

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association Newsletter

Volume 17 Issue 4

Fourth Quarter 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Ralph Mason ralphmason@wildblue.net



My term of office as your Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. President is fast nearing an end. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve our lake community in a position of leadership. My thanks go to those of you who have given your time and effort to improve our quality of life at Lake Mitchell through participation in H.O.B.O. activities.

I am pleased to report that there are good signs of an even better future ahead for the organization. The team effort among past presidents, officers, board members, area representatives, and our rising membership has been truly impressive during 2011 and 2012. The association membership has reached its highest membership level ever! The financial health of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. remains strong despite the economic conditions in our local area.

Planning efforts are underway to organize the First Annual Chilton Water Festival scheduled to be held on March 15, 2013, at the Clanton Campus of Jefferson State College. The Water Festival is a one-day free event for approximately **607 fourth grade students and 27 teachers**. The Chilton County Water Festival offers an excellent opportunity for the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Association to participate in an educational program aimed to instill water-related environmental stewardship and awareness among our youth. At our August meeting, board members approved the participation of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Association as a sponsor for the water festival event. A generous donation to help cover the program costs was included in the board action.

Dan Murchison and I recently represented the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. at the Alabama Water Management Symposium sponsored by the Alabama Rivers Alliance and the Southern Environmental Law Center. Lance LaFleur, Director of the Alabama Department of Environment Management, addressed Governor Bentley's directive to five state agencies to put together a comprehensive water management plan by December 1, 2013. The governor's directive, sent in the form of a letter to the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Alabama



Department of Environment Management, the Alabama Office of Water Resources, and the Geologic Survey of Alabama, tasks these agencies with four objectives: (1) Reconvene the Alabama Water Agencies Working Group; (2) Create a comprehensive database of Alabama's water resources; (3) Meet with stakeholders (e.g., Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.); and (4) Recommend a statewide water management plan by December 2013. Since river organizations are direct stakeholders, our association needs to continue monitoring this effort very closely. Alabamians assume the water resources will be available for their use in sufficient quantities to drink, facilitate commerce and transportation, help to meet our energy needs, and provide recreation and wildlife habitat. This has been the case since the beginning of statehood, but Alabama's water resources face an uncertain future due to several landmark events. Specifically, they include population and industrial growth, development, increased occurrences of drought, the legal unpredictability of interstate water disputes, and the vagaries of riparian common law when there is increased demand for finite water resources.

A new telephone directory for 2013-2014 will be printed by the end of this year. Please submit any changes to your personal information that have occurred since the last edition was released in 2011. Changes should be sent by email to Jim Woodrow at ajwking@aol.com or by mail to Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O., P.O. Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046.

Hope to see a large turnout at the *Renew Our Rivers Clean-up* at Higgins Ferry Park on October 27th.

Also, please mark November 16th on your calendar to attend the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Annual Meeting at the Alabama Power Company Conference Center in Clanton. Thanks again for your help in making our organization successful.

Ralph

AREA REPRESENTATIVES			
Area	Area Name	Representative	Phone
1	Blue Creek/ The Ridge	Ralph & Jane Mason ralphmason@wildblue.net	205 755-6618
2	Blue to Cargile	Jim & Johnye Woodrow ajwking@aol.com	205 425-9431 205 755-0055
3	Cargile South	Judy & Dan Murchison danmurchison@gmail.com	205 755-0521 205 408-7445
4	Cargile North	Joan Vickery vickery200@yahoo.com	205-280-7336
5	Cargile to Bird	Sonny & Peggy Bullard pnsbullard@gmail.co	205 755-9514
6	Bird Creek	Paula & Joe Pierson hansandpaula@yahoo.com	205 280-6377
7	Bird to Walnut	Becki & Mau McCallum beckmau@gmail.com	205 755-5334
8	Walnut SW	Lee & Kim Poe Mr.LeePoe@yahoo.com	205-389-2480
9	Walnut Creek Peninsula	Dale & Patty Vann rdvann@bellsouth.net	205 979-5559 205 755-0825
10	Cove and Mountain	Roxanne Martin roxypmartin@gmail.com	205 755-0863
11	Mountain to Lay Dam	Stan Holt sholt1428@charter.net	205-980-1428
12	Upper Hatchet and Weogufka	David & Kay McKeever kmckeev@bellsouth.net	256 249-4413
13A	East Pennamotley	Jim & Wathan Hand jmhand@centurylink.net	256-377-1153
13B	West Pennamotley	Sam & Nancy Piccolo sampiccolo62@gmail.com	256 377-4801
14	Hatchet to Big Airplane	Eric & Rose Green rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com	205-492-7151
15/16	Airplane/Finger to Big Y Slough	Tommy Carpenter rtcarpen@southernco.com	256-377-1046 205-586-1749
16	Big Y to Mitchell Dam	Jerry & Anita Lawson anitaklawson@gmail.com	205 663-7035 256 377-4584

