dogwood's leaves turn red in the fall, and it has red berries in the winter. People are still buying dogwoods. The Sourwood goes in the same category with the dogwood in that it has beautifully colored yellow, red, and purple leaves. In July, its flowers, like Lily of the Valley, hang down, and they make great honey. That is an excellent tree to put next to the patio.

It is best to wait until after frost to cut the yellow orange fruit of the Persimmon Tree. Sassafras trees are particularly bothered by Japanese Beetles, but the context in which most people know that particular tree is in the especially good tasting tea that is made from its leaves.

The female American Holly Tree has the red berries we naturally think of in connection with Christmas. Most of the American Holly Trees have been cut down and sold to be used as inlay in the furniture industry. That particular species is interesting in that one male pollinates 16 to 19 females within 900 feet. Umbrella trees are deciduous, grow about 10 to 35 feet high, and are not common anywhere.

Understory trees such as the Mountain Camellia grow from 6 to 12 feet high, are not plentiful, and are difficult to propagate from seeds. The Buffalo Nut Tree grows from 8 to 10 feet high and is not plentiful everywhere.

While Mountain Laurels are not trees, the point was made that those particular plants have been hit hard by the dry weather and are showing lots of dead leaves this year.

Mrs. Wright finished her most interesting talk with quotes about trees from Aldo Leopold and Frank Lloyd Wright, a reading of Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees," and a recitation from Genesis 1:12.

The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Region, The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., Garden Clubs of District II, and the DeKalb-Cherokee Federated Garden Clubs.

The next meeting is November 10 at 12:30 at the Mentone Community House. At roll call, members are to name and describe a native plant. Ginny Bosworth has the devotional, Dallyne Jones, Penny Lyday, and Gladys Crane are the hostesses, and the program is NE Alabama, Lookout Mountain, Mentone Native Plants with Terry Hutcherson.

—by Marilyn Blanton Campbell

Mentone Wedding Chapel

Nestled in the woods on Lookout Mountain at Shady Grove, near DeSoto State Park, this small chapel is a sealed-down version of the early churches of the past.

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(8) COTTAGE COMFORT - you will love sitting on the front porch taking in the fresh mountain air. This 2 bdrm, 2 bath home is located on six lots adjoining the Mentone City Park. All for \$99,000.



(11) HANGY MAN'S DREAM - New cabin ready for the inside to be finished with your personal touches. Plan is for 2 bedrooms, 1-1/2 baths, great room, and sunroom. All on 2.3 acres for only \$29,900.

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- (18) 1.75 ACRES ON THE "WEST" FORK OF LITTLE RIVER less than 1 mile from downtown Mentone. \$30,000.
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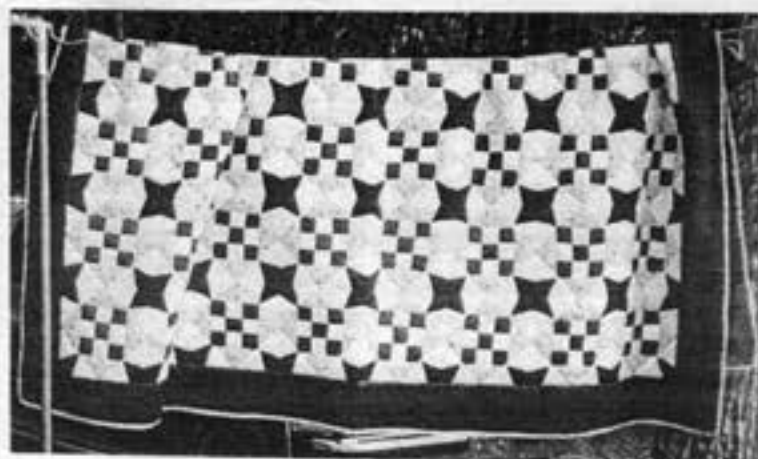
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COLORFEST



Rhododendron Queen Rachel Smith drew the winning name of Frances Rosario Blix of Gainesville, GA, who won the quilt



By Doreen Waters

Well, we did it! Colorfest 1998 came and went during the third weekend in October. By most estimates, we had the largest numbers of visitors in recent years to Mentone. Mother Nature came through with perfect fall weather for the entire event.

The Friday night bonfire was huge and festive, with hundreds of adults and children clustered around the fire, chatting, laughing, dancing and singing along with Tony Goggans, our entertainer for the evening. A big thank you is due to Jack Jones, who provided and set up the bonfire, bales of hay, and entertainment platform so beautifully that visitors were photographing the scene all during the day Friday. Jack wove some creative tales for the crowd in his usual colorful and enthusiastic way. MAPA offered delicious hot apple cider, hot chocolate, roasted peanuts and marshmallows all night, while representatives of Moon Lake School sold fresh popcorn. I heard more favorable comments about the bonfire than any other portion of the festival!

Brow Park was bustling all day Saturday and Sunday, with more than 40 exhibitors and food vendors, live entertainers, and of course thousands of visitors. One of

the highlights of the entertainment Saturday was Skin & Bones presenting "Hillbilly Hijin' with their trained pigs and dogs. Sunday was a subdued, offering gospel, country and bluegrass, as well as TV veteran Cousin Cliff, who mesmerized the children with his magic tricks & jokes! Other performers were bluegrass music and Marlo Pettis from Gadsden, Alabama, McKinney and his 10-year old daughter Naomi, traditional bluegrass with their band from Fayetteville, country singer Jimmy Whitt from Scottsboro, Alabama, Cotaco Creek, a folk/soft rock/country group from Somerville, AL, a very young ballet troupe, the Highlands School of Ballet, led by Tim and Murphy of Valley Head, AL, and Britney Lau, a 14-year-old gospel and country vocalist from Alabama.

Several local merchants generously donated certificates and merchandise to be given away throughout the festival, and MAPA is very appreciative of their generosity and support. They are: Cloudmont S.

EST 1998

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Many out-of-state visitors came to the Colorfest, and Capt. Steve Colby thought he might have traveled the farthest to attend. He is currently stationed in Iceland, but is here to attend a session at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. He was using some free time to tour the surrounding area. Members in the MAPA booth enjoyed chatting with him and giving him directions to DeSoto Falls and Little River Canyon. We hope he was able to find them and that he enjoyed his visit as much as we enjoyed having him here. Good luck, Steve! We hope you will come visit us again.



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Special thanks go to all the MAPA members who volunteered their services before, during and after Colorfest, including Rovene Truett, Hugh and Marilyn Mathews, Homer and Bernise Crow, George and Hope Walker, Jack Jones, Jerry Waters, Ellen Thompson, Jim and Penny Lyday, Corinne Caplano, Chuck Peters, and Sherman and Mickey Gough. I hope I didn't forget anyone, but please forgive me if I did. I'm still recovering from Colorfest!!!



Ballerinas from the Alabama Highland School of Ballet
led by Tim and Margaret Murphy of Valley Head
Back Row: L/R: Lauren Grisham, Kayla Hazell, Katie Herndon
Front: L/R: Vicki Stinson, Paige Wright, Brittany Hester, Sarah Petersen



A Friendly— Valley View

By
ELOISE BROWN

This last month seems to have been the month for surgery. Evelyn Clark is recovering from gall bladder surgery, also Emily Brown. Sadie Cooper is recovering at home after having back surgery at Montclair Hospital in Birmingham. Bert Pickett is doing well after having hiatal hernia surgery at Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga. Mary Holleman is recovering from cancer surgery, and Alison Meadows had surgery (wisdom teeth). We hope all will be feeling better than ever—as well as all who are sick.

