



THE GROUNDHOG

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P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Volume 38, No. 1

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

January 2019

Memories of Lahusage & More by Marlin Blalock



My grandfather, John Nelson Tucker, born in 1866, helped build Lahusage dam and hotel. The developer of the project went to Fort Payne Ford dealership to buy a car. He chose a Ford Model T. The salesman asked how he wanted to pay for it. He was so insulted, he asked about a Ford Roadster in the show room and bought both cars. He later said the Ford Roadster was a mistake. His wife and daughter drove it to California on a thirty-day trip.

The Great Depression began in 1929, but it took a while for the workers to hear about it because they had no television, internet, or long-distance phones. My grandfather had a phone connected to about half a dozen of his neighbors. When the phone rang, all the neighbors answered it. The developer of the Lahusage dam project disappeared shortly after the Great Depression started. After a few days the workers, including my grandfather, stopped working. A short time later, the workers all came back and whatever wages were due they took out of the hotel. My grandfather took a bath tub, a commode, and a kitchen sink.

He lived in the valley between Lookout Mountain and Taylor's Ridge near Jamestown, Alabama. The place was called Burgess. That was my grandmother's maiden name. I believe the name of the place was from her name. In 1895,

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Lahusage A Brief History

Approximately four miles east of Mentone, south of Hwy. 117, an area had been mined for coal around the turn of the twentieth century; it was named Lahusage, after the mine's founders—Lake, House and Sage. The mine was active for several years, and a thriving community grew up around it. According to Zora Strayhorn, in her book, *Mentone: A History*, "Houses were constructed for about one hundred families and wells were dug. There was a commissary, a building used for school and church services, two-storied. The upper story was used as a Masonic Hall. A doctor's office was built with Dr. M. T. Floyd serving as company

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Searching through the Night by Kelly Leavitt

The evening of December 5 was dark and cold. Around 9 p.m., Mentone's volunteer firefighters and DeSoto Rescue Squad received pages alerting them to a report of a missing child. They left their warm homes and jobs to assemble together on a rural road in Mentone to join Mentone Police Chief Brad Gregg in a search for a young teenager who had left his grandparent's home on foot several hours before, wearing only jeans and a t-shirt.

The search eventually included members of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District, DeSoto Rescue Squad, Mentone Police Department, Valley Head Police Department, Valley Head Fire Department, DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, and the SarTek K-9 search and rescue team.

The coordinated effort began with teams conducting a door-to-door search on the road where the boy was last seen. Outbuildings on various properties were explored, as well as a nearby unoccupied partially-completed house. Some drove the fire trucks and other vehicles along the nearby roads, calling the boy's name, while others searched the woods on foot with hand-held thermal imagers.

Around 11 p.m., a command post was set up at Mentone's Town Hall and the DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency put out an All Call using an automated phone notification system that quickly calls individuals with a recorded message. The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency called for a helicopter with thermal imagery equipment. The helicopter in Montgomery was unavailable, so the City of Cullman was called with the request. Their pilot was available, but the operator for the thermal systems wouldn't be available until the morning. The helicopter eventually arrived from Cullman at around 7:40 a.m., when it landed in the empty lot in front of the Mentone Market.

Around midnight, a call was put out for dogs from the St. Clair Correctional Facility, but the dogs' handlers felt that at this point, too many people had been on the scene and that since their dogs are trained to find people in general, rather than a specific person, their efforts would likely be unsuccessful. Chief Mike Stone of DeSoto Rescue Squad then called the SarTek K-9 volunteer search and rescue team from Madison County, Alabama, who arrived around 2:30 a.m. Their efforts proved unsuccessful, and it was later decided to call for SarTek K-9 bloodhounds.

Before they arrived, the boy had been found, at around 7:30 a.m., when he walked up to a farm at the base of the mountain. Apparently, the young man had slept in the unfinished house

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THE GROUNDHOG



The Groundhog is published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA). First conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and then organized on April 5, 1982, *The Groundhog* has been in continuous publication for 36 years. MAPA is dedicated to preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area. MAPA is chartered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

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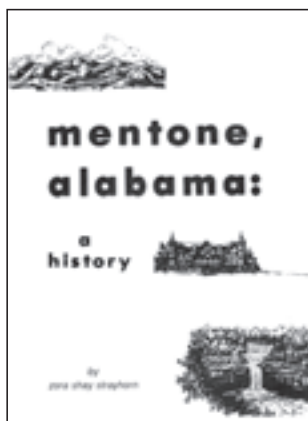
Do you have a story idea?

Perhaps a poem or recipe?

We welcome contributions!

Email groundhognews@yahoo.com

Learn about the History of Mentone



On sale at the Wildflower Café, Moon Lake Library, Green Leaf Grill, Little River Hardware, Mentone Market, DeSoto State Park, Earthly Elements & Bell Battelle. \$15; proceeds benefit MAPA.

The opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints expressed by the various authors in this paper do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs, and viewpoints or policies of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Mentone Matters • by Mayor Rob Hammond



fill in and advise when needed.

Thanks to Cynthia Stinson of the Mentone Inn for organizing the lighting of the town Christmas tree, and for all who donated their time and talent in making it a fun event. It was a great way to bring friends and neighbors together to begin the celebration of the Christmas season. Gail Chambers was chosen to light the first town Christmas tree. Over the years, Gail put in a lot of time and effort in raising money to buy the snowflakes we have on the utility poles and the decorations we have in Mason Park.

Happy New Year! As always, the New Year brings changes. Mentone police chief Brad Gregg will be leaving to accept the position of chief deputy with the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office. Congratulations! We thank Brad for his outstanding service to the citizens of Mentone. We will miss him and wish him well as he takes on his new responsibilities. We are happy to announce that Gene McKee will become acting chief on January 1 and Ross Greenwood will become a full-time officer. Brad will be working with them to insure a smooth transition and former chief/Valley Head mayor Lamar Bray will

Letter from the Editor



I have thoroughly enjoyed preparing this issue of *The Groundhog*. It brings together everything that so many people love about Mentone and the surrounding area. We reach into the past, the present, and the future—so appropriate for January! L. C. Moon writes about her memories of her early days in Mentone. Marlin Blalock shares memories of his grandfather from the early twentieth century. Bill Schwarz's voice resumes its place in the paper, which he used to regularly write for over twenty years ago. We see the joy on the faces of children—and seniors—experiencing the wonder of Christmas. We learn about the late night efforts of our local force of volunteers, and about future civic leadership in Mentone and Valley Head.

On that note, I want to share a story. I went to the library late one night, taking advantage of the peaceful quiet to get ready for the holiday open house. I had my dog with me, for the sake of security. Around 10 o'clock, I heard a loud knock on the door. I looked outside and saw two men at the door, looking inside. I thought, well, I wonder how I'll handle this, took hold of my dog's leash, and moved toward the door. That's when I saw two Mentone police cars on each side of my own car, and

realized it was Gene McKee and Ross Underwood. Gene said he knew it was me by my car, but just wanted to stop and make sure everything was ok. It felt wonderful knowing that most of Mentone's police force was looking after me in the dark of night.

The Community Christmas Tree Lighting was truly, as one attendee commented, "straight out of a Hallmark movie." Thanks to Cynthia Stinson of the Mentone Inn for organizing what is sure to become a new Mentone tradition. Everyone who participated enjoyed the carol singing, the lighting of the tree, the arrival of Santa, visiting with neighbors, and holiday refreshments under the pavilion behind the inn.

These are all good reasons to love this tiny town. Oh, and a good snowfall would be icing on the cake. —Kelly

**Don't think the garden loses its ecstasy in winter.
It's quiet, but the roots are down there riotous.**

—Rumi

Mentone Area Preservation Association

by Mark Hoffman



I trust and hope that everyone had a wonderful time with family and friends over the holidays. I certainly did and, of course, over-indulged in my consumption of fine food and drink. It was definitely worth it! However, now it's time to start the new year with a fresh set of habits (or undo the bad ones that have taken hold). In addition to trying to develop a healthier lifestyle, my primary goal for 2019 is to become more empathetic towards my fellow man. I can't think of anything that would be more worthwhile, and which will have a positive impact on both me and those I come in contact with. Let's try to be more understanding and less judgmental, that's a blueprint for everyone in the community having a good year.

I strongly encourage everyone that is reading this to either become a MAPA member or renew your existing membership when it expires. I am proud to be a part of this organization. It not only sponsors our fall and spring festivals, publishes this incredible and valuable resource known as "The Groundhog", but primarily exists to help fund local charitable organizations that mean so much to our community. Your small, but important, membership fees are an integral part of allowing MAPA to make those contributions.

I wish for great prosperity and emotional health and growth to all of you for the upcoming year. As always, if you would like to reach out to me personally with any questions, ideas or concerns, etc., about MAPA and what we may be able to do better, I can be reached at mhoffmanatty@yahoo.com.

Happy New Year.

Mark Hoffman is president of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Change of Police Leadership in Mentone and Valley Head by Kelly Leavitt

Nick Welden, Valley Head's chief of police, was recently elected as sheriff of DeKalb County, which has led to a change in police leadership in both Valley Head and Mentone. He has invited Mentone's police chief, Brad Gregg, to join him in the sheriff's office as Chief Deputy Sheriff. Jimmy Phillips will become Valley's Head new police chief, and Gene McKee will become police chief for Mentone. (We'll introduce you to Nick and Jimmy in next month's issue.)

Brad Gregg joined the Mentone Police Department in May of 2015, when former Chief Lamar Bray retired. Lamar is currently the mayor of Valley Head. Brad came to the Mentone police force after spending eight years as the chief of Sylvania's police department.

"Like I told the mayor and the council members," Chief Brad said, "I wasn't looking to leave. Mentone's a great place to work. If Nick hadn't wanted me to come to the sheriff's office with him, I would be more than happy to still be working in Mentone."

"I think Gene will do a really good job," Brad continued. "He lives in Mentone and has been here a long time. He knows everybody and has been on the fire department for several years. I think it'll be a smooth transition and that Gene will do a really good job."

Gene McKee has lived in Mentone for 22 years and spent the last five years at Alpine Camp for Boys doing maintenance work and serving as the head of Target Sports during summer camp season, teaching archery and riflery. He grew up on Sand Mountain and moved to Mentone when he married Angela Phillips, who grew up in Mentone.

At the suggestion of both Nick and Brad, Gene began training at the police academy in March of

2017. He worked as a reserve officer in Valley Head and Mentone while he was training at the academy, and has been working as a part-time officer in both communities since he graduated in April of 2018.

"I owe a big thank you to the towns of Mentone and Valley Head," said Gene. "They co-sponsored me and sent me through the academy, affording me the opportunity to be a police officer."

"Brad Gregg and Nick Welden made this possible," he continued. "Nick talked to me a few years ago and asked if I would do it. They mentored me through the whole process. Brad had to do lots of paper work to even get me in the academy. They got me in, got me set up, and coached me through the 14-month training. Without their help and guidance, getting me started and getting me through it, I never would have done it. It was a big ordeal to be accepted to the academy, and to get through it. I've had a lot of help. A lot of people believe in me."

Lamar Bray will mentor Gene for the first few months in his new position. Gene will be employed full-time, as will current part-time officer Ross Underwood. Lamar and Kirby Johnson will continue to be part-time officers for Mentone. For the past six years, Gene has

served as a volunteer fireman for the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District. He was voted "Fireman of the Year" in 2014.

I thanked Gene for what he does for Mentone and he said, "Well, hey, I enjoy it. It's not a job to me, I enjoy it, getting to help your neighbors and friends and family. We're all proud to serve this community. Mentone is an awesome place, with great support."



Gene McKee

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Mitch Gregory Voted 2018 "Fireman of the Year"

Each year, the volunteer firemen of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District vote for one of the own to be named "Fireman of the Year." In 2018, the vote for Mitch Gregory was unanimous.

"Mitch joined the fire department a couple of years ago. We finally talked him into doing it," said Gene McKee. "Mitch is as good as they come. His expertise with trees is really valuable. He owns a lawn service, but he also has a bucket truck and he cuts down trees for people. During one of the last storms, when we had 40 mile-per-hour winds, we had 15 trees down, and 89 was shut down. Mitch brought his equipment up there, just out of the goodness of his heart. He brought his bobcat and cleared the roads for us."

