



The Coffee Break

Suggested donation \$1

Volume 1, Issue 8

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

Who's Who

At 83 Ethel Steele still spends a lot of time in the saddle. Today she still runs her cows in the Trinity Alps, just as she has done since she was a young girl growing up just 4 miles down the trail from Big Flat Campground at the head of Coffee Creek. There were no roads into Lakeview Ranch. Her parents made a living providing food to the miners in the area during the gold days. They grew vegetables and fruit. Her mom baked bread, and they kept the miners in milk with their cows. Her mom was a McNeil of Scottish origin and her dad was half Karuk Indian. Ethel was the second to last of 7 children. When she was 11 her father died. Her father had been a gifted horseman who could make his mare dance to the tunes he played on his harmonica. Ethel had learned the art of packing from him, and she began her own business packing for the miners. At one point she bought a mule for \$10 only to have it die on a trip into the Caribous. This was a big loss, but she learned from the experience.



Ethel Steele

When she was 15 she was living and working at her great grandparent's place at Mountain Meadow Resort one summer when Nate Steele came through the area on his way to his grandfather's place on the Salmon River, not far from Ethel's parent's place. She and Nate hit it off and were married shortly before Ethel's 16th birthday in 1932.

In 1948 they began raising bulls and eventually bought a 1000 acre ranch in Cottonwood. The ranch was taken when the freeway was built. They continued to spend summers at Big Flat with their cows and horses and, now, their two sons, Nathan and Char-

lie. She and Nate peeled the logs for their cabin at Big Flat which still stands today at Mt. Meadow Resort. Together they developed the resort, and provided hunting and fishing trips into the Alps for the tourists.

Ethel would catch fish out of Union Creek and pack them into Battle Canyon in milk cans. She packed the first fish into the Caribou lakes. To this day Ethel is an ardent fisherman. In the fall they would drive their cows to their ranch in Cottonwood. The route went over Trinity Mt. and took about a week. They would camp along the way or stay at Trinity Farm and French Gulch Hotel.

In 1965 Nate passed away. Ethel ran Mt. Meadow until 1969 when she gave it up. She married Bill Pettis in 1972 and continued to run her cows in the Alps and raise registered Polled Herefords. They now had another ranch in the Cottonwood area, which she still owns. In 1994 Bill died. In 1995 she married Nate's brother, Mert Steele. She and Mert ran cows together and took trips to Mule Days in Bishop. In 1998 Mert passed away.

Today Ethel is still running her cows in the Alps. She says she can still spend an 8 hour day on her mule, Betty. She has had both of her hips replaced and one knee, but none of these surgeries has kept her down very long. In her life she has seen many changes and declares that there used to be hundreds of deer, so many, in fact, that they used to travel the deer trails because they were so wide. She also wistfully remembers the salmon that ran up the rivers.

When I asked her what no one knows about her, her lifelong friend, Mable Steele, said, "No one knows how many nights she's (Ethel) spent under the stars and how much she loves it. Nobody knows but Ethel. Can you think of anything better than that?"

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Special points of interest:

- *Ethel Steele 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 - "Early Day Telephones" by Vi Karrer

Early day telephones in this area were supplied by the Forest Service. I don't know when this telephone service was installed, but it was in use when I was here in 1933. It consisted of wires hung through insulators and strung on trees. Everyone had a phone which you cranked to get the number you wished to call. I remember that our call was two shorts and one long ring. There was also a heavy iron box on top of Scott Mt. which came in handy if you had trouble on the mountain.

One had to be careful with your conversation when using the phone as you were never sure who might be listening. One lady on the line had a canary which always gave her away.

Each station had a switch board, so, if you could get the operator it was possible to call other towns. It was really a great convenience for everyone back then.

The Forest Service eventually went to radio communications and the wire lines were all removed.

Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Life

Tom Reynolds of Trinity Center passed away this past month from heart disease. He was born near Snohomish, Washington in 1941. His family moved to Humboldt County in the early 1950's where he attended Arcata High School. He excelled in the technical arts and was an outstanding member of the "Flying Tigers" gymnastics team. After high school he was working in the trades when he suffered a disabling electrocution. Thereafter he obtained his commercial contractors license and specialized in commercial construction.

Tom was a tournament grade slalom skier in his earlier years, and was a master at instructing others and was a caring, humorous friend and gracious host. He is survived by his sisters and daughters, Dianne and Kathy, and two grandchildren. - *Contributed by John Warren*

Trinity Center welcomes new citizen, Tommie Leigh Myrick. Tommie was born Aug. 20th to Samantha Myrick. She weighed 9 lbs 6.5 oz. and was 22 inches long, and was delivered "C" Section by Dr. Meredith. Her maternal grandparents are Hope and Tim Myrick. Both mom and baby are doing well at home.

