



The Coffee Break

Suggested donation \$1

Volume 2, Issue 2

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

Who's Who

Once in a while you meet someone that you just automatically like. That's Dick Hamilton! Dick was born the 6th of 9 children, February 2nd, 1927, in Cottonwood, CA. Dick's dad was from Chico, and his mom hailed from Nebraska. His dad was a ranch foreman in the north state for many years, and in his last job managed the Los Molinas Water Company. Along with the rest of the family, he also owned and operated a dairy. When Dick was 4, the family moved to the Cone Ranch, south of Red Bluff.

Dick and his older brother, Fred, his senior by two years, grew up riding horses, fishing, and roaming far and wide over the sparsely populated land in the shadow of Mt. Shasta. The river was a part their playground. Many misadventures befell the pair. Dick was usually the guy with his paw in the proverbial cookie jar! Shortly after arriving at the Cone Ranch, Dick "stole" his dad's horse for a little joy ride, on a day when his pop really needed the horse for ranch-type things. When they returned that evening, Dick got whopped with his dad's lasso! Another time when Dick was 6, he and his brother set out on horseback for a day's adventure. Dick got disconnected from the horse. Dick was knocked out! His brother tried to revive him to no avail. Assuming that little Dick had departed this world, his brother, in typical cowboy fashion, slung his bro over the saddle, and tied him on, to take him home to his folks. As they crossed a stream, Dick sputtered back to life, demanding to be resurrected and put back in the saddle, right side up. When Dick was in grammar school he used to "drive" the cows to a pasture next to the school on his way there. In the afternoon he'd "drive" them back home again. One day, in the middle of a big storm, when school was let out, someone asked Dick if he had a ride home. He said "yep" (sounds like Dick, huh?), and the adults left, assuming someone would give Dick a ride home. You guessed it! Dick rode the cow home!

During the '39 flood, prior to Shasta Dam's construction, the Sacramento River was completely blown out. Dick's family lived close to the river, near a 2-mile long railroad trestle, raised 30-ft above normal water level, spanning the river and flood plain. They had to deliver milk to Tehama. The road was flooded, so Dick and his brother strapped the milk to their backs and set off across the trestle, timing their runs with the expected schedule of the train. If the train came along while they were on the tracks, there was no place to go but down! Are we starting to get the picture here that Dick was prone to unexpected troubles? The family continued to deliver milk until the start of WWII.



Dick Hamilton

Dick played starting end for Los Molinas High's football team, at 110 lbs. He grew up breaking and training horses, a skill/gift that he retains to this day. At that time you could get \$50 to green break a horse. Dick and Fred used to ride 15 miles from Los Molinas to Red Bluff, ride in the rodeo parade, and then get in free. After the rodeo, they'd ride the 15 miles home again.

In '44, Dick enlisted in the Navy to see the world and fight the enemy! He didn't get a chance to do either. The war ended just as he got started, and Dick ended up at the Anti-aircraft Training School at Aberdeen, WA, as a gunnery instructor. One Sunday Dick and his crew were practicing with a 20-mm gun, firing on drones. Someone had the stop set incorrectly, and they ended up hitting a school 2 miles away. They spent the rest of the day picking 20-mm rounds out of the schoolhouse! In '46, 19 year old Dick was discharged, and hitchhiked home to Los Molinas. He went to work with a survey outfit, and filled his spare time training and shoeing horses, and chasing cows.

One day Dick's uncle, who was the local high school bus driver, arranged for Dick to go out to the Scott Ranch, to meet the family. Of course young Mary Scott, who was still in high school, was there. It wasn't exactly love at first sight. As Mary recalls "he was old, skinny, quiet, and had tall hair!" Over the next year they spent more and more time together, drawn together by their common love of horses and swimming. For a long time Mary thought that she'd taught Dick to swim, until one day, a long time later, Dick executed a graceful swan dive, and Mary knew she'd been had! As Mary now says, "he was a real challenge". After a year, Dick moved up to the Scott's Ranch - Resort, near old Trinity Center, where he worked as a ranch hand and packer, and Mary worked in the kitchen, office, and cabins, as she had each season. Dick took some time out during this time, and attended Cal Poly for a year and a half.