Fire Chief Joseph Lee concurred, adding that Mitch is a very capable driver, someone they can trust to drive the big trucks.

Congratulations, Mitch, and thank for all that you do for Mentone.

Rhododendron Garden Club by Mellanie Tuttle



The luncheon December meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was held on December 11 in the home of Mellanie Tuttle. Starting time was moved to eleven o'clock to accommodate the meal and the hour wait was well worth it! Sides for the ham were almost outnumbered by the desserts and no potatoes were in the sight. Actually a potato casserole was in sight but stubbornly would not get done. No one missed

it but we did reminisce about the year when everyone brought a potato dish to accompany the ham and only two desserts were served. In honor of his wife Madelon and Harriet Lillich (both deceased), Mike Hoagland sent their signature dish—a delicious shrimp salad. Gone but never forgotten, as is Shirley Hussell.

Former President Jan Wilkinson inducted the new slate of officers who are: Marsha Merrell, President; Mellanie Tuttle, Vice-President; Rhea Pirch; Secretary and Dianne Kuehl, Treasurer. Jan performed a lovely induction ceremony with a star-related theme based on the positioning of north, east, south and west. Her candle shelf featured a four-pointed star with votives for the officers to light and then underneath the star were additional candles. Each officer lit a candle corresponding to her star position and charge of office. The remaining members were asked to light a candle and offer support for the new slate and/or share what the garden club means in one word only. Humor, dedication, fun, education, and friendship were mentioned. This group is definitely NOT your mother's garden club—no jewels, gloves, invitation only, snooty group of people—so if the description fits, the RGC may not be the best fit. Before joining this club, I could count on one hand the number of females I considered good friends and that was leaving off the thumb; now I have hands and feet numbers. These women are truly worth knowing and loving.

One vice-presidential responsibility is setting up the program speakers, hostesses, and meditation person for each month. Sign-up sheets were passed around with the understanding that the until everything was filled in, no one was leaving. With determination to get out before supper, the assignments were quickly made and the next year set. The year will include: field trips to see wildflowers and pitcher plants; programs of Topiary, Salvia, Plant Diversity of Alabama, Ikebana and a Challenge Class in design; the Flower Show prep; MERF House clean-up; and one To-Be-Announced program. Committee assignments will remain the same (Martha Wood, Chair of Horticulture; Mellanie Tuttle, Design Chair), with Jan Wilkinson replacing Marsha as Conservation Chair. We were thrilled to have Jan Wilkinson and Sue Schwarz back in the fold. Both rejoined the club. Hooray!

In December, the Moon Lake students remade their terrariums because first efforts failed to thrive—too much water, not enough light, wrong plant for the light conditions, all of the above or none of the above? Sometimes the best learning moments are the failures. Don't give up, try again. Develop an optimistic attitude. Students also made pinecone bird feeders to take home, with enough extras to hang around the school. Moon Lake kiddos are the best. Several students were absent or at tutoring on the pinecone Tuesday and the rest pitched in to make the absentees feeders as well.

The next meeting has a change of venue. The meeting will be at St. Joseph's On the-Mountain Episcopal Church on January 8 at 10 a.m. The plan is to watch the DVD featuring Pearl Fryar, a self-taught topiary artist. After the program, folks will travel to Mellanie's yard to practice their skills in topiary. Just kidding, it's too cold in January, but maybe in the spring. One excuse is as good as another, but all comers are welcome, even if you wear lots of jewelry, gloves and are a bit snooty!

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

SENIOR HEALTH Happy New Year by Lynn Hixson

It's the beginning of a New Year and many people are making plans to retire. Retiree Insurance is health care coverage that you get from a former employer upon retiring. Some retiree plans work with Original Medicare, which is when you receive your Medicare benefits directly through the federal government. Other retiree plan benefits are combined with Medicare benefits under a Medicare Advantage plan, which is when you receive your Medicare benefits through a private insurance company. There are three general types of retiree plans: fee-for-service retiree plans; managed care retiree plans; and employer-sponsored Medicare Advantage plans.

Many people just go on Original or Traditional Medicare A, B, and D and add a Medigap policy or Medicare Supplement Insurance policies to cover some of the remaining health care costs for covered services and supplies, like copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles. Some retirees just get a Medicare Part C, which is the Medicare Advantage plans that are offered by Medicare-approved private companies that must follow rules set by Medicare.

If you have any questions about Medicare, please call Lynn Hixson, SHIP Counselor at the DeKalb County Council on Aging at 256-845-8590.

January in Mentone's history...

Compiled by Annette Stone

1986

A visitor with a familiar face walked into the Gourdie Shop. Singer and songwriter Willie Nelson stopped in and purchased three Gourdies, apparently for his children.

1988

This month of January went down as the coldest ever and the snowiest on record. 10" to 13" of snow fell on the mountain. Main roads as well as secondary ones were impassable for the longest time in 20 years.

2006

Oprah Winfrey came to Mentone to interview Chas, a local resident and musician for an upcoming TV special.

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Little River Arts Council

Clearing the Confusion by Rhea Pirch

The Little River Arts Council (formerly Mentone Area Arts Council) is entering its fourth year under their new name. Confusion seems to exist, however, about its mission, its role in the Mentone area, and its affiliation with the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center.

To clarify...

The Little River Arts Council is not a newly established arts council. The Mentone Area Arts Council didn't fold and/or become a part of the planned arts and cultural center. The Little River Arts Council continues every year to fulfill its original mission with the support of members, grants, donations, and the entire Mentone area community.

The Little River Arts Council was formed and established in 2006 as the Mentone Area Arts Council by a group of citizens who recognized a need to share the rich artistic and cultural resources of the Mentone area with the community. The original mission statement, "To enrich the quality of life for people in Mentone and neighbouring communities by raising funds for the arts; sponsoring events; providing educational opportunities; and strengthening cultural resources for the benefit of all businesses and citizens in the Mentone area" remains the same. The organization was best known and recognized by its acronym, MAAC.

In 2016, plans were begun to build a new arts and cultural center in Mentone, completely separate from the Mentone Area Arts Council. The organizers decided to name the new facility the "Mentone Arts and Cultural Center" and started using the acronym MACC.

The board of the Mentone Area Arts Council had a decision to make: to either keep its original name and continue to use the acronym MAAC, or change its name and hopefully avoid confusion with the newly planned facility, MACC. Although board members would have preferred to keep the original name and acronym, they chose and elected to change the name of the organization to the Little River Arts Council, to encompass a more wide-spread area of Lookout Mountain, and to distinguish itself from the newly formed MACC and other organizations in Mentone starting with 'M' (MERF, MAPA, and the former MBA.)



The Little River Arts Council is alive and well. In 2018, through support of memberships, donations, grants, and working with the Mentone community, the organization accomplished the following:

- Hosted a visit from the Alabama Shakespeare Festival troupe to Mentone to perform "Much Ado About Nothing" for the students at Moon Lake Elementary School.
- Held various art classes, with all proceeds and a donation from the arts council going to each artist.
- Members of the board and the community re-painted the map and sidewalk games on the driveway at Moon Lake School.
- Three board members attended the Creative Placemaking Summit in Chattanooga, to learn more about the Creative Placemaking concept and bring the ideas back to Mentone to implement.
- Hosted the 6th Annual Summer Music Series, offering a free concert for the community each month, from June to September. Along with the music, we set up "make art" tables for people of all ages to create and enjoy.
- Provided a donation for a local artist to paint the little library at Mentone's post office.
- Provided materials and promoted "A River Runs Through It", the community mosaic art project to be installed at DeSoto State Park in the spring.
- Held our 11th Annual Home Tour & Silent Auction Fundraiser.
- Hosted the 3rd Annual Creative Spirit Market at DeSoto State Park.
- Hosted, with the help of Moon Lake Baptist Church, the First Annual Dixie Mountaintop Market, donating the vendor fees, a total of \$340, to Moon Lake Elementary School.

We are pleased to announce that we recently received two grants for \$1000 each from the Alabama State Council of the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. These two grants will allow us to once again bring the Alabama Shakespeare Festival to Moon Lake Elementary School to perform "As You Like It" on January 9. The other grant will allow us to once again host our Summer Music Series, bringing more free music (and art) to the community from June to September.

Planning has started for our annual meeting, to be held on Saturday, February 23, from 5 to 7 p.m. at DeSoto State Park Lodge. We will introduce new members of the board, install new officers, accept new memberships and membership renewals, and give an update on anticipated programs for the new year. Details will follow in next month's *Groundhog* and via e-mail, Facebook and our website, littleriverartscouncil.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Rhea Pirch is the treasurer for the Little River Arts Council.



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Moon Lake Students Have a New Librarian by Kelly Leavitt

Moon Lake students are reaping the reward of one of Mentone's newest residents, Anne McLeod, who moved here last summer with her husband, Don Highfield, from Athens, GA. Although they came to Mentone to retire, Anne has recently accepted the position of Moon Lake School librarian and will be working with students in all the grades each Tuesday. This is a tremendous boon for the students, because they haven't had a trained librarian since the end of the 2017 school year.

Anne's career has been spent in the classroom and the library. She has taught English, language arts, reading, social studies, science, and gifted programs at the middle and high school levels, and was an adjunct professor in children's literature at the University of Georgia. She earned a master's degree in education, and then her Ph.D. in Language and Literacy Education. For 13 years, she was the school library media specialist at a Title I middle school in Athens. In 2010, she was recognized by the Georgia Department of Education for her school's "Exceptional Media Program."

Anne has written for publications and presented at national and international conferences, as well as regional, state and local panels and workshops. She was awarded the Red Clay Writing Project fellowship in 2004 and has served as a consultant to a variety of committees.

In January, Anne will be working with Moon Lake teachers as part of their professional development, with an emphasis on teaching poetry in the classroom. Principal Mary Lance identified a Title 1 grant which Anne used to buy dozens of new poetry books for the school's library. If your Moon Lake student begins to spontaneously use rhyming words, or to aesthetically ponder life's circumstances in flowery language, you can thank Anne for her evident influence.

As well as serving on the board of Moon Lake Community Library, a non-profit organization which guides the community side of the library, Anne has become a regular contributor to *The Groundhog*.

"It's been a joy to be able to work with the teachers and students here at Moon Lake. There are so many exciting things going on here, I'm grateful to have a chance to be a part of the school community," Anne said. She and Anna Mae Horn, longtime library volunteer and board member, have already begun working to make the school library more kid-friendly by rearranging the nonfiction shelves

and applying genre labels to fiction books.

"We plan to update the book collection over time and will be incorporating technology and media literacy into our classes with the students. Moon Lake has the resources in place to make it happen, and Ms. Lance is very supportive of the library program," Anne explained.

An online catalog of the library's book and movie collection is available at moonlakelibrary.org. The library is available to all the children in our area, not just Moon Lake students, during the community hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays (3-5 p.m.) and Saturdays (9 a.m.-1 p.m.).

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Mentone Arts & Cultural Center News

Making Strides for the Future by Randy Grider

As we start a brand-new year, it seems to be an appropriate time to reflect on the accomplishments and goals and we look forward to what 2019 holds.

First, a moment to clarify on a question I'm sometimes asked by locals. "What is the difference between the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center (MACC) and (fill in the blank: the Mentone Area Preservation Association, Little River Arts Council or Mentone Education Resources Foundation)?"

I always tell the asker the same thing: "All the others are wonderful organizations that support local artists, education and/or preservation of Mentone and its unique persona. In simplest terms, MACC is a venue and destination for all-things arts-related."

MACC was founded with a goal of creating a "home base" for any and all arts-related

organizations to utilize for their benefit while (a.) also providing additional regional exposure for local artists, (b.) bringing outside performance artists to the area for locals and tourists, and (c.) expanding arts education opportunities.

When completed, the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center will include an auditorium for performing arts, classrooms, a museum, culinary kitchen, an amphitheater and a sculpture garden.

