

GROUNDHOG

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

Valley Head Friends And Neighbors



MORGAN DRUGS FILLS PRESCRIPTIONS with a smile. Robin Hulgan (left) and Don Morgan greet their customers.

Morgan Drugs in Valley Head has been a good neighbor for the people of Mentone and nearby communities for nearly 30 years. Don Morgan, the pharmacist and owner of the drug store is a resident of Mentone where he lives with his wife, the former Edna Smith and son, Coley.

Morgan grew up in Valley Head and, while he was still in school, worked for L. M. Coleman, the first owner of the store. Coleman, although retired, still fills in at the store from time to time.

"I graduated from school in 1966 and later bought half the store from Coleman. Then I bought the whole store and Coleman worked for me, but you couldn't tell the difference," Morgan laughed.

Most people know Morgan by his nickname "Scrooge." His brother gave him the title.

"When I was a little fella," I was pretty tight with money. My brother said that if I took a nickle out of my pocket the buffalo would blink its eyes, it'd been so long since it had seen the light of day," he said. "That gives you an idea of how old I am, there aren't too many buffalo nickles around anymore."

Mentone Drugs has existed without falling prey to chain drug stores as many similar small town businesses have done. Morgan credits the store's success to the service it gives its customers.

"I know my customers and their families and so do my employees, Christine Brooks and Robin Hulgan. We have

lots of personal contact with our customers. I feel like I am not doing them a favor to sell them medicine, they are doing me a favor to buy from me," he explained.

Morgan praised his staff saying they could not be replaced.

For the past five years, Morgan has used a computer system to keep track of prescriptions filled at the store. This helps keep careful records for the customer, doctor and insurance claim needs.

"We can offer any service a big store can offer," he said.

Many customers know they can count on Morgan and his staff to go out of their way to care for them. A number of people in this area remember times when Morgan has gone back to the store after it closed to fill a needed prescription for them and even deliver to their home.

Cattle have become an active interest at the Morgan home. Edna Morgan who retired this year after teaching Home Economics at Valley Head School, is finding the cattle are almost a full time job.

"She watches over them during the day and checks on the ones what are calving. She and Coley have some registered cows and are building a nice herd," Morgan said.

Coley, who is 13, is in eighth grade at Valley Head. He has been a big help this summer, cutting and raking hay.

"We spend a lot of time together," says Morgan.

Come To The 1991

October Colorfest

October 18-20

A Piece Of History

BITS AND PIECES
From Zora Strayhorn's History of Mentone

THE INCORPORATION

Mentone was incorporated in 1936 with Arthur Hixson the first mayor. The first council members were Paul White, Lee Davenport, Hal Howe, Fred Huron, and G. H. Hall. The clerk was Frank L. Gillen. Arthur Hixson resigned as mayor in 1938. The term was completed by Fred Huron with Tom Huron as clerk. The following mayors served after Huron:

Paul White, 1944-48; C. E. Harvey, resigned in 1961 because of ill health; Bill Pullen, acting mayor, 1961; Sam Barrett, 1961-72; Robert Daniel, 1972-76; Ethel Manifold, 1976-80; Sam Barrett, 1980 until resignation in 1983 because of ill health; Barrett's term was completed by Rob Hammond who was re-elected in 1984.

Bids were let on the town hall in March 1956. The first meeting was held there June 4, 1956.

A Better Mousetrap

The Wall Street Journal carried a wonderful cartoon a few weeks ago: Two mice were sitting on a mouse-sized sofa watching TV; one commented to the other that she was troubled by the fact that everybody seemed to be trying to build a better mousetrap.

The mice have reason to be worried. Claude Coots, of Mentone received a patent for his invention of an electric mouse exterminator. The device is simple — a small rectangular box containing bait attracts the mouse to enter for food, and then be electrocuted. There is no painful poison involved, the electrocution is instantaneous, and a human being need not see the dead body when it is disposed of.

Electric Mousetrap, Inc., was formed to handle the development, sale, and distribution of the "traps," and the Board of Directors agreed to have the company headquarters in Woodville, Ala., the residence of the company's president, Donald J. Horowitz, so that he could conveniently oversee the day-to-day operations.

