



# The Coffee Break

Suggested donation \$1

Volume 2, Issue 3

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

## Who's Who

Barry Bowen was born Barrett Hutchinson Bowen on March 17th, 1931 in Sacramento. He was the baby of a family including two older sisters. His dad was involved with farm real estate. Barry's mom was involved with many charities.

Barry had an idyllic childhood on his parents' small farm just east of Sacramento. He would ride a horse to school and generally help with the farm chores. He and his sisters rode in horse shows all over the state.



**Barry Bowen**

Growing up with two older sisters, however, did have its downside. Everyday Barry would wear a big straw hat, a fatigue jacket, and his ever present rubber boots. Sister, Allison, took great delight in pushing her younger brother in the family's 50' swimming pool. There 10 year old Barrett Hutchinson Bowen would unceremoniously sink to the bottom as his rubber boots filled. He would then walk the 50' on the bottom of the pool as fast as he could to get to the steps. By the time he was 11, he had moved on to bigger and better things, and was unceremoniously drummed out of the Boy Scouts when he was caught puffing a cigarette. (He was later reinstated.)

It was probably this "pool sprinting" practice that paved the way for his latter achievements as a track and field star for San Juan High School. He excelled in many events including the 100 yd. dash and the 220 yd. relay. His talents won him a full scholarship at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

At the university Barry distinguished himself immediately by winning his first track and field event—a greased pig contest. He did go on to set many records in his sport. These stood for a long time. As the Korean War intensified, Barry joined a reserve unit, and was soon called to active duty with the Air Force. At first he was sent to San Antonio and then on to Casablanca, North Africa, where he pulled tough duty guarding the Mediterranean beaches.

When he returned, he bought a baby blue 1952 Ford convertible and headed back to the University of Arizona to continue to pursue a degree in business. Soon after his arrival he attended a party at the family home of a feisty redhead, Mary Vest. Mary was also a junior at the university, and her mother was accustomed to having many social gatherings for Mary's friends. Barry and Mary took one look at each other, and it was literally love at first sight. Barry pinned Mary on Friday the 13th, the day before Valentines Day, because he just couldn't wait another minute.

The couple was soon married, left school, moved to Lake Tahoe, and proceeded to live on love. Barry worked for a lumber company, cut Christmas trees, and put boats up for the winter. Together they decided they needed a more stable source of income, and in 1955 Barry went to work for Shell Oil Company in Sacramento in the marketing department. He also returned to school at Sacramento State, and finished his degree in business.

Barry and Mary had their first son, Barry Jr., in 1955. The family was then transferred to Fresno and in 1958 their son, Gary, was born.

Another transfer brought them to Chico, where they spent 9 years. It was during this time that Barry and Mary began taking trips to Trinity County with his cousin Jean and her husband, Kent Weaver. The couples spent many happy days packing in the Trinity Alps. Barry and Mary developed a love for this country and entertained ideas of one day living here.

In 1969 the Bowens were transferred to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Barry had a heavy travel schedule, and Mary returned to school to finish her education to become a teacher.

In 1972 there was yet another transfer with Shell to Houston, Texas. Here Barry worked in the International Marine Sales Department, and Mary worked as a teacher. They bought a small farm with Barry's beloved horses and other animals. At one point they had 27 animals. They also grew

hay. They became quite active in a trail riding group which went on frequent rides, always ending the day with a round of country western dancing.

Although the Bowens enjoyed their many Texas friends, they were never fond of the area itself. It was rife with snakes. On one memorable night Barry blew the side out of his chicken house with his shotgun in an effort to kill a snake.

Snakes and hot, humid weather plagued them. A well meaning friend suggested that the couple take some time to fish on the Trinity River northeast of Houston (the Texas version). As they were walking along with their poles, they noticed that everyone else they encountered had a pole with a rifle next to it. They soon found out that for every fish someone caught, someone else would blast away at a water moccasin. At the end of the day the count was 7 perch and 14 water moccasins. Needless to say this was an unnerving experience, which did little to change the Bowen's minds about Texas.

Nevertheless they spent 26 years in Houston. The Bowens made the best of it. Barry was an elder at their church and a president of his Rotary Club.

