



The Coffee Break

Volume 2, Issue 1

Suggested donation \$1

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

Who's Who

In Japan there is a tradition of honoring those people that are noteworthy as "living treasures". Well, Coffee Creek is lucky to have their very own "living treasure" in Ruby Kimrey. Seldom does one encounter such a special spirit as Ruby. She was born Ruby Pearl Adams in the country near Fairgrove, Missouri in 1903. Ruby says she was "a rock anyway you look at it", but her family and friends say she is a gem. She was raised in Joplin, Missouri the baby of eight children. Ruby's father was a cement contractor and a preacher. Often the family would walk 27 blocks to the First Baptist Church where her father preached. Ruby was "daddy's helper" on his cement jobs. She would help clean up after a day's work.



Ruby Kimrey

When Ruby was almost 17 the family moved to Rogers, Arkansas where her dad was offered a preacher's position. There Ruby worked, in her terms, in a "high falutin' laundry". It was in Arkansas that her father died and her mother moved to Kansas with Ruby to live with Ruby's sister. She cleaned for her sister and worked in another laundry.

In 1926 Ruby met her first husband, Arthur, while on a visit to Arkansas. The couple lived in Joplin where Arthur worked on the county roads and Ruby made \$16 a week sorting laundry. She had her daughter, Lois, in 1927 and a couple of years later the family moved to Chico. In California the marriage broke up and Ruby met her second husband, Orrin.

Orrin worked with the WPA, building bridges during the Depression. Ruby remembers standing in bread lines to get clothing and commodities and in her words "worked like a dog" at a laundry. Her daughter, Barbara "Bobbie", was born in 1932. At one point the family moved to Burson where Orrin worked on a ranch and Ruby worked at another laundry. Ruby's son, Everett, was born in Burson in

1935. Then the family moved back to Chico where, you guessed it, Ruby worked in a laundry. Orrin worked at the Diamond Match Co. for many years and then developed TB. He was hospitalized for 7 years and then moved to a cabin in back of the family house as the health department would not let him live in the house with the family. Ruby cared for him there carefully boiling all the dishes. In 1949 Orrin passed away.

Ruby continued to walk 1 1/2 miles to work at the laundry until health problems caused her to be unable to work any longer. Ruby had been forced to quit school when she was 15, and now found that she had the opportunity to go back and get the diploma she wanted so badly. In 1950 she realized that dream when she jointly graduated with her daughter, Bobbie.

Then she met Herb, her third husband, through friends from church. Herb had seen a picture of Ruby in the paper when she graduated and thought she was "one spunky woman". Herb and Ruby were married for 37 years and lived in Chico until the early 70's. The couple had been housesitting for the Seymour's and realized they liked the area around Trinity Center. They moved to Trinity Center and lived there until Herb died in 1989 when Ruby moved to Coffee Creek with her daughter.

Ruby was always known as the "pickle lady" in Trinity Center as she made fantastic pickles and gave them away. She canned 300-400 jars of food from her garden every year. She also made quilts. To this day Ruby has a deep faith and declares that you had to be "dead or dying to miss church". She says that "to not go to church is like doing without a meal".

Ruby's philosophy is simple and has served her well. She says if "someone asked me to do something I knew was wrong I would tell them to go jump in the lake". She says she has "always done whatever she knew was right regardless of the consequences and that you should never lie about what you are going to do". It is obvious to us that Ruby has lived by her own words for the past 97 years, and for that she is our treasure.

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Special points of interest:

- *Ruby Kimrey as we know her*
- *News from Coffee Creek and Trinity Center*
- *What's happening in your community*

Times Past - "The Early Day Coffee Creek School" - by Vi Karrer

The old Coffee Creek School was located just across the road from Sewall Road. It was still used as a school and election polling place up until the early forties. For a long time after the building burned a lilac bush grew and bloomed where the school once stood. This school was the first place I noted when I turned twenty one. It was the election year of 1940 and I voted for Roosevelt. The election board consisted of David Ferguson, Ella Derrick and Tommy McDevitt. Tommy was foreman and always opened and closed the polls with a hear yea, hear yea.

