



The Coffee Break

Volume 1, Issue 10

Suggested donation \$1

Every last cent goes to the Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Co.1

Who's Who

Olga Darling was born in Padang, Sumatra (Indonesia) in 1934. She is the youngest of five girls and one boy. Her early years were very rough. Her mother died at 37 years of age when Olga was only 2 1/2 years old. Her father, who was a difficult man, remarried a very young woman and all of Olga's sisters were put in a convent. Her brother went in the military and Olga stayed with her father until she was 6 years old because she was too young to go when her sisters did.



Olga Darling

When Olga did finally go to the convent she was separated from her sisters because of her age and didn't get to really know them until much later.

Then the chaos of W.W.II began. Olga's world was turned upside down when the Japanese occupied Indonesia and imprisoned many Dutch and Dutch/Indonesians. Olga was 7 years old. The convent turned into a crowded prison camp. These were very difficult times when food was scarce, as well as basic necessities.

When Olga was 11 the allies dropped parachutes with food and clothing and the ordeal under the Japanese was over. However, during this entire period Olga had no schooling and found herself at the age of 11 in second grade.

The nuns left for Holland, and Olga was left in the care of her 22 year old sister. Together they stood in lines for dried food. It was during this period that she finally got to know her sisters. When her sister got married, Olga had to return to her father. Now he had 11 more children by his second wife, and Olga's life was made quite miserable. She returned to her sister a year and a half later. Olga found work as a secretary when she was 16 1/2 and then married at 20.

In the early 1950's the Dutch/Indonesians were

required to declare if they wanted to be Dutch or Indonesian. Since Olga and her husband were Dutch/Indonesian they determined that it was in their best interests to go to Holland, since life would be rough in Indonesia for those of mixed heritage. In 1955 they made the move. Olga describes the experience as "heartbreaking". They spent 23 days on a ship and then became one of thousands of refugees crammed into small quarters. They were allowed a once a week bath and received meat once a week. During this period President Eisenhower was allowing 10,000 refugees a year to enter the U.S. if they had a sponsor. In 1959 Olga and her husband found a sponsor and moved to Yonkers, New York. From there they made their way eventually to Pasadena, California where Olga worked in a hotel for the elderly and her husband was a mechanic. She had one daughter, Joyce, and then in 1961 had a second daughter, Patricia.

During a difficult period of her marriage, Olga found work sorting 34 different shades of lipstick for Avon. Later she divorced and worked for Burroughs, designing circuit boards. It was at Burroughs that she met her husband, Earnest. They married in 1967.

Finally, Olga was able to begin her pursuit of a life-long interest. She went to school in San Diego to learn Swedish massage in 1987, and now pursues her Healing Touch training with great passion. She has recently applied for certification her certification in Healing Touch. She also is very active with the Coffee Creek Fireflies and Hospice.

Olga and Ernest found Coffee Creek while kayaking in this area and moved here in 1990. She continues to satisfy her need to share her energy and compassion with others through her training with Healing Touch. It is safe to say that she has touched many of our lives with her boundless love and interest in the well being of others. She says that by helping people she is actually helping herself. She feels that what she learns from others greatly contributes to her knowledge. We are all very lucky to count Olga Darling as a member of our community.

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 ★ Don't miss an open letter to ★
 ★ the community from TPUD ★
 ★ General Manager, Rick ★
 ★ Coleman—Page 6 ★
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Special points of interest:

- *Olga Darling as we know her*
- *News from Coffee Creek and Trinity Center*
- *What's happening in your community*

Times Past - "Two Early Day Miners On Picayune Creek" - by Vi Karrer

Charlie Blue had a good mine up on Picayune Creek where it forks to the north (known as Little Picayune). Ed Scott packed him in with his string of pack horses in the spring and out in the fall.

Charlie was very much a gentleman, always clean and neat about his appearance as well as his cabin. Friends that knew him wondered how he ever found time to mine as he spent so much time keeping everything tidy and clean. Apparently, he was very satisfied with his gold recovery, as he spent several summers at his cabin.

