

Look For Colorfest Pull-Out In This Issue

THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville, Menlo, Cloudland

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Volume 30, No. 9/10 "Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain" — In our 30th year September/October 2011

Moon Lake Elementary School's Centennial Celebration October 15th

By Charlotte Gentry

"Moon Lake School has always had a 'Can-Do' spirit. It has survived a burnout, the Great Depression with short terms, and the threat of closure for consolidation, and still it flourishes." These words, written by Ernest Smith in a Groundhog article from 1997, are still fresh and were never truer than this school year when Moon Lake School is celebrating its 100th birthday.

Imagine how exciting it must have been for the mountain children in the Mentone area when the freshly-built, large, two-story frame Moon Lake School opened its doors to them in 1911. These children had previously only had formal education in short "subscription" summer schools, usually held in churches. Now they had a "real" school on land that had been donated by Mr. Ed Mason.

Nettie Smith, whose remembrances were included in that same Groundhog issue, stated, "In the fall of 1911, I enrolled in the new Moon Lake School at Mentone, which was my first full-term school. The schoolhouse was a two-room, two-story building with two teachers assigned, one to each floor. Nine grades were taught, as I recall. The upper grades were assigned to the second floor and the lower grades to the first floor. My teacher was Miss Daisy Humphreys. She later



married Hartford Brown of the Bankhead Community."

She continued, "The school building faced west and there were numerous windows on the front and back, providing natural light. No electric lights were available nor were kerosene lamps used. (When asked what they did on dark cloudy days, she replied that it was necessary to move near the windows and have good eyesight in order to do your lessons.)

"Moon Lake School was about four miles distant from my home, which was located just south of the present Shady Grove Dude Ranch. I walked to and from school with other children from my community. I remember that I used to save my lunch to eat on the way home. By that time, I needed something to give me energy for that long walk."

For the boys, though, the thought of going to school wasn't such a pleasant one. Jim Lyday, in his book *The First off the Mountain*,

related his ideas about school. "When summer ended I had a very rude awakening. I had to go to school. I'd been

going to school since I was two years old, but now it was for real. I had to sit in my seat, answer questions and write. I didn't like any part of it.

He continued, "I walked to school with the Jones'. We had about a two mile hike to Moon Lake School. We went by Powell's store across the covered bridge and up to a two story schoolhouse. Nora Dobbs was my first grade teacher. She was a friend of Mama's and Daddy's so again I was on the spot. I couldn't read or write or count the way we were expected to. I could tell them everything but didn't have the skills needed to do the work. I'm glad my first report card isn't around to haunt me."

Ernest Smith (the unofficial historian of Mentone) wrote, "In November, 1927, the Moon Lake Schoolhouse burned. I believe the school year was finished out in the Baptist Church nearby. In 1928, the debris was cleared away and a new

two-room school house was built. This is the nucleus of the present building."

Jim Lyday was still a student at Moon Lake at that time. "When school started, Dickie (his mother's youngest brother who was his own age) and I had to walk to Moon Lake. The old schoolhouse had burned down and a new three room one had been built. Two of the rooms had sliding doors and could be used for large meetings or assemblies."

By 1931, which was Ernest Smith's first school year, a third room had been built on the north end. According to Mr. Smith, "In 1934, grades 3 and 4 were moved to the Baptist Church due to overcrowding, brought about by increased enrolment in all grades.

• Continued on page 15

You are cordially invited to the
Centennial Celebration
of
Moon Lake Elementary School

Please join us on
the school campus
Saturday, October 15, 2011
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Special Program 2:00 p.m.

THE GROUNDHOG

PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 5, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, and is chartered as a non-profit organization by the State of Alabama.



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MAPA OFFICERS

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MAPA dues for the new year are:
\$10/individual and \$15/couple. Send
your dues to: MAPA, PO Box 50,
Mentone, AL 35984

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

**CALL CHARLOTTE GENTRY AT
256-996-5995 for advertising.**

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



**Join MAPA today!
Help us preserve
Mentone's history
and impact its future.**

**Just \$10/year individual
\$15 for a couple
MAPA, PO Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984**

From the Editor

The culmination of so much work, planning, discussion (and probably "cuss-ion") and wonderful cooperation between Mentone Area Preservation Association and Mentone Area Arts Council is upon us—Colorfest Weekend 2011. Looking over the list of all the music, arts & crafts and activities that will be included in this, the 29th Mentone Colorfest, is amazing and incredibly exciting!

Thank you to those who have hung in there, ignored the obstacles, and made this thing come together. We cannot even begin to name all those who should be thanked. The Festival Steering Committee is comprised of members of both MAPA and MAAC. There has been assistance from the Town of Mentone, many individuals, organizations and businesses.

Then, there's the Centennial Celebration for Moon Lake School that will take place October 15, 2011, from 1:00 till 4:00, with a special program at 2:00 pm. Again, the planning and preparation for this event has taken many hours and the volunteer efforts of many people. Thank you, especially, to Pam Thomas, Moon Lake PTO President, for her tireless service to the students, teachers, parents and the community.

When you consider what a small community Mentone is insofar as actual population goes, it is phenomenal that so much can be done. Do you realize how few communities, even much larger ones, ever do half the things that are being done in Mentone? It's the people who make the difference.

Folks who are relative newcomers to our community are working hand in hand with those whose roots go deeply into the rocky, mountain soil and they are DOING SOMETHING! There is no monetary gain for these folks. It's just what they do. They see something needs doing, they roll up their sleeves and do it.

Speaking of rolling up your sleeves, it was so heartening to see the turnout for the blood drive and bone marrow donor registration for Lukas Boehringer on September 30th. We actually had to wait in line to give blood! But, nobody complained. It was an opportunity to visit with friends or make new ones. Thank you to all who gave the gift of life! In fact, the response was so great that the Blood Assurance folks are considering making Mentone a monthly blood donation site.

Finally, we've had the "friendly" kidnapping of W. Chuck Groundhog, by a "friend of Moon Lake School." When you look at it, this is a really creative way to raise money for the PTO's efforts to help the teachers and students at the school! (Not that we endorse kidnapping, of course.) The ransom of \$2,000 will be paid, one donor at a time, to get Chuck back. Soon, we hope!

C.

M.A.P.A. Board Meeting

Sept. 6, 2011 - All members present

L. C. Moon nominated Robert Green for secretary, second by Amelia Kirk. Motion carried.

L. C. also made a motion that M.A.P.A. give Moonlake school five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Seconded by Hobson Kirby; vote carried.

Ray Padgett discussed M.A.P.A.'s Edward Jones account which lost eight hundred fifty (\$850.00) dollars the past month. L.C. made a motion that this money be moved to Citizen's Bank to a passport savings acct. or checking acct., whichever is most profitable. Amelia seconded and the motion carried. There was general discussion about reprinting Zora Strayhorn's history of Mentone as a fundraiser for M.A.P.A. Robert made a motion and L.C. seconded that M.A.P.A. reprint five hundred (500) copies. There was no formal vote, but all agreed.

Next discussed was changing the dates of the October Fest and the Rhododendron Festival. Everyone agreed it would not be changed.

GENERAL M.A.P.A. MEETING

Sept. 6, 2011 - Ten(10) members present.

Gerald Bailey brought the meeting to order; then the pledge and opening prayer. Business meeting Decisions were reported to the group.

Minutes were accepted as written, treasurers report by Ray Padgett, and Wilma reported on quilt ticket Sales for the October Fest.

Extending sidewalks in Mentone was discussed. L.C. made a motion that Alex and Misty Watters form a Sidewalk committee. Second by Gerald and the vote carried.

Motion was made by Ray to adjourn the meeting, second by Gerald. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,
Robert Green - Secretary

Letters To the Editor

Editor,

Have enjoyed the Groundhog so much lately. You might consider an article periodically on folks in the Conservation Hall of Fame. I'd never heard of this, but found this info in a very old magazine (National Wildlife, Dec/Jan 1976).

Also, please read the enclosed chicken story and pass it on to the lady who has written about chickens in the Groundhog.

My best to you,
Marie McKinley*

Dear MAPA Members,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$500.00 to Moon Lake Elementary PTO. Your commitment to helping the school and the students is greatly appreciated by the parents, teachers and students.

Thanks to donors like you the PTO can continue its mission of helping to educate the children of our area by providing teachers, faculty and staff with equipment and supplies they need for the school campus and classrooms.

As you may know Moon Lake Elementary will be celebrating its 100 year anniversary this year. We truly hope that you will have the opportunity to come out and visit the school during the celebration on Oct. 15, 2011.

Again, thank you for all you do for our organization.

Pam Thomas
President, MoonLake PTO

**Misfortune has
befallen Chuck.
Find out more
on page 17.**

Southern Properties

845-6000 Agency, Inc.

2107 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne

SouthernPropertiesAgency.com



SPEND COUNTLESS EVENINGS on the 3-season screened porch enjoying the sunset view. Set on 2.6 acres and features wood floors, sleep loft, sunroom, storage shed and multiple decks. Enjoy serenity secured for only \$347,900. (21176)



MENTONE - Pole Cat Hollow - Remodeled 2 bedroom rustic cabin, living and dining combo has cathedral ceiling, kitchen with ceramic tile countertops, utility, CH&A, front porch, deck, wooded 1.78 acre tract. \$110,000 (20701)



FIRST TIME OFFERED. Main house, guest house and 45 acres on the west brow of Lookout Mtn. with the ambience of a true mountain home. Wood floors, wood walls, rock fireplaces, walkways and patios with sunset views and hestroom landscaping. A must see for \$799,000. (21010)



ENJOY LIFE UNINTERRUPTED in this custom built log get-away on 4 secluded acres. Loft BR and 1BA with wood floors offering a cozy atmosphere and a front rocking chair porch complete the picture. Hurry before someone buys the cabin of your dreams for only \$125,000. (20551)



NEW PRICE! Rental cabin in downtown Mentone for sale at \$99,900, option to purchase four adjoining commercial lots. 2/3BR, 1BA, living/dining combo, stone FP, and CH&A. Cabin is being sold furnished. (20961)



COZY CABIN IN THE WOODS! 2BR/1BA! Log siding exterior with metal roof, wood floors and walls, rock fireplace, and bath with large jetted tub. Nice side deck with hot tub for relaxing and enjoying nature. Selling FULLY FURNISHED. \$99,500 (20992)



ALMOST NEW CABIN in Mentone with a view of the lake. Features 2BR/2BA, pine walls and floors, large open living room with FP, spacious kitchen with dining area (appliances included), wraparound porch, back deck, and a great space for entertaining outdoors. \$179,900 (21496)



INCREDIBLE BROW HOME offers three levels to enjoy the gorgeous view. Kitchen has b'fast bar and stainless appliances, MBR has private deck, fireplace and wood walls and ceilings. Outside enjoy the stacked rock FP/bbq grill, patio and decks. Come see this unbelievable home today! \$569,000 (15736)



BEAR CLAU LODGE offers 3BR/3.5BA, stacked rock fireplace, vaulted ceiling, full appliance package, granite countertops, outdoor fireplace, spacious living areas with plenty of entertaining space outdoors on 2.2 acres. \$349,900 (21142)



NORTH BROW - Unique log structure that was moved from Georgia. 1BR/1BA, open living space and lots of room for entertaining. 8.3 acres +/- \$279,900 (18256)



PRIVATELY LOCATED Authentic Mentone Brow house offers all you could dream of for a lovely retreat from every care of everyday life! Covered Porch, open living/dining area, spacious kitchen, 2BR/2BA, Screened Porch/Detached Guest House w/Beds&Bath. \$386,000 (21269)



LIVE & PLAY on the water... 1200' of frontage on the East Fork of Little River. 3BR/2BA, all appliances, wood burning fireplace, storage building and more. \$325,000 (18278)



CUSTOM BUILT LOG CABIN.... situated on 2 lots in Laurel Creek. 2 LARGE BR/2BA, spacious great room with cathedral ceilings, hickory floors, 2-car garage, and fishing dock. \$199,900 (18898)



RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL property located on Hwy. 117 in Mentone is now FOR SALE! Approx. 1350 +/- sq-ft. Room for expansion on this 1.36 + acre lot. ONLY \$142,500 (20377)



THIS IS THE Custom 3BR/2.5BA cedar sided home on 1 acre in Mentone. Great room with FP, kitchen/dining combo, above-ground pool with decking, BONUS room, laundry/mud room, double garage, and lots more. \$219,000 (20051)



SURROUNDED BY DESOTO STATE PARK! This cedar-sided home is perfect for a week-end getaway or full-time residence. 3BR/2BA, living room with HW flooring, vaulted ceiling, skylights and rock fireplace. Great location - Great price! \$128,500 (21424)



SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD... UNIQUE "round" cabin offering an open living space, 2BR/1BA, most all furnishings, 9.58 acres and SPECTACULAR views of the valley and mountains beyond. \$295,000 (20120)



LAKE ON THE BROW PROPERTY WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEWS! Brick home sited on 1.05 acres. Greatroom, kitchen/dining combo, 3BR/2.5BA, radiant floor heating in the master bath, and three-season porch. \$299,900 (21222)



RED BIRD ROOST... Less than 1 block from downtown Mentone and Brow Park, you'll find this 2BR/2BA log cabin with stone walls and floors. Cozy screened porch, 100' of brow frontage. \$269,900 (21126)



FEELS SO RIGHT! 3BR/2BA Cabin offering spacious floor plan, attic storage, soaring ceilings. Main-level master, stainless steel appliances. Laundry room, and covered porch. REDUCED \$159,000 (21114)



LET RELAXATION BECOME A HABIT in this log and frame home. Main floor master with FP, kitchen, deck and screened porch. Centrally located great room with WB FP. Second floor offers large bedroom and bath with private screened porch. Sitting on 2 brow lots. \$399,000 (21255)



CUSTOM BUILT 2 BR/2BA Log Cabin situated on shaded, woodland acres. Two stone fireplaces, luxurious loft, 3-season sleeping porch, detached storage, additional small cabin, lily pond, kitchen with 5 Star six burner gas range... Ambiance/quality/privacy/dramatic flair. REDUCED \$289,500 (20272)



CAPTIVATING SETTING with the ultimate traditional charm! Enjoy the comforts of this restored and distinctive farmhouse sited on 58 acres. Formal dining, formal living, den with wood burning fireplace, large kitchen with breakfast area, 4BR/2.5BA. The list of amenities is long... \$589,000 (21233)



HANDCRAFTED WOODWORK is found throughout this 2BR/2BA mountain home. Features great room with cathedral ceiling, full front and back porch, & large utility room. Located in Laurel Creek Lakes with access to 3 lakes and walking trails. \$179,500 (19135)

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE to purchase 100 to 243 acres on Lookout Mountain (Mentone). (\$3975 per acre.)