I was told that the teacher in the picture was David Ferguson's wife. David Ferguson had a nice house and ranch where the Forest Service is now located.

Edith Cade, one of the daughters of the Derrick family told me that she was the janitor and received \$2.00 a month but after a few months they raised her to \$2.50 a month as she was doing a nice job.

The old school is quite a contrast to our present school at Coffee Creek.



Early Day Coffee Creek School

Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Life

June Haag is progressing very well at home since her recent illness. She is eating well and walking everywhere. By all reports she has resumed many housekeeping duties. She has been able to find most of what she wants, except she still hasn't found her Christmas paper! Her speech is coming along quite nicely and she continues to work puzzles as part of her therapy. Everyday there are new surprises in her progress. Recently she has even been able to read a little from her Bible.

Contributed by Mary Bowen

Note: Mary Bowen will soon be calling people regarding "Meals on Wheels" for the Haags'.

Cherie Macy and Smoky Silva put on quite a Christmas spread this past month at the Forest Café to raise money for Christmas baskets for the community. Many of you turned out to support their effort and to enjoy the bread bowls brimming with chili and clam chowder. All of the \$450 proceeds went for Christmas cheer for families in the community.

Coffee Creek's very own Bob Cunningham hit the big 60 in December. His wife reports that not much has changed. He still falls asleep in his chair during TV shows and snores in earnest during the best parts. Imagine what he'll be like in another 10 years!

Esther Montana, owner of the Coffee Creek Country Store,

Laundry and General Meeting Area, and Daphne's grandmother, also hit the big 60 this past month. Some of us look it, but you don't, Esther. Happy birthday!

Bill Beerman has been appointed to fill Linda Cunningham's seat on the Natural Resources Advisory Council. This council takes direction from the Board of Supervisors to deal with various natural resource issues around the county, including forestry and water policies as they relate to county issues. Meetings are open to the public. Watch for notices of meeting dates in the Trinity Journal and posted at the Post Office.

Smoky Silva is tying flies again. It must be winter. Can Steve Milovich be far behind? Smoky is currently into stoneflies. We've heard of sushi, but this is ridiculous!

Flue fires are one of the major causes of serious fires in homes and businesses that heat with wood. Clean your flues annually before the winter heating season and burn a chemical soot cleaner stick once a week to retard seasonal buildup. In the event of a flue fire, pop one or more chemical extinguisher sticks into the fire box and call 911 for assistance. The extinguisher sticks are now available at the Coffee Creek Country Store.





Coffee Break Sheriff's Report

SHERIFF'S LOG (excerpt)

Friday 12/1 @1630 hrs

Local resident, Vi Karrer, reports attempted timber theft on Scott Mt. Responding truck driver discovered that a Coffee Creek woman, a Mrs. Gloria Jason, had attempted to illegally remove a Christmas tree. Mrs. Jason tried to fall said tree by driving her Subaru Outback into the base of the tree at a high rate of speed. Fortunately no arrest was required and justice prevailed, as the tree won! Mrs. Jason hopped out the back window and hoofed it down the mountain until retrieved by a trucker with a really high cab, and was deposited at Mrs. Karrer's place. The car went to Subaru heaven and the tree still stands! Mrs. Jason was publicly admonished by the Coffee Creek Fireflies and no further action is contemplated. Mrs. Jason snuck back to the scene under cover of darkness with a local red bearded accomplice and retrieved all of the Firefly crafts which were to go on sale the next day.