After the patent was issued to Coots, the New York Times carried a feature article on the device on the first page of its Business Section. Various wire services picked up the story, and Coots was bombarded by inquiries by phone and by mail from all over the United States and from Canada, Australia, the Philippines among a dozen or so. Mills, nursing homes, and various commercial entities have shown great interest.

Presently in the final design stages, the company is looking for machine shops and plastics manufacturers interested in producing the 4,000 pre-production models to be used for final evaluation and marketing surveys. Alabama interested in investing in the enterprise may reach Donald J. Horowitz, president of Electric Mousetrap, Inc., at (205) 259-6823, his home in Woodville.

Valley Head Church Sign Dedicated

Valley Head Churches gathered Sunday, Sept. 29, to dedicate a new historical marker listing the communities churches. The marker is at the corner of Church Street and Old Valley Head Road and was built as a project of the Valley Head Woman's Club. Rock Rockenbach donated his time and workmanship in lettering the sign. He was assisted in the construction by Bro. Joe Underwood.

A community service was held at Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church. Representatives from each of the Valley Head churches gave a brief history of their congregations. Paul Burnett spoke for Valley Head Baptist which was founded in 1845 and is the oldest church. Mrs. Clifton Allison gave the history of the Methodist Church, founded in 1852. Mrs. Edwin Tuttle gave the history of Winston Memorial Presbyterian founded in 1872. Mrs. Joe Underwood spoke for John's Chapel Baptist Church founded in 1885 and Mrs. Lawrence Harrison spoke for Davenport Memorial Chapel — A.M.E. church founded in 1889.

Martha Stanley, past president of the Valley Head Woman's Club and chairman of the special projects committee. Her committee included Helen Longshore, Sadie Cooper, Maurine Donahue, Alva Hammond and Mary Holleman.



STORIES AROUND THE BONFIRE are a favorite of October Colorfest goers each year.

The October Colorfest will be a color-filled, fun-filled weekend with lots of great food, crafts and handmade items offered for the public.

Wanda Simmons, the chairman of this year's festival reported to the Mentone Area Preservation Association that she still has many calls coming in everyday from vendors who want to participate in the event.

Activities will kick off with a bonfire and story-telling Friday night, Oct. 18. Terry Hutcherson will be the M. C. for the evening.

Saturday morning, the Groundhog Run will take off at 9:30 a.m. preceded by a Fun Run at 9 a.m. Jean McGehee is the chairman of the Run. This year, a new time-keeping machine will assist in recording finishing times of the runners. The machine, purchased by M.A.P.A. will be donated to Fort Payne High School for use by the track program.

Tony Goggans will M. C. events Saturday and Sunday. Sunday there will be a parade, Dessie Newberry is the Parade Marshal. Mule wagons, horse-drawn wagons and antique cars will be featured. Jack Jones is putting the parade together.

Events will culminate Sunday afternoon with drawings for several items offered by different groups including a queen-size quilt from M.A.P.A.

M.A.P.A. was thanked for their participation in the State's Adopt-A-Mile Program. M.A.P.A. picks up the trash along a section of Highway 117, Sherman Gough is in charge of the project.

Talmadge Butler, DeSoto State Park superintendent, thanked the group for donating 25 percent of the profits from the boat rides on Little River to the Handicapped Trail Fund. The boat rides are offered during the October Colorfest and during the May Rhododendron Festival.



Sign the Petition

Copies of a petition asking GTE to change long distance phone calls from Mentone Valley Head and Hammondville to Fort Payne to local calls can be found at businesses in the area.



VALLEY HEAD MINISTERS and representatives from each church dedicated a sign for the churches in the community. From left: The Rev. L. A. Smith, Valley Head Baptist Church; Bro. Lawrence Harrison, Davenport Memorial Chapel A.M.E. Church; the Rev. Jerry Davis, Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church; Ed Ringer, Valley Head Methodist Church; and, Bro. Joe Underwood, John's Chapel Baptist Church.



MARIE DePAUL, Valley Head Senior is a National Merit Scholar Semifinalist.

Valley Head Senior Top Scholar

Valley Head High School Senior, Marie DePaul, was selected as one of 15,000 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists recently. She is the only student in DeKalb, Jackson and Cherokee counties to receive this honor and represents about half of one percent of each state's graduating class.

The National Merit Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic performance. Marie joined young people in 19,000 U. S. high schools in taking the preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test. Her skills in English, which Valley Head guidance counselor Campbell Smith calls "exceptional," and in math gained her high scores on the test.

