

# Tornado strikes area



Photo courtesy National Weather Service, Birmingham, AL

For some New Hope residents, November 24, 2001, is a Saturday they will never forget. The tornado watch they had been under much of the day was upgraded to a tornado warning at 1:40 p.m. Approximately ten minutes later, an F2 tornado touched down near the base of Lemley Mountain, where it downed trees and damaged homes. It strengthened as it moved northeast, striking a mobile home community. At least 21 homes were damaged, including eight that were completely destroyed. The tornado then crossed US Highway 431, damaged several businesses, then lifted into the skies. It stayed on the ground approximately four minutes. Despite the heavy damage, there were no known injuries. Several families took cover in underground shelters. According to the National Weather Service, the total damage path was 2.6 miles in length and around 300 yards at its widest point. About 50 NHTC subscribers lost service, and crews worked for two days to replace poles and lines. All service was restored within 48 hours.

## Discover digital cable

If you're looking for the best in television viewing, look no further than digital cable from New Hope Telephone Cooperative. The superior quality of digital cable service makes it the natural choice. No more interference problems, no more ghosting or snow on your TV screen — with digital cable, you'll have a perfect picture awaiting you every time you're ready to watch television. The digital processing also provides incredible sound quality. With the right equipment, stereo audio and Dolby Surround Sound® will enhance your viewing experience. Of course, digital cable gives you access to a multitude of channels. With so many options, there is programming available for every member of the family — from local news and sports to pay-per-view movies and events. Call New Hope Telephone Cooperative today to learn more about the benefits of digital cable. Sign up as a new customer, or upgrade your existing basic package for a new digital experience.

**New Hope Telephone Cooperative**  
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New Hope, Alabama 35760

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## The Communicator

Vol. 1, No. 1 January/February 2002

### Past and Present meet at New Hope City Hall



It is my pleasure to introduce you to the premier issue of *The Communicator*, a magazine for the members of New Hope Telephone Cooperative.

We are excited about the launch of *The Communicator*. We hope you will find each issue interesting and informative.

You may be wondering what led to our decision to publish a member magazine. To begin with, keeping you informed has become quite a challenge in recent years. There is space available for messages in our bills, but this space is limited. *The Communicator* will give us ample opportunity to keep you informed.

Secondly, it's important for us to communicate with you about the many services available through New Hope Telephone. Gone are the days when your cooperative offered nothing more than telephone service. Today, we are a progressive telecommunications company bringing top-quality service to New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads.

As a member of New Hope Telephone Cooperative, you have access to a wide selection of phone services which enhance the usefulness of your telephone. You also look to New Hope Telephone for cable service that continues to provide entertainment value for your family.

Our commitment to this area grew to include Internet access, and then high-speed access through digital subscriber line service.

And recently we waded through all the confusion surrounding long distance service to bring you a simple, competitively priced program to meet your long distance needs.

With so many services and plans available, we feel it is important to keep information in front of you. *The Communicator* will help us meet this goal.

Thirdly, we hope to do more with this magazine than just pass along information about the cooperative. We hope the publication becomes an important part of the community.

We plan to occasionally feature stories about the people, places and events that make this area such a great place to live, work and raise a family.

For *The Communicator* to be a true success, we need your help. We need to know what you like about the publication, and what you don't like. Let us know what type of stories you would like to see in these pages.

We also want to hear your ideas for feature stories. There are many interesting people in our service area who would be great subjects for an article. Also keep us posted about special community events which could be of interest to the area.

We hope you enjoy *The Communicator*, and look forward to hearing your comments. Thank you for the privilege of serving you! ■



Tom Butler  
General Manager

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New Hope Telephone Cooperative

is a member-owned corporation dedicated to providing communications technology to the residents and businesses of New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads.

Board of Directors

Johnny Cobb, President

New Hope Exchange

Jeff Cooper, Vice President

New Hope Exchange

David Ayers, Secretary

Grant Exchange

Barry Mefford, Treasurer

New Hope Exchange

James Cantrell

Grant Exchange

Jim Duncan

New Hope Exchange

Greg Glover

Owens Cross Roads Exchange

Robert Layne

Owens Cross Roads Exchange

Billy Tucker

Grant Exchange

The Communicator

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The Internet of 2002

Ten years ago it would have seemed like science fiction — but today, through a computer and a phone line, a person can access information from across the globe.