To that end, we've made a lot of progress. MACC has:

- Raised in excess of \$350,000;
- Thanks to a generous donor, we secured 3.5 acres of land for our site;
- Constructed a state-approved entryway to the Center on Highway 117;
- Completed architectural/engineering bid packages for Phase I construction;
- Established a partnership with Northeast Alabama Community College;
- Implemented an artist-in-residence program to work with area school children. Nationally acclaimed actress Sandra Lafferty (*The Hunger Games*, *Walk the Line* and more than 65 other movie and television roles) has worked with the Fort Payne High School Drama Department and the DeKalb County Fine Arts Academy. We see great opportunities to expand her involvement with MACC;
- Received contributions or endorsements from many respected organizations, including the Alabama State Council on the Arts, Alabama Department of Tourism, Daniel Foundation of Alabama, Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama; Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association, DeKalb Tourism, DeKalb County Economic Development Authority, Poarch Band



Mentone Arts & Cultural Center
Phase 1 - 3-D Cutaway



Sequoyah—Clay Model

of Creek Indians, DeKalb County Community Development Commission and the Tillotson-Menlo Charitable Foundation.

Our focus in the next few months will be on fundraising to complete Phase 1 of construction as well as bronze casting of the Sequoyah sculpture created by Carl McCleskey and Betsy Scott.

We remind everyone that there are several naming opportunities for donors to make a donation "In Honor" or "In Memory" of a loved one or distinguished citizen. All donations are tax deductible.

I am always available to assist anyone with donations or answer questions related to the center. I wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Randy Grider is the executive director of the Mentone Arts & Cultural Center and can be reached by phone at 256-674-3366 or by email at mentoneartscenter@gmail.com.

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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.

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In Memoriam

Joseph Nelson Blalock, Sr. 1933–2018

Mr. Joseph Nelson Blalock Sr., 84, of Valley Head, passed away on November 15, 2018. He was born on November 23, 1933, to Frank and Lucille Keith Blalock. Mr. Blalock was a veteran of the United States Navy and worked as a painter. Survivors include his children, Joseph Nelson Blalock Jr., Rhonda Lynn Holaway, Shelley Danette Blalock, and Paul Carter Blalock; his grandchildren, Bradley, Amanda, Scott, Brittany, Alayna, Allie, Taylor, Meagan, Samantha, Breanna, Jordan, and Makenna; 16 great-grandchildren; brothers Dave Blalock (Yvonne), Hubert Blalock, and Bobby Blalock (Sandy); sisters Irene Willingham (Ralph), Hazel Hilliard, and Kathy Wheat (Ronald); and several nieces and nephews. Mr. Blalock was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Lucille Keith Blalock, and siblings, Katherine Blalock, Jean Blalock, Mary Sue Hale, and Willie Lee Blalock.

James O. Sharp 1927–2018

Mr. James O. Sharp, 91, of Valley Head, passed away on November 24, 2018. He was born on July 21, 1927 to John F. Sharp and Florida Rice Sharp. Mr. Sharp retired as a welder for Gulf State Steel and also served in the Air Force. His survivors include daughters Myra LaDayne Sharp and Anna Maria Sharp (Ronnie); son Kaleb Wade McKenzie (Kayla); 12 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and 17 great-great-grandchildren. Mr. Sharp was preceded in death by his wife, Louise Sharp, and sons, Tony Sharp and Roger D. Sharp.

Gerry Underwood Stephens 1925–2018



Mr. Gerry Underwood Stephens, 93, of Chattanooga and Mentone died on December 20 at his home in Riverview (Chattanooga). A third-generation Chattanooga, Gerry graduated from The McCallie School and Washington & Lee University prior to completing post-graduate studies at the Stonier School of Banking at Rutgers University. He was the embodiment of a Southern gentleman, devoted to duty and service to others. As a member of the Greatest Generation, he exemplified the McCallie motto of "Honor, Truth, Duty" as well as the Boy Scout Oath.

Gerry was born in 1925 to Chester Oliver and Martha Shorter Hamilton Stephens, who were first introduced at a dance at the old Mentone Springs Hotel. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lucie Estes Carter Stephens, children Lucie Holland (Steve) of Alexandria, VA;

Allison Stephens and Gerry U. Stephens, Jr. of Chattanooga; grandson Carter Hamilton Holland of Charleston, SC; and sister Mimi Lanier (Monro II). His brother C. O. Stephens, Jr. predeceased him. The source of Gerry's greatest happiness was his family and especially the times he spent with his extended relatives at the Stephens' rural mountain compound on the Little River in Mentone, Alabama, and at The Cloister, Sea Island, Georgia.

Gerry served in all five European Campaigns during World War II, including the Allied Landing at Normandy and Battle of the Bulge, as battalion munitions sergeant and during the Korean War as Finance Corps officer in the Office of the Comptroller Third Army Headquarters. He returned as a WWII veteran to his hometown to engage in a 33-year-long career in banking at American National Bank (SunTrust Bank). He was a member of First Presbyterian Church since 1933, where he was youth Sunday School teacher, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, Chairman of the Board of Deacons and Ruling Elder, and he served as 1991 King of the Chattanooga Cotton Ball. Gerry was laid to rest in a private family ceremony in Chattanooga.

I Spoke to the Boss

by Doug Kiker

Daddy killed a big rattlesnake,
it was in the middle of June.
He hung it upside down hoping the
dry spell to break,
But, the buzzards got it before the magic
had a chance to take.
The corn and peas were dying,
And without rain, the 'taters wouldn't make.
It wasn't just a hobby crop, our livelihood
was at stake.
Not just us, farms all around were
just parched, dry ground.
There wasn't a decent garden or field to be found.
Seemed that all hope was lost.
Disaster was there, heavy would be the cost.
Then, one day my old black friend said,
"This shorely ain't the end.
I've done spoke to th' Boss,
He let me know, rain a-plenty would come
in a few days."
And, you know—he was right.
The wind and rain came in all sorts of ways.
Daddy replanted the crops,
The new seeds seemed to hop.
Even the coming cold weather was stopped,
At least until we had gathered that second crop.
Which goes to show you, there is a power
Over wind and crops and rain showers.

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SPRIT OF MENTONE IS CALLING:

Past & Present by L. C. Moon

As we enter a new year, I am reflecting on the quality of life Mentone and Lookout Mountain have gifted me and others over the past two decades. The spirit of the mountain nourishes people with connections to themselves, others, and the nature that surrounds us. The depth of these connections has been quite unique to what I have witnessed anywhere else.

My dad planted a seed 21 years ago and said, "If you love nature and beauty, you should go to Mentone." I had my sights set on moving to the mountains of North Carolina or toward family in Weston, West Virginia. However, "fate" had a different plan.

My husband (at the time) and I serendipitously ended up in Fort Payne one day and stopped in Southern Properties to pick up a real estate book and ask if Mentone was nearby. We were assured by the receptionist it was not far.

As we started up the incline of the mountain on Highway 117, I looked to my left to see the beautifully constructed historic rock wall. That was the first moment I felt a deep connection, like a "déjà vu".

As soon as we entered the town, I felt a warmth inside with the view of historic Mentone Springs Hotel to the left, the Mentone Inn to the right, and the Log Cabin Village just ahead.

We took a left at the caution light to park at the Log Cabin Village and hear what Lookout Mountain Preferred Realty had to tell us about this quaint historic town.

Realtor Angela Wood told us a little bit about the history of Mentone. I was completely intrigued about the healing springs, the square dances that used to take place above the Hitching Post, as well as the legacy of the Log Cabin Village and how her father, Jack Jones, relocated the restored cabins to create the village. She also informed us about Cloudmont Ski Resort, also as a result of her father's vision.

I couldn't imagine how this quaint gem of a town had been hidden from my radar after living in Alabama most of my life. This was the first I had ever heard of a ski resort in Alabama.

That same day, Angela took us to see Little River. That was when my instincts were confirmed that the mountain was calling me. I had found my mountain home, complete with wild blueberries, rich history, and a clean river.

Mentone was the perfect place for me to learn

about wildcrafting and foraging edible and medicinal plants. Two weeks later, on July 6, 1998, thanks to Angela, Jack, and Olive Jones, I bought my first place on the mountain, where I lived without power and running water for three years.

During this time, I opened my first shop and met many of the lifelong Mentonians who used things like yellow root, sassafras, wild cherry and rabbit tobacco just as commonly as taking an aspirin.

It was like a dream come true to meet folks like Willy B. Langston, Pal Powell, Charlie Bane, and many others who experientially lived what I had read about primitive living in the Foxfire books. They were all so willing to share their wisdom once they found out we were planning to live primitive and hand build our cabin out of trees harvested from our home site. Especially since it was on their old stomping and hunting grounds.

I was blessed on one of my first days in Mentone to meet Marilyn Henderson. She made soaps and sold dried herbs and her mom, Granny, made panties. We had shops next door to one another in the Log Cabin Village. My shop was Mountain Memories and Marilyn and her mom's shop was called Granny's Panties.

Granny made a novelty pair of HUGE panties that hung from the rafters of the shop's front porch. They were big enough for a giant. Granny, as you can imagine, was a comical soul, though Lord help you if you got her feathers ruffled. Marilyn was a jolly soul, willing to share her love of medicinal plants and nature's treasures with the world. She was the first to show me yellow root and encourage me to write about native plants for *The Groundhog* back in 1998.

Marsha Hair, also Jack Jones' daughter, ran the country store next to Granny's Panties. Wanda ran Bud's place next to Marsha (Bud passed away before I could meet him). Next to Bud's Place was the Log Cabin Deli.

At the far end of the Log Cabin Village was Metals and Petals, which was a classic artistic Mentone store. They made yard art and decorative home pieces out of recycled tools like shovels, rakes, nuts, bolts, steel pipes, etc. and turned them into birds, flowers, and other whimsical creatures and features.

Beside Metals and Petals was Charlie's Clockshop. Charlie had all manner of clocks, including cuckoo clocks. He also did clock repair, which I always felt added to the charm of a small historic town.

Across the way from Log Cabin Village was Crows Nest Antiques, where you would find Bernice Crow manning the storefront in a chair on the porch of the Hitching Post.

Phil and Kathy Faircloth had a beautiful furniture shop in between the Gourdie shop and Crows Nest Antiques. The Faircloth family worked together to make handcrafted furniture. For extra money, I used to thin the forest and harvest small hickories for them.

(continued on page 19)



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The Joy of It All by Paula Easter

Most people around the Mentone area, and of course Summerville, Georgia, too (where I was born and raised), know that I can and love to be a “BIG” kid at heart. I love it when my Moon Lake Elementary students come running up to me to share another one of their new jokes, when they include me in the game of four square they are playing, when they share something “really neat” that they did over the weekend, and, well...just the joy that there are so many wonderful things that they like to share with me, their teacher!

On Friday, December 14, you might say that the shoe was on the other foot, as I had the privilege of taking my Moon Lake students in kindergarten through third grade on an incredible adventure. That morning,



Kenya & Maggie Heinrich

the students boarded the bus and headed to Summerville to travel on the Tennessee Valley Railroad’s “Summerville Santa Train.” The Moon Lake “train riders” departed from the historic Summerville Depot and traveled to Trion, Georgia, to Santa’s most southern workshop to see if they could find Santa and talk him into boarding the train with them. Lucky for everyone on the train, Santa was found at his workshop and he boarded the train and visited with each student on the way back to the depot in

Summerville. I was once again a lucky girl, as the “BIG” kid got to be Santa’s helper elf on the train (including the pointy, jingly shoes). After Santa’s visit with each student, they received a bell and were reminded that “as long as you believe in Santa your bell will ring.”

Before the Moon Lake students boarded the train, they had the opportunity to see the historic 100-year-old Summerville Depot decorated like a winter wonderland. I loved being there when the little ones first arrived, and seeing and hearing their first reactions...“WOW”...

“It looks like Elsa’s castle in Frozen”...“Those people look real”... “It’s magical,” and on and on. So, yes, it was a wonderful experience and I really can’t describe the joy I had being the “BIG” elf kid with my Moon Lake students on this wonderful field trip.

I would like to thank the Mentone Educational Resources Foundation, which, with a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, provided this field trip for my Moon Lake students. A joyous time was had by everyone. Now, on to more adventures in 2019! Happy New Year, Mentone!



The Grinch gets a hug from Santa.