Marie enjoys reading, especially science fiction and fantasy. She is a native of Valley Head, the daughter of Russell and Ruthie DePaul and, has attended Valley Head School since kindergarten.

Her performance on the S.A.T. and her being named a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist will make her eligible for several college scholarships. She is interested in attending the University of Alabama and participated in the Capstone Honors Program there this summer.

She is among 48 seniors who will graduate from Valley Head this spring.

Valley View

By Eloise M. Brown

The Sunshine Club and guests enjoyed their annual picnic Sept. 14, at Ruth and Bert Pickett's Out Back Inn. Attending were: Evelyn and Samp Clark, Addie Hall, Geraldine and Howard Hawkins, Mary Porter, Billie Pickett, Stella and April Pierce, Susie and Scooter Clark, Bridgette Blaylock, Karen, Katie, Mark, Matthew, Luke and Ben Freeman, Lillie and Herschel Bowden, Bess and Tom Bauerle, Vernitice Young, Carmel Gifford, Billie and Heather Harper, Gladys Cobble, Jesse B., Becky, Gladys and Jenny Scott, W. D. Chadwick and Eloise Brown. A week later, the Cobble reunion was held there. Margaret and Donald Cobble from Columbia, S. C., visited his mother, Gladys Cobble, and attended the reunion.

Jane Blansit and her mother, Mary Crow, attended the reunion of the Twenty-first Ordinance Co. of World War II (of which Mary's husband, Austin Crow, was a member) in Dayton, Ohio. They visited the U. S. Air Force Museum and attended the Lutheran Church.

Ed Ringer, accompanied by his brother, Dr. Robert Ringer, attended the University of Mississippi-University of Ohio ball game at Oxford, Miss., then visited Independence, Mo., and returned home by Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Ed is now attending the Alabama Retired Teachers Association in Montgomery.

Doris and Jim Carmichael have returned from a visit with their daughter, Emma, and Dr. Mark Ricketts. They went to the Georgia-Alabama ball game and then to Biloxi, Mississippi for a business meeting. They enjoyed seeing the beautiful ante-bellum mansions, including Jefferson Davis' home.

The Valley Head U.M.W. met at the home of Mary Frances Tate Sept. 24. She was assisted by Betty Adams. Laura Margaret Alison presented the study on "Freedom in the Spirit." Others present were Janie Longshore, Mary Louise Holleman, Elizabeth Coleman, Geraldine Hawkins, Velma Hammond, Vesta Hawkins, Gladola Holleman, Adelaide Biddle and Eloise Brown.

Billie and Heather Harper flew to Phoenix to visit Billie's son, Michael Harper and family. They went to the Grand Canyon, Flagstaff, and Scottsdale; they also went to Apache Junction and they toured a gold mine. They went to a Flea Market at night which they thought unusual — but they had to have it at night because it was too hot in the day time, being 104-109 degrees; however they did visit a cool spot — Canyon Lake atop Superstition Mountain.

Mary Louise Holleman, "Red" Adams, and Amy Holleman were honored with a birthday dinner at Mary Frances Holleman's home.

John Holleman has returned to Sunnyvale, Ca., after a visit with his parents, Ted and Mary Louise Holleman. Sympathy is extended to Clyde McNew for the loss of his sister, Mildred Ward, who died in Coco, Fla.

Teaching At Moon Lake

Twenty-four years of teaching school at Moon Lake elementary have given Juanita Smith plenty of moments to savor. In a recent interview with the Groundhog she recalled some of the most amusing events that have occurred in her years teaching in Mentone.

She started teaching in 1967 at Valley Head to finish out the year of another teacher who was transferred. Her college degree was in the business area but, she found she really enjoyed teaching. While teaching during the day, she returned to school to become accredited and then, in 1968, was hired to teach a fourth and fifth grade combined class as well as sixth grade social studies at Moon Lake. The next year she became the Chapter 1 Reading Teacher for Moon Lake. Chapter 1 is a federally funded program that provides for enrichment and enhancement of the regular school program and has been in existence in DeKalb County since 1965.

"One of my sixth grade students was Bill Berry (who now teaches third and fourth grades at Moon Lake)," she says.