Looking for a catalog of cake recipes? It's on the Internet. How about weather reports from Huntsville to Hong Kong? Look no further than the Web. Stock performances? Sports scores? Price comparisons? It's all just a few mouse clicks away.

Technology has driven the Internet beyond thinkable limits in just a few years. And the Internet has, literally, changed the world.

Information has always been the true heart of the Internet. The amount of information available online continues to grow exponentially.

However, there is much more to today's Internet than just a collection of data. The Internet has taken hold as an entertainment medium, a communications tool and more.

The Web is gaining on television as an entertainment medium. Hooked by its unique on-demand nature, millions of people now spend as much time browsing the Web as they do watching the tube.

In 2002, Internet users will trade over half a bil-

lion items on Ebay (ebay.com). They will download over 400 million MP3 music files, and over 20 million books in MP3 format. They will download over 70 million movie previews.

More than 20 million people will track their family trees this year, while some 25 million will search for old school buddies at Web sites like ClassMates.com. Over 25 million online greeting cards will be sent. And hopefully each household and business using the Internet will download virus protection software updates.

In 2002, over 150 million people in the U.S. alone will communicate with family and friends via email, chat rooms and message boards. The number of family contacts should surpass half a trillion, while the number of messages sent for business purposes, including advertisements, should surpass 600 billion.

As they did in 2001, millions of people will build personal Web pages, check account balances, trade stocks, look for jobs, take college classes and earn MBAs.

As the number of users continues to grow worldwide, 2002 is sure to be a busy year on the Web. ■

INTERNET ACCESS  
Three prime choices from NHTC!

With three choices for Internet access, New Hope Internet makes it easy to choose the option that fits your budget and Web surfing needs.

BASIC DIAL-UP PLAN  
\$9.95/month

- 10 hours access per month (use above 10 hours billed at 95¢ per hour.)
- E-mail with unlimited message size.
- Local, toll-free number for all Co-op members.
- All 56K modems supported.

SPEED  
56k

BLUE DIAL-UP PLAN  
\$21.95/month

- Unlimited (non-metered) use for those who need more than 10 hours of access each month.
- E-mail with unlimited message size.
- Local, toll-free number for all Co-op members.
- All 56K modems supported.

SPEED  
56k

BROADBAND DSL  
\$49.95/month

- Fast (up to 1.5 MB/sec.) and dependable, digital subscriber line equips you with a dedicated connection from your computer to our switching facility.
- DSL can use your existing telephone line while allowing you to talk on the phone and use the Web at the same time.
- No waiting to connect, no busy signals and no dropped connections.
- E-mail with unlimited message size.

SPEED  
1.5M

One-time set-up fee: \$12.50 for dial-up access, \$25 for DSL. All accounts include one E-Mail Account (POP3). Additional E-mail addresses: \$3.95 each with \$6.00 set-up fee. Local tech support available at 723-8940 from 8:00 a.m. to midnight Monday through Friday; 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday. Contact New Hope Telephone for dial-up and DSL computer requirements.

## New Hope City Hall

# A building rich in local history

When New Hope Mayor Dave Mann goes to a meeting at city hall, he is in a building full of memories. The structure which now serves as the New Hope Library, the Madison County annex and City Hall, is an important part of the town's history — and the history of Mann's family.

"My grandfather, Albert Butler, had a general store here," says Mann, a farmer by trade. In fact, there was a time when just about anything a person needed could be purchased at Butler Brothers.

The story begins with James Edward Butler. 'Jim Ed,' as he was known, was born in 1843 and grew up on the family farm near the eastern Madison County town of Poplar Ridge.

Following three years of service in the Confederate Army, Jim Ed returned home in 1864 to assume responsibilities on the family farm. An opportunity soon came for him to start a business of his own in the burgeoning community of Vienna (now New Hope).

Jim Ed's brothers, George and F. Taylor, joined him in establishing a general store in the town. They built a two-story brick structure to house clothing, medicine, shoes, farm supplies and many other necessities.

Upstairs, a collection of caskets and other funeral supplies were offered in the days before funeral homes. The Butler brothers also maintained a highly successful cotton ginning business that included the sale,

purchase and storage of cotton.