Jasmine Stanley



Grayson Phillips and Ms. Paula

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Third Annual Women’s March to be held January 19 in Mentone

The third annual “Women’s March” will take place in Mentone on Saturday, January 19. The theme of this year’s national March is “Women’s Wave”, and the theme of the Mentone March is “Allies Supporting Allies.” The public is invited to gather at 10 a.m. at the pavilion behind the Mentone Inn for introductions, speeches, and a Power Point presentation. After the speeches, participants will march, chant, and sing on the sidewalks of Mentone and then enjoy lunch together in the Wildflower Café’s heated outdoor tent. If you are planning on attending and/or joining us for lunch, email Savannah Lenz, the organizer of this event, at savannahlenz1234@gmail.com. If you would like to make a five-minute speech, email Savannah and she will let you know the guidelines for speeches. If you want to volunteer to help with the event, a Volunteer Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 12, at 1 p.m. at the Mentone Market.

Ring in the New Year with Faye Henry & Gongs

On January 1 at 3:30 p.m., the 13th Annual “Ringing in of the New Year!” with gongs by Faye Henry will take place at St. Joseph’s on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church, 21145 Scenic Highway, Mentone. Bring blankets or yoga mats and a pillow so you can lie down and totally relax. And a blanket to cover with so you stay toasty warm! You may lie on the floor or on the benches. Expect to relax, rejuvenate and enjoy.

There is no entry fee and all are invited. Please bring a donation of canned food to donate to St. Joseph’s Food Bank as a way of thanking them for extending the use of their church for the event. If you have any questions you can contact Chuck at cloudland@mindspring.com or Faye at Faye@tsvibrations.com. For more information on Faye and her gongs visit tsvibrations.com.

Search (continued from page 1)

which had been searched earlier in the evening, and spent time walking in the night towards Valley Head, where he attends school. During the night, school officials had gone to the school to turn on lights and open doors, in case he arrived there. Fellow students spent time during the night monitoring social media for any clues.

The temperature in Mentone dropped to 19 degrees that night. The search teams were cold, in spite of their layers of clothing and gear. Some of them had arrived on the scene so quickly, they weren't dressed warmly enough to be exposed to the cold all night long. And yet they remained on the scene. All of them were dedicated to doing what they're trained to do—be of help. As the night wore on, their emotional dismay began to take its toll.

By 5 a.m., Chief Joseph Lee of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District called everyone back to the command center so they could get warm, nourish themselves, and reevaluate their tactics. With daylight, the drone team from DeSoto Rescue Squad planned to be ready to fly. Thankfully, they didn't have to.

On December 17, about a dozen of the rescuers

convened at the Mentone fire station for a roundtable discussion. They took the opportunity to review the event, and to use their collective experience to be even better prepared should a similar situation ever again arise.

Chief Lee invited me to attend the meeting, during which several things were immediately evident. These men have huge hearts. They were willing to risk their lives to search for a missing child; walking onto people's properties in the dark of night can be an easy way to get oneself shot. They endured a difficult night, both physically and emotionally. They were dedicated to reviewing the events and discussing what-ifs, to see if there was anything they could have done better. In the end, most of them voiced that, while they didn't find the boy, they felt they had done everything they could have, to the best of their ability.

These volunteers are men who live among us, with families who support their devotion to be of help to those in need. It's up to all of us to support them in whatever way we can. They make a difference.

The fire squad and rescue squad have identified certain equipment that will make search and rescue jobs easier and more effective. DeSoto Rescue Squad is raising funds to purchase rechargeable handheld flashlights, as well as a \$2,800 thermal imaging drone. Had that drone been already available, it would have been deployed during the initial hours of the search, rather than having to wait for daylight. The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District is raising funds to buy more thermal imagers to have on scene during night searches. They cost approximately \$800 each.

Winter Recipes

Now THAT's Chili!

submitted by Annette Stone

1 lb. ground beef
1 clove garlic
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 medium green pepper
4 tablespoons chili powder
1 tablespoon cider vinegar
1 teaspoon cumin
1/4 teaspoon allspice
1/4 teaspoon coriander
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2-cup water
1 cup crushed tomatoes
1 cup diced tomatoes
1 16 oz.-can red kidney beans with water
Cayenne pepper and Tabasco to taste

Cook beef, garlic, onion and green pepper in heavy skillet over medium-high heat. Stir frequently to break up meat. Cook until onion is soft, and meat has browned. Drain. Add remaining ingredients. Bring to boil. Cover and reduce heat. Simmer at least 1 hour. Serve with cheese, corn chips and sour cream.



Corn Chowder

submitted by Kelly Leavitt

6 cups water
6 potatoes, peeled and cubed
1 onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves
1 celery stalk, cut in 3" sections
2 vegetable bouillon cubes
1/8 teaspoon sage
1/2 teaspoon thyme, oregano, salt
3-4 cups corn
1 tablespoon butter
1/4 cup green peppers
1/4 cup scallions
1/4 cup heavy cream
1 tablespoon fresh dill

Boil water, add potatoes, onion, garlic, celery. Return to boil, add seasonings and bouillon. Cover, simmer 15–20 minutes. Cool slightly. Remove 2 cups of potatoes, set aside. Blend chowder in increments in blender or food processor. Reheat over low heat. Add corn and reserved potatoes. Simmer and stir for 5 minutes. Melt butter in sauté pan, add green pepper and scallions. Sauté 3 minutes. Add to chowder. Add cream and dill.

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This Old House: MERF Community House

My boards may be a little creaky and my paint a little flaky but I am full of life. I continue to open my doors to the young and the wise so my walls are full of joy, laughter and learning.



Lexi Flannigan, Stormy Prestwood and Grayson Phillips

December delights abounded for MERF in the last month of 2018!

- Fabulous and fun senior lunch Christmas Party with a visit from Santa and entertainment by Moon Lake Elementary School 5th and 6th graders.

- Ms. Paula and teachers creating a fun and festive Christmas program of singing and performing by the Moon Lake students.

- MERF selling handmade Christmas cards created by the students and "Leave Me in Mentone" items at Little River Arts Council's first Dixie Mountaintop Market and the Community Library open house.

- A memorable Tennessee Valley Railroad train ride for the K-3rd graders on the Polar Express that included Santa, the Grinch, caroling, pics galore and cookie creations.

Congratulations to the MERF Sue McLaurin Henry Memorial scholarship recipients. The scholarship committee awarded Breanna Blalock (Southern Wesleyan University), Devin Leps (University of North Alabama), Brooke Moore (University of North Alabama), Brianna Powell (Northeast Community College), and August Shanklin (Jacksonville State University) with a check to help offset school expenses for the spring semester. MERF looks forward to seeing these future college graduates making a difference in our community. Unless specified for other means, memorial checks sent to MERF are deposited in the scholarship fund.

MERF is so grateful to be able to provide wonderful experiences such as the scholarships, field trips, tutoring and senior lunches. Thank you to all who helped with time and with donations to enrich the learning and living in our community last year. MERF could not do what it does without each of you! Here's to a fabulous New Year!



Moon Lake Elementary School 5th and 6th graders entertained the senior lunch bunch crew with great Christmas songs followed by an appearance from Santa.



MERF Elves...L to R, bottom row: DeeDee Dunkerley, Charlene Bence, Santa, Sarah Wilcox; back row: Paula Easter, Hazel Bickerstaff, Carolyn Nail, Vicky Patrick, Paula Tally



Peggy & Walt Pullen

Executive Director Sarah Wilcox is the "voice" of the Mentone Community House. MERF: Mentone Educational Resources Foundation is a local non-profit with the mission "to enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support our programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to P.O. Box 107, Mentone, AL 35984, or you can contribute online at merfhouse.org. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-635-8193.



Moon Lake 1st graders at the Summerville train depot



K-3rd graders in the Summerville Train depot eating lunch before boarding the TVA train headed to Santa's southernmost workshop.



Kay Kiker



Rev. Bill Winter



Glenda Ingram



Daylene Jones



Mattie Lee Golden



Ray and Janet Cardwell



Doug Kiker



Pam Hudson

Mentone's
Seniors Visit
with Santa



Markettia Crane



Nelson Stallings



John Smith



Kathy Blalock and Jean Jennings



Walt Pullen with his sisters
Ann Bonner and Kay Wagner



Barry Sadowski



Dee Bell



Sandy Tate



Charles Hammonds

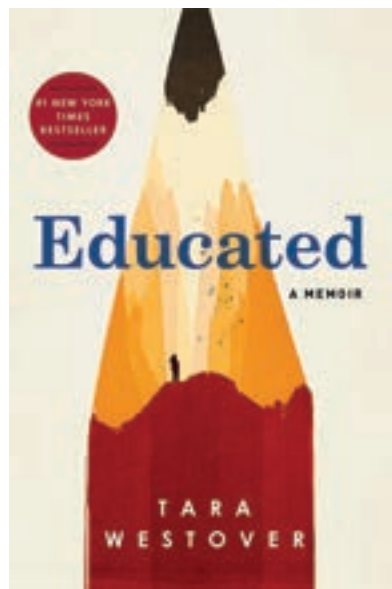


Brynda Hopper, Sible Hopper and Becky Langston

Educated—A Memoir

by Tara Westover (Random House, 2018)

Book Review by Anne McLeod



Author Tara Westover's early years were spent in rural Idaho, where she grew up in a home at the foot of a mountain. Life for Tara and her six siblings was far from idyllic though, as their father Gene (a pseudonym) was certain that end times were upon them and insisted that the family prepare for an apocalyptic world in which they alone among their neighbors would have food, gasoline, and other necessities. Their fellow Mormons listen politely to Gene's rants before gently changing the subject.

Westover's memoir can be painful to read, as her childhood included a series of car wrecks and accidents in the family's junkyard, where she and the other children were put to work. (Only the older children ever attended school or even received the most minimal

homeschooling.) Although he had always been an iconoclast, over time Gene's personality changed, making him susceptible to severe mood swings and erratic behavior that repeatedly put the family at risk.

Gene's failure to consider the most basic rules of personal safety results in serious injuries for most of the family over the years. His wife, whom Westover calls Faye in the book, is a midwife and herbalist and is often responsible for treating the family's awful wounds, as they rarely seek medical care.

Westover also details the physical and psychological abuse she experienced from her brother Shawn, who terrorized her throughout her teens. To escape her brother and the hazards of working in the junkyard, Tara decides to follow her older brother Tyler's path and go to college at the age of sixteen, despite her lack of a high school diploma. Her strong reading skills and sheer determination enable her

to master just enough math to pass the ACT, thanks to some tutoring by Tyler and even a little grudging assistance with trigonometry from her father.

This second part of the book describes Westover's struggles to find her footing academically and socially at Brigham Young University. Despite knowing nothing of history (the Holocaust and the Civil Rights movement were both new to her), she is drawn to the study of world affairs, something that her upbringing would condemn as "unwomanly." Her world expands further when a sympathetic professor encouraged her to apply for his study abroad program at Cambridge University.

There she came to recognize the value of her own perspectives, a radical departure from years spent under her father's thumb. When her professor quotes a colleague who has described Westover as "pure gold," she demurs. "This is a magical place ... Everything shines here."

"You must stop thinking like that," Dr. Kerry said, his voice raised. "You are not fool's gold, shining only under a particular light. Whomever you become, whatever you make yourself into, that is always who you were. It was always in you. Not in Cambridge. In you."

When Westover grapples in the final part of the book with reconciling her past and present, her family's world and her much wider world, she navigates a painful journey home, unsure what reconciliation might ultimately mean.

Educated is one of the most riveting books I read in 2018. Similar to Jeannette Walls's *The Glass Castle: A Memoir*, with its harrowing descriptions of the effects of untreated mental illness on family dynamics, it also has echoes of Janisse Ray's *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* in its evocative description of natural beauty juxtaposed alongside a junkyard.

Educated is available for check out at the Moon Lake Community Library.

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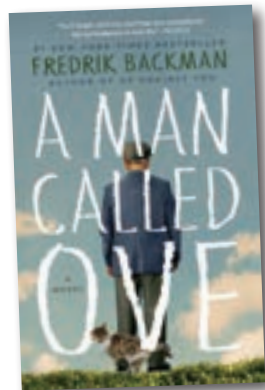
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food

Moon Lake Community Library News



DATE CHANGE!

Moon Lake Book Club

Discussion Group

A Man Called Ove

by Fredrick Backman

Saturday, January 12 at 10:30 a.m.



Come by the library at 10 on Saturday morning, January 6, when Sharon Habin will teach how to play Mexican Train Dominoes, a fun strategic game.

Community Seed Swap

National Seed Swap Day

Saturday, January 26 at 10 a.m.