One time Dick's family visited the ranch, and Dick's dad, after a horseback ride with Mary proclaimed on the way home to the rest of his family, "this is the girl that Dick's going to marry!" They were married at the ranch in '50. They got as far as Redding on their wedding night, with pine tar on the car, and a cowbell under it. The next day they drove to Susanville, where they couldn't get a room and slept in the car, returning two days later.

They worked and enjoyed their lives at the ranch, living in a cabin on the ranch, driving the horses and cattle up from the valley in the spring, and back down again each fall. They re-

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This store was built in 1939 and it was really a welcomed addition to Trinity Center and surrounding communities. Fresh meat came from Trinity Farms and the store had a large built in cold box to keep the meat and vegetables. When you wanted a particular cut of meat Bill would bring out a big piece of beef, lay it on his large butcher block, and proceed to cut whatever you wanted. If you wanted hamburger he would grind whatever you wanted.

A picture of the original store has a sign on the front reading Pepsi Cola 5 cents. Another sign reads "Fresh Meat, Cold Beer, Ice Cream, Home Cooked Meals and Service with a Smile". There is only one gas pump in this picture. A second picture taken at a later date shows 2 gas pumps, the Pepsi cola sign is gone, and the front of the store sign says "Foster's Store, Groceries, Fresh Meats and Fishing Tackle". In the second picture my dad, John Maddox, is standing on the front porch, and Bill's truck that hauled all of the supplies, is in front along with some large snow piles. I do know that they still served cold beer, as it was a great gathering place for the working men to visit and satisfy their thirst. One of the men was Joe Noble from the Forest Service. Joe was a great artist and drew many amusing cartoons on the cardboard that Loda saved for

him from the empty candy boxes. The one cartoon that amused me was called the climbing equine. Some power poles had fallen and the lines were sagging low just above Derrick Flat. Jim Lee had some horses loose on the range, and one of the young horses switched his tail against the hot wire which electrocuted the horse and started a forest fire. Joe's cartoon showed a horse climbing a power pole to get electrocuted. Before Fosters opened the store, Lloyd and I would meet Jack Golenor from French Gulch when he delivered fresh meat and produce to the area.



Old Trinity Center Store Built in 1939

Who's Who, Continued

(Continued from page 1)

call getting up before dawn, in order to get in an hour of salmon fishing in the river before the ranch day started. They are both accomplished fly fisher people, and hit the high country streams every chance they get. They lived on the ranch until '59, when the ranch was closed down and logged, in preparation for flooding as Trinity Dam was finished and filled. Dick helped survey the present Trinity Center townsite. They built the second house completed in the new town. Mary's parents built the first. The beams in Dick and Mary's home came from the old barn at the ranch. Dick and Mary logged the ranch themselves, prior to the filling of the lake.

In '56 Dick and Mary started their own logging company, with the two of them working side-by-side in the woods. They started with one old tractor, an old Loraine crane, and a pick-up. At first they were contract loggers with the old R&G Mill, at the mouth of East Fork. Mary said that Dick taught her "that when the job looked impossible, you just found a way to get it done". We have it on good authority that Mary became one of the best heavy equipment operators around! They spent 42 years in the logging business, adding heavy equipment and road building in the '70s. One year, after the lake level was held unusually high for a year, they logged the shoreline of the lake, taking trees drowned by the lake water before they fell and offed some unsuspecting tourist. They had a cast iron tug boat for this purpose, called the "Cast Iron Coot". Although they stopped logging a year or so ago, they're still going strong today, with Mary in the office, and Dick running the equipment. They still keep their logging license current, just in case! Dick has a motto that we would all do well to ponder; "as long as you do a job, you'll have a job".

At one point, they moved to Red Bluff for a year, got homesick for their mountains, and moved back. Dick earned his pilot's license in '69, and he and Mary flew their own Cessna for many years. The plane came in handy, because at the height of their logging business, they had jobs going all over the surrounding counties. We know that

they had to have taken some time off, because daughters Laurie and Leslie were born in '58 and '62 respectively. Laurie lives today in Trinity Center, with her daughter, Jessica, and Leslie and her family live in Westwood, CA, over beyond Chester.