When George and F. Taylor passed away, Jim Ed purchased his brothers' shares in the company from the heirs. Making an addition to the store, Butler Brothers began selling furniture and newly invented electrical appliances.

Jim Ed was widely known for his generosity as well as his business sense. Sometimes young local farmers would receive poor prices for cotton and be forced to go into debt to feed and clothe their families.

Jim Ed would assume many of these debts and give the farmers work for an entire year, providing the families with basic necessities. At the end of the year, the accounts would be settled. If a debt was greater than a farmer could pay, Jim Ed might be offered ownership of the farm as payment, allowing the family to stay as "tenants" and continuing to provide for their needs.

On July 23, 1913, Jim Ed died, leaving the rapidly growing business to his sons Albert, Canada and William. Albert became the sole owner of the operation in 1939.

Under Albert's management the company became one of the largest mercantile operations in the state. Butler Brothers provided groceries, feed & seed, dry goods, hardware, furniture, appliances, tractors & farm implements, building materials, funeral supplies and one of the largest cotton gins in the region.

Daily traffic near the gin could get



The office of New Hope City Clerk Wenona Patterson is upstairs from the museum, which features many interesting artifacts from the area's history.

pretty heavy as the streets filled with trucks and wagons full of cotton. "I remember coming through town as a kid," Mann recalls, "and you could hardly get through there."

When Albert died in 1955, the interests passed to his sons. The operation underwent many changes through the years, and continued to thrive until it was closed in 1985.

Four years later the building and grounds were purchased by the City of New Hope, which renovated the furniture store into a new town library. Another two to three years saw the renovation of the rest of the structure.

It took a lot of effort to save the historic site and put it to good use for the citizens of New Hope. Today the building houses a town meeting room and a Butler Brothers/New Hope museum. The Police, Street and Water Departments have offices here as well. A County annex saves residents a trip to Huntsville to purchase license plates.

A fire hall was built behind the buildings in the spot where the tractor dealership and the feed store once stood.

"This is an important piece of history for this town," says Mann, "and I'm glad we could preserve it." ■



## choice!

### The close-to-home

How many of America's long distance companies can you name? You can probably think of three or four immediately, companies whose multi-million-dollar advertising budgets have made them household names.

Did you know there are more than 1,000 companies authorized to provide long distance service in the U.S.? Why, then, did New Hope Telephone Cooperative decide to join this crowded field and establish its own long distance company?

Simple. We knew we could bring simplicity back to long distance for our members.

The industry grew increasingly complicated during the 1990s. Each business day we saw the confusion caused by long distance advertising.

Our members were changing long distance providers to save money, but too many times were surprised by unexpected charges and limitations. What seemed like great single-digit long distance rates were overshadowed by the fine print: night and weekend restrictions, minimum call lengths and monthly minimum-use fees.

Add to the mix the new 10-10 dial-around alternatives and limited-time promotions with fluctuating rates, and the complications multiplied.

So in May of 2001, New Hope Long Distance was launched with the promise that our service — from a company owned by you and your neighbors — would be high-quality and hassle-free.



Because New Hope Telephone is a cooperative, our priorities are different from the conglomerates. The big long distance companies must perform well on Wall Street — we must perform well on your street.

That includes not only offering competitive rates, but providing exceptional service as well. When you have a question about your bill, or need help with your long distance account, all it takes is a call or visit to your neighbors and friends right here at New Hope Telephone.

New Hope Long Distance will help your

### at a glance

#### LONG DISTANCE PACKAGES

##### Plan A

14¢ per minute for interstate and intrastate calls, 24 hours a day / 7 days a week

##### Plan B

9¢ per minute with a \$4.95 monthly fee for interstate and intrastate calls, 24 hours a day / 7 days a week

See [www.nehp.net/SDR.htm](http://www.nehp.net/SDR.htm), or call 723-4211 for more information.

### THE CLOSE-TO-HOME ADVANTAGE

We want to help keep you connected to the people you love, and, at the same time, take away the confusion associated with long distance rates. That's why you will find NO additional fees hidden in fine print, and there will be NO surprises when you get your bill.

Long distance from New Hope Telephone offers **simple, straightforward** "1+" calling plans with **low, flat rates**. Best of all there are **no monthly minimums, no 'less-than-minimum' penalties** and **no time restrictions**.