Welcome to Valley Head for Sylvia and George Shankles who have moved to her mother and dad's home place. They moved from Birmingham. Sylvia is Dolly Blansit's sister.

Olene Roberts spent the weekend with her son, John Roberts and family, recently. Olene said she thoroughly enjoyed a day of work in the yard. John also took her to Cullman High School's football game. Her granddaughter, Jennifer, is in the band. Olene also visited her daughter, Martha Joan Killian, who is doing fine after having back surgery.

Nelson and Elizabeth Ellis enjoyed a bus tour of the New England states and saw beautiful colored foliage.

Sue and Foyl Cooper visited Lura Bell Chapman and her brother Arthur Chapman in Ellijay, Ga., for the weekend and brought home some good apples.

Adelaide Biddle visited her daughter, Mary Lou Carmichael and family at Dallas, Ga., and had the pleasure of attending the homecoming at East Paulding County High School. Her granddaughter, Kelli, was queen and Miss Paulding County High. She has a four-point average and is a national merit scholar.

Venna Livingston went to Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., Sept. 29, to help her grandson, Wade Mercer, and granddaughter, Jamie Mercer, celebrate their birthdays. They had dinner at the Outback Restaurant.

Helen and Lisa Biddle came from Trussville to attend Alan Biddle's 20th High School reunion at the Cliffs Restaurant.

That busy Adelaide Biddle went to Huntsville, Oct. 21, to a Council on Aging Advisory Board meeting and went that night to Rainsville to a Community Action Head Start Executive Board meeting.

Al and Judith Hammond have returned home after a very interesting ALFA trip of Alabama Farmers Federation. They went to Omaha, Nebraska and Iowa. They toured beef farms—as it was a beef tour. They enjoyed the zoo in Omaha, and the penthouse restaurant at the Double Tree Hotel where they stayed. They were exceptionally well fed with beef everywhere they went.

Velma Hammond and Vesta Hawkins enjoyed a two-night visit of their nephew, John Huihan, his wife Shannon, and two sons from Baton Rouge, La.

Geneva Smith's granddaughter, Amanda Cain and husband Heath and daughter, Amy, came from Guntersville to spend the day. They enjoyed dinner at Katy's Cat Fish Restaurant at Rainsville. By the way, Geneva is doing well after having cataract surgery.

Congratulations to James Kenneth Corbin, 1st Sgt. of Valley Head, who has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal for maintaining an outstanding maintenance program during March 1995 to February 1998 for the 134 D Engineer Battalion in the Alabama National Guard. Also, congratulations to Brandy Porter for making the President's List at Northeast College and to Vickie Armstrong, Ronald Bradbury, Shaunathan Bell, Payton Shugart and Howard Sine, for making the Dean's List. Ronald Bradbury has also been inducted into the Northeast Community Chapter of Mu Alpha Theta, a mathematics honor society.

The Valley Head UMW will meet Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 3 p.m. at the home of Laura Margaret Allison. We missed having a meeting last month—so many members were sick.

Despite the dry weather, the leaves are turning colors beautifully—especially the dogwoods. Feast your eyes and drive if you can, where it is most beautiful. The October blue skies have been beautiful, but they need to pucker up and cry some May everyone have better days.

November Flowers

November flowers, because they're rare,
Are much more precious, much more fair;
Colors seem brighter, all vivid hues,
Must be strong, lest cold Winter subdues,
Changing the landscape from brown and gray
To myriads of colors, bright and gay.
November's flowers bless Autumn's scene
With strength and beauty and hope serene.

--Eloise Brown

Thanksgiving

(acrostic)

Thank you, God for all good things,
Harvest time with all it brings,
Abundance for all needs to fulfill;
Nobility of souls who do your will;
Kindness and love from friends who care,
Sympathy shown and sorrow to share;
Grace and gentle mercy you bestow,
Immortal life's promise that we know;
Victory over death, cares and defeats—
Inner peace that can heal and complete
Normal blessings that I can feel and do;
Gratitude for your generosity is due to you.

--Eloise Brown

Health Nugget

By Dowe Foreman
Two carrots (?) A Day
Can Keep the Dr. Away

Not to knock the apple, but did you know that eating two carrots a day can reduce blood cholesterol levels 20 percent? Carrots can also lower your risk of cancer. Some studies suggest that the beta carotene found in carrots can prevent cataracts, too. Carrots can also help irritable bowel syndrome, headaches and can raise your immune system to fight off diseases. Whew!

A half cup of cooked carrots contains four (4) times the RDA for Vit. A. Large doses of Vit. A supplements can be toxic, but not when it comes directly from the plant. Try to eat fresh carrots because they have twice the amount of Vit. C as opposed to frozen carrots, and canned carrots have even less of all the nutrients! Slightly undercook your carrots, which makes beta carotene and other nutrients more available to your body AND makes them taste sweeter, too! Steam, bake, or stir fry your veggies. Just don't boil them, because it kills all those good vitamins.

Try to eat tomatoes with your carrots. Why? Lycopene, the red color in tomatoes helps your body to absorb beta carotene.

So, go and enjoy a carrot or two and feel good about yourself.

VEGAN RECIPE

By Dowe Foreman

CARROT MACAROONS

- 1 C grated raw carrots packed into cup, approx. 2 med-lg carrots
- 1/4 C water or enough to pour over carrots to fill cup
- 1/2 C honey
- 2 TBS oil
- 1 tsp almond extract or vanilla
- 2 C coconut
- 1/2 C plain whole wheat flour or oat flour
- 1/2 tsp salt

Wash and grate carrots. Pack and measure. Put into bowl. Add remaining ingredients and stir well. Let sit for 10 minutes. Drop onto "Pam" sprayed cookie sheet. Shape and flatten slightly. Bake at 350° for 20-25 minutes until nicely browned. Yield: 20 (2 TBS) cookies. Note: Oat flour may be made by using oats (uncooked) ground in a blender till fine textured.



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The

Church News

By
EVELYN GRAVES



Sunday morning services at **Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church** are held at 8:15 AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Reverend Jerry Davis and Reverend L. A. Smith are alternate speakers for these services.

The **Valley Head United Methodist Church** Sunday School is at 9 AM each Sunday and Worship is at 10 AM.

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

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

Union Hill Baptist Church Sunday School is at 10 AM. Worship is at 11 AM. Adult Choir practice is at 4:30 PM. Discipleship Training is at 6 PM, and Evening Worship is at 7 PM. Wednesday evening at 5 PM is Youth Choir practice with GA's and RA's meeting on alternate Wednesdays at 5 PM. Each 2nd Sunday evening, the church has a singing at 6 PM. Everyone is invited for the singing. The Church is one of two pilot churches in the DeKalb Association involved in FAITH Sunday School & Evangelism Strategy, which is producing wonderful results. Ten new persons were present in the service last Sunday as a result of visitation by these FAITH teams. This is an ongoing process of teaching and training. Two members of the Youth Dept. have made a commitment for foreign mission appointments in addition to the one who is already working with Teen Mania. A new Men's Choir has been formed to complement the Ladies' Choir, and an ensemble from the College & Career Class is in the process of developing. A 4-day revival with Rev. Emmett Roper as evangelist was held last week. Sunday School attendance reached an all-time high last Sunday. Great things are happening and plans for a new church building are under way.