Another miner was located where Picayune Creek and the Trinity River meet. Wilber Dodge called his mine the Pumpkin Seed Mine. I had the pleasure of seeing some of his beautiful nuggets. Wilber had a hand hewed log cabin with a shake roof, which he had built. The interior was rather dark, as there were no windows. The only light was a space between two logs on the north end, which also let him see anyone entering his gate. His house was completely fenced with a very sturdy fence which protected his fruit trees and garden. Wilber was a very resourceful man, very strong, and the tasks that he accomplished by himself were unbelievable. Back then there was only a dusty trail where the Parks Creek Road is now. Wilber wheeled all of his supplies up that trail, at least 3 miles, on a wooden wheel barrow with a metal wheel. The '64 flood washed his place completely away except for one pear tree. Wilber passed away in 1942 and is buried at the Carrville cemetery. Wilber was the only son of a pioneer family that ran the American

House stage stop. He was a rough and tough character and many stories have been told and written about him. He never worried about his appearance or cleaning his house. He mostly lived on beans, rice and tea and what he called yeast powder bread which sort of looked like Swiss cheese. I'm sure at times some venison and fish were on his menu. His really very bad habit was his tobacco chewing. He spit the juice wherever it was convenient, and his hair, whiskers, house and clothing showed the results. He frightened most people, including yours truly when I first saw him, but we ended up being good friends. After he became our neighbor, I cleaned up his act by washing his clothes and cutting his hair. Under his tough skin he was really a good person – eccentric, but honest and he was always willing to help anyone in need.

A story that amused me about him was about a time that he came upon a man and his wife whose car was stuck in the mud. Wilber and the man tried without success to push the car out with the wife who was very much overweight sitting in the car. Wilber, not being very patient, opened her car door and told her to get her fat *!# out of there and help push. With that the car moved and the couple were on their way.

There were also a few other miners living along the river back in the thirties digging out enough for necessary food and tobacco, some living in cedar bark shelters.

Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Life

Margaret May Kiser, 67, passed away this past month. She lived for 42 years in Trinity County with her husband, Frank. She attended both Coffee Creek Community Church and Trinity Center Community Church. She is survived by her children Virginia Birtch, Robert "Buzz" Perkins, Rhonda Perkins, Dennis Perkins, Beverly Tyler and Pam Delaney of Coffee Creek. She had 22 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Pam and Pat Delaney wish to thank Patty Yarian for her help during this sad time.

Top Meyer wants to thank everyone for their cards and pot-luck celebration of her 85th birthday. Most of all she appreciates all the good wishes and the gift of friendship.

Keith Radcliffe and Jan Foster were united in marriage at the Coffee Creek Community Church October 17th. This wedding was the first performed by Pastor Steve Ratzlaff in the Coffee Creek Church. Keith and Jan met each other over the internet. Their friendship evolved after they met each other, and they began to date. Keith says he "put his best salesman's hat on" and together they decided to marry in a wedding that took eve-

ryone by surprise. Mike and Sue Mayo were pleased to stand up for the new couple in what Keith describes as a beautiful service. After Jan gets her household moved to Trinity Center the couple plan to spend a little time in Hawaii. Best wishes Keith and Jan.

Mary Bowen was off to Tucson last month to her 50th high school reunion. She graduated in 1950 in the upper portion of a class of 818. She was a member of the National Honor Society and won a scholarship to the University of Arizona where she met her husband, Barry, three years later.

Elaine Ulrich reports that her son Wade is doing extremely well following surgery to remove a brain tumor in San Francisco in August. Wade, who is an ardent Oakland Raiders fan, recently discovered his previously paralyzed arm waving wildly in the air while watching the Raiders score. Since then Wade has been exercising "Lurch" (his name for his arm) at every opportunity. Surgery helps, but for Wade the Raiders rule!

Explosion in Coffee Creek

A population explosion took place in Coffee Creek October 11th when two, yes two, baby girls were born at Trinity Hospital.

Around 3 am little Alexandra Elizabeth was born to Josephine and William Dunham Jr.. Alex, as her parents call her,

weighed 7 pounds 15 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

Then in the late afternoon of the same day Alyssa Isabella was born to Rachel and Bill Hartman. Alyssa weighed in at 6 pounds and was 20 inches long. She is reported to have beautiful red hair and blue eyes.



Fire Call



On behalf of the Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company, we wish to thank the community for attending our celebration for the new Fire Hall. It was a huge success, and the community was very generous with their donations and purchases of hats and T shirts.

We wish to thank the Country Store and the Forest Café for furnishing some of the food and drinks, and the Fireflies for the cake. Chief Garrity's Boston baked beans were the greatest, and board president, Mike Ransom's garlic salted hot dogs were delicious.

