

Standard Mail (A)
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 1
Mentone, AL 35984

CAR-R-SORT
Postal Customer
Mentone, AL 35984



THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville

SUBSCRIBERS: PLEASE
NOTE YOUR MAILING LABEL
If the words "Subscription Expired"
appears or your subscription date is
highlighted, please renew as soon as
possible, as there will be no other
notice. Thank you.

Provided
FREE
Since 1982
By M.A.P.A.

Volume 28, No. 9

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

September 2009

Mason Park gets Gazebo

By Gail Chambers

There is a new addition to Mason Park in the heart of Mentone, Alabama.

A newly constructed gazebo sits among the trees on the backside of the park. The gazebo is a 24" x24", Octagonal shaped, natural wood structure with a pagoda style roof that has a cupola on top and a concrete floor.

David Hilliard, a life-long resident of the Mentone area, and his crew of very skilled carpenters built the gazebo. David and his crew did a remarkable job on this structure considering that he only had pictures to go by. There were no blueprints for this job. We had found a picture in a catalog that we liked and wanted the town's gazebo to look like, so the Mayor and I along with Lamar Bray (Police Chief and Consultant), agreed to go ahead with finding someone to build it. Fortunately, for us, David agreed to do the job.

The Christmas Decorations Committee, in the early stages of planning, just knew that a structure of some sort was needed for



hosting the Christmas celebration in the park. We then started to try and raise the funds to do so. We

did raise enough to pour the pad for the floor. After that, we were operating on faith. Then, along came J. P. Nation of MAPA with a grant that had been passed down from the Historical Commission for use in Mentone. That grant made it possible for us to start making the gazebo a reality. (Thanks J.P.)

We contacted David and the rest is history except for the fact that there is still some work to be done. The gazebo needs to be wired for electricity, stained, benches built and landscaping.

The Mayor and town council extends an invitation to everyone to come visit the park and view David & his crew's handiwork. We can't say enough about the hard work and expertise it took to build this gazebo. (Thanks again David for taking this project).

When the landscaping is done, a plaque will be placed at the gazebo in memory of a dedicated, co-founder of the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA), Mrs. Bernice (Homer) Crow, a lady who loved Mentone and the people who live here. If you would like to make a donation to the gazebo fund to help out with the unfinished work, please mail your donations to the Town of Mentone Gazebo Fund, PO. Box 295, Mentone, Alabama 35984.



THE GROUNDHOG

PO Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

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



THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

Editor.....Evelyn Graves
Circulation.....Marie Dillenbeck
Contributing Writers.....John Baty,
Linda Brown, Ronda Bruckno, Sara
Jacoway Chastain, Marie Dillenbeck,
Evelyn Graves, LC Moon.

MAPA OFFICERS

President.....Gerald Bailey
Vice President.....Dewey Crow
Secretary.....Amanda Gray
Treasurer.....J. P. Nation
Members-At-Large: Lamar Bray, Gail
Chambers, Evelyn Graves.
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 EVELYN GRAVES AT
256-634-4390 for advertising.**

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

**DEADLINE FOR ALL MATERIAL
FOR THE GROUNDHOG IS 15TH
DAY OF EACH MONTH PRECED-
ING PUBLICATION. NO EXCEPTION**

Attention Groundhog Readers:

Single copies of the Groundhog are available at the locations listed below free of charge.

Complete the form below and mail it along with your payment if you would like your copy mailed. Please remember to advise us of any changes in your address.

To have the Groundhog mailed to your home, complete the coupon below and mail along with your payment to MAPA.

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

REWARD

FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF THE PERSON OR PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BREAK IN OF A RENTAL CABIN ON SCENIC HIGHWAY JUNE 5, 2009 AND AUGUST 23, 2009. PLEASE CONTACT MENTONE POLICE AT 256-634-0704 OR DEKALB COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT AT 256-845-3801.

.....
: **ALL MATERIALS FOR THE**
: **GROUNDHOG MUST BE RECEIVED**
: **AND APPROVED BY THE 15TH OF**
: **EACH MONTH TO BE INCLUDED IN**
: **THE NEXT ISSUE. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
: **DO NOT SEND YOUR MATERIALS**
: **DIRECTLY TO THE TIMES-JOURNAL.**
: **YOU MUST GO THROUGH EVELYN**
: **GRAVES FOR SCHEDULING AND**
: **INCLUSION IN THE GROUNDHOG.**

Please call Evelyn Graves at 634-4390, or email Ergraves37@aol.com. The Groundhog is printed on the last Thursday of each month. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. Thank you.

.....

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

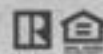
Have The Groundhog delivered to your mailbox! Give The Groundhog for a birthday present or as a special gift for someone you love. If gift, please give the name and complete address of recipient. Renew your own subscription. Just \$15/year. Send your check payable to:

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



Mentone Realty

Charlotte@mentonerealtyinc.com
Charlotte Gentry
Broker/Owner
(256) 996-5995



Ryan@mentonerealtyinc.com
Ryan Hilyer
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-630-9646



Holly@mentonerealtyinc.com
Holly Watson
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-0552

"The Natural Choice"

www.mentonerealtyinc.com
Office: (256) 634-4767

Welcome To Mentone!!



Stop by our Log Cabin in front of the Wildflower Cafe and join us on the front porch. We always look forward to a visit from our neighbors and friends.



BEHOLD, THE VIEW! Spacious home & sep garage apt (approx 3492 sq ft total) on 2.74 acres w/250' brow frontage and stunning views on 3 levels! 42x24 stone courtyard for weddings or gatherings; total of 5BR/4BA; 2 kitchens & 1 micro-kitchen w/SS appliances; 3 LR's; over 2,000 sq ft deck space; elevator for 3 levels; hot tubs; currently configured into 3 separate vacation rental units with established rental history. Known as "The Last Resort" & comprised of The Lodge w/2BR/2BA; The Hideaway w/2BR/1BA; & The Lovest, w/1BR/1BA. \$489,900. (19217)



NEW LISTING
STUNNING 3-LEVEL LOG CABIN w/elevated views (seasonal) of Little River Canyon! Perfectly furnished for getaway or permanent retreat. Active vacation rental. 2100 sq ft, 3BR/2BA, finished bsmt w/game rm & walkout to lower hot tub deck. MABR suite w/walkout to central deck, MABA w/jacuzzi tub/sep shower. 2BR up, one w/walkout to 3rd deck. \$250,000 (19256)



TWO LOG CABINS WITH MANY POSSIBILITIES! Income-producing property, already in vacation rental program, comes complete w/furnishings! "Hillbilly Mansion" w/2BR/2.5BA; 1186 sq ft; pine floors & log walls; vaulted T & G ceiling; main-level MABR suite w/garden tub; sleeping loft; 2nd BR and 1/2 BA upstairs; stone gaslog Fpl; lg covered front porch w/swing; covered back porch w/hot tub. "Raccoon Retreat" w/912 sq ft; Main level BR & lg sleeping loft upstairs; wide plank flooring; gas log Fpl. 2 storage buildings; RV hookup on property. \$189,900. (19216)



NEW LISTING
BE THE FIRST TO ENJOY this new 2BR/2BA log cabin on small pond w/over 1400 sq ft of living area w/HW floors, gaslog Fpl, eat-in KI w/b'fast bar & dining area, sleeping loft/studio overlooking vaulted LR. Possible 3rd BR off loft. MABR w/private screen porch; 2nd BR w/deck access. Great decks overlooking pond. 1.66 acres. Mentone. \$162,900. (19280)



SECLUDED CABIN ON LITTLE RIVER. Mentone. 4.5 mostly wooded acres. Approx 1600 sq ft already finished, w/approx 800 sq ft unfinished area. Great river frontage w/swimming hole, areas to put in canoe or kayak, & plenty of privacy! Cathedral ceilings w/exposed beams, arched doorway. 2BR/2BA, all appliances. Welcoming front & back porches. Asking \$275,000. (19245)



LOOKING TO LIVE MORE SIMPLY? This privately-situated log cabin offers an affordable place to be self-sustaining w/it's own well, septic, & solar. Fully w/electricity. The best buy at Mentone! 1BR/1BA. Priced at only \$68,000. (18938)



NOT JUST ANOTHER MOBILE HOME- 1900+ sq ft custom-made home PLUS a huge 20x40 shop w/14' roll-up door, plumbed & wired for RV storage, on a nicely-landscaped 1-acre lot w/gorgeous trees & a great "away-from-the-fast-lane" location. 3BR/2BA, separate DR; stone w/ Fpl. An affordable place to get away in the mountains just in time for the autumn color! \$99,900. (19046)

LOTS and LAND

LEVEL WOODED LOT just off the scenic drive to Rock Lake & Park & Mentone. 27 acres, public water & sewer. Add'l lots avail. \$40,000. (18056)

23 ACRES IN MENTONE, near Cloudland. Comb field & woods (timber out approx 15 years ago). w/small wet-weather stream in back. Great wildlife area w/deer, turkey & even a bear sighting or two. Unrestricted. Just listed for only \$3,750 per acre at \$86,250. (19232)

UP, UP, & AWAY! Level, wooded 1.69 acre lot w/view of Rock Lake. Private road, just off scenic Co Rd 89N. Lightly restricted. True mtn feeling at a higher elevation than most any place in NE Ala. where you can be away from it all without being AWAY from everything! Minutes from Chattanooga. \$27,500. (19225)

2.79 AC LOT IN LAUREL CREEK LAKES w/frontage on Laurel Creek. A private, wooded setting, restricted to protect your investment. City water avail. Walking trails, fishing lakes and a relaxing environment. Just listed for \$50,220. (19279)

NEW LISTING! 6.7 ACRES ON MIDDLE FORK Little River in Mountain River Estates. Driveway & building site in place. Approx 200' river frontage. According to the owner, this is one of the prettiest in the whole development. A hard-to-find lot at a hard-to-beat price. \$74,000. (19275)

BUILD YOUR MENTONE MTH GETAWAY HERE! 1.5 acre lot, under-ground parking, 1st a short drive to Rock Lake. Add'l lots available. \$30,000. (17868)



A SCREENED PORCH, WOODS & WATER. The perfect mix. Charming 2BR/2BA fully-furnished cabin w/water view & access to fishing lakes & common areas/walking trails of Laurel Creek Lakes, Mentone. Striking antique columns accent Fpl in vaulted LR; granite KI w/ all appl; main-level MABR suite w/antique columns in MABA. Wraparound decks. 2.52 wooded acres w/nice landscaping. \$198,000. (19278)



CANOE, FISH OR SWIM from the natural "rock dock" boulder w/70+ feet frontage on Lake Labusage. Stone cottage w/2BR/2BA, full kitchen, sun porch, full bath, fireplace, & plenty of privacy. This is the perfect place for a mountain lake cabin-rustic, comfortable and competitively priced at only \$225,000. (16448)



SPACIOUS, GRACIOUS & WELCOMING! This very well-kept 3000+ sq ft 2-story country home on 12.24 acres offers a small pond; 3BR+/2.5BA; great front porch; multi-level back decks; lg sun-room; LR; family room w/Fpl; bonus room over 2-car att gar; custom KI w/built-ins & planning ctr; 30x50 shop/barn with all equip/tools/implements/tractor negotiable. A Gentleman Farmer's Dream! Avail w/smaller acreage. \$389,900. (19277)



CLASSIC MENTONE COTTAGE, close to everything, offers huge trees; variety of blooming shrubs; private backyard; fenced garden spot; flower gardens; level 0.5 ac yard; quaint workshop; 3BR/1BA; lg screened front porch; back deck; bright kitchen w/all appl; lg attic w/future space; partially-furnished; beautifully decorated. Moonlake area. Great new price of \$125,000. (18922)

MOON LAKE LIBRARY



OPEN HOURS

TUESDAY, 3 - 6 PM

WEDNESDAY, 3 - 6 PM

THURSDAY, 3 - 6 PM

SATURDAY, 9 AM - 2 PM

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Monday, September 14

Monday, October 12

Tuesday, November 9

Monday, December 14

Monday, January 10, 2010

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

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

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Thursday, January 21, 2010

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

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

Thursday, September 24

Thursday, October 22

Tuesday, November 19

Thursday, December 17

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

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

Monday, September 14

Monday, October 12

Monday, November 9

Monday, December 9

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Cynthia Luck, Bernise Crow (In Memory), Bob Baty
- 2- Huey Mathews, Grace Tucker
- 3- Dorma Hutcheson, Dianne Tindol
- 5- Jim Gaylord (In Memory), Jo Tullis
- 6- Cecelia Jackson, Sarah Keener
- 7- Heather Nicely
- 9- MaKenna Purvis
- 10- Leola Owens
- 11- Daniel Wilson
- 13- Karen Wright, Ann Wright, Chris Gaskin
- 14- Brittany Blalock
- 16- Brooklyn Wright, Jennifer Davis
- 17- Dylan Pannell
- 18- George Lillich, Tammy Hill
- 22- Gwen Foster, Dessie Bailey
- 23- Dorothy Crowe, Sam Sutton, Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones
- 24- Wesley Chesnut
- 25- W. B. McCurdy (In Memory), Bradley Wright, Collie Griffith
- 26- Jim Jones, Chloe Griffith

27- Angela Wood, Scott Baty

28- Bailey Kirby

30- Harriett Lillich, Kaitee McGee

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1- Donald & Edna Morgan; Jack & Olive Jones
- 5- John & Jan Wilkinson; Wayne & Cynthia Wooten
- 15- Joe R. & Leola Owens; Charles & Evelyn McGee
- 19- Kathie & Bob Crow
- 24- Russell & Karen Wright
- 25- Wesley & Ann Chesnut;
- 27- Stephanie & Steve Moore



Mentone Mountain Getaways

CABIN RENTALS
1-888-920-8445

Tina Burt Edmondson • mentonemountaingetaways.com

Builders Supply Company, Inc.