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

The **Mentone Church of God of Prophecy** wants to invite you to attend their services. Sunday School is at 10 AM, with Worship at 11 AM. Evening services begin at 6:30 PM. Wednesday evening service is a time of prayer, worship, and to allow specialized ministries to be boosted. The first Wednesday night before Sunday is Youth services, the second Wednesday night is mission services, the third Wednesday night is Heritage services, and the fourth Wednesday night is Care Ministries (local missions). Men's Brotherhood is every fourth Saturday at 8 AM in the church. Women's prayer service is every Wed. morning at 9:30. Church cookbooks are still on sale for \$6.00. You may call any member to get a copy.

The time for the evening service at the **Valley Head Baptist Church** has been changed. The Discipleship Training is at 6 PM, with Worship at 7 PM. Nov. 15, 12-15 to 1:30 is the 3RD SUNDAY DINNER to help build the new fellowship hall. Please make plans to attend the dinners. They are served potluck and are wonderful. "Operation Christmas Child" has begun. (See information on this page.)

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to attend Sunday School at 9:45 AM each Sunday and Worship at 11 AM. Youth Choir practice is at 4 PM each Sunday. Discipleship

Training is at 5 PM, and Evening Worship is at 6 PM. The Men's Prayer group meets every Wednesday at 6:45 AM and Church Bible Study is at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays. Team Kid is 6:30-7:30 PM. The van runs at 5:30 and should return at 8:30 PM. The Youth and Youth Ministry team through Change Your World are available to do whatever they can to help you (cleaning, light construction work, etc.).

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter is currently holding services at the Lookout Valley, Inc., building in Valley Head. Song Service and Sabbath School 9:30 to 10:45; worship service is 11:00 to 12:15 - with Pastor Wilbur Atwood, Lay Pastor Bill Pyke. Everyone welcome! Look for our cooking school ad in The Groundhog.

Mount Calvary Baptist Church Sunday School is at 10 AM, Worship is at 11 AM, Sunday evening service at 6 PM, and Wednesday evening services at 7 PM. (All times are EST). The church is located two miles behind the Lookout Restaurant at Cloudland. You may call 706-862-2651 for directions. Monthly gospel singings occur every fourth Saturday. Everyone is invited to join us for all of the singings and the church services and become involved in the life of the church.

The **Harmony Grove Baptist Church** invites everyone to come and worship with them. God's Country Church is located on Co. Road 259 (Hawkins Road). Sunday School is at 9:45 AM. Morning Worship is at 11 AM; Evening Worship is at 6 PM; Wednesday Night Prayer Service is at 6 PM.

The **Mentone United Methodist Church** services are at 11 AM each Sunday. Sunday school is at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome. Charge Conference is Sunday, Nov. 15, at 11 AM.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church holds mass services at 11:30 AM each Sunday. Tuesday evening services are at 6 PM and children's and adults' education classes are at 6 PM each Wednesday.

Mentone Wesleyan Church held homecoming on Sunday, Oct. 11 and broke a new attendance record. The existing record was 111. The old record was beat soundly when 141 people crowded into the new sanctuary. It was a wonderful time for all there! The following Sunday, Pastor Randy Addison had to preach from the rooftop to keep his promise. It was fun for all watching and challenging for Pastor Randy. (He doesn't like heights.) Mentone Wesleyan Church is committed to being a Bible teaching community church where all people of all races, social standing, and diverse church backgrounds are welcomed and loved.

St. Joseph's on-the-mountain Episcopal Church services are Sunday at 10:30 AM, with Sunday School at 9:30 AM. Small groups meeting on Sun., Tues. and Wed. nights. Music Night, Nov. 6, at the home of Homer and Bernise Crow. Contact the church at 634-4476 for more information. Everyone is welcome.

Annual Community Thanksgiving Service

The North DeKalb Ministerial Association is having its annual Community Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 24, at 7 p.m. at the Valley Head Methodist Church. Rev. Allen Cherbonneau of St. Joseph's on-the-mountain Episcopal Church, who is president of the association, will be presiding. Rev. Ken Shelton of the Mentone Church of God will be bring the message, and Rev. Randy Addison of the Mentone Wesleyan Church will lead the singing. Plan to attend.

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Michael Harrison
Rachel Pollard
Keisha Powell
Peter Stevens
ALL B's
Alex Blackburn
James Hawk
Kaleb McMunn
Chaz McSpadden
Tianna Newell
Daniel Scott
Jacob Tweedell
Brandon Willingham

SECOND GRADE

ALL A's
Lauren Addison
Vance Carden
Jessica Easler
Brittany Hester
Daniel Hughes
Kara Miller
Sierra Nicely
Megan Smith
ALL B's
Fred Castleberry
Steven Barkley
Eric Hunt
Nathan Jones
Becky Pina
Matt Pollard
Thorn Rich
Heather Smith

THIRD GRADE

ALL A's
Randy Addison
ALL B's
Tim Bain
Kayla Hazell
Patrick Murphy
Sarah Petersen
Tom Tipton
Sheena Tishaw
Paige Wright

FOURTH GRADE

ALL A's
Brittany Bevel
Melissa Crane
Julie Ingram
Drew Smith
Justin Smith
Angel Wesley
ALL B's
Barnabas Bettis
Logan Chambers
Mark Corey
Glenn Hansen
Alex Hazell
Katie Herndon
Skyler King
Phillip McNutt
Jacob Meadows
Stephen Shanklin
Robin Stevens

FIFTH GRADE

ALL A's
Jared Bare
John Baxter
Katie Gray
Lori Hope
Sarah Hurt
Kellye Phillips
Joshua Pollard
Emily Tipton
ALL B's
Laura Floyd
Kira Goodwin
Melissa Harrison
Brandy Manning
Kirby McMunn
Cayla Voils
James Wells

SIXTH GRADE

ALL A's
Kristen Addison
Matt Hawkins
Kelly Wright
ALL B's
Erica Campbell
Catrina Ingram
Fawn Kitchens
Andrew McCole
Jessica Meadows
Josh Smith
Samantha Stevens
Josh Tweedell

Moon Lake School News

The next PTO meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 6:30 PM.

There will be no school Nov. 11, Wednesday, for Veterans Day.

Moon Lake's first basketball home game of the season will be on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 9 AM. Moon Lake plays Valley Head.

Thanksgiving holidays will be Wednesday, Nov. 25 through Friday, Nov. 27.