Area 1 – Ralph Mason

In early August, lightning struck a utility shed behind the lake house across the water from the Blue Creek Marina. The Marine 9 Fire and Rescue Boat was the first response to the fire, which burned down the shed. Fortunately, the fire was contained and there was no damage to the house. The Marine 9 boat is owned and operated by the East Chilton Volunteer Fire Department personnel. Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. and

Area 1 residents are very appreciative of the quick response. Verbena Volunteer Fire Department also responded to the fire. Kudos to the volunteer firemen who are serving our lake community.

Lightning also shut down the 24/7 gas pump at Blue Creek for a few days. A part had to be ordered but repairs were made in time for the next busy weekend at the lake. We take these services for granted until we realize that Mother Nature can interfere with our needs for gas to operate our boats. Area 1 appreciates the service that Bo Warren and his family have provided at the south end of Lake Mitchell at Blue Creek. *Ralph*

Area 4 – Joan Vickery

It seems that this past summer came and went quickly. We had some great times, but one of the most memorable was teaching our granddaughter, Piper, age eight, how to ski. You should have seen the smile on her face, when she finally got up and STAYED UP. Gran and I had taught her while she was visiting with us this summer. We didn't tell mom and dad, so they was so surprised to see her up and skiing when they came for a visit and she was so excited to show off her new skill.

Living at the lake full time gives Vick and me a daily view of our lake and the surroundings. We noticed a trotline in front of our place that was not being checked, as Alabama law requires. During one week, there were two separate instances that a large turtle got snagged by a trotline, died and floated to the top of the water, bringing hooks with it. This led to an investigation of Alabama laws governing trotline fishing. Please see my article elsewhere in this newsletter related to trotlines.

Hoping we have a beautiful fall to enjoy this year. *Joan*

Area 5 – Sonny and Peggy Bullard

Summer is over and fall is here and we are enjoying sitting on the deck without breaking a sweat. Yet we miss all the activity of summer like boating, swimming, tubing but most of all we miss all the company we have. Friends and family make this place more enjoyable. I wonder why people don't visit much in the winter. It is still beautiful here. Way back in 1985 we came weekends even in winter. Our little cabin had one heater, and when we were not out fishing we had to huddle close by it. We actually had one couple that would come with us, and we would stay up to the wee hours playing cards. That was, of course, after we got in from fishing. Life is good any season on beautiful Lake Mitchell, and I think most of you would agree.

Due to circumstances beyond our control we did not plan a fall luncheon but had a "drop by" day for food and fellowship on Saturday of Labor Day weekend. Unfortunately not many were able to drop by due to

two major football games and company. The day was fun and enjoyable with those who were able to come.

We are sorry to report that a good friend and neighbor, Thomas Milton Allen, passed away at age 89 on September 10. Mr. Allen was in World War II serving in Germany and the Philippine Islands. He served on the Alabaster City Council. He also served as Director for the Columbiana Housing Authority for 25 years. He was a building Inspector for Alabaster. He owned and operated Service Cleaners & Laundry for 22 years. But we remember Mr. Allen best as a good humor, smiling lake neighbor. Many years ago he and Sonny would meet up early morning on Saturdays, heading for their favorite fishing hole. He and Louise attended most of our Area 5 luncheons and shared many interesting stories with us. We grieve with the family but rejoice with Mr. Allen as he rejoices around the throne of his Savior. His smiling face will be missed. Our loss, heaven's gain.