BUILDING LOT (.59) on DeSoto Parkway near The Cliffs. \$25,900 (21143)

BROW LOT! Gorgeous views all around from this beautiful 1 +/- acre lot in Mentone. \$158,900 (21131)

3 +/- ACRES on the East Fork of Little River. \$142,500 (17568)

GREAT BUILDING LOT situated inside the city limits of Mentone. Property has an existing storage building and split rail fence. \$79,900 (19860)

BREATHTAKING SUNSETS and views await you on this 6.5 acres w/300' of brow frontage. \$345,900 (17268)

START YOUR NEW HOME HERE IN MENTONE, ALABAMA! The possibilities are endless as you explore these 3 acres. The entire rear of the property rests on Little River, adding to the features of the land. Come see all that Mentone has to offer as you plan to build

your getaway! \$64,900 each (20577/20578)

43 +/- ACRES IN MENTONE! 800' on Brush Creek. Possible Owner financing available to qualified buyer. \$199,000. (Additional 42 acres available. Purchase both parcels for a total of 85 acres for only \$379,000.) (18729)

TIME WILL STAND STILL when you see this view! 106' of prime brow view with paved road frontage. Walking distance to downtown Mentone - walk to dinner or have an ice cream cone. Level and ready to build. All Mentone city services available. \$109,500 (21055)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Birthdays-September

- 1 - Cynthia Luck, Bernise Crow (in memory), Bob Baty
- 2 - Huey Matthews, Grace Tucker
- 3 - Dorma Hutcheson, Dianne Tindol
- 5 - Daniel Stone, Jo Tullis
- 6 - Cecelia Jackson, Sarah Keener
- 7 - Heather Nicely
- 9 - MaKenna Purvis
- 10 - Leola Owens
- 11 - Daniel Wilson, Terry Turner
- 13 - Karen Wright, Ann Wright
- 14 - Brittany Blalock
- 16 - Brooklyn Wright, Jennifer Davis, Kathy Casler
- 17 Dylan Pannell
- 18 - George Lillich
- 22 - Gwen Foster, Dessie Bailey (in memory)
- 23 - Dorothy Crow, Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones
- 24 - Wesley Chesnut
- 25 - W.B. McCurdy, Bradley Wright, Collie Griffith
- 26 - Jim Jones, Chloe Griffith
- 27 - Angela Wood, Scott Baty
- 28 - Bailey Kirby
- 30 - Harriett Lillich, Kaitee McGee

Birthdays-October

- 1 - Cody Wigley
- 2 - Gary Jones, Becky Blalock
- 3 - Hope Walker, Elizabeth Gentry, Angie Shugart, Ed Disney (in memory)
- 4 - Dianne Kuehl, Mason Hester, Eloise Breazeale, Sue Crane (in memory)
- 5 - Saddler Emory
- 6 - Breanna Blalock, Bob Hume, Dr. Pat Seymour (in memory)
- 7 - Christian Henry
- 8 - Linda Brown
- 9 - Dallyne Jones, Monique Fielder, Debbie Tullis
- 10 - Daniel Akes, Kathie Crow
- 11 - Wayne Gautreau, Betty Dooly
- 12 - Quincey Griffith, Gertrude Cox (in memory)
- 13 - Amanda Wright
- 14 - Judy Pierce, Russell Wright, Martha Kirby, Tina Langston

- 15 - Charlie Brown, Karen Britt, Lanita Allen
- 17 - Renee Langston
- 18 - Beatrice Crow
- 20 - Harry Hopper
- 21 - Raymond Brown (in memory)
- 22 - Beverly Ashley
- 23 - Joey Dillenbeck, Rhonda Holoway
- 24 - Marjorie Berry
- 26 - John Lauro, Dee Kelley
- 27 - Brooke Copeland
- 28 - Megan Sutton, Ted Howard
- 30 - Roger Dowait, Madelon Houghland, Nell Kent, Howard Carson (in memory)
- 31 - Paul Blalock, Charlotte Gentry

Anniversaries-September

- 1 - Donald & Edna Morgan, Jack & Olive Jones
- 2 - Shane and Ashley Ingram
- 5 - John & Jan Wilkinson, Wayne & Cynthia Wootten
- 15 - Joe R. & Leola Owens, Charles & Evelyn McGee
- 24 - Russell & Karen Wright
- 25 - Wesley & Ann Chesnut
- 27 - Stephanie & Steve Moore

Anniversaries-October

- 9 - Wayne Gautreau and Jane Faile
- 17 - Bobby and Linda Brown
- 24 - Bob and Susan Hume
- 26 - Cindy and Gary Jones



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAPA MEETING CHANGE: MAPA will now meet every 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm at the MERF building. Are you a member yet? You can help preserve Mentone's history and have an impact on its future! Membership is only \$10 per year, \$15 per couple. See you there!

LAST FIRST FRIDAY FISH FRY for 2011 at Mentone Inn pavilion. Oct. 7th from 3:30 pm till 7:30-ish. \$5.00 a plate. Entertainment by **Will Dooley and Tatum Brothers**. \$5 donation requested. Proceeds benefit Strong Family Initiative.

SACRED HARP SINGING FOR BEGINNERS Last meeting until spring will be Oct. 25th, 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center in Fort Payne. For more info call Henry Johnson at (256) 927-4915.

WANT TO LEARN TO SQUARE DANCE? Most Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., the Duos & Solos Square Dance Club meets at the Tom Beville Center in Rainsville. For more information call (256) 638-5101.

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER 6th Annual Fore the Kids Golf Tournament. Oct. 6. 4-man best ball, at Terrapin Hills Golf and Country Club. 12:00 noon shotgun start. Lunch will be served at 11 a.m. All proceeds will go to the Children's Advocacy Center. For more information call 256-997-9700.

THE 27TH ANNUAL MENTONE COLORFEST Oct. 14 - 16 This event kicks off with its traditional bonfire and storytelling in the heart of downtown Mentone. Arts, crafts, great food, live entertainment and much more fills Mentone Brow Park Saturday and Sunday with fun and excitement. 256-634-8245

GROWIN' UP WILD FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN: HIDE & SEEK Oct. 21 Little River Canyon Center 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. No fee; may have limited space so pre-registration is encouraged 256-782-8010

SPOOKAPALOOZA! Oct. 21 & 22 DeSoto State Park. For a weekend of spooky Halloween storytelling & fun events guaranteed to run shivers up and down your spine! Dress warmly! Free to the Public; Great for all ages! More info. 256-997-5025

RIVER RHYTHMS: MASK MAKING Oct. 22 Kids will use recycled materials and left over art treasures to make their own unique masks. Little River Canyon Center, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. No fee; limited space so pre-registration is encouraged. 256-782-5697

DESOTO STATE PARK CAMPFIRE TALK: CANYON CONSTELLATIONS Oct. 28 Learn more about the winter night sky with JSU astronomer Dr. Laura Weinkauff. DeSoto State Park Campfire Circle. 6 p.m. Free to public 256-997-5025

WILLS CREEK POW WOW CHEROKEE TRIBE OF NORTH ALABAMA Oct. 29 - 30 Join them at the VFW Fairgrounds for Drumming, Dancing, Flute Playing, Food Vendors, Arts & Crafts, and more. Gate Admission is \$8 for Adults, \$5 for Children age 13-17, and FREE for Children under 12, Active Military, and Seniors 62+. Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For More information, call 423-240-7270 or 205-960-4914.

SUNDIALS & SHADOWS Oct. 29 JSU astronomer, Dr. Laura Weinkauff, will teach children/families about the movement of the sun and how the earth relates to our big star as well as the other planets in our solar system. Little River Canyon Center 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. 256-782-5697

DESOTO STATE PARK CAMPFIRE TALK: STARS, MOONS AND PLANETS Oct. 29 Learn more about the winter night sky with JSU astronomer Dr. Laura Weinkauff. Dependent upon weather conditions. DeSoto State Park Campfire Circle; 6 p.m. Free to public 256-997-5025

3RD ANNUAL CANYON FEST: A CELEBRATION OF ARTS AND NATURE Nov. 5 Enjoy live music, nature & arts activities, arts demonstrations & sales, great food, vendors, children's activities & fun at this festival designed to celebrate our natural world and to benefit the children of our community. Little River Canyon Center; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donations welcome! 256-782-5697

NORTH ALABAMA COIN CLUB, Meets Mondays at Mi Casita's in Fort Payne from 5 pm - 8 pm (256) 630-3201

MENTONE KNITTING GROUP IS BEING FORMED. Call Beth Holt for more information (256) 390-9780

If you have announcements for the Community Bulletin Board, please email them to: editorgroundhog@yahoo.com; fax to 256-634-0027 or drop them by the Mentone Realty office.

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

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

The Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to attend Sunday School at 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM; Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM; Midweek Service (Wednesday) at 6PM; Women on Mission meet at 1PM the second Tuesday of each month at different homes. Everyone is welcome to come.

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

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

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

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Mass Services at 10AM each Sunday-English; 1PM-Spanish; 6PM-English; Tuesday 6PM-English; Wednesday, 4:30PM-Spanish; Thursday 6:00AM-English; Friday 9AM-English.

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

Walnut Grove Baptist Church, on Highway 11 North of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School at 10AM, Worship Service at 11AM, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6PM, and Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:30PM.

The Fort Payne Christian Center and Pastors Ken and Elaine Hollman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10 AM,

Wednesday evening at 6PM. God Bless you.

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

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

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

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10AM, Worship at 11AM. Wednesday Bible study at 5PM.

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

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church - a place of prayer, thanksgiving, and celebration.

Come by any time to pray and give thanks. Open 24 hours every day. Sunday service is at 10:30AM.

Mentone United Methodist Church, 415 Cutler Avenue, Mentone, Alabama invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday, our worship service is at 11:00 a.m. and Sunday School is at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Tom Holt is the pastor. He and his wife, Beth and daughter, Abigail reside in the parsonage which is adjacent to the church. The service of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month, the second Sunday is Youth Sunday and Fifth Sunday is a service of music and pot-luck lunch. Minister Tom Holt.

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

Alpine Community Church, 115 Hwy 337, Menlo, GA. Pastor and Rev. Tommy Pledger welcome each and everyone to worship service, Sunday morning, 11AM, GA time; Sunday School 10AM GA time; Wed. Night Bible Study, 7PM GA time.

Cove Road Baptist Church, County Road 631, Mentone, Alabama. Brother Marlin Starnes, Interim Pastor, welcomes all to Sunday School - 9AM (10AM GA time);

Church Services 10AM (11AM GA time); and Sunday night services 5PM (6PM GA time).

Summit Church of God invites you to be in service. Sunday morning 10:45 a.m., Sunday night 5:00 p.m., Wed. Bible study 6:30 p.m. Pastor Lance Kincer invites everyone. Summit Church of God will be renting spaces for Worlds Longest Yard Sale in Aug. \$10.00 a day. For info, call 265-634-4418

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

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd., Mentone, AL 35984 Sunday Services: Sunday School 9AM - all ages; Sunday Service 10:30AM; Bible Study Wednesday 6:00PM; Youth Services 7:00PM Sunday and 6:30PM Wednesday (Meet at Mentone Revival Center Bldg.). Pastor Fred Johns

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Roger Kvam. Bible Study Sunday at 9:00 a.m. (e.s.t.) and Worship at 10:00 a.m. (e.s.t.)

Since 1889 worshippers have gathered at the **Historic First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)** at 300 Grand Avenue North in Downtown Fort Payne. We invite you to join us for worship this Sunday at 10:55 AM. 256-845-2915

New Oregon United Methodist Church, located off DeSoto Parkway, would like to invite you to their services. Sunday School for all ages 9:45; Traditional Worship service 11:00. Sunday Evening youth activities 5:30 pm, Evening Worship 6 pm. We have a variety of activities for all ages including Wednesday evening youth activities; knitting ministry for ladies each Tuesday at 9 am; Elderberries for Senior Adults once a month for fellowship and meal. Pastor Jeff Davis, Associate Pastor Keith Davis. Address : 1203 New Oregon Dr, Ft Payne AL 35967. Phone (256)845-7446.

St. Joseph's Church Continues Registration for Food Bank

St. Joseph's Episcopal Church will continue to interview and register people who are eligible for Food Bank services at the church on Tuesdays and Thursdays this month, from 9AM till 12noon. If interested to learn about your eligibility please bring a photo ID, and eligibility papers for SSI, Food Stamps, or financial assistance from the Dept. of Family Resources. If eligible you can receive food the same day you are registered. Food will also be available to those already registered and found eligible, during the same hours.

Gratefulness

There is much to be thankful for every single day. Indeed, each day is itself something for which we should be thankful.

But, how do we greet the day? Are the first words out of our mouths each morning a complaint, such as "Oh Lord, another day, I really hate to get up." How much better it would be to start the day with a prayer of thanksgiving, such as, "Thank you God for giving me this day! I offer up all of my prayers, works, joys and sufferings to you. Help me to meet the challenges of this day." There is always something to be thankful for, and the Bible tells us that we are what we profess with our mouths. Even if we are expecting our day to be filled with nothing but trials and tribulations, we should thank the Lord for the opportunity to be challenged. And, if we are really struggling to find something to be thankful for, we can play the "Glad Game". That's the game played by Pollyanna when things were going poorly, wherein she would find something to be glad about. Surely, there is always something to be glad about, even if it isn't readily apparent.

Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

— R.S.V. I Thessalonians 5:16-18



MEMORIES

I guess I have been reading more or less continuously now for some sixty-four years. Oh, there have been times of diversion from my preoccupation with the written word. Times like when I might have been concentrating on buying puppies from some man in Missouri or busy fishing but ere long I would find myself with a book immersed in what others were thinking. I concede that many of those writers were hard for me to understand but I kept trying.

One of the early stories in a school reader was about a boy who was chased up an apple tree by a visit from two giants. The enterprising young fellow threw apples down alternately upon the two big fellows until they began fighting. The boy then surreptitiously climbed down and fled.

I never stuck closely to one subject or any one author but tried anything and everything. Through the years, there were exceptional short stories and essays which I clipped, copied or re-typed for a special folder I call "Gems."

There was, however, one short magazine article which has stayed with me without any effort at preservation. It was one of those stories which just reaches inside you and changes something. It was neither revelation nor dramatic experience, but just an ordinary gesture on the part of an ordinary citizen of our country. It was, though, something the reader felt in the emotions and in the heart.

I do not plagiarize, do not even remember the name of either author or title.

The gist of the story was the sending of a care package to a recipient in France after Hitler's army had been driven out. The country was in shambles. From a list of names, the lady writer picked out a French lady's name and sent her a package of personal items for bath and personal care; simple, but hard to find items in war-ravaged France. As a final thought she placed several packs of fruit-flavored Life Savers and a couple candy bars, etc. in and sealed the package.

To her surprise, she soon received a letter of appreciation lavishly thanking her for each item.

"Especially," the French lady wrote, "do we thank you for the wonderful medicine! It has helped my sore throat and has almost cured my mother's sinusitis. We hope, you will write again telling how we might obtain more of the medicine."

The author said she pondered over what "medicine" she may have sent. Then it dawned:

"The Life Savers!"

John Baty

FROST PREDICTORS—Crickets (and cicadas)

By Charlotte Gentry

If you're reading this article in late October and live here in the mountains of NE Alabama, we may have already had our first frost of the year. By my reckoning, and with the aid of the crickets (and cicadas), the first frost should be around October 17th.