Next time you're in Redding check out the new "Coffee Creek Juice and Java" shop on Athens. A good plan is to walk the short block to the coffee bar while you are having your car spruced up at the car wash on Cypress and Athens. I personally tried the iced mocha with whipped cream and was very pleased. Jen, the owner, comes in everyday at 4 am to make the fresh pastries. They juice their own carrots and make a wicked fresh fruit smoothie. Check them out!

Nature's Bounty - "Flying Squirrels"

Tese and Joe Gorswick's cabin near Goldfield Campground is a flying squirrel mecca. Every night, shortly after sunset, a legion of flying squirrels make their way down the conifers surrounding the Gorswick's deck. Strategically placed bells ring as the tiny squirrels signal the Gorswicks for a touch of their favorite treat, peanut butter.

Most people have never seen *Glaucomys sabrinus*. This is a big name for a tiny, nocturnal wonder known commonly as the Northern Flying Squirrel. They don't really fly, but gracefully glide from tree to tree, making flights as long as 80 yards. While "flying" they stretch out their legs and use the fold of skin between their foreleg and hind leg to act as a sail. They utilize their tails as a brake. They live in family groups of adults and juveniles, outside of the breeding season, and are fairly gregarious. While they remain sedentary for long periods of time, studies in Alaska have shown that their nightly moves can be extensive. They have been known to travel 1.2 miles in a single night.

Female squirrels generally have litters between 2 and 5 once a year after a 40 day gestation period. She will find a hole, such as an abandoned woodpecker hole, to make a nest for her family. They have been known to nest in "witch's brooms". When the babies are born they weigh about a fifth of an ounce. Babies are born with an innate sense of aerial maneuvering and do not need to be taught to fly/glide by their parents.

This squirrel is the primary prey of the northern spotted owl. A pair of owls can consume about 500 squirrels a year. Their diet consists of lichens, fungi, seeds, buds, fruit, cones, insects and, of course, peanut butter. It is believed that they may be an important



Squirrels Checking Out the Peanut Butter

element in forest regeneration because they disperse spores of fungi.

The northern flying squirrel has a slightly smaller cousin in the southern United States. Their habits are similar to the northern variety. Much of the life history of these little guys remains to be discovered by those of us who are fascinated by the night creatures of our forest.



it can be designated for a relative that doesn't necessarily live in the community.

Don't miss the Trinity Lake Lions Club Annual Fly-In Barbecue. This event will be held over Labor Day weekend on Sunday, **September 3rd**. The barbecue will be held from noon until 6 pm. The craft booths sponsored by the North Trinity Artisans Guild will be open at 10 am.

The Lions are renowned for their deep pit barbecue technique which produces a succulent beef and turkey dinner. Cost of the barbecue is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids up to 12. As usual there will be a band.

Don't forget to save room for pie! These pies aren't just any pies, but baked by the community bakers of Coffee Creek and are, therefore, very special. Proceeds from the pie sales help support the Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company.

Folks, this is a special community event which everyone always enjoys, so let's all come out and have a terrific dinner and good time.

It's apple season and the Garden Club plans go all out in the quest for the best apple treat. Bring your best apple surprise along with recipe to the Alpen House at Wynton Resort on Tuesday, **September 12th** at 1 pm. Gardeners will share their food and recipes with each other. You may even win a prize! For more information call Audrey Eyman at 266-3440

On **September 15th** the Lions Club will sponsor another Blood Drive from 9 am until 2 pm at the IOOF Hall. Roll up your sleeves and give. So far we have amassed close to a 100 pint credit. This means that this blood is available to community members or

The North Trinity Lake Improvement Association's Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner will be held Tuesday, **September 19th** at 6:30 pm at the IOOF Hall. Bring your favorite dish and your own table setting. Entertainment by Trinity Center's very own, Judy Eaker, will begin at 7:30 pm, so come enjoy the evening. Watch for fliers with more information.

Celebrate fall on Sunday, **September 24th** at the Coffee Creek Country Store for yet another rousing Music Festival. Bring your musical instruments and your talent and have fun with other musicians. Don't forget to bring a dish for the Potluck Feed. Festivities begin at 3 pm.

New Teacher for Coffee Creek School

Coffee Creek is welcoming another new teacher. Amy Crnich will be teaching kindergarten through third grade this year. Amy was raised in Eureka. She attended college in Ashland, Oregon and completed her studies at California Sate University Chico. While living in Chico she worked as a substitute teacher and a secretary-tech in a medical clinic.

Amy enjoys hiking, skiing, gardening, cooking and reading. She has been coming here with her family since she was a child and has many happy memories of skiing on the lake and hiking in the Alps. She is already getting acquainted with her new students as well as the community and looks forward to living and working in Coffee Creek.