And the close-to-home advantage doesn't stop there.



You can also enjoy a return on investment with the **capital credits** you earn. Plus, you get the satisfaction of knowing you are **supporting the local economy** by doing business with a strong north Alabama company.

# Meet your neighbors on the NHTC Board of Directors

## Johnny Cobb -

**Johnny Cobb** usually begins his day around 6 a.m. at the New Hope City Hall. He is president of the New Hope City Council, and oversees the police department. By 7 a.m. he's opening Johnny's Beverage, the store he has owned and operated for 25 years. Cobb enjoys community service, which led him to seek election to the NHTC board of directors 10 years ago. He and wife Ouida have two children.



## David Ayers -

Working with the public is a way of life for Grant's **David Ayers**, who has owned and operated Grant Hardware for 25 years. He also spends his mornings and afternoons driving a school bus for DAR. Ayers was interested in seeing NHTC continue to grow and expand its services, so he ran and was elected to the board of directors two-and-a-half years ago. Ayers and his wife Peggy have two children.



## Jeff Cooper - Vice

**Jeff Cooper** is in his 13th year of service on the NHTC board of directors. He says the past four or five years have brought many changes to the telecommunications industry. At the age of 10, Cooper helped his grandfather start a small engine shop in New Hope. After graduation, Cooper took over the business and has been owner and operator of Cooper Small Engines for the 28 years since. He and wife Tammy have four children.



## Barry Mefford -

**Barry Mefford** of New Hope has served on the NHTC board of directors for 11 years. He believes that learning as much as he can about the changing telecommunications industry helps him make good decisions for NHTC members. After a lifetime of farming, he opened his mechanics shop – S&B Repair – where he works on car, trucks, tractors and heavy equipment. He and wife Donna have six children.



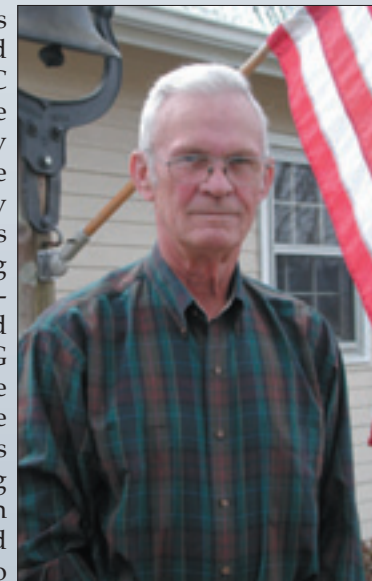
## Jim Duncan

**Jim Duncan** of New Hope was looking for a way to give something back to the community he has always called home. He found his opportunity last year when he was elected to the NHTC board of directors. For 25 years he has owned and operated D&D Greenhouses, which offers spring bedding plants, vegetable plants, seeds and more. Duncan is also in the mini-storage business and excavation business. He and wife Gina have five children.



## Robert Layne

**Robert Layne** of Owens Cross Roads has served 19 years on the NHTC board of directors. He says he has seen many changes through the years, and is especially proud of the progress made in expanding cable service throughout the area. He retired in 1988 from PPG Industries, where he was a maintenance supervisor. Layne stays busy as a building inspector for his town and New Hope. He and wife Bennie have two sons and one grandchild.



## Greg

**Greg Glover** of Owens Cross Roads wanted to help improve his community, which led to his decision to run for the NHTC board of directors four years ago. Since 1985 Glover has owned and operated G&G Enterprises, a landscaping company specializing in residential projects. He also raises quarter horses on the family farm, including a stud that he breeds to the public. Glover and wife Harriet have one son.



## Billy

It's been almost 20 years since **Billy Tucker** was first elected to the NHTC board of directors. He was interested in helping expand the cooperative's cable service to other areas of the system, including his community of Grant. He is the senior member of the board, and enjoys fishing and hunting in his spare time. Tucker is retired from the State of Alabama engineering department. He and wife Julia have two children and two grandchildren.



## James Cantrell

Brick masonry is more than a job for **James Cantrell** — it's a family tradition. Following in his father's footsteps, Cantrell has been a brick mason for 35 years, specializing in residential and decorative masonry. Two of his sons (identical twins) have also taken up the trade. Cantrell has been on the NHTC board of directors for nine years. He has five children and six grandchildren.

