



# The Coffee Break

*Suggested donation \$1*

Volume 1, Issue 1

Every last cent goes to the Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Co.!

## Who's Who

Many of you know Vi Karrer. She has been a familiar face in these parts for the better part of 60 years. She was born in 1918 in Cottonwood. She met her husband Loyd at a dance in Klamath Falls and they married in 1939. While she lived here for a year in 1934 with her mother and stepfather, she didn't move here permanently until 1939 when she came with her husband. They bought a mining claim at Sunflower Flat where she lives today, but she lived for years in old Trinity Center. Loyd did a variety of things in addition to mining, including 8 years as a county supervisor. Vi operated 2 restaurants in old Trinity Center until the building of the lake caused Vi and Loyd to move to Sunflower Flat. She is an amazing woman that has seen it all. She embodies the American pioneer spirit. Her home



*Vi Karrer*

on Sunflower Flat has no electricity or phone in the modern sense. She uses a generator and radio phone. She was cut off for days all alone during the flood of '64 not knowing whether Loyd was ok or not. She remembers the 6 feet of snow that fell the winter of 1968. During the flood of '97 she was cut off by landslides, but refused the offer of a helicopter transport out because she "still had plenty of propane".

Since she was widowed in 1978 she has stayed active by providing an unlimited source of inspiration for the Coffee Creek Fireflies. She has made countless crafts to help support our fire department. Vi is also a tireless gardener. Most warm days you will find her in her yard coaxing one more flower to bloom in her abundant garden. She is a treasured historian of the area who can recount days gone by in colorful detail. Just ask her about "Robber's Rock" someday. She is most generous in her willingness to share her intimate knowledge of "these parts".

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### Special points of interest:

- *Vi Karrer as we know her*
- *News from Coffee Creek and Trinity Center*
- *What's happening in your community*
- *Meet our team player of the month*

### Times Past - "Robbers' Rocks" By Vi Karrer

Just before you approach the first crossing of Scott Mountain Creek there used to be two very large rocks on the right hand bank. Wilber Dodge, the son of some very old pioneers, told me that they were known as "Robbers' Rocks" as robbers hid behind them and robbed the stage coaches as they traveled the mountain.

The larger rock fell onto Highway 3 in

February of 1990. It was so large that a blasting crew had to be called in to break it up so it could be removed. Its mate is still there and hopefully will stay to remain a part of history!

Next time you drive over Scott Mt. imagine travelling in a stage coach approaching the infamous "Robbers' Rocks".

## Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Life

January has been a tough month for our communities. We will all miss Jeff Montana who passed away Jan. 8th. Jeff wrote wonderful stories about Coffee Creek for the Trinity Journal under the pen name, Fess Tyler. We will all miss his music. Many of us danced the night away with his Trinity River Band. At his musical memorial it was evident that three year old daughter, Daphne, carries on his talent. She sang a rousing rendition of "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" for her daddy.

On Jan. 18th we lost another treasured member of our community. Alan May entertained us all with his sense of humor and perpetual optimism. Many of us know first hand how he was our "personal shopper" since he was asked daily to either pick something up or drop something off on his daily trek to Weaverville where he worked as a realtor. His wife, Lynn, will need our support in the months ahead.

On January 28th we heard the tragic news that Gino Banducci passed away in a terrible accident near the Buckhorn summit. Gino was very much cherished in our community. His crab feeds and other cooking skills were legendary. He had served on the Advisory Council for the Golden Age Center and did the cooking for their fundraising events. I am told by one of his good friends there that he was "everyone's friend and that he would do anything for anyone". His wife, Pat, will also need our loving support.

We are happy to report that Bob and Judy Hart are home and have enjoyed the many visits from friends not to mention some delicious meals prepared by many of you.

In other news, Sherri Masy's and Smokey Silva's son, Dustin, has finished his training in Sacramento and is now a full fledged Sacramento County sheriffs deputy.

Cynthia Foster and Jim Crowley have just returned from an incredible trip to Palau which is an exotic island in Micronesia. Cynthia reports that they took advantage of the beautiful blue water to do a little snorkeling. They also were honored to have dinner with the president of Palau and lunch with the governor.

And we have a mystery to solve at this end of the lake.

How did the unknown footprints on the INSIDE of the mail van's front windshield get there?

There was a very exciting elk release the evening of January 18th when 27 of the immense creatures were released in the Davis Creek area around 7:30 in the evening. The released elk were all female and it is thought that most of them are bred. By spring there should be lots of little elk bounding around our forest. The release was partially funded by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. This organization also helped to fund the capture facilities near Astoria, Oregon where the elk resided. It is also reported that California did some trading of turkeys for elk as part of this program. (Have we noticed anyone missing lately?) We are sure that by now they have searched out their fellow elk which were released a couple of years ago. By all reports the earlier release was one of the most successful ever, so there are high hopes for this group also.

The Lions Club is credited for the flyer we all received explaining the warning signs of a heart attack. It is hoped that this information will help save lives in the future. Credit for the idea goes to Lions Club members Dana Graham and Bill DeWolf who researched the issues and wrote the flyer. A big thank you goes to Bobbie Graham who folded and stapled all 450 mailers. The Lions Club paid for the postage. Thanks, gang!

It has been reported by reliable sources that our senior Medal of Honor recipient and Jeep demolition expert, Jim Swett, is recovering so rapidly that he should be home shortly. The same sources report that Jim has been busy studying Jeep brochures. Way to go, Jim! Get well and get ready for spring fishing and boating.