1998 Valley Head Soccer Teams



Under Six

(Picture to the Left)

L/R: 1st Row: Trevor Lewis, Jordyn Hurt, Sterling Sharpe, Blake Wilks, Alexis Hatfield

2nd Row: Casey Atkins, Brad "Bud" Jones, Amber Matthews, Megan McElhaney

3rd Row: Coach Whitney Downs

Under Eight

(Picture to the Right)

L/R: 1st Row: Rebecca Bradbury, Decker Jones, Jerry Bradbury, Zoy Evatt, Marcus Crider, Pete Gatlin

2nd Row: Andrew Cooper, Bo Barrier, Cody Atkins, Alex Johnson, Dylan Stanfill

3rd Row: Coaches: Kristy Jones, Keith Burgess



Under Ten

(Picture to the Left)

L/R: 1st Row: Larry Bradbury, Isaac Akes, Charlie Akes, Tyler Gatlin, Logan Chambers

2nd Row: Sydney Johnson, Billy Stanfill, Zack Cooper, Ashley Johnson

3rd Row: Kevin Bates, Alex Hazell, Ethan Lewis

4th Row: Coaches: Rusty Chambers, Randy Cooper, Dennis Lewis





Happy 81st Birthday! Miss Dessie Bailey!

Honoree Miss Dessie Bailey (on the left) is pictured here with her sister-in-law, Mrs. Catherine Bailey, and her niece, Mrs. Barbara Blalock, both of Mentone. Beautifully colored balloons and banner added just the right festive touch to the occasion.

Mentone United Methodist Women Honor Miss Dessie Bailey

by Marilyn Blanton Campbell

President Ann Wright and a group of ladies consisting of Mrs. Carrie Ruth Kirby, Mrs. Catherine Bailey, Mrs. Linda Brown, Mrs. Barbara Blalock, and Mrs. Marilyn Blanton Campbell of the United Methodist Women from Mentone United Methodist Church celebrated fellow church member Miss Dessie Bailey's 81st birthday by honoring her with a party in the multi-purpose chapel room at The Fountains, Inc., on Forest Avenue in Fort Payne at 2 p.m. the afternoon of September 22, 1998.

The table was covered with a dark green base cloth in a watered silk design and accented with white lace overlays that showed off the lovely birthday cake to its very best advantage. Matching plates, cups, and napkins in a multi-color design added a festive splash to the occasion, and a sparkling banner on the wall lent a bright spot to the gathering. A major highlight of the occasion came when Mrs. Lottie Cooper Davenport played "Happy Birthday!" on the grand piano and teased Miss Bailey good-naturedly about her age. Mrs. Davenport and Miss Bailey have known each other forever.

The United Methodist Women served the delicious yellow cake with white icing

decorated with pink roses, vanilla ice cream, lemon-lime soda, and dry roasted peanuts, to a room full of friends, fellow residents, and general well wishers who stopped in to celebrate with Miss Bailey, who smiled radiantly as she received family and friends. Miss Bailey was wearing an attractive royal blue pants outfit in a change of season crepe fabric.

Miss Bailey has long since been a major puzzle aficionado, and the ladies of the United Methodist Women were all aware of that fact, so nobody was in the least surprised when she received several puzzle books as gifts, as well as some extremely nice lotion, some unusually good homemade pound cake intended for special snacks later, as well as other things.

Before the party was over, the ladies distributed goodie bags containing candies, raisins, and gum to the celebrants along with an original search-a-word puzzle. Everybody there seemed to have a wonderful time, and, as the afternoon progressed and the visiting continued, people—especially those who had attended the singing being conducted in another location there in the building—continued to drop in for cake and ice cream.

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MENTONE - HWY. 117S - Multi use potential. 1500 sq. ft. home features living room, dining, kitchen, 3 BR, 2 car carport. Also on property is 1-room cabin w/mountain stone FP. 2.5+ acres. \$55,000. 24 Hour Property Info-1-800-901-9882 #605



LAURELWOOD - view of brow, fine mtn. home, 1.78+ acres, enclosed deck. Large great room w/wood floor. Breakaway separates main section from 2 add'l BR & full BA, 2 car garage. Reduced to \$155,000. 24 Hour Property Info-1-800-901-9882 #601



CLOUDLAND - Beautiful two story log home overlooking the east fork of Little River sports 3 BR, 4.5 BA, kitchen, formal dining, great room with mountain stone fireplace, screened porch overlooking river, den with wet bar and mountain stone fireplace, 2 car garage, shop, and storage area, plus large unfinished attic on 2.5 +/- acre tract, showcased by mountain laurel, rhododendron, and natural beauty of the mountain. 100 many amenities to list, and priced at only \$139,500. (No G-67)



CLOUDLAND - A frame, with great room, rock fireplace, hardwood floors, 2 BR, 2 BA, utility, wrap deck porch. Meticulously built on approx. 11.48 acre tract. \$149,500.



CLOUDLAND - Lower Brow - custom brow home, 2600 sq. ft., large great room, FP, deck & master suite overlooking valley. 24 Hour Property Info-1-800-901-9882 #602



CLOUDLAND, GA - East Fork of Little River runs through your backyard! 6.33 acres, mtn. tract & Home wh/uge great room, FP, finished basement. 24 Hour Property Info-1-800-901-9882 #604



MENTONE-DESOTO FALLS AREA - Co. Rd. 627 - 40 acres w/uncut timber. Chalet with open room & deck upstairs. 24 Hour Property Info-1-800-901-9882 #603

EAST BROW - SCENIC VIEW LOTS All our lots offer uncultivated views - watch the sun and moon rise in elegance. Outlook Properties - Hwy 157 - Cloudland; Lot 8 - 2.36 acres - 151 ft. of brow - \$37,500.00. Lot 10 - 1.28 acres - 150 ft. of brow - \$27,500.00. Restricted with easy access to Hwy. 157. Great view of valley and surrounding mountains.

Hwy 157 - 10 acres backs to State property on two sides. \$3,000 per acre. Sold as a whole.

Hwy 157 - Cloudland - T1 - 1.00 acres - 100 ft. of brow, T2 - 1.52 acres - 100 ft. of brow. Beautiful views - easy access. Restricted. \$39,500.00 each or will tender as a whole.

Mountain River Estates - Hwy 117 Mentone - Phase 1 & 2 now open. 3 to 5 acre riverfront tracts starting at \$27,500.00. 4 to 15 acre mtn. stream tracts starting at \$10,000.00

Farms - Cherokee County, Ala. - Fullerton Road - 114 acres - 2200 ft. +/- frontage on the Chattooga River. 63 acres open cropland with balance in uncut timber. Panoramic view of Bogen Mtn. & valleys, farmhouse and barns.



Tony Goggans, the Mentone Troubadour
VALLEY HEAD WOMAN'S CLUB

By Flo Kirby

The Valley Head Woman's Club held its October meeting at the Mentone Community House on October 21st. Pots of Fall mums brightened up the meeting room, along with a beautiful arrangement of yellow daisy-like flowers with a few dahlias done by Dallyne Jones.

The hostesses, Elizabeth Baucroft and Susan Hooks, prepared delicious refreshments, which everyone enjoyed immensely.

The devotional was given by Dallyne, reading passages from Psalms and other Bible references relating to songs and singing. She also read an appropriate poem entitled, "Almost Autumn."

Dor Blackburn reminded members that our Christmas meeting will be at the Mentone Springs Hotel on December 12th and money should be turned in at the November meeting.

Doris Carmichael thanked everyone for helping with our pecan sales. The price is \$5.50/lb. and anyone wanting to buy some really good fresh pecans (either halves or pieces) can call Doris at 635-6572, or any member of the Club, and we will be glad to accommodate you.

