



# The Coffee Break

**\$1.00**

Volume 2, Issue 12

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

## Who's Who

When you meet Top Meyer for the first time, you are immediately struck by the energy field that surrounds her diminutive stature. Her eyes tell it all. This is a woman that can't be held down. Church, family and community are the driving forces behind her boundless enthusiasm for life.



**"Top" Meyer**

Top was born in October of 1915 in Cotati, on a 12 acre chicken ranch. She already had 3 older brothers and later another sister arrived. Her mother was a trained nurse in New York and her father had been a plumber at Fort Niagara before moving to California in 1912.

In 1923 Top's parents traded in the chicken ranch and moved to a large Victorian just three blocks from San Francisco Bay in Alameda. Since there were only four other homes on the block there was plenty of room for basketball courts, playing field, slides, and swings. This was a child's dream to be able to play with wild abandon. If Mom wanted the kids she rang a cowbell which she had brought from the chicken ranch. Top's brother, Ernie, still has the bell.

In 1927 the family was sick with diphtheria, scarlet fever, mumps and measles and were quarantined for five weeks (long enough to test even the best mom's nursing skills and patience).

In 1929 Top's grandfather died and left the family with a 1924 Studebaker and enough money to travel to New York and meet her father's family for the first time. This may have been the pivotal trip that inspired a life long love of travel.

In 1932 the city bought the family house in Alameda and put in tennis courts. They moved six blocks closer to church. The family's life revolved around their church and the young people's group of about 25 to 30 kids. There was always something going and all found our mates while in that group.

Top married George Meyer, one of four brothers in 1937. She has five sister-in-laws from the same group and are to this day very close. All of the them have been married over 60 years, except Top and her sister, who became widows.

Top's husband always wanted to be a motorcycle officer. He realized his dream in 1939.

Their son, Jerry, was born in 1940 then came son, Glen, in 1942.

In 1942 Top's husband, George, was involved in a terrible accident and could not continue his police work. The state financed his training in 1945 in accounting and he was placed in King City as City Clerk and was always involved, in some way, with the police department.

Every place that the couple lived they were involved in their church. George was always in with the choir because of his wonderful bass voice. As a result he

usually ended up as the choir director.

After much study in Bible School George was ordained as a minister in December of 1950. In that same year the couple took a sick baby girl as a foster child. When she was five years old Top and George became her legal guardian and her name was changed to Meyer. The Meyers were then asked to take another three month old baby girl. They had the first child for 21 years. The second child was with them for six years until she could return to her mother. One of the girls lives in Arizona and the other in Washington.

George was able to preach and pastor until 1962 and Top went to work after being a homemaker for 27 years. George had pastored or was assistant pastor in three churches. He was able to marry Jerry and Judy in 1960 and Glen and Donna in 1963. George died in 1967 from a blood clot and problems that he still had from his accident in 1942.

After George's death Top took a refresher course to sharpen her office skills and got a great job with Granite Rock in Watsonville. She was there from 1962 until 1981, when she retired.

Top's mother lived with the family for 18 years and died in 1980 at the age of 101 years.

In 1981 Top moved to Trinity Center and worked in the Jaktri for fourteen years. She "loved every minute of it". However, at one point she felt that she couldn't remember prices as well, as before so retired.

Now Top travels at least once a year

with her sister who is also a widow. They belong to a church tour group from Seattle. They spent six weeks together in South Africa with her son's family who is a missionary in Campus Crusade for Christ. The sisters have gone to Hawaii, Panama and Alaska. They have also traveled across Canada to see the eastern fall foliage. In a true sense of adventure they have also traveled to Israel, Egypt, Victoria, Canadian Rockies, Nashville, Branson and Washington D.C.

They have seen the Tournament of Roses and taken a Caribbean cruise, not to mention traveling the Pacific coast from Seattle to Mexico.

Top loves to sew. Her real passion is, as she says, "remodeling" clothes. She would rather "remodel" than sew new things. She charges a huge fee of \$1 an hour, all of which goes to the building fund for her church. She has donated \$800 to this fund. That's a lot of sewing! She doesn't have a really fancy sewing machine but, she says it will do a couple of neat things like zig zagging.

In all the years she ran the store no one ever upset her except one man who mentioned that these "country stores" tried to gouge people. Her friend, Mary Lou, told him in no uncertain terms that he was dealing with the most honest couple that you could possibly find. With that, the man sheepishly backed out the door.

Top has one secret that no one really knows about her. She says that she has absolutely no sense or rhythm, which makes dancing very difficult.

All in all Top says that she has had a great life and praises God for every day. While it sounds cliché, great

things do come in small packages. Top's diminutive size belies a rare zest for life and service to her community and church.