- ✓ Concrete Blocks
- ✓ Building Materials
- ✓ Roof & Floor Trusses

Fort Payne
811 Godfrey Ave. S.
845-1451

Sylvania
AL Highway 75
638-2244

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Walnut Grove Baptist Church, on

Highway 11 North of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School at 10AM, Worship Service at 11AM, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6PM, and Wednesday night prayer meeting at 8:30PM.

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

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

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

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

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

The Mentone Revival Center and Pastor LeRoy Nichols and wife, Nell, invite everyone to join in worship on Sunday morning at 10AM and 11AM, and Sunday night and Thursday night at 6PM.

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

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

The Mentone United Methodist Church services are at 11AM each Sunday. Sunday School is at 10AM. Daniel Lee of Rainsville is the pastor.

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

Lake.

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

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

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

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

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy regular service times are Sunday School at 10AM, with worship at 11AM. Evening ser-

vices begin at 5:30 on Sunday and 6 on Wednesday. Rev. Dean Clair invites everyone to attend.

The fundraiser held on the grounds of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church over the Longest Yard Sale, August 6, 7, and 8th, was a wonderful and successful event. The sale was to raise money for the repair of the chimes which have been silent for several years. Through the sale of "yard sale items", and hotdogs, cold drinks, and bottled water, combined with donations from members of St. Joseph's and the general public, enough was made to purchase the equipment to make the chimes ring out again. We are so grateful to all those who helped with the sale, donated items to be sold, or just stopped by to give encouragement in our effort. This has been a true community effort and the chimes will be a welcome sound enjoyed by all in the Mentone area. Again, thank you for helping us make our goal.

GOD
IS EVERYWHERE



DEVOTIONAL

By Evelyn Graves

When you are praying, if you are angry with someone, forgive him so that your Father in heaven will also forgive your sins. (Mark 11:25)

Isn't it presumptuous to come to the throne of grace if we haven't been gracious to the people in our life? How can we approach a God of mercy if we ourselves have hearts full of bitterness or anger? We must take care of relationship problems - make up with a spouse, get along with fellow church members, love our neighbors--then we will be fully united in prayer with the Father. (Thoughts from Max Lucado's "Walking With the Savior".

Ole Heritage Realty, Inc.



604 Gault Ave. S.
Fort Payne
oleheritage.com

997-0008

Lots & Land

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN LAND! 41.65 wooded acres within Fort Payne city limits. Land borders Yellow Creek. Call TODAY! \$159,900 (19238)

ALWAYS WANTED a little cabin in the Woods? Build your getaway perched on the knoll of this 2.64 acres, fully wooded, wet weather stream, and nice seasonal views of the lake across the street! Mild deed restrictions. Seller will build to suit, too! Call today for all the details! Only \$29,900. (19209)

BRING YOUR CABIN PLANS to this beautiful 3 acre tract. Property has been perked and partially cleared. Underground utilities, water & phone are available. Driveway is already in place! \$45,900 (17195)

NEAR to the GOLF COURSE, downtown Mentone, and just minutes from I-59 Access, this 1 acre wooded lot offers mild restrictions, city water available, and nice wooded area! Near to the Brow Park and local festivals! Bring your plans, seller will build to suit! Perfect spot for full time home or that weekend getaway! Call today! Only \$23,900! (19210)

SWEET DREAMS on this wooded lot offering natural gas, city water, and more. No mobile home but a large, just your size home. Well established neighborhood. Call today! Only \$10,000. (17913)

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

REDUCED! BUILD YOUR GET-AWAY CABIN ON THIS BEAUTIFUL 3 ACRE TRACT located between DeSoto State Park and Mentone. Take a winding country road back into this secluded, scenic area where spectacular log homes and rustic cabins are tucked back into the woods. MORE ACREAGE AVAILABLE! \$39,900 (17412)

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

BROW LOT with Creek on Lookout Mountain! Clear Out the Perfect Spot for Your Home and Enjoy the Ridges and Mountains Beyond! Call Today to Purchase Your Own Piece of Tranquility! Only \$82,000! (19133)



BEAR CLAUS LODGE! Cabin offers 3 BR, 3.5 BA, vaulted ceilings, massive wood vaulted ceiling on the covered porch, outside find a wood burning fireplace with gas starter, wet bar, hot tub, fire pit area, and multiple picnic areas! Inside — granite countertops, full appliance pkg, gas log FP with floor to ceiling stack rock, and large living area! Situated on 2.2 acres, FULLY FURNISHED, and just minutes from downtown Mentone! \$425,000. (19239)



WELL MAINTAINED! 3BR/2BA with split design offers hardwood and ceramic flooring, fireplace showcased with custom maple cabinetry, vaulted ceilings, recessed lighting, jetted tub with ceramic in master bath, and more! Level one acre lot offers mature plantings, privacy wood fence, and a detached garage/workshop! Minutes from downtown, DeSoto SP, and LRNP! Call today! Only \$149,900. (19208)



MENTONE GETAWAY OR FULL TIME HOME! Experience the beauty of seasonal bluff views, and glorious sunsets from any of three covered porches. Main living area offers an open floor plan, archways, hardwood floors, & fireplace. Bonus room/5th bedroom, includes pool table! Third level cupola is surrounded by windows. Near Downtown Mentone. \$525,000 (19190)



SIMPLY A SPECTACULAR HOME! Fulfill all your dreams in this 3BR/2+BA two-story with exceptional views on two acres. A generous-sized home that suits all needs. Two-story foyer, open staircase, high ceilings. Ceramic tile flooring, wood flooring, specially designed custom drapes. Double master suites. Fully furnished at \$349,900 (18872)



LIMITED EDITION! Be one of the few to own a little piece of downtown Mentone! Offering 2BR (offices), full bath, and a kitchen with new cabinets, appliances, washer/dryer, rocking chair front porch! Exterior storage area, parking arbor. Upgrades include CH/A, new windows, new metal roof, exterior rough cut siding, new wiring. Why wait? Call today for more details. \$132,500. (18598) Agent/Owner



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN! Country living inside city limits. Two or three bedroom, two bath home on 5 acres in Mentone with detached garage/workshop, garden spot and lots of paved road frontage. HUGE PRICE REDUCTION! Now only \$199,000 (18331)



CREATE A MORE RELAXED WAY OF LIFE! 2 living quarters on 5 acres in Mentone with detached garage/workshop, garden spot and lots of paved road frontage. HUGE PRICE REDUCTION! Now only \$199,000 (18331)



RUSTIC HOME ATOP LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN! You'll love this one of a kind retreat with pine walls, exposed beams, a fireplace, maple cabinets, open floor plan, and two large porches! Minutes from the Little River Management Area, you can enjoy the fun and beauty that Lookout Mountain has to offer! Only \$110,000 (17020)



AFFORDABLE HOME ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN! 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, storage building on .84 acre lot. \$57,000 (19254)



JUST REDUCED TO ONLY \$179,900! 40 acres of beautiful views & 4 bedroom home is just right for a family. Includes wrap-around porch, fenced pasture, pond, & Barns. (18349)



3300 SQUARE FOOT CEDAR SIDED HOME ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN! 3BR/2BA With Many Extras for Your Convenience and Comfort. Features a Loft/ TV Room, Separate Great Room For Entertaining, Large Yard, and Workshop With Power, Water, and Bathroom. \$246,500! (19200)



IMMACULATE HOME NEAR WEISS LAKE! Has been completely remodeled. Features 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, huge family room with fireplace, living room, laundry, separate dining, beautiful kitchen with updated cabinets, 4 car carport, plus large workshop/storage building. Fenced back yard, also 2 lots! All for only \$149,900! (18688)

CONGRATULATIONS

John Ricketts, son of Dr. Mark and Emmy Ricketts, of Birmingham, is studying to be a doctor, and he recently received this letter from the University of Alabama, where he is doing research. John is the grandson of Jim Carmichael of Valley Head, and Jim was kind enough to share this letter with The Groundhog. Congratulations to John in his medical endeavors! We are proud of you!

honor to be chosen for this award. I am delighted that you have been awarded a scholarship to help further your research of dystonia. Your work is truly making a difference in the lives of dystonia patients by giving them hope for a cure for this degenerative disease.

I wish you well as you continue your research at The University of Alabama. Again, congratulations on this significant achievement.

August 3, 2009

John Ricketts
Birmingham, AL 35223

Sincerely,

Judy Bonner
Executive Vice President and
Provost

Dear John:
Congratulations on being named a 2009-2010 Alabama Dystonia Scholar! It is an

Fort Payne • Sand Mountain • Mentone

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Alabama

Amazing Sites Right Along

Real People Real Places

59 888-805-4740, Ext. 12

www.VisitAlabamaMountains.com

DeKalb County Tourist Association

Body Maintenance

Alternative Therapies for Natural Health

Donna Sutton

Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (LMT #95)
Gift Certificates Available

AL Hwy 117 • Mentone, AL 35984

(256) 634-3032

(by appointment only)



Dr. Steven Zhao
Acupuncture
(205) 822-3552

Alicia Roberts
Reiki (energy healing)
(423) 227-3130

Jeri LaVigne
Neurofeedback
(578) 886-5990

Mentone Wedding Chapel



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

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

[Candle Lite Ceremonies • Music • Photographs]
[Flowers • Receptions • Lodging • Limousines]

To arrange your wedding or renewing
of your wedding vows, call

256-634-4181



202 GREENHILL BLVD.
FORT PAYNE, AL 35967
WE'RE OPEN
MONDAY-SATURDAY
7A.M. - MIDNIGHT
SUNDAY 8A.M. - 9P.M.

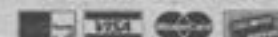
845-1970

- WIC VOUCHERS
- FOOD STAMPS/EBT CARDS
- QUANTITY RIGHTS RESERVED
- NONE SOLD TO DEALERS

WE FEATURE ALL THIS AND MORE

- Money Orders
- Incoming & Outgoing Fax Service
- Postage Stamps
- Copies
- Deli/Bakery
- Floral Department
- Fresh Seafood
- Extended Lines of Gourmet, Specialty and Diet Food

WE ACCEPT



GIBSON'S KLEAN SWEEP

Chimney Sweeping Open and Closed Fireplaces

CALL MARK GIBSON TODAY FOR ALL YOUR WOOD
RELATED NEEDS. WE CUT (YOU BURN IT)
AND WE CLEAN IT UP...



CALL TODAY **256-634-4809**

Treeguy1@centurytel.net

The Citizens Bank of Valley Head

Large Enough To Serve You...

Small Enough To Know You

Valley Head
635-6292

Ider
657-5122

Mentone
634-4744

Member FDIC

Lookout Mountain Natural Healing Majestic Mullein

By L.C. Moon

Mullein is one of those odd plants that you do not forget if you have ever paid it any attention. It can grow 9 feet tall, has a straight stalk filled with small yellow blooms in July and August. The leaves are soft, light greenish silver-gray and wooly. It grows in full sun along roadsides, in fields or even beside a stream.

I use the dried leaves of mullein every winter when I prepare a cough syrup with several native herbs. It helps to break up congestion and soothe irritated throat and lungs. I also use mullein by itself and it has helped me in a coughing spasm. You can drink mullein as a tea or smoke it in a pipe. Native Americans often smoked the dried leaves as opposed to drinking it in a tea. The taste of the tea is not particularly pleasant.

Mullein has become known among hikers and campers for its diverse uses. Because mullein grows so large, the leaves can grow a foot long and 6 inches wide, there are plenty of leaves to be used to make a small pillow to cushion the head while primitive camping. The leaves and the stalk can be used to make a torch; dip them in tallow or put pine resin on them to help them burn. Fresh mullein leaves can be used for insulating shoes or work great as toilet paper. They can also be used as a bandage to help protect a wound. Nature also provides natural infection fighters to help healing; i.e. pine resin or dirt from a dirt dobber's nest put on the wound before you wrap a mullein leaf around it will do the trick.