Our program was presented by Tony Goggans, the Mentone Troubadour, who was the master of ceremonies at Mentone's two big festivals for over 10 years. He told us a bit of the history of mountain music and sang many of the old songs, starting with "I'll Fly Away" and ending with "Elvira." We all enjoyed singing along with Tony on many of the old songs we've known all our lives.

COUNTY ROADS CARRY 45 MPH SPEED LIMIT

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Officials say many thousands of dollars in road signs all over the state is saved because of this standardization.

Such information about speed limits on all county roads is supposed to be part of the general knowledge maintained by a person who takes the responsibility of having an Alabama driver's license.

Those are observations DeKalb County Engineer Jim Gaddy said he considers important enough to pass along.

REMEMBER: The speed limit on ALL county roads, all over Alabama, is 45, unless otherwise marked. And, it's important to realize that the standard limit, 45, is NOT posted. Not anywhere.



Christmas Cantata Dec. 13

The Community Choir will present the Christmas Cantata Dec. 13 at Moon Lake Baptist Church at 5 PM and at Valley Head Baptist at 7 PM. DeVann Jackson is the director. Please put this on your Christmas schedule and attend one or both performances.

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A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF ZORA SHAY STRAYHORN

By Bernise Crow

We have been saddened to learn of the passing of our dear friend, Zora Shay Strayhorn. She was so much a part of our community and was our close neighbor for many years. Of course, we shall all treasure the book, *Mentone, Alabama: a history*, that she wrote with the help of Jean McGehee who edited it. Zora spent two years researching books, libraries, and interviewing people in order to get authentic information. I am very pleased that she gave M.A.P.A. a written permit to have the book reprinted this year. M.A.P.A. is continuing to sell copies of the reprint of her book.

Zora has lived in a retirement apartment in Dover, Delaware, for a few years, but her heart was in Mentone. Her son, Greg, is stationed in Delaware, and thought she should be near him and his family so they could look after her. Greg and his wife, Belinda, have seven children, and Zora adored them.

Zora corresponded with many of us here in Mentone, and we shall miss her nice letters and phone calls. She had recently sent us a book about David Livingstone, and I have not had time to finish reading it. She would always say she would like to be in Mentone, but that she had good friends and was busy painting, doing collages, and writing. She wanted to write a book about our trip to Zimbabwe, Africa. Homer and I are so glad that we accompanied her on this trip. She treasured it as long as she lived. The dear friend that we visited there has passed on earlier this year also.

Zora was always studying and learning new things. She never lost her interest in learning, and she loved good books and read a variety of them that she thought were necessary for living a well-rounded life. In her seventies, she went to Northeast State Community College with my sister, Jean, and finished two years there. She and Dick Strayhorn moved here from California in the early fifties, I believe. Her husband was a retired navy man. He has been deceased for several years.

Jean Gilbreath Powell called me and told me that Zora had been a friend of the Gilbreath family for many years and she was concerned about what it would do to her mother when she learned of Zora's death. Jean has many pleasant memories of visiting in the Strayhorn's home and playing with Greg when they were both small.

Zora had a little kitchen, but she was always cooking up something good, or making watermelon rind preserves, hot pepper jelly, or she was putting something in the freezer for future use. Nothing went to waste in her house.

She gave a lot of time to M.A.P.A. projects. One year she served as hostess and did most of the refreshments for that time. All of these things were appreciated.

I shall miss her a great deal. She would call often and wrote beautiful letters. A picture we will treasure is one Zora painted of Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe when we were in Africa. It hangs in the entry hall at our house.



Zora Shay Strayhorn

(Photos from Dec. 1986 issue of *The Groundhog*)



Zora holding the a copy of the first printing of her book, *Mentone, Alabama: a history*.

Zora Shay Strayhorn

by Jean McGehee

A Proud Historian - "Creativity and Spontaneity: It's never too late."

(This article is being reprinted in honor of the memory of Zora, who died recently. It was the front page story in the December 1986 issue of *The Groundhog*.)

"My life hasn't been a total waste," laughs Zora Shay Strayhorn, author of *Mentone, Alabama: A History*. "I went to Dorothy Lamour's wedding reception, and I've danced with Lawrence Welk." She has the photographs and souvenirs to prove it.

And, like the movie stars in her native California, Zora changed her name. Born Frances Imogene Shay, she changed her name after the early deaths of her parents and her only brother. She was named Imogene after her paternal grandmother, a Christian Science practitioner. The new name was designed for her by friends to help assuage her grief over the deaths in her family. The writer just turned 77, she graduated from Northeast Alabama State Junior College in Rainsville in 1978 with a degree in science--the oldest woman graduate. Previously, she was graduated from Longmire's Business College in San Bernardino, California, where she had gone during the Depression. Zora's father was a druggist and real estate agent and broker. She had studied for a year and a half at San Bernardino Valley College, but circumstances forced her to change to the business college. Zora had a quotation ready for *The Groundhog*: "The secret of being tiresome is in telling everything," by Voltaire. Then she proceeded to tell about her past. After junior college and business school, she held a variety of positions, ranging from helping to make maps in the court house to work with construction engineers and architects during the war years.

There were politicians and sheriffs in her father's family and a strong German tenacity in her mother's. She also worked for the welfare department, the post office, and as a clerk in a hotel in Yellowstone National Park.

Today Zora lives in her "nest," a cottage on the outskirts of Mentone. But the fall of 1947 found her on the *Matsonia*, headed to Hawaii to work. Her stateroom mate was LaVica Gustafson, who was joining her husband Rudy, a Navy chief stationed at the submarine base in Hawaii. Zora found a job as secretary to a CPA who represented the government of New Zealand.

About nine months later, Rudy and LaVica Gustafson introduced Zora to Dixie Craig Strayhorn, a Navy chief who was a commissary steward. They were married in the base chapel two months after they met. A couple of years later, Dixie sailed on the *Bluebird* to New London, Connecticut. Zora came to the states on a naval transport, through the Panama Canal to Norfolk, Virginia, where she was met by Dixie's family.

In New London where Dixie was once again stationed at a

submarine base, Zora worked as secretary to the city clerk, judge of the probate court, and for the General Dynamics Corporation, who was building the *Nautilus* in Groton, Connecticut.

After four years in Connecticut, the Strayhorns visited the Gustafsons in Mentone. They fell in love with the area. They moved to an old farm house off the river road not far from the Berry Patch. It was called Windy Acres. Like the Gustafsons, they also adopted a son. Gregory Lee Strayhorn was four days old when he came into the family in February 1955.

In the autumn of 1956, two members of the Board of Education of Cherokee County visited Zora and asked whether she could teach in a one room school at Five Points, not far from Cloudland, Georgia. Clara Cash worked with her. "It was a disaster," Zora recalls. "I had no more business..." The children were in grades one through nine. She picked up some of them on her way to school, carried wood for the stove, and broke ice on the pails of water.

Dixie went to school in Fort Payne to secure his high school diploma. In December 1956, they sold the farm and went to San Bernardino, California, where Zora had previously lived. Here Dixie worked as a cook for the Sheriff's Department and for the Forestry Service. Zora returned to work at Norton Air Force Base where she had worked before her Hawaii sojourn. Young Greg played in the base nursery. In 1960, the young family returned to Mentone and bought the present home, Pine Tree Ranch.