Plans are still unfolding, so keep an eye on our website at moonlakelibrary.org or the the library's Facebook page to learn more about this exciting program.

New Books on the Library's Shelves...

The War of Art : break through the blocks and win your inner creative battles by Steven Pressfield

Quiet : the power of introverts in a world that can't stop talking by Susan Cain

Educated : a memoir by Tara Westover

Long Road to Mercy by David Baldacci

Any Human Heart by William Boyd

The Reckoning by John Grisham

Unsheltered : a novel by Barbara Kingsolver

Dumplin' by Julie Murphy

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

Beneath a Scarlet Sky : a novel by Mark T. Sullivan

The hate u give by Angie Thomas

Let the Games Begin!

Community Game Night

Friday, January 25 at 6 p.m.

A dark and wintry night will become warm, cozy, and fun when Moon Lake Library hosts a Community Game Night (for all ages!) on Friday, January 25, at 6 p.m. What's your game of choice? Bring it with you and find someone to play along. We'll have various board games available, including chess, backgammon, cribbage, Rumikub, checkers, dominoes, Chinese checkers, Scrabble, and more, as well as playing cards.

This is a great way to make new friends, spend time with old friends, and exercise your brain, while having lots of fun. Bring a finger-food poltuck item to share, if you can. We'll provide complimentary coffee.



Ask about our 10-Day Health Challenge

to control or reverse diabetes, high blood pressure & high cholesterol, and aid in weight loss

M-W-F 7:30am-3pm EASTERN

Tu-Th 7:30am-7pm EASTERN

9848 Rome Blvd., Summerville, GA

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Author Talk: deJoly LaBrier

Monday, January 14 at 6:30 p.m.

deJoly LaBrier will speak at Moon Lake Community Library on Monday, January 14, about her new book, *What Happened to You? A Guide to People Seeking Hope, Healing and Lasting Transformation* (2018). deJoly has lived in the Mentone area for the past 20 years and has been a national speaker at conferences and in university classrooms for over 25 years. As an integration life coach, deJoly facilitates workshops on her specialties of Forgiveness and Trauma Recovery. She was a speaker at the American Mental Wellness Association's national conference in November, 2018.

deJoly will share some of her personal childhood story of mental, physical, ritual, and sexual abuse, as well as her journey into wholeness and peace. "Adversity and trauma change the brain," says deJoly, "and those changes inform our mental wellness and resilience. The brain is so resilient and can regenerate a new healthy brain if given time and attention."

deJoly LaBrier is also the author of *Diary of a Survivor in Art and Poetry* (1997) and *All Together Now: A Multiple's Story of Hope and Healing* (2009). Her books will be available for purchase and for signing. For more information about deJoly and her work, visit her website at dejoly.com.

The program will begin at 6:30 and is free of charge. Moon Lake Library is located at 4607 Alabama Highway 117 in Mentone (moonlakelibrary.org).



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May the New Year bring you love,
joy, health, peace and prosperity!

January 2019 Community Calendar

Calendar entries are subject to change.

January 1 & 24—Cold Weather Survival Class. Learn tips to prevent hypothermia and death. This class covers the basics for emergency cold weather conditions and also covers a few tips on how to stay warm and comfortable for everyday cold conditions. True Adventure Sports. 9am–12pm. 256-997-9577.

January 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, 23 & 25—Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. True Adventure Sports. 10am–2pm. 256-997-9577.

January 1—First Day Hike. Start the New Year with a first day hike in DeSoto State Park! Hike along the DeSoto Scout Trail on New Year's Day 2019. Join DeSoto State Park, Little River Canyon Preserve (National Park Service), and JSU Field Schools staff members on a beautiful outdoor adventure/hike along the West Fork of Little River on the rugged DeSoto Scout Trail. See historic Civilian Conservation Corps-built structures, waterfalls, and wonderful views of Little River. This hike will be roughly 2 miles total (moderately strenuous terrain). Meet at the DeSoto State Park Country Store for pre-hike orientation at 1pm. Free and open to everyone. Things to bring: plenty of water and/or sports drink, snacks/lunch, hiking poles/staff (optional), sturdy shoes (open toe shoes are not recommended). Please be sure to dress appropriately according to seasonal temperatures/weather. For details, contact Brittney Hughes at 256-997-5025.

January 2, 12—The Winter Excursion. The Winter Excursion is a mystery trip that includes hiking, bouldering, sightseeing, navigation, survival, teambuilding, waterfalls, and just plain fun. You will need to bring a small backpack, compass, flashlight, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket and emergency poncho. True Adventure Sports. 10am–1pm. 256-997-9577.

January 3—Bouldering Adventure atop Lookout Mountain. Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. No prior climbing or bouldering experience is needed. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 12–4pm. 256-997-9577.

January 4, 14 & 25—Extreme Night Hike. This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it's dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, and a whole lot of required working together. True Adventure Sports. 6–8:30pm. 256-997-9577.

January 5—Mexican Train Dominoes. Learn how to play this fun and strategic game at Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. 10:30am. Free.

January 5, 10, 21, 26—Rock Climbing Adventure. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. True Adventure Sports. 2–6pm. 256-997-9577.

January 5, 12, 18—Tumbler Glassblowing Class. This introductory glassblowing class at Orbix Hot Glass teaches many fundamentals through the process of making a small tumbler (cup). Plenty of hands-on experience from choosing colors, gathering, paddling, blowing and shaping is gained in this four-hour experience. Class size is maximum of four students, so everyone has adequate time at the bench working. Some safety material is provided before the class for your review. Call 256-523-3188 or email info@

orbixhotglass.com for more information or to make a reservation. Reservations and full payment are required. Cost is \$145. Class size 2–4 students. Minimum age 13 with parent.

January 6—Sacred Harp “Singing School”. All are welcome and loaner books will be available. 2pm. At 5:30, there will be an actual singing. Liberty Baptist Church, 1500 Liberty Road, Henagar.

January 8—Rappelling Certification Class. This class covers rappelling basics indoor and basics outdoor. The basics indoor class teaches you about rappelling safety/rappelling gear and its application, rappelling knots and application, and rigging points needed for rappelling. The basics outdoor class reviews safety procedures, knots, gear, and rigging points; then you learn how to safely rappel and do several rappels before returning to the office for the rappelling test and knot exam. Meet at True Adventure Sports Training Center \$165/person. 10am–6pm. 256-997-9577.

January 8—Celestial Navigation. This 2-hour class is a basic introduction to navigation by the stars. Learn how to navigate without the use of a compass or GPS with the same rules used for almost six thousand years. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 6:30–8:30pm. 256-997-9577.

January 9, 18, 22, 29—Rock Climbing / Rappelling Adventure Combo. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. True Adventure Sports. 10am–2pm. 256-997-9577.

January 9, 28—Hypothermia Class. This 3-hour class teaches the extreme dangers and how to treat hypothermia. Learn how quick hypothermia can set in and the signs indicating it is setting in. True Adventure Sports 1–4pm. 256-997-9577.

January 11, 19—Sculpt Your Own Flower. Have you ever wanted to actually sit at the gaffer bench and feel what it is like to shape hot glass? It's all about hands-on experience in a safe and fun atmosphere with a final product we know you will love. There is a minimum of 3 people and a maximum of 5 in each class. 1pm. Reservations are required. 256-523-3188.

January 11–12—PBR Bull Bash. Come and enjoy the excitement of cowboys, horses and bulls! Northeast Alabama Agri Business Center. Tickets can be purchased from The Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center, DeKalb Farmers Co-op, and Cavendars Western Store. 256-638-1650.

January 14—Author Talk: deJoly LaBrier. Moon Lake Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. 6:30pm. Free.

January 15—Mountaineering Adventure. This 4–6 hour-adventure starts with a rappel into a low light maze where we will stop and anchor part of the way down the rock wall and travel on the rock face mountaineering style to get to our main destination. True Adventure Sports 10am–1pm. 256-997-9577.

January 16—GPS Basics Training and Navigation Class Part 2. Learn to find a beacon placed in the woods as a SAR attempt while knowing your position, and the position of your teammates. True Adventure Sports. 5–9pm. 256-997-9577.

January 17—Orienteering Class. Basic yet essential skills for survival navigation are brought to you in map reading, compass reading, and topography. True Adventure Sports. 10am–1pm. 256-997-9577.

January 19—Moon Lake Library Book Club. Discussion of the book, “A Man Called Ove” by Fredrick Backman. Please read the book in advance and come join in the discussion. Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. 10:30am. Free.

January 19—Night Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before the adventure. True Adventure Sports. 6:30–8:30pm. 256-997-9577.

January 24—QPR Community Training. Increase your awareness of the warning signs, clues and suicidal communications of people who may be considering suicide and learn how to intervene with at risk individuals. Presented by the SAM Foundation. 5:30–7:30pm. Fort Payne City Auditorium, 100 Alabama Ave N. Fort Payne

January 25—Community Game Night. Come play all kinds of board (and other) games at Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. “Finger food” pot luck. 6pm. Free.

January 26—Community Seed Swap. Bring your seeds to swap with others. If you don't have any, you may offer a small fee for others' seeds. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your questions and provide guidance. Moon Lake Community Library, 4607 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone. 10am–1pm.

January 26—Paperweight Class. This class is designed for those who really just want to see what molten glass is all about. Feel the heat, gather from the furnace, sculpt the glass into you own design. Please join us for some in-depth discovery at Orbix Hot Glass. Reservations required. \$145 per person. 9am–1pm. 256-523-3188.

January 28—Wild Cave Tour. This 2.5-hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud and through tight tunnels. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. True Adventure Sports. 5–7:30pm. 256-997-9577.

January 29–31—High Adventure Trip. This is a 3-day adventure including a Wild Cave Tour, Rock Climbing, An Extreme Night Hike and end with a relaxing canoe trip. Price includes all activities, attractions, permits, fees, gear, and guides. True Adventure Sports. 10am. 256-997-9577.

“Of Influence: Portraits of Cherokee People”

Beginning January 16, Chieftains Museum in Rome, GA, will present “Of Influence: Portraits of Cherokee People,” a traveling exhibition on loan from the Oklahoma History Center and funded by a grant from the Rome Area Council for the Arts.

Ranging from 1845 to the 1960s, this portrait collection presents people of influence in the Cherokee tribe. The photographs illuminate Cherokee individuals and their roles within their tribe and communities. Open to the public and available with the purchase of regular admission from January 16 through February 28 during museum operating hours, Wednesday-Saturday from 10am –5pm. 501 Riverside Parkway in Rome, Georgia. Call 706-291-9494 or visit chieftainmuseum.org for details.

Birthdays

1

William Blackburn
Alexis Reed
Brittany Harrison
Harold Carden
Jim Byrum
Kathy Carson
April Hurst
David Tucker
Andrew Campbell
Abby Mitchell

2

Donnie Bell
Kristen Ann Nelson
Amber Stokes
Rickey Williams
Gideon Grisham

3

Stacy Howard
Aiden Logan
Owen Izell
Lance Elkins
Cameron Hunt
Tressie Thomas

4

Ed Ringer

5

Aidan Dupree
Angela Chambers
Tiffany Wallace
Gage Gelfenstein
Steve Sharp

6

Austin Potts
Judy Johnson
Tonja Bell
Sharon Crouch
Mia Sweeney
Chuck Williams

7

Kristen Emory
Madisen Smith
Jace Carden
Hoyt Ashley
Ronnie Hulgan

8

Tyler Carden
Garnett Smith
Zachary Wallace
Emily Stallings
Jerry Boatwright
Ryker Abernathy
Jessica Chester

9

Dallas Lee
Ellie Shugart
Kristy Sweatman
Ashley Jones

10

Neal Whitt
Stacey Worthey
Nancy Frost
Heath Miller
Eli Durham

11

Josh Shoults
Robert Green
Kandis Lawton
Preston Owen
Allen Powell
Freda Pike
Ryan Wooten
Avah Poe
Annabelle Ferguson

12

Beverly Henry
Aaron McKenzie
Bud Atkins
Thad Heinrich
Christina Wise
Chris Collins

13

Paulette Manning
Anita Johnson
Erin Dean

14

Eric Kirby
Isabella Chaney
Larry Johnson
Emily Wheat

15

Joe "Dude" Brown
Anna Easler Bailey
Alice Shanklin
Mickey Luck

16

Wynston Keith
Trent Smith

17

Olivia Bowman
Jim Poe
Joseph Brown
Michael Owen
Caiden West
Naomi Chandler
Shaun Wheat
Margie Collins

18

Nicole Goldsmith
Bobby Blalock

19

Candace Perkins
Jacie O'Tinger
Judy McMahan
Olivia Elkins

21

Ryley Smith
Tiffany Gatlin

22

Kyle Carden
Anna Garrett
Rosetta McGee
Alvin Durham
Flor Chasity Battles

23

Jaden Turner
Scott Gifford
Melissa Couch
Dowe Forman

24

Sandy Sharp
Marysa Wigley
Darrin Smith
Tommy Harrison
Lucas Elkins
Grayson Booker
Zakk Johnson
Grayson Stinson

25

Shannon Tolbert
Sarah Wilcox
Larry Sonsil
Hudson Grider
Dennis Lewis

26

Shirley Burton
Seth Norman
Shane Grider

27

Kaie Facticeau
Jessica Heinrich

28

Ruth Battles

29

Allie Baker

30

Stephanie Roberts
Donna Hairel

31

Tyler Cooper
Bill Battles
Ashton Carpenter
Nate Bain

Anniversaries

2

Jim & Cynthia Connor

4

Raymond & Heather Evans

10

Tony & Cindy Tipton

12

Darius & Hope Turner

9

Jake & Melinda Easler

12

Walter & Christine Brooks

13

Kenny & Doris Chamlee

19

Bill & Donna Carman

23

Kevin & Ashley Gifford

24

Taylor & Nancy Brown

25

Greg & Nikki Wheat

28

Robert & Annette Johnson

29

Bubba & Martha Browder

Happy Day!

