



# The Coffee Break

*Suggested donation \$1*

Volume 2, Issue 8

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

## Who's Who

Ray Vasconcellos was born in 1934 on April 1st. This fact just so happened to be Easter Sunday that year. As a result, for much of his life, and much to his chagrin, he was known as "Bunny". After this auspicious beginning he had a fairly normal childhood in San Jose, California the youngest of two children. His dad was one of the original Bank of America employees, and his mother stayed busy raising the two children.



**Ray Vasconcellos**

Ray's family originally migrated from the Azores and settled in Maui. In the 1920's his Dad moved to Santa Clara and the family followed.

Ray attended Bellarmine which was a Jesuit high school. One of the highlights of his high school career was the "String Bean Incident". Ray had a habit of nibbling on his lunch during class. One day the "Father", asked what he was eating and confiscated the bag. He dumped out the contents and, much to Ray's embarrassment, a large quantity of string beans landed in a heap on the desk. It seems that when Ray left for school that morning, he had picked up the wrong bag.

Despite his high school exploits Ray went on to college at San Jose State, majoring in history. In his senior year, during the Korean conflict, he joined the Marine Corp Reserve and then completed Officer Candidate School and earned the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. He went to Japan in 1957 as a Special Weapons Ordinance Officer, where he was involved with atomic bomb issues.

Upon returning to the States he entered Naval

Flight School in Pensacola, Florida.

Later while stationed in the Washington, D.C. area his buddy was dating Senator Sam Irwin's daughter. This provided the opportunity to "crash" the many Washington political parties. Together they would put on their dress blues and walk in as though they belonged there.

Ray earned his "wings" out of Kingsville. Soon he married a girl from Kentucky. He went to Hawaii and, while living there, had one son, Michael.

He was now flying F-8 Crusaders and participated in Operation Dominic in 1962, which involved high altitude atomic bomb testing at Johnson Island. He was one of the first two planes to ever land on the island.

He volunteered for Viet Nam and retrained as a helicopter pilot in order to receive a regular commission. He never got to Viet Nam.

On March 17, 1964, the most traumatic event of his life occurred. In a terrible accident on Saddleback Mountain in Orange County his plane crashed into the mountain side. The helicopter exploded on impact. Somehow the three airmen escaped the plane, but all were burned, Ray the most seriously. He was burned over 66% of his body with 33% being third degree burns.

What followed was a nightmare. He endured months of excruciating pain as the doctors struggled to save Ray's life. He was transferred to the Brook Burn Center in Texas. Ray credits the center with saving him. He was the only person at the burn center to survive such extensive injuries.

He left the hospital in July of 1964 to return home for some R & R. While there he became sick and went to Oak Knoll in Oakland for another year of surgeries designed to further repair his body. At one point they took away the seven

pillows which helped him to eat, and forced him to use a knife and fork. It had been 2 1/2 months since he had walked, and he was told he could go home when he learned to walk again. He did, and on St. Patrick's Day, the day of his accident, he continues to celebrate life.

In 1971 Ray divorced and then in 1973 married his wife, Barbara. They had met at a party when they were there with other blind dates. He was working for Ford Motor Company in Santa Cruz, but was not enjoying his job and was suffering health consequences. Barbara suggested that it would be better if he quit his job and the search began for a "big Victorian house" to run a Bed and Breakfast. They felt this would be their ticket out of the city.

They found nothing in Oregon, but then a friend who, had relatives which had run Carrville, suggested that they take a look. When they arrived there was a chain across the door and a snake on the floor. Everything was broken. At first they were not interested but took a second look. They closed escrow on New Year's Eve, and a long and arduous 6 years of restoration was begun. While working a variety of jobs around the area Ray, would find time to continue the work on the inn. They finally opened in 1988.

At one point some people stayed at the inn. Unknown to Ray and Barbara the people were there to review the inn. They were the parents of Karen Brown, a well known writer of travel advice and reviews of inns. This excellent review opened the doors and the inn was reviewed in many well known publica-

tions, such as Sunset Magazine. Soon the inn was full of people from all over the world.