Fire Call

Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company

We are progressing with the interior portion of the building. Plans are presently being drawn up, and will be ready to send to the county building inspector very soon. We have had some good input from a lot of you, and if you have any suggestions please contact us. Already we have received fixtures, cabinets, appliances and other materials to complete this project. Also, we are presently reviewing bids for central heat, which we should have installed within the next 30 days.

Everyone in the North Trinity Area should be sure to save October 14th as we are going to have an appreciation barbecue to honor everyone that helped in making this community building a reality. More details will follow.

Coffee Creek and Trinity Center EMT's in the past two weeks have had some very serious calls, all of which were handled in a successful and professional way. One of the calls required hiking 2.5 miles in on a trail to an injured person. All resources were included from a helicopter, to pack mules and hikers. You can be proud of this group for an outstanding job well done. - *Contributed by Barry Bowen*

New Minister for Coffee Creek

Coffee Creek extends a warm welcome to Steve and Jayne Ratzlaff. Steve and Jayne are the new pastoral couple that will be pastoring the Coffee Creek Community Church. They begin services Sunday, September 3rd.



Delightful Day Walks By - *Kit Garrity*

In the interest of finding a new walk to write about, Butch, our son Tim, our dog Guinness, and I decided to walk into Adams Lake one Saturday morning. The trailhead is located off Coffee Creek Road, about eleven miles in from the Highway 3 intersection. The trailhead is a little difficult to find, as it has no parking area and the Forest Service trail sign is not too obvious.

Although we had walked that trail a couple of times before several years ago, we had conveniently forgotten how steep the trail was – selective memory, I guess. The trail winds up the side of the mountain for about 2.3 miles. It is quite steep, but it is shaded all the way to the lake, which makes for easier climbing. My advice is to take it slowly and enjoy the walk. The trees are magnificent both in variety and stature. Because the trail is so protected, it is very quiet and peaceful, except for the occasional scream from a resident jay.

Once you reach Adams Lake you will at once feel rewarded for the strenuous walk. The lake, which is about one acre in size, is tucked up against a sheer granite mountain. The water is clear and cold. Although you couldn't prove it by the luck Tim and Butch had that day, there are fish in the lake – they were rising all over the surface.

Since Butch and I consider ourselves “experts” on picnic spots, we always spend some time investigating the best possibilities for our well-deserved repast. There are some large rocks for sitting scattered about, which have views of the lake, the granite peaks and the forest around the lake. We all chose a special rock on which to perch and eat. Guinness, having already worn himself out swimming after sticks that were thrown for him, also found a favorable place to lie down - close to the where the eating was taking place. After a couple of hours of resting, eating and fishing, we started our decent back to the trailhead.

Needless to say the trip back down the trail is all down. Although the down is easier on the cardiovascular system, it is harder on the legs and knees. The tendency is to go too fast – don't. Take your time, because the trip down looks entirely different than the trip up. Enjoy the hike. It is work, but it is worth it!

John Ford, John Wayne, the Backcountry Horsemen of California and the American Flag *Anonymous*

John Ford was the greatest film director who ever lived. Oh, there are a few other great ones, but he stands alone at the top. Of such accolades he would only say that he was simply a storyteller. He told his stories on film, of course, using imagery and ritual better than anyone before or since. One has only to watch and hear the opening credits scene in “The Horse Soldiers” or Captain Brittles’ farewell address to his troops in “She Wore a Yellow Ribbon” to be forever convinced. Part of the imagery and ritual that makes these scenes so compelling and so uniquely American is the presence of our flag.

I recently rode with a top-notch outfit planting trout in the high country, the Backcountry Horsemen of Calif. In fact, we decided to throw in with ‘em and join up. For two evenings we gathered at Alan and Bev Hill’s beautiful spread at Norwegian Ranch. We ate a lot, laughed a lot, visited a lot, listened to Lyle Charter’s cowboy poetry and sang along with Lori Charter’s songs. We ranged from senior citizens to toddlers.

There with us was the American flag, because someone had seen fit to raise it there. Nothing could have been more fitting. Late the second evening I happened to look out as the last rays of sun played across the meadow. The peaks in the high country were already in shadow, the horses and mules grazing in the big meadow were highlighted, and Old Glory was back lit taking her even beyond her usual magnificence. It struck me as a very Fordian scene. We had a long, very hot ride. Now we were all gathered together in a vista as grand as any we could ever lay eyes on with our flag waving in the gentle breeze, a sentinel keeping watch over her flock, a reflection of our greatness as a nation, a symbol of a freedom and independence so strong that we fly her not in obedience to some order or directive but simply because we love and revere her and all she stands for.