Special thanks to Pastor Steve for the dedication of the building, Lyle Charter for his cowboy poetry and Jimbo Dahm and his band who entertained us all afternoon.

There is a familiar saying that says, "That behind every successful man there is a woman." We would like to say that behind any successful volunteer fire department there is a group of ladies, mainly the Fireflies. Without this hard working and supportive group we would never have reached the accomplishments that we enjoy today. This group has been so successful in selling their hand made items lately, that they have decided to go to a full day once a week, versus the normal half day to make items to sell. That is dedication beyond the call of duty. For what the Fireflies do for us we can do more for the community.

Again we wish to extend our appreciation to everyone that made a donation or donated their time and labor in making our new fire hall a reality.

More thanks goes to Coffee Creek Ranch for their recently held Octoberfest. A spirited tug of war was held between the Trinity Center and Coffee Creek Fire Departments with a generous donation made to both departments. Coffee Creek Ranch also donated the proceeds taken in from the festivities to the two fire departments.

Contributed by Barry Bowen, Chairman Building Committee / Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company Board

Congratulations go to Karen Lucky who recently passed her paramedic exam after months of school and hard work. She has a few more hours of training to go before becoming an official paramedic.

And congratulations also go to Steve and Jayne Ratzlaff who passed their California EMT exams. This gives Coffee Creek Fire two more valuable personnel. Steve has also been named Assistant Fire Chief for Coffee Creek. He and Jayne have had many years of experience in other fire departments in other states.

Training notes: Both departments participated in Incident Command System training this past month. This training outlines the universal system that is followed by emergency services to standardize the methods under which various agencies and departments interact during incidents.



Coffee Creek Fire Company EMT's and Fire Fighters



Fire Fly/Board Member Gloria Jason and Board Member/EMT Building Chairman Barry Bowen Celebrate



Eating, Dancing and Visiting





Make sure you vote on **November 7th** and then go to the Garden Club at the Alpen House at Wynton Resort at 1 pm to make holiday wreaths and other decorations. There will be cookies and hot buttered rum as well as raffles.....and make sure you mark your calendars for December's Garden Club when BJ Groves once again presents her popular flower arranging class.

Flu shots will be offered On **November 14th** from 9:30 am until 11:30 am at the Trinity Center IOOF Hall for those seniors 60 and older.

New Trinity Center resident, Pam Burkes, will be offering an aerobics class on Mondays and Thursdays from 11 am until noon if there is enough interest. What better way to start your New Years resolutions early! Pam has taught aerobics for over 15 years and has great music to motivate the best couch potatoes. She will show various levels of intensity and you can set the proper pace that's just right for you regardless of your age and fitness level. If you are interested call Pam at 266-3949 and get your name on the "interested list". Once the interest level is determined Pam will pick a start date and place to meet.

If you're longing for that turkey dinner with all the trimmings but not the shopping, cooking and dishes that go with it give Coffee Creek Ranch a call (266-3343) and make your reservation for dinner on **Thanksgiving Day**. Dinner will be served from 3 pm until 7 pm and football will start at 1 pm. There will be both turkey and ham and all the goodies that go with it. Cost is \$15.95 for adults and \$7.95 for kids 12 and under. Call for reservations by November 20th.

On **November 18th** the Coffee Creek Community Church will host its 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner from 1 pm to 4 pm at the church. All are welcome. There is no cost, however, donations are accepted.

Coffee Creek Community Church recently began Bible Study Classes at Cleo Seymour's home every Thursday at 1 pm. Everyone is welcome.

If you are interested in joining Coffee Creek Community Church contact Pastor Steve at 266-3519. When enough people are interested he will hold another membership class.

Trinity Center Community Church had their first service on October 22nd in the new building. The hours for services have been changed from 9:30 am to 10 am with Sunday School for children beginning at 10:30 am.

Dedication of the new church, that was built mainly with volunteer effort, will be on Sunday, **November 19th** at 2:30 pm. The public is cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will be served after the program.

Michelle Reichling is looking for dads interested in starting a

Boy Scout Troop. If you are interested call her at 266-3920.

The new North Lake Telephone Books should be ready by **December 1st**. You will want to get this new book as there are many changes. The directories will cost \$3 with the money benefiting Coffee Creek Fire.

Here's an early heads up...The Artisans' Guild will be holding their annual Christmas Fair Crafts Sale on **Sat., December 9th** at the IOOF Hall from 10 am until 3 pm. This is your chance to get those unique one of a kind Christmas gifts.