Ongoing Calendar

Mentone Town Council meets the 2nd Tuesday every month at 6pm at Mentone Town Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Valley Head Town Council meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 6pm.

Mentone Farmers Market is open year-round on Saturdays from 10am-1pm in the Town Square.

FREE FOOD for eligible persons and families. Wednesdays, 9-11am. New applicants are welcome during these hours. Joint effort between St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church (Community Outreach Ministry) and the Food Bank of North Alabama.

DeSoto Rescue Squad meets the 1st Saturday of the month at 9am at the MERF house in Mentone.

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District Board meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm.

Moon Lake Community Library is open on Saturdays from 9am-1pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-5pm. Enjoy complimentary coffee, wi-fi, and use of 2 computers. Visit moonlakelibrary.org. for an online catalog.

Ryleigh's Closet is a clothing closet that provides men's, women's, and children's clothing to those in need on 2nd and 4th

Mondays of each month from 4-8pm. Mentone Community Church. , 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

The Rhododendron Garden Club meets each month on the 2nd Tuesday at 10am. 'Green thumbs' and 'brown thumbs' welcome! 256-634-4403.

The Lookout Mountain Knitters meet each Tuesday at 3pm at Moon Lake Community Library. All are welcome.

Writing anyone? Point of the Pen is a small, supportive writing group that welcomes anyone to join us for a casual sharing time with other writers interested in life stories, poetry, and fiction. Come to Moon Lake Community Library on the 1st Thursday of each month at 3:15pm. Call 256-635-8775 for details.

Lookout Mountain Strummers mountain dulcimer group meets on alternate Thursdays at 1pm at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church. For a schedule and directions, send an email to normbaker194@gmail.com. Beginners are welcome.

Beginning yoga classes are taught by certified teacher Jamie Baugh on Wednesdays at 1pm. \$5. St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Mentone. 256-634-4476.

DeKalb Quilters meet every 4th Tuesday at 9:30am. Second Baptist Church in Fort Payne.

The DeKalb County Genealogical Society meets the 2nd Saturday of every month in the DeKalb County Public Library, 10am.

The Little River group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Saturday & every Tuesday night at 6pm at St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in Mentone. Both meetings are Open AA Discussion Meetings. Anyone who thinks they might have a problem with alcohol is welcome. Questions? Call 256-634-3060.

AL-ANON family and friends support group meets every Tuesday at 6pm at St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Church in Mentone. Same time and location as the AA Meeting.

Hope AA/NA, a Christian-based support group, meets each Friday at 6pm at Church of God of Prophecy on Hwy. 117 in Mentone.

Exercise Room is open at the Fort Payne Senior Center each week, Monday through Friday (except for certain holidays), from 8am to noon. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. 256-845-8590.

Free Low Impact Fitness Class is held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30-10am at the Fort Payne Senior Center. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. 256-845-8590.

Ballroom dancing lessons are offered at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Mondays from 6-8pm. Call 662-213-2401 to register..

Line dancing lessons are offered at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30pm (beginners) and 2:30-3:30pm (experienced). 256-845-8590.

Bowling League for Seniors at Mountain Lanes in Rainsville. Wednesdays at 1pm. 256-638-1710.

Ceramics/Pottery Club meets at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Tuesday and Friday 9am-12pm. New students meet Monday & Wednesday 9am-12pm. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. 256-845-8590.

Bridge Club meets at the Fort Payne Senior Center on Wednesday and Thursday 12:30-3:30pm. 600 Tyler Ave. SE, Fort Payne. 256-845-8590.

Calendar entries are subject to change.





Charlotte Gentry
Broker/Owner
256-996-5995



"The Natural Choice" Office: (256) 634-4767



Holly Watson-Houston
Assoc. BROKER®
256-996-0552



Melody Sellers
Assoc. REALTOR®
256-996-5297

Welcome To Mentone



Stop in and see us at our log cabin office in the heart of Mentone. Porch sitters welcome!

.....
LOTS and LAND

DESOTO FALLS AREA LAKE-FRONT LOT with approx. 94' frontage on the prime part of W Fork Little River, the truly navigable part where you can canoe, kayak or pontoon all the way to Mentone! So much natural beauty, so rarely available. \$155,000 (355152)

30 ACRES (+/-) IN MENTONE of mostly hardwood forest, some pasture land. Slight slope to offer a great elevation for future cabins, a farm, hunting cabin or whatever your Mentone dream dictates. \$105,000 (\$3,500 per acre)

OWNER FINANCING AVAILABLE! 2 WOODED ACRES with a tiny little rustic one-room camping cabin (no plumbing, water or septic installed). Sort of a getaway or place to stay until you're ready to build your mountain home. Restricted. \$39,700 (1034503)

SOUTH COOL STREET brow-front property w/beautiful old stone chimney, part of the foundation, plus a small garage. New survey. An original Mentone summer home once stood here; owned by the same family since early 1920s. Approx 0.45 acre lot in an area where properties are seldom available. Build your own memories! \$125,000 (1070474)

EASTERN LOOKOUT MTN'S EDGE, expansive views, gorgeous sunrises. 1-acre lot w/approx 120' brow frontage; paved road; public water. Driveway tile already in place. Just right for your mountain home or getaway. Lake on the Brow Subdivision allows for use of lakes in common areas. Only a mile or so from famed Little River Canyon Nat'l Preserve, Jacksonville Center & favorite swimming holes of Little River. Less than 15 minutes to Ft Payne. \$59,900 (1088539)

.....



THREE FEATHERS RANCH was the name given this beautiful, 34-acre(+/-) Mentone property featuring a 3BR/2BA house with 2 bonus rooms and a bath in finished basement! Land is approx 1/2 woods & 1/2 pasture, fenced & cross-fenced; 2 small ponds; tractor shed; picturesque ranch entry way with gently-curving driveway leading to house. Satisfying views of pond & pasture from house's full front porch. Located about halfway between Mentone and Alpine area near DeSoto State Park. We've just listed this property, so we don't have a lot of photos (house is currently rented). But, we know it is definitely something to get excited about! Not many properties like this come on the market at Mentone. Priced at \$299,900. Call Charlotte for more info.



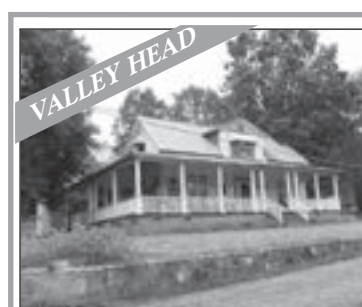
HMM. WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE? A cute little board-n-batten cabin. 1BR/1BA with loft bonus room. Great location between downtown Mentone & DeSoto State Park. Yes, it could use a bit of fixing up here & there. But, this cabin has an extra lot to sweeten the deal! Approx 1.8 acres in all, with great frontage on DeSoto Parkway. (Cabin is built on Rd 934, which is a quiet little road off the parkway). Cabin & 1-acre bonus lot priced at \$149,000. Call Charlotte for more info.



FROM BLAH TO BLISS! The best of the old was kept, now it is being updated with the best of the new! Mid-century Mentone cottage located on the Parkway. Renovations underway include: new metal roof, CH/A, windows, granite countertops, fresh paint inside & out, new bath, stainless appliances, new electrical & plumbing throughout. It has the right location close in to Mentone. It has the appeal of vintage, except it's mostly all brand new! \$179,000. Call for info.



WOODLAND CABIN; 2BR/2BA, perfectly nestled into 3 wooded acres; away from it all, but within minutes of downtown Mentone. All wood interior w/vaulted ceilings; stunning fireplace; master suite with walk-in closet. Gravel driveway including a large covered porch on the side, covered front porch & sweeping open decks. 10x20 det bld. New exterior paint & gutters. New internet & TV installed! \$170,000. (1083660)



ANTEBELLUM FARMHOUSE, built by one of the original Valley Head families, McGown, in the 1850s. Large front porch facing Lookout Mtn. Some of the rooms have been restored to original style and grace; other rooms have been redone with repurposed tin, wood, etc. to create a more eclectic style. High ceilings, original pine floors, fireplaces (non-working), architectural details aplenty inside & out. 4BR/4BA. Picturesque outbuilding believed to have been the cook house before a kitchen was put inside house. Small, one-car (or buggy) garage; stone "root cellar," and a small chicken coop. There's still work to be done, but the price is right at only \$89,000 (1101135)



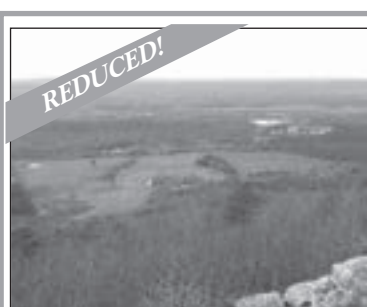
DEFINITELY NOT A TINY HOME! 3875 sq ft, bungalow-style home, w/1900+ sq ft basement. gives you space seldom found in Mentone. Ideal for family gatherings, retreats, possible B&B, multi-family home...well, whatever your inspiration can come up with! Pine floors throughout; wood ceilings accented by solid beams in spacious, open dining/kitchen. 6BR/2BA. Upgrades underway: new windows & exterior trim color change. \$260,000 (1104553)



"THE BURREN." Snuggled into intriguing rock formations, huge boulders & woods on 1.9 acres you'll find this 3BR/2.5BA mtn retreat, just off the DeSoto Pkwy. Metal roof; screened porch; wood-burning mtn stone fireplace; private back deck w/new hot tub; 2nd floor balconies. Large screened porch offers expanded living area outdoors. Active vacation rental with great rental history! \$185,000 (1087665)



SOMETIMES IT'S THE SMALL THINGS that make life good! And if you're looking for a personal retreat that could also be used as a rental, this could be the cabin for you! Combination of rustic & civilized elements: HW floor & mtn stone, WB fireplace in LR; spacious BR; galley kitchen; shower bath; CH/A; lg laundry; new roof; updated ext paint; HUGE screen porch with hot tub; timber-frame pavilion that could be made into a studio or garage. \$129,000 (1104545)



FABULOUS VIEWS, FABULOUS NEW PRICE! And plenty of room to enjoy it all! Lovely frame & stone cottage on the brow at Mentone. Over 3000 sq ft; 3BR/4BA; lg bonus room for 4th BR, office, exercise or play room. Main-level Master Suite with wall of windows to enjoy the view. Huge kitchen is a dream for those who love to cook & entertain: granite counters, commercial gas cooktop, double wall ovens, wine cooler, disposal, compactor, gas fireplace, enormous pantry. Large dining room opens onto brow-side screen porch & decks. New wood floors & ceiling; new paint; new windows in MA BR & Living. Detached 3-car garage w/efficiency apartment & shop. Wrought-iron gated entry; circular, paved drive. Now \$389,900 (1084334)





SAGE ADVICE: NUTS ON THE MOUNTAIN

(No, not the human kind!)

by Susan Seago

Looking out the window this morning, the squirrels are racing up and down the trees. Jumping from tip to tip of the branches, often 50 feet or more above the ground, these tiny acrobats are really entertaining. As they gather nuts of many varieties, I pause to consider the nut trees of the forest.

