



The Coffee Break

Suggested donation \$1

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

Who's Who

Lyle Charter is an interesting mix of farmer, cowboy and "cowboy poetry" enthusiast. He is an enigma that began with a farming family. In an era where the family farm has all but disappeared, Lyle and his wife, Laurie, embody the spirit of a bygone age.



Lyle Charter
"Bones"

In 1909 his grandfather bought land in Arbuckle, California. He began to farm and passed land down to his son and grandson, Lyle. Later, he and his brother bought additional land to farm on their own. Now the farm has passed on to Lyle's children and nephews and their children. This makes the fifth generation of Charters farming the original family land, as well as new land purchased over the years.

Lyle was born in Arbuckle in 1932. He grew up during the years of depression, the second of four children. He remembers his father working the farm. He used his equipment to work other farms as well.

Then there was his sister. He and his brother took delight from hiding in the bushes to harass her and her boyfriend while they were courting. When he was a child he threatened to throw her doll out the car window when she was misbehaving. Unfortunately, the wind from a passing

truck blew the doll out of Lyle's hand. There were consequences to be paid and Lyle's sisters today hold childhood memories of their brother's antics.

Lyle was an ardent Tom Mix fan. He spent weeks saving coupons to acquire the desired secret Mix knife. In a dastardly act, again directed at the ever present sisterly targets, he cut their bike seat. When it was discovered that Lyle was the culprit, his dad made short order of the knife. He unceremoniously chopped in it half with his ax.

Shortly after graduating from the Arbuckle high school, Lyle got married. He had three children. The marriage ended in divorce and Lyle now had three children to raise.

In 1965 he met Laurie at a 4H function in Lake Tahoe. Laurie was in charge of hospitality, which included food service. When Lyle asked her to dance, her hand was full of prune pits. Undaunted, Lyle disposed of the pits in his pocket and thus began 34 years of marriage. Of course there was two years of preliminary courting, which included an unplanned trip to a topless show. Laurie had a friend who arranged a trip to Reno for a promised "artistic" show. Laurie saw this as an opportunity to invite Lyle along for a cultural experience. The ensuing show was indeed "artistic".

Despite a few glitches and exploits, Lyle and Laurie were married in 1967. Lyle didn't have the money for the ring so a pop top off a soda can had to do. (Later, Lyle did cough a ring up, not one but two, of

the required rings.) Laurie had inherited a lively family of two high school kids and one seventh grader. This would be quite a task for anyone, but Laurie accepted the challenge with characteristic enthusiasm.

In 1973 the couple built a house, which they moved into in 1974. They still live in this house and today "Charter Oak Ranch, supports five families, both family and employees.

There have been many changes over the years. Farming used to be mostly by hand, but now it has changed to more mechanical methods. After 42 years of farming Lyle's children and grandson now tend the crops, which today are mostly almond trees. The kids have built homes on the ranch, and one shop is so impressive that it is called the "Taj Ma Hal Shop".

Lyle now devotes more time to his passion for "cowboying". He rode horses to school as a boy to impress the girls, but now he's more serious—although he still likes to impress the girls. He owns five mules and one horse, which can be viewed in his well tended pasture on Carrville Loop. Nip and Tuck often pull Lyle's bright red wagon, which he uses to impress the girls. They have been going on pack trips with friends in the Alps since 1975. In 1997 it was natural to purchase their

home away from home on Carrville Loop.

Many years ago Lyle developed an interest in "Cowboy Poetry". He became fascinated with the cowboy art of telling stories in verse while he and Laurie attended an event in Elko, Nevada. He pursued this interesting talent with great vigor and today he can recite around 20 poems by memory and knows 20 more that take a little brushing up before they are ready for a performance. Many of you have been entertained by Lyle at various functions and informal gatherings. He loves the tales of the "old guys" and is always asked to perform "Pertner Perkins" as well as many others. He performed once in an open session at a cowboy poetry conclave and, in his words, was "scared to death". This is hard to believe given his relaxed nature when delivering poems for friends.

Lyle had an unfortunate accident in 1999 which, pinched a spinal cord nerve in his neck. He was attempting to teach his dog to sit on top of a mule, and he thought it would help in the training to tie the dog in a box on the mule. The mule made a wrong move and injured Lyle to the point where he was paralyzed for 1/2 hour lying on the ground. He finally managed to follow the

fence line and crawl into the house where he was able to call Laurie. After being treated at UC Davis he acquired some titanium in his neck. The whole experience was not wasted—you guessed it a friend wrote a poem about the experience.