Mrs. Smith began working in the classroom as the aide for her husband, Eugene. He recently retired after 25 years of teaching at Moon Lake and serving as assistant principal and principal here, at Fischer and at Ider.

"We met on the train going to Central Wesleyan College in South Carolina," she said.

Eugene, who is also called by his middle name, Doug, had been in the Navy and was a new Christian. He wanted to attend a Christian college. Robert Shigley, then principal at Moon Lake contacted Eugene Smith, to come to teach at Moon Lake.

Mrs. Smith had a background in computers but found that they were not widely used in this area at that time.

The Smith's live in Valley Head and attend Valley Head Baptist Church. They have four children — Steve who is married and lives in Macon, Missouri; David who lives in

Mentone; Joe who is married to the former Darlene Owen and lives in Mentone; and Juana Jean who is married to Tommy Hixson and lives in Dalton, Georgia.

"I love teaching at Moon Lake," she says. "It's like teaching at private school. We have good kids and good relationships with the parents."

She says there are many "down-to-earth Christian families" in Mentone who care about their children and the schools they attend.

"It gives the teacher's confidence to know they can depend on the parents. I think that is why Moon Lake is such a good school," she commented.

"I am proud of the academic achievement of our students, lots of our kids graduate from Valley Head as Valedictorian," Mrs. Smith said.

She is now teaching children and grandchildren of her former students. Antics and pranks of former students give the Smith's plenty to chuckle about.

"We remembered one boy who looked like a real bookworm although he was just the opposite. He was tall and skinny and wore big thick glasses. One day he asked my husband if they would get out of school early for a teacher's meeting and when he confirmed that it was a short school day he rolled his eyes and said almost prayerfully, 'Hallelujah, praise the Lord, bless His Holy Name.' I guess that's just how he felt!" she related.

She says she probably will retire after her 25th year of teaching and hopes to spend more time at home and continue teaching music lesson.



MENTONE'S

GROUNDHOG

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In case of errors in advertisements, **The Groundhog** assumes liability only for the actual space that is incorrect in the advertisement.

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

The deadline for all material for **The Groundhog** is the last day of the month preceding publication.

Doris Carmichael and I spent some time with Ruby Sully last Saturday. She is confined to her home because of illness. We hope she will be feeling better soon. She has always been a kind and thoughtful person.

The church sign was dedicated Sunday by representatives from the five churches meeting at the Presbyterian Church, at a meaningful ceremony.

Barry Brown was presented a Treasure Forest Award and a plaque that stated: "For outstanding achievement in multiple use and management of forest land, presented by Alabama Forestry Planning Committee and the W. Kelly Mosley Environmental Program."

Congratulations to JIM and Ann Lohr Erikson on the birth of a daughter, Danielle Ellen Sierra Aug. 30!

Members of Jeff Adkins' family filled two pews at the Valley Head Methodist Church last Sunday. They came to celebrate Jeff's thirtieth birthday. Many, many happy returns.

Good Neighbors

By Emily Smith

One of the nicest things about living in Mentone is the great neighbors we have, especially in the town of Valley Head just down the mountain. **The Groundhog** salutes those neighbors who add to our quality of life here.

There were lots of folks we didn't highlight in this issue, and it would be hard to begin to name them all. There are so many great folks in Valley Head. A few that come to mind are the tellers and other staff at Citizen's Bank. This family owned venture gives great service and lots of personal attention to its customers. Nova Dean Kilgore, their head bookkeeper is a wonderful cook and shares recipes with us each month.

We couldn't do without Dr. Jim Quimby who takes care of all our aches and pains or Harvard "Haywire" Hester who keeps lots of the men in the area neatly trimmed.

And for a good meal, whether breakfast or lunch, The Tiger's Inn fits the bill.

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Club Meetings

RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB

The Rhododendron Garden Club met for their regular monthly meeting on Sept. 10 at Nippersink Lodge.

Benny Campbell, a florist from Attala, presented a program on flower arranging using many native wildflowers and grasses found in the Mentone area. Campbell is well known and respected for his talent. He graduated from Auburn with a degree in horticulture.

Hostesses for the meeting were Gerry Disney, Hattie Hide and Virginia Bassage.

VALLEY HEAD WOMAN'S CLUB

DeKalb County Librarian, Chris Wright, spoke to the September meeting of the Valley Head Woman's Club. Wright's home in Mentone, Windsor Hall, was his topic.