A very big part of Dick's life has been the Trinity Center Fire Department. The department started in '61 or '62, with Dick as Assistant Chief. A short time later, he became Chief, a job he has held for 30 years. Dick earned his EMT credentials long ago, and keeps his skills sharp. Anytime there is an emergency, a fire call, or a medical call, Dick is right in the middle of the action. As neophyte recruits, we can tell you that it's a big load off the minds of the rest of us to see Dick pulling up on a scene. His calm and steady hand is very re-assuring. Anytime there is a fire practice, Dick is there, running the situation, and making sure the new hands get the experience they need to handle a real life emergency when one comes up. Anytime there is a fund raising activity, Dick will be the first to show, and the last to go. Whenever the equipment needs cleaning, fixing, or inventorying, Dick is normally right in the middle of that too! Any time there is a countywide meeting concerning fire protection or emergency medical assistance, people look to Dick for answers.

Ask Mary what has changed about Dick over the years, and she'll tell you "he got better looking, cut his hair, and he talks a little more". Ask Dick what there is about him that nobody knows, and he'll tell you that "he used to play the Tuba!" Ask me, and I'll tell you that I've watched Dick in the woods, on a horse, in the stream, in a fire and a medical emergency, and around the hearth at the end of the day. There is no wasted motion, and no unproductive thoughts. He moves with the ease and grace of a much younger man, and the assurance of a man who knows who and where he is, what he believes in, and what he doesn't believe. He calls them like he sees them. He's a good man, and a good friend. Not bad for a kid who rode a cow home from school!



Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Life

Olga Darling and her husband, Ernest, are on a "weather break" at their home in Lake Havasu. When the Darlings return, Olga will be sporting the pin she was awarded signifying an accomplishment that Olga has worked for a very long time to attain. She is now a Certified Healing Touch Practitioner. She uses her skills in many ways, including her work as a volunteer for Hospice of Havasu. She received her certification when she graduated from Colorado Center for Healing. She is only the second person in Lake Havasu to achieve this certification. Healing Touch is an energy based healing modality, endorsed by the American Holistic Nursing Association. Congratulations Olga!



*Olga Darling (on the left) Receiving Her Certification as a Certified Healing Touch Practitioner
The picture is from the Lake Havasu City newspaper.*

Barry and Mary Bowen's grandson, Ben Bowen, made front page news in the sports section of the Record Searchlight January 4th for his "hat trick" during a soccer game between Anderson High and Central Valley. The hat trick is a term used in sports for scoring 3 points in one game. Anderson won 4-0 against Central Valley High. Ben is one heck of an asset to the Anderson High School Soccer Team.

Kent Weaver, who has made Coffee Creek his home away from home for the past 40 plus years, celebrated his 85th birthday at a family get together in Redding January 7th.

Ruth and Mark Hartman recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the presidential inauguration. After the inaugural balls they spent a week exploring the Smithsonian

Institution and all the other Washington Landmarks.

Jim Swett also attended the inauguration, and met both the President and Vice-President at a function honoring Medal of Honor recipients.

Shane and Alicia Ryan have recently returned from a month in Shane's homeland, Australia. The couple manage Coffee Creek Ranch during the tourist season and decided to take advantage of the seasonal break. Alicia's sister-in-law, Rachel Hartman, and new daughter, Alyssa, spent a well deserved vacation in New Zealand, introducing Alyssa to her grandparents and the rest of the "family down under".

Icecapades

The North Lake Icecapades are in full swing. Dick Hamilton kicked off the season with a spectacular, yet graceful, slide across Highway 3. Unfortunately his score was knocked down substantially by the judges for seriously damaging the equipment.

Not to be outdone, Postmaster Bridger Beverly, waited until the first substantial snowstorm on January 9th to make his move. He performed an almost perfect triple flip just north of the cemetery. Once again the judges were not impressed as the vehicle he chose to aid him in this endeavor did not survive. Fortunately, and we are all very thankful, Bridger is OK with the exception of an assortment of bumps and bruises.

Next to give it a try was Corporal Jason Rankin, son of Scott and Donna Rankin. He and wife, Tara, and son, Dallon, thought they'd go for the win in a big slide down the hill towards the dump turnoff. His attempt was stymied by one Cal Trans truck and two Forest Service vehicles. Jason found himself sandwiched between the familiar green trucks and was quickly declared "out of bounds" while still sliding. This was an inauspicious beginning for the family's journey to Okinawa, where Jason will serve for the next three years in the Marine Corps. All are OK, but perhaps a bit shook up.