TPUD Addresses Recent North County Power Concerns

There has been a lot of recent discussion about the reliability of our electric power service in the North County area. Specifically, concerns have focused on a potential plan to abandon one of two power lines that service our area, which, it is believed, would result in longer power outages than we are used to enduring. Some people fear that we could be without power for weeks at a time. Rick Coleman, General Manager of TPUD agreed to address these issues in a recent letter which is published in this issue of "The Coffee Break".

You will find Rick's letter, in its entirety on the last page of this issue. Please read it carefully. Rick has expressed his willingness to further discuss our power concerns with the community at a Town Hall Meeting, if the community feels that such a meeting would be a good forum.

The core of the issue revolves around the two power lines which service our area. One of these lines is an underground/underwater line and the other is an overhead line. The line that has raised questions is the underground/underwater line. TPUD will probably abandon this line when there is a major failure in the underwater portion of this line. No one knows when this could occur, but speculation has been that without it as a back up line we would be at risk for very long power outages. Rick addresses these concerns at length in his letter.

If it is felt that a Town Hall Meeting is desirable after reading Rick's letter, please call TPUD and/or our supervisor, Chris Erickson, and make your wishes known.





Delightful Day Walks – by Kit Garrity

Union Creek Trail

Those of us that live along the Coffee Creek drainage are fortunate to have some of the country's most beautiful walks available within a few miles from home. There are many wilderness trails that begin on Coffee Creek Road. Butch and I have taken most of them at one time or another. Not only is the scenery spectacular, but also the area is rich with reminders of a colorful past, especially mining.

As I've mentioned before, Butch and I used to backpack into the Trinity Alps as frequently as we could get away from the grind down in Redding. The trails off Coffee Creek were always our favorites. We especially liked the trail up Union Creek. It still holds many fond memories for us. We often take day walks up this trail, and still delight in the variety of experiences that it offers.

The Union Creek trail begins about nine miles up Coffee Creek Road – just beyond the "Trout Farm". The first two miles of the trail follow an old logging road and are mostly uphill. About one mile in there is a small lake sitting right off the trail. Of course, Guinness loves the lake. He now knows where it is and charges ahead of us up the trail. When we finally catch up to him, he is joyfully swimming around in the lake waiting for his stick to be thrown.

Approximately two miles in, you cross Union Creek on a well-built Forest Service bridge. After crossing the creek, the path winds through a forested area that periodically opens up to small meadows carpeted by native grasses and wild flowers. Just up from the bridge, the trail crosses Pin Creek, which you have to wade – but only ankle-deep. About four miles from the trailhead, you come to the confluence of Bullards and Union Creeks. This is generally where Butch, Guinness and I have our lunch. If you get off the trail and walk through the meadow toward the creek, there are some great lunch spots overlooking Union and Bullards Creeks. In the early part of the summer, the meadow is brimming with spring-fed streams, a perfect place to keep your drinks cold and of course for dogs to frolic.

Since I am talking about a day walk, I won't take you further up the trail. But, if you are up for a more-lengthy walk, the trail eventually leads to the Dorleska Mine, a real page out of our mining history. It is well worth the extra time it takes to get there. It is approximately eight miles in from the Union Creek trailhead.

If you wish a moderate and quite enjoyable walk into one of the area's most picturesque spots, I highly recommend Union Creek trail to Bullards Creek.

Coffee Creek School

Elections for student council were held at school this month. Upper grade students made posters and gave VERY convincing speeches as to why they should be elected. Our new council consists of Melissa Delaney, President; Jody Vandergrift, Vice-President; Rhea Bennett, Secretary-Treasurer; Alyssa Haire, Commissioner of Sports and Spirit; and Nick Klang, Commissioner of Grounds. The student council has already organized noon-time sports activities and are in the process of planning an after-school party for grades 1 through 5. The students are learning first hand how the political process works, which is a part of their curriculum in political science.

In addition the upper grade students are studying energy. They will do a survey to find the most economical water heater. This information will then be used by the school board to decide on the best avenue to take selecting a new water heater for the school. The upper grade students will also conduct a survey of our library books. They will randomly select books to identify copyright dates, estimate number of books, and summarize these data so that we can write a grant for state funds to improve and enlarge our library selections! Thanks kids for all your dedication and hard work, you are fabulous citizens and students.