Bob Cunningham, who is known for his wild and improbable faux pas, is learning to tie flies. He got the bug (no pun intended) while fishing in New Zealand. So far he has succeeded in puncturing all of his fingertips, tied his thumbs into his creations, and produced several unrecognizable hairballs. Who knows where this adventure will lead.

## Nature's Bounty - Oregon Juncos

How many times have you heard about "snowbirds"? Winter is a great time to see these innocuous LBB's as we call them. These Little Brown Birds are also known as Oregon Juncos. They travel in small flocks of 15 to 30 individuals and tend to be most noticeable during the snowy days of January. Most people hardly notice these little guys, but they are the most prevalent bird at the winter bird feeder. When the flock takes off



their tails flash their white borders making the normally inconspicuous bird a flashy aviator. The other distinguishing characteristic of the Oregon Junco is it's black head. You will often hear their twittering as they forage for food on the forest floor.

They are not the glamour bird that many birders strive to add to their life list, but they are a welcome bit of cheer during the gray days of January. Next time you take a walk in the woods listen for the soft gossip of our little snowbird.



# Town Crier

Red Fred tells me that he will be playing in a "Blues Reunion" at the New York Saloon, Friday, February 18th at 8 pm. Members from the Siskiyou Blues Society and others will be joining him in this tribute to Jeff Montana.

As we go to press I am informed that the Garden Club meeting for February 8th has been cancelled. However, there are plans for a meeting in March. The Garden Club meets the second Tuesday of every month and has many delightful and varied programs. For information call Audrey Eyman at 266-3440.

The computer interest group headed by Joyce Prickett is meeting at 7 pm the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Yellow Jacket. This group includes people with all skill levels from beginning to advanced. Come and take advantage of other's expertise and share your own tricks and tips.

Do you feel lucky? Mark your calendars for Saturday even-

ing, March 4th for the Lions Club sponsored Little Reno Night held at the IOOF Hall. This is the event of the year! There will be poker tables, craps and roulette. Gamblers can turn in their chips for a host of valuable prizes donated from across the Trinity County community. Everyone always has a good time and, as we all know, proceeds go to a great cause, so be there and join in the fun. There will be great snacks and a cash bar.



## Fire Call

In the past year the Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Departments have responded to 15 fire calls and 42 medical calls. There were also 25 training and miscellaneous calls for a total of 83 calls.

In case anyone is not aware, when a call for service (medical or fire) is paged out, both Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Fire Departments respond. Given the small size of both departments, this is a prudent and safe practice in the best interests of the community. In addition, and for the same reasons, both departments train together. Given our isolation here, we must rely heavily on each other. This close association is to the benefit of all of us.

If you are new to the community, or if you have been too busy up until now, we need committed volunteers. The fire departments are close organizations that perform a real public service. It's a great way to lend a hand and get to really know the community as a side benefit.



## Hook, Line and Sinker



Things are pretty slow on the fishing scene at this time of year. The river above the lake is currently closed to fishing. There is some decent steelheading opportunity on the river above Junction City. Try roe, plugs, night crawlers and jigs under bobbers. Fishing in Trinity Lake is currently limited to trout in the mouths of the larger streams feeding the north end of the lake. The point on the south side below the mouth of Swift Creek has been yielding some nice rainbows for shore anglers. Try powerbait or a night crawler floated over a marshmallow 12-18"

above a slip sinker. Die hard bass anglers will soon be tossing grubs on the steep vertical drops around the lake. Try fishing the grubs slow and deep on light line. This is most comfortably done during the few warm hours in the early afternoon on sunny windless days. No info available from Lewiston Lake.

Now is a good time to clean and oil reels, replace drag washers, replace old line and check your rods for signs of frayed wrappings, worn guides and cracked finishes. It's also a great time to tie up a new supply of flies and spinners.



Every last cent from the sale of this newsletter goes to the Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Department!

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**Call 911 for  
emergencies!**

A Coffee Creek Firefly Publication



## Team Player

Send in your nominations for our "Team Player". This is the spot to highlight one of our own who goes above and beyond in service to the community. Send us the name of your favorite unsung hero and the reasons why you feel they should be recognized.



## Your Turn - Send Us Your Letters



Dear Community,

Since this is the premier issue of "The Coffee Break" there are no letters from you, so I figured I'd take this opportunity to rattle on a bit. It occurred to me recently that the north lake area isn't exactly included to any great degree in the "mainstream" of Trinity County. In other words, "If it didn't happen in Weaverville, it didn't happen." I thought it might be fun to try and remedy this situation with our very own newsletter with the spotlight on our two wonderful communities of Coffee Creek and Trinity Center.

It is my intent for the inflated suggested donation of \$1 for this epistle to go to the Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Department since this department gets no outside support from taxes which are earmarked through a Community Services District. At some point in the past Coffee Creek elected not to participate in the District concept, and decided to raise money in other ways. Well, this seemed like a fun "other way".

Only you, members of our two communities can let me know if this is a worthwhile pursuit by supporting the newsletter, and contributing items of interest, ideas and letters.

It is my strong belief that there is no better place on earth than our little slice of the planet. This is a vehicle to highlight our north lake community and have a little fun along the way. Let me know how you feel.

Linda Cunningham

Oh, and PS—If you have a letter, idea or potential article I have an arbitrary deadline of the 15th of the month for publication (hopefully) on the first of every month.