Ray is a "people person" who thrived on the many interesting people who have stayed at the inn. He and Barbara believe this period of their life to be one of their most memorable experiences. They enjoyed the many animals that they kept and the people they met as well as the satisfaction of running one of the finest bed and breakfast inns in the coun-

try. They eventually sold the inn in 1998 and now spend more time with their friends and other interests which they were unable to do when they operated the inn. Ray is a member of the Coffee Creek Fire Board and the Lions Club. And even if he couldn't come up with the answer to, "What would people be surprised to know about you?", his wife, Barbara, said, "He's all bark and no bite."

Oh, and P.S. He's going to be a great grandfather any minute.

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## Times Past - "Hodges Cabin" - by Ye Old Editor



*Sitting on the Porch at Hodges Cabin*

Some of us can get there and some of us can't, but we can all enjoy the story of Hodges Cabin. As you hike up the North Fork of Coffee Creek through the forest and steep terrain, the last thing you would expect to encounter is a cabin such as Hodges Cabin. A grand cabin would be a more accurate portrayal of what you would see.

Walter Hodges and his wife, Agnes, bought property in Trinity Center prior to W.W.I to raise their horses. Walter made their money in Los Angeles in sand and gravel. While living in Trinity Center Walter became enchanted with the area up the North Fork of Coffee Creek and decided to buy property.

The couple began work on a cabin in 1920 and completed it in 1923. Walter acquired a small sawmill where he had all of the lumber needed for the cabin. The nearest road was 10 miles away, so other supplies were brought in by mule.

The cabin is unique in that the bark was left on the outside of the logs giving the home an Adirondak feel. The cabin eventually measured 2,000

square feet. It has a large kitchen and very large great room with floor to ceiling French doors which give the building a very airy and grand feeling. Heat was provided by a native stone fireplace.

Walter passed away in 1930 and Agnes, daughter, Marion, and her husband, Robert Warrum, spent summers at the cabin until 1940. In the 1950's the cabin was sold to a niece and nephew. Dr. Herman Gross helped to maintain the cabin for the owners and in 1963 Dr. Gross bought Hodges and owned it until 1968 when he sold it to William Pearson.

In an interesting twist it was found that the property actually belonged to Southern Pacific Railroad. There had been a fraudulent land survey around the turn of the century. Finally, in the 1980's a land exchange was made between Southern Pacific and the Forest Service. In 1984 the entire area was incorporated into the Trinity Alps Wilderness.

In the last few years Sandy and David Pickens would come from Arizona every summer to welcome visitors to the cabin. Everyone signed a log book. David had the uncanny ability to remember the name of every person who visited. You could return three years later and David would greet you by name. The couple provided informative tours of the house and grounds including a swimming pool that the Hodges had built. Then you could just sit on the porch and eat your lunch and talk and reminisce about the old days at the cabin.

David passed away a couple of years ago, but the work that Sandy and David did to restore the cabin is a testament to their love of the history and the surroundings of this very special home.

Sandy still visits Coffee Creek and will be staying at Ripple Creek Cabins the week of August 5th. She enjoys seeing old friends and will be welcoming the couple that has agreed to carry on the work that David and Sandy cared so much about.

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## Man Swallows Teeth

Since the "Coffee Break" is in occasional competition with the National Inquirer, this story could not be passed up. A certain man, known by his strange hat and constant notepad, was chomping, as is his custom, on his sandwich at the Yellow Jacket. He must have been in his normal unconscious state, because at some point, he noticed a gaping hole in his mouth where his bridge containing four of his teeth used to be. Being closely attached to his teeth, he began an investigation as to the whereabouts of said teeth. Of course, the first thing he did was look for his wife (a typical husband habit when under duress). His wife, being a more stable and calm person, suggested that the investigation would probably end in his stomach, since it was obvious to her that he had swallowed his teeth. Off to the hospital they went, where he was promptly met with gales of laughter. In addition they cleverly placed the patient next to a drunk in the next bed. After an xray, which confirmed the obvious, the fun began. The doctor decided to go fishing. One heck of a cocktail was administered to our unnamed patient, who's initials are B DW. This left the way open for the officer, who was accompanying the drunk, to lift our patient's wallet and suggest dinner with the unconscious man's very attractive wife. Obviously, the nap did not last long enough, as the unfortunate tooth swallower awoke with his teeth in hand and just in time to save his honor. With a lot of weeping and wailing this editor promised anonymity. I guess I've lost my credibility with Bill DeWolf.