Mullein leaves were used by women to rosy up their cheeks and give them a nice glow. Ladies of the house could even dust with a mullein leaf.

It is not just the leaf that is helpful when it comes to mullein. The small flowers are divine for helping to heal an earache. The flowers can be infused in olive oil. It is very soothing and therapeutic to heat mullein oil and put a few drops put in the ear. When you combine garlic, willow and a little tea tree to the mullein oil it becomes a super oil for the ear.

The root of mullein is known to be helpful in treating urinary tract disorders. It can be used to help the integrity of the lymphatic system or reduce swelling of most any kind. It is known to help treat back pain and align the spine. Mullein root is known to be helpful for Bell's Palsy according to herbalist Jim McDonald.

The seed of mullein, containing rotenone and coumarin, has been used by many tribal cultures as a fish poison. It interferes with the fish's breathing while apparently having no poisoning effects to the humans.

Mullein can be used for even more uses than are listed. I have hit the highlights of its benefits. Mullein is one of those herbs that I always want to have handy. I hope you will take the time to feel the leaf of a mullein plant soon and experience a moment of gratitude for all the many blessings that it possesses. It is wise for me to tell you to ask your health care provider before altering your health care regimen. You can find more plant information and purchase herbal remedies at www.MentoneWildflower.com.



Happy Birthday Gourdie!

Celebrating Gourdie's 30th Birthday

The Gourdie Shop & Boutique
ONE-OF-A-KIND CLOTHING & JEWELRY • 6089 Hwy 117 Mentone • 256-634-4776
www.Gourdies.com

Mountain Home Services

*40-Years Experience
Quality Workmanship*

- Remodeling
- Additions
- Weatherizing
- Monthly and Annual Home Inspections



Mike Ernest 256-418-2131



Little River Hardware
5190 AL Hwy 117
Mentone, Alabama 35984
Voice: 256.634.4757 • Fax: 256.634.4105
Toll Free: 800.634.4787

THE FURNITURE SHOPPE

CLASSIC HOME FURNISHINGS

18736 AL HWY 75
HENAGAR, ALABAMA
OPEN MON.-SAT. 9:00-5:00
(256) 657-3200 (888) 625-9440
www.thefurnitureshoppe.com
Clearance Center now open on Saturdays

LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

by Linda Brown

The Summer Book Sale was a great success! We were pleased with the profit made for the use of the Moon Lake Community Library and also with the number of books which were placed into the hands of our customers. The event happened on August 6, 7, and 8, 2009 in front of the Moon Lake Library on Alabama Highway 117.

The members of the Board of Directors met on Wednesday, August 5 and collected donated books from at least four places. We had run out of storage space in the M.E.R.F. Community House and had stored anywhere in the library where there was an empty spot not in the way of normal activity. We then placed tables in front of the library and proceeded to place these books on them. We soon realized that we had more books than table room so we placed all sets of books and magazines under the tables. After five hours of hard work by eight or ten people we declared that we were ready for the masses.

Thursday morning is always reserved for the FRIENDS of the Moon Lake Community Library to come and have first choice of the books. This year we were disappointed when lots more people in Mentone for the World's Longest Yard Sale stopped and bought than did the FRIENDS. This is something we will discuss at our next meeting and it may be determined to just start the sale on Thursday as on the other days.

The Volunteers of the Library are the persons who work in the library and also those who are FRIENDS. This group were largely responsible for the success of the sale. They were assigned a spot to come and work at the sale and this is what they did. They were always there for their assignment and did a wonderful job of showing people what we had and where it was. A big THANK YOU to them for the great job they did.

We are always amazed at the diverse selection of publications which are available at our sales. We have books on most topics. Tons of novels in hardbacks and paperbacks. Boxes of magazines and what we like best, children's books. I want to say something here about the magazines. Please bring us only the how-to magazines. We cannot get rid of the more widely subscribed-to magazines. There is a recycling container behind the Mentone Town Hall for magazines and we ask that you carry them there. We appreciate the thought but we do not have storage room for magazines.

When the sale is over at noon on Saturday, we have someone waiting to take all of the books which are not sold. This year, due to mixed communications, we had two ladies who were willing to take them and put them to good use. As luck would have it, we had enough books left to fill both of their vehicles and one of them wanted paperbacks and the other would take anything that was left. Therefore, the situation was solved with no hard feelings.

Our next sale will be the Winter Book Sale in February, 2010. We are ready to receive your donations for this sale. Please do not leave them outside the doors of the library. Bring them to us during our open library hours. We are a 501 C organization and can give you a receipt to be used at tax time if requested.

Our attention is now turned to our annual calendar sale. Please inform us of any corrections which need to be made for your listings in the 2010 calendar. If you want a calendar, let us know and we will put you on the list. You may write to the address below, bring the information by the library or call me or Dianne Kuehl to get this done.

The open days of the Moon Lake Community Library are: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

To be on the agenda for a meeting, call Jan Wilkinson. Write to us: Moon Lake Community Library, PO Box 481, Mentone, Alabama 35984.



Mee Mee's Creations

*Monogramming and embroidery
at reasonable prices.
Delight your family and friends with
monogrammed sheets,
pillowcases, towels, sweaters, shirts,
baby items, etc.
A line of home-sewn children's
fashions coming in the near future.
Call 634-4390 for details.*



RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Linda Brown, Secretary

Tuesday, August 11, 2009 will always be remembered by the members of the Rhododendron Garden Club as the day we learned about hydrangeas. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the M.E.R.F. Community House by President, Dianne Kuehl. Peggy Roark gave the thought for the day. Refreshments were served to nine members and one guest by Madelon Houghland and Dianne Kuehl.

The speaker for the day was Martha Aldridge, owner of Snowflake Nursery in Sardis City, Alabama. As suggested by the name, this is a nursery dedicated to the growing of hydrangeas.

Martha stated that most hydrangeas do best in areas of dappled shade with well drained soil. The exception is the Paniculata family which thrives in full sun to part shade. Hydrangeas love water but must not sit in soggy wet areas as they develop root rot quickly. Planting on a slope or raised bed is ideal.

Martha then listed four of the species grown in our Zone 7.

Arborescens: Native smooth hydrangea, Annabelle and Grandiflora. Prune in late winter or early spring. Blooms on new growth. Can be cut back to ground level or leave 4 to 8 inches high.

Macrophylla: This includes Big leaf, French, Mophead, lace Cap, Nikko Blue, Dooley, lady in Red, etc. Prune sparingly, only dead ends or limbs that are damaged. Blooms primarily on old wood. Soil pH usually determines color. Higher pH (6.5 and up) produces pinkish blooms and lower pH (below 6.0) produces blue hued blooms. The variety determines the depth of color. Aluminum sulfate or iron sulfate can be added to the soil to lower the pH for blues, and lime is used to increase pH for pink.

Oakleaf: Native plant (Seven Bark), Snowflake, Harmony, Snow Queen, Alice, etc.

Prune in July to insure new growth for flowers the next spring.

Paniculata: Grandiflora (PeeGee), Tardiva, Pink Diamond, little lamb, lime-light, Quick Fire and Pinky Winky. Prune in late winter or early spring. Blooms on new growth. Can be trimmed to about 12 inches high.

For best results, fertilize plants with a granular 8-8-8 fertilizer in March and July for Oakleaf and Paniculata, March only for the Macrophylla and Arborescens. Water soluble (Peter's or Miracle Grow) fertilizers can also be used as can slow release (Osmocote) according to label directions.

Martha not only grows hydrangeas, she also dries the blooms for use in designs. She brought samples which had been dyed and treated with glycerine. The glycerine must be at the boiling point when the heads are dipped into it. She stated that she used a large turkey roaster. These were given to the members who wanted them.

Dianne convened the business meeting. Martha Wood stated that now is the time to plant fall vegetables. Greens and lettuce are among those which can be planted now. Lettuce and other small crops can be container grown.

Other items of business was discussed, including the upcoming VFW Fair Flower Show.

Plans were discussed for the educational booth which the club will prepare.

Martha Aldridge and Snowflake Nursery provided two hydrangeas in pots for the door prizes. Jill Whitten and Martha Wood were the recipients of these.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at the M.E.R.F. Community House at 10:00 a.m. The program will be a hands-on design demonstration by Martha Wood.

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.

The Last Journey: story by Kenneth Chambers

Late in the night on July 14, 2009 and on into the morning of the 15th, Dad was talking and telling Mother many things. Mother told us that he had talked a lot during the night, but because she does not hear very well, she was not able to understand all he was trying to say. That night, their last together, was a long and restless one, but she was determined to be at his side for every moment. The two of them had been married for longer than seventy years. As she related the events of the previous night and early morning hours to us, I listened and said "Dad was trying to tell you about the trip he was about to make." Prior to that night, he had told us several times he wanted to go home, so we knew that his "last journey" was one he had been ready to make for a long time.

WA Chambers, born April 13, 1919 was the third child of eleven. At the time of this writing, of the eleven, only his brother AC is still living. Dad was born just prior to the depression, and most of us cannot really understand the reality of the era that he was brought up in. His childhood and early life was a time of shortage and struggle. From the time he was a boy working on the farm, he was known for his hard work ethic, one who never

shirked his chores. He told us that as a youth, he was a heavy hitter playing baseball in the pasture after working all day on the farm (and as often as given the opportunity) and that his father was stricken with creeping paralysis when he was in eighth grade (known as Muscular Dystrophy today). Because his father was unable to work, he had to leave the classroom to work full time to help support his many siblings. Dad led a very interesting life and most people were amazed as he aged that he was not afraid of trying something new. He was never tied down to one type of job and though he had no formal training, he learned to do many different kinds of work well. Most folks knew him as a logger and an over the road trucker, but he had many occupations throughout his lifetime, the most notable of which were: farmboy, logger, trucker, and preacher of the Word at Mentone Revival Center. He also founded and built two churches and along with his wife Polly helped build the house he lived most of his life in. Most of his grandchildren do not know that he had also been a bus driver for Dekalb County School System, worked in an automobile factory in California, and picked oranges in Florida. His many skills included those of carpenter, block layer, millwright, logger, mechanic, trucker, dozer operator, and story teller, but being a

family man took precedence. People that worked with him or for him became adopted family for him and his wife Polly. These numerous people gave them much joy over the years and although he may never have told them, he counted each one as family. Many called him WA or Alfred, some Fuzz, but to his grandchildren and many more accepted as family, he was known as Papaw. Papaw knew people all over the lower forty eight states and one of his favorite activities was to travel. Late into his seventies, he drove the long trip to California from Alabama every few years with Mamaw to visit his family. So I look on his death as his "Last Journey". I heard a song once that Tex Ritter sang about a woman that sat alone by her husband's bedside as he died. The song explains why she could smile even though her sadness was great. When asked about it, the woman said that her husband told her that on his way to heaven he would stop and wait for her. He said "I'll go just beyond the moon, and I'll stop and wait for you." Papaw Chambers has now gone home and that was what he wanted to do. And although we will miss Papaw very much, we know that His Last Journey is done.

Obituary



James Richard Chapman

James Richard Chapman, 84, passed peacefully on August 4, 2009. He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty (Hilderbrand) and daughter, Cynthia Ann Hyland. He is survived by his son, Rick Chapman and daughter Nancy

Ulrich of Orange Park, FL.; son-in-law John Blake Hyland; three grandsons: John Blake Hyland; David Brandon Hyland; and Captain Geoffrey Ryan Ulrich, USAF; one granddaughter: Chase Ulrich of Jacksonville, FL.; three great-grandchildren, his friend Marjorie Vignoni, and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

He served in WWII as a B-17 pilot with the 351st Bomb Group and graduated from Georgia Tech. He retired in Fort Payne, AL and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, served as President of his Rotary Club, and was active in the Gemological Society and other community activities.

The Celebration of His Life will be Thursday, August 13, 4:00pm, Highpoint Community Church, Orange Park, FL. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly suggests memorials directed to First Coast HonorAir Charities of the Rotary Club of Orange Park Sunrise, which provides local WWII Veterans with a trip to Washington DC to visit the WWII memorial; (www.firstcoasthonorair.com), First Coast Honor Air, PO Box 65866, Orange Park, Florida 32065. Please sign the Guestbook@Jacksonville.com.



FIRST FEDERAL Bank

The finest traditions of community banking

Fort Payne 845-1077	Rainsville 638-6342	Idler 657-6255
------------------------	------------------------	-------------------

We're more than bankers, we're your neighbors and friends."