The morning of September 3rd was when I first noticed the crickets chirping. I was always told by the old timers that you could count on frost six weeks from the first crickets chirping. The rule also applies to the commencement of autumn cicada "love songs."

I have to admit, I didn't pay close attention to the cicadas. I'd been far more attuned to their cousins, the 13-year Cicadas, at their late spring arrival. That's why I put (and cicadas) in parentheses.

The crickets, though, have always fascinated me by their accuracy as weather forecasters. I'll be particularly interested this year to see how they fare because I have a tomato plant at my office that is just covered with green tomatoes and is still blooming. I want to be sure and pick them before frost and either let them ripen or cook some delicious fried green tomatoes. With any luck, we'll have home-grown tomatoes for Thanksgiving...if the crickets are correct.

(We'll be sure and note the first frost of 2011 and report back to readers on how well the crickets did this year.)



MOUNTAIN LORE MAYPOPS

By Charlotte Gentry

When you are number eight in a family with nine children, growing up way out in the country, you quickly learn to identify the wild edibles God has provided to sustain you while enjoying outdoor adventures. We played hard and it seems we were always hungry!

One of the most interesting and tasty of autumn's goodies was the Maypop. If you aren't familiar with this fruit, perhaps you know it better by its bloom, the Passion Flower. During the summer, we Martin kids would take note of where the flowers were blooming so that we'd be able to find the fruits as they ripened in early autumn. We'd keep an almost proprietary eye on the roadways and fields

where our harvest of Maypops would be. (Sometimes I'd grow impatient and pop one of the green, egg-like fruits open, only to find the contents tasteless, undeveloped pith.)

The best way to describe eating a maypop is something akin to eating a pomegranate. The seeds are encased in a juicy membrane that you can just swallow, seeds and all, or try to separate from the seed in your mouth before swallowing. As with most fruits, the unripe fruits are very sour, somewhat pithy and the seed membranes opaque. The riper they get, the sweeter they get (though still sweet-tart), and maypops taste best when the membrane gets clear and seeds are easily seen. If you wait too long, though, the insides will start to ferment and become inedible.



One reason we had to watch our maypops closely was because there were locals who gathered the maypop vines, dried them, and sold them to the herb men who came through the mountains looking for herbs, ginseng and wild honey to sell at the Crossville, Tennessee flea market. We didn't realize it at the time, but there was big money to be made in herbs (any money was big money for poor folks in the hills of Tennessee back then!)

As a child, I remember being told about the symbolism of the Passion Flower's parts relating to the Crucifixion of Christ. I'd actually forgotten all the details, but found similar

information on the internet: "According to legend, the frilly crown (corona) at the top is the Crown of Thorns; the 3 pistils (or styles) are the nails; the 5 petals and 5 sepals are the 10 apostles (Judas and Paul not being counted at the Crucifixion); the 5 anthers are the 5 wounds; the stemmed ovary is the Lord's Goblet."

The dried Maypop vine, when made into a tea, is said to be a cure for digestive com-

plaints and to be a nerve relaxer. Though I've never drank the tea, I've eaten scores of the fruits, and I've enjoyed a stomach that can tolerate most anything I eat (might be from a childhood of having eaten anything and everything that didn't eat me first!), and some might say I'm a fairly laid-back person who doesn't get nervous. Maypops or good genes? Who knows?

There's a field I've been keeping my eye on here in Mentone that is loaded with Maypops this year. I think I'll head out there and see if they're ripe and gather a few before someone else discovers my treasure trove.

(If you have mountain lore, tall tales or folk remedies you think might be of interest to Groundhog readers, please submit them to The Groundhog at editorgroundhog@yahoo.com or mail them to PO Box 387, Mentone AL 35984.)

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WILD RIVER COMMUNITY - 1.6 acres on the east fork Little River 235 ft of pools and rapids. Bluff views. Large Rocks in water. Very Scenic, and private \$69,000 (21382)	WHIPPOORWILL FARM , 49 acres on the East Fork Little River, 2800 ft on the water with deep pools and rapids. 2BR/2BA. Rock and log home with all the comfort amenities. Rock FP. Pasture land, wood trails- horse barn w/ apt, detached double garage. Screened sleeping cabin overlooking river. Much more! \$595,000 (19355)	SOUTHLAND LOG HOME , on the E. Fork Little River, 5.5 acres. Deck, lighted walkway to lower property. 2BR/2BA, loft. Vaulted ceiling w/exposed beams. Kitchen with granite counters. Stacked stone FP. 2-story with Basement. Sep. garage, large enough for motor home. \$385,000 (19919)	FORMERLY MOUNTAIN MAMA'S CRAFT STORE AND ROCK SHOP , 4.5 wooded acres on the east fork little river, approx. 550 ft on the water. Included on the property is 2 historical Log cabins. Could be used as commercial or build that perfect place, for a relaxing mountain retreat. REDUCED \$129,000 (20799)	NATURAL SETTING ON THE WEST FORK LITTLE RIVER , 4BR suites with Baths and part of this lovely home. SOLD \$349,000 (20246)	STUNNING MOUNTAIN HOME and Retreat center. Features vaulted ceilings, private Hot tub, Newly renovated Kitchen, 2 living areas, and Gas FP. Open loft above the 2nd living area and open kitchen design. Master bdrm has separate entrance to the deck, guest bedroom, and 2 more bedrooms. 700 sq ft. 2 in guest cottage and a glassed greenhouse/artist studio. Many possibilities with this wonderful property with seasonal views. \$299,000 (20962)
					
NICELY WOODED 5 ACRES on DeSoto Parkway with Stream. Can be Residential or Commercial. Land has old homesite and green house. Large Rock formations. Possibilities are Endless! \$100,000 (19419)	ENCHANTING COTTAGE in Laurel Creek Lakes. Access to 3 lakes for fishing & canoeing. SOLD \$142,000. (19676)	NICE LEVEL WOODED PROPERTY with partial drive and homesite cleared. Previous perk test. Easy access to the middle fork of little river. Restrictive cov. apply. Located Mountain River Estates \$77,000 (20892)	LOG CABIN KNOWN AS "KNOWUS ARK" is an artist dream of a property. Unique decor and even a separate artist studio are part of the special qualities that go with the 2BR/2BA, w/FP, covered porches and double decks. Privately located. \$225,000 (20453)	MOUNTAIN CREST CABINS , 2 fully furnished log cabins nestled in the woods on 6 acres, next to Cloudmont Resort. Both cabins are currently on a rental program. Above the Clouds is 2br/1ba with kitchen/dining combo, and large crawlspace that can be made into a basement. The Hideout is 2br/1.5ba with open floor plan and small loft. Lots of amenities in both cabins. \$249,000 (21433)	HENAGAR - 4.75 ACRES on Hwy 40. Septic, water, two electric meters, all in place, chert pad for Mobile home, artisan spring, flower gardens. Ready to build on. \$32,000 (21327)
					
WALTONS MILL SITE PROPERTY . Back in the civil war, there was a grist mill located on this east fork river site. A unique property with 900 ft on the water, 2 building sites, easy access to the water, large rock overhang and flat rock bottom for easy floating down the river. A true Gem, 10 acres. \$200,000 (20451)	7.15 ACRES with West Brow Sunset view. Great location between DeSoto Park and Mentone. Partial drive, County water available. Great price \$145,000 (21411)	NICE WOODED LOT WITH STREAM located in Crestline Park Subdivision. Just down the road from Cloudmont Resort and DeSoto State Park. Build your Mentone cabin for yourself or use as a rental. \$20,000. (21086)	PRISTINE 25 ACRES on the East Fork Little River, over 1,000 ft of river frontage. Rapids, natural pools, fishing, canoeing, rafting. Build that dream home in this natural setting. \$295,000 (19136)	NICE LEVEL & WOODED LOT located in Crestline Park Subdivision. Just down the road from Cloudmont Resort and DeSoto State Park. Build your Mentone cabin for yourself or use as a rental. Wild blueberries and trees are abundant. Priced to sell at \$27,000. (21087)	TALL MEADOW RUE CHAPEL , in Downtown Mentone. Lush landscaping, Heavenly ordained Chapel, Glass Greenhouse, Coy Pond w/fountain. Rock walls, and Iron Gates. Enjoy the peace and serenity this property gives. \$105,000

LOTS AND ACREAGE

INDIAN TRAILS, 2 lots for sale. **1)** 2.71 acres (lots 12, 13) sold together for building purposes. Brow view city water, power, & paved rd. **2)** 1.32 acres brow frontage & creek at boundary. Wooded, city water, paved rd. power. Both priced at \$40,000 ea. (19933)

ONLY KNOWN COMMERCIAL ZONED B-1 in downtown mentone. 120x130

lot located just past mentone springs hotel and the Log cabin village shops. many uses from professional to retail. Build your own business in mentone. city water, paved rd. One block from central business area. Reduced \$39,000 (20021)

CO. RD. 600. City water meter in place on wooded level 3/4 acre lot. Perk tested. Minutes from Desoto State Park.

Build your getaway cabin in the woods! \$25,000 (20422)

EAST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER. 5.4 acres partially cleared. 200ft on River. Secluded with private road access. Scenic with rapids and pools. \$106,000. (19673)

THE DRIVEWAY HAS BEEN STARTED to build your Mentone getaway! 5.7

wooded acres across from Lake Lahusage. Paved road frontage, city water available, perc tested. Lightly restricted. \$58,900 (19865)

ABUNDANT WILDLIFE! 114 acres of woods and clear cut land. This property is perfect for a home or agricultural use. Priced at only \$2300 per acre. (21089)

Fashion-What Goes Around Comes Around

by Linda Brown

Tim Gunn, American fashion consultant, criticized Hillary Clinton saying, "She's so mannish in her dress, I think she should learn from Nancy Pelosi's dress sense." He also said that sports team owners should leave fashion to the players. This was in reference to tattoos, piercings, and other body art.

To be dressed fashionable this year, you should wear a white blouse designed by Chloé, jacket by Yves Saint, slim pants tucked into boots by Chloé and an exotic bag by Tory Burch. The ethnic tribal look is in with lots of turquoise necklaces, rings and bracelets.

The dictionary defines fashion as, "a popular trend, especially in dress."

My first fashion trend was little dresses bought by my doting aunts, who didn't have children yet. These little dresses consisted of a straight bodice gathered onto a yoke, usually a collar and a button closure. The fabric of one was sprinkled with Scottie dogs and had buttons in the shape of Scottie dogs. They were so cute and were perfect for my little short, fat body.

As I grew up I can remember some of the fashions of school. When I was in elementary school, we still wore dresses. On very cold mornings, we wore long knee length socks, usually wool for the warmth. We wore full length coats, longer than our dresses. Our shoes were leather, either lace up or slip ons. As soon as we were home we changed out of our school clothes. I can remember one or two occasions when my dress started out as a skirt gathered to a bodice but as I grew I needed it longer so mom put a band in between the two. If she had made the dress, she would have fabric left over and she would use that. If it was one that I had gotten somewhere else, she would take a piece of matching fabric, usually solid color, and make the band. I remember a time or two when she would cut the skirt apart and insert a row of contrasting material in the middle.

Of course, she did the old tried and true trick of adding a ruffle to the skirt. I did these same things for my girls clothing but not to that extent.

By the time my girls were in school, pants and particularly jeans were the fashion. However, I did make the shirts or tops for my girls to wear with their jeans. Many times, Carol, the younger, had a top to match Gail's, the oldest or even to match one of the daughter of a friend. My friends and I swapped fabric, especially any swatches large enough to make a garment. Those pieces which were not large enough were saved for someone in the community who quilted.

My girls were growing up during the time when Kennedy was president. We did not emulate Jackie's style very much, except with dressy clothes. I had a pattern for a pill box hat in an adult size and made a size for both girls. Then I would make dresses alike and make hats to match the outfits. There were several products on the market to make the hats stiff so they looked very professional. You could cut two hats of the same fabric or cut one of lining material, and put the two together for a hat. These were especially spiffy with our Easter dresses and/or coats. My son, Charles was not left out. I made shirts and ties for him until he was quite a big boy and made complete suits when he was younger. It was easy to be fashionable because the pattern books were up-to-date and I always bought lots of patterns.

My girls grew up through the Twiggy era - everything was pencil straight and spaghetti thin and the Nancy Sinatra, These Boots are Made for Walking time, when a pair of boots was a MUST to complete your outfit. We went through the hippy movement with the head bands, the peace signs, the pants which were striped or flowered and the flowery tunics with wide sleeves. We had the big rimmed glasses and jelly shoes, by the dozens. My oldest was a teen ager during the hot-pants craze. We made lots of outfits which consisted of a pair of short shorts (hot pants) and a long tunic top. These sometimes matched and sometimes were of different material. Somewhere in there was circle skirts, definitely one made of felt with poodles on it, and plain white blouses and/or a cardigan sweater.

I remember one period when my classmates and I wore our cardigan sweaters backwards, buttoned down the back! To accomplish this you had to button almost

all of the way and then put your arms in and reach behind to finish the job. A small silk scarf would complete the outfit. These could be knotted or fastened with a pin-my baby sister had colored big-headed diaper pins and I got the odd ones when one of a pair would break. I pinned my scarfs with these and was quite in fashion. The skirts were flared, fitted at the top, or straight. We wore white bobby socks with the tops rolled down and saddle oxfords.

It is my opinion that the best piece of clothing to ever be introduced in the fashion world is the denim jeans. These can be straight-legged, bell bottomed, flare legs, boot legs and dozens more designs. They come in many colors and can masquerade as expensive dress pants or be the everyday gear for cowboys and workers on ranches and farms. Someone thought to put a bib on a pair, doing away with the need for a belt or suspenders. These quickly became popular with painters and heavy-set men. Jeans are the choice of clothing for both sexes. Men find them comfortable and easy to care for.

Jeans can be combined with any top you can make or buy. Expensive, jeweled tops can be found at a party with a pair of well cut jeans. Men's shirts can be worn with jeans by men or women. Sweaters or jackets are right at home with jeans and even furs (faux of course) can be worn atop a pair of denim jeans.

The 2011 Fall Fashion scene will feature such classics as animal prints, pencil skirts and statement jewelry. The look will include bold colors, touches of lace and the nine-to-five dress.

Expect to see a lot of fur, feathers and flared pants, as well as capes, polka dots and wedge boot. Ankle booties, splashes of jade, burnt orange, mustard, rust and bright red, skinny jeans, the 1940's look of Katharine Hepburn and the 1960's Twiggy-inspired clothing will be in, as will prints and chunky knits.

The sage advice of our elders rings true once again. Let it hang in your closet long enough and it will be fashionable again. But who has that much closet space?



MARJORIE BERRY CELEBRATING 80TH BIRTHDAY

EVERYONE MARK YOUR CALENDAR ...

Sunday, October 23, you are cordially invited to the Boy Scout Troop 106 meeting house (Jim Berry Hall-2 blocks behind hardware store) from 2:00-4:00 for my mom's 80th-birthday celebration! Bring only yourself and your birthday card with a special greeting or a personal memory written inside.

Your presence and your card will be the greatest gifts as we mark this special milestone along Mom's life journey! I hope to see you there!