**Top, George and Family**

## Times Past - "Frank Cade's Surgery on Hot Tempered Irishman" - by Vi Karrer

Frank Cade received word one morning that Mr. Wallace, a resident of Copper Creek, needed some help and wanted him to come over right away, as he was very miserable with a large sliver embedded in his head. Frank went right over to see if he could help thinking that he would probably take him to a doctor. The first thing he asked Wallace was what happened. Wallace's reply was that he had been over to Carrville and headed home late at night with too much grog aboard. He slipped in a manure pile, and then he fell in a ditch that Ross Duncan had dug to get water out of Copper Creek. That caused him to hit his head on a stump which left a large piece of wood embedded in his head. Frank examined the situation and told Wallace that he would take him to see a doctor, and Wallace's answer was no way would he go to a doctor. He wanted Frank to remove the sliver. He said let's have a dipper of whiskey which will put a head on you. After the first dipper a few more followed and by then Wallace persuaded

Frank to work on the sliver. Frank sharpened up his knife to a razors head edge, shaved Wallace's head, painted it with iodine and went to work removing the hair and the debris and was successful removing the large sliver. At one point during the operation, Mr. Wallace told Frank that if he didn't know that Frank was helping him, he would hate him as it hurt so bad. The operation was successful and Wallace recovered.

I really enjoyed Frank Cade's story about past experiences, and I wish that I had made more notes. Frank helped to build the IOOF Hall in old Trinity Center that is now a part of the new Trinity Center many years later.



## Christmas Kissin'

First the facts. Mistletoe is a parasite. It lives on host trees, usually oaks, but will manage on hundreds of other trees. The roots of the plant penetrate the bark to enter and receive nutrients from the host tree (lazy plant's way of making a living). The mistletoe plant usually lives for 8 to 10 years, but it has been known to survive more than 100 years. Small amounts of mistletoe do not normally harm a tree to any great extent, but large amounts will weaken a tree.

OK, now for the fun stuff. Mistletoe can get you pregnant. I didn't make this up. The old medieval, ancient, ancestors (whatever) swore by the stuff. All a woman had to do was wear a garland of mistletoe to help with the process. I won't even go there. In any case, caution is the word here.

People through the ages have advanced some very creative ideas concerning this weedy little slacker. One of the most dangerous, depending on your intentions, is that a kiss under the "toe" is a promise of marriage. Careful guys.

Another belief was, and may still be, is that a boy is allowed to kiss a girl so long as he picks a berry after each kiss. When the berries are gone, so are the kisses. If you are going to use this as an excuse to kiss a girl make sure you have a prolific mistletoe.

One of the more endearing beliefs about mistletoe is that when the twigs are hung with lots of berries all past grievances and hatreds are forgiven. Christmas is a good time of year to try this one out.

---

## THE GREAT RABBIT RESCUE

On Tuesday Phil Villaloboz was driving south on S/R 3 when he was flagged down by a pedestrian somewhere north of Coffee Creek. The pedestrian was both exhausted and concerned. He said his buddy was trapped by snow at nine miles back up Ramshorn Rd. He said they had become mired in from the storm the previous Saturday and today (Tuesday) he had elected to walk out and try to get help.

They had come here from the San Joaquin delta area to hunt bear. Everybody knows you have to get up in the high country to hunt bear. They are wild animals so they don't hang around metropolitan areas like Trinity Center or Coffee Creek.

The Trinity County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team was called out for the extrication. A CHP helicopter had earlier overflown the area and located the stranded hunter and recorded the coordinates on a GPS. At least we knew where he was and thus where we had to go.

With a major storm coming in it was decided that we had to take advantage of the brief window of opportunity and get him out.

We assembled for the mission on Ramshorn Rd, and by this time it was snowing again. The hunter who had walked out told us that besides his buddy, there was an old dog and a rabbit. This certainly piqued our curiosity since none of us had ever rescued a rabbit before.

We had 4X4 vehicles, a quadrunner and two snow mobiles. Despite our best efforts we could only get up about five miles. The combination of deep, fresh powder, mud and slush on a dirt road stymied very piece of rolling stock we had. We had the dispatcher call Dick Hamilton to find out if he had a piece of equipment that could get in to where we had to go. He said his Cushman Trackster was having a fuel problem and was not running properly and suggested that PUD be called and asked to bring out their Sno-Cat. PUD very generously agreed to do this and met us at S/R 3 and Ramshorn Rd. By this time it was 4:30 pm, but what is time when you are enjoying yourself?

The crew going in consisted of the driver, the hunter who had walked out since he knew (we hoped!) the way back in and myself carrying the GPS set to back-track us to the coordinates that CHP had recorded for us. After only one brief off-course excursion we located our victim. Hunter, dog (14 yr. old male black Lab - very nice dog) and rabbit were in a tent and were in fine shape. The rabbit was in a cage with food and water and was obviously a pet. I finally got to ask the big question - Why did you bring a rabbit? He said he had no one at home to baby sit the rabbit and he wanted to go bear hunting, so he just brought the rabbit with him.

