



# The Coffee Break

*Suggested donation \$1*

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

## Who's Who

She was born Cleo Brintnell, the third of four children, in 1904. However, we all know her as the indomitable Cleo Seymour. She grew up in Michigan, a stone's throw from the Great Lakes. When she completed the 10th grade she was faced with boarding school which involved taking the "midnight train" or going to work. Her father insisted that the hardships of boarding school were too much and Cleo went to work in a grocery store. It was while working in the store that her romance began with Harry. He rode a beautiful cream colored horse and was literally her knight in shining armor. They were soon married and around 1930 headed for San Francisco. Harry worked as a toll collector on the Bay Bridge for some 20 years and Cleo worked in another grocery store and eventually worked her way into a position as an interior designer for Hale's Department store. Together they raised a son and a daughter.



*Cleo Seymour*

In the early 50's they came to Coffee Creek where they had previously vacationed. They bought some land and built a home and eight cabins which they ran as the "Seymour Ranch" for many years. Cleo prepared meals for 10 to 30 people nightly.

One day Harry said, "No place is ever going to grow if they don't have a church." That was the

beginning of Coffee Creek Church. Harry and Cleo donated the land and proceeded to build a church with whatever resources they could find. They even enlisted their more than willing guests to help. The beautiful stained glass windows which we enjoy today came from a Catholic church in the Bay Area. The church has had a number of pastors from varying faiths. As Cleo says, "It didn't make any difference if I was a Baptist, Methodist, or a Catholic. God doesn't care." She says that in the old days "even the dog went to church". For many years she served on the church board and is now "President Emeritus".

Cleo enjoys her family which now includes five grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She says she doesn't know what she'd do without her grandson and daughter-in-law, Randy and Hazel Spencer who help with shopping and chores. Hazel and Cleo frequently go to town and have lunch together. In addition to her devotion to her church Cleo enjoys playing cards, especially double solitaire. She walks every day and in the fall you can catch her raking leaves in her yard. She loves to sit on the porch and visit in the summer. When asked the secret to health and longevity she says, "Quit drinking, have a positive attitude, walk, care for others, and go to church." She says she has "had a good life".

And when asked how she would describe Coffee Creek to someone that has never been here she says enthusiastically, "You'll love every minute of it!"

## Times Past - "The Mystery Hideout"

By Vi Karrer

Some time after we moved from Trinity Center back to Sunflower Flat my husband, Loyd, was fishing in the Trinity River near a cold spring about a quarter mile up on what is now the Parks Creek Rd. He had become thirsty so went to the spring for a drink and discovered a Model A Ford sedan hidden in a patch of azalea brush. The sheriff investigated and found that it had been bought in Texas sometime in the early 40's, but no payments had been received since the time of purchase and the

dealer didn't care to come after the car. The sheriff told Loyd to keep the car at our place and then file a lean for storage. They towed it down to our place. We followed the sheriff's direction and eventually drove it to Redding and sold it to a dealer. It ran fine but the back seat was missing.

Time went by, then in about '67 or '68 they had a crew of surveyors working up the Trinity River to survey a new road to come out at Dan Rice Creek and avoid sharp curves on the Scott Mt. Road and

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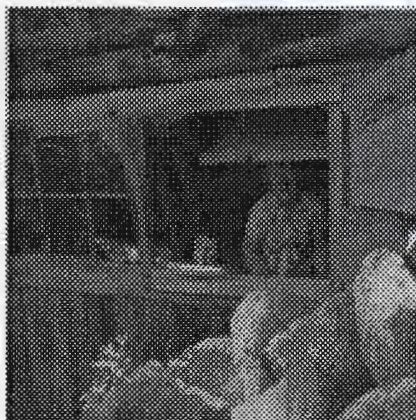
## Special points of interest:

- Cleo Seymour as we know her
- News from Coffee Creek and Trinity Center
- What's happening in your community
- Meet our team players of the month



