



The Coffee Break

Suggested donation \$1

Volume 2, Issue 4

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

Who's Who

Carole Havens was born an only child in 1942 in the Mission Hills area of San Diego. She started school at the age of 3 and is still attending classes today.

After the war Carole's father drove truck for Coca Cola and Fritos in the Los Angeles area. During the summers her family would camp on the beach in Laguna Beach. This was not weekend camping. They



Carole Havens

actually lived the entire summer in a tent on the beach. Carole remembers the high tide mark under her cot on some mornings. This was an enviable childhood, to say the least, and Carole remembers this period today with great pleasure.

When Carole was around 9 years old her Dad went into business with his dad in San Diego, and the family moved back to her home town. Carole grew up and attended San Diego State for awhile, then quit school and got married. Then came three children. Carole worked as a bookkeeper, and her husband, Wade, worked for PG & E. Carole was restless and ready for a more rural environment. She and her husband decided to buy a chrysanthemum farm in nearby Encinitas. Together they ran the farm for a year, and then traveled for the summer to look for a place in northern California. The family ended up moving to Happy Camp. Here Wade pulled green chain and was the pond guy for the mill. They then moved to the McArthur area, where Wade got a job as a business administrator for the school district in Burney. Carole was busy raising her kids

and tending her chickens and goats. She reveled in the rural life with her children, animals and her garden.

In 1975 her marriage broke up and she moved to Chico with her kids. Lyle was now 13, Lynn was 10, and Wade was 7. She rented a "funky" house in Chico and went back to school to work on her degree in Child Development. Following her degree she went on to get her teaching credential.

Now she was armed and eager to begin her career in education. In 1978 she pulled out a Forest Service map and looked for all the areas in green. She knew she wanted a rural environment and thus she applied for and got a teaching job in Trinity Center. She taught K-4 and then K-3 for 5 years. Carole joined the fire department and then a hiking group. Carole and her ex-husband remarried during this period and bought property at Gratten Flat up Swift Creek. Here they lived in a tent and built a cabin with a skill saw and a generator on the weekends. Carole taught school during the week and Wade drove school bus. In the El Nino period of 1982 and 1983 there was so much rain that Carole would hike to school with a backpack full of dry clothes and change when she arrived. Lyle and Lynn graduated from Trinity High School.

In 1983 they moved to Chico. She and Wade divorced, and Carole taught first and second grade for the Paradise School District. Seven years later she earned her Masters Degree in Curriculum. Her kids were now out of school. Lyle was an attorney and now married and Lynn married the day before she moved to the Hopi Reservation in Arizona.

Just before moving to the reservation

Carole worked in Loyalton where she had to live in a tent for awhile and bathe in the stream because there was no housing available. Carole loved the sense of space that she felt on the reservation. She had to live in her classroom for two weeks until housing became available in the Hopi village. Her home was Hopi style and included hand chiseled block and wooden posts. There was even shrubbery in the ceiling...a sort of Hopi form of insulation. She had no refrigerator or stove and managed to cook with a hot plate and toaster oven. She had no phone for a year. All in all, Carole spent 4 years on the reservation and got her Administrative Credential.

In 1996 Carol completed a doctorate at Northern Arizona University. She then moved on to be an administrator for Tehama County schools. Next she took a job with the Paradise School System as Curricula Instruction Specialist.

Last year a position opened at the Coffee Creek Elementary School for a principal. Carole saw this as a chance to move back to her beloved Trinity County. She applied for the job and was hired.

Carole spends time with her children, Lyle, an attorney; Lynn, a teacher; and Wade, who works in construction. She has seven grandchildren ranging in age from 10 years old to 5 months.

On days when she is not working at the school you will most likely find her watching birds in her backyard or hiking the area trails. She feels she is back home at last. This time there is no tent, and she doesn't have to build her shelter with a skill saw.