In 1990 they bought their home in Coffee Creek and finally retired here in 1996. Barry keeps busy serving on the board for the Coffee Creek Fire Dept. and the Lions Club. He also serves as an EMT and Firefighter. Barry recently served as Chairman of the Building Committee for the new Coffee Creek Fire Hall. In this capacity he raised a lot of money. In addition he could be seen daily, along with many other volunteers from both communities, physically working on various aspects of the building construction, finishing and landscaping. The Bowens are very active in church and feel that this is their time to give back to the community that they love so much. Many summer days you will find Barry at his horse pasture, "Barry's Patch". He and Kent Weaver still spend time packing in the Alps. The Bowens also keep special tabs on their three grandchildren running to soccer games or ski trips at Shasta.



## Times Past - "The Buckeye Store and Stringtown" - by Vi Karrer

In 1916 the Pacific Dredging Co. built a dredge and started to operate on Coffee Creek, close to what is now Seymour's place. This dredge was also known as the Guggenheim dredge. The boulders proved to be too large for the dredge to handle, so they moved it down to about two miles above Trinity Center, and began operating again. At this time the company established a camp and built a row of houses and other buildings along both sides of the main traveled road. Bill Foster Sr. was given credit for naming the town Stringtown. While delivering meat from Trinity Farms to the dredge people, he remarked that the horses were sure strung out, and from then on it became known as Stringtown.

In 1916 the California Oregon Power Co. built a power line from Castella, over Ramshorn, to service the dredges in northern Trinity. It also brought power to the communities and Eagle Creek Ranch. Some winters the power would be off as much as six weeks at a time. It would take the power crew from Castella and Trinity Center a long time, suffering hardship conditions to work their way through and repair the winter damage.

The first dredge was moved to Mayala in 1924 to dredge tin. In 1938 the Carrville Gold Co. of Duluth, Minnesota started assembling a dredge at Stringtown. This dredge, according to a write up on dredges by Richard Ryan and



*The Carrville Dredge*

John Shuford in the 1994 Trinity Historical Society Book, was operated by Yreka Manufacturing Co. of San Francisco. The dredge was still under construction when I came here in May of 1939. I remember that a local man, Loren Depart, died from injuries due to being struck on the head by a bucket pin.

When the building of the dredge started, a young couple, Earl and Thelma Merrit, decided that Stringtown needed a store. They rented a building near Buckeye Creek from Edith Williams Cade. The building had been a cook shack with two large ovens. The ovens could cook two turkeys at a time, and were used to cook community Thanksgiving dinners. The Cades remodeled the building into a store. They ran the store for a few years then sold the business to Tom and Polly Burge. Tom called the place Uncle Tom's Cabin. The Burges improved the store and ran a very successful business for a few years. They had one son, Bobby, who went to the Stringtown school. His son, Tom, is now living in the same school building, which is now in Trinity Center.

The Burges sold to Frank Spinola and Ernie and Rita Ward about 1946 or '47. The Spinolas and Wards ran the Buckeye store as a family. Vovo, the mother of Frank and Rita, was always busy. Ernie and Rita had three young sons at this time, who went to the Stringtown school. Everyone loved Vovo. She was famous for her chicken soup for Christmas Eve and watercress soup for New Years

Eve. Al Spinola came along later, after getting out of the Navy as a radio operator. The store sold beer, wine, groceries, fresh meat, vegetables and prepared meals. They also had gas pumps. Their menu prices were standard for that time but certainly cheaper than today's prices. Lots of dancing took place, mostly in the evening. A juke box furnished the music playing the tunes of the 1950's like "Detour", "Smoke That Cigarette" and "When the Lights Go Out Again All Over the World".

Joe Noble, a Forest Service employee, had moved to Stringtown with his family. He was a great artist and poet. He wrote many pieces of poetry about the Buckeye store and it's owners. June Spinola loaned me one written in his beautiful hand writing. He never signed his work, but the few remaining people that knew him, know who the author is. (*See his poem on page 5*)

Frank Spinola eventually married Vivian, one of the Cade ladies, and moved to Redding where Frank went to work for the McCall's dairy.