Stop by and chat with Doreen at

Crows' Nest Antiques

Antiques,
Collectibles,
Glassware, Books

256-634-4548



Polly Cake, Fireflies, And Tambourines

by Kim Castleberry

"Goin to Mamaw's...." momma would say and we would scramble to grab a book for the car, our latest acquisition from the woods of a leaf or a rock to show Mamaw and find our shoes. My two brothers and I would make a beeline for the backseat to jockey for position to see who would get the window and who would sit or lay where. Those long trips in the car are memories of trying to sleep in the floorboard behind the seat where it was really small, hard, and a little too warm playing road games like alphabet memory word lists. My little body barely fit in the floorboard, but with three kids in the back and no seat belt laws yet, we had worked out a sharing system. The unappealing alternatives to the nice comfy seat included the hot floorboard and the area underneath the rear window. What a picture. People traveling behind us would be treated to the spectacle of a small child lying in the back window of our Lincoln Continental reading a book and chewing gum.

After passing through Summerville, Georgia we would start waking up and as we ascended the mountain, all three would look for animal shapes in the rocks. "There is the gorilla!" one of us would say. We would gasp as the semi's traveling down the mountain would pass making the car rattle from the wind rush as it sped by. Closer and closer, we stared out the window looking for the house. Mamaw Chambers would hear us pull in her driveway and come out to meet us rubbing her hands on her apron and smiling. She would say "Alfred, Juanita and Bill and the kids are here...OhhhH!" and squeeze us tight one at a time.

For my brothers and me, Mentone or "Mamaw mountain" as we called it from the time we were small, was home. My dad Bill McNutt, who grew up in Valley Head was in construction and moved us all over, so my mom's parents' Polly and Alfred Chambers were the steady place in our lives; always there, a constant in an ever changing world. My oldest brother Brian chose the garbled Mamaw and Papaw as a baby, and all of us picked up on those names and have called them Mamaw and Papaw ever since. Memories of Mentone are collages of fireflies, dinners on the carport with picnic tables, and our family interspersed with Mamaw saying the bless-

ing at the table, Papaw preaching, and the prayer meetings where someone would play a tambourine while we sang gospel songs.

During the holidays, until recent years, the whole family would gather at Mamaw's. Christmas was the biggest family gathering and it took place in the living room with the cream leather sofa shaped like an L and the Christmas tree with the big colorful lights. My mom Juanita and my aunts would cook alongside Mamaw in the kitchen taking turns sitting and talking around the table and chairs from Wendy Bagwell's that seemed enormous. It was amazing to me as a child how they found a place to put all of the food and still have room for plates and drinks for the adults! The moms would make a big dinner with casseroles, green beans, creamed corn, homemade mashed potatoes, sliced tomatoes and whatever someone canned that year or the newest recipe for cake or pie. The highlight was Mamaw's yellow cake with cooked fudge icing that everyone called Polly cake and her hot flaky biscuits. If we stayed overnight, we might get to eat vegetable soup from the jars in the pantry closet made from vegetables grown in Mamaw's garden.

Over the years the sandstone house didn't change much in my child eyes, but a garage that doubled as the church for a while went up and a porch on the back side of the house appeared one year. The porch was where the adults sat around the gas wall heater and talked and was added onto later to span the back side of the house. At some point, they added a concrete pad and a carport too. It seemed that everytime we went to visit, Papaw Chambers had invented something new and my dad and Papaw would disappear to talk and look at his latest idea or creation like the heating system he designed. I spent a few weeks there every summer staying some with my Mamaw and my Aunt Nita and my cousins Alfie, Rusty and later Michelle or occasionally my Aunt Gail and cousins Alan, Melanie and Steve. We played outside in the dirt or by the wood pile building roads or commanding armies. Sometimes we made trails in the woods, climbed on the silver tank out back or gathered wild flowers. Mamaw taught us to weed the garden with her and help can or wash dishes and sweep the carport. I sang my first church solo as a little girl standing at the front in the garage church wearing my cousin Alfie's jeans and shirt.

As we got older, my family moved to Atlanta farther away from the moun-

tain, but we still trekked there every few weekends and then as we got older every few months. There were other changes such as the addition of more first cousins until there were thirteen total. My dad's mom Mamaw McNutt lived in the valley and I stayed with her some too going to swap meets, feeding the chickens, and learning to cook with a pressure cooker. My Aunt Jane Galloway told me to go stay with my grandfather and grandmother McNutt again when I was fourteen or fifteen and said "You will be so glad you stayed with them when you are older." She was right because Papaw McNutt passed away not long after that and I cherish those couple of weeks with the two of them.

My parents divorced in 1978 and my Mamaw and Papaw McNutt died in the early eighties when I was in high school, so the world changed a lot for my brothers and I. Mom still carried us to Mamaw's at Christmas and to visit in April for her and Papaw's birthday celebration and any other time she could get away and go. She remarried, we moved to Marietta. Mom's husband Charlie loved Mamaw and Papaw and for a while became a fixture there too. After high school, I got married to a young man named Chris from Riverdale, Georgia who never balked at taking me to see my grandparents in Alabama and became another one of their boys. Sadly, after I married Chris and moved to California, my mother Juanita died of lymphoma at the age of 43 in 1985. The same month my mother died, Chris and I found out that we were pregnant with the first great grandchild of Mamaw and Papaw Chambers, and we named her Megan when she was born that December.

Logan, Rusty and Angela Chamber's son soon followed. And then many more as the rest of the cousins got married and started having kids. Mamaw always told my husband Chris that she looked for him every time a fast plane flew over, because he was an F-16 pilot in the Air Force and she thought that was thrilling. Both of her brothers JB and Charles had been in the service and told wonderful stories of their adventures at the last reunion. Not long after, we lost JB and her sister Lily. Only one of Papaw's brothers remain, Great Uncle AC and Mamaw and Charles are the last of her siblings. She also had one brother who died at seventeen from diabetes.

As I sit here in Mentone and reflect and think about the mountain, my clearest visions are of blue sky, puffy white clouds and the deep peaceful quiet. While my eighty nine year old

grandmother rocks next to me, I am overwhelmed by the legacy of my grandparents. This past week we said goodbye to our patriarch, William Alfred Chambers, but soon we will welcome the latest additions to our family. My daughter Megan is pregnant with our first grandchild, Jack Ryan Johnson, who will be Mamaw and Papaw's first great great grandchild. And as our parents have done for many decades, my cousins Rusty and his wife Angela have been helping me clean up after a meal in Mamaw's kitchen. The three of us gathered earlier today to get Mamaw's house back in order. After Papaw's long illness, there were some chores and we sat around the kitchen table and decided to freshen several rooms with paint and add some pretty linens in Mamaw's favorite flower colors. And last night, as Papaw and Mamaw had done for years, I sat in the rockers on the porch with Mamaw and we sang some old songs, prayed for the family and read the word to one another. Later in the week, when I travel back to my home in Columbus, Mississippi, I take sweet memories of sitting at Mamaw's side as she comforted grieving friends and received their love and support. I told everyone it was like escorting Mother Teresa as she blessed people.

Mamaw and Papaw's faith and teaching formed the foundation for my own ministry in music as a worship leader, keyboardist and vocalist along with several of my cousins. Cousin Rusty is active here at Mentone Community Church with the worship team and youth and his brother Alfie plays and sings in a local Birmingham band. My brother Brian plays the guitar and cousin Alan is involved with youth and missions. My son in law and daughter sang and played with my husband and me for many years too. Many other cousins have sung in choirs, led Sunday school and led their children to the Lord. The last big family reunion in 2004 found us singing gospel together in the fellowship hall at Mentone Revival Center with Mamaw's brother Charles and extended family.

Papaw was a great baseball player in his youth and many of his grandchildren became athletes. In my immediate family, Brian was an excellent baseball player who transitioned to softball after college and our younger brother Kyle is a competitive tennis player in Georgia. Megan, my daughter played Varsity basketball and Megan and I both were cheerleaders in

Continued on page 14

Southern Properties

845-6000

Agency, Inc.

2107 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne

SouthernPropertiesAgency.com



These listings are exclusively in the Mentone area. To view ALL of our listings, check out our website at: SouthernPropertiesAgency.com



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



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



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



LOOKING FOR A MOUNTAIN GET-A-WAY? 3BR/1BA home just minutes from Mentone. Completely remodeled, this home is move-in ready! New kitchen appliances include range, refrigerator, microwave, and washer/dryer. Updated wiring, new CH&A, fresh interior paint, and rock fireplace. Sitting on two lots with a covered back deck, nice mature trees and outbuilding. \$99,500 (17931)



OH WHAT A DEAL! Quaint downtown bungalow in need of a little TLC. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, office/den, and lots of potential. \$65,000 (18783)

Sold



BEAUTIFUL HOME & 5 ACRES IN MUCH DESIRED MENTONE! This wonderful residence offers 3BR/2.5BA, dining room, laundry room, and living room with rock woodburning FP. New CH/A, hardwood & tile flooring, oak cabinets, and pine tongue & groove walls. Detached 24x20 building, attached double garage, 2 porches, and patio. \$199,000 (19086)



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



ENJOY THE GOOD LIFE! 3-year old cabin situated in the cul-de-sac at Laurel Creek. 2BR/2BA, comfortable living/dining area with cathedral ceiling, rock fireplace, kitchen with island and all appliances. Over 600' of screened porches and access to 3 lakes and common areas along with several walking trails. Look no more, this is IT! \$194,500 (18918)



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



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



This is THE OPPORTUNITY of a lifetime!! You can own one of the states oldest, still operating hotels. Currently featuring 10 bedrooms, 14 baths, 2 fully furnished commercial kitchens, upstairs ballroom and lots of room for expansion. Call for all the details. \$1,200,000 (18937)



IN-TOWN PRIVACY! Sit on the screened porch of this 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage and listen to the squirrels play. Completely remodeled kitchen and only a short distance from downtown Mentone. \$148,000 (19082)



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

Southern Properties

845-6000

Agency, Inc.

2107 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne

SouthernPropertiesAgency.com



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



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



HANDCRAFTED woodwork is found throughout this 2BR/2BA mountain home. Features include a great room with cathedral ceiling, full front and back porch, large utility room all situated on a wooded lot. Located in Laurel Creek Lakes with access to 3 lakes and walking trails. Call today for your viewing. \$184,500 (19135)



CABIN AND FURNISHINGS! This almost new 1 bedroom, 1 bath frame cabin has 640-square feet, and features a rock fireplace and foundation, wood floors and walls, central heat and air, front and back porches and sits on 1.19 acres. \$148,000 (18990)



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



IMMACULATE, newer 3BR home with metal roof situated on a level, shaded lot of over 2 acres. Covered front porch, open living/kitchen/dining area, gas log fireplace, complete appliance package, hardwoods, ceramic tile, jacuzzi tub, CH&A, 2 car garage, priced at \$129,500 just 4 miles from downtown Mentone! (19178)



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



NATIVE MOUNTAIN FOLIAGE creates a level of privacy for this 3 BR/ 2BA brick house overlooking the West Fork of Little River from the back yard. Split BR design, large family room with cathedral ceiling and mountain stone wood-burning fireplace, screened porch, 2 storage sheds, (1 with electricity), an attached 2-car garage and CH&A. \$224,900 (16371)



MOVE UP TO RIVERFRONT! Get an open and airy feeling throughout this 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath home. Features include an oversized state-of-the-art kitchen with eating area, stone fireplace, wood and tile floors, oversized back porch and boat dock. Appealing landscaping with large native stones. Many windows to soak up the views. A must see for \$495,000. (17781)



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



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



LIVE ON THE WATERS EDGE in this custom built log cabin. Features include 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, spacious great room with cathedral ceilings, hickory floors and oversized windows; large utility room, 2-car garage and fishing dock situated on 2 lots. Set up your appointment today! \$245,000 (18898)

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 LOTS on the middle fork of Little River near Lake Lahusage. \$89,900 Each (18627)

4 ACRES with 300' of brow frontage and gorgeous rock formations. \$250,000 (17175)

NEW DEVELOPMENT located off Co. Rd. 106 close to DeSoto State Park and DeSoto Falls. \$25,000 each. (17060/17061)

OAKWOOD SD - Great building lot offering 3.5 +/- ac. with possible owner finance or trade to qualified buyer. Mild restrictions. \$29,900 (18770)

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

BEAUTIFUL BUILDING SITE - MENTONE! 3.22 ac. tract offers Lots of Hardwoods, Level Building Site, Pair and water at CR 648! Priced at \$44,900. (18037)

BEAUTIFUL WOODED 3.4 ACRES. Paved road

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

WATERFRONT LOT IN RESTRICTED LAKE ON THE BROW COMMUNITY! 104 feet of water frontage! Mild Restrictions in File. Great for a Vacation Home or Primary Residence. Only \$69,900! (18038)

HIDDEN LAKE SUBDIVISION bordering LRNP offers a gated community for people of like interests. \$93,000 (18406)

5.62 ACRES Beautiful wooded building lot with stream located on CoRd 106 (Lahusage Drive) in desirable Mentone. Minimum square footage per dwelling is 1200 sqft heated. \$63,500 (18827)

MENTONE - Minutes from Downtown Mentone and DeSoto State Park! Foundation already on property with paved road frontage and city water. 4.55 acres. \$59,900 (18989)

WATERFRONT LOT AWAITS YOU!! 3.06 acre lot in West Fork Subdivision in Mentone. Call for all the details. \$52,500 (19183)

Continued from page 11

high school. Papaw and Mamaw passed on many other talents as well. Papaw's sons followed in his footsteps as over the road truckers and his children and grandchildren picked up their build it, create it or refashion it genius. I believe that at least one preacher will emerge from the grandchildren or great grandchildren carrying on the family legacy of service to God and His people.

