

# THE MOUNTAINEER



## Newsletter of the Georgia Mountaineers Chapter of FMCA

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**December 8, 2021  
Christmas Luncheon  
The Smith House  
Dahlonega, GA**

**Hosts: Greg & Rose Zaic  
Raymond & Donna Birt**



Once again this year's Christmas Luncheon was held at The Smith House in Dahlonega. This is a popular place for our luncheon. The Smith House is located in the town of Dahlonega, Georgia, about an hour north of Atlanta, and was established in 1899. The first major US gold rush began in Dahlonega. Deer hunter, Benjamin Parks, tripped over a rock 2-1/2 miles south of what is now Dahlonega and upon inspecting the rock, discovered that it was full of gold! Gold was so plentiful around that time that it could be found just laying on top of the ground. It had been washing off the mountainsides for centuries. Shortly after Mr. Parks' discovery, some 15,000 miners rushed to Dahlonega to find gold for themselves. In a recent renovation to The Smith House, a round hole was found under a concrete floor. It turned out to be a mineshaft to the famous Dahlonega gold vein. Most of the gold mining operations of years past are now gone but the tunnels deep below in gold bearing rock still remain. Tours are conducted daily and the tour guides are actual miners. What an exciting way to spend a day in the town of Dahlonega! We may have to visit yet another year to see what we missed.

### **Members Attending:**

Hosts, Greg & Rose Zaic, Raymond & Donna Birt, Ken & Margie Alexander, Paul & Leann Appel, Miriam Armstrong & Lavonne Elliot, Ted & Martha Barrett, Hubert & Marsha Brown, Dorris & Ethel Carpenter, Jim & Betty Duncan, Ed & Patricia Durrence, Jerry & Laura Eaves, Larry & Penny Ebest, Connie Gallagher(Friend of The Chapter), Fred & Marianna Glantzberg, John & Tina Hooper, Virginia Jackson, Bill Lyles & Dot Jones, Jerry & Irene McKellar, Mike & Kathie Newton(Friends of The Chapter), Roy & Kathy Perry, Sam & Dottie Reese, Larry & Connie Rosenberry, John Sakers & Fran Hogan, Terry & Wanda Stephens, Jack White, and Doug & Sherry Wright. **Guests were:** Patricia Voyna, SEA Regional President and her husband

Marvin and Chris Miskell, Georgia Vice President of FMCA and his wife Charlsanne. Also attending were Debbie Holloway and Denise Line from **The Community Helping Place** in Dahlonega, the charity which we were supporting with Christmas gifts for children.

Our luncheon was scheduled from 12:00 noon until 2:00 pm. Although a long drive for some, many started arriving before 11:30. As each everyone arrived they were greeted with a warm “hello”. Even though our last rally was less than a month ago there was a lot to talk about to catch up with the busy activities of the Thanksgiving season and the upcoming Christmas holiday. AND as everyone arrived the pile of “Santa” packages kept growing. Before long the packages were spread beyond the Christmas tree almost to the end of the large fireplace in the dining room. In total there were 55 people in attendance.

Raymond Birt, one of the hosts, opened the meeting welcoming everyone with a hearty “Merry Christmas”! We had a few minutes before the kitchen staff was ready to serve our meal (we had a couple of late arrivals so we held off until they were situated). Ted introduced Patricia Voyna, SEA Regional President & her husband, Marvin and Chris Miskell, Georgia Vice President and his wife, Charlsanne. Raymond then asked the blessing and the kitchen staff started bringing out the food.

We were served fried chicken and roast beef and gravy accompanied with mashed potatoes, green beans, cream corn, fried okra, collards, yams, and rolls. Strawberry shortcake was the perfect dessert to top off our meal.



After the meal, Greg Zaic introduced Debbie Holloway and Denise Line of **The Community Helping Place** who spoke to our group. Debbie provided a little background information about their organization and the different types of services they provide to the local community. Both of the ladies were once again overwhelmed at the amount and quality of the gifts donated by our group. Debbie stated that The Community Helping Place is in a new building and not paying rent anymore, using their funds more efficiently.

Ted then re-opened the program with the swearing in of Betty Duncan as the new National Director and Raymond Birt as Alternate Director of our chapter.

Raymond then had drawings for door prizes that consisted of several nights camping at campgrounds in the nearby area.

A big ‘Thank You’ was given to the hosts, Zaics and Birts for their hard work in planning and hosting the luncheon followed by a round of applause.

Fred Glantzberg then passed the 2022 Rally Schedule around the room so folks could sign up to host one of the upcoming rallies.

Before we knew it our allotted time was close at hand. It was time to say our goodbyes and help Debbie and Denise gather the presents and get them back to The Community Helping Place. Everyone pitched in and in no time two SUVs were loaded and ready to go.

After Ted wished everyone a safe journey home and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year we all departed.

**Hope to see everyone at our Sugar Mill RV Park rally in March.**

*Bill Lyles*  
*Newsletter Editor*

**Rally Reminders:**

**Feb, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>: SEA Rally, 4175 Medulla Road, Lakeland, FL**

**March:** 16<sup>th</sup> thru 19<sup>th</sup> Sugar Mill RV Park. Ochlocknee, GA. Reser Req. 229-227-1451. Address: **4857 McMillan Road, Ochlocknee, GA**  
See <https://www.sugarmillrvpark.com>

Hosts: Carpenters & McKellars

**Apr:** 13<sup>th</sup> thru 16<sup>th</sup> Riverbend Campground, Hiawasse, GA. Reser Req. 706-896-1415.  
Address: 2626 Streak Hill Road, Hiawasse, GA See <http://www.riverbendcamping.com>

Hosts: White, Jackson, Sakers, & Hogan