Monday 12/25 @ 0015 hrs

Numerous northern Trinity County residents reported seeing an unidentified flying object southbound high in the sky at a very high rate of speed. Callers using powerful telescopes and binoculars reported that the object appeared to have a creature bearing a bright red light at the front as flight illumination followed by another eight creatures described as some sort of antlered stock towing a sleigh occupied by a corpulent individual with a flowing white beard and clad entirely in red. This sleigh appeared to be heavily loaded, beyond just bearing the weight of the pilot.

Responding deputies made the same observation and added that whatever the object was it would frequently fall below the horizon and then ascend rapidly again as if making very brief landings and then taking off.

FAA Flight Service out of Prudhoe Bay, Alaska made the first such observation at @0001 hrs 12/25.

Vandenburg Air Force Base near Lompoc, California advised they did not have a missile launch during this time period. They further advised that it is their policy not to launch on Christmas Eve so as not to interfere with other high-altitude aircraft.

The missile tracking stations at both Hat Creek and Jamesburg, California reported intermittently tracking some sort of aircraft flying much higher and faster than normal satellites.

The FAA Oakland Flight Center reported the same intermittent observations but noted that the altitude of the craft precluded interference with commercial or private aviation.

This concludes the entry on the Sheriff's Log but the Coffee Break did pick this story up from the wires of the Associated Press: *Contributed by Roger Chatterton*

SANTA FLIGHT SUCCESSFUL

By Roland Hedley

Doonesbury News Services

Dateline: The North Pole

Santa Claus has again made a successful flight and returned safely landing at North Pole International Airport just prior to daylight on 12/25.

Sources close to Santa said that the political uncertainty in the United States made packing the sleigh an uncertainty for several weeks that normally would have been used for this purpose. It is Santa's intent to comply with the policies of the party ruling the White House. Under President-Elect George W. Bush's Truth-in-Christmas platform, only Nice boys and girls would receive presents. However, under Vice-President Al Gore's plan, Naughty boys and girls would also receive presents paid for by the Nice boys and girls. Until this was decided, Santa's elves had no clear guidelines as to how to load the sleigh. Once the United States had finally resolved its' Presidential dilemma an around-the-clock sleigh loading campaign was initiated which resulted in the Santa being able to launch at the appointed time. Unidentified sources credited Santa's new computerized Nice list with enabling the sleigh loading to be done in record time.

Santa again praised his lead reindeer, Rudolphski for his outstanding navigational and leadership skills. However, this reporter has learned that there may be jealousy within the reindeer ranks. One obviously disgruntled reindeer was heard to say "If you're not the lead reindeer, the scenery never changes".

One can only hope that with this great nation on the cusp of four years of the Truth-in-Christmas platform, that livestock labor problems won't stymie its' implementation. Sources close to Santa expressed the hope that dissident reindeer would not form a coalition with Naughty children to thwart Truth-in-Christmas.

Tuesday 12/25 @ 1300 hrs

Local Firefighter/EMT attempts to "off" himself using a large chain saw! Witnesses at Trinity General Hospital report that EMT Barry Bowen was hauled into the ER by EMT Mary Bowen, lying on his shield. Mr. Bowen states that he was "just trying to cut a little firewood to keep Mrs. Bowen off of his back for another few days". Mr. Bowen received 7 stitches to his here-to-fore unstitched persona. He returned to the scene to retrieve his son, Barry Jr., who stayed at the scene to prevent any more embarrassing wild fires at the Bowens' digs (aka Barry's Patch). As of last report Barry and his wife Mary were seen whizzing down Mt. Shasta at breakneck (no pun intended) speeds none the worse for wear.





From all reports Pam Burkes' Aerobics Class is enjoying great success. The class is now meeting on **Monday, Thursday** and **Saturdays** at 11 am at the IOOF Hall in Trinity Center.

The Coffee Creek Church Teen Youth Group meets from 6 to 8 pm on **Sunday** evenings. The group is collecting aluminum cans to raise money for a ski trip. Don't miss out on the fellowship and fun! Call Pastor Steve (266-3519) or Pat Delaney (266-3658) for details.