The Mentone history is her first published writing although she has been interested in writing for many years. Another interest is religion, and she is a member of St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church. "I've also maintained an interest in the esoteric sciences," Zora reports.

"Dixie always said I was unorganized," she smiles, "but I'm just not organized like most people. I'm organized in my head." Comfortable by her fireplace, surrounded by the batiks, collages, watercolors, and oil paintings created by her own hands, Zora is content to focus on her writing. She maintains a close friendship with a cousin, niece and nephew and others in California. She has sent supplies to a Methodist sponsored church school in Zimbabwe and corresponded with a teacher there. A visit to Africa has long tempted her, as well as a trek to California. Greg is now a staff sergeant in the air force, stationed in Dover, Delaware. Dixie died two years ago.

Even though the research on the Mentone history was long and arduous, Zora still has ambitions for further writing. Don't be surprised when another publication is forthcoming from this original, creative Mentone resident.



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Knot Garden - Stratford, Shakespeare's - Darla, Homer and Bernise



Homer & Darla Bante - Tetbury, England - Flowers beautiful everywhere. We antiqued here.

THE COUNTRY JOURNAL

By
Bernise Crow

Our Trip to England



Stratford - Shakespeare's gardens. Homer and nephew, Sean Bante, age 16



Homer and Bernise at Ann Hathaway's cottage, England.

In September, we finally got our things together and made the trip to England where we were the guests of Homer's niece, Darla Bante and her son, Sean. Darla is the daughter of Dennis and Mildred Burgess. Mildred is Homer's sister and is known locally. We flew British Airlines from Atlanta, nonstop. It is a nine-hour flight, but we were comfortable, and the hospitality was the greatest.

Darla is living at Ironbridge, which is a three-hour drive from Gatway Airport where we landed. She had to spend the night there in London to be able to meet us at 6 A.M. Darla lives in Ironbridge, near Telford, in a neat little cottage tucked into a hillside, with a pretty cottage garden in front. It was a pleasure to wake in the morning and look out our bedroom window and see lovely yellow roses blooming. She also had an herb garden right outside the kitchen.

Everyone in England seems to have a green thumb, because everyone seems to have beautiful gardens. The climate is moist most of the time which makes things grow profusely.

Darla lives about sixty miles (or whatever in kilometers), from Birmingham, so we felt like we were near home. Birmingham even reminded us of our city by the same name. Only in England, they don't accent the HAM like we southerners do!

Ironbridge is one of England's eleven world heritage sites. The bridge itself is made of solid iron built in 1779 and located on the river Severn. There are many museums and gift shops in the village—a good tourist area in a beautiful setting.

Darla is on a work assignment from her company in Dallas, to teach new employees of the company located there. This was a three-year assignment and her time will be up next June. Her company furnished the house and a nice car while she is there. Sounds like a good deal. Her son, Sean, is sixteen and has adapted well and made good friends with his school classmates. He wants to come back to the states to graduate.

During weekdays, we rode buses or trains to places we wanted to go; and Darla arranged trips for the weekends. One Saturday, we went to Stratford-on-Avon, which is Shakespeare's home. This was a delightful full day. It was wonderful to ride the tour bus of the city, and to see the colorful canal boats operating. We especially enjoyed Ann Hathaway's thatched-roofed cottage, which is restored much as it was when she resided there. The cone part of the roof was being repaired when we were there. Ann Hathaway was the lady Shakespeare visited when he was quite young. Ann was older than he. Many were surprised when he married her. There were lovely gardens on the premises, both floral and vegetable. In the gift shop, I purchased a teapot and a print of the cottage. The cottage is one of the most photographed and printed of any building in the world, I suppose. The ridge part of the roof has to be replaced every five years, and the whole roof has to have new straw every fifteen years.

We visited the farm where Shakespeare was born and where he grew up. It was a nice, old rustic farmhouse. The upstairs rooms, of post and beam construction, were very low-ceilinged, and one would have to stoop low to enter them. The farm equipment was still there—

very old farm tools of every kind: a blacksmith shop, wheelwright, a colorful horse-drawn fire wagon, masonry shop, and a large cider press to handle the beautiful apples from the orchard. It was a long walk to see everything. Darla was going back two weeks later when they had a fall festival sort of like ours and would be making cider.

Then, we thoroughly enjoyed the home in town where Shakespeare's daughter lived. Many of the furnishings were still in the house. Shakespeare's home, which was next door, has been destroyed. There was a church next door and the rector complained about all the visitors to the home, and subsequently the home was torn down. However there is a pretty landscaped garden where the house stood. The Knot Garden behind this garden was wonderful—one of the most interesting sights we saw. I wish the picture of it could be printed in color. (There were reds, purple, pinks and greens, and were exquisite.) We had a good meal at a restaurant before returning to Ironbridge. Fish and chips seems to be the most common meal served in England, along with steak and kidney stew. I had wonderful lamb chops.

When traveling to any of the main attractions, we enjoyed the lovely countryside with green pastures full of beautiful round woolly sheep. I tried to get a good snapshot of them, but we never stopped near enough to them to get a good one.

There is so much history in England that I would love to spend more time just visiting museums and historic buildings. The old buildings are beautiful. We took a train from Telford to Holyhead (in Wales) and rode the large ferry across the Irish Sea to Dublin, Ireland. That was a fun trip. The sea was a bit rough going over, and we reeled like a drunk when we tried to walk. It did not make us sick—it was just funny. On the return trip, everything was very smooth. There was entertainment on board and plenty of choices of food, even a McDonald's! We stayed three days in Ireland. It rained the first day we were there, but the remainder of our visit we had beautiful warm weather. We toured the city while it was raining, stopping to go through Dublin Castle. It is beautifully furnished—a castle where all royalty have visited. One large throne-like chair had the legs shortened so little queen Victoria could sit comfortably with her feet on the floor.

We took a bus to Waterford, which is about 90 miles south of Dublin. There were so many old churches and other stone structures on the way, that we would have loved to have seen better. It is no wonder that Ireland is known as the "Green" country. The fields were brilliant green with sheep and cattle grazing peacefully.

We toured the Waterford crystal plant and saw how this expensive glass is blown, formed, cut, and polished to perfection. They will not sell an imperfect piece. I asked if they had an outlet shop where one could purchase pieces with small imperfections, and was told one could not because of their union. What a disappointment. We did not purchase anything because we thought one could get it in the states for about the same price because of the devaluation of our money. Everything we found in England and Ireland was just about a third

higher than our dollar. We did buy a lovely cut crystal bowl at Heritage Crystal in the town of Waterford. We then took a cab to see the very old buildings there—some dating from the time of the Vikings.

Then, back to England by ferry. Darla had a good dinner waiting for us, and we were ready for it! We had to change trains three times before getting back to Telford. The next day was Saturday and Darla drove us to the Cotswold area which we thoroughly enjoyed, and to Tetbury, which is an antique buff's delight. We looked till our eyes hurt, up one side and down the other of the main street. There were wonderful museum quality antiques in antique buildings.