We loaded all concerned and some of their gear into the Sno-Cat, retraced our route in and drove right out. The two hunters were transported to Weaverville to make arrangements for transport home. Their vehicle may be in the back country until spring at the rate this winter is going thus far. The vehicle was a two wheel drive pick up without chains and with standard street tires.

The bear? Oh, Steve Renton and I saw it cross S/R 3 in front of us just north of Eagle Creek Loop when we were responding on the initial call. Obviously the bear didn't understand the part about staying away from metropolitan areas, or maybe it did and we are really just a tiny pocket of civilization in the midst of a vast wilderness. Somehow that never occurred to the two hunters.

This tale won't stand with Jack London or Robert W. Service, but it was the first time any of us had ever rescued a rabbit.

**Roger Chatterton**





The North Trinity Artisan Guild is holding its annual **Christmas fair** at the IOOF Hall on **December 8th** between 10 am and 4 pm. A prepared lunch may be purchased as well as Christmas trees supplied by the Trinity Center Booster Club. (LATE NEWS – Unfortunately, the heavy snow has prevented the Booster Club from selling the Christmas trees.) Try your luck with the many raffles. The crafts will give you a chance to complete your Christmas shopping. Don't forget the candy sold by Trinity Center School. There will also be Santa Claus available for pictures. This is a chance to give someone that special one of a kind gift!

Don't miss it! The 5th annual **Christmas Luncheon** will be held at 1 pm on **December 12th** at the Sasquatch. The cost of this very special event is \$10.95 a person. Everyone is welcome. There will be a scrumptious buffet and music, not to mention gift drawings donated by the Sasquatch and Garden Club. If you have questions call Wilma Villaloboz at 266-3628.

Coffee Creek Community Church will be holding their **Christmas party** on **December 14th** at 6 pm. There will be a cookie exchange. Just bring 6 plates of a dozen cookies or candy and you will go home with quite an assortment of goodies. There will be a potluck with finger food and a white elephant gift exchange. The highlight will be the tree decorating. This promises to be a great evening of Christmas sharing with your neighbors.

**The Trinity Lake Lion's Annual Senior's Christmas Dinner** will be held on **Saturday, December 15th** at the IOOF Hall in Trinity Center. There will be ham and turkey, with all the trimmings—a complete four course meal! This event is offered each year to all seniors, 60 and above, (and their

spouses), who live in Coffee Creek, East Fork, Covington (upper and lower) and Trinity Center. Festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served starting at 6:00. This event is free to all seniors in our extended community. In addition to the free dinner, itself, there will be complimentary table wines served.

Seniors who are shut-ins, should let Chairman Randy Spencer know by **Thursday, December 13th**, and will have their dinners delivered to them. Randy can be notified at 266-3227.

This is always a festive occasion, and the Lions are looking forward to serving as many as 110 seniors, as in years past.

There will be a fund raiser for Lorac Craig's run for Sheriff. Come and enjoy a **Chili Verde Taco Feed** on **Tuesday, December 18th** at the Forest Café. Lori Craig would like to thank Smoky for his generosity in providing the café for what promises to be a wonderful evening.

**Coffee Creek Community Caroling** will be held on **Friday, December 21st**. Anyone in the community is welcome to participate. Just meet at the Café at 5 pm and Barry Bowen's tractor and wagon will provide transport for all the singers. If you're not a singer but want to enjoy the Christmas spirit, leave your light on and wait to be visited by Santa's singing elves. Afterwards carolers will return to the café for hot chocolate and a potluck.

The **Christmas service** at Coffee Creek Church promises to be the "absolutely, without a doubt, the most fantastically perfect Christmas program ever", I am told. The service will begin at 10 am **Sunday, December 23rd**.

## OOP's!

Last month's prophetic musings by ye olde editor were more accurate than anyone knew. No, it wasn't a dose of Editorial Flu that delayed this month's edition. It was SNOW!!!! Eagle Creek Ranch has long been known as the most severe "snow hole" in the snow capital of Trinity County – Coffee Creek!

Last Wednesday evening we ended up with 3 feet, (that's right! - 36 inches of the stuff) That old winter magic on top of, around, and up against ye olde Coffee Break Office. Just to really get us in the mood, the power failed about 3 pm, the fire fizzled out and the trees began breaking off and falling down. We went out for a pizza and had to cut our way back in. (Courtesy of Bill and Lisa Loucks, who got us in with their chain saw and then got trapped themselves by trees too big and too "hay stacked" to risk cutting without lights, wedges and a skidder.) Bill and Lisa had to walk out a mile in pitch black

blinding snow!)