Times Past - "The McDonald's Store at Stringtown" - by Vi Karrer

In the early forties there was some talk of a dam being built on the Trinity River. This influenced Elmer and Louise McDonald to purchase some land further north at Stringtown near Buckeye Creek. They thought that if the dam should be built, this would be above the high water line.

In 1946, Jack McDonald had just come home from his tour of duty as a First Lieutenant in the Air Force. He completed 50 missions over enemy territory to help win World War II. He came home with a lovely young bride that he met in Tennessee. They married after a brief courtship.

This same year of 1946, Elmer, Jack and his brother, Warren, that we all knew as Mickey, decided to build a store at Stringtown. Unfortunately Mickey was later killed in an accident while working for the county.



Relaxing on the Old Pump

The building of the store progressed rapidly, day by day, with everyone working hard. Jack said that the digging of the gas and septic tanks was all done by hand. This influenced him to buy a backhoe at the first opportunity.

The store opened for business in 1948. It was really a nice store and much needed in the area. It carried everything that was needed locally, as well as for the tourist. The fountain was a big attraction, featuring delicious

milk shakes and ice cream treats. Beer was later added to quench the thirst of some of the thirsty customers.

Unfortunately, when they did decide to build the dam, the water level took in all of Stringtown, and everyone was notified that



McDonald's Store in the Old Days

they had to be out by the end of 1959.

Elmer and Louise moved the store to Trinity Center in 1959 and reopened the business in 1960. Jack says that they dug up the gas tanks, now with a backhoe, thinking that they could use them at the new location, but after being exposed to the air, they rapidly began to leak and new tanks had to be installed.

Elmer and Louise operated the store until 1964 and then sold to a couple by the name of Digaloff. His name was Jack and they named the business Jaktri - Jak for Jack and Tri for Trinity. They sold the store again to a Mr. King, and eventually the store was sold again to Gerald and Judy Meyer who currently still own and operate the store.

The store is still operating and doing a good business serving the needs of Trinity Center and the tourist trade. Hopefully, it will be doing so for many more years.



McDonald's Store's 1949 Calendar Picture



Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Life

Guest Chef Night at the Forest Café *finally* happened after being canceled twice because of snow storms. From all accounts it was worth the wait. Chef Pat Meyers prepared her incredible tamales, which were enjoyed by all comers. Laurene Wright and Dee Dee Kausen served as waitresses, and a great time was had by all. Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company received \$400 from the effort thanks to the generosity of the Forest Café.

Best wishes to Bill DeWolf, who is home recovering from his knee replacement surgery. We expect to see you jogging to the Yellow Jacket soon, Bill.

The IOOF Hall was filled to overflowing recently, as we all turned out to raise money for the family of Rachel Wilson. Everyone enjoyed the excellent corned beef and cabbage meal. Rachel was seriously injured in a swimming pool accident and is undergoing rehabilitation for her injuries.



Rachel Wilson Fundraising Dinner

IOOF Hall Repairs: The County Board of Supervisors has voted to spend \$33,000 for a new roof and repairs to the IOOF Hall. There are also plans to paint the historic building.

Please save your good rejects to donate to the Coffee Creek School and Coffee Creek Fire Volunteer Fire Company Flea Market, which will be held Memorial Day weekend.

Town Crier



Reminder: Don't forget the demonstration of the Barricade Fire Blocking Gel discussed in last month's "Coffee Break". This demonstration will be held **April 4th** at 7 pm at the Trinity Center volunteer Fire Department.

The Garden Club will meet at the home of Audrey Eyman on Lakeview Dr. on Thursday, **April 5th** at 1 pm. Sue Birch from Etna will demonstrate soap making. There will be lots of soap to be raffled. Bring money and a happy face.