## North Lake Heroes

Tom and April Burge were having a quiet meal with their children recently at the Café Marine in Eureka. Suddenly, a man in the restaurant began choking. Someone immediately called 911: however, it appeared that the man was not breathing and was turning dark blue. That's when Tom Burge went into action. The man was well over 200 pounds which would have been a challenge for most people, but not for Tom. He lifted the man off the floor and administered the Heimlich Maneuver. This appeared successful, but the man was still not breathing.

April managed to get her CPR mask which she always carries with her. At this point an anesthesiologist joined in the effort to revive the man. The doctor was so disoriented that she put the

mask on upside down. April placed it the right way and undid the man's clothes. She did the required mouth sweep that she had been taught in her CPR class, and then administered the compressions while the doctor did the breaths, using April's mask. April essentially directed the entire effort. Together they managed to get the man's pulse back and currently the man is in very serious condition at the hospital with probable brain damage.

In an interesting twist, the restaurant did not even provide a free meal to our own heroes.

## Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Life

The Back Country Horsemen have done it again. The fishing will again be good in the many high country lakes, thanks to the efforts of these folks, and Fish and Game. There was a good turn out for the annual fish plant and, by all reports, most of the fish are successfully enjoying their new homes. There were a few sore tushies, and everyone was tired and dusty, but in the end there was a great two days of riding, laughing, and hard work.



**Back Country Horsemen "Pack" the Fish Headed for the High Country Lakes**

Best wishes and a speedy recovery to Lorraine McGraw.

After 11 months of storing their furniture in Trinity Center, Pastor Steve Ratzlaff and his wife, Jayne, have a home. The papers were signed in late July, and they have moved to their new quarters (Amen). The parsonage is on Derrick Flat Road. They can be reached at their new number 266-3480.

Coffee Creek Fire Company would like to thank all those who baked goodies for the Trinity Center Fire annual barbecue. Accolades go to Holly Anderson who baked 6 pies and Mary Gherkin who baked 2 pecan pies, a pecan cake and a cobbler.

Many of you baked but were unable to attend, such as: Pat Meyers, Barbara Vasconcellos, Barbara Langford, Anne Billiou and Sandy Gittings. There were contributors like Fred and Roberta Boring. And last, but certainly not least, with Herculean determination, was the effort made by Bernie Ely. She endured the ultimate "bakers nightmare", when her dog made a meal out of her hard work. Undaunted, but a bit perturbed, she started all over and contributed her masterpiece to the cause.

Twenty pints of blood were collected at the last Lions Club Blood Drive. Eat your Wheaties and get ready to roll up your sleeves for the next one in September.

The report promised last month on the racing escapades of Roger Chatterton is a short one. In a nutshell there's really nothing to report except that Roger can display a champion long face. He had a mechanical problem during practice before the last race and never got to race. He was convinced that the problem would be a magnitude 10, but it turns out that our Roger will race again in September. We'll keep you posted.

Able Turner and Denise Moyle tied the knot on June 25th in a ceremony at the Coffee Creek Country Store. After the wedding there was a reception at the Sasquatch for the new couple.



**Mr. And Mrs. Able Turner**



## We Got Your Number

The North Trinity Lake telephone directory is now being updated for the year 2002. If you have not previously been listed and would like to be included or would like to change or delete a current listing, please contact:

Viv Green  
HCR 2, Box 4036  
Trinity Center, CA 96091

All changes must be submitted by 10/15/2001.

## Changes at the IOOF Hall

If you've been hearing strange noises coming from the IOOF hall lately, it's not a ghost. All those Mexican dinners we ate have paid off. NTLIA raised enough money through fund-raisers and contributions to resurface the floors. From all accounts this project has really added luster to the old building that we all enjoy.

## What to Do for Entertainment in the North Lake



*Open Car Hoods Always Attract a Crowd*

## Fire Call



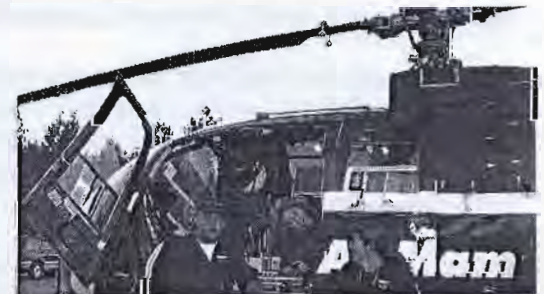
The Trinity Center Fire Department Barbecue was a great success, raising \$3500. The money will be used to help fund the new repeater which will soon be installed. The repeater will enable the fire departments to communicate in areas that have not had radio coverage. The food was great thanks to some very dedicated people who kept up with the hungry crowd.