Have you ever had a secret desire to be a famous chef? Do you long for a long forgotten dish that you can't find? Have you ever harbored a moment of criticism for the kitchen activity at the café? Now is your chance to show your stuff! (or walk a mile in Cherie's moccasins). The Forest Café will sponsor a "Guest Chef Night" on selected winter evenings. Ask Cherie for the details! Speak up quickly, because available nights are disappearing fast.

The Garden Club will take a break in January.

The Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company wishes to thank Cheever Wright for the hours of hard work that he did to redo the Memorial Board which is mounted on the outside of the new fire hall. Cheever sanded and stained the board. He also spent hours shaving the back of the board and making the adjustments necessary to remount the board on the new hall. Dick Bergland furnished the wood and Mark and Tom Hollister mounted the board. Once again, we are reminded that the success of our fire department is truly a community effort. Thank you Cheever, Dick, Mark and Tom!

The Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company once again conducted its annual "Santa on Wheels" program. On December 11th Santa visited the Coffee Creek School and passed out candy canes to all the students. Each child has his picture taken with Santa. Santa was then escorted around the community on the fire truck handing out candy and greeting all the neighbors. As a special treat all the Coffee Creek students and the staff enjoyed pizza of their choice and homemade cookies donated by the Forest Café in honor of Santa's visit.

Weather Report – Sort Of, by John Burkes aka Humble Prognosticator



Recently, the editor of the Coffee Break, Linda Cunningham, asked me to write an article about weather. I was humbled (tears). Then she added, "Make it a spoof about weather." A spoof, I was appalled! A scientific discipline? One in which I have devoted over 30 years of my life? And she wants a spoof? My heart sank, this is like asking Roger Chatterton to catch and KEEP fish.

Weather is an exact science, forecasting what it will do is the real problem. The local area adds greatly to this problem. Mountains, lake, cold narrow valleys and curmudgeons, defined as crusty old men (and women I might add) who think meteorologists and the science of meteorology is nothing but smoke and mirrors. Thanks to one of Coffee Creek's finest, Steve Milovich, I have acquired the infamous Trinity Center/ Coffee Creek forecasting tool, I call this "The Great Equalizer". This tool, TNTCWR ("The North Trinity County Weather Rock"), along with its instructions, and help from "friends", has allowed me to further my skills. Not wanting to give away all my secrets, when said rock is white – forecast snow, when wet, rain, dry, well, you follow my drift. When I cannot see the rock it is either foggy or dark, both of which I have trouble forecasting.

Unlike other scientific fields, meteorology does not hide behind mumble jumble. For example in psychology the diagnosis "Communications Disorder Not Otherwise Specified", really means an inability to write "Spoof Articles". Forecasts,

on the other hand, are written clearly so that the public may completely understand them. We use common words like rain, snow, sunny, negatively tilted baroclinic front, diffluence, speed convergence, etc. Our forecasts are clear, concise and exact. An example would be, "Sunny with a chance of light to torrential rain or showers in the North Trinity Lake area which may be accompanied by severe thunderstorms with hail, high winds and the possibility of severe flooding. The chance of this event occurring is 20% for some of you and 50% for others". Which poses a slight dilemma; thirty percent of you will have no weather at all. Simple and concise wording you can all understand.

Keeping true to a forecaster's requirement for conciseness, I must bring this educational piece to a close. I hope you can now appreciate the years of study and constant research required to be one of a few in the chosen field.

Editor's note: We welcome John Burkes and his wife, Pam, to Trinity Center. Pam has been living here for a few months getting their new home in order. John was finally able to retire in December from his many years as a meteorologist for the government in Monterey. Pam is a Marriage, Family Therapist with an avid interest in physical fitness. She is responsible for the very successful aerobics class currently offered in Trinity Center.





Coffee Creek School

Coffee Creek School children presented their Christmas plays to a packed house at the IOOF Hall in Trinity Center December 9th. The younger children starred in "The Littlest Christmas Tree" featuring the unforgettable Leah Groves as the Littlest Tree.