The house was built in the early 1800's and has been the home of many interesting people including, Martha Berry and Katie Darrow. Wright says the age of the house is evident when it is inspected underneath. It is constructed of hand hewn timbers and wooden pegs.

"There are no squeaks in the floors," he said, "It is that solid."

Wright encouraged the club to appreciate the historical value of furniture and houses in this area.

"We need to preserve our local history," he said.

The next club meeting will be Oct. 16. Mike O'Dell, the Assistant District Attorney will be the speaker.



From The Pastor's Study . . .

WE CARE

By Pastor Don G. Brock
Church of God of Prophecy

One of the things most noticeable about the Mentone area is that the people are good and kind to one another. Of course there are a few exceptions. But it is a friendly community where citizens have a genuine concern for one another. It is the same attitude which caused these neighbors in years gone by, to have "barn raisings" for the one in need. It has been recent that many came together to reconstruct part of a local residence which had been partially destroyed by an explosion. This is quite a contrast from the metropolitan sea of massed people in large cities. Even when it is hard to be, people can still be caring.

So often it is assumed that someone who is going through difficult times is incapable of effectively caring for someone else. Indeed, as I spend much time counseling those who are depressed and struggling with personal problems, I have to remind myself to encourage them to reach out to help others rather than focus exclusively on themselves. It helps the helper and the helped. How insightful the Psalmist was in writing:

He who goes out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with him (Psalm 126:6).

A lecturer was once asked by a member of his audience, "If a ship was wrecked in mid-ocean, and only a single boat was available, and if there were twenty young, strong, able men on board, and twenty weakly women, would it not pay best, and be best for the world, to save the stronger capable men, and let the rest drown?" And he answered, amid the loud applause of the meeting, "What possible good could twenty such men as that be to the world?"

This community is made up of people. We can't care about the community without caring about people. And, we can't care about the people without caring about the community. May this sincere respect for our fellowman never be destroyed by any influence.

Country Cooking

By Nova Dean Kilgore

SWEET LIME PICKLES

Soak cucumbers in 1 cup lime per gallon water overnight. Rinse 3 times in fresh water. Soak in ice water 3 hours. Bring to boil:

6 cups vinegar
8 cups sugar
1 1/2 tablespoons salt
2 tablespoons pickling spice

Soak in syrup for 5 or 6 hours. Cook for 3/4 hour or until clear looking. Put in jars and seal.

SWEET PICKLE STICKS

9 medium cucumbers about 4 1/2 inches long
6 cups boiling water
2 1/4 cups sugar
1 tablespoon celery seed
3/4 teaspoon turmeric
2 1/2 cups vinegar
2 tablespoons salt
3/4 teaspoon mustard seed

Select fresh cucumbers; wash and cut into sticks. Pour boiling water over cucumbers and let stand overnight. Next day drain; pack into clean jars. Combine remaining ingredients and boil 5 minutes. Fill jars with boiling liquid. Water bath for 5 minutes or use pressure cooker up to 5 pounds pressure and off.

SWEET MUSTARD PICKLES

100 to 200 small pickles. Pour scant 1 cup salt over pickles, and cover with boiling water. Let stand till cool, then drain.

2 qts. vinegar
4 tablespoons salt
4 tablespoons mixed pickling spice
3 tablespoons dry mustard
4 tablespoons sugar

Use some of the vinegar and make a paste with the dry mustard, then add remaining vinegar and other ingredients. Put pickles in gallon jar and pour juice over pickles. Add 1 cup sugar every day till six cups are added. Close lid and let stand till ready to eat.

BEST EVER PICKLES

300 cucumbers 2 in. long
3/4 cup salt
Boiling water to cover (let set over night drain and dry)
2 quarts vinegar
1/4 cup salt
1/2 cup pickling spices
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup dry mustard
3 pounds sugar

Put in glass gallon jars. Add 1/2 cup sugar (until the 3 pounds of sugar is used) each morning and stir with wooden spoon. Put in refrigerator. Keeps indefinitely.

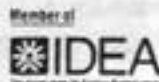
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Poet, Painter And Newspaper Columnist



ELOISE BROWN



Valley View, a regular feature of the Groundhog, keeps us all up to date on the activities of our Valley Head neighbors. Valley View's author, Eloise Brown, is a multi-talented lady, a long-time resident of Valley Head and, a great supporter of that community.