Sonny and I invite you to drop by, call or email anytime. May all your holidays be filled with much love and laughter with family and friends.
Sonny and Peggy

Area 9 – Dale and Patty Vann

We can now look back on the long hot summer at Lake Mitchell. Thank goodness there were no accidents to report. It seemed to have been a very calm summer. There were no break-ins that I know of in our area. By the time you are reading this it will be autumn, which I think is the best time of the year to be at the lake. I enjoy getting up in the morning and going on a walk...coming back and sitting by the fire (if cool enjoy) and watching college football. How much better can it get?

Lake Mitchell Marina will probably be closed by the time you receive this newsletter. Thanks to all who supported the restaurant. We hope the owners can continue to operate for many years.

Lake cleanup will be October 27, 2012. Please join us at the public launch at 8 a.m. for work and fun. Be part of keeping the lake clean and looking good.

I also want to report that our long time resident and friend Pete Morgan passed away on April 17th. Our condolences go out to the Morgan Family. Per Dale Miller (Pete's daughter), Pete and his wife Barbara bought their home back in 1968. Dale said two of the memorable things Pete saw were the flood of 78 and the first "spudnic". Pete was one of those who had to cut a hole in his boathouse roof to save his boat during the flood. I remember, as a kid, standing in my front yard look for this thing called "spudnic". All I remember was to look for something bright and moving fast across the sky. Pete and Barbara was just like the rest of us, except they had a better seat...their

pier on Lake Mitchell. Dale said her dad was so excited that he saw the first space object fly over Lake Mitchell "spudnic". Pete was a wonderful neighbor for us in Area 9. *Dale and Patty*

Area 15 - Tommy Carpenter

Hello, I'm Tommy Carpenter your new Area Representative. Don't worry, Anita Lawson is just around the corner and has agreed to help me learn my responsibilities to best serve you. My initial priority as your Area Representative will be to contact as many of you as possible.

First, I want to tell you a little about myself. I have been enjoying Mitchell Lake for over 50 years. My first memories were my grandfather taking me to Dixie Camp and Inman's Camp (now GRACE marina). My grandfather bought a cabin in Cargile Creek where I helped build our boathouse as my summer job while I was in college. Yes, it is still standing. My grandfather decided to sell his place and offered it to my father and myself. We didn't buy it, which for a long time I thought was a big mistake.

I almost bought a place in the late 90s, but the Air National Guard activated me to serve in Kosovo. I was also activated in 2001 for 9/11 and called back again for Iraqi Freedom.

Lake Mitchell kept calling, so I rented a boathouse and later rented a cabin in Cargile. I decided that Lake Mitchell was where I wanted to retire so I bought my retirement dream in what is called Mattress Slough. (I wish someone would call or write and tell me the story of how that slough got its name!)

It is now late in the fall and the weather will be turning cool soon if not already. There are less people on the lake and this seems to lead to an increase in burglaries. Make sure you secure your boathouse and lake homes when you leave. Turn on your security system if you have one and get to know your neighbors if you haven't already. Last year I think "nosey neighbors" helped law officers catch two burglars by reporting an unfamiliar truck driving around in the area. I had one of my good neighbors tell me he was concerned about my place when I drove my father's car to the lake and forgot to give him the heads up. I appreciated that reminder and it made me feel good that he was watching out for our place. Remember to winterize your boats if you plan to store them over the winter.

I live in Birmingham and you can contact me at (205) 586-1749 or email rtcarpen@southernco.com. I look forward to meeting and working with you.
Tommy

Area 16 - Anita & Jerry Lawson

I have been filling in as your Area Representative and would like for someone in Area 16 to take on this task. The main duty of an Area Rep is to keep everyone informed about H.O.B.O. and your area happenings. Please contact me at anitalawson@gmail.com or call me at 205-663-7035 if you are interested.

Our dues are still only \$25 per year and this includes a new phone book every other year. The new phone books will be out in 2013.

Rose Green, Area Rep in Area 14, is working with the Richville Volunteer Fire Department on a Neighborhood Watch Program in an effort to deter some of the break-ins on the lake.