Field trip experiences in October included a trip to a pumpkin patch and environmental camp at Whiskeytown. Each primary grade child brought a pumpkin back to school to use for math related activities. Grades 5 and 6 attended camp for 5 days to learn more about the environment. Michelle Reichling attended as our "teacher" support person and Elise Overly attended as a counselor.

Parent and community volunteers enrich the childrens' school experiences. So many of you contribute so much to our school. Currently several parents and community members have been helping drive children to and from volleyball and football practices and games., no small feat considering the price of gas! Classroom volunteers have been working with reading groups and helping individual children. Dick Rymer is teaching drawing techniques to the upper grades one day a week. And, we now have four brand new picnic tables thanks to the Grahams, Bowens, Charters, Cunninghams and Kausens. We are very fortunate to have such devoted people in our community. THANK YOU.

For sale: Denim long sleeved shirts with school panther logo for \$26. Contact the school to place your order (they are beautiful shirts).

Contributed by Carol Havens, Principal

Say the Secret Password

Jada Benson, owner of the Coffee Creek Juice and Java shop on Athens in Redding has graciously offered residents of Coffee Creek and Trinity Center a great deal for the month of November if you know the secret password.

With the purchase of one 16 oz. drink you will get a second one free if you say "**Billy's Peak**" and identify yourself as being from Coffee Creek or Trinity Center.

Use this opportunity to take a break from your Costco run in Redding and relax with a nice cool drink.



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

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Coffee Creek Fire Co.

A Coffee Creek Firefly Publication



Long –Term Electric Service to the North County

The TPUD is actively investigating ways to improve the reliability and quality of power to the North County area. All rumors to the contrary are absolutely false. It's no secret that the electric lines serving the area have been at the low end of industry standards since long before they were purchased from PG&E. They are very old, both physically and in terms of their design.

The TPUD is now finishing its review of a system-wide engineering study that will serve as the basis for a major Five-Year Capital Improvement Program. The engineer found that the power quality in the North County just meets minimum standards and, if outages caused by PG&E are excluded, it is the least reliable locality the TPUD serves. The study suggests that there are four other, very expensive, improvements needed within the system; the Douglas City substation is overloaded by about 30%, the Hayfork substation likely has less remaining life than the lines serving the North County, and a major pole replacement program is needed system-wide.

Ironically, the North County area is one of the few places in the County that has two 12kV lines feeding it, one overhead and one underground/underwater. Yet the condition of these lines is such that the reliability of service is worse than with one newly constructed line. However, reliability is not the most immediate problem in the area, as the voltage there is very weak.

There are many possible solutions to both problems, including replacing the underground and underwater line. But a new substation at Trinity Dam, coupled with increasing the voltage of the overhead line, may be the most promising. Either solution could cost more than \$2 million, which is over \$3,000 per customer. Given the modest revenue generated in the North County, these costs can not be justified economically. But they are justified given the obligation to provide service to the area. What is not justifiable is reconditioning and maintaining both feeders, unless the North County wants to pay a premium for the resulting reliability, which would far exceed that normally enjoyed by other TPUD customer/owners.

There are two potential solutions to the economic problem. First, the new substation might be able to benefit more than just

the North County area. The TPUD has requested a follow-up engineering study to investigate this idea further, and there will be a few federal regulatory hurdles to overcome. Secondly, there is a remote possibility of making the federal government pay for a solution, as it is at least partially responsible for current conditions. The construction of Trinity Dam created most of the load at Trinity Center, and caused the marginally acceptable underground and underwater line to be installed, at federal expense.

Regardless of the ultimate plan selected to continue service to the North County, the existing underground/underwater line would not be abandoned until it has a major failure, which would likely occur with the underwater portion. There is no way to predict when such a failure might occur.

Until recently, the TPUD planned to spend over five million dollars on system improvements, all while decreasing rates next year. However, the cost increases caused by electric "Deregulation"¹ are now much larger than expected. Therefore, the rate decrease is no longer a consideration, and the TPUD will likely need to scale back its planned capital improvements or borrow additional funds. Nevertheless, by 2004 the quality and reliability of electric service in the North County will likely be better than it has been since 1963, perhaps better than it has ever been. Improvements to the system serving the North County are a high priority for the TPUD, but it will take some time to identify precisely what should be done, develop funding, obtain permits, prepare the design, issue bids, and construct the improvements.

¹ The legislation created two new bureaucracies, got rid of none, and called it "Deregulation".

Rick Coleman, General Manager TPUD