When the dredge first started to operate, there wasn't any school building to accommodate the influx of school age children. School was held in one of the old buildings with a Mr. Wheatcraft as teacher. Later a new school house was built, and Betty Gorsuch was the teacher. Betty taught until the dredge shut down, then she and her husband, Ralph, moved to Weaverville, where Betty taught school until she retired.

Ernie eventually took on the job of driving school bus, which was the first bus to transport students to high school in Weaverville. Before that time children had to be boarded in either Weaverville or Redding, or their parents had to move to town. Ernie was very popular with the students, and most of them came to honor him at his retirement party.



*Stringtown School*

The Carrville dredge closed down for good not too long after it started up for the second time after the end of the war. It was put to rest in the Carrville Pond where it stayed for a long time. Eventually it was purchased by Thurman and Wright, dismantled in 1965, and shipped to Brazil to mine diamonds. This about ended the dredging in this area. A dredge was brought to upper Coffee Creek in the late '40's or early 50's by Meyers and Sunderseth. It wasn't successful, as they started digging up timbers where the Chinese had tunneled and cleaned the bedrock. This was the end of the dredging in this area.



*Sign at the Buckeye Store*





## Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Life

The North Trinity Lake Artisan's Guild has donated \$250 to the Coffee Creek Elementary School. The generous gift will be used for the art and music program at the school.

Mike Ransom is recuperating at home with his wife, Nanette, after Mike had major vascular surgery. Mike and Nanette own and operate Bonanza King Resort on Coffee Creek Road.

Ruby Kimrey is also recuperating at home after a short stay in the hospital for a respiratory problem.

## Cynthia Foster

Cynthia Foster passed away at Mercy Hospital February 13th after a long battle with cancer. She was born December 11, 1951 in Plainfield, New Jersey and grew up there. In 1973, after living in Aspen, Colorado, she came to Venice, California with friends. In 1976 her daughter, Afton, was born. Cynthia and Afton moved to Coffee Creek in 1978. She worked at the Forest Café, the Airporter and at Cedar Stock

Resort.

Cynthia is remembered for her love of the outdoors. She loved fishing and boating with her friends. She was also a good seamstress, and she enjoyed making clothes for Afton. She could always be found taking a spin on the dance floor at social events. She was known as the life of the party and was the last to leave. This reflected her adventurous spirit. Cynthia loved sushi, travel, practical jokes and most of all, people. She met many people while bartending and waitressing, and was known as a great "mixologist".

Her greatest accomplishment was in loving and raising her daughter, Afton.

Cynthia is survived by Afton, of Coffee Creek, her mother, Majorie Ward, of Groveland, California, her father and step-mother, Dale and Terri Carlisle of Bernardsville, New Jersey, brother, Craig Carlisle, and niece and nephew, Robin and Luke Carlisle, of Santa Cruz, California. She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Foster, and a brother, Steven Carlisle.

Cynthia attacked her illness in typical Cynthia fashion, never yielding an inch, and being very proactive in researching the latest treatment innovations for her illness and personally selecting her care providers and treatment regime. Her fight with the disease was an inspiration to all who knew her.

## Nature's Bounty – Raccoons

If ever there was a Dr. Suess animal it would be Procyon lotor, or in common parlance, the ubiquitous raccoon. This is the con artist and mischievous wonder of the animal kingdom who both amuses us and irritates us at the same time. His cousins the Coati and the Ringtail occupy a prominent place in Native American lore. There are actually 7 species of raccoons, including the one we all know and love, the North American Procyon lotor (lotor comes from the Latin "washer").

They are opportunistic omnivores or, most especially, garbage eaters (my word). In other words, they eat just about anything. Usually they are thought of as a solitary, nocturnal animal, but, in fact, it is the male that is usually solitary while the females frequently travel in matriarchal family groups. These groups will feed and den together into the fall. They are more active at night, but they will also forage during the day, especially the nursing females.

Raccoons do not hibernate but will enter a period of decreased activity during the winter called torpor. Raccoons also mate in the winter and can be quite vocal about it. They will scream (in ecstasy presumably), mew (in contentment), growl (NOT happy) and whistle (Boy, was that something!). Baby raccoons are especially vocal. If you've ever heard loud purring in your yard at night it's most likely a troop of baby raccoons that have just filled their bellies from your garbage can.