Lyle is interested in other things too, such as blacksmithing. He makes, bits, spurs and other tack items. He is active in Back Country Horsemen, Masonic Lodge, Shriners, and has served on his church board and fire board. Today he travels to foreign countries with Laurie. He is fluent in Spanish and has the unusual talent of being able to sing the original Woody Woodpecker song. Just ask him sometime for his rendition. He believes that retirement is the best thing that has happened so far as it allows him to enjoy his property in Trinity, as well as his other pursuits. He thinks he got a "pretty good wife out of the deal" and he's grateful to be able to do the things that he loves that so many of his friends are unable to do.

At 6' 4" you can just call him "Bones". Well, "Bones" is a pretty special guy, who will "do to ride the trail with".

Times Past - "Coffee Creek Schools and the First Eight Years of the New Coffee Creek School" - by Vi Karrer

When the old school building burned, probably in the late forties, it left Coffee Creek without a school. The children went to school for awhile in an old building at Stringtown with a M. Wheatcraft as teacher. Stringtown later built a new school that lasted until June 1959. James Granger was the last teacher.

Coffee Creek established a school in the old Carrville store building in 1959 with Catherine Middleton as teacher. The students consisted of the two Gustafson girls, Joyce and Janet, Charles Anderson, George Heinselman, Randy Spencer, Joan Queren and Rocky Huffman. Rocky was the first victim to drown in the new lake and it was a sad day for all of us that knew him. Randy Spencer tells me that some coffins were stored in the attic of the old store and that the children liked to go up there and lay in the coffins. What fun!

In 1959, John Neubauer donated the land to build a new school in Coffee Creek. Work started in 1960 and the new school opened in September 1961 with Kate Middleton as teacher. Fred Maddox and Connie Huffman were the first graders, Gary Jeans and Joan Queren were in the third grade, Dorothy Guggenmos and Barbara Jeans were fourth grade, Joyce Gustafson, fifth grade, Robert Huggenmos sixth grade, Darnel Davidson fourth grade, Parker Davidson and Janet Gustafson eighth grade.

The school was new and, of course, had a few problems. One day the furnace was making an unusual sound, which worried Kate, so she told the class that she didn't like the noise that the furnace was making, so maybe they should take a field trip. Little first grader, Fred Maddox, didn't like the sound either and said that "they should get the hell out of there before the SOB

blew up". Kate said that she had trouble holding a straight face.

Kate taught until 1967, then Joe Neuman was the teacher along with Gloria Wiou in 1967-68.

Joe Neuman was the teacher when the 1961 class graduated from the eighth grade in 1970. That class consisted of Fred Anderson, Joe Vaughn, Fred Maddox, Louise Vaughn and Mike Queren.

Other teachers that worked with Joe Neuman over the years were Sharon Cartwright, Mary Ellen Jeske, and Dorothy Jordon.



Gustafson girls, John Queren, Charles Anderson, George Heinselman, Randy Spencer in Front of Old Carrville Store. Small boy is Rocky Huffman





1st Grade, Connie Huffman and Fred Maddox, 3rd Grade, Gary Jeans and Joan Queren, 4th Grade, Dorothy Guggenmos, Barbara Jeans, 5th grade Joyce Gustafson, 6th Grade Robert Guggenmos, 7th Grade Darnel Davidson, 8th Grade, Parker Davidson and Janet Gustafson

Town Crier



This month's Garden Club program will be held on Tuesday, **September 11th** at Marge Lauerman's home. This should be a very popular meeting as Marge will be introducing the art of making jewelry out of sterling silver and beading. Marge is noted to be very talented in jewelry construction.

Tuesday, **September 18th** the NTLIA (North Trinity Lake Improvement Association) will hold their Annual Pot Luck dinner and meeting at 6 pm. Bring your own dinner service and utensils. Lemonade and coffee are provided. Music will be performed by our own favorite singer, Judy Eaker. Everyone is welcome. Come and enjoy the evening.

Cheers, Applause and Just Plain Wow!



Coffee Creek is celebrating big time! Our small community is now home to Miss Trinity County. Elise Overly wears the crown and will represent the Trinity County Fair Board for the rest of the year.