From Tetbury, we went to Bath, just in time to catch the last tour bus of the city for the day. It was very pleasantly warm and we could sit on the top deck of the bus and get a good view of the interesting buildings, built in a curved architectural style. Many renowned people have lived and worked there in Bath, including Charles Dickens.

We had reservations at Homewood Park—a lovely, old building situated on a high hill about six miles outside the city. We had the best accommodations we have had anywhere—a beautiful room and a full English breakfast in a dining room overlooking the gardens that had won first prize in a local competition.

We toured more of the city the next day, going through the museum where the Roman hot baths have been uncovered. Most interesting. Hot springs furnish water at the right temperature for baths.

This same day we went on to see the stone monoliths, which are a mystery: why they are there and who put them there.

We toured Oxford by bus and were amazed that there are so many colleges in the university complex. Again, the wonderful old architecture fascinated me. Homer said now he could claim he had been to Oxford! We had dinner at Brown's Restaurant, which is a favorite eating place for students. The food was good.

The next day, we bid Darla and Sean "ta ta" and headed back by train for London, stopping in Warwick to see Warwick Castle. Our cab driver helped us find a lodging place because we did not have reservations. He was super nice to us, even showed us the section where old houses are still standing that were built in the 1400s. We finally found a room at the Holiday Inn Express. It was nice, but we had hoped to have one of the older B & B places. The castle was very interesting, and so was the old church nearby. And we had a good teatime in a small restaurant at 3:00 in the afternoon. I love teatime!

We had a most interesting flight home. We sat by a Jewish rabbi and had a most enlightening conversation with him. He told us what Kosher was and how they worshiped the one God, and we told how we believed in Jesus and the trinity. I told him to pray for us and we would pray for him.

It is always good to be back home, but we are thankful for the opportunity to learn many new things in England where our ancestors lived, both Crows and Coopers, Cooper being my maiden name.



Bill and I have just returned from a wonderful long journey across this country and back. We always enjoy our trips west to see Janet and Bob, and we are beginning to gain a real appreciation for this great country and its wonderful people. I gathered two recipes to share this month. The Camp Stew kind of came together from things on hand in the trailer one night, and the squash recipe is one I adapted from one I found in the Portland paper, "The Oregonian."

CAMP STEW

1 pound ground beef
1 large onion
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 16 oz can black beans, undrained
1 4 oz can green diced green chilies
1 16 oz can diced tomatoes and juice
2 C shredded cabbage
1 can beef broth
Salt and pepper to taste
Saute ground beef, onion and garlic, and drain extra fat. Add rest of ingredients, and let simmer about 20 minutes. Season to taste. Makes 4 servings

SQUASH AND BEANS

2 t olive oil
1 large onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 t minced jalapeno peppers (or to taste)
1 t dried oregano
1 pound squash (yellow, zucchini, or a mixture) sliced 1/2" thick
1 16 oz can chopped tomatoes
1 16 oz can white beans, drained
1 C frozen corn
Shredded cheese, (Try feta, parmesan, cheddar, or monterey jack)
Cooked Rice
Heat oil in large skillet with lid, over medium heat. Add onions, garlic, chilies and oregano, saute 2 minutes. Add zucchini and squash and saute for 4 minutes. Add tomatoes, beans and corn, cover, reduce heat, and simmer 10 minutes. Serve over rice or pasta, such as bow ties. Sprinkle cheese on top. Serves 4 generously

About Our Town

By LINDA BROWN



Can you believe that we have already set our clocks back an hour? I always stay more confused than usual when we first do this. This practice is like so many other things we do. I understand why we do them, but really am not sure it's a good idea. If I had a child meeting the school bus before daybreak, I'm sure I would feel differently.

We are finally having a little bit of color start to show. The few trees that are turning are certainly beautiful. I always watch the gum trees around the city hall and they are just now turning. I hope it rains soon. This is the first time I remember waking up to a beautiful sunny day and not being happy about it. I'm ready to wake up to the sound of rain on the roof.

I cannot believe how fast the work on the new water line is progressing. It is so exciting to see this happening in Mentone. I know that the turn-on date cannot be too soon for all of those people who have had their wells go dry. I wish we did not have to stop with the lines. I would love for everyone to have water if they need it. Maybe another grant will become available soon, and we can go a little further with the lines.

The fund raiser for the gym floor at Moon Lake School was very successful. They are already looking at different materials for the flooring. This means that they made enough profit to start the project. They have received quite a few unexpected donations, as well. Who said an election year was all bad?

Something is happening in Mentone that some of you may not have noticed when the signs were posted. There is a class being taught in ballroom dancing. You should see us out there on the gym floor struggling to get those steps. Several couples are coming who have never been exposed to any type of dancing. Bobby and I have square danced and round danced (this is a form of dance that couples do in a circle, usually associated with square dancing) for quite a few years. We were at least familiar with the steps. We are all having a great time, but it is about to end. Maybe we can get the instructors to come and give lessons again or perhaps someone will move to Mentone who can give instructions in ballroom dancing. Remember the song Chicago, there is a line in it that says, "I saw a man and he danced with his wife in Chicago." Now we can substitute Mentone for Chicago. This is one of the many activities sponsored by Mentone Educational Resources Foundation.

Recently, I was at my Dad's house, and we were looking at an Aladdin lamp that had been stored in the basement for

many years. For those of you who don't know what this is, it is a lamp that uses kerosene to burn, but, what makes it unique is that it must have a mantle. The mantle is of very fine fiber that glows bright red and gives off much more light than the regular kerosene lamp with just a wick and a globe. A globe fits over the mantle. It was always my job to keep this lamp and all of the others in our house clean. I remember having to be so careful not to make a hole in the mantle or drop a globe and break it. All of these were very expensive, and we did not have money to buy things that were not necessary. I remember when we got electricity on our farm. Every house had one bare light bulb in the center of the ceiling of each room. Usually the only other appliance was a refrigerator. There might be an outlet, but more often than not, the cord was plugged into an outlet that screwed into the socket for the kitchen light bulb and then the bulb was placed beyond the outlet. If a home had a bulb burn out and did not have a replacement, they would put a corncob in the socket. I don't know if they thought the electricity would run out like molasses or not, but I do know that this was a common practice.

Corncobs were another interesting item on the farm. They were very versatile. (For those of you who don't know what a corncob is, it is the part that is left of an ear of corn after the kernels are cut away, or, if you let the corn dry, you can shell the kernels off by pushing against them by hand or with a special machine called a "corn sheller".) They were used to feed the cows, mules and horses, or "stock" as large animals were called. They were used to line the nests for the chickens to lay eggs in and to line the stall for new calves or any sick live-stock. When it was muddy around the farm, they could be put in the mud to make it more comfortable for the animals to stand on and also to prevent diseases they might get from standing on the wet ground. Corncobs were also used to give traction to wagon tires on muddy ground. They were used to apply medicine to wounds on animals and as a stopper for jugs. Probably the strangest use of the corncob, at least in this day when toilet paper is plentiful, was its use in the outdoor toilet! Many of those little houses with the half moon in the door had a bushel basket of corncobs sitting in the corner. The Sears and Roebuck catalog was just one step up from the corncobs!!