## The Mystery Hideout, Continued

they discovered this hideout in a big rock slide up the hill a little ways from where the car was found. We were told about it, and we went up to investigate. We took some pictures and found the back seat to the car and a lot of pieces of army clothing, army colored 5 gal. cans, pieces of boots, etc. which led us to believe that it had to be an Army deserter, but he was long gone somehow. We found a board where he had recorded each day, and I remember the last entry was Jan. 1st. I have been unable to find that board but he was there in the early 40's. I have tried to get the record from the Sheriff Dept. about when they towed the car out of there, but the records have been destroyed. I have often wondered about who he was and if he eventually made it out alive.



Vi Karrer in "The Hideout" - 1960's

## Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Life

Bob Hart died during the early morning hours Wednesday, Feb. 17th, from lung cancer. He had been back home in Trinity Center since the first of the year where he could be in his mountains and see his many friends. Besides being a great friend to so many of us we will have many other memories of Bob.....paratrooper during WW11 who didn't like flying, master wood craftsman, member of "The City Council" at the Yellow Jacket, unremitting Green Bay Packers fan, consummate practical joker who could take it just as well as he could dish it out. Bob was an individualist and a character in every favorable sense of those terms. There will not be another like him. May you rest in peace old friend.

A beautiful service was held at the IOOF Hall, Saturday, February 5th, to honor the life of Gino Banducci. The Hall was standing room only with many of us outside on the porch

**BREAKING NEWS.....**Very reliable sources report that Rachel and Bill Hartman are awaiting the arrival of their first child around Sept. 25th.

**Dam Update.....**David Lewis with the Bureau of Reclamation reports that the Appraisal Level Study which examines the issues involved in raising Trinity Dam 5 to 20 feet is still only in draft form. He reports that they have encountered many technical conflicts and difficulties in preparing this report which has prevented them from finalizing the report. Mr. Lewis feels that June would be a good time to revisit the issue, and promises to keep us informed if something happens prior to that date. It should be noted that no decision has been made or even recommended at this point in the process.

Dei LaSpino and Rusty Mauk plan to put Coffee Creek on the map. They are building an altered fuel car to race under the "King Rat Racing" name. They plan to name the car "Coffee Creek Espresso" and hope to be well underway with their project in a year. We'll be reporting on their progress.

Coffee Creek's very own Mieke Peterson, daughter of Holly and Fred Anderson, is making waves. Mieke is a senior psychology/biology student at Hillsdale College in Michigan and was named to the dean's list for the fall semester. Way to go Mieke!

Rosalie Collins announced her retirement at a special Coffee Creek School Board meeting. She has been a teacher for 38 years, 26 of them at the Coffee Creek School. She will complete the school year and officially retire in June. The community will be asked for their input in selecting a new principal/teacher. Rosalie will leave big shoes to fill.

Have you ever driven away from some place only to discover that you had forgotten to accomplish some minor detail before leaving? Ask Peggy Bowers. A few weeks ago she and an unnamed co-conspirator took Barbara Hummel along to Weaverville as a passenger. After accomplishing their intended tasks in the "city", they returned to Trinity Center only to discover that they had overlooked one small detail. They forgot to pick up Barbara, who had been visiting her husband in the hospital!

## Nature's Bounty - "Witches' Brooms"

As you travel north of Eagle Creek Loop on Highway 3 you might notice an interesting clump of green, high in a pine tree on the east side of the road shortly before you reach Sunflower Flat. Many people mistake this "clump" for mistletoe, but in reality it is a phenomena known as a "witches broom". Witches' brooms are compact clusters of branches that grow densely from a common point on a major branch. On conifers they grow in whorls and are caused by a genetic mutation. Many of our dwarf conifers have been developed from these unusual patterns. Witches' brooms are not limited to conifers, but can occur on many different types of plants including poplar, sycamores and even cocoa plants. Interestingly, our chocolate supply is currently threatened

by an outbreak of witches' broom which, in this case, is caused by a fungus called black pod disease. Start hoarding those chocolate bars now!