Be sure to attend our H.O.B.O. General Meeting on November 16 and meet your lake friends.

Anita and Jerry Lawson



PADDLE BOAT. Nice handmade paddle boat with oars. Beautiful wood. Excellent condition-like new. \$500.00 firm. Contact Carolyn Hardy at carolje2@bellsouth.net or call [205-755-4858](tel:205-755-4858).

DEER HEAD. Jerry and Anita Lawson have a mounted deer head that needs a new home - FREE to the first caller. 205-960-5083 (cell) or 256-377-4584 (lake).

CRYSTAL. Hey folks, it's taking up man space in the garage. Chantilly crystal glassware by Duncan - 72 pieces. Twelve each: desert plates, water goblets, juice glasses, 13 ice tea glasses, 11 tall sherbet/champagne glasses, 4 cordial glasses (unknown pattern), 8 plain ice cocktail (shrimp servers). I'm asking \$1000 cash. Compare with a price of \$1800+ at <http://www.replacements.com/crystal/DUN02.htm>. Contact Mac McMillan at 256-377-2274 or caddywompus@centurytel.net.

If you have something you would like to buy, sell, or give away, advertise it for free in the H.O.B.O. newsletter. Submit your information to Marie Greene at marieandhugh@gmail.com. The next issue of the newsletter will come out in January.



Tour of Mitchell Dam

by Dan Murchison

The Coosa Clean Water Partnership toured Mitchell Dam on August 17th. Dam Superintendent Roger Yeargan led and hosted the tour. We learned a great deal about the dam and its operation. Roger and Alabama Power Company furnished a great lunch and meeting place for the group.

We observed a turbine load and what happens to the water below the dam when a turbine starts up. Any boat in the tailrace area is in a very dangerous location if it remains while the turbine loads. A series of four sirens go off one minute apart to warn anyone near the dam. Sooo, you have three minutes to move out before the turbine loads.



Alabama law requires anyone within 800 feet of the dam to be WEARING a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) that zips around the body.

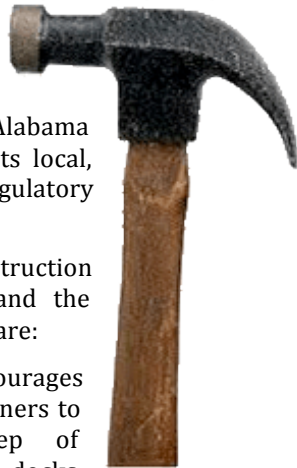
One other interesting point is how the drawdown works. Lay, Mitchell, and Jordan Lakes are the only lakes on the Coosa that are lowered in the drawdown, and they are referred to as "Run of River" lakes. The draw-down occurs as follows: water is released from Jordan Dam to lower Lake Jordan, then water is released from Mitchell Dam to fill Jordan and lower Mitchell. Then Lay Dam releases water to fill Mitchell. Then Logan Martin releases water to fill Lay Lake. Other lakes on the Coosa are "Storage Lakes" or flood control lakes, which means they are lowered in the winter to prepare for spring rains.

At this time we expect that Alabama Power will conduct a drawdown in September of 2013. At that time many lake homeowners will make deck, pier, boathouse and seawall repairs. Remember, before you do any work on your property along the shoreline, whether just maintenance or new construction, you must obtain prior approval for your plans and a permit from Alabama Power Company.

Shoreline Construction Permits

The Alabama Power Shoreline Management Team strives to protect and enhance the scenic, recreational and environmental values of the reservoirs it manages.

As part of its mission, Alabama Power Shoreline Management is dedicated to ensuring all of the structures along Lake Mitchell's shoreline comply with the shoreline management program developed by Alabama Power with the input of its local, state and federal regulatory partners.



Permits for shoreline construction are good for one year, and the program's general policies are:

1. Alabama Power encourages shoreline structure owners to maintain the upkeep of existing boathouses, docks and seawalls. Prior to beginning any maintenance, contact Alabama Power to obtain a no-fee permit for repairs.
2. Alabama Power also encourages shoreline structure owners to remove noncompliant structures and replace them with compliant structures, and upon doing so will be issued a no-fee permit (e.g. replace an enclosed boathouse with an open boathouse).
3. A permit to build any new shoreline structure will incur a one-time \$250 fee (e.g. new boathouse, new dock or new seawall). More than one activity may be authorized with a single permit.