-- BILL BERRY



The Last First Friday Fish Fry

Get your tastebuds and your ears ready for a treat. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, and come out for the Last First Friday Fish Fry on October 7, 2011 beginning at 3:00 pm-ish. The evening will be capped off by a concert featuring the mountain music sounds of Will Dooley and The Tatum Brothers.

It all started in the days following the April 27th tornado, when folks came together with food from their freezer to be cooked and served to anyone who was hungry. David Mays brought fish from his freezer and prepared hushpuppies that were out-of-this-world delicious. Any food that was left was put into box lunches by Angie Shugart and distributed to the families and clean-up workers impacted by the tornado.

Seeing that the David Mays' fish and hushpuppies were such a hit with the community, Billy and Angie Shugart decided to continue with the idea as a fundraiser for their One World Adventure project that helps young people learn about the outdoors and also aids families to grow stronger by getting involved together in the outdoors. The First First Friday Fish Fry was born!!

Each month since that time, David, Angie, Billy, Angie's brother Nathan Winkler, Jay and Les Rivett and other volunteers have cooked and served the best catfish you've ever put your mouth on at the First Friday Fish Fry. Cynthia Stinson of the Mentone Inn has been gracious enough to host the event at the Inn's pavilion free of charge.

The Last First Friday Fish Fry of the year will be held on October 7, 2011 at Mentone Inn's pavilion. Frying should begin 3:00 pm-ish and last until 7:00 pm-ish.

"We are SO excited at the wonderful response we have had with our previous frys, that we wanted to thank folks by giving them some lovely bluegrass music," says Angie Shugart.

"Please, bring your chair, blanket, any seat of your liking and sit on the lawn behind the pavilion. We will serve fish from 3 to 7. For our last Fish Fry of the year, we are proud to have Will Dooley and the Tatum Brothers entertaining us at 7:30 p.m.!"

"Plates are \$5, with drink and desserts extra. We will be taking donations for the music at \$5 OR we will accept Youth Outdoor Clothing gear. Examples of "gear"

donations would be

Hiking boots, rain jackets, non-cotton base layers, wool socks, gloves, wool toboggans, fishing poles, tackle, rain boots, etc. (we will accept "good" used gear).

"All proceeds for this month's Fry will go towards the Valley Head After School Outdoor Club. One World Adventure is excited about this new project we have started with Valley Head School. And we hope that the people of Mentone and the surrounding area will help us to help our children learn more about the Outdoors and the wonders that come with it."

Angie invites everyone to "Please join us for a great meal and some great music to go with it!"



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CLOUDLAND TRADE CENTER— AN OLD MOUNTAIN FRIEND RETURNS

By Charlotte Gentry

"We hauled five dumpster loads out of here," says Starr McGill, describing the almost daunting task she faced when she decided to resurrect the Cloudland Trade Center. Still remembered by many as the Son-Lib Trade Center, the old log structure had sat neglected and forlorn for years. Starr saw it as an opportunity and a challenge.

"It was so cold! We started working on it in February and we're just now getting it close to what we envisioned," she adds. The re-vamped Trade Center opened for business the week



Son-Lib Trading Center circa 1970s.



Cloudland Trade Center today.

of the World's Longest Yard Sale in August. Since that time, Starr and her friend Cindi Carden have scrubbed, scraped, decorated, arranged and re-arranged to achieve a clean and inviting country store setting.

"In addition to all the things a convenience store has to offer," states Cindi, "we offer hospitality, and real customer service. Our store gives customers personal attention, cleanliness, and if there are special things our customers want, we will try

to have them in stock."

Starr and Cindi are no strangers to the Cloudland Trade Center. Starr met her husband Steve while she was working there and left the store in 1998 when she was expecting her second child. Cindy also worked at the Trade Center back in the 90s.

"We have real, hickory-smoked barbeque, just like in the old days," Cindi says. "The homemade sauce is the original recipe from the Son-Lib days." The well-equipped kitchen in the store will also provide deli sandwiches, homemade pizzas (from scratch) and homemade pastries. Red-and-white checked tablecloths complete the homey atmosphere for those who decide to sit a spell while enjoying their food and neighborly conversation.



Take a look around and you'll find knick-knacks, pet supplies, tobacco products, Georgia Lottery tickets, and terra cotta pots. In addition to a wide selection of wines and beers, the Cloudland Trade Center now has antique booths with everything from primitive furniture to vintage kitchen "thingamajigs." In the future, Starr and Cindy hope to offer mountain artisans a venue to display and sell their work.

Throughout the store, one can find pieces of its past on display, including a nail keg and nail bins from when there was a



with the beautiful antiques and ole-timey trappings. "We'd like to say we have 'Something of Most Everything,' (which was the motto of the Son-Lib Trade Center) and if we don't have it, we'll try to get it!"

And, whether you're an old friend of the Cloudland Trade Center, or a new visitor to the area, it's worth a drive to just the other side of the State Line to visit with the friendly folks in this rustic mountain grocery store, restaurant and antique shop.

hardware section; old cash registers; scales; photographs; calendars and newspaper clippings from the good times when the store was a thriving mountain fixture and from the dark days when original owner Sonny Wood was murdered only steps away from his home adjacent to the store. (That was on September 1, 1967. The case was never solved. A memorial plaque is attached to the outside wall next to the store's entrance.)

But these days, there are bright, fresh signs of new life in the Cloudland Trade Center, mingled



CLOUDLAND TRADE CENTER

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Antique Booths

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Original store memorabilia & fixtures on display

Hwy 48, Cloudland, GA

MENTONE FARMERS MARKET Autumn Offerings

by Les Rivett

The Mentone Farmers' Market and several of our local farms and are listed in the Taste Buds Guide, available at the market or on line at www.tastebudsguide.org. Gaining Ground received a grant to promote local food in a 100 mile radius of Chattanooga. This publication is how some of the grant money was used. It is free for farms to be listed and to receive promotional supplies to use at markets.

The Mentone Farmers' Market is open Wednesday evenings from 3 PM- 6PM and Saturday mornings from 10 AM – 1 PM at the Mentone Inn in Mentone. The Dekalb Tourism Eco-Farmers' Market is open Tuesday evenings from 4 PM – 7 PM at the Tourist Bureau in Ft. Payne.

In the autumn months you should find: okra, winter squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, hot and sweet peppers, egg plant, watermelon, cantaloupe, green beans, peaches, muscadines, herbs and more. Each market also offers eggs, sorghum, breads, baked goods, humus, cookies, jams and jellies. Grass fed

pork and beef are at the market on Wednesdays and you can order pasture raised chickens too. We're hoping to have honey again soon.

Stop by and visit with the growers and producers from Dry Creek Farm, Old West Farm, Silent Spring Farm, Flying Turtle Farm, Jay's Garden Variety, Jones Family Farm, Talley Farm, June Cagle-the original Betty Crocker, The Straw House Blueberry Farm and Roger's Real Homemade. Everything at the market has to be grown or produced by the seller.

Booth space is available for local artists, local musicians and local non-profits to promote their projects. Applications are at the market or on line at www.mountainmarket.org.

Fall Recipe: Butternut Squash Soup

Cut 1 butternut squash in half lengthwise and remove the seeds. Brush with olive oil or butter, sprinkle with salt and pepper and 1 teaspoon curry powder. Roast for about 40 minutes.

While the squash is roasting:

In a large covered pot over very low heat,

melt 4 oz of butter.

Add:

- 1 med onion
- 2 cloves chopped garlic
- 3 stalks celery
- 2 1/2 tsp curry powder
- Sm green pepper
- Pinch of nutmeg
- 1 bay leaf

Cook slowly for 30 minutes. Add 2-3 quarts of vegetable or chicken stock to the pot and mix. Keep some stock aside in case the soup needs more thinning after the squash is added.

When the squash is tender, let it cool and scoop out the pulp. Add the roasted squash to the pot and mix well. Mix in

- 1 1/3 c. cream
- 1 Tbsp sherry vinegar.

The soup should be about the same thickness of bean soup. Add additional broth if needed.

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Mentone Writer Wins Living Now Book Award

By Gene N Stuckey

Mentone Alabama writer, Michèle Vachon Beaudin received the 2011 Living Now Book Award in the women's fiction category for her novel Crossing the Dream Line.

The Living Now Book Awards are opened to the North American Market and celebrate the innovation and creativity of new publications that enhance the quality of human life."

Crossing the Dream Line is a sequel to Beaudin's previous novel, Crossing the 50 Yard Line, which followed the lives of 7 women from vastly different socio-economic backgrounds, as they strive to rediscover themselves in light of their upcoming 50th birthdays. Crossing the Dream Line continues this chronicle as the same women enter their sixth decade. While the first novel was composed of short stories, the latest book has the women meet and develop relationships in an exotic setting where anything can happen.

"I am excited that my novel, Crossing the Dream Line, was recognized by the Living Now Book Award judges," Beaudin says. "I was told by readers that Crossing the 50 Yard Line really struck a chord for them as they reached that milestone and I hope they will find more to relate with in this new book."

While the recently-published sequel starts ten years later, the characters appear to have reconciled themselves with growing older, although they are still attempting to redefine their existence at an age when doors are closing rapidly ahead of them. Beaudin's portrayal of women bears no resemblance to how the media typically depict mature women. The characters of her novels do not show any symptoms of aching bones, mood swings or exaggerated change of life issues. They are simply healthy women, still young at heart, with perhaps another 40 years to live.

Both of these novels are available at www.immigesandwords.com or can be ordered from Amazon and other on-line sites. They are also available on Kindle. Other titles from Michele Vachon Beaudin include The Mountain, Seasons on Lookout Mountain and Visions of Reality - Illusions of Truth. Beaudin is currently working on a book chronicling her adventures as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco. She can be reached at michele@immiges.com.



Kendall O. Llewellyn II (Chummy, MM)



Born in Daytona Beach, FL July 16, 1943. Died Aug 17, 2011. Ken was a veteran of the U.S. Army (ASA, Germany).

He was previously employed with IBM, Eastern Airlines, BellSouth and FPL. He volunteered his time at U of M, Cape Fla State Park, Historic Virginia Key Beach Park, YMCA and ShakeA Leg. His chosen causes included knowledge & use of plants, including medicinal plants. He is

survived by his life-partner Cynthia Stewart and SO MANY friends including his friends in Mentone, AL.

Ken's Memorial Service will be held at the Historic Virginia Key Beach Park on October 23, 2011 from Noon - Sunset.

In memory of Ken, NO FLOWERS, please make donations to any of his causes.

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Tour of homes to feature historic Mentone and Cloudland venues

The Mentone Area Arts Council (MAAC) will present a two-day fall tour of nine homes and one historic camp in the Cloudland and Mentone area of Lookout Mountain.

Participants will have an opportunity to stroll through spectacular new homes on the brow with views of twenty miles, to walk through a hundred year old log cabin, to visit an original turn of the century vacation cabin in downtown Mentone, and to spend time in a wondrous house perched on the pristine Little River. Camp Juliette Low will host its annual historic tour of the first Girl Scout camp in the US as an adjunct to the home tour and you can see the original buildings and camp sites, still in use, when you travel from Cloudland to Mentone for the tour.

The Silent Auction of over 100 items will feature works of art created by members of MAAC as well as items of "inestimable" value such as weekend stays at Mentone area cabins, a guided deer hunt, a canoe trip down the Little River, a gourmet dinner for four, an hour with a massage therapist, and a horseback trail ride. You can expect to bid on pottery, metal work and blacksmithing objects, wood works, hand-made glass, original jewelry and art, quilting, mosaics and much more.

The Home Tour and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 29th and 30th from 9-4 on Saturday and from 11-4 on Sunday. At this time, the tree color is usually at its height.

Guest registration will take place at the Fire Hall in

Mentone and tickets good for both days can be purchased for \$5 each. Maps listing the locations of the tour stops as well as information on each house will be available with each ticket purchased. The Silent Auction items will be displayed in the Fire Hall and bidding sheets will be available during tour hours. Bidding ends at 4pm Sunday when purchases can be picked up.

(For more information, contact Harriet O'Rear (706) 398-0858 or email her at info@highhorselodge.com.)



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Culinary Corner

The story of Sweet Potato Biscuits by L.C. Moon

Have you ever heard of sweet potatoes in a biscuit? Meet Tracy Johnson of Granny Hester's Fine Foods, a beautiful person inside and out; also a native of Lookout Mountain. Her baking and her smiles both light up a room. Tracy's recipe for delectable sweet potato biscuits has been handed down generation to generation for over 60 years thanks to her precious grandmother "Granny Hester".

I first experienced these sweet treats at the former Three Bean Coffee shop owned by Waylon and Carol Miller. Just like the Miller's, I knew Tracy was onto something big with the sweet, moist biscuit containing the perfect amount of real sweet potatoes. Shortly after I tried them, I became co-owner of the Wildflower Café. I immediately called Tracy to bring them in as part of the Wildflower's new menu. It is now our biggest selling appetizer and always brings rave reviews even from people who do not care much for sweet potatoes.

Tracy was working a traditional job and decided to start making the family recipe for other people to try. She got great responses from friends and at the Taste of DeKalb. She entered them in the County Fair for the first time in 2005 and got "Best in Show" three years running. In the beginning, Tracy says Waylon Miller was one of her biggest inspirations. He really encouraged her as well as allowed her to use the Three Bean's certified kitchen to make her sweet potato biscuits.

By 2006 Tracy was selling the biscuits at Bruce's Foodland in Fort Payne as well as the Three Bean Coffee Shop. Later that year the Three Bean decided to close its doors and another door opened for Tracy at Third Street Market. She was able to use their commercial kitchen. Third Street began carrying the biscuits as did Western Sizzlin about the same time.

The Wildflower Café and former Lookout Muffin, both located in Mentone, began serving the biscuits in 2007. Quickly people started asking to buy them by the dozen at the Wildflower Café. They are still sold and served at the Wildflower Café. However, by the end of 2007 Third Street Market, Lookout Muffin and Western Sizzlin all went out of business which left Tracy without a commercial kitchen for a moment.

As fate would have it, she soon partnered with Jim Rotch (of the local White Elephant and Mentone Springs Hotel) in 2008 to form Granny Hester Fine Foods. In what seems nothing short of divine intervention, Tracy found the perfect bakery the former "Fort Payne Bakery" which was operated by her dad's mother and father, Homer and Bea St. John from the 1940's to the 1970's. Now remember, the recipe for Granny Hester Sweet Potato Biscuits came from Tracy's maternal grandmother. So nearly 40 years later, through Tracy's vision and hard work, the family art of baking has united with a winning recipe and a classic location. She even grandparent's bakery was still in the building when she moved in.

After the 2008 bakery opened, Tracy remained the sole homemade handmade producer of the business until her dad and other family members signed on to help out some when more companies began carrying the biscuits. Bruce's began carrying them in Rainsville and Fayette. By 2009 Dreamland Bar-b-q started selling frozen biscuits at their Southside Birmingham location and they currently handle the shipping of Granny Hester's online orders.