I hope this silliness will give some of you readers who are "golden oldies" a laugh and cause you to remember the days of yesteryear. Maybe it will peak the interest of some younger folks enough to make them want to preserve the history and heritage of this area. The farm I lived on was in Adamsburg, which is about 15 miles south of Mentone. We have to remember where we have been to know where we are going.

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3RD !!!



from **Cloud 9 Gifts and Antiques**
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(706) 862-6178

Breakfast Casserole

Submitted by Bernise Crow

1 lb. sausage, browned
6 slices white bread, cubed
1 stick butter, melted
1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, grated
4-6 eggs
2 cups milk
1/2 tsp. each, salt, pepper,
and dry mustard
(optional—dice one onion and
one bell pepper and saute with sausage)

In a 9x13 pan, place sausage, bread, butter and cheese. Mix eggs, milk and seasonings and pour over mixture. Let it sit over night and bake it the next day. Bake 45 min at 350°

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SATURDAY 7:30-12:00, SUNDAY CLOSED

FOR EMERGENCY NEEDS, CALL 635-6236.

Birth Announcement



Jessica Ruth Green

Jessica was born on July 15, 1998, at 2:39 a.m., at BMC. She weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. Her parents are Richard Green and Kim McPherson, and a sister Sable Smith, who are all of Adamsburg, AL. Grandparents are Marie and Troy Hawkins of Cloudland, Ga., Sally and the late Jerry McPherson of Ft. Payne, AL, and Robert and Ilene Green of Mentone, AL.



Ian Blake Hilyer

Howard and Tonya Hilyer would like to announce the birth of their son, Ian Blake Hilyer. He was born at 2:45 p.m., on July 22, 1998, at DeKalb BMC. Ian weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20 inches long! Grandparents are Jake and Rosa Crider of Valley Head, Charles and Joyce Hilyer of Fort Payne, and Lorene Eason of Fort Payne.

Happy Birthday



Rheanna Laine Patterson

Rheanna Laine Patterson celebrated her 1st birthday on Oct. 4, 1998. Her parents are Steve and Lisa (Huskey) Patterson of Hermitage, TN. Grandparents are R.B. and Joyce Huskey, Mentone, AL; Charlie and Marie Hampton of Dixon, TN, and the late Steven Patterson.

dish

Mentone's
TeaRoom Cafe

(205) 634-3669

Thursday-Sunday
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday Nights
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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Advanced Mathematics Class at Valley Head High School

The advanced mathematics class at Valley Head High School would like to thank Mr. Gary Talley for his effort in providing graphing calculators for the class.

Back Row: L/R: Josh Williamson, Daniel Brown, Derek Talley, Josh Miller, Toby Crider, Eric Crane; Front Row: L/R: Ashley Blalock, Lori Manifold, Nancy Jeffery, Valerie Chappell, Tabitha Brisendine

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Administrator

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Enjoy a fine dining experience on the brow of Lookout Mountain
You'll love the sunsets and good food at Cragsmere.

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Reservations Necessary Friday and Saturday



Altrusa's 18th Annual Holiday Arts Festival

November 14 & 15, 1998

Fort Payne, Alabama

VFW Agricultural Fair Bldg.

Saturday 9-6 / Sunday 12-5

Admission: \$2.00 adult ticket, under 12 free

Fun for the whole family! Arts, Crafts, Food, Entertainment. Items available will be decorated birdhouses, wood crafted items, victorian decorations, angels, appalachian crafted instruments, artwork by fine artisans, jewelry, decorated wreaths and Christmas ornaments and many more unique gift items.

Come join us in the Foothills of the Appalachian Mountains for a Merry Holiday Festival.

For more information call Patty Tucker at (256)845-3957 or Denise Stogner at (256)845-2594



MISSING: TWO PET DOGS!

\$ \$ REWARD FOR RETURN! \$ \$

Please call: 634-3648 (H); 706-895-3323 (W)

CROSSBRED BORDER COLLIE AND AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CROSS MALE DOG: mostly black with white streak down face, white ring around neck with white spot on top of neck, white under chest and belly. White on two hind feet and one front foot and white tip on tail. Body is mostly black with some gray hair throughout. Wearing a blue collar and weighing approx. 60 lbs upon disappearance. Dog has one good eye. Believed to recently have been seen in the area of Co. Rd. 649.

CROSS BRED BLUE HEELER: Black body with gray streak down face, gray around neck, chest, belly, and legs, with gray tip on tail. Wearing a tan collar and weighing approx. 40 lbs upon disappearance.

FAMILY REUNION IS SCHEDULED

Descendants of the ELLISON, BLALOCK, BRIDGES, YOUNG families have scheduled a family reunion at DeSoto State Park near Mentone, Ala. on October 31.

Time: 11 a.m. til?

Lunch will be served at 1 p.m. EST

Family and friends are asked to bring a covered dish.

For more information, call Marilyn Houser (706) 638-0735; or Claude Ellison (706) 657-4606.

VOTE "YES"

on

Local Amendment One

(Act. No. 97-810)

on Tuesday, November 3.

Do you have a picture or an article you would like to submit?

To submit pictures for an issue of *The Groundhog*, please get them in by the 15th of each month to either Evelyn Graves or Marie Dillenbeck. Copy or articles should be in no later than the 20th, so the paper can be printed on the 25th of each month. Thank you.

FLU SHOTS

Tuesday, November
17, 1998

1:30-4:00 p.m.

Mentone Community House
Given by the DeKalb Co. Health Dept.

\$5.00 or Medicaid/Medicare card

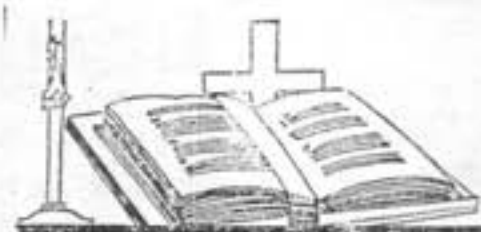
Community Pot Luck Dinner

Saturday, Nov. 7, 1998

5:30 p.m.

Mentone Community House

EVERYONE is invited!
Just bring your favorite dish!



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Psalm 8:3-4

When I look around and see all the beautiful things God has made for man to enjoy, and see how people are living, I, like David, wonder what is man that God will visit them. What love! It is more than I can understand. When we fall, he helps us up, forgives us, and gives us a new start. Greater love has no man than this. What a mighty God! We have so much to be thankful for. Let us give thanks to God!

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Christmas Cantata

Dec. 13

The Community Choir will present the Christmas Cantata Dec. 13 at Moon Lake Baptist Church at 5 PM and at Valley Head Baptist at 7 PM. DeVann Jackson is the director. Please put this on your Christmas schedule and attend one or both performances.



"Operation Christmas Child"

*More than one million needy children in Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Lebanon, Romania, Kenya, EL Salvador, and 20 other troubled countries will receive shoe boxes containing small toys, flashlights, school supplies, hygiene items, and candy this Christmas.

1. Each shoe box should be identified as for a boy or girl.
2. A personal note may be included, along with a gospel tract or scripture.
3. The boxes may be wrapped in Christmas paper (the top separate from the bottom) and must be secured with a rubber band.
4. A check for five dollars must accompany each box to cover overseas transportation costs.

***DEADLINE TO RECEIVE SHOE BOXES -
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1998**

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