Then it was Josh Neuman's turn. He chose Scott Mountain as the backdrop for his run for glory. He scored abysmally low when he not only damaged the equipment but also a few trees to boot. He and buddy, Chris, had to hoof it down the mountain about 7 miles before someone gave them a ride.

Seriously, it is the season for ice and snow. All of us need to exercise extreme caution if we find it absolutely necessary to be navigating during bad conditions. The elements can trap the most careful motorist. We are thankful that none of our neighbors have been seriously hurt.





This month's meeting of the Garden Club will be held at the home of Audrey Eyman in Trinity Center on **February 13th**. There will be a different and very interesting topic presented by Sue Birch. She will demonstrate how to make soap from scratch. For information call Audrey at 266-3440.

The 2001 local area telephone books are now on sale at local establishments for \$3. You will find them displayed in the beautiful cases that Ed Gerlits made. In case you don't know, the sale of these phone books benefits the Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company, and Ed has reminded all of us by putting a fire engine on each display box. Hours of very hard volunteer work go into the production of these books. This year there seems to be more changes than normal, so be sure to keep up to date by purchasing the 2001 edition.

The Coffee Creek Church Youth Group (SGIS – "So Glad It's Sunday") is interested in your aluminum cans to help raise funds for activities. They will pick them up. Call 266-3658 to make arrangements. This group meets every Sunday from 6-8 pm at the church.

Also from Coffee Creek Church, Mens' Fellowship is held on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. Babysitting is provided and all are welcome.

The Women's Bible Study is held each Wednesday from 1 until 2:30 pm at Cleo Seymour's home.

The Children's Music Ministries enjoyed a day of bowling and treats in Weaverville on January 27th. A skiing trip is next on the agenda. Previous outings were skating and the Waterworks in Redding. All children and teens are invited. They meet each Sunday during church.

Regular services are held at the church at 10 am. The first Sunday of every month is communion. A faith feast (potluck) is held after this service.

Call Mary Bowen at 266-3623 if you would like to fix a casserole or meal for Bill and June Haag during June's recovery. Mary is chief in charge of the schedule and will help coordinate.

Lisa Loucks of "Grooming by Lisa" in Weaverville is now available to groom your cats and dogs on Mondays at her home in coffee Creek. Lisa brings her experience of 20 years to the business, and she is looking forward to seeing you in Coffee Creek or Weaverville.

Lisa, her husband, Bill, and family moved to Coffee Creek in November. Bill is the upper grades teacher at Coffee Creek School.

Editor's note: As the owner of 3 unruly and, most of the time grungy, Yorkshire Terriers, I can personally vouch for Lisa's doggy beautification skills. She has turned my 3 little terrors (I mean terriers) into quite the fashion statement!

A group of dedicated parents and community members met to discuss fund raising for Coffee Creek School related activities in

January. Everyone is welcome to help them plan what, when, and how they will earn money for field trips, materials, equipment, and services. Please contact the school if you would like to participate in the planning.

Fire Call



Trinity Center and Coffee Creek Fire Departments have some really big news. Sierra Pacific is donating a piece of land in the Boulder Creek area for a radio transmitter. In addition they are donating \$8,000 to cover the costs.

The two departments have had to overcome severe communication problems over the years, as there was very spotty radio coverage in many areas and non-existent coverage in others. When volunteers need to call in a helicopter or communicate with other agencies and each other, the radio coverage can literally mean the difference between life and death.

This repeater will allow the departments to communicate up to 15 to 20 miles from their bases, solving in most cases, the difficult problem they have dealt with over the years.

We all owe Sierra Pacific a huge thank you for their generous donation.

Ode to a Bad Knee – by Bill DeWolf

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Got a date with the doctor.
A knee he will alter.
All my cares and pains will go away.
Morphine will save the day.
Cocktail hour will last all day.

Bed with a view.
Tubes and wires in the veins
Carry all that's needed for the pain.

Happiness will be when there's no more pain in the knee.
Bye, bye bad knee.

Note: Bill DeWolf finally has a date for his knee replacement surgery. He will go to Redding for his surgery February 20th, when he can truly say goodbye to his bad knee.



School Days



Trinity Center School

The Trinity Center School Booster Club will SHOVEL! Yes, folks, this is a dream come true...strong kids with shovels. If you phone the school at 266-3342 this month the 6th and 7th graders will shovel snow for you for a donation towards their 7th and 8th grade trip. So, save your back and give the kids a call.