In 2010 Granny Hester's Fine Foods redesigned the packaging for distribution with Fresh Market; though the first order launch has still not taken place. However in 2010, Piggly Wiggly's around Birmingham began selling Granny Hester's frozen; as well, local Mentone Inn B&B & Mentone Springs Hotel began serving them along with their breakfast menu for guests.

Now in 2011 Granny Hester's Fine Foods is going regional with Bi-Lo; sweet potato biscuits will be available soon in Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina. Tracy has done a fabulous job at maintaining a quality family business with a consistently great product! She gives all the glory to God for opening the doors for her to have this opportunity.

Enjoy the hot sweet potato biscuits with butter or try it with your favorite jam. Zelma's Blue Ribbon Muscadine Jam is excellent with the biscuits. Purchase them frozen to make your own unique recipe with the biscuits. Chef Ben experimented and created a wonderful Sweet Potato Bread Pudding served with a coconut curry rum sauce that is now served regularly as a dessert and Tracy's mom swears by making a crust with the biscuits for Apple Pie. For more information you can go visit www.GrannyHester.com.

Brought to you by the Owner's of the Wildflower Café

ORB MONSTERS

by Greg Starnes

If you have ever been outside at dusk in late summer or early autumn, you have probably seen some big, creepy brown spiders that spin some pretty amazingly large webs. Officially known as members of the family Araneidae, they are commonly called orb weavers.

To me, they are more like man-eating monsters. When I was a kid, I saw a horror movie where a grown man was actually trapped in a giant spider web and the horrendous, red-eyed arachnid was working its way toward its prey. I could not stand seeing the poor fellow being eaten, so I closed my eyes and turned away from the TV. I do not know how the scene ended, but it could not have been any more terrifying than when I unwittingly stumbled into an orb weaver's lair.

It actually happened on two occasions. The first encounter was in an old cemetery in Cherokee County, and I very nearly became its newest occupant. I like to stroll through old graveyards and visit the final resting places of soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War. This particular day yielded no results, and on the way back to the car I glanced down at the ground for some reason. When I looked back up I was literally face to face with the horrid beast!

The web was all over me, and the half dollar-sized spider was dangling from the bill of my cap. All eight legs were thrashing about as it desperately tried to climb up to the top of my head. I let out a yell that was probably heard throughout all of north Alabama and west Georgia. Thrashing every bit as much as the spider, I threw my clipboard about twenty yards and then set the world record for cap flings. If anyone had driven down the road in front of the cemetery, they would no doubt have thought that I was having some

sort of spastic fit.

Shoulders heaving from heavy breathing, it took several minutes for me to gather myself and muster up enough courage to go pick up my things. Of course I kicked at my cap and then violently shook it, just to be sure the killer was gone. These creatures are non-poisonous, but a blood pressure spike can nevertheless lead to a stroke.

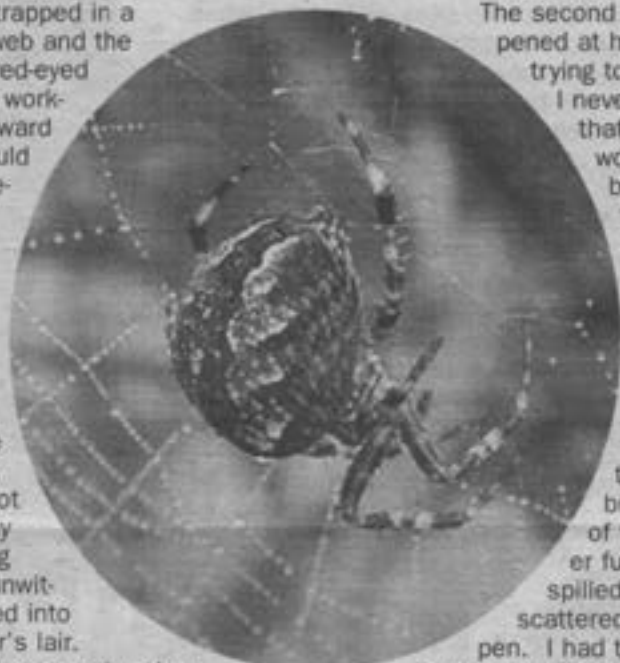
The second attack happened at home while I was trying to feed my dogs. I never suspected that a familiar, well-worn path would be booby trapped. This time I was not wearing a cap, and the thing started crawling through my hair. Web on face and spider in hair equaled two three-gallon buckets – one full of feed and another full of water – spilled all over me and scattered throughout the pen. I had to grab that

thing in my bare hand to get it off of me. When you squeeze those bad boys they ooze out some sort of orange gook. I never have quite gotten over that.

Nowadays I DO NOT wander around outside after dark. If it absolutely cannot be helped, I carry a powerful flashlight so that I can scan the area in front of me before I even take a step. I avoid going underneath trees, around bushes and between objects. I have seen the Araneidae webs range in size from a few inches wide underneath the eaves of the house to as much as ten feet high and three feet across when spun underneath trees. Ain't no way I'm walking into another one. The third time's the charm!

In closing, I will pass along a heads up. If the sun's rays reveal a silvery single strand of tough silk about the size and strength of a fishing line – BEWARE!! Avoid that particular area after dark, for you have an orb monster haunting your property.

(Greg Starnes is a free lance writer and Civil War historian.)



• Continued from page 1

During this school year, the Baptist Church burned and these two grades were then moved to the Wesleyan Church. Sometime later that school year, a fourth room was completed on the south end of the school house and the third and fourth grades were moved to this new room. The present building now consists of these four classrooms and a lunchroom."

On October 15, 2011, from 1:00-4:00 pm, Moon Lake School will be celebrating its 100th anniversary and the public is invited to attend. The entire student body will present a program. Old photos, historical documents and other memorabilia will be on display and it will be a chance for "old grads" and new friends of Moon Lake School to reminisce. A Harvest Festival fundraiser dinner will be held by Moon Lake 4th grade at the Moon Lake Baptist Church following the program.

Tradition, caring and excellence are the hallmarks of this historic little mountain school with an exemplary record of education. One

couldn't say it any better than Nettie Smith did at the end of the 1996 GH article when she stated simply, "Moon Lake School is a good school. I went to school there and three generations of my family have attended."

(A special thank you to Mr. Ernest Smith, who has kept much of the history of Mentone alive. The Moon Lake Library has copies of Jim Lyday's books for those who want to learn more of the old days in this area.)

Harvest Festival
MOON LAKE SCHOOL
November 5, 2011
4:00-7:00 pm
"Fun For ALL Ages"




MOON LAKE SCHOOL 1934: 1st row, seated on ground: Brandol Jones, Robert Shigley, Fred Jones Jr., R.W. McCord, Ernest Smith, Willis Blalock, Unknown, James Warren Adams, Roy Kirby, Richard Crow, Lester Jones, Lester Crow, Lovejoy Jones, Edgar Johnson, Frank Baty, Billy Matthews, Chester Crow, ? Potts, Norace Baty Jr., Purvis Brooks, Billy Smith, ? Sweat. 2nd row, seated: Mildred Akins, Wynema Jones, Elizabeth Jones, Ruby Johnson, Doris Perkins, Opal Matthews, Bonnie Brooks, Sarah Brown, Dorothy Smith, Bamalene Brooks, Emma Flarity, Unknown, Doris Crow (daughter of Finn Crow), Eva Green, Unknown, Jessie Faye Flarity, Mattie Nation, Francis Potts, (Next two pictures marred). 3rd row, standing: Gertrude Jones, Eugeneia Brown, James R. Lyday, Edmund Crow, Mary Warren, Irene Pullen, Martin Blalock, James Crow, Billy Warren, Unknown, Burl Jones, George Akins, William Crow, Wallace Van Zandt, Emerson Brown, J.B. Flarity, Harold Pruitt, Florene Pullen, Maxine Baty, Ina Jones, Eva Jones, Grace Green, Brownie Shigley. 4th row, standing: Colquitt Jones, Levona Smith, Leland Cox, Ruby Akins, Unknown, Mr. Hicks, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Joe Jones, Pauline Baty, Jewel Sweat, Harold Shigley, Enis Clark, Margaret Kirby. (Photo and names courtesy of Ernest Smith from April 1997 Groundhog)

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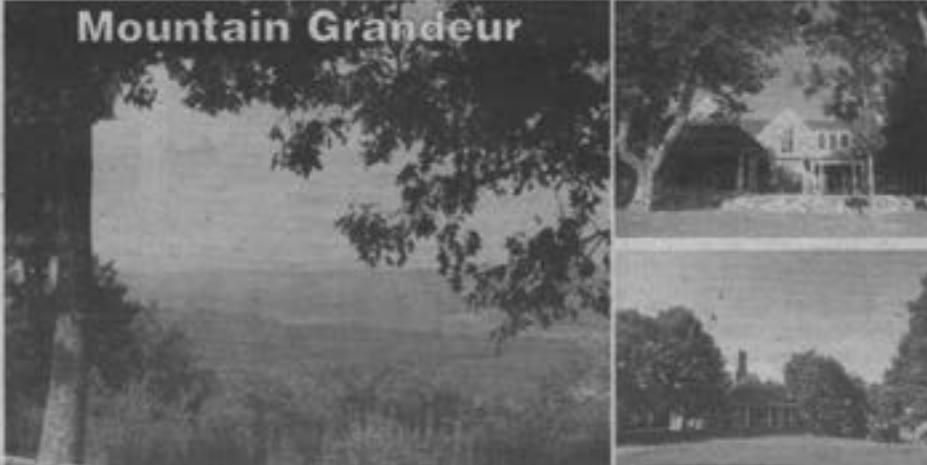
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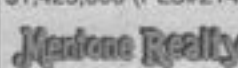
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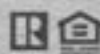
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NEW LISTING! 10.8 ACRES ON N. BROW. Approx 340' of brow frontage, half the land on top, half in valley, allowing you to choose your view. Awe-inspiring views; interesting rock formations; large trees. \$199,900. (MLS#928654, PLS#21467)

1.69 ACRE LOT W/LAKE VIEW! Level, wooded, on a private road, approx 1.5 mi from downtown Mentone. Lightly restricted. \$27,500. (PLS#19225)

MENTONE LAND W/CREEK 4.42 acres, wooded, peaceful, abundant wildlife, myriad hiking/walking areas. Restricted. \$42,000 (MLS#578905, PLS#21482)

5.62 ACRES in Mentone across from Lake Latusage. Undisturbed land w/lots of wildlife & trees & stream that runs through a hand-built mountain stone culvert. \$63,500 (PLS #20850)

TWO ACRES W/DRIVEWAY, public water at road, building site already prepared. Approx one mile from downtown Mentone on N Scenic Hwy. Unrestricted, wooded; level and just the right size! Just listed for \$29,900. (MLS#553792, PLS#21346)

CREEKSIDE LOT IN MENTONE! 1.13 ac lot with approx 200' of creek frontage in lightly-restricted area w/ underground pwr & city water. Trees, rocks & water. If you've been considering building a cabin, this is exactly the right place. \$29,900 (PLS #20832)

3.21 ACRE WOODED LOT in Northend gated community. Privacy & security to build your mountain getaway. \$39,900 (PLS#21363)

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WOW, WHATTA PLACE! WOW, WHATTA PRICE! Family farm, generations-owned, now for sale. Quaint board-n-batten 3BR/2BA farmhouse with 3/4 wrap-around screened porch; outbuildings; old chicken houses; stream flowing through woods; two ponds; public water and well; workshop that looks like a dollhouse! Land is approx 1/2 pasture (fenced), 1/2 wooded, with frontage on two roads. Owner may divide into two portions. Property in town limits of Mentone. Build your own family compound, summer retreat, or get back to the land and become a farmer! A rare opportunity at a very attractive price! (PLS#21468)



MOSSY ROCK AT MENTONE! Elegant, yet rustic, 2BR/2BA cabin w/vaulted ceiling in great room; WB Fpl; custom cabinets; off M... cell... law... built... lot with little to no yard maintenance! \$175,000. (PLS#20416) (MLS #664804)

SOLD



THE OLD BRUCE HOUSE, one of the few remaining of Mentone's early residences, on the corner of Cool Street and Linchpney (the address alone is fabulous!) Two-story frame home w/heart pine walls, ceilings & floors. Stone, wood-burning Fpl fitted w/gas logs. The well bucket & windlass on back screened porch is still operational. Breathe new life into this one-of-a-kind classic home. Right in the heart of Mentone, behind the Mentone Inn. (MLS#913251, PLS#21463)



WATCH BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS across Lookout Mountain from this 3BR/2BA, approx 1800 sq ft home. Elevation provides views, 5 acres land provides room for minifarm. Home has full basement with recreation room & add'l areas. Detached garage. Pasture area. Room to grow your own veggies and have an animal or two. Additional acreage may be possible. \$100,000. (MLS#408619, PLS#21418)



YOU CAN OWN THE FARM... or as much of it as you can handle! Newly-constructed rustic farmhouse with 4.5 acres, or but... res, for... am. Pk... ring sh... ant view... front or back porch. Come home! \$167,500 or \$215,000. (PLS#20810) (MLS#445045)

SOLD



THE LITTLE WHITE COTTAGE, picturesquely nestled amid the trees & oak leaf hydrangea in downtown Mentone, next door to the Mentone Springs Hotel & Village Shops. Small & cozy, 2BR/1.5BA, completely renovated w/totally new interior, appliances (incl. washer/dryer!), plumbing, CH/A & roof! Single attached carport, fenced backyard, extra-wide lot. Priced at only \$121,500. (PLS#20249) (MLS#331553)



DESOTO PARKWAY CABIN home. Low maintenance exterior paired with a low upkeep, natural yard w/trees & beautiful boulders so you can spend your time enjoying the Mountain. Pine tongue & groove walls, hardwood floors. Full, mostly-finished walkout basement (great storm shelter!) with accessibility. Whole house alarm. PRICE REDUCTION with possible owner financing available. \$185,000. (MLS#959205, PLS#21161)



LOG CABIN SURROUNDED BY WOODS. 2.3 acres. Front & back porches, full unfinished basement for storage or workshop (large doors leading outside). Privacy with... Q... and... it... of p... Price... for a cabin on 2.3 acres at \$54,900. (MLS #961969, PLS#20915)

SOLD



CLASSIC LAKESIDE HOME on deep water, Lake Latusage. 3BR/2BA; cypress siding; maple flooring & cabinets w/Silestone(R) counters. Beautiful crown moulding throughout. Solid interior doors, CH/A w/gas emergency heat & stone wood-burning fireplace w/gas igniter. Open pit BBQ house; new aluminum dock. Fully-furnished w/few exceptions. Bring your groceries and enjoy water front living at Mentone. (MLS#631541, PLS#21267)



THE JAMES PLACE on the brow with a breath-taking view of the valley below, mountains beyond and those fabulous sunsets! Over 185' brow frontage. House has 4BR/2.5BA, 2-car attached garage, hot tub on back deck, 1.46 acres of land. Less than a mile from downtown Mentone. Residence, retreat or rental! Look around and you'll find this to be an incredibly reasonable price for this much land, this much frontage, this much house on the brow at Mentone! Priced at only \$275,000! (MLS#580676, PLS#21259)

KIDNAPPED!