Eloise Brown first came to the area as a young girl, visiting her aunt in Sulphur Springs. She grew up in Dade County, Georgia and was reared by her grandparents. Both her parents died when she was very young. She met her husband, Donald Brown, while on a visit to her aunt and married him when she was 17, "right out of high school."

Donald Brown and his brother were in the grocery business in Valley Head. A bout with rheumatic fever when the Brown's two children were babies caused Mr. Brown to give up his interest in the grocery store. The Brown's moved to a farm at Kaolin, just north of Valley Head.

"We lived in a log cabin there, as old as the State of Alabama," she remembers. "There was a little railroad station and you could flag the train down to go to Chattanooga."

She says the engineer of the train would throw candy to her children when he passed by. Her children both attended school at Valley Head. They are now grown and her daughter, Eldonna, lives in Maryland. Son, R. B. lives in Valley Head.

The Brown's built the house where Eloise lives now just three years before her husband's death. It is situated on a lake and surrounded by large shade trees. She shares her home with two companionable cats and enjoys her books of poetry as well as family photographs and a number of paintings she has done.

R. B. Brown was recently recognized by the Alabama Forestry Commission for his reforestation efforts on the property he owns. He lives at Batelle, once a thriving town with hotels, schools, a clay mine, and furnace. Batelle was a boom town at the same time Fort Payne was established.

Eldonna and her husband, Larry Root, were both involved in the school of counter-intelligence in Washington during World War II.

Eloise is a grandmother six times over and a great-grandmother ten times over.

She is actively involved in the United Givers Fund and also with Valley Head United Methodist Church where she is a member and has served as secretary of the administrative council, Sunday School teacher and president of the U.M.W.

"That is the United Methodist Women, not the United Mine Workers," she laughed.

She is also a charter member of the Alabama State Poetry Society. Her interest in poetry began at an early age, she says she used to amuse her friends on the school bus talking in rhyme.

"I like plain meanings that speak to everyone's heart and soul," she said. "I really need an incentive to write poetry."

She often writes tributes for funerals of people she knows. Eloise says if she had some spare time, she'd like to paint more.

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RAINBOW VACUUM DEALER

UGF Campaign

Campaign leaders are hoping to have at least 10 percent of goal, or \$27,000 reported by the first Report Meeting which is set for Wednesday, Sept. 25, at Western Sizzlin.

One area that helps to get the Campaign off to a good start is the early contributions and pledges which come in through the leadership giving level clubs.

These clubs were set up to encourage those with the ability and desire to support the programs of United Givers Fund with a commitment of at least \$200.00.

The Two Hundred Plus Club (\$200.00 or more contribution) was organized in 1975. The President's Club (\$300.00 or more) in 1981, and the Cornerstone (\$500.00 or more) in 1989. Serving as Chairmen of this year's leadership giving levels are: Cornerstone Club, Frank Hogue; President's Club, Jerry Pendergrass; Two Hundred Plus Club Fort Payne, Bill Mitchell; and Two Hundred Plus Club, Town and County, Weldon Parrish.

To date, 58 individuals have helped to get the Campaign off to a good start with a gift or pledge at one of these levels. Those who wish to challenge others to join them are: John Cooper, Dick and Alice O'Ferrall, Oscar and Shirley Hessel and Peggy Tutwiler, all of Mentone.

With the highest goal and the greatest challenge ever for UGF this year, every gift is important. Every volunteer is important.



TALENT SHINES on Thursday nights at The Kountry Chef. Music from the Happy Heirs and others make a great evening for the audience. Performing recently were (from left) Ed Buckley, Dorothy Crow and Dessie Newberry.

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The Chance of a Lifetime to own your piece of Heaven in Mentone. "Incredible View" Rustic 4 bedroom, 2 bath weekend get-away. Large fully equipped sunken kitchen with skylights. Cathedral ceiling living area with large stone fireplace, glassed in Sleep Porch. Hardwood floors and much more \$185,000.



OLD RAMBLING FARM HOUSE — On 20 acres located in the Alpine Area. 10 acres cleared and fenced, 10 wooded acres with a spring. Owner will consider financing. \$55,000.