There will be a fund raiser held for Rachel Wilson, who is a former Trinity Center student, on March 14th. Rachel was seriously injured in an accident. Rachel is the niece of Charlene and Doug Jackson, and Bonnie Heinig's granddaughter. Stay tuned for upcoming details.

A "Club Live Dance" will be held at the IOOF Hall February 9th from 7-10 pm for 6th through 8th graders. This dance will be held for Trinity Center, Coffee Creek, Douglas City, and Junction City students. Students should wear dressy attire.

The Annual Sweetheart Raffle and Bingo Night will be held February 13th from 5-8 pm at the IOOF Hall.

Published!! Elisha Wiles, 6th grade student, and Jerrett Solven, 7th grade student, were 2 out of 16 students chosen from the north state to have their essays published in the Record Searchlight. Their essays appeared in the 12/24/00 edition of the Redding paper.

Spelling bee results from the January 9th contest: (1) Russell Churchill (8th grade) (2) Elisha Wiles (6th grade) (3) Misty Hutchinson (5th grade)

Geography bee results from the January 11th contest: (1)Emilee Johnson (6th grade), (2) Russell Churchill (8th grade) (3) Brittany Wurth (5th grade)

Coffee Creek School

Coffee Creek School teacher Amy Crnich received her Teacher Certification after completing her internship via UC Chico at Coffee Creek School. A celebration was held at the Forest Cafe to honor Amy's achievement.

Since the winter break the upper grade students have been participating in a simulation project. The students were divided into 5 different "countries". Each country had certain resources and capabilities. And, according to the rules of the project, had to trade and interact with the other countries. In addition, each country had one hostile neighbor. The goal of the project was that each country remained free and maintained a high standard of living. The outcome of the project found only four countries left (one had been taken over by a hostile neighbor). The remaining countries survived, because they cooperated with one another by pooling their resources and joining forces.

Primary grade students are busy learning about friendship while listening to and doing activities related to the children's story Charlotte's Web. The children are also using real money to learn about money. They are studying maps and have just started new spelling programs.

Piano and voice lessons began in January for interested students. Michelle Latner is sharing her talents in an after/before school program. Perhaps the students will be ready to share their progress this spring at the first annual Coffee Creek Talent Show.

Coffee Creek Makes National News!

On Thursday, January 25th, the north state experienced the first major storm of the winter. Rain fell so hard in the "valley" that freeway visibility dropped to almost nothing, and stopping distances sky rocketed due to hydroplaning. The mountains received lots of snow, with Coffee Creek heading the list at 17 inches of new snow. This was reported live on the "Weather Channel". The "weather dude" didn't even stand on California while making this stunning announcement. We're glad we got our "honorable mention" over with before the flood season starts.

Good News!

Elaine Ulrich reports that her son, Wade Nunley, received an outstanding report from his doctors. They say there is no sign of the cancer that Wade has battled for some time now.

Smoky and Cheri from the Forest Café presented Wade with their Oakland Raiders beer sign which has hung in the café for quite some time. They said they couldn't think of any one else that should have it. Wade, who is an ardent Raiders fan, reportedly couldn't take his eyes off of his new trophy.

Possible Earthquake in Trinity Center

If you think the ground is shaking in Trinity Center lately, it is. Three times a week the local ladies are whooping it up at the IOOF Hall to great music and one unstoppable aerobics instructor.

Pam Burkes has had many years of experience as an aerobics instructor, and now she brings her talent to all of us. On the day this picture was taken there was sweat flying and feet stomping. Pam was a whirlwind of motivation, and the gals gave it back to her. Summer is coming (really), so get with the program and join up with Drill Instructor Pam to get in shape for that bathing suit.

If you're new to the group remember the fee is \$16 a month which covers the rental for the IOOF Hall. Any extra will be donated to help with the upkeep of the building. Also remember to bring a mat to class



Stompin' to the Music at the IOOF Hall



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



We who are braving the mountain snows are also enjoying the beauty of the season, and we just thought all you "weather wimps", who have fled the area, would like to see what you're missing!



Icecapade Winner Bridger Berverly's Car



Recognize this smile? It's this month's Who's Who!

Subscription Information:

It's the time of year to renew your "Coffee Break" subscription. 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.