As everyone knows one of the more endearing features of the raccoon is their face mask and ringed tail. The mask helps reduce glare while aiding in camouflage, and it may help with night vision. The tail is used for fat storage and balance.

Many people believe that raccoons "wash" their food. In reality they will "wash" their food in dirt or water. It is believed this may be a way to increase their tactile senses. When there is competition for food they will forgo the "washing" and simply eat.

While raccoons are extremely agile climbers they are flat footed like humans and are relatively slow runners. They actually tend to waddle rather than walk due to their longer rear legs. Their front toes can be opened wide which gives them the ability to unlatch bird feeders and open garbage cans with ease.

Average weight for an adult raccoon is 25-30 pounds. In the wild they live from 5 to 8 years and in captivity can live 8-13 years. There are records of raccoons that have made 16 years in the wild and 21 in captivity.

Peak breeding season is February (Valentine's Day, you know) with the kits usually arriving in April or May. Generally there are from 3 to 4 kits. Males breed with several females (that's why they're referred to as "rascals") and do not help in rearing the young. The babies remain in the birth den for 7 or 8 weeks and then mom moves them to a series of alternate dens. At about 10 weeks they begin traveling with mom.

To keep raccoons from becoming pests use common sense regarding garbage containers, pet food, etc. If you encounter one in the attic do not confront directly. They do not like strong smells, lights or noises. Before instituting eviction procedures make sure there are no babies. March through June is "baby time". If there are babies you can wait because mom will definitely move the kids out on her own when it is time.







The Garden Club will meet **March 13th** at 1 pm in the rec room of the new church in Trinity Center. Larry Goltz from Shasta college will be showing his wildflower slides. This should be a very interesting program for all you wildflower hunters out there.

The Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Department Annual Chili Feed and Auction will be held **April 7th**. Watch for flyers.

The North Trinity Lake Lions Club will once again sponsor the ever popular Little Reno Night at the IOOF Hall on **March 10th**.

A group of brothers in Christ has been formed as a part of the Mens' Fellowship at Coffee Creek Church to offer community service to the Coffee Creek and Trinity Center areas. Our stated mission is to "increase awareness of His church, promote goodwill, and extend the hands of charity through faith and volunteerism."

Activity request forms are available for needs such as: wood splitting, snow removal, heavy lifting, transportation to doctor, etc. Contact Brother John Hackett (Chm.) at **266-3932** or Brother Ken Comer at **266-3937**. Activities are not limited to Christian households.

*Contributed by Ken Comer*

## PUD General Manager Addresses Lions Club

Rick Coleman, Director of the Trinity County Public Utilities District, spoke to the North Trinity Lake Lions and their spouses and guests in February. Rick discussed the California power emergency vis a vis deregulation, and explained it very thoroughly to the audience. Rick feels that we shouldn't be directly affected in Trinity County, and he believes that no price increase will be needed here. He did say that planned decreases have had to be shelved at this time. Rick also explained that prior to this energy crisis, the county was planning on addressing inadequacies in service in the south county as well as in the north lake area. Rick is actively pursuing funding to make these very important service upgrades, and he hopes that this can still be done within the next year or so. If you haven't met Rick, or had the opportunity to listen to him speak, you are in for a treat. "When Rick speaks, people listen." Thanks, Rick, for an informative



*Rick Coleman Addresses the Lions Club on Deregulation*

## Fire Call



Fire Retardant Gel to be Demonstrated

The Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department has arranged for a demonstration of a fairly new product that should be of interest to our entire community due to its potential to protect structures, vehicles, fuel tanks, etc. that may be in the path of wildland fires.

The product is called Barricade Fire Blocking Gel. It is a protective gel-coating that protects objects in a fire's path against radiant heat, direct flame impingement, flying brands and burning embers. It is formulated to adhere to all exposed surfaces, including walls, overhangs, wood shake roofs, metal or fiberglass surfaces and glass windows. According to the firm's literature Barricade was first used to successfully protect a number of structures in the path of a wildland fire near Palm Coast, Florida in July of 1998.