LOVELY FOUR-BEDROOM, TWO BATH COTTAGE — On large 1 acre lot located on Dogwood Avenue. This home features a 10 x 30 screened-in porch with tile floor, ceramic baths, great storage and utility room. Many extras. \$87,500.



TENDER LOVING CARE will turn this great starter home into a charming country cottage, 2 bedroom, 1 bath home offers lots of possibilities. Approx. 5 acres, \$32,000.



MOVE YOUR FAMILY into this spacious 4 bedroom, CEDAR and MOUNTAIN STONE home on over 2 acres in MENTONE. Large fully equipped kitchen — full unfinished basement, \$58,500.



NEW LISTING — 4 bedroom house, 3 bedroom rental house. Service Station with apartment on 7 acres with 400 feet on Little River. Call for more details. \$170,000.



WEEKEND GET-AWAY in MENTONE — 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath trailer with separate shop . . . over 1/2 acre lot. Walking distance of DOWNTOWN Mentone. Only \$18,000.



GRAB YOUR SKIS AND WALK OUT THE DOOR — 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, hardwood and pine floors overlooking approximately 200 feet of LITTLE RIVER. All for \$125,000.



PERFECT FOR THE WEEKEND GET-AWAY. This 2 bedroom, 1 bath cottage has magnificent VIEW of "MOONSHINE LAKE." Approx. 200' of lake frontage. Priced at only \$32,500.



OUTDOORSMAN'S PARADISE. Newly remodeled 2 bedroom cottage. Living, dining, kitchen combination on 7.5 secluded acres in MENTONE, \$49,900.

ACREAGE

BEAUTIFUL LAKE LAHAUSAGE LOTS — On Woodland Drive. Great building site on deep water, \$25,000.

510 ACRES — With seven ponds — Owner will consider selling in smaller tracts. Wooded and cleared, \$550 an acre.

BROW LOTS — South of Mentone on DeSoto Parkway. Starting at \$15,000.

BROW LOT — North of Mentone over 300' on brow, \$22,500.

Church News

Moon Lake Baptist Church along with two other churches will present Judgment House Oct. 28-31 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. each night. This drama is designed for young people over the age of 13 and will be held in Mentone. The audience is involved in the production which will be held at a barn near the church.

Moon Lake's pastor, Curtis Bridges, says there are over 100 people involved in the production. There is a \$2 charge per person for the drama and groups of 15 will be taken through at a time.

Directions and more information will be posted around Mentone.

MOON LAKE BANQUET NIGHT

Moon Lake Baptist held their annual banquet night supper Sept. 29. The congregation focused on accomplishments of the past year and goals for the coming year.

"We had a great year in 1990-91," reported pastor Curtis Bridges.

The theme for the church for 1991-92 is "Gaining the Surpassing Knowledge of Christ." The goal is "Taking Pride in God."

ST. JOSEPH'S ANNIVERSARY

St. Joseph's On The Mountain Episcopal Church celebrates its 20th anniversary, Oct. 13.

"We will begin with a procession from the little red building on Highway 117 where our services first began," said the Rev. Tim Smith, rector of St. Joseph's.

The morning worship service, at 10:30 a.m. will include Confirmation and an offering by the Singing Saints, St. Joseph's Youth Choir. First Sunday Lunch will follow with birthday cake and ice cream.

"We invite former members and friends of St. Joseph's to join us in our celebration of 'Twenty Wonderful Years,'" Rev. Smith said.

It's that time again!!! Oct. 13, Mentone Wesleyan Church will hold homecoming!

Please join us Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. for a special time of music followed with a message brought by Rev. George Davis.

A covered dish luncheon will follow. For further information, call 205-634-4210. Mark your calendar now!

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Country Journal

By Bernise Crow

In retrospect, I go back to the small country schools where reading, writing, and arithmetic were taught to those who were eager to learn. Learning was so very important to us who lived through the depression of the thirties. We thought we could learn how to raise ourselves to a higher standard of living, and devoted our time to reading and studying with that goal in mind.

Teachers seemed to have more time to devote to each child, even when two grades were taught in the same room. We were given simple instructions and we worked hard to achieve. Teachers were respected more then. Parents were stricter with rules, as were the instructors. Usually when a child got a spanking at school, he got another one when he got home. Now when a child is corrected at school, the parents go to the school and demand to know why young Johnny was reprimanded.