Often considered nuisances, nut trees are some of the longest living trees in the landscape. Oak trees with their acorns dot the slopes of our north Alabama mountains with their wonderful fall and winter color and stately air. They are a mainstay for our wildlife. While they run the gamut from the large leaves of the Post or Burr oak to the tiny leaves of the Water oak, their nut production is profuse.

Hickory trees with their colorful yellow leaves are another forest staple. This year, in particular, there are many, many hickory nuts falling to the ground. It has been said that when the nut trees produce a bounty during the fall, that the winter will be long and harsh. The extra nuts provide plenty of food for the wildlife in the winter.

Also prolific are the black walnuts. Their fist-sized green or black husks crashing to the ground may do damage to roofs, automobiles, even people. Their roots prevent many perennials and shrubs from growing under them, as they have a toxin which kills the plants. Hostas are one of the few perennials that will grow under their shade. They are hard to shell, but critters have no problems getting to the sweet meat inside. And we humans enjoy their bounty in delicious desserts or just by themselves.

The Chinese chestnut has a covering like a tiny porcupine. The sharp outer husk falls off as it dries. Unfortunately, the American chestnut is considered extinct in the world. A blight killed most of them in the early 1900s. Some of the universities are working to get this tree growing and flourishing again. They have created a cross between the two trees that may be resistant to the blight. It has been estimated that as many as 25% of all trees in our regions were at one time chestnuts. They were so prolific that many barns and timber homes were built from them.

Pecans, probably the best known nut tree in the South, grow well in our area. Native to North America, different varieties do grow better here than in the southern part of the state. Pecans are the most planted nut tree in Alabama. They come in a number of varieties, the paper shell being one of the most desired for eating, but often found further south. Pecans are a staple in desserts. Who among us does not enjoy a luscious pecan pie, especially during the holidays!

Hazelnut, or filbert, is a member of the birch family. While the trees are found in the wild, the nuts are often killed by cold weather and not able to ripen.

Nuts form a large part of the diet of our woody friends, while continuing to seed new forests for the future of our mountains. They are easy to grow and provide food, shade, and shelter for both animals and humans. As long as the ground is not frozen, trees and shrubs can be planted.

Why don't you plant one in your landscape this winter?

Spirit of Mentone (continued from page 9)

Behind the Hitching Post was The Dish, a small restaurant run by Terrence and Joe with a small menu and great quality food.

One thing that has not changed a bit at the Hitching Post is Sharon Barron's Gourdie Shop, except that at the time it was run by local artist Lucy Mitchell.

Just past the Hitching Post, on the south side of the road, you would find Phil Howard making and selling his rustic handcrafted furniture.

There were no buildings beyond the shed where Phil sold his wares until you came to Dessie's

Country Chef, owned and operated by Dessie herself. Everyone loved Dessie's home cooking and homemade pies.

Not long after I moved to Mentone, Tom and Kristen Emory took over the Mentone Market. Across the street from the market was the Rose Cottage with antiques and collectibles operated at the time by Pam Baggett.

Though many of the folks who helped inspire me to further want to call Mentone home have passed away or moved on, the spirit and quaintness of Mentone is alive and well. The heart of Mentone is the same.

The mountain continues to call those who want to live, work and/or play in a quiet historic community, a place where it seems time has almost stood still. Nature and beauty are the calling cards, though it is the unique nature of the people in the community that keeps the spirit of Mentone alive.

I encourage anyone who has felt called to the mountain to share your story in a 3- to 7-page essay for a compilation of stories for a book called "What Called You to the Mountain?" Part of the proceeds will go towards supporting the Mentone community. Please send submissions to Moonmapa@gmail.com.

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Mentone Area Church Directory

Mentone, Alabama

Cove Road Baptist Church invites everyone in the Mentone and Cloudland Communities to services—Sunday School 10am (GA time) Morning Worship 11am (GA time), Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 5:30pm (GA time). Bro. Brian Keith is the pastor. 2415 County Road 631.

Howard's Chapel (Church in the Rock) has regular services at 10am each Sunday. You are invited to attend these services or visit the church at other times. Casual dress is always acceptable. County Road 617.

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy has Sunday School at 10am, with Worship at 11am. Evening services begin at 5:30pm on Sunday and 6pm on Wednesday. Bro. Whitney Smith invites everyone to attend. AL Hwy 117 (across from Mentone Post Office).

Mentone Community Church invites you to Crosswalk Sunday School (K through Adult) 9:15am, Adult Worship Service 10:30am, JC Kids Worship Service 10:30am. Pastor Tim Miller. Van Ministry for Children pick-up/take home, ages K–12, for all surrounding areas 8:15am (please call Donna Bunn 706-398-0720). Wednesday small group study 6:30pm. 90 Summerville Rd. 256-634-4210.

Mentone United Methodist Church invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday our worship service is held at 9am and is led by Pastor Carol Gullatt. Sunday School is at 10am. The service of Holy Communion is held the first Sunday of each month and fifth Sundays are a service of music. 415 Cutler Avenue. 256-634-8006.

Moon Lake Baptist Church is a growing community of believers from various walks of life who endeavor to share the light, life, and love of Jesus with all we meet. We gather together for practical Bible study at 10am on Sunday. You can count on an encouraging and life-engaging message at 11am each Sunday. At 6pm, on Sunday, we enjoy a time of praying together. On Wednesdays at 6pm, we have groups for our children, students, and adults. 4671 Al Hwy. 117. 256-634-4568. Connect with us on Facebook at "Moon Lake" or Pastor Mike at "Mike Ellis".

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church welcomes everyone to 10:30am Sunday service of Holy Eucharist. Open for daily prayer and thanksgiving. Supporting our community with outreach. 256-634-4476. 21145 Scenic Highway. stjosephmountain.dioala.org.

Spirit Expression Ministry, a Chapel of the Alliance of Divine Love, invites you to sit with us in sacred circle on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 11am Central at Heartwood Center, 7 miles from downtown Mentone. Reverend Cathy Haven Howard facilitates a spiritual wisdom topic. Email havenhoward1@gmail.com for directions and questions.

Summit Church of God in Mentone invites you to be in service Sunday morning 10:45am, Sunday night 5pm, Wednesday Bible Study 6:30pm. Pastor Lance Kincer.

Hammondville, Alabama

The **Church of God 7th Day** invites you to Sabbath School classes at 9:30am and Worship Service at 11am. Visitors are always welcome. Located just off Hwy. 11 N. at corner of Hwy. 117 and Palmer Road. 256-717-5040.

Greater Vision Ministries Church of God invites you to Sunday School 10 am, Sunday Worship *10:45 am, (*Nursery & Kid's Church). MidWEEK re-charge Wednesday 6:30pm. Pastor Tim Coppock. 38623 US Hwy 11. 256-601-0679.

Valley Head, Alabama

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 4–18); 6:30pm Praise and Prayer time. 4212 County Road 751. 256-635-1001.

Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to come and worship with us. On Sunday, Bible Study is at 10am & Morning Worship is at 11am; Kidz Connection is at 5pm, Evening Worship at 6pm. Kidz Connection & Youth meet on Wednesday from 5–6pm & a snack supper is provided. On the second Wednesday of the month, there is a church-wide covered dish Fellowship Meal at 6pm. 265 Church Street. 256-465-1242.

Cultivate
kindness.

Visitors are always welcome at **Valley Head United Methodist Church**. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at 9:30am. Tony Gunter is the Pastor. All are welcome. 146 Church St.

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, holds services in the Woodmen of the World Hall. All are invited to attend. Sabbath School and Song Service 9:30–10:45am, Worship Service 11am–12:15pm. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

Fort Payne, Alabama

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

The **Fort Payne Christian Center** and Pastors Ken and Elaine Hollman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10am, Wednesday evening at 6pm. 3610 Grand Ave. SW. 256-997-0047.

Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA) invites you to Sunday School at 9:45am; Sunday Worship at 10:55am. 256-845-4756. 5760 Gault Ave. NE.

Gravel Hill Baptist Church welcomes you to Sunday School at 10am & Worship Service at 11am each Sunday. All are welcome. Wednesdays at 6pm, we have supper and a brief devotional time together. Pastor George Moses. 14701 Hwy 11 South.

New Oregon United Methodist Church is located just off DeSoto Parkway, 1/4 mile south of Fischer Crossroads. We

invite you to worship with us on Sundays. Sunday School for all ages 9:45am, Traditional Worship 11am, and Sunday Evening Service 6pm. Sunday Evening youth meet at 5:30pm. We have Wonderful Wednesdays during the school year with Bible studies for all ages, meal at 5:30pm and classes at 6:15pm. We also have Wednesday morning Bible study at 8:45am, and knitting every Tuesday at 9am. Pastor Ian Conerly. 1204 New Oregon Drive NE. 256-845-7446.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church holds Sunday mass in English at 10am and 1pm in Spanish. Tuesday at 6pm in English, Wednesday at 5pm bilingual, Thursday at 6pm in English, Friday at 9am in English and Saturday at 6pm in bilingual. 2910 Gault Ave. N. 256-845-4774.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church holds regular Worship Services at 10am Sunday. Clifford Herd, Pastor. Everyone is welcome. 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85). 256-845-4842.

St. Stephen Anglican Church invites you to attend service on Sunday mornings at 8am. 411 SW Grand Ave. (in the basement of Killian & Killian Attorneys). Father Rodney Jackson, 205-405-0055; Deacon Jack Gilbreath, 256-845-2605.

Walnut Grove Baptist Church, on Highway 11 north of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School 10am, Worship Service at 11am, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6pm, and Wednesday night Prayer Meeting at 6:30pm. 3606 Greenhill Blvd NW. 256-996-0929.

Cloudland, Georgia

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Jan Warren-Taylor. Bible Study Sunday at 9am (Eastern) and Worship at 10am (Eastern). 150 Partain Road.

Menlo, Georgia

Alpine Community Church Pastor and Rev. Rodney Blaylock welcome each and every one to worship service Sunday morning at 11am GA time; Sunday School 10am GA time; Wednesday night Bible Study 7pm GA time. 115 Hwy. 337. 706-862-6641.

Menlo Church of Christ invites you to attend 10am and 11am Sunday services and evening services at 5pm on Sundays and Wednesdays. Visitors are always welcome.

Menlo Presbyterian Church (ECO) invites everyone to attend services with us. Sunday School at 10am (Eastern) and Worship Service at 11:15am (Eastern). Rev. Jan Taylor is our pastor. We are located at 70 North 6th Ave., next to the park in Menlo.

Summerville, Georgia

Redemption Worship Center invites you to "Find Love, Encouragement, & Purpose!" Wednesdays: Hour of Power Bible Study 6:30pm; Chosen Generation Youth 6:30pm. Sundays: Sunday School 9:30am; Morning Celebration 10:30am. Pastors Dr. David & Penny Reeves. 174 West First Avenue. 706-808-0909.