The union of Polly and Alfred Chambers birthed several generations of families that believe in God, feed the poor, minister to the sick or sick at heart, who love each other (even when we are not perfect) and appreciate God's gifts. Not ten minutes ago, Mamaw looked out the window at the trees rustling in the breeze and said "What a beautiful world God made! Isn't it beautiful?" Even in her time of sorrow after saying goodbye to Papaw, she still sets the example for all of us. And just as our family has done for seven decades, I will continue to come here to visit and sit with Mamaw, rock on the porch, and talk about the trees and weather. Together we will admire the changing seasons and read the Bible, sing a few songs and hug our families, ...here in Mentone, on Mamaw Mountain.

What Spending a Summer at Lookout Mountain Camp for Boys Means to Me

After spending five years at Lookout Mountain Camp for Boys, I have to ask myself what coming here every summer really means to me. Coming full circle, first as a camper and later as a counselor, has made me realize that this camp means more to me than I could possibly have imagined. LMC is more than just a camp to me. Anyone else who has spent time up here will agree to that. It's more than just a place I come to every summer; it's an escape. It's a Family. And most importantly, it's a place where memories are born.

Situated on 400 acres of pristine Alabama land, LMC is truly one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. Whether I'm looking out over Little River from the camp's lodge or traveling through the woods on horseback, LMC never ceases to amaze me with its beauty. For me, this camp is a perfect escape from

the urban setting of New Orleans. Coming up here every summer is one of the most relaxing experiences I could imagine. The second I step on the property, a sort of daze drifts over me. Up here, I am able to let loose and forget all worries. It's rare if I ever find myself not completely relaxed and problem free.

LMC has grown into a family for me. LMC is small enough so that the campers all get to know each other on a personal level. Spending multiple weeks with such a tight, close-knit group of boys helps form a sort of brotherhood between the campers, counselors, and anyone else at camp. The bond between everyone up here is unbreakable. I can guarantee that as camper or counselor one will never forget the friends that he made up here. I can honestly say that I will never forget the summer of 2007 that I spent in Cabin 2 with Millard Morrison, Justin Barrett, Reed Duncan, Greg Sterck, Myles Carrere and Porter Carrere. Every child that passes through the gates at LMC leaves at the end of the summer with a close group of friends that he will remember and cherish for the rest of his

life.

And lastly, LMC is the birthplace of some of the most important meaningful memories I have. The campers remember every single detail about their time up here. They will be able to tell you who slept where in their former cabins, what their highest score was at the rifle range, and how many times they won cabin inspection. Anything that happens to the campers at LMC has an incredible impact on them. The memories they make up here will last them a lifetime. Thirty years from now, I know I will probably not remember the grades I got in school or the things I did on the weekend. However, I am positive that I will remember each and every moment that I spent at LMC. I'll remember the night I won Camper First Class. I will remember working in the kitchen with Gray as a CIT. And I will remember my first day as a counselor. All of these memories have contributed immensely to the person I am today. I would not trade my time at Lookout Mountain Camp for Boys for anything in the world.

Court Burlingame

CAR RAFFLE

2000 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX
FOR
BRINLEY THOMAS
(1 YEAR OLD CANCER PATIENT)



TICKET AND CAR INFO

CONTACT: STEVE JACKSON - 706-676-4512 OR
JACKSON AUTO SALES - 706-857-2700

TICKETS: \$10.00 EACH DONATIONS ARE
GREATLY APPRECIATED

DRAWING WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 3, 2009 1 PM AT
DOWDY PARK IN SUMMERVILLE

CAR ON DISPLAY AT JACKSON AUTO SALES 10621
COMMERCE ST. SUMMERVILLE GA

ATTENTION MENTONE RESIDENTS!

The Mentone community has been asking for a farmers market where they can find fresh local produce. A few local farmers heard the call and arranged with the Mentone Inn to be there on Wednesdays. They are calling it the Mentone Market in the square.

Wednesdays from 3-6 P.M. growers are setting up to sell their local and so far all organically grown produce. Since it's only local, what's available will change each week as the season moves on. Now there are heirloom and other tomatoes, okra, varieties of beans, peppers, farm fresh eggs and other specialty crops.

The Revival of Lost Schoolhouse Buildings

By Evelyn Graves

August's issue of Southern Living magazine was delightful in many ways. I always enjoy my subscription to this magazine, but it seemed that the August issue contained a fresh approach to living in the south, with an appreciation for Southern heritage.

There was a most interesting article about what has happened to the old schoolhouses built in the south beginning around 1920. The style of these schoolhouses was very similar to those built in DeKalb County during the same era. Rosenwald-funded buildings used standardized plans incorporating the latest in school design. They were built with double-hung windows to give more light to the classrooms.

One of the lost schoolhouse buildings featured was Braden-Sinai School in the Memphis, Tennessee, area. It is now owned and occupied by Ann Smithwick, a documentary photographer who lives in the school with her husband and two daughters. One of the classrooms is occupied by her photography studio.

A foundation was formed to renovate the Shiloh School at rural Notasulga, Alabama, in 2006, and students in the Design-Build Masters Program at nearby Auburn University offered free design services and hands-on construction help to transform the building into a community resource center.

Interest in the black community of Smithville, Georgia, to restore the Smithville School calls for community support and financial assistance to save a piece of history.

The Carroll School, built in 1929, is again a place of learning and laughter after its restoration by the Rock Hill, South Carolina, School District. It is now used as a fieldstudy school for fifth-grade students.

In each of these four instances, the desire on the part of former students and teachers to preserve the memories and the

values learned at these schools was of utmost importance as the old buildings were preserved and renovated for use in some form of education. It so reminded me of the burning desire on the part of Mentone patrons to be able to keep our own Moon Lake School, and as time went on, to insure that it provided all that any Class A school provides. Additional buildings have been erected around the original structure to provide all learning possibilities to its students. It is a beautiful campus, unique in many ways, and leaving memories in the hearts of all who have been associated with it, either in a learning or a teaching position.

The other day I was cleaning out some drawers and file baskets in my computer room, and I ran across an article that my granddaughter, Katie, had written which it seemed had come from an English composition class and was comparing life in a small community with life in a large community, and it goes along with the things I have shared with you about the small schoolhouse revival.

"Living in a small community has its benefits over living in a larger community.

Small communities tend to be where people want to live instead of larger communities. Many people from larger cities have been buying houses in my community to get away from the larger community life.

I have always lived in a small community, and I find so many wonderful things about being brought up in a place where everybody shares in the joys and sorrows of the other, and where everybody knows my name. If they do not know my name, they know my ancestry and quickly are accepting of me because they know my family.

Large communities have their advantages with giving people more employment opportunities that are closer to home, whereas in my community, a commute ranging from twelve to fifty miles is required if suitable employment is to be found. But there is not anything that beats the atmosphere of being able to see family

often, know everyone in the community, and have freedoms that you would not have in a large community.

To attend a small community school during my elementary years was a real joy. There was a wonderful spirit of the community as a whole sharing the responsibility for the school in its physical needs and the needs of the students. The school itself was a unique structure in that the main part of the school was the same building that provided an education for my great-grandfather and my grandmother, with some modifications.

The kindergarten unit was a separate structure, as well as other structures for special needs. Located between these buildings and the gymnasium and the cafeteria, the local garden club had planted plants and flowers, a butterfly garden, garden trails with exciting signs pointing our way through the gardens to our various classes. An amphitheatre had been built below the gazebo where dramas and musical entertainment were provided. It was truly an enchanted garden. Students were given an opportunity on Earth Day to plant something so that they might be an active part of the participation and appreciation of their physical environment. Our community was very involved in creating an atmosphere that was both enjoyable and useful for the students and the community as well. Any child would enjoy learning in an atmosphere such as this. Our school placed among the top three schools in the state in learning achievement at one time. It is rare to find the quality of education in such a conducive learning environment in a large community.

Attending a small church where as a two-year-old child, I was allowed to sing with the older children and was given a microphone of my own to sing with a special adult group in the church was quite a thrill for me. I never knew when I became part of the youth choir because I had gravitated to that position automatically. I was given this freedom because everyone knew and accepted me even at the age of two. Later my family moved to another church

in another small community, and I was just as readily accepted there. People are usually more easy-going in smaller communities. Where there is a wedding or a funeral in my community, everyone is affected by it. We are all a part of any social event. Being able to drive five minutes in either direction and visit both sets of my grandparents is a privilege that not many people experience. Family bonds are very close because of the geographical advantage.

The value of life in a small community is almost unbelievable. I always enjoy visiting larger towns for shopping and other reasons, but it is relaxing to return to my little community. The community itself is unique, being situated atop beautiful scenic Lookout Mountain, with its natural rock formations, a river flowing through it, a natural waterfall, several summer camps that attract people all over the southeast, a beautiful historic hotel, and it bears a history that is unequalled. Small town living has let me experience history, togetherness, a quality education, and other experiences that I will always remember and appreciate. I am truly blessed to have lived in a small community."

Ed. Note: Katie is, of course, referring to Mentone as the small community in which she grew up, and is referring to Moon Lake School where she attended, and to Union Hill Baptist Church where she attended as a small child and Mentone Community Church where she spent her teen years.

There will be a special focus on our local school in the next few issues of The Groundhog. If you would like to share memories or learning experiences at Moon Lake School, please feel free to send these to: The Groundhog, P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.



... a special place to make
special memories

Cabin Rentals

atop Lookout Mountain
in the Mentone area

www.RoostersRest.com

phone 205-533-6111

Jim and Donna Crowe, Owners

ALL COACHES
SAFETY CERTIFIED



ASHLEY HENDERSON
OWNER, HEAD COACH

NORTH ALABAMA GYMNASTICS CENTER

256-845-8484

OFFERING RECREATIONAL & COMPETITIVE GYMNASTICS
RECREATIONAL TUMBLING/CHEER CLASSES

NEW FALL CLASSES NOW AVAILABLE - AGES 18 MONTHS TO 18 YEARS

EMILY DICKINSON (1830-1886) by John s. Whitaker

She became America's leading poetess of the nineteenth century, and many of her poems, a total of 1775, are still enjoyed today. However, she knew nothing of this fame, as her fame came posthumously. Her poems were discovered after her death. She is Emily Dickinson.

Emily Elizabeth Dickinson was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, December 10, 1830. Her parents were Edward Dickinson and Emily Norcross. She was the second of three children born to this union. The eldest was a brother, William Dickinson, and the youngest was a sister, Lavinia Dickinson. Her father, Edward, was a prominent lawyer in Amherst, and had served in the state legislature, had served a term in the U.S. Congress, and had served as treasurer of Amherst College. Her grandfather had built Amherst College in 1810.

ED (Emily Dickinson) received her education at Amherst Academy. This school offered more than most other young women received in this era. At age 17, she attended Mount Holyoke Female Seminary for one year for further education in 1847-'48.

The red-headed ED was noted for her sense of humor. She was fond of music, walks in the country, gardening, and dancing. She even joined a Shakespeare Club. At her home in Amherst she often met important people: preachers, missionaries, writers, college officials, and businessmen. Most of the social life in Amherst consisted of the commencement at Amherst College and the autumn cattle shows. ED was an avid participant in these events, but gradually she began to withdraw entirely from all social events.

In 1854, and then at the age of 23 years ED, her mother, and her sister Lavinia visited Washington, D.C. Her father was a Congressman then, and the trio of women spent a few weeks in and about the Capitol. On the return trip, they visited a friend in Philadelphia. Here ED, supposedly, met a minister and fell in love with him. However, the affair

soon dissipated. This story has little basis of being true. Most likely is a local story that ED wanted to marry a certain young man, but her father disapproved, and the affair ended. Thus, ED never married. (Neither did Lavinia.) The paternal influence of her father influenced her to choose the path of being single. However, her brother William married and lived next door to his father's house that he had built there. In the 19th century, being a mother and wife was not always an easy path: there was a high rate of infant mortality and also many wives had a short life span. It was not uncommon for a man to have as many as three wives, as the first two had died after a few years of marriage.