Country schools, in the early days, dealt more closely with the families of pupils. Many homes provided room and board for the teacher, and considered it an honor to be able to do this. The teachers were not paid much, but they were held with high esteem in the neighborhood.

The buildings were smaller, and each community had a school of its own, within walking distance of most children, even if a mile or two away. If young Johnny decided to skip school, the teacher and parents knew all about it in a short time.

Our country's schools have been consolidated until we no longer enjoy the privileges of community schools and teachers. And it seems that too many children are crowded into one school, making it harder on the teacher. My dad attended Berry Schools when Miss Martha Berry taught in a little log room. He finished the ninth grade there and, had a better education than most kids now who have completed twelve years of study. One would think that with all the modern facilities that a child could complete the requirements for a high school education in a shorter amount of time. Many of the old school buildings served as churches as well, making the building usable year round. The school bells were heard during the week, and church bells on Sundays.

The Schoolhouse was used for political gatherings, musicals, box suppers. Voting for candidates for political office was held there.

It seems that the whole education system is in trouble now all over our nation. Government funds never seem to be enough to take care of the needs. Most politicians go into office with the promise to give us better schools, and fall short of the promises. Many teachers this year have lost their jobs because of the lack of funds. What a shame!

It seems to me we need more instructors instead of fewer of them. The future of our nation depends on the youth who are trying to attain a good education. Let's go back to basics — good community supported schools like we have here at Moon Lake in Mentone. We have great pride in this little school, and the way it is supported by the community.



Congratulations to the principal, Charles Bell, and the faculty members, for having students reach a higher level of achievement than most schools in the state of Alabama!

The desire to learn must be first given to the child at home. Regardless of the amount of effort a teacher puts into his work, if the child does not choose to learn he can do nothing. It would be good to see more little schools opened, and more community, and less government control. Back to basics. Teach Johnny to read. Now some children graduate from high school and cannot read. This, I do not understand.

Our visitor of the month at the Hitching Post, was Nancy Cowley. Nancy is back in town! She is the delightful lady, who walked into our shop two years ago and announced, "I'm Nancy from Dallas!" We had a good time talking with her. She wanted to find a place where she could get away from it all, and stumbled upon Mentone. We got her a place to stay at Milton and Grace Howard's log cabin. She loved it! She attended our ghost-story session around the bonfire and made the comment that she would return and have a story of her own to tell. She has been transferred to Birmingham now, and said she would be back for our Colorfest.

While she was here the last time, Betty Harris took her to Tiger's Inn and introduced her to the good breakfast there. On this trip, Nancy brought her Mother with her, and her handsome son who is a Marine.

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TWO-STORY HOME - Great location on winding country road within two miles of Mentone, this 4 bedroom, 2 bath home has a fireplace and central exposed staircase on 1 1/2 acres. **ONLY \$42,500.**



UNIQUE AND ONE OF A KIND - These are the best words to describe this wonderful large home with its rambling porches and interior cathedral ceilings. This five bedroom home with wood floors, 3 baths and mountain stone barbecue pit in the kitchen is newly constructed with antique charm. **\$119,000.**



ENJOY NATURE FROM YOUR SCREENED PORCH - This perfect retirement home has 2 bedrooms and is located on Dogwood Avenue in a secluded wooded area with no grass to mow since it is surrounded by natural woods. If you have a green thumb, this home has a small greenhouse. **\$68,900.**

ACREAGE AND LOTS

THE PERFECT PLACE - That cabin you've always wanted is just waiting to be built on these beautiful wooded building sites. With access to Little River, city water and only a mile from DeSoto Park, truly the Perfect Place. Prices **\$9,500 to \$18,500.**

NINE ACRES - Less than five miles from Mentone with cleared pasture area and wooded building site. There is also an ideal place for a pond. **\$13,500.**

65 ACRES - Owner financing. Outstanding wooded acreage, **\$35,000.**

20 ACRES - 1/4 mile of Little River frontage and from the building site you can see it all. **Owner financing \$60,000.**

85 ACRES ON LITTLE RIVER - With 1/4 mile along the River. This is an outstanding piece of property with a wonderful view of the River. **Reduced to \$89,900.**

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Owner - Broker

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