The Annual Coffee Creek Fire Company Chili Feed and Auction will be held on Saturday, **April 7th** at 6 pm in our new Fire Hall. Dinner will include John Eaker's famous chili, salad, French bread, and dessert and beverages. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 ages five to twelve, and children under 5 are free. Donations from various Weaverville, Trinity Center and Coffee Creek merchants and individuals will be auctioned off. All proceeds will go towards finishing the interior of the Fire Hall. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Come and enjoy our first Chili Feed and Auction in our new hall. Bring your checkbooks for a very worthy cause.

Circle your calendar now! The NTLIA Cinco de Mayo Mexican Dinner will be held at the IOOF Hall on Wednesday, **May 2nd**. This is the annual fund raiser for our historic hall. Watch for fliers for details.

Handgun Safety Class to be Offered

California Penal Code sections 12050 – 12054 mandate that persons who are applying for or renewing concealed weapons permits complete a class of at least four hours duration which covers at least firearms safety and the laws pertaining to the defensive use of a firearm.

A class satisfying these requirements will be presented on Friday, **May 11th**, from 6 – 10 PM at the Trinity Center Community Church.

This is the same class that I put on in January. This class is for those who missed the January class due to being absent during the heavy part of the winter. This will be the last class until 2003 when the cycle will start again.

Concealed weapons permits are renewable every two years and the class must be taken each renewal. Sheriff Paul Schmidt has approved the course and honors it for a two year period. This means that persons who may apply for a concealed weapons permit at some time in the future, but within two years, should take the class now. Similarly, persons coming up for renewal any time during 2001-2002 should take the class now.

There is no advance registration. At the conclusion of the class a roster will be circulated which I will forward to the Sheriff's Dept. When persons go in to apply or renew they can have the Sheriff's Dept. refer to the roster for documentation of attendance.

There is no charge for the class.

Do not bring firearms to class.

If there are questions I can be reached at 266/3677 (after 10 AM!) or E-mail: trvrc@tds.net

Roger Chatterton



FIREFLIES OPENINGS

By now you certainly know that the Fire Flies are a dedicated group of women who gather every Thursday to work on craft projects — unless of course they decide not to. (The male counterpart, known as the Burnt Embers, lost their spark and sputtered to a halt before they even started.) Through their volunteer efforts, the fireflies raise over \$8000 a year for the CCVFC.

They are opening their doors to new members. Here are the qualifications:

- must have a good sense of humor
- must enjoy socializing with a great group of Coffee Creek's finest
- must not be too talented (don't want to show up the old timers)
- must actually attend — at least from time to time
- might even have an interest in crafts

If this is you, come on down! The Fire Flies meet at the CCVFC Hall Thursdays at 9:30 AM. Most of them head for the Café for lunch about 11:30 or noon. More info? Call Gloria Jason at 266-3579 or Pat Meyers at 266-3614.

Fire Call



Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department

New Ambulance for Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department!

The Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department has purchased a new(er) ambulance which will enhance the level of service we are able to provide to the community.

The new ambulance is a 1993 Ford F-350 4X4 diesel with 19,000 miles on it. Our old ambulance is a 1988 Ford Econoline two wheel drive diesel with over 160,000 miles on it. The lack of four wheel drive has been a problem in the winter as well as off-road and the high mileage has been a concern in terms of future reliability. Both of these concerns will be resolved with the new ambulance.

Locating a suitable used ambulance may once have been ex-



Trinity Center's New Ambulance

tremely difficult, but thanks to the Internet this unit was located at a firm in Palmdale which specializes in 4X4 trucks. There are any number of concerns dealing in used ambulances but 4X4 ambulances tend to be more difficult to find unless a dealer is located who specializes in them.

The ambulance we have purchased will reliably meet the needs of our north lakes community for the long-term future.

Roger Chatterton

Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company

We have exciting news at the fire hall. The blue Room is gone. We will have a new bathroom completed in time for the Chili Feed on April 7th. We have not purposely tried to cause you any inconvenience, nor have we tried to put your bladder to the test by not accomplishing this project sooner. It is strictly a matter of economics. Your fire board is committed to maintain a balance of funds for both our monthly fixed expenses, i.e. utilities, insurance, maintenance, fuel, etc. In addition, hopefully, we have funds that can be designated for new projects such as a much needed bathroom.