Please call Alabama Power Shoreline Management Team Member Candy Hayes at 205-280-4476 to discuss your project/work and to obtain a permit prior to beginning any maintenance or construction.

Water Quality Report

Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	O.K. RANGE	CURRENT QTR	LAST QTR
Dissolved O2	5 - 9	7.18	8.45
pH	6.5 - 8.2	8.09	7.5
Alkalinity	20+	77.5	50
Hardness	10 - 120	61.25	40.71

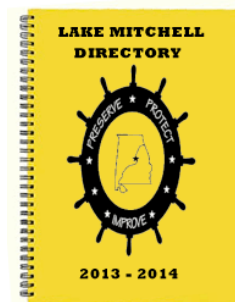
Get Ready for the Chilton County Water Festival for 4th graders

Next March 15, H.O.B.O. will help sponsor the first Chilton County Water Festival, an education program for 4th graders at the Clanton Campus of Jefferson State College. The Water Festival is a one-day free event for approximately 607 fourth grade students and 27 teachers. It is designed to instill water-related environmental stewardship and awareness among our youth. There will be classes about Alabama lakes, rivers and streams; awareness of the many interests (farmers, industry, recreation) competing for these water resources; water testing procedures to determine water quality; Alabama marine life; water safety and boating laws. It is intended to be a fun and informative experience for the children.

The Chilton County Water Festival offers an excellent opportunity for Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. members to get involved in an educational program that can impact the future health of our lake. There will be opportunities for volunteers to help with the organization of the event, help with publicity, and to teach classes. Contact Ralph Mason at ralphmason@wildblue.net for more information and to put your name on the volunteer list.

Similar events have already been held in other counties and have been hugely successful. We expect our event to be equally successful and to become an annual event.

2013-2014 Lake Phone Directories



Soon a new lake phone directory will be printed and distributed free of charge to all H.O.B.O. members who have paid their dues for 2013. It is not too early to submit your \$25 dues for next year. Be sure to specify on your check that it is payment for 2013 dues.

If you have had any changes in your phone numbers, email addresses, residence or other information since the 2011 directory was printed, send your updated information right away along with your 2013 H.O.B.O. dues and application found on the back page of this newsletter.

If you wish to place an ad in the directory, contact Jim Woodrow at ajwking@aol.com or 205-425-9431. The cost is only \$100 for a full page, \$60 for a half page, and \$35 for a quarter page. This will get you two years of advertising!

Watch Your Wake

Alabama Marine Police are launching a new safety and courtesy awareness program called *Watch Your Wake*.

Stemming from a conversation among representatives from all the state's major lakes concerning issues caused by boat wakes, the Alabama Marine Police has adopted the *Watch Your Wake* campaign.

The marine police studied what was being done on lakes across the United States to combat issues of safety and shore erosion related to boat wakes. They found that there are a lot of different approaches to combatting the problems caused by boat wakes, and the marine police in Alabama decided to approach it from an educational awareness standpoint.

Capt. Erica Shipman of the Alabama Marina Police said that the *Watch Your Wake* campaign extends statewide to all public lakes and rivers to educate vessel-owners and people who use public waterways.

The campaign is designed to educate the public on watching their wake and the damage it can do, and to encourage them to become more courteous boaters.

"We're not trying to stop people from skiing, tubing or wakeboarding or having fun in general – we're just asking them to do it safely and not do it too close to other people or other people's property," Shipman said.

In addition to safety concerns, there can be expensive consequences related to boat wakes. Large wakes can cause soil erosion and seawall damage. Wakes have even caused docked boats to bang against each other, cracking the fiberglass and creating thousands of dollars worth of damage.

Watch for more information about the *Watch Your Wake* program in coming months.



Summer Fun at Lake Mitchell

Fishing Trotline Laws

Did you know that there are Alabama laws governing trotline fishing?