As an adult, ED never made a public profession of faith in any religion. When she attended Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, she made no statement of faith in God. A series of revival services left her unmoved. Still later, she stopped attending church and felt that she could not accept the doctrines of the Congregational Church. She was neither atheist nor agnostic, and some of her works reflect very positive concepts of God. The following offers some insight:

I never saw a Moor-I never saw the Sea-

Yet know I how the Heather looks
And what a Billow be.

I never spoke with God Nor visit-
ed in Heaven-

Yet certain am I of the spot As if
the Checks were given-

This little poem is so typical of ED. It has no title; actually only 24 poems were titled by her. Many editors use the first line of her poems as a title; others wish to be original and true to her style, and thus evade titles. Her style is the common meter, or the ballad stanza. Most of the nursery rhymes and kindergarten poems follow this pattern. She probably is thinking of a face to face "talk" with God (not prayer). Define checks as map or chart. It's easy to see that this simple poem could inspire faith in God.

In 1862 ED suffered a nervous breakdown. Little is known of this catastrophe, but it probably contributed to her becoming even more

reclusive. Thus, as she grew older, she rarely went into the city, staying mostly in and near her home.

Her first poem was written about 1850, and the last about 1883. The period of greatest activity was 1862, and 366 poems were written in that year. Therefore, she was a writer (poetess) most of her life.

ED's father died in 1874. Then ED became known as the "nun of Amherst." One year later after her father's death, her mother became an invalid and remained in this state until her death in 1882.

The total number of poems written by her was 1775. The number of lines in the poems fall into the following categories:

4 lines or less: 2785 to 8 lines:
7199 to 12 lines: 30913 lines or
more: 475

(Note: my total is more than 1775 because some of the poems have two versions or two rough drafts. There is also the possibility I may have miscalculated when I categorized the poems.)

There is a range of from two lines to a high of 68 lines in her works.

Death came for ED after a two year illness, May 15, 1886. She was buried in view of her home.

ED's sister, Lavinia, after ED's death, went through her sister's belongings and found a camphor-wood chest, which played a tune when she opened it. Lavinia was greatly surprised to find so many poems written by her sister. Most of them had been written on sheets of letter paper measuring five by eight inches. When five or six double sheets were filled, ED would make two pin holes in the left margin, insert a piece of string, and tying these together, make small booklets. These were far from being ready for publication. Lavinia gave these to Mabel Loomis Todd, wife of an Amherst College professor; and with the help of Thomas Wentworth Higgins began to revise and prepare the poems for publication. The first volume, *Poems by Emily Dickinson*, edited by Mabel Loomis Todd and Thomas Wentworth Higgins, was released in 1890. A second volume, *Poems, Second Series*, was released in 1891. Then in 1896, Mrs. Todd alone edited poems,

Third Series. Letters of Emily Dickinson was released in 1894 and edited by Mrs. Todd.

Mrs. Todd began work on releasing the remaining half of ED's works. However, Lavinia and Mrs. Todd became involved in a lawsuit about a strip of land. Consequently, Mrs. Todd locked the camphor-wood chest, and thus it remained until 1929.

But in 1929 Mrs. Todd and her daughter, Millicent Todd Bingham began together the task of finalizing these poems of ED. This task seemed almost impossible: some papers were crumpled and torn, some words were written on the side of the paper, and allowed an alternate word to be selected, some were written on brown paper bags, some on drug store bargain flyers, some on discarded bills, programs, invitations, some on leaves from old notebooks, one on a candy wrapper, some on the cut-off margins of newspapers, some on the inside of used envelopes, and some so hastily written that it was almost impossible to read. Some appeared to have been written in darkness with overlapping letters. Some 37 poems were incomplete. One poem was on a slip of paper, and penned around the stub of a pencil. But the task was finished, making a total of 1775 poems, after a decade or more of hard work.

Consider the following poem by ED:

If I can stop one Heart from
breaking I shall not live in vain
If I can ease one Life the Aching
Or cool one Pain
Or help one fainting Robin
Unto his Nest again
I shall not live in Vain.

Thank you, Emily Dickinson, for giving us purpose in our lives, so aptly expressed in this little poem. Next time, please write more legibly and neatly.

NOTE: If you visit in Amherst, Massachusetts, be sure to visit The Eyergreens, where all the personal belongings of ED are preserved. Also, Amherst College, across the street, is where some of her works can be viewed.

Northeast Alabama Community College

By Sarah Jacoway Chastain

The name says it all. Northeast as it's familiarly called is truly a community school with events throughout the year to enrich the community. However, it is first and foremost a college. Since Northeast opened in 1968, it has offered students in our area an opportunity to further their education in an economic way but there's more to educating and enriching a community than textbooks and classrooms.

Northeast has one of the largest attended regional theaters in the United States. At \$5 per ticket, it's a real bargain. A family can enjoy excitement and exhilaration of live theater for less than the price of renting a movie. This year's season begins with Death of a Salesman November 13-15 and 20-22. Little Shop of Horrors will follow December 22-25 and 29-May 2. The season concludes with Steel Magnolias July 16-18 and 23-15.

Another event that's sure to have a broad appeal is the Second Annual Bluegrass Festival on October 17. It will feature Marty Raybon, former lead singer of the award winning country group, Shenandoah. Other regional bands will also appear. This musical genre is a part of our culture and has become increasingly popular with college students. Northeast's 10th annual Christmas Pageant will be performed commencing with a large community choir at Northeast the first Friday and Saturday in December. It's anticipated each year almost as much as the visit from that jolly old elf, Santa Claus.

Read of Three Cups of Tea will take place at Northeast on November 13 from 2-4. The book is a New York Times best-selling book by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. There are three levels of books: elementary, intermediate and adult. The read will feature the intermediate one. Local children will be involved in serving tea and cookies and there will be activities for the children. Books will be on sale for \$5. The money raised will help build schools for girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Northeast Alabama Community College truly has something for each member of the community from families to senior adults 60 and older. You can keep their minds active by auditing classes free. If you're not, you should be taking advantage of the variety of enriching activities for yourself and your family.

Are you ready for tomorrow?

Every tomorrow is filled with possibilities – good and bad. That's where we come in. At Alfa Insurance®, we're in the business of tomorrows. Making them smarter, safer and more affordable. Call us, and let's talk about auto, home and life insurance – as well as discounts that can deliver you maximum value. Let's talk about tomorrow.



Vickie L. Vaughn
501 Greenhill Blvd.
NW., Ste. 510
PO Box 680577
Fort Payne, AL 35967
256-845-5020

Let's talk about
tomorrow.



AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS
www.alfains.com

ADS

Open to Public Year-Round
CLOUDMONT
Ski and Golf Resort
www.cloudmont.com

SADDLE ROCK GOLF COURSE
The First Golf Course
established
in DeKalb County
"It's cooler Swingin' on
Lookout Mountain"
9 hole executive course,
18 tees
Atop Lookout Mountain!
Carts and Clubs
Available

Mountain & River Chalets with Kitchens
Call (256) 634-4344

**SHADY GROVE
DUDE RANCH**
HORSEBACK RIDING
Guided Trail Rides & Accommodations
(256) 634-4344
Fun for the whole family

Gibson Expert Tree Service
**YOU'VE TRIED THE REST
NOW TRY THE BEST!**

FREE ESTIMATES
Licensed & Insured
30 Yrs. Exp.
Professional Climber
High Risk Work

Tree Trimming
PROFESSIONAL TRIMMING SAVES TREES
Tree Topping
Take Down's & Clean-up
Storm Damage
Fruit Tree Pruning & Spraying
*We do Insurance Claims

"NO JOB TOO SMALL OR TOO LARGE"
Serving the Tri-State area
Call Mark Today
"The Tree Guy"
(256) 634-4809



On a recent family vacation and fishing trip to Panama City, Florida, Milton Chambers hooked this 135-pound shark. When asked how he landed the shark Milton replied that it was a "joint effort". "It took all of us to get it into the boat after fighting with it for over an hour and a half."

Pictured with the shark and their catch, left to right is Phil Harris, Milton Chambers, Kevin Worthey (holding Kowen Worthey), Michael Chambers and John Chambers. Looking on is Kaden Johnson and Brady Black.

Mentonians Meet Miley

by L.C. Moon

Tybee Island has been home to the set of Miley Cyrus's new movie "The Last Song". Thanks to our friends Hank and Susan VanAppledorn, my family and I got the opportunity to be on the set of the Disney Movie. Miley's new movie is her debut at playing a character other than herself and Hannah Montana.

Pop culture is not something that many people care about on Lookout Mountain since the simple life is the reason most of us live on Lookout. I personally was excited to go on the set of the movie because it has been a while since I have been on a set and I love to watch the artistry of creating a movie. Though even more so, I enjoy watching someone fulfill their dreams. The actors, the producers, the make-up artists, camera men, the author of the script, etc. are all getting to fulfill a goal and a dream.

Chef Ben and I were very excited that our girls- Zoe, 10 of Moon Lake School and Sarah, 13 of Gaston- were going to get the opportunity to meet one of the biggest pop stars in the world; someone they have watched and listened to for the past few years. I wanted them to meet her so that they could realize that she is simply a person- which they really already got- who has worked toward her dream and accomplished it. I want to encourage them to dream and believe they can create whatever reality they choose.

Both Zoe and Sarah want to be actresses. While on the set they saw that the creation process is not as exciting as it may seem on screen. We

watched Miley and her costar Liam do their scene over and over and over. Each time cameras and lighting had to be repositioned and the girls began to grow a bit weary regardless of whether Miley Cyrus was only 50 feet away. When raccoons were brought out to train on the beach for a scene in the movie that peaked the girls curiosity for a moment.

It was sprinkling off and on. Miley had walked past us many times talking with others or on her cell phone. The girls were not nervous or star struck and were about ready to leave the set to go play in the ocean. Then a huge clap of thunder, a burst of lightening and huge droplets of rain forced everyone off the set on the beach to the catering tent.

The spread of food was incredible though we stood to the side so the crew could eat first. As a result we were standing right where Miley came in and stopped to look at some jewelry. She stopped to say hi to some young girls that were not able to be on the set. She introduced herself saying, "Hi, I'm Miley", even though it was obvious by their wide eyes that they knew exactly who she was. She was so friendly and outgoing toward everyone.

She was standing next to us for a bit and finally Susan said, "Miley I would like for you to meet some of my friends." Miley said, "Sure!". Miley turned to me and said, "I saw you earlier. I love your dress!"- which by the way I got at the Gourdie Shop. I thanked her and then she complimented my hat. I told her I was glad she liked it because Scott Thomas- the folk artist who made the hat made her one too. I told her about Mentone, the Wildflower Café and that we sell



Scott Thomas painted hats about as fast as we get them. She loved her hat and gratefully took it. She met Zoe, Sarah and Ben and shook their hands. She was accommodating enough to take a picture before we all went and got some of the delicious food.

It was great to be able to be there, eating with the cast of the movie and the crew. Though at this point Chef Ben and I were focusing on the catering set up and creating some ideas from the spread to use for entrees at our restaurant the Wildflower Café or for our catering ventures.

It was not until we got home that it really seemed to hit us that what we did was kind of a big deal. It especially hit me when I went to Wal Mart and saw Miley Cyrus and Hannah Montana every direction that I turned. While I thought I was taking the girls to have the experience of their life I think now that maybe it was a bit for

me too. Not so much because I have had an enormous desire to meet Miley Cyrus but more because I needed to be reminded that dreams can and do come true.

Observing Miley, I saw a person that has overcome the insecurities that hold many of us back from putting our efforts out there for fear that we may be rejected- not to say that she may not have some insecurities, she just does not let them hold her back. I witnessed someone who- in spite of all the demands upon her- was open and willing to accept the responsibility of her fame by doing what it takes to accomplish her goal and having a sense of humility and positive attitude towards those around her. I was- to say the least- inspired by meeting Miley and being on the set of the movie. I believe that all of us were inspired. I hope that hearing our story will also inspire you to dream or encourage others to fulfill their dreams.

LAMAR & MARY AGNES FINE
Garretts Chapel Road
Chickamauga, GA 30707
& Fax (706) 375-2062
Email: Lamarfine@aol.com

17, 2009

We are Excited to Announce the release of Our New Book, *Discovering Girls & Other Alien Experiences*. Remember Puberty? Adolescence? And that Terribly Awkward Time of Life? Of turning thirteen and being caught somewhere in between... No longer a child, but certainly not an adult? Of finding the opposite sex both enticing and intimidating?

A time when everything was suddenly changing... from our voices... to our confidence... even our own bodies.