As noted above there are many causes of witches' brooms depending on the host plant. While researching this story I came across a published paper on the subject entitled "Influence of Callose Accumulation in the Sieve Tubes of the Phloem of Paulownia on Colonization of Witches' Broom Agent" At this point I realized I was in way over my head, so suffice it to say that the big "clumps" of green gloppy branches you see in the conifers occasionally around here are caused by nothing more mysterious than a few strands of DNA gone awry.





Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company's Annual Chili Feed and Auction will be held March 25th at 6 p.m. at the Coffee Creek School. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 5-12 and free for children under 5. John Eaker will be preparing his famous and most delicious chili again this year so don't miss this opportunity for great food and loads of fun!

A Mens' Fellowship meeting is held on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Coffee Creek Community Church. Single fathers should feel free to bring their children as child care is provided. All are welcome to attend.

In addition, the Coffee Creek Church holds Children's Choir Practice for boys and girls on Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m.

A 2 day Hunter Education Class will be held at the Coffee Creek School Sat. and Sun., March 11 and 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The class is free and no prior sign up is needed. Students should pick up a Hunter Ed student book at Wynthoon Resort or Coffee Creek Country Store and have this

book read prior to the class. It is also suggested that students bring a sack lunch. You may call Steve Milovich for further information at 266-3430.

The Lions Club wants your blood! On March 10 the club will sponsor another blood drive at the IOOF Hall from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. So far 49 pints of blood have been collected from the last two drives in this area. It only takes a little of your time to give this most precious gift of life, so let's all show up and show our community spirit.

Don't forget Little Reno Night March 4th at the IOOF Hall! This evening in an Old West Saloon begins at 7 p.m. and goes until midnight. You can turn in your winnings for some very nice items donated by local businesses. This is a great opportunity to have a great time and benefit a worthwhile organization at the same time.

The Garden Club will meet at Debbie Councilman's house March 7th at 1 p.m. Call Audry Eyman for details at 266-3440.

## Fire Call



This has been an exciting month for the Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company. Coffee Creek has been actively pursuing the goal of constructing a new fire hall which would be better able to house the fire company's vehicles and equipment. George and Bernie Ely very generously donated the land just south of the Forest Café for the building site. Since then Coffee Creek's Fire Board with the help of Kit Garrity have been seeking grants and other funding to complete the structure. The Fire Company recently received word that their grant request with Rural Development, a division of the United States Department of Agriculture, has been approved. CCVFC will receive \$29,610 within the next few months. These funds, along with the generous contributions from the community, will be used to build our new fire hall. The Rural Development Specialist from Redding was recently in Coffee Creek to meet with board members and visit the building site. She was very impressed with the enthusiasm and cooperation of our board of directors. Construction on the new fire hall will continue as soon as weather allows.

Both fire departments have been busy training this past month on the use of breathing apparatus for personnel protection during fire suppression and spinal precautions used for certain medical situations.

March is your opportunity to join your community fire department by participating in the First Responder course offered beginning March 13th at 6 p.m. at the Coffee Creek School. The class will be taught by Paramedic Julie Eaker and will run every Monday night until June 13th. In addition, the class involves two Saturday special training sessions. Saturday, April 1st will be CPR certification and Saturday, May 20th will be AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) certification. After successful completion of the class students may join their community's fire department and respond on medical calls. Both departments welcome new responders and hope to have many enthusiastic new members. Call Julie if you are interested at 266-3507.

## School Days



Coffee Creek School is enjoying the new year with many new and exciting educational programs and activities. The children are working within their individual programs, and are progressing well.

All of the 13 students have weekly individual piano lessons with Michele Latner as part of the Fine Arts and enrichment program. Lynn DeGrummond is giving art lessons.

Future programs at the school include a falconer who will bring 4 to 5 birds, Rudy, the Clown, and a production of "Alice in Wonderland".