Due to the fact this is a community building, we must adhere to a stricter building code. The new room must be larger and must be equipped with expensive fixtures. For example, the shower alone will cost \$1200. The total project will be approximately \$7500, versus the cost of a normal bathroom, that would be half the cost.

As you are aware, our total funding comes from your generous donations and through the efforts of the fire Flies. Without the support from you and the Fire Flies, we more than likely would still be housed in the old 30 x 30 fire hall instead of our new and spacious hall. A year ago we were cramped in the old building. Holly Anderson had to store medical supplies in her home, Butch and Kit Garrity's garage was totally full of fire equipment and Mike Ransom was parking our search and rescue rig in his barn. We have come a long way and we thank you.

More exciting news—Through the efforts of Dick Hamilton and Roger Chatterton and the generous donation of the land lease and a portion of the monies from Sierra Pacific, we will have a new repeater station located up Boulder Creek Road. This will enhance our communication ability considerably for both Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Fire departments. We anticipate coverage up to 30 miles from this station. Again, this is something that has been really needed in the area to effectively serve the community.

Personnel: As you may know Julie Eaker has elected to work part time at Mercy Hospital which will mean that we will have her in the area on a more steady basis. In the same regard Karen Lucky, from Trinity Center, has just recently completed her studies and is now a certified paramedic on the Trinity Center Fire Department. Great news for all of us. Thank you SPI!

Coffee Creek Fire staff is 17 strong, with the addition of two new firemen and one more will be coming in this summer. Steve Ratzlaff has been appointed Assistant Fire Chief and picks up the duty of Fire Chief in Butch Garrity's absence. Steve is also assisting Ed Gerlits in coordinating the training, and some of the maintenance. Bill Loucks is in the process of obtaining a license to drive one of the fire engines.

Remember, we hope you don't need us, but if you do we will be there.

Barry Bowen, member of CCVFC Board



The Long Road to “Tickerbell”



Well folks, one more time ye old editor realizes how truly lucky we are in the North Trinity Lake area to be served by two top-of-the-line volunteer fire departments. On a snowy Sunday morning, after playing my heart monitor over the phone to my doctors at Stanford, I was told to call 911 and get to a hospital. Yikes, I thought. I was about to enter “EMT Hell” (a special place for those of us who are EMT’s, when we unwittingly become the patient). I mulled my options around in my head while the doc was trying to speak calmly to me. He didn’t realize that my concerns were not with my heart, but with the prospect of a ride down the hill with my Comrades in Band-Aids.

As luck would have it our very own paramedic, Julie Eaker, was available. She showed up with EMT Holly Anderson and EMT/Pastor Steve Ratzlaff with ambulance in tow. I hopped in, wondering how I was going to avoid the big nail in the arm from Julie. Julie resolutely informed me that the IV thing was going to happen. “OK”, I sighed, resigned to my fate. I’m not known among the medical people as an easy mark, so I figured I’d be a pin cushion in no time. To my delight, if one can be delighted about a 10 penny nail being inserted into one’s arm, Julie managed to hit the old vein with minimal fuss. “Whew, dodged that bullet”, I thought. Now I settled in for the long ride to Redding.

Think of this as a training exercise I mused to myself. Holly and I took each others’ pulse to pass the time, while Julie critiqued our technique. Then we played with the blood pressure cuff, all the while under Julie’s watchful eye. I got the full patient treatment thing, including having my weight and age blasted over the airways during the patient report. Thank God the weight was in kilograms and there was always hope that those ever prying ears didn’t know the conversion scale. Vowing to never eat again, I carried on anxiously watching out the back window, waiting for an opportune time to bring up a most important issue. Yeah, I needed some restroom facilities! So, how would I broach the subject with my captors? I thought if I looked pathetic enough Julie would order the ambulance to the Whiskeytown rest stop, and I would be saved. I was not that lucky. Julie deflected my intense whining with some such talk about “how would it look if they had to scrape me off the floor of the bathroom“. All right, all right, I guess she had a point. She told me that there was a bedpan on board for my traveling convenience. I informed her it would be a very cold day in hell. Besides, I figured my pathetic act would work better on the ER staff at Mercy.