Send any changes to *The Groundhog*
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 THE HISTORIC CRAGSMERE MANOR, on 5+ acres serves as rental lodging and/or event hosting. Perfect setting for large or small groups, 6BR/4BA, Large kitchen, dining, and living area, covered pavilion. \$699,000. MLS#1066481	 VINTAGE BUNGALOW, completely remodeled, zoned Commercial/Residential w/250' on Hwy 117. Bright & sturdy 1940's-era, 3BR/1BA gem. Wood walls; period trim details. Updated with new electrical, plumbing, floors & cabinets. \$125,000. MLS#1046940.	 JUST MINUTES FROM MENTONE & 1.5 mi. from DeSoto State Park. "Stone's Throw" offers 3BR/2BA with tons of extras! \$189,000. MLS#1089979.	 3.3 ACRES of historic property in the heart of Mentone. Starting at \$325,000. Call for details. MLS#1045206.	 MENTONE BROW HOME! 2BR/2BA brow home with tons of character! Enjoy all the extras like hardwood floors, rustic wood walls, gas log fireplace & more. Being sold furnished. Call today! \$329,000. MLS #1076700	 REDUCED Mentone Cottage! Fully remodeled spacious two bedroom with bath in each room and additional half bath. This home comes completely furnished and just in time for the beautiful Fall season. Property has been used as resort rental and can easily transition to your primary residence. Only \$179,900! MLS#1102065.
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LOTS & LAND		
#1014183—1.5 acres. Brow Lot on CR 89. \$124,900.	#1070629—3.01 acres. 152' on West Fork of Little River. \$59,500.	#1092235—Building lot in Laurel Creek Lakes. \$24,500.
#1021165—2-acre lot offering lake and brow footage. \$59,900.	#1073864—Brow Lot! .78 acres. REDUCED TO \$94,900.	#1100905—A RARE FIND! Don't miss the opportunity to own 239 rolling wooded acres in Mentone with multiple pond sites, streams and abundant wildlife and "trophy deer"... \$669,200.
#1034997—Approx. 6 acres on Middle Fork of Little River. \$48,900.	#1076239—Cleared & wooded 3.6 acres on Scenic Hwy. REDUCED TO \$74,500.	#1107411 0.80 acres located in the Metes and Bounds subdivision in Mentone. \$99,900.
#1038089—6 1/2 acres with approx. 250' of road frontage and 1-1/2 acres of level land for a secluded home site. \$138,000.	#1076286—1.75 acre building lot in West Fork Subdivision. \$42,000.	#1107412 0.84 acres located in the Metes and Bounds subdivision in Mentone. \$99,900.
#1039769—6.32+/- waterfront building lot in Mountain River Estates! \$49,950.	#1078002—Brow view, 4.4 acres. REDUCED TO \$99,900.	#1108339 Better Than a Bargain...this is a STEAL! Build your dream home here... on this 1.20 brow lot in Mentone with amazing views! Don't hesitate on this outstanding opportunity. \$99,000.
#1057429—4 acres in Valley View Forest. \$60,000.	#1078140—18.3 acres, unrestricted, partially wooded! \$66,800.	
#1065542—90 acres on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. REDUCED TO \$299,000.	#1079713—Gorgeous lot in Mentone with .81+/- acres in Hunter's Ridge Subdivision. \$15,000.	
#1065504—One acre on Co. Rd. 89 in Mentone. REDUCED TO \$125,000.	#1080922—.54 acres, Mentone Bluffs. \$64,900.	
#1070628—3.01 acres. 152' on west Fork of Little River. \$49,700.	#1083789—2.11 acres with 300' of waterfront in beautiful West Fork Subdivision. \$39,500.	

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OTHER

Alabama I-59 Welcome Center
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Ralph's Grocery

Winters Are for the Birds

by Bill Schwarz

Editor's Note: Bill Schwarz passed away in late November, 2018. His wife, Sue, recently loaned me a notebook filled with the articles which Bill wrote for his column called "A River View," which ran in The Groundhog in the 1990s. Following is an article Bill wrote for the January 1993 issue.



I have a grey winter sweatshirt that proclaims the title of this month's article. It really expresses my feelings on the subject. I really do like the shirt and wear it a lot. Sue got it for me several years ago when she realized how much I dislike winter. Pictured on my nice warm shirt are several chickadees and a cardinal looking for seeds and other food. All of which brings us to the real topic for this month...birds and how we humans can help them survive a really bad time of the year.

Birds feed on insects and seeds, both of which are in short supply during the winter. In order to survive cold weather, birds have a high metabolic rate to generate the body heat needed for life. They depend up fat (animal and/or vegetable) in their diet for a lot of that metabolic heat. Some folks put out suet (animal fat) for the birds to eat and it is a great boon to the birds.

Here's a mixture that the birds find very tasty (I haven't truly interviewed a bird on the subject, so that last statement was deductive reasoning based on observation) and often they find it, consume it in great quantity.

Mix together in equal parts: vegetable shortening (el cheapo brand), peanut butter (not chunky style) and bird seed (whatever type you want to use). Pack that glop into the holes of the feeder (fat stick) shown here and hang it where you can see it and watch the fun.

To make the fat stick feeder, start with a small log from your wood pile (I've shown 4" diameter, but anything from 3" on up would do fine). Cut the log to 12 inches or so in length and slant-cut one end (that'll be the top and will help shed rain). Drill two holes, each 1-1/2 inches in diameter by 1 inch deep, turn the log 1/3 to 1/2 way around and drill two more holes, same size. About one inch below the center of each of these holes, drill a 1/4-inch hole, again one inch deep.

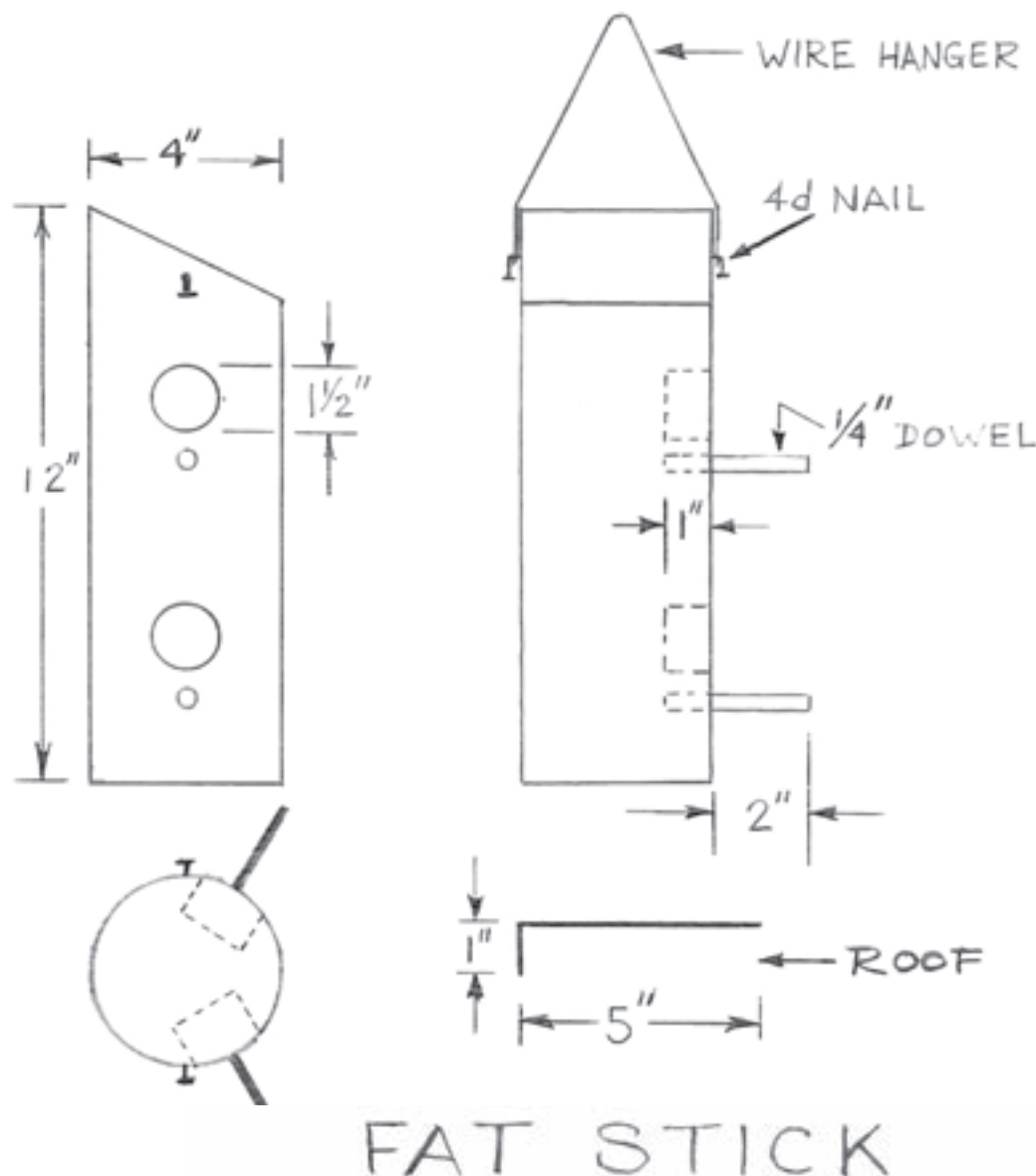
Next, cut four three-inch long pieces of 1/4 -inch wood dowel and gently tap the dowels into the small holes. These will be the perches for the birds. Next, drive a 4d nail about 3/4 of the way into the log on opposite sides of and about 1/2-inch down from the slant-cut top. Twist a loop in each end of a 14-inch piece of wire (baling wire, electrical wire, or coat hanger). Place the loops over the nails and now bend the nails over to hold the wire hanger in place.

If you want to get fancy, put an aluminum "roof" on the feeder. Cut a 5 x 6-inch piece of thin aluminum sheet. Make a 1-inch wide, 90-degree bend along the 6-inch side. This will leave you with a 5-inch square roof with a 1-inch overhang. Attach the roof by punching two holes to correspond to the wire hanger placement. Put the roof on top of the log and pass the wire hanger through the holes, make your loop in the ends of the wire and then

attach the loops to the nails.

The fat stick is easy to make, looks great hanging in your yard, and the birds will love you.

Happy New Year to all, may this year be better than last and bring great joy to you and yours.



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Memories (continued from page 1)

my grandfather bought a house from Sears and Roebuck that was shipped by train. The house still stands. There was also a church called Fyffe on the Farm, which contains no connection to Fyffe, Alabama, as far as I know. No one alive today remembers it. The TAG Railroad ran through his farm. The TAG Railroad had a trolley of sorts that ran from Gadsden to Chattanooga. My mother, sister, and I would catch the “scooter” at Jamestown and ride to Chattanooga to see my aunt. My grandfather had a spring on the side of Lookout Mountain. He installed a pipe down to his house. He had indoor plumbing before he had electricity. The kitchen sink did not have a faucet, just a pipe where the water ran 24/7. During this time, the Menlo Bank went broke. My grandfather and the other depositors went to the bank and got anything of value to cover their losses. I still have a mantel clock my grandfather got from the bank. The Ballards at Ballard Hardware have some marble from the bank.

After my grandmother died, my grandfather sold the farm. Mack Garrett, sheriff of Cherokee County, knew the man who bought the farm had a whiskey still, but he could not find it until one hot summer day, a deputy on the nearby ridge saw



smoke coming out of the chimney. He had a still in his basement.
In the process of digging a flume raceway for a waterwheel, my grandfather found gold. They gathered up all the gold, loaded it on a wagon, hooked up the mules, and left before daylight for Rome, Georgia. It turned out to be Fool’s Gold. They were rich for a few days.

Photos of Lahusage Dam
courtesy of James Deitsch
Huntsville, Alabama
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Lahusage (continued from page 1)

doctor. There was a “dinky line” that carried coal from underground pits to Five Points in Cherokee County a few miles east where the coal was dumped into a shoot that slid down the east side of Lookout Mountain into cars of the Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia Railroad (TAG). Coal was there, but it was expensive to mine; the mine closed around 1916.”
“Around 1920,” Strayhorn continues, “a 180-room hotel was planned at Lake Lahusage when H. H. Pounds from Florida with a group of investors started construction on the east fork of Little River near the mining community of Lahusage. Their company was called the Lookout Mountain Development Company and bought 7,000 acres in the area.”
According to lahusage.com, “Pink and gray mountain sandstone, terra cotta brick, concrete and steel were used in the construction. There

was a stone foundation and stone columns were used for the big front porch. The hotel was to have electric heat and its water was from a nearby well. Bath and electrical fixtures had been installed in much of the building, the roof was on and the work ‘could have been finished in six weeks,’ says Lyerly’s Walt Smith who had the plastering contract. Then the blow came. Florida suffered an economic depression and Mr. Pounds and his group were caught in it.”
Lake Lahusage is a small lake that contains the flow of the middle and east forks of Little River. “In 1924,” recalls Zora Strahorn, “a stone dam was constructed across the river forming a beautiful lake. The dam broke in November 1924 after heavy rains. W. Blevens “Bleve” Strickland was foreman of the rockwork and a Mr. Hall was engineer of the project. It was soon rebuilt.” The dam originally had a road across it so cars could pass over Little River.