Any line left unattended or unchecked for 48 hours may be removed by Game and Fish Division personnel and destroyed [220-2-44 (8)]. All trotlines and any other unattended fishing gear are not to be left for more than seven days.

It is illegal to fish trotline or snag-line within 25 feet of the bank unless the end of line is tied or anchored with at least six feet of 100 percent cotton line (untreated). The reason for this is that cotton line will decompose over time, whereas nylon line that is forgotten or abandoned could continue to pose a hazard for a long period of time.

It is illegal to fish a trotline, snag-line, set line, commercial fishing net, slat boxes or wire baskets within one-half mile below any lock, dam or powerhouse.

Trotlines can be fun and productive, and any ethical angler knows to check their lines at least once a day. However, when left unattended, trotlines can pose a hazard to turtles and other marine life, skiers and people tubing. Turtles have gotten caught on trotline hooks and died when the lines have gone unchecked. People have gotten infections from coming into contact with the trotline hooks. Let's encourage safe habits when using trotlines and other types of fishing methods

H.O.B.O. Offers Two Kinds of Signs

House Signs and Boathouse Signs

H.O.B.O. offers two kinds of emergency response signs for sale – House/Driveway Signs and Boathouse Signs.

1) The House/Driveway sign is a highly reflective blue or green house number sign to post at the top of your driveway and possibly another on the house itself to aid emergency responders (such as police, fire or medical personnel) to find your home by road. These signs are especially helpful at night because they are so reflective that they appear to light up when headlights shine on them. These signs cost \$25.00 and are ordered with the form on this page.

Many lake homeowners live off remote county roads. If the driveway or access road to your home is not clearly marked with your house number, an emergency responder may waste valuable time searching for the correct house.

- The signs are 18" x 6" made of high quality, bright, extremely reflective material.
- They come with white numbers and your choice of a green or blue background.
- The numbers are applied to both sides of the sign.
- The signs have two mounting holes close to one of the 18" edges and can be mounted vertically or horizontally, so specify if you want the numbers printed horizontally or vertically.
- Your sign or signs will be mailed to the address you enter on the form.

All of the instructions for ordering the House/Driveway signs are listed on the order form on this page. Just copy this form or cut it out of this newsletter, complete the information, and mail it with your check to James Ray.

2) The Boathouse Sign is a smaller house number sign that should be posted on your boathouse or pier. This sign is used to help emergency responders access your home by water. This sign costs \$15 and is ordered via the H.O.B.O. Membership Application Form on the back page of the newsletter by checking the Boathouse Sign and including \$15 to cover the cost of the sign in addition to the \$25 Membership Dues. Jim Woodrow handles the ordering of the Boathouse Signs.

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

House/Driveway Sign Form

(NOTE: Use the Membership Application Form on the back page of the newsletter to order your Boathouse Sign.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _(_____)_____

Quantity of Signs Ordered: _____

Background Color: Green _____ Blue_____

Orientation: Horizontal _____ Vertical _____

Numbers to appear on the House/Driveway sign:

Price: \$25.00 each and includes mailing.

Make your check payable to:
Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Send your order and check to:

James Ray
186 Pody Lane
Rockford, AL 35136B

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. 2013 Membership Application

Annual Dues Homeowner \$25.00	Marine 9 - Donation Maintenance & Operation \$	Fireworks - Donation Purchase of Fireworks \$	Utility Boat - Donation Maintenance & Operation \$
Other Donation Boathouse Sign \$15____ Memorial ____ Education Fund ____ Scholarship ____ Other (specify) _____ Amount \$			
Name:		Check One: Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/>	
Mailing Address:			
Lake 911 Address:			Lake Area:
Email:			
Home Phone:	Lake Phone:	Cell Phone	

Detach and mail completed form along with your check to: Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O., PO Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046

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 It is time to submit your dues for 2013. Please put "2013 Dues" on your check and mail it along with the application to the address above. With your paid 2013 dues you will be eligible to receive a 2013-2014 Lake Mitchell Directory at no additional charge. Please note if any of your information has changed since the 2011 directory was printed so that it can be updated in the new directory.

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.
 P. O. Box 1324
 Clanton, Alabama 35046

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Birmingham, AL