Finally, we arrived, and Pastor/EMT Steve emerged from the cab to help carry the old girl into the ER. I had already explored the idea with Julie of walking in and I vaguely recall something about a “cold day in hell”. Oh well, I knew Pastor/EMT Steve wouldn’t drop me. After all, he had not been subjected to my rantings on the way down the hill.

After I was settled into my little cubicle Pastor/EMT Steve offered spiritual services, which I heartily accepted after the snowy ride down Buckhorn. After all, Coffee Creek Fire is now a full service operation.

Now the wait began to determine what was to be done with me and when. Once again, I have to say that we are very lucky to have Mercy Air and their outstanding personnel. I was told I was going for the Big Ride in the Sky. That was putting it mildly, as it appeared to me to be a replay of Hurricane Hugo outside. MICN (Mobile Intensive Care Nurse) Rob and Paramedic Dolly showed the appropriate calm demeanor when they came to haul me away. I suppose it is against policy to display stark terror to a patient when one is about to go airborne in the best Wizard of Oz tornado scenario. I was unceremoniously slid into the Mercy fixed winged aircraft, and then I got a look at the pilot, Doogie. Yeah, he couldn’t have been more than 16 years old, but then my eyes have become quite age prejudiced in recent years, and everyone appears to be a teenager.

In any event we were soon airborne and Dolly strategically placed her hand against my feet to keep me from sliding out of the back end of the airplane, as we made a steep ascent into the pitch black night. Now I was *really* glad I had availed myself of Pastor/EMT Steve Ratzlaff’s earlier services, because it was surely going to be a giant leap of faith to believe I’d ever see earth in one piece again. I tried to think of this as the “E ticket” ride on the Disneyland Matterhorn, and to pretend that I was having a glorious time! About an hour later we began a descent into the Palo Alto Airport, or at least a controlled crash landing. Thank God there was an ambulance on the runway, as I was sure we were all going to need one. Actually, Mr. Pilot, did a fabulous job as did MICN Rob and Paramedic Dolly. They even decided to accompany me on the ambulance ride to Stanford Hospital. Now that’s service!

They got me safely tucked into bed and bid me farewell. Soon I would have my pacemaker, “Tickerbell”, implanted, all would be well, and “EMT Hell” would be but a dim memory. Seriously, folks, we have two very special fire departments between our two communities. The level of training is superb and professionalism is the name of the game. I would stack our two departments up with any from a big city. They work well together. When Coffee Creek was occupied with my transport, Trinity Center covered for the whole area. That is the level of cooperation we have which benefits us all immeasurably. In addition we have great back up with our air transport arrangements, and again, all kidding aside, from the patient’s perspective, you know you are in good hands. This EMT says thank you to all involved!



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



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If you wish to subscribe to "The Coffee Break" we suggest a donation of \$1.50 per issue to help cover mailing and handling costs. We only renew up until December of 2001, so if you renew in March you would be paying for only those issues left until the end of the year (that is 10 issues at \$1.50 per issue). Again, we can only accept out of the area subscriptions, as we are all volunteers, and it would be prohibitive to try and handle local subscriptions also. Please make checks payable to CCVFC.



This month's Who's Who
She was a cheerleader because it was as close as a girl could get to sports in her school days.

Mel Blanc (the voice of Bugs Bunny) was allergic to carrots.

For the record: Missing from the North Lake Girls Basketball team picture last month were Elisha Wiles and Rhea Bennett

Did You Know.....?