By Charlotte Gentry, Editor

An unnamed party has kidnapped The Groundhog mascot, W. Chuck Groundhog! As faithful readers of The Groundhog know, we hide Chuck in a different location in the Mentone area each month and give 10 clues hidden within our ads. The person who finds Chuck and brings him back to us wins a prize. In August, Chuck was hidden inside the bell at the Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church in Valley Head. The prize was a \$25.00 gift certificate to Mentone General Store.

Many folks sought Chuck and most figured out his hiding place, but no one could find him. Then we received the ransom note informing us of his kidnapping and the terms for his release. Please help us get Chuck back! Everyone who makes a donation toward the ransom of Chuck will have his/her name put into a drawing to win the \$25.00 gift certificate from Mentone General Store. We thank Paul and Ginny Zulker for their willingness to provide the prize.

Donation containers will be placed at Mentone Market, Mentone General Store and Mentone Realty.



Editor,

I have kidnapped your groundhog. I assure you he is safe and will come to no harm. I am taking good care of him. But, in order to have him back, you must collect \$2,000 and donate it to the Moon Lake PTO to be used however they see fit to help the teachers and students. Some may think my actions in kidnapping Chuck are harsh, but I am a long-time Moon Lake school supporter and I know things are tough for them right now. If you collect more than the \$2,000 ransom, then give that to the PTO, too. I believe if everyone pitches in you should be able to get Chuck back by the end of October.

signed,

The Kidnapper



Each month we'll be featuring a favorite family recipe from one of our readers. If you have a recipe you'd like to submit, please send it to editorgroundhog@yahoo.com, mail it to The Groundhog, PO Box 387, Mentone AL 35984, or drop it by the Mentone Realty office. Please include any additional information such as where you got the recipe and any additional history or details you think would be of interest to Groundhog readers.

This month, we decided to take a step back in time to the Groundhog archives. In the October 1988 issue, Nova Dean Kilgore had several delectable recipes in her "Country Cookin'" column that are perfect for the autumn months.

SWEET POTATO MUFFINS

- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ c all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c sugar
- 1 Tbsp baking powder
- 1 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c coarsely-chopped pecans or walnuts
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ c cooked, mashed sweet potatoes
- $\frac{3}{4}$ c milk
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c butter or margarine, melted
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp ground cinnamon

Combine first six ingredients in a large bowl, stirring well. Make a well in center of mixture. Combine the next four ingredients, stirring well; add to dry ingredients, mixing just until moistened.

Spoon batter into greased muffin pans, filling two-thirds full. Combine $\frac{1}{4}$ c. sugar and cinnamon; sprinkle over each muffin. Bake at 425 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes.

Yield: About 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ dozen



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Howdy from the U.S. Embassy Kabul, Afghanistan

By Doug Perkins

(Editor's Note: We thought Groundhog readers would be interested in news from those who are currently serving, or who have served, the United States overseas. This month, we welcome an essay from Doug Perkins, written after the Embassy attack on Sept. 13, 2011, and appreciate his service away from his wife, Betty, and his family (including a new grandbaby) here in Mentone.)

Kabul Afghanistan is definitely not a tourist destination. Fact is, if you are not serving here, you can't even get into the country. I have worked at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan now for eighteen months. Thirty more months to go...if I am lucky.

Currently, I am the Electrical Superintendent for Caddell Construction, which is based in the great state of Alabama, down Montgomery way. Our task is to build additions on several buildings here in the embassy, as well as several new buildings over the next 4-5 years. AEK [American Embassy Kabul] is growing to meet the demands of the huge population increase in Afghanistan to support the people of this war-torn nation.

Personally, I avoid any and all political issues and just do my job. Typically, Kabul sees less of the fighting around Afghanistan that you hear about on the TV. Sure, we see our share of shootings, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Rocket-Propelled Grenades (RPGs), but, it's usually not that bad.

That was until last week. The first rockets hit at

1321 hours. From then on till dark we had steady attacks. The media did a fair job of reporting the news to you, probably better than I could relate it, so I won't stray from published reports. By 2300 hours the announcement was made that local personnel could leave the Embassy. We [embassy personnel] remained under "Duck and Cover" restrictions. Personnel were housed in secure buildings and made do with whatever arrangements could be made.

One humorous note was the injury I received during the attack. I was at the window in my hooch when an RPG hit a building not far from me. I stepped back, knocked over my desk chair, fell over the chair, fell on the floor and twisted my knee. A week later, I am still hobbling. No Purple Heart for contractors.

Next morning things seemed quiet and many of the staff ventured out to sunny skies. It wasn't long, though, before a firefight erupted from the building where the insurgents had holed-up the night before. My hooch is on the 2nd floor and several people soon came up to see the attack. We were about 800 meters away and had a good view of the Blackhawks pounding the building with thousands of rounds. A couple hours later, all was quiet. Life as "normal" had been restored here at AEK.

I want to thank those of you that keep me up to date on the happenings in Mentone and Lookout Mountain, especially Darlene Owen, Jimmy Owen, John Mills, Jay Martin, Ethel Manifold, Charlotte Gentry and my family. As always, mail is a good thing.

(We hope to have future news from Doug and other folks serving overseas in upcoming issues of The Groundhog.)



Above, Doug Perkins at Kabul Embassy.

At right wife Betty and new granddaughter await his return.





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Diary of a Chicken Lady

(Part Five)

By Kristen Emory



It has been an extremely active month. I have taken a chicken to the vet, made my first chicken house call, and my father built a great new chicken coop. Now the question is where to start?

The trip to the Vet was an absolute HOOT (but I don't think we are ready for that story). Tom wouldn't even go in the Vet's office with me. I knew then, that I had pushed him to his supportive husband limit. My chicken antics were on the verge of embarrassing. The house call may need some time to simmer so that the success may be judged. That

leaves the new coop.

With the addition of the baby chicks, my dad and I realized we were going to have to have more coop space. Jim decided to build his own coop at his house. He didn't build a coop, he built the Coop Mahal. He spent time making it very secure and safe for the baby chicks. He dug a footing and put wire down into the ground. There is a special mesh wire across the top to keep varmints out. He added the cutest window in the hen house and made sure that it locked from the outside and inside. Nothing is coming in that window!

The thought was we would just bring the baby chicks to his house. Really the smart thing to do because it would mean that only one set of chickens would have to be disturbed. Interrupting a chicken's routine is not good, learned that in my book. On the eve of the move I chickened out. I could not let my babies go. I had kept these little ones alive, all of them. We had bonded, they are my friends. They are the reason I don't say ugly words anymore (at least in reference to chickens!) I'll just say it: I like them better! The Trade Day Chickens, Thelma, Louise, Bulla, and Mae, had to go. My babies were staying with me. My mother really hates the buzzards, but they were going to her house.

I want you to keep in mind that when Dad and I started this adventure, my mother, Joan, said "I don't do chickens. I will eat their eggs, but I will not feed, touch, clean, or help with the chickens." And she meant every word. I will admit, this made me a bit fearful for my babies' wellbeing. Therefore, she was getting the buzzards! And they will be right out her back door. She is soooo very happy.

Dad's coop is wonderful. He did a great job making it safe and secure. Nothing was going to get in or out of this thing, or so we thought. One morning dad was doing his daily maintenance to his coop. He is very dedicated to the keeping up of things, much more so than myself (my chicks do miss his ways). Again, he is retired, what else does he have to do?

Joan, was also there doing her part, just like she said she would, taking the eggs inside. Finally finished, new straw in the pin, a clean coop with fresh cedar shavings, fresh water and food, happy chickens make lots of eggs. Jim satisfied, on to the next task...not so fast my friend! Someone (he quickly deciphers Joan) has locked the coop from the outside and he is locked in! Immediately he checks all exits. Nothing. Even the window is locked inside and out. Fort Knox! What to do? Make the loudest noise possible. Joan is just thirty feet away; she will come out, surely.

The whistle. All my life my dad has had one of those amazing whistles. I don't mean Andy's Mayberry whistle. I mean a freight train whistle. The whistle that brought me home from across the neighborhood as a child and would stop a grown man in his tracks kind of whistle!

Nothing. After ten minutes of this heart-stopping, ear-piercing sound, nothing. No response! Now he was worried. Had she gone in there and died? All this time he had been studying the structure and finally came to the conclusion that these chickens were safe, very safe. An exit strategy was hatched. He was going out the top. After some serious effort, the wire was pried off and the escape was underway. A few minor snags and a couple of tries later, Jim was a free man.

Let me say, a sixty-plus-year-old man, over a six-foot wire wall, through an opening the size of his head, impressive! As for Mom, she is still alive and well and claims no malicious intent, "I just thought he was playing with dog". On a subconscious level I wonder...she really doesn't like the buzzards?

So many chicken stories so little time. Next month?



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Out & About - MENTONE AREA



Recent heavy rains gave DeSoto Falls a workout. The sight was breathtaking. (photo by Patricia Shavers)





Mountain Herbalist Maple - How sweet it is!

By L.C. Moon

Red maple is the most common of the maple trees on Lookout Mountain though you may find silver maple-*Acer saccharinum*- or sugar maple-*Acer saccharum*- also

showering the landscape. I am in awe each fall of the maple leaves brilliant melon to scarlet beauty. Their beauty is food for the soul, while their sap, inner bark and leaves have been proven to nourish our bodies.

Historically pioneers, folk herbalists and Native Americans used maple for food, medicine, as a sweetener, as well as for utilitarian purposes such as furniture construction and making a cinnamon brown colored dye/ink.

Sweetness of Maple

Pure maple syrup is a nourishing sweetener and a cleansing tonic. It has fewer calories and a higher content of minerals than even honey. A study at the University of Rhode Island has begun to clinically prove maple syrup is safer for people with type 2 diabetes and it appears to have antioxidant properties ranking with berries, tea and red wine.

Approximately one ounce of maple syrup contains 22% of the daily value of manganese, a mineral enzymatically important for energy production. It has a high zinc content making it healthy for the heart and the immune system. Both zinc and manganese are connected to men's reproductive health; specifically, zinc is used as a therapy to decrease the size of the prostate. Maple syrup also contains significant amounts of calcium, iron, potassium and magnesium.

Any type of maple may be tapped for the sweet sugary sap to make maple syrup. Sugar maple, hence the name, obviously produces the greatest amount of sap though it is not very common on Lookout Mountain. Of all the most common maples on Lookout, silver maple has the highest yield of sweet sugary sap, but the yield of sap is still low in comparison to the sugar maple.

Harvesting Maple Sap

Maples are tapped (pierced) at the first sign of warming weather, often as early as February in the south. The first sap is known to be the highest in nutrients. The sap rises through the xylem layer which is 1 to 3 inches beneath the bark. In *A Forager's Year* by Susan Tyler Hitchcock, she recommends to drill a maple that is at least one foot across. The holes should be angling up at about 2 inches deep in the tree. In order to funnel the sap out of the

trees, spiles are inserted into the drilled holes. For centuries sumach &/or elderberry stalks have been used as spiles because of their pithy insides that may be hollowed out like a straw.

Harvesting one gallon per day of sap through the spiles is known to be a good flow. While one gallon is a good flow for harvest, there is actually about 100 to 250 gallons of sap flows through a sugar maple tree on a springtime day.

Maple harvesters gather the sap buckets each day and place fresh buckets under the spiles. Hitchcock says it is easiest to freeze the sap each day until you have enough to process. It takes between 32 to 60 gallons of unprocessed maple sap to equal one gallon of syrup or four and a half pounds of maple sugar.

Maple as Medicine

Red Maple -*Acer Rubrum*- is a tonic for the whole body. The inner bark and leaves of red maple are known to soothe the nerves as well as benefit the health of the liver and spleen. It is also used as a poultice for boils, a compress for sore, tired eyes and as a tonic for women.

Red maple has earned its greatest fame in herbal medicine as a therapy for hot flashes. Lookout Mountain's folk herbalist- the late

Tommie Bass- recommended drinking a hot cup of maple tea as needed throughout the day to ease all manner of female complaints. To my surprise, years ago I also discovered the *Physicians' Desk Reference for Herbal Medicines* also recognizes red maple as a beneficial folk medicine for females. I combine Lookout's native squaw vine (partridge berry) and red raspberry leaf to increase the effectiveness of red maple as a therapy for women.

Preparing Maple Remedies

In order to make a decoction of maple, Bass recommended boiling 2 cups of inner bark to a half gallon of water for twenty minutes, then replacing the water that has boiled away and boil for another five minutes.



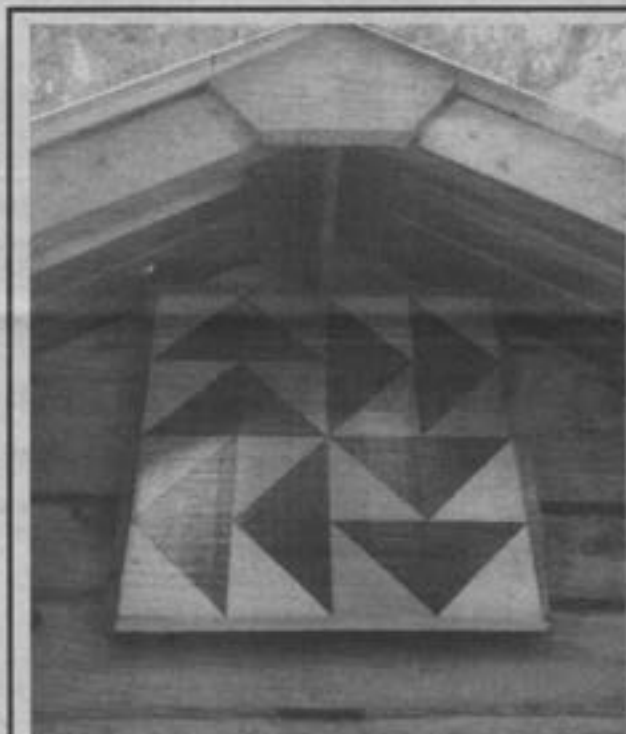
Back to Eden by Jethro Kloss advises 3 cups of maple tea daily on an empty stomach to help balance the health of the liver, spleen and/or nerves. I would do the

same for hot flashes. If you have pain in the liver or spleen, Jethro Kloss says it is helpful to drink a wine-glassful every hour or two.

Kloss recommends a heaping teaspoon full of bark or leaves per cup of boiling water. When preparing maple leaves, he says to bring water to a simmer then pour the hot water on the leaves and allow the tea to steep at least 10-20 minutes.

May your body and soul be nourished this season by maples. As you wind through the curvy mountain roads this fall and gaze out at the canopy I hope you remember the blessings of Maple; it is but a beautiful window into the abundance of blessings living on Lookout Mountain.