The older kids performed in the play "Marley's Turn" written by their teacher, Bill Loucks. The audience was very amused by the play which combined an old theme with a modern twist.

There were musical performances by Alyssa Haire and Steven Reichling. Brandy McLafferty, in her debut, was a standout with her rendition of "Christmas Star".

Of course, Santa made a surprise appearance with gifts for all.

Thanks go to Mary Hanson for directing and the talented Hazel Spencer for the costumes and sets.



Brandy McLafferty Sings "Christmas Star"



A Stellar Performance of "The Littlest Christmas Tree"

Oh, the inequities of living in a community of only 250 people. The thrill of everyday experiences are denied us. We are denied the pure joy that surrounds city folks. Our lives are empty. We stumble about in a stupor of tranquillity. Who will help? Are there no softies with soul who feel for us? Is kindness to others passing without stopping here? The burdens are heavy, but a brave heart will prevail.

I don't think it is too much to ask our Sheriff's Department to occasionally come here with sirens wailing. It would make us feel important. We could hold our heads up and declare ourselves as part of the world. The sheriff's Department could draw their guns, if only to inspect them. That would really read well in the local paper. Oh, the joy of recognition.

Maybe we could ask the hunters who come there to fire a few rounds (carefully). That would give us the feel of the streets. The only gun fire we hear up here are hunters, and there's no return fire. It is quiet up here without the sounds of battle.

I wonder – Could we hire someone to stage cell phone or road rage incidents to enliven our streets? There are no bulls eyes on any cars here. No excitement at all.

I can't buy a \$2000 burglar alarm/fire alarm system. I went into a store and stopped to look at one. The clerk asked where I lived and then wouldn't sell me one. I guess I will just have to put up with my neighbors calling the police or fire department whenever anything is out of place. It is almost too much to handle.

Get a flat tire on a lonely stretch of road. It is very difficult to ignore the gentleman who stops. He helps jack up your car and removes the tire. After that he drives you 20 miles to town and back. He puts the tire on your car and waves goodbye saying "Have a good day". You inspect your car and everything is still there. Why do they do that?

It takes a very devoted person to suffer the unfairness of this kind of lifestyle. I feel we need to recruit more people willing to endure the deprivation. I will have to put aside my personal feelings and step forward. I swear to do my duty and stay here.



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



My Turn

Note from ye old (very old) editor:

This past month I had a small upset in my schedule in that I had to spend an unexpected week in Stanford Hospital. While I'm not complaining about the facilities, it did set me back in my never ending quest for "Coffee Break" material. In a rare moment of lucidity I had a flash of brilliance. I would put Mary Bowen in charge of soliciting items for the "Break". In the true spirit of Christmas she undertook her new assignment with characteristic enthusiasm. I arrived home to a full complement of emails and an overflowing fax machine. I was so pleased and relieved at the efforts put forth by others to help fill the January paper. This truly is a community newsletter in that the community helps write it!

This issue begins the second year of this little rag. I have very much enjoyed highlighting our communities with this instrument as well as providing some additional funding for the Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company. You, the community, have faithfully supported these efforts and I must tell you how appreciative I am. Many of you now routinely keep me abreast of upcoming events and news tidbits which makes this production a lot easier. I would like to encourage all of you to contribute your ideas and news items by email, fax, mail or phone. Of course, letters to the editor, are also welcome.

This month I thank Mary and Barry Bowen, John Burkes, Roger Chatterton, Bill DeWolf, and Vi Karrer (alphabetical order) for bailing me out of an unforeseen situation. As always, the Fireflies contribute many a brainstorming session for ideas and, Laurene Wright has handled and continues to handle all the subscriptions.

Happy New Year to all of you! - Linda Cunningham

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.

Al Capone's business card identified him as a "used car dealer".

Did You Know.....?