The product can be applied by a fire department using its standard foam eductor or a homeowner using a Barricade Home Owner Fire Defense System and a garden hose.

We are inviting all interested community members to attend this demonstration and judge for themselves the effectiveness of this product. In the event of a cataclysmic fire-storm there are not sufficient resources to protect all structures which means that homeowners must also be prepared to defend their property. This is why it is so strongly recommended that residents have an area clear of ground vegetation surrounding their homes. This product may be one additional and critical barrier.

In the event of a threatening wildland fire the first priority of the fire department must be the protection of lives. Only after that can we direct ourselves to the protection of property. For those of us who fought the Lowden Fire in Lewiston it is starkly obvious that even the most expeditious mutual aid response will be behind the fire until sufficient resources can be mobilized. If this product performs as claimed, it may be something every homeowner should have on hand and be prepared to deploy in the event of an approaching wildland fire.

The demonstration will be held at the Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department on **Wednesday, April 4th at 7 pm**. A representative from Fire and Rescue Outfitters, Inc. of Redding will conduct the demonstration. We invite all North Trinity Lakes area residents to join us.

**Roger Chatterton, Assist. Chief**  
**Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department**

Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department has added a paramedic to their team of volunteers. As of January 31st Karen Lucky, after 17 long months of study and practice, has attained her Paramedic License. This achievement benefits both of our communities immeasurably, as we now have two licensed paramedics between our two fire departments available to respond to medical calls. Congratulations, Karen!





## School Days



### *Trinity Center School*

Don't forget the Benefit Dinner for Rachael Wilson on **March 14th** from 5 pm until 7:30 pm at the IOOF Hall in Trinity Center. Rachael is a former Trinity Center student who was seriously injured in an accident. Rachael is the niece of Charlene and Doug Jackson and Bonnie Heinig's granddaughter.

### *Coffee Creek School*

The Coffee Creek Elementary School Girls Basketball Team scored a big trophy at the countywide Basketball Tournament held in Douglas City February 3rd. The girls can be very proud of their Best Sportsmanship Award.



*Front row left to right – Brandy McLafferty and Jessica Bruner  
Second row left to right – Jody Vandergrift, Mellissa Delany and Sarah Delany*



*The "Gang" at Wards  
(See Poem at Left)*

## "Breakfast at Wards"

By Joe Noble

We've got to go to Weaverville  
As sure as we're alive-  
So we're to meet at Ernie's place  
For breakfast there at five.  
Let's see – there's Leonard Franklin,  
'N Ralph'n maybe Cade-  
And Ernie promised all of us  
That he'd have breakfast made.

I stayed up all night working,  
And by five was nearly starved.  
I could picture Ernie bustling  
As he got the bacon carved.  
So at five I left for Ernie's.  
I could see the kitchen light.  
I pictured frying spuds 'n bacon  
With an Epicure's delight.

But alas! No one was stirring,  
So I beat upon the door.  
There was no response to this,  
So I beat and knocked some more.  
The snow had turned to rain  
As the dawn rolled back the night,  
So I tried to get inside-  
But the door was locked too tight.

I went then, to the front door  
In frustrated desperation.  
There I beat my knuckles sore  
With grim determination.  
Ah! At last I hear an answer-  
Ernie's feet have hit the floor.  
Now he's stumbling through the darkness  
To open up the door.

Here comes Leonard Franklin,  
But no chance has he taken.  
Before he left his house-  
He had his eggs 'n bacon.  
Ralph arrives close on his heels,  
He too, has ate his breakfast  
Before 'twas time to start.

Now Al is getting up,  
It's six o'clock at last.  
My dream of eggs 'n frying spuds  
Is fading very fast.  
Tomato juice and No-Doz  
Is Ernie's breakfast here.  
My "Breakfast at Wards"  
Becomes — A glass of beer



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



*Typical February View – The Area is Pounded with Winter Storms*



*Who's Who "Dreamboy" Barry Bowen in 1949*

### Subscription Information:

It's the time of year to re-new 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.

Pregnant goldfish are called "twits".

Did You Know.....?