(L.C. Moon is a naturalist, herbalist, writer, co-owner of the Wildflower Café and Country Store in Mentone, AL, founder of L.C. Moon Herbs (an all natural skincare line), a member of Mentone Area Arts Council and Vice President of the Mentone Area Preservation Association. For more information you may contact www.MentoneWildflower.com)



HAVE YOU SEEN THE QUILT

SQUARES that are appearing here and there on buildings and homes in the Mentone area? These geometric beauties are the work of Nathan Winkler. This particular design is called Dutchman's Puzzle and is displayed on the little rustic storage building at Mentone Realty. Nathan will be in Mentone at the Last First Friday Fish Fry, October 7, helping his sister, Angie Winkler Shugart, get the vittles served. He will also be giving a presentation on his quilt squares at the DeKalb Quilters monthly meeting in November.



29TH ANNUAL COLORFEST WEEKEND—BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!

By Charlotte Gentry

Mentone dons its finest mantle of color during the month of October. Crisp mornings and clear, starry nights make it a favorite time to enjoy the mountains. A getaway for tourists, from far and near, since the 1800s, Mentone's proximity to Chattanooga, Huntsville, Atlanta, Birmingham and all points south makes a weekend trip more enjoyable with less drive time and more "enjoy" time.

The nearby natural wonders of DeSoto Falls and Little River Canyon National Preserve, the quaint village shops, local arts and crafts, and incredible food at local restaurants add to the experience visitors can enjoy. Numerous rustic cabins available for rental offer folks the complete getaway vacation.

Every year on the third weekend in October, Mentone's Colorfest Weekend brings folks to the mountain to enjoy music, food, arts, crafts and fun. This year Mentone celebrates its 29th Colorfest and it is shaping up to be the biggest and best Colorfest ever! The festival kicks off on the evening of October 14, with a bonfire, dinner and music in the heart of downtown Mentone. International jazz ensemble, Watters Felts Project will highlight the evening performing at the Mentone Inn Pavilion.

Saturday and Sunday (October 15 and 16) Mentone's Brow Park, located just a few blocks north of the downtown area on the brow of the mountain overlooking the valley below, and the grounds of the Mentone Inn will host over 70 artists and craftsmen displaying a fantastic variety of wares. (This would be a great time to make purchases for the holidays. Original art and crafts make great gifts!)

The Mentone Springs Hotel will host the Colorfest Business Festival providing an opportunity for visitors to learn more about the many goods and services provided by our local businesses.

A truly exciting addition to Colorfest this year is the Children's Colorfestival, which will be located across from the General Store on Highway 117 at Mason Park. Children will be thrilled with a trout pond, jump houses, hamster balls, face paintings, pony rides and many other activities. You might even see an alpaca, or a juggler.

There will be music throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday for your enjoyment at all of the venues and plenty of good food to go around. Public parking is available in several areas near Brow Park, behind The Hitching Post and next to Mentone General Store. As always, Mentone Boy Scout Troop 106 will be helping with parking.

Headlining the music for Colorfest, up-and-coming Nashville entertainer Leah Seawright (with Mark Herndon) will be performing Saturday evening at the outdoor stage on the Square at the Mentone Inn. Opening the evening will be music by Nature's Way, who will be performing during the Fish Fry at the Mentone Inn Pavilion benefiting One World Adventure Company. Better get there early for this one!

Sunday's Colorfest events will be highlighted by a special performance by Mountain Breeze Equestrian Team at 1:00 PM on the vacant lot next to the Post Office. Their performance will delight and amaze folks of all ages! A variety of Gospel music will be performed at Brow Park pavilion throughout Sunday morning. Arts and crafts and other vendors will open their booths at 9:00 am both days.

Make plans to attend the 29th Annual Mentone Colorfest Weekend! Mark your calendars for October 14th-16th. See you there!

COLORFEST OCTOBER 14-16, 2011 SCHEDULE

Entertainment

Friday:

6 pm Tony Goggans, Mentone Inn outdoor stage
On the Square (interspersed with storytelling)

6 pm Moon Lake School - Soup and Chili Supper, Pavilion

7 pm Watters Felts Project, Mentone Inn Pavilion

Saturday:

10 am Gene Ivey, fiddler, Brow Park Pavilion Stage

11 am Nicole Jones, Singer, Brow Park Stage

Noon Bailey Carvalho, Guitarist/Singer, Mentone Inn Outdoor Stage

1 pm Chris Hale, Banjo Player, Brow Park Stage

3 pm Arise Dance Group, Brow Park Stage

5 pm Nature's Way, Mentone Inn Outdoor Stage On the Square
(during One World Adventure Company's Fish Fry at the Pavilion)

7 pm Leah Seawright and Mark Herndon, Mentone Inn Pavilion

Sunday:

10 am-noon Gospel Music provided by various groups and individuals

11 am Mickey Luck's Dulcimer Group, Brow Park Stage

Noon The Recliners, Mentone Inn Outdoor Stage

1 pm Mountain Breeze Equestrian Team, lot across from Mentone Post Office

2 pm Eric Watters and Jimmy Finney, Mentone Inn Outdoor Stage

2 pm Pierce Pettis, Singer/Guitarist, Mentone Inn Outdoor Stage

3 pm Faye Henry, Gong concert at Brow Park Pavilion Stage

Vendors

Karen Duke	Quilts and Dolls
Jenny Dixon	Acrylics, Watercolor
Debra Kean	Floral Crafts
Ginger Cribbs	Knits Hats and Scarves
Steve Walker	Bird Houses
Ben Dupree	Hammered Copper
Mentone Realty	Real Estate
Ruth Ellis	Pressed Flower Prints
Stephanie Andersen	Nutrilife
Kerry Briethaupt	Massage Therapy
David Hammock	Iron Art
Michael Roberts	Acrylics
Paige Nicholson	Fiber Art
Beth Bradley	Fiber Art
Steve Woodward	Acrylics
Ponderosa Student Ministries	Camp
Lisa Deviese	Soap
Gary Jones	Tie Dye
David McAdoo	
Jennifer Bone	Applique Items
Mrs. Hammock	Wool Hats and Pins
Kenneth Kocienski	Wooden Kayaks
Melody Ramsey-Duggan	Wooden Boxes
Delight Watson	Dog Treats
Cheri Harrington	Woven Sterling Silver
Richard Abernathy	Iron Art
Humane Society	Pet Adoption Info

NOTE: This is only a partial listing and does not include food vendors.

Welcome to the 29th Annual Colorfest at Mentone. We hope you enjoy your visit. Please remember that Mentone is located on a very busy State Highway 117. In addition to the through traffic on Highway 117, there will be traffic congestion from visitors. Children and adults alike should remember safety first when crossing streets.

**Colorfest Event Map**

Mentone Inn Outdoor Stage

**Mentone Springs Hotel Parking Lot**

Mentone, AL

Business Festival**Mentone Inn Outdoor Stage**

6125 Al-117

Mentone, AL 35984

**Mentone Inn Pavilion**

6129 Al-117

Mentone, AL 35984

**Brow Park Pavilion Stage**

259 N Cool St

Mentone, AL 35984

**Mason Park**

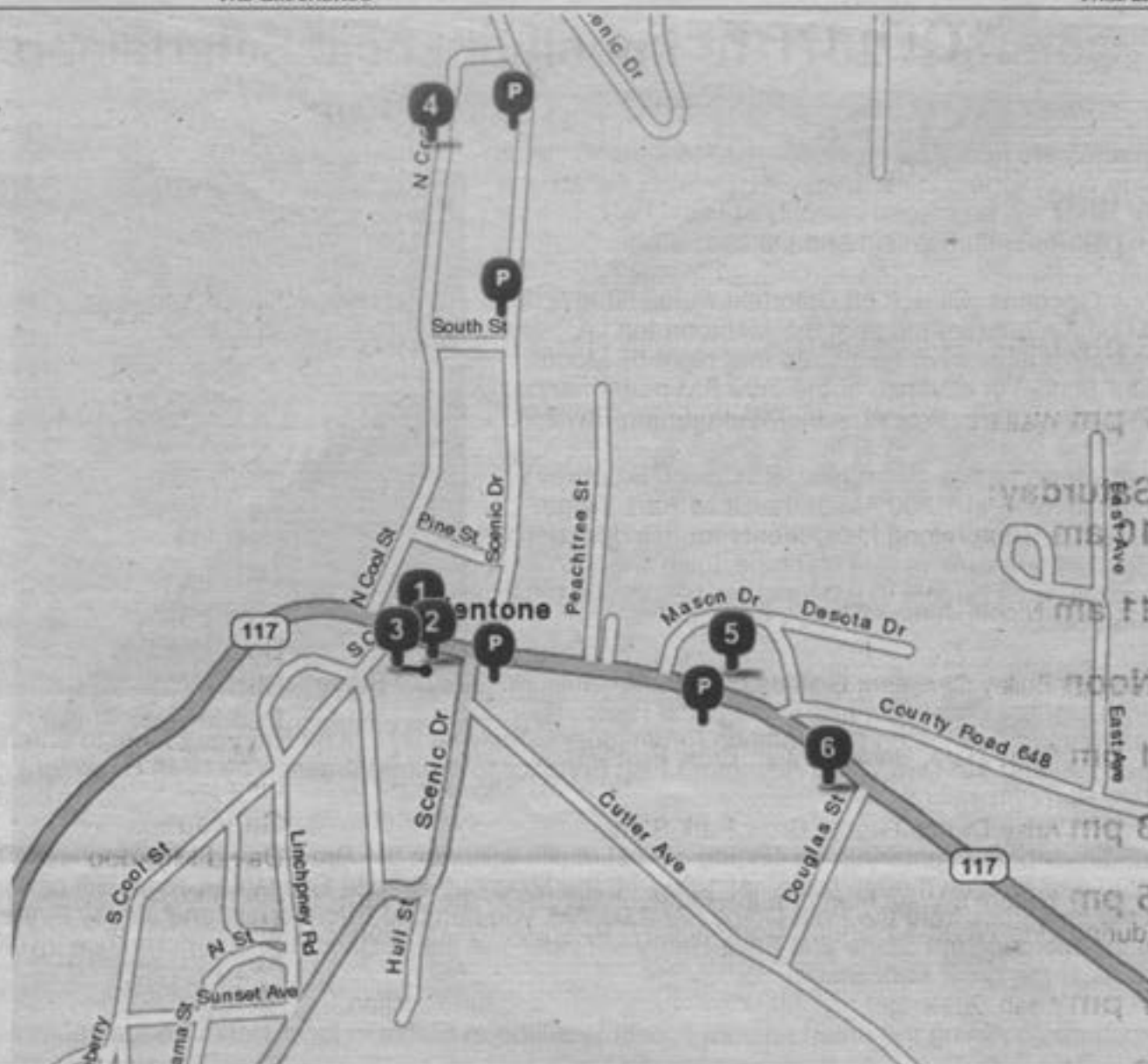
5932 Al-117

Mentone, AL 35984

**Children's
Festival****Vacant Lot across from Post Office**

5827 Al-117

Mentone, AL 35984

**Equestrian
Team****Parking****Mountain Breeze Equestrian Team To Perform At Colorfest**

Get ready for some real fun when the Mountain Breeze Equestrian Team hits the Colorfest Trail on Sunday, October 16, 2011, at the vacant lot on Highway 117 across the street from the Post Office. Since 2008, this group of highly skilled, non-professional riders have been donating their time to charity benefits and other functions to raise funds for children at Christmas and families in need. Led by "Lu Lu" Zimmerman and Mentone's Kirby Johnston, the group has recently performed at the Rainsville Agricultural Center, Mule Days in Ider, the Alabama Horse Fair, and Trenton Frontier Days. The time of the performance will be announced at a later date.

This is but one of the great events scheduled for Colorfest 2011. Make plans now to come on out and have a great time!

**Don't forget!**

You still have a chance to buy a chance (or several) to win this beautiful, hand-embroidered quilt made by Clara Bridgeman of Valley Head. Chances are only \$1.00, with proceeds going to MAPA, and may be purchased until the Saturday of Colorfest (Oct 15), when the drawing will take place at the Brow Park Pavilion.



Colorfest 2011 To Spotlight Local Entertainers

Entertainers from all over Northeast Alabama will be on hand on Colorfest 2011 Weekend, October 14, 15 and 16. They will be staged not only at Brow Park, but also the Mentone Inn Pavilion and Outdoor Stage.

Tony Goggans will kick off Colorfest weekend at 6:00 PM on the outdoor stage at the Mentone Inn. A fundraiser dinner will be served that night by Moon Lake School in advance of the 7:00 PM performance by the Watters Felts Project in the Mentone Inn Pavilion.

Well known fiddler, Gene Ivey will kick off Saturday's entertainment at 10:00 AM at the Brow Park Stage. Gene is bringing along his students for this occasion and there are rumors that Mentone Town Clerk, Wilma Fletcher, will also join in the fun at some point in the performance.

Other entertainers during the day on Saturday include Nicole Jones, Bailey Carvalho, and Chris Hale.

Nature's Way will be on the Mentone Inn outdoor stage at 5:00 PM on Saturday night to entertain guests during the One World Adventure Fish Fry prior to the performance by Leah Seawright and Mark Herndon.

Sunday, a host of entertainers singing gospel music will open the Brow Park Stage beginning at 10:00 and running through noon. At 1:00 PM, the Mountain Breeze Equestrian Team will perform at the lot across from the Post Office. At 2:00 PM, you can find Eric Watters and Jimmy Finney on the Mentone Inn Stage and Faye Henry will close out the Festival with a performance involving gongs at the Brow Park Stage.

Brochures outlining the entertainment schedule will be available in local stores and restaurants.



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 WHITT FAMILY



The Call of the Wild

(with apologies to Mr. London)
by Pam O'Rear

Nothing to feel but the slightly cooler temperatures in the early morning and late evenings. Nothing to hear except the occasional new birdsong from flocks migrating south - along with the scolding cries from the year round resident crows. But somehow, something has triggered a change deep in the woods. It is suddenly transforming itself into an autumn show of color. Rust reds and squash yellows punctuate my daily walks now. It happened only recently - so that I am almost shocked when I turn a corner to find a tree advertising itself like a neon-sign. It sometimes stops me in my tracks....as does the call of the wild.

I began a late afternoon walk in Desoto Park several days ago, on trail that begins on the hilltop above the parks general store. The area is also popular with bicyclists and although I usually find a couple of cars or trucks with empty bike racks parked in the little parking area, on that day, there were none. Never mind, I thought to myself, this would be a solitary

walk - just me alone with my thoughts.

Along with bike trails the area presents many walking paths to choose from and all are color coded. A few unlucky trees have been splodged with paint by park volunteers in order to keep the rest of us on the right track. I usually take the orange trail but decided on this fateful day, I'd go up and over Lost Falls on the blue trail, before heading down the hillside and back. Most of the narrow tracks snake around a creek but because we'd had no rain for days, it was as dry as a bone and all the vegetation along its banks was suffering badly. After a few minutes I came to the falls, but it lay silent. I found I could walk across the huge boulder overhang where, on another day, hundreds of gallons of water usually ran past and plunged dramatically, in a great white plume, over the edge. When it is alive with noisy rippling water, it is simply stunning - the star of countless photo opportunities. But, on that day, no one was looking at this sight in awe - and the only sound came from the rocky echo of my steps on its dry surface.