I think John Ford and the Duke would have been proud. Of course, they couldn't just come out and say it. Pappy would have just snorted a brusque approval. The Duke would have given an affirmative nod, as he did in the final scene in his elegy, “The Shootist”.

So, the next time you look at Old Glory and get a lump in your throat, well pilgrim, that's the American Experience.





Backcountry Horsemen Preparing for Fish Plant

You Get a Line and I'll Get a Pole

The Back Country Horsemen successfully planted 135 pounds of fish, which figures out to be close to 32,000 fish in various Trinity Alps lakes and streams. Streams and lakes planted included Eagle Creek, Union, Stoddard, Shimmy, Adams, and many others.

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School Days

Coffee Creek School

School begins for Coffee Creek children on September 5th. The daily schedule will be:

Kindergarten 8:30 am - 11:50 am
1st - 3rd grades 8:30 am - 2:20 pm
4th - 8th grades 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Lunch 11:45 am - 12:25 pm

Teachers Amy Crnich will teach grades K - 3 and Bill Loucks will teach grades 4 - 8.

Back to School Night will be held for Coffee Creek School

children, parents and community on Tuesday, September 19th. The teachers will meet with parents at 6 pm. The entire community is invited to celebrate the new year with a pot luck at 6:30 that evening.

This year's main educational theme will be the study of water! Grades K-8 will learn about the many aspects of water. In addition many subject areas will be linked to water in order to support student learning.

The sports program will begin September 11th with girl's volleyball practice. Practice will take place at Coffee Creek School on Mondays and Wednesdays 3:15 to 4:30 pm.

Flag football practice will begin September 12th. Practice will be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 3:15 to 4:30 pm at Trinity Center School. Bill Loucks will coach both sports.

The "Ghost of Coffee Creek"

The "Ghost of Coffee Creek" was recently caught on camera. For months there have been whisperings of the apparition appearing suddenly and without warning to those with a "psychic" bent. Of course, those tales were looked upon with great snickering and knowing nods. However, the camera does not lie. The location of the "ghost" sightings is a closely guarded secret. Those with the knowledge must carry a cyanide capsule in case they are interrogated by "CNN" or "60 Minutes". This writer had to sign in blood the oath of silence and no amount of bribery will pry information from my sealed lips. However, I suppose the "X Files" could work a deal.....



The "Ghost of Coffee Creek" aka the Weird White Squirrel



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

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**Call 911 for
emergencies!**

A Coffee Creek
Firefly Publication



Coffee Creek Fire Co.

Team Player

We see him almost everyday. Jack Simmons is always accompanied by a wave, a smile, a great wit, and, of course, our mail. It's easy to just expect our mail to show up on schedule, but Jack always makes the extra effort to do nice things for people.

On occasion he has been known to make an extra effort to go out of his way delivering medication that needs refrigeration. He has gone the distance through the muck of winter to deliver mail to those that might have trouble getting to their box.

I personally appreciate his concern for my ladybug shipments. He worries about their welfare in the hot summer heat.

Jack has been traveling this route since 1986. When he's not delivering the mail he's keeps busy painting, wall-papering or striping parking lots. He and his wife, Barbara, have lived for many years in Weaverville.

He jokes about the guy that goes "through rain and sleet" and says that fellow is dead, but we all know that he is alive and well. His name is Jack and we appreciate him tremendously.

Nominated by the gals at the Coffee Creek Country Store

Your Turn - Send Us Your Letters



Editor,

Last Saturday evening, August 26th, Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company, Trinity County Life Support and Trinity County Search and Rescue were dispatched on a medical call up the Union Creek Trail off of Coffee Creek Rd. A man had been thrown from his horse about 2 1/2 miles up the trail. The horse had rolled over on the man and the saddle horn had hit the man just below the rib cage. As ground medical personnel walked in, air support from Redding was dispatched. It was getting dark. When CCFVC and TCLS medical personnel arrived on scene we found the patient in extreme pain and in need of immediate transport to a hospital. Meanwhile, a helicopter from Mercy Air had located the patient visually and found a place to land. The helo set down right at dusk. They made a special effort to find a break in the timber and ended up setting down in a creek bed with about 3 feet clearance for their rotors. After much effort in the dark and irregular terrain, we got

the patient loaded into the helo. Mercy Air took off to Redding.

It turns out that the patient had major internal bleeding and would not have made it through the night.

If the crew of Mercy Air had not made the extra special effort to find the Landing Zone, land at dusk in a VERY tight spot, help us tend to, transport and load the patient, and then take off with only star light, our patient would have bled to death.

My hat is off to Mercy Air and their crews. Thank you and well done! - *Butch Garrity, Fire Chief CCFVC*

From the editor—

Wow! Lot's more paper for "The Coffee Break" have appeared! Thank you Dick and Lib Rymer and other anonymous "paper donors" for your thoughtfulness.