Everything was confusing & uncertain, our biggest challenge was to 'appear cool' through it all, though most of us failed miserably.

Remember your first kiss... Your first love... And all the fun & reckless mischief that were a part of growing up?

You'll find them all in *Discovering Girls & Other Alien Experiences*, as the little boy from *I Remember* makes the transition from childhood to the teen years. We are Offering Free Shipping thru December 1st

so now is a good time to 'catch up' on our other books.

And remember Christmas is not far away - Our Books Make Great Gifts. End \$16.00 (\$14.95 +\$1.05 Sales Tax) Book Or

Get the Entire 5 Book Set... or any 5 Book Combination... for \$55.00 to the address or order online at www.lamarfine.com

check out the enclosed Synopsis for each of our books.

Lamar & Mary Agnes Fine
Author & Son Co-Authors of
REGIONAL BEST SELLER,

Yesterday's Gone

Jack Roberts had two dreams ... to marry his childhood sweetheart and to play minor league baseball. Mary Howard had one dream ... to marry Jack. Yet in the course of one short summer, choices are made that will alter their lives forever. In a hot August evening Jack bent over the steering wheel of his car in the old

Chattanooga cemetery and gave vent to his emotions. He had not lost a loved one. He had lost a dream... a dream for which he had wagered everything.

A hundred miles away in Atlanta Mary stared out the window as the florist truck circled her driveway. The twelve long-stemmed yellow roses were a peace of Tering and a mockery. Her home was beautiful, her husband handsome and successful... Who could ask for more? Then as a single tear slipped from her eye and down her cheek, she thought of how much she had given up for so little. Three years ago her world had been filled with hope and promise. Now it held only memories of a love she had let slip through her fingers. But that was yesterday ... and *Yesterday's Gone*.

Jack and Mary are teenage sweethearts who always knew that someday they would be married. Jack is a minor league baseball player pursuing a dream to make it to the majors. Mary waits for awhile, then grows tired of waiting, and the book begins on the eve of Mary's wedding to someone else (in 1971), and follows both her and Jack in their separate lives over the next twenty-five years, including brief periods when their paths cross.

It's a story of life... real life ... with its joy and sorrow, its triumphs and tribulations, and of sometimes holding on when there is little to hold on to. *Yesterday's Gone* is a story of hope ... and courage ... and strength. It spans the emotions of humor, despair, immeasurable happiness and gut-wrenching sorrow. It dares to face the inequities of life, but never forgets there is always hope ... and that the light at the end of the tunnel is always worth reaching for.

Yesterday's Gone is a love story, but it is far more than that. It's a story of survival and ultimate success in a world where life isn't always kind. It proves that by believing in yourself and persevering, you can ultimately reach your dreams ... at least the important ones ... And that while *Yesterday's Gone* ... Tomorrow lies ahead.

Yesterday's Tomorrow (The Sequel)

Childhood sweethearts/teenage lovers, Jack Roberts and Mary Howard dreamed of finishing school, getting married and 'living happily ever after' until the events of a single summer shattered those dreams and took them in directions neither ever imagined. Twenty years later in the place

where it all began, once more their paths cross. Both have successful careers and have found purpose and contentment in life. Yet the happiness they dreamed of has somehow eluded them. Realizing they can't reclaim their past, they settle for friendship, only to discover that the fire of their young love still burns and needs only to be rekindled. This time there is nothing to stand in their way. Then suddenly the one thing, which should bring them together, threatens to tear them apart.

Yesterday's Secret (The 3rd in the Series)

The third book in the *Yesterday's Series* reveals a shocking secret from the past that comes back to haunt Jack and jeopardize the happiness he has found.

I Remember A Warm, Fun Remembrance of Growing Up By Lamar & Mary Agnes Fine

I Remember is a warm, fun remembrance of growing up. It's a story of a gentler time when every day was a new adventure; when all a boy needed to make him happy was a dog, a bicycle and a best friend to explore the world with.

It was a time, as are all times of 'growing up', when life's major decisions were made by someone else, and someone else took care of you ... and loved you ... and protected you from harm ... when the time from one Christmas to the next seemed forever, as was also the case with summer vacations ... and three months away from school was never enough.

It was a time when church was a requirement, not an option, and we learned the Golden Rule before we learned our ABC's.

But more than anything else, it was endless days of fun and play and occasionally 'getting in trouble', although for some of us 'getting in trouble' seemed to happen more than 'occasionally.'

It is a time to be remembered ... and reflected upon... and cherished because it will not come again. However, as long as it is kept in our memory, today is as yesterday. Once more we are kids, experiencing life at its best, feeling the warm sun on our backs and the cool breeze blowing in our faces and believing that anything is possible if we set our minds to it.

I Remember is written through the

eyes of the little boy (the author), who couldn't sit still, couldn't stop asking 'why' or 'why not,' and whose curiosity often got him in trouble.

Discovering Girls & Other Alien Experiences

Remember Puberty? Adolescence? And that Terribly Awkward Time of Life? If you're already laughing or shaking your head, you'll love Discovering Girls & Other Alien Experiences.

It was a time of coming of age... of turning thirteen and being caught somewhere in between... no longer a child, but certainly not an adult either ... of going through puberty, adolescence, and all the awkward experiences that come with that time in our lives... of finding the opposite sex to be both enticing and intimidating... a time when everything was suddenly changing ... from our voice... to our confidence... even our own bodies.

Everything was confusing and uncertain, and our biggest challenge was to 'appear cool' through it all, though most of us failed miserably.

It was a time to which none of us were immune, but somehow we made it through.

So let yourself drift back to that time in your life and come join in the fun, mischief, and embarrassment of 'discovering girls and other alien experiences.'

Discovering Girls & Other Alien Experiences is the follow-up to *I Remember*, which is a Warm, Fun Remembrance of Growing Up, written through the eyes of the little boy as he lives it.

It is the fifth book by Chickamauga, GA mother & son co-authors, Lamar & Mary Agnes Fine. They also penned the 'Love/Life Story' novels, *Yesterday's Gone*, *Yesterday's Tomorrow*, and *Yesterday's Secret*, all of which have been Regional Best Sellers.

Lamar & Mary Agnes are available to speak to your church, civic or other organization. For more information call them at (706) 375-2062

Lamar & Mary Agnes Fine
245 Garretts Chapel Road —
Chickamauga, GA 30707
Tel. (706) 375-2062 E-mail:
Lamarfine@aol.com www.lamarfine.com

Exit I-59 at Fort Payne, Alabama

Martha Jenkins

August 2009

I retired a couple of years ago from a long-time career as a CPA and corporate accountant. My years were filled with deadlines and long hours. When I retired, I told my friends I was going into a recovery program for urgency addiction. Urgency addiction is a hard thing to cure after all those years, and I filled my first year of retirement with new projects and busyness. About a year ago we got serious about slowing down and bought a gently used RV. Though we had traveled in the fast lane up I-59 from Birmingham to Chattanooga several times we'd never slowed down to check out any of the exits. This week we took the Fort Payne exit.

August 12

We arrived at Desoto State Park near Fort Payne, Alabama around 9:30 a.m. The park sits on beautiful Lookout Mountain. The campsites which have recently been renovated are nice and uncrowded with lots of woods surrounding the campground and many trees shading the campsites. The park has hiking trails, a nice lodge, swimming pool, etc. There are a lot of things to see and do within a short driving distance. After we set up camp and ate a light lunch, we headed to Desoto Falls in the Little River Canyon. We visited the picturesque little town of Mentone and took in the incredible view from Brow Park of the distant mountains and the cattle grazing in the valley far below. We also visited Little

River Falls a few miles further down the Little River Canyon. Beautiful! Late in the afternoon we visited the Fort Payne Depot Museum hosted by two delightful ladies who took great pride in the history of their city. We were particularly delighted with the story of an old Indian woman called Granny Dollar who lived to the age of 106 or so who escaped the forced "Trail of Tears" journey that removed the local Indians to Oklahoma. We returned to our camp for a good home cooked supper. I love having a home that we can take with us, our "Chateau To Go".

August 13

My husband, Bob, spotted them first, a doe and her very young fawn. They moved cautiously out of the edge of the woods and grazed on the grasses in the clearing – always alert and on guard. After grazing near our campsite a good while, they moved across the campground. That, with coffee and bagels was the start of a very full day. We went into Fort Payne to the courthouse and renewed our boat license. What a joy it is to do business in a small friendly town where people seem to be glad to serve you and seem to like their jobs. We drove up to Scottsboro to the Unclaimed Baggage Center to look for lost treasure. We think we got some bargains. We enjoyed the beautiful mountain drive, some of it overlooking the Tennessee River. Only God could create such breathtaking beauty. In the afternoon, we took another lovely drive down to Dogtown to a furniture outlet and shopped for living-room furniture. We found a set of furniture that we are considering. In the evening, we enjoyed a great dinner at the park lodge (the catfish were great). The best part of being retired is enjoying the journey, no matter the destina-

tion.

August 14

After running about for a couple of days we chose to relax a bit and just hang out at the campground. Early in the morning, we were entertained by a little brown bunny hopping around our campsite. The deer we saw yesterday had just peeked out of the edge of the woods when a man brought his dog out for a walk and scared them back into the woods. We ate breakfast at the lodge. Bob had been wanting a waffle for a couple of weeks and this was the morning for a waffle fix. We took our computers with us to the lodge to get to the internet and check out the news and get our e-mail. We also picked up the local newspaper. The world was no better or worse for our not checking on it for a couple of days. I finished a couple of books I had been reading. I visited at length with two sets of "neighbors" as I wandered down the road from our site. After supper, we enjoyed an unexpected treat when our neighbors across the road began playing some old-time hymns on guitar and banjo. We sat outside in the cooling evening, experiencing a special gift of simple home-made music done well. We eventually walked over to meet the musicians – an older

man, probably late 70s and his 50-something son-in-law. Today we moved unhurriedly, stopping to visit with strangers, taking the scenic route on the road less traveled by.

August 15

We slept later than usual, had a good breakfast in the RV, and swapped camping stories with new-found friends. We sat outside in the shade of our awning and read and visited. I just asked Bob if he wanted to go do something or if he was happy doing nothing this afternoon. "I'm happy," he replied. We were rewarded by several deer walking quietly in the woods a few yards behind our camp and an eagle that glided silently overhead. After two years of retirement I am making real progress in my recovery from "urgency addiction." I have time for long thoughts and BEING instead of always DOING. Lookout Mountain is a good place to slow down and BE.

August 16

This Sunday morning we worshiped our creator in a "green cathedral" – a leafy forest shrine with a bird-song choir. We packed up our camp and took the slow lane back to the city.

FOR SALE BY OWNER



Cloudland, Ga

8 miles from Mentone, AL

3 Bedrooms, 2 baths,
Newly renovated kitchen with
appliances, New carpet.
Exterior: new metal roof and
vinyl siding with new storm
windows and doors new
back deck and front porch.
4.5 acres. Price: \$128,900
Contact: 256 634-4274

Angela J. Wood
Owner and AL/GA Broker
6090 Highway 117, S.
PO Box 44
Lookout Mountain Parkway
Mentone, AL 35984

Chelsea Carrier, AL/GA Agent
chelseac@yahoo.com
706-859-1227

Email:
AngelaWood@centurytel.net

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Preferred Realty, L.L.C.