Now that there is plenty of fresh snow at Mt. Shasta, downhill and cross country ski trips are planned. On a recent sunny day all of the children enjoyed a nature hike directed by Steve Roadhouse. The children learned tree identification, age, growth patterns and were fascinated to see a nest of hatching lady bugs. The children are enjoying the local volunteers, especially the cooking class. Come see what's going on at Coffee Creek School.



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

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## Your Turn - Send Us Your Letters

To "The Coffee Break" regarding "Team Players"—  
I can truthfully write with extreme confidence for both Bob and I, that never in our life times have we met a couple like Sue and Roger Chatterton who are as devoted to a community, its people and their neighbors. They have lived in Trinity Center only five and one-half years, but, in such a short time, they have become to us like family who will not hesitate to help out in so many different ways.

Words of thanks do not begin to express how we feel toward them and everything they did for Bob. With them leading the way and following through each step of the way, we were able to bring Bob back to his home in the mountains that he cherished so much and where he wanted to spend his remaining days.

They brought things to us in Sacramento when we realized we could not come home for awhile.....as did many other of our friends. When Bob made the decision to stop all treatment and return to Trinity Center, Sue and Roger went to work and arranged an air flight with Bob's comfort in the foreground.

Sue organized a group of women who took turns serving us our dinner, spending the night and did not leave the next morning until we had eaten and gotten ourselves together. She made sure we had meals each night (gourmet meals I might mention) encouraging Bob to eat. She set into action a line of communication on how Bob was doing in Sacramento as well as when we came back to Trinity Center.

The above is just a miniscule of the many comforting efforts they both did and who would instantly react to whatever needed to be done, no matter time of day or night. The comforting shoulder to cry upon, the soothing hand to help ease a pain or just knowing they were so close for help as needed.

There are many, many others who played a role in the efforts to help Bob feel comfortable and to name them all would fill all the pages of this newsletter. I have said many times I know I cannot thank each and everyone of you right now, but I will see you all sooner or later and I will say again how grateful we are to live in a community as dedicated to their friends and neighbors from the far reaches of the north lake area of Coffee Creek south to Minersville.

Judie Hart and Jennifer Hart-Mora

## Team Players

We are most pleased to honor Sue and Roger Chatterton as our Team Players of the month. Roger and Sue are both EMT's and Firefighters for the Trinity Center Fire Dept. Roger is President of Lion's Club. Sue organized the feeding of all the volunteers working on the new Trinity Center Church. Most recently Roger and Sue dedicated themselves to the assistance of their friends and neighbors, Bob and Judy Hart, during Bob's long illness. Their selfless dedication made it possible for Bob to be at home with his friends and family through the latter stages of his illness. As the saying goes, it takes a village, but it takes people like Roger and Sue to make a village.

Prior to "retiring" to "Trinity River C", their home in Trinity Center, Roger spent a long career with the Monterey County Sheriff's Dept. He retired as Captain of Detectives. Sue also worked for the department in dispatch. They are both accomplished fly rod anglers. Roger is also enjoying his busy retirement preparing to race a restored European sports car. Roger and Sue are avid dog lovers. They have bred, reared and boarded German Shepherds for many years. Their most recent additions are two Yellow Lab pups named Abby and Brittles.

Anytime there is a job that needs doing Roger and Sue can be found quietly getting it done.

Dear Editor:

Coffee Break—what a terrific idea. The newsletter will be a great way to inform the residents of up-coming events and activities, to educate some of us newcomers about North Lake history, and to involve the people in both communities as contributors. Best of all, the newsletter will be an excellent way to reach out beyond our special little corner of the world and tell the rest of the world how special we are. Keep up the good work!

Kit Garrity - Coffee Creek

The family of Alan May wish to thank all the friends and neighbors of Coffee Creek and Trinity Center for your kind expressions of love and sympathy.

Love—Lynn May

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