A surprise greeted Coffee Creekians this past month when they drove by the new fire hall and discovered that the required paving for handicap access was done. In short order the J. F. Shea Construction Company did the work. The Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company wants to say a big thank you for their act of generosity.



*Trinity Center Fire Chief Dick Hamilton and Lewiston Fire Chief Jesse Cox Keep the Fires Burning*

Air Med provided a helicopter training session for members of both fire departments this past month. These training sessions are guaranteed a good turn out because of the barbecue that is enjoyed by all.



*Julie Eaker Clowns for the Camera at a Recent Joint Training*



# SHORT AND VERY SWEET!!

In a surprise meeting at the new fire hall in Coffee Creek a stunning announcement was made by Fire Chief Butch Garrity. Thanks to Assemblyman Dick Dickerson and his staff the Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company will receive \$39,500. This money is in the new budget just signed by the Governor Grey Davis and will be used to finish the fire hall.

The Fireflies will finally have a place to do their invaluable work which helps to finance the fire department and volunteers will now have a room for training. In addition, there will be a kitchen where the company can hold their annual fund raising events. The fire department can house their equipment including three vehicles used for fire and one ambulance.

(Even though the picture is blurry—Polaroid—you can bet those glasses were held high with a lot of cheering.)



**Coffee Creek Breaks out the Champagne**

## School Days



### Coffee Creek School

While Coffee Creek School has recessed for the summer plans are already in place for the next school year. The theme of "water" will continue. Field trips are planned to the Fish Hatchery, Shasta Caverns, a gold mine and Coffee Creek.

The kids will also be earning money for their down-hill ski trip to Mt. Shasta. There will also be visits to the pumpkin patch, Indian Days at Burnt Ranch, environmental camp and the eighth grade trip. There is also the annual swim party to enjoy.

The school's music program will expand with an after school program with Mary Hanson. Old country music will be the year long emphasis.

Teacher, Bill Loucks, has planned a Summer Camp which will take place in August for six days. Parents should call soon to sign up, as it will be first come first served.

The sod on the first section of the new Coffee Creek School ball field has been mowed and is looking good. The second section has rooted and is also doing well. Two more loads will be laid at a later date. Kudos go to Randy Spencer for all his hard work and devotion to this project. Coffee Creek School would also like to thank all the Lions who have steadfastly helped to make this dream a reality.

## Town Crier



This month's Garden Club program will be on Tuesday, **August 21st** at 1 pm at Vance Langford's Nursery (next to the Yellow Jacket). Vance will discuss the best of vegetables and flowers.

The Sasquatch has become the place to go on Wednesday nights if you like a little Patsy Cline or just great music. Judy Eaker's songs accompany the great meals at The Sasquatch with style. Don't miss a memorable evening out.

Lion's Club Bingo is going great guns on Wednesday and Saturday nights at Wyntoon Resort. Just show up at 8 pm and play your hearts out until 10 pm. The biggest Bingo Blackout won so far was won by Elaine Ulrich for \$290 which is no small change. So come on out and try your luck.

The North Trinity Lake Lion's Club will hold their annual Fly In Barbecue on Sunday, **September 2nd** across from the Scott Museum. This event is guaranteed afternoon fun. The event starts at noon and ends at 6 pm. Don't forget the Craft Show starting at 10 am. This show features one of a kind crafts by local artists.

A hand crocheted wild life afghan will be raffled off at the Trinity Center Lion's Club Barbecue on Sunday, **September 2nd**. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.



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



Coffee Creek Fire Co.

A Coffee Creek Firefly  
Publication



"The Coffee Break"  
HCR 2, #4014  
Trinity Center, CA 96091

Phone: 530-266-3276  
Fax: 530-266-3571  
Email: eaglecreek@tds.net

### Subscription Information

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 August you would be paying for only those issues left until the end of the year (that is 5 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,  
Ray Vasconcellos, in 1959***

The Titanic had only three funnels on the original plans. The fourth, or dummy one, was added later as a decoration and therefore could not smoke.

## Did You Know.....?