L M P R

Office: 256-634-4672
Cell: 256-997-8138
Fax: 256-634-4702

Toll Free
1-888-2561276

website:
LookoutMountainProperties.com



A DIAMOND IN THE RUFF. This great residence and property has all the potential for a Mentone retreat. 4BR/3BA Stone Veneered Home, with living and Rock FP, Sunroom, Decks, Screened Gazebo, Detached Carport and Garage, much more. 2.3 acres and a sunset view on the Brow. \$375,000 (19170)



THE PAWNEE LOG CABIN, consists of 2 bedrooms, 2.5 bath Great room with FP, Cherry Cabinets Cypress hardwood floors and much more. \$160,000 (17778)



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



NATURAL CEDAR CABIN. 2 bdr, 2 bth, Columbian cedar walls (nice aroma) when enjoying the large open great room. Stack stone FP, screen porch and access to Little River. \$169,000 (18541)



WHAT A SPECTACULAR EAST BROW VIEW. See the sun rise in the morning & the moon in the evening. Wooded with 200ft on the brow, secluded 4.36 acres. A must see. \$100,000 (18134)



RIVER TRACTS AVAILABLE AT HUNTERS RIDGE 3 to choose from. #4-116 ft river, #5-113 ft, #7-136 ft. Starting at \$124,500. Pristine East Fork Little River (17798)



GREAT INVESTMENT IN VALLEY HEAD. Triplex apt. in excellent condition. A: 2BR/1BA - B: 1BR/1BA - C: 2BR/1BA A Must See! \$85,000 (17189)



PRISTINE 18 ACRES on the East Fork Little River, over 1200 ft of river frontage, natural pools, fishing, canoeing, rafting. Build that dream home in this natural setting. \$450,000 (19136)



40 ACRES LOCATED NEAR MENTONE. Stillhouse Branch runs through the middle of tract with 2 waterfalls. Large rock formations. Sanctuary for development or private estate. \$240,000 (18760)



MUCH SOUGHT AFTER West Fork deep water, 1 mile upstream from Desoto Falls. Build your dock and gazebo and bring your boat or canoe to cruise on the river. Great recreational lot. \$45,000 (19164)



MOUNTAIN CHATEAU. 2 story home with floor to ceiling windows. 2BR/2BA with basement. Loft sleeping, full equipped kitchen. Spectacular views 4.77 acres. \$285,000 (18133)



BEST KEPT SECRET ON LITTLE RIVER. Truly your Panacea awaits on this 4.6 acres with over 600 ft on the river, 2 residences and a small barn. Canoeing, swimming in the Flat landing Ford of the river. Main Cabin - Log with 3BR/2BA, living dining combo. Rock FP, Wood floors. 3/4 wrap-around porch with rockers lining the River Side. The second is the Shepards Cottage. A Unique Stone Bungalow with Mt Stone facing. Slate Roof, Copper Railings. Inside, stone FP w/ gas logs, living room, Kitchen with stone facing, an old world Stone baking oven and grill. Rock Vanity in Bath. Sleeping loft. All sold furnished. Must See to appreciate. \$499,000 (18936)



SPEND WEEKENDS ON THE LAKE. Choose to stay outdoors with the 12x20 Dock, and many decks. Or inside, with open living kitchen area 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, Pine floors, fireplace. \$296,800 (14787)



HUNTERS RIDGE. Nicely wooded acreage tracts available. County water and underground power. Common area access to the little river. Lightly restricted, and POA \$100/yr. 8 tracts available. Priced from \$24,900 to 40,000. 1.6 to 2.9 acres. (17779)



LAKE LOT IN GATED COMMUNITY KNOWN AS HIDDEN LAKES. Common areas and walking path around 14 acre lake. Utilities and well installed. Adjoins National preserve. \$95,000 (18793)



OWN A PIECE OF PROPERTY ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON. East Rim of Canyon on 5.7 acres with Bluff Canyon Views, large overhang. Lightly restricted. Very private with gated access. \$90,000 (19247)



UNIQUE SETTING on the West Fork Little River. The Hatteras Cabin has 3/4 wrap-around deck. 2BR/2BA and a large bunk area Loft. Mountain stone Fireplace. 160 ft on the river. All furnishings included. \$250,000 (16466)



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



WALK TO MENTONE FROM THIS COZY COTTAGE! Enjoy the sunsets from the screened porch. 2BR, 1BA. Completely furnished. Great for weekend getaway or home. \$175,000 (18891)

BUILD YOUR DREAM CABIN in the woods! 2.56 acres across from Lake Lahusage. Paved road frontage, city water available, perc tested. Lightly restricted. Owner financing available. \$49,900 (19149)

Moon Lake School News

The PTO meetings will be the second Tuesday of each month. Planning for the harvest festival will be discussed at the September Meeting. The PTO fund has approximately \$4,000.

Volunteers who helped with the preparation of and spreading the mulch over the entire playground are:

Mrs. Lori Owen, Mrs. Angie Shugart, Mrs. Sandra Bashringer, Mrs. Martha McCurdy, Mr. Bobby McCurdy, Ms. Alicia Chitwood, and Mrs. Samantha Perrydore.

Mr. Kenneth McMunn and Mr. Greg Owen supplied and ran the tractors that hauled and spread the mulch.

The PTO would like to say thank you to these individuals and their families. We would also like to thank the children who helped with the playground.

Thanks!

For Your Support

Car insurance with **PERSONAL SERVICE.** No extra charge.

At State Farm® you get a competitive rate and an agent dedicated to helping you get the coverage that's right for you and the discounts you deserve. Nobody takes care of you like State Farm. Contact me, I'll prove it.



Mark Mitchell, Agent
17174 AL Hwy 75 North
Henagar, AL 35978
Bus: 256-657-6252
mark.mitchell.b2g1@statefarm.com



LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, STATE FARM IS THERE.®
Providing Insurance and Financial Services

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company • State Farm Indemnity Company
Bloomington, IL • statefarm.com®



Offering cabins located both in the downtown Mentone area and beyond.
We have something for everyone!

Amenities include brow views with a 3 State view, gas log fireplaces, hot tubs, Jacuzzi tubs, golf, hiking, boating, fishing and more!!!

888-560-0492

Check our online availability and booking at

mentonecabins.com

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Serving owners for 5+ years

We know that purchasing a cabin can be a daunting process. All those unanswered questions, can you afford the monthly payments, who's going to take care of the upkeep, who will watch over your investment while you're away, who will handle marketing and reservations, is it really an investment or will it become a albatross?

That's why Mentone Cabins has developed its very successful Property Management Program. Call us to help you work thru this process.

mentonecabins.com



MENTONE'S FAMILY LODGE

1-800-998-1956

FAMILY REUNIONS
Day or Week Rental

Large 5 bedroom, 3 bath cabin, pond, barn.
We are a family lodge where 20 acres are exclusively yours for rental time, hiking, fishing, recreation.

www.mentonelodge.com

Valley Head Drugs

114 Commerce Avenue
Valley Head, AL 35989

256-635-6812

Cynthia and Wayne Wooten, Owners

"We appreciate your business"

CLASSIFIEDS

10 ACRES, SECLUDED 15 Min. North Of Mentone In Georgia. Wooded, 300+ Feet On The West Fork Of The Little River. Will Build To Suit. \$10k Per Acre. 706-398-0078

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. All Hardwood. We Deliver To All Surrounding Communities. Gibson Expert Tree Service. Call Mark - 256-634-4809

BEAUTIFUL 3.21 ACRES IN NORTHBEND. A Rustic, Gated, Restricted Mentone, AL Community With Paved Roads And Underground Utilities. \$44,900. Compare With Others In The Area Beginning At \$50k. Offered For Sale By Owner. 256-634-4470 Or 251-421-8764

RESIDENTIAL CLEANING SERVICES. 10 Years Experience (References) Fonda Henderson - 706-936-4551

ALABAMA MOUNTAIN LOG HOMES. Ready To Move In. Average \$85.00 Sq. Ft. This Includes Foundation, Logs, Hardwood Floors, Fireplace, Oak Cabinets, Etc. Please Call For Info Or Appt. To See Homes Built By Us. 256-587-3489 Or 256-630-9004

HOUSE FOR SALE In Meno. Serious Inquiries Only. 706-862-6579

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

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

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

OWN PART OF A BROW HOME. Need 3rd investor to purchase Mentone vacation home on 1 acre west brow/spectacular large deck sunset views. The buy-in cost is \$100k for 4 months of time per year. Would consider 2 investors at \$50k each for 2 months per year. Call 256-634-3055.

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

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

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

ALABAMA ORGANICS. Horticultural Lighting, Hydroponic Systems, Organic Fertilizers and Amendments, Organic Pesticides and Much More. Open Tue-Sat 9-6. Call 256-635-0802

3 BDRM, 2 BATH HOUSE on 3 acres near DeSoto State Park, \$119,500. 845-3515

FOR RENT: Ranch on 1 acre, close to town, 2 BR, 1 Bath, screen porch, 1 car carport. Quiet and peaceful community. No smoking. \$485. 256-516-4663

FORT PAYNE - FREE UTILITIES! MOVE IN NOW! One Bedroom apartments for Seniors 62 and older. HUD retirement community. Fun activities and services. HCP accessible. EHO 256 845-6875

BIG JIM'S BAMA Q

Specializing in BBQ and Good Southern Home Cooking at the Hammondville Crossroads Hwy 11 and Hwy 117
635-6160



NILSSON KENNEL

Pet Boarding

New facility, Indoor/Outdoor runs, Country Setting



256-523-3124

695 County Rd. 220, Fort Payne

"Continuous service by the same family since 1933"

BROWN'S CLEANING & LAUNDRY

"An old company with new ideas"

• Vault Storage for Furs & Woolens • Drapery Cleaning with Machine Decorator Fold • Suede, Leather & Fur Cleaning • Fire Restoration & Odor Removal • Wedding Gown Preservation • Alterations • Pillow Cleaning
817 Gault Ave. N. (256) 845-3241

Full Laundry Service

Ecological Designs, Inc.

Custom building
a more beautiful home for you

Lyle Nicely
Alabama State
Licensed Contractor

Low Maintenance
Superior Quality

• Construction
• Design
• Site Prep

Ph. 256-634-4124



www.sweep4you.com

The FIREPLACE SERVICE CENTER

In Business Since 1981
Fully Insured - Serving Northeast
• AL And Northwest GA

AL 256-845-9814
GA 706-232-5995

• Chimney Sweeping
• Chimney Lining
• Chimney Repair
• Chimney Inspections
• Chimney Video Inspections
• Chimney Waterproofing
• Chimney Caps
• Dryer Vent Clearing



DENNIS DOBBS
#2277



Travels close to home

Blue Bell Creameries in Sylacauga

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

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream. It's a good chant for a southern summer (or any other season if you enjoy ice cream as much as I do). I've eaten ice cream from a carton, from a soda fountain, from a drive-through, home-made from a freezer and home-made in a refrigerator freezer at home when I was a child. I've enjoyed it all. However, a trip to the Blue Bell Creamery in Sylacauga added a whole new dimension to a lifetime of enjoying ice cream.

The factory sits in beautifully landscaped surroundings. They welcome all types of tours. For school and church groups, the tours are free. There is a \$1 charge for other tour groups. While getting a free scoop of ice cream is enough of a reason to go, the tour proved to be quite fascinating.

Blue Bell has an interesting history. It began as Brenham Creamery Company in 1907 in Brenham, Texas. They only made a gallon or two back then because most people made their own ice cream but as word spread about how good it was, its

popularity grew. The name was changed to Blue Bell Creamery in 1930 because the owner thought that Texas state flower, the blue bell was beautiful.

Blue Bell came to Sylacauga in 1996 making a total of four manufacturing facilities. They have 42 flavors and occasionally 48. There are 15 in stores at all times with others rotated. The smallest size is the 3 oz. size which comes in a party pack. Pints come in

all of the flavors. The most popular size is the half gallon. There is significance in the different color rims: the dark brown has something crunchy, the tan is light or has no sugar added, the gold is fruity, the navy rim

indicates a new version or a new flavor and the quart sizes are sherbets. The newest sherbet flavors are citrus world and pina colada.

Blue Bell produces 161,000 gallons a day with 42½ gallons filled per minute in the Sylacauga facility. Blue Bell operates 12 farms where the cows are fed special grasses. They have their own vets who live on the farm. Ninety-six pints are filled per minute. Random checks are run every 15 minutes by a lab technician. Gazing down at the production area, you can see someone in a different colored coat come in and take away a container of ice cream to test. (I wonder if there are any openings in that department.)

All the equipment is broken down and cleaned at the end of the shift and then it is cleaned again before production starts the next morning.

Each tour ends with a complimentary dish of your favorite Blue Bell ice cream in their Old Fashioned Ice Cream Parlor. Additional dishes can be purchased for \$.50 (although the litera-

ture said \$1 per scoop.) The scoops are generously sized. I have noted that as the price of a scoop goes up the amount in that individual

scoop seems to go down. This was a bigger scoop than the \$3.50 scoops of "designer" ice cream I've been served at other ice cream

shops.

A country store that is open from 8-5 five days a week offers ice cream related gifts.

It was difficult to imagine eating a meal after having a generous dessert but somehow I managed by the time we had driven a few blocks to Buttermilk Hill Restaurant and Bar also in Sylacauga. It is located in a Victorian house

that was built in 1904. Jim Nabors, Sylacauga native, took piano lessons in the house and it is rumored that there is a ghost in residence. However, he or she didn't appear while we were there.

The food was wonderful. Owner, Kara McClendon Bacchi calls it "old-school Southern traditions in cooking with innovative preparations and pairings." I'd describe it as down home food served in an uptown way. Whoever suspected that kale, black-eyed peas with zucchini and squash could be a part of fine dining but I assure you, it was.

For more information about a Blue Bell Tour, call (888) 575-5265 toll free. For information on Buttermilk Hill Restaurant, call (256) 207-1001. You can view the menu online at www.butter-milkhillrestaurant.com.

Next month we'll go to the Amish Country in Etheridge, TN and eat at Ponderosa Steak House in Lawrenceburg, TN.



Carl Eldridge, age 93, enjoys his scoop of Blue Bell ice cream.