Back on the path and down the hill I walked and soon found that my face and arms were gathering spiders webs as I passed through the occasional tangle of branches or fallen trees. I seemed to be constantly wiping myself clear of them. This was obviously a path less travelled.



As the late afternoon light began to fade and as I had met no other fellow travellers, I was happy to start back up the hill on the last leg of my journey.

Along the way I heard noises in the woods - but none of the usual culprits - squirrels, deer or even owls, could be seen. The sound of disturbed dry leaves and the cracking of dead tree branches were, I assumed, the movements of a deer, possibly two. Once I saw a felled pine tree and one of its slender branches, which was parallel to the ground, was swinging - as if something had just dragged its body by it as it passed. I wasn't too bothered as I imagined again that the unseen animal was possibly a fawn trying to find its mother but invisible to me.

As I got nearer the top of the hill I stopped suddenly as a piercing shriek came loud across the sky above. My head followed the sound of what was probably a military jet but hidden by the canopy of trees. As the man-made din subsided and my head dropped down to the path again - an awful shrieking animal howl rose up from the woods behind me. In the valley from which I had just come there arose a crescendo of at least a dozen throats filled with blood curdling yips and yelps - still hidden from view but more real to me now. My pace quickened considerably as I continued up the rocky steps towards the end of the trail and back to my car in record time!

When I next take a walk on the hilltop trail, I'll know that, along with the birds, squirrels and deer, I will be walking with wild coyotes. I wonder who was more frightened that day?

(Pam O'Rear is an occasional writer, frustrated artist but enthusiastic daily walker.)

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LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

by Linda Brown



Excerpts from August and September reports. Four years ago, we entered into an agreement with T ARCOG, an acronym for Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments, to employ Beverly Ashley as librarian for the community side of the local library. The program which enabled us to do this would train Beverly to enter the job field. Part of her salary was a grant with a substantial matching amount from the Board of Directors of

the Moon Lake Community Library. There was a lot of paperwork involved and Beverly had to list the places where she had applied for work each time she mailed in hours for that period.

The years went by and nothing opened up which was within driving distance for Beverly. Last year she started to use her new skills to help out at the Mentone Town Hall and the Mentone Water Works. Both offices have reported that she is a great help to the clerks. When Beverly was out of the system in September 2011, we were told that there was no longer any grants available due to the slow economy. This burst our bubble as our plan had been to get someone else in the system to work at the town and water office and help out at the library. I know that in the game of football there is a time where you fall back and punt. That is what we did.

We cut the hours which the Moon Lake Community Library is open, and the members of the Board of Directors drafted a motion to pay Beverly a salary if the other two entities will do the same. The details have now been worked out and Beverly can be seen working at all three places.

Here is where we need your help. We will need to constantly replenish our coffers to be able to continue to do this. We ask that you show your support and appreciation of a library of this magnitude by becoming a FRIEND or otherwise making a donation. You may mail to the address at the end of this article or leave any correspondence at the library during community hours. The directors will work hard to continue the program but we cannot do it without you help.

The members of the board work hard to make the library a success. We are always trying something new but at the same time we are mindful that we do not reinvent the wheel. You can help by letting us know what you have liked and what you disliked. We have thick skins and would rather work on something for you to enjoy than work hard and have no one show up. Our library is not eligible for any state or federal grants or other help. With our hard work and your continued interest, we will maintain the quality of Moon Lake Community Library.

The next meeting of the members of the Board of Directors of the Moon Lake Community Library will be Thursday, October 13 at 3:00 p.m. in the library. To be on the agenda call Jan Wilkinson. Write to us at Moon Lake Community Library, Post Office Box 481, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

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RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Linda Brown, Secretary

Who would have thought that when the Rhododendron Garden Club prepared the yearbook of programs over a year ago, we would plan to go to the gardens of Hab Setze just after he was on the cover of The Groundhog? Eleven members made a trip to Hab's gardens on September 13, 2011. Several members visit with Hab on a regular basis and all of us had read the article so we knew that we were in for a treat. Hab was not available when we arrived. When he came outside, he told us that he had just sold his entire crop of heirloom garlic! This made his day and ours, we were happy for him.

We were shown a garden of tomatoes (some purple), broccoli, carrots, and peppers of every kind you can think of. These were all young plants and very lush and green with the fruit just beginning to show. The peppers will make quite

a showing when they are mature. Not only are there plants which will produce every color but the strength of taste will range from very mild to the hottest known pepper!

Hab has a habit of talking as you walk with him. I gathered some gems of wisdom about growing things as he talked and we walked. First and foremost, start with good dirt. If yours is not rich you should enhance it with additives which can be bought at a good garden center. Hab said to start with mature plants, at least ten weeks old. Water all plants in the early morning. Keep water off of tomato plants, this is the reason to use an underground watering system instead of a spraying system. He said to separate all beds by at least forty feet. This prevents cross pollination.

Nearby, a winter melon patch is started. This was very impressive as the plants were on a raised bed. The dirt was mounded maybe three feet and the plants had plenty of space to run in between and down the sides. The vines were a beauti-

ful shade of green with the hint of yellow blossoms. A work of art in the ground. A last word of wisdom from Hab was, "Plant garlic in the fall and harvest it in the summer."

One thing which was missing from the tour was Hab's dad, Tom. The garden club members loved and enjoyed being with his mom, Virginia and were saddened when she passed too soon. We all learned to love Tom as he watered the pink dogwood tree which was planted by the club in Virginia's memory. Now when we see Tom, he always gets a kiss on the cheek. How does this happen? Maybe Hab didn't want the competition. (P.S. I teased him while we were touring the garden. He had no idea who I was or how much I love his dad and the memory of his mom.)

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. Lowell Tilley, who is a master at creating Bonsai specimen, will be the featured speaker. He has promised to bring the plant which he prepared at last year's meeting. He gave it to the club, but none of us were brave enough to attempt to keep it alive

during the winter. We asked him to take it home with him and this was a good excuse to ask him back.

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

**Don't Miss
the Special
Pull-Out
Section for
Colorfest
included in
this issue!**

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Decker and Jesse Haston Jones a son, Ashton Lee Indiana Jones, born August 16, 2011. Grandparents are Tammy LaRock, Brian Jones, Sr, Barb Dennis, Roy Haston. Great-grandparents: Sheila and Soni LaRock, Gordon Jones and Bob Dennis. Great-Great Grandma is Loraine Decker.



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GREEN BERRY CROW FAMILY

By Charlotte Gentry

(Editor's Note: In the July issue of The Groundhog we visited with Homer Crow and found his stories of the Crow family to be so interesting, that we decided to re-visit some of his family's history. Realizing it would take two or three volumes to really tell the story, here is a very brief look at that family through the remembrances of Homer Crow and information gleaned from the Crow Family History booklet that was originally prepared for their 1996 family reunion and later updated.)

Like most of the families who settled the mountains of NE Alabama and NW Georgia in the 1800s, Homer Crow's ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War (and most wars since that time). Their sojourn to the Mentone, Alabama area began in Spartanburg, South Carolina, with the birth of Jonathan Crow in 1806 (some notes say 1807).

A Baptist preacher and farmer, Jonathan was sent to Alabama with Captain Derrick's GA Volunteers in 1837-38 to help in the resettlement of the Indians (in what is now called "The Trail of Tears.") Ironically, his wife was said to be a full-blood Cherokee. Jonathan had married Susannah Crow (that was the last name she had adopted) when she was fourteen years old in 1824. To them were born nine children. Susannah died in 1855, and was buried in Bankhead Cemetery, Mentone.

Two years later, in 1857, Jonathan married Nancy Gites Foster, widow of Jess Foster. They had four children together. Jonathan died in the Mentone area in 1889, Nancy in 1897. Both are buried in Bankhead Cemetery. Susannah's grave is on one side of Jonathan's, Nancy's is on the other.

Susannah and Jonathan's sixth child, Green Berry Crow (b. 1845), was, undoubtedly, one of the most colorful of the Crow line. He was ten years old when his mother died and twelve when Jonathan married Nancy. According to family legend, Green Berry was said to be very resentful of her. He disliked her so much that, when his father would leave home for any length of time, Green Berry would drive her from the house by throwing rocks at her. He wouldn't allow her within rock-throwing range of the house until his father returned home!

Lying about his age, Green Berry and two of his brothers, Lewis and Eli, joined the Confederate Army in July,

1861. They were in the same unit, Company G, 19th Regiment, Alabama Infantry. Lewis was killed and was buried in Columbus, Mississippi. Eli was killed, but the family has no record of where he died, nor of where he is buried.

In April, 1864, Green Berry was wounded in Resaca, Georgia. He was shot in the right leg, below the knee, breaking his leg. Another wound to his arm was not serious. He was sent home to a relative's home (Smith) on Lookout Mountain, south of Mentone, where he stayed until February, 1865.

Though still on crutches, Green Berry was determined to walk back and rejoin his unit. Unfortunately, he was captured by Union soldiers near Pigeon Mountain, GA, and transported to a prison camp in Lewisville, Kentucky, "to be released north of the Ohio River" when the war ended in May, 1865. Green Berry, still relying on crutches, made the grueling trek by foot back to his home in Mentone. He walked with a limp and was in a great deal of pain for the rest of his life due to the wounds he received in the war.

Quoting the Crow reunion document, "His rank was never above that of Private, but that never really bothered him. He was very proud of his service in the Confederate Army and loved to talk about the war. He never missed a Confederate reunion if he knew of one. He is said to have been at a reunion where he requested the small band to play "DIXIE," his favorite. After they finished, one band member asked him, "How's that?" Green Berry responded, "Pretty good, but not as good as my old unit used to play it!" He once took his grandson, Robert Lee Crow, with him to one of these reunions in Chattanooga.

Green Berry and Hannah Crow [daughter of Isaac (b. 1813, d. 1884) and Alice Cox Crow (birth & death date not known)] were married in 1865. They had seven children. Hannah (or "Hanner," as it says on her tombstone) died in June, 1911, and is buried at Bankhead Cemetery.

[Homer tells a great story about Hannah's daddy, Isaac Crow. Isaac and Alice had twelve children. Alice died and he married Mary Holland, who was a widow with two children. Then, she died around 1844. One of Isaac's older sons was dating a girl and the romance just didn't seem to be going anywhere. Isaac asked his son, "Are you gonna marry that woman or not?"

His son said, "No, I don't reckon I will." To which Isaac responded, "Well, I reckon I will!" Sure enough, he married Mary Jane Cox (niece of Alice Cox) in 1845 and they had nine children, making his total children (including Mary Holland's two children) twenty-three!]

After Hannah died, Green Berry was looking for a wife to help with the children who were still at home, so he went to the "Poor House" in Fort Payne to get him one. He had to pay a fee to the State of Alabama to get her (reportedly \$10.00) and he had to agree to be responsible for her well-being. On October 13, 1912, Green Berry and Lucinda (Cindy) Forsyth were married. But, reportedly, "she was no Hanner," and things did not go well. One day, when he had all he could stand, they argued and she lost. He gave her a "ham" and kicked her out for good. The honeymoon was over after only a month!

When the authorities at the "Poor House" heard Green Berry had run Cindy off, they came to his house and demanded he pay a fine or spend time in jail. His son, John Morgan, and two grandsons, Robert Lee Crow (age 17) and Nick (age 15), worked in the woods cutting railroad ties to pay off Green Berry's fine. It cost him twice as much to get rid of her as it had cost him to get her in the first place! Cindy was never heard from again. Green Berry remained single until he died in 1921.

Green Berry's grandson, Robert "Lee" Crow (b. 1895, d. 1980), married Fannie Jane Magnusson (b. 1900, d. 1984), daughter of Johan Franklyn Alfred Magnusson (b. 1850, d. 1934) and Ovalean Johnson Magnusson (b. 1874, d. 1960) on August 30, 1916. To Lee and Fannie were born seven children: William Clyde (d. 1991); Homer Lee; twins Chester Elmer (d. 1996) and Lester Delmer (d. 2009); Jesse Leon (d. 2002); Mildred Ann (Burgess) and Dewey Thomas. (Of these, only Homer, Mildred and Dewey remain.)

Robert "Lee" Crow was, arguably, the most well-known stone mason in the area. When he built a home for Mrs. Harry Lewis in Mentone, she called him an "artist with stone." His work is still seen throughout Mentone and there is a road, County Road 648 in Mentone, named for him.

Homer Crow describes his father as a man "with wide shoulders, tall and strong. You couldn't believe how strong he was. He cut cross-ties and could

carry one over his shoulder...must have weighed 400 pounds. When he went through a door, he just filled it up." For all his size, though, Homer describes him as a gentle man. "But," adds Homer, "he wouldn't take anything off anyone!"

Lee and Ovalean married when she was sixteen. They went down to Allen Switch (in what is now North Fort Payne), caught the train, and went to Trenton, Georgia to get married.

"Dad worked hard all his life," Homer remembers. "He went up to Coalfield, Tennessee to work in the mines." His oldest son, Clyde, was born there in 1918. Homer continues, "He always saved his money. When he got paid, he'd always put \$5.00 in the bank, and what was left would be what the family lived on."

Lee and Ovalean, with their growing family, always returned to Mentone, but, times were tough and Lee knew he would have to continue working in the coal mines to earn enough to support his family. Homer was born in Mentone in 1922, in an old two-story house on Hwy 117. The house is long since gone, but Homer remembers where it was. Lee Crow wanted to be able to build a nice home of his own. Homer explains, "Dad saved enough money and bought the land where the house is (the stone house on Lee Crow Road in Mentone where Chester's son Leroy Crow and his wife Joanne still live), but didn't get to start on the house until I was about a year old (1923)."

The family moved to Benham, Kentucky and rented a house there. Homer continues, "Dad worked in the mine and my mother ran a boarding house (in Benham). Chester and Lester were born there in 1925." When the Depression years were over, Lee returned to the mountain and began his work as a stone mason, a craft that he passed down to his sons and which they, in turn, passed down to theirs.

There isn't enough space in this issue to go into the genealogical ties between the Crow family and some of the other original Mentone names such as Smith, Kirby and Jones. Perhaps, in a future issue of The Groundhog, we can once again visit this interesting and significant piece of Mentone's history.

(Thank you to Homer Crow and the Crow Family for sharing their stories and photos. We apologize for any unintentional errors or omissions in this account.)

NOTICE:

In preparation for the Moon Lake Elementary School Centennial Celebration, we are looking for old photographs, documents, and memorabilia to scan. If you have any items please contact Bill Berry at Billberry.alabama@gmail.com or Pam Thomas at (256) 845-6965 or thomas1821@bellsouth.net. If you have photos of the playground, gymnasium, gazebo or cafeteria during construction these would be greatly appreciated.



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WELCOME BACK! Moon Lake Principal Brenda Wisner greets students and parents on the first day of school, August 15, 2011.



The first Moon Lake PTO Meeting of the new school year was held September 13, 2011. The program consisted of a skit, "Johnny Appleseed," performed by Mrs. Mills' 2nd Grade Class, under the direction of Miss Paula. The children sang songs and recited their lines very well. Thanks to all the hard work they and Miss Paula put into the performance. It was a real treat for parents and friends of Moon Lake School who were in attendance.



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