As we write this it is now December 3rd. We still have no power, our basement is flooded due to warm rain on heavy snow, our wood is wet, and our emergency generator is too unreliable to risk running our computers and ye olde editor's worthless husband is winging his way again to Samoa, and the balmy South Pacific. (I will think of a suitable pay back before he gets back.) When you finally read this, it will mean that the lights are back on at Eagle Creek – Sorry!

PS. December 6th—The power came on, the cellar dried up, and the wood stove was humming, however, the power outage blew the copier, and now I'm waiting for the service man to put ye old Humpty back together again.





## Coffee Creek School News

### Upper Grades

The first three months of school have been all business. Well, not exactly ALL business, but business has been a big part of the school day. The upper grade students have been involved in a stock market simulation on-line. The students are given a "virtual" \$10,000 to spend on stocks. After several lessons on what the stock market is all about, they choose 5 stocks and "buy" them using Stocksquest on the Internet. They check their progress daily and can even trade stocks if they wish. The student who earns the most money after 30 days wins a prize. So, if you overhear some of our kids talking about Microsoft or WalMart, they aren't really talking about their Christmas list.

The upper grades class is also involved in a data collecting project with the Trinity River Conservation District. Three members of the District are visiting our school every other Monday to give instruction to our class and to assist in collecting erosion data on Treasure Creek. We will contribute our data to a regional project designed to study erosion in the Upper Lake area. The data will eventually be loaded onto a CD which will be shared with other interested agencies. We were selected for this project because of our ongoing Water theme and because we have experience in this type of data collecting from our Salmon unit last September.

### Lower Grades

The lower grades classroom has also been busy with our Water theme with a unit on Salmon. They have also been studying about trees and how they are linked to the Water theme. They have also been studying about cultural holidays. Since the snow has covered our playground, Ms. Crnich is once again giving cross-country skiing instructions for her students. They are getting really good and are looking forward to our annual ski trip later in the year.

### School-Wide News

Some of our musically inclined students went to the "Ragtime" performance on Nov. 29th and had a wonderful time. They were dragging a little the next day in class, but it was worth it. We also had a Bingo night last Wednesday, Nov. 28th. It was a great success and all of the proceeds will go to our activities fund. Thank you to all who supported our school!

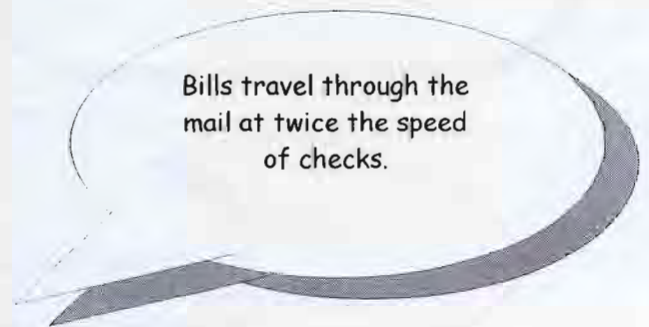
Our weekly music program is in full swing with several community members offering their talents and support every Tuesday after school. We always have room for anyone who wishes to join us.

### Some dates to mark on your calendar:

- Aluminum Can Drive, Dec. 7 (1st Fri. of ea. Month)
- Craft Faire, Dec. 8
- Christmas Program Dec. 12
- Mexican Feed Jan. 17

## Thanks!

Living and working in Northern Trinity County is made possible for many of us by the super human efforts of the County road crew, our local Cal Trans crew, the County Public Utilities crews, TDS Telecom repair crew, Andy with UPS, Bridger and Jack from the post office. (Jack Simmons trudged through the worst of the snow to deliver an important package to me). Don't forget Dick, Buddy, Jack, Billy, Mike, Mark, Tom, and many others! We're very lucky to have friends and neighbors like you. Thanks and Merry Christmas to all of you.



## Did You Know.....?



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

**Renew Now!**



**Subscription  
Information**

*Thanks for Your Support of  
the Coffee Creek Fire Com-  
pany*

Now's the time to renew your subscription to "The Coffee Break". All subscriptions end with the December issue. The cost of renewal is \$18 which covers the cost of postage and envelopes.

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.

Business card style advertising is available for \$5 a month and larger advertising for \$10 a month.

Rt. 2, #4014  
Trinity Center, CA 96091

Phone: (530)266-3276

# Forest Cafe

## Finest Dining in Coffee Creek

Winter Hours:  
Closed Mondays and Tues-  
days  
Wed. – Sat. 12 noon to 8 pm  
Sun. – 9 am to 8 pm



**Call ahead for  
nightly specials**

**266-3575**



The generosity and thoughtfulness of George and Ann Bauman always amazes me. It's like Easter when I come home and find that the Bunny has delivered yet another case of paper for *The Coffee Break!* Thank you so much George and Ann.