Elise competed with three other contestants in a contest which consisted of a private interview with the judges. The girls were shown a list of 10 sample questions at rehearsal. Many of these questions were asked in the interview in addition to some other questions. Then the contestants practiced their talents on stage.

At around 7 pm Elise's girlfriend was to arrive to help her prepare, but the friend did not arrive until 10 minutes before showtime! Then the dining hall was supposed to be vacated by 6:30 pm, but people were still visiting until 7:15 pm! Yikes! There was no place to hang their gowns and they each had three changes of clothing during the show. Then to make matters worse there were only two bathrooms to accommodate curling irons, make up and the many things any young girl needs. (There was only one outlet for the curling irons, not to mention only one mirror.) Horrors!

Now Elise was in tears convinced that things were falling apart around her. But in true "Elise fashion" she took a deep breath and presented herself with dignity and grace.

After appearing in casual clothes, it was time for the talent. Imagine playing "Soiree Russe" on the flute when it's hard to breathe from the stress of the evening. Given her sterling performance she now held the audience in the palm of her hand.

Elise was not particularly eager to model the gowns as this display is not in her nature, but she felt it was a growth experience and would help her to present herself in public.

When she drew the question she breathed a sigh of relief when she was asked "Who has influenced you the most in your life and why?" No problem for Elise....her grandmother.

Then the suspense....Elise was crowned. Her parents, Dave and Sheri Overly, who own the Carrville Inn, were so proud of her grace and dignity. This may have surprised others in Trinity County, but we know that they just didn't know who they were competing with. Many people in the community supported Elise's effort spearheaded by Mary and Barry Bowen, and we too are proud of our girl in Coffee Creek. (By the way, if you would like to meet Elise, she works at the Forest Cafe on occasion, or you could book a weekend at the Carrville Inn.)



**Miss Trinity County
Elise Overly**



Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Life

Congratulations to Stew and Anna Clegg who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

On August 4th Lee Traver's sculptured wire trees were taking part at the opening of an art show being held at the Language of Landscape Gallery in Weaverville at the request of the major artist, JoAnne Beasley, whose landscape paintings were also on exhibit.

A large oak, a weeping willow and an alder can be enjoyed in the front window as well as the conifers inside the gallery until the closing of the show on September 14th. Lee's trees are truly works of art which should not be missed.

Pvt. Robert Bowers Jr., who has been in Army Basic Training in Fort Leonardwood, Missouri, graduate August 30th. He will now go on to Fort Gordon in Georgia for additional schooling.

A.B Jeff Spliethof, is in Lackland Air Force basic training in San Antonio, Texas, and will graduate September 28th. He will then go to Shepard Air Force base in Texas for school. Rob Bowers and Linda Spliethof will proudly attend both ceremonies.

In a well planned coup, Robert Kausen took home the gold in last month's Garden Club's sweepstakes for the best flower entered. He craftily planned his strategy in a secret "war room" designed to scientifically overwhelm the competition. Obviously, his detailed plot paid off when his dinner plate sized white 'Kenora Clyde' dahlia won hands down. Well, it wasn't the \$200 million dollar sweepstakes, but darn close. Robert took home 4 plants to display in his trophy case, thanks to judges, Vance Langford and BJ Groves.

Lorraine McGraw

Lorraine McGraw passed away August 11th at Mercy Medical Center. She and her husband, Bill, have lived in Trinity County since 1977. Lorraine is remembered for her many acts of kindness. Many times she would provide little candy treats for the children from both schools. She also passionately enjoyed celebrating the seasons, and made sure that those around her could join in the spirit. She was a person who enjoyed giving of herself.

Fire Call

On Tuesday, August 14th, Holly Anderson, Barry Bowen and Butch and Kit Garrity went to Weaverville to accept a check for \$40,000 from State Assemblyman Dick Dickerson. The money came from the 2001 - 2002 California State budget. It will be used to complete the inside of the CCVFC fire hall. The CCVFC Board of Directors is confident that the fire hall will be completed by the end of this year.



State Assemblyman Dick Dickerson, Chief Butch Garrity (Coffee Creek), and Gwendolyn McCumber (Hyampom) Receive Check

In other fire company news, there are three new members on the CCVFC Board of Directors. The new members include, Ray Vasconcellos, Cheever Wright, and Jimbo Dahm. The Board also elected new officers - Holly Anderson as Chair, Barry Bowen as Secretary, Ray Vasconcellos as Treasurer and Jimbo Dahm as medical representative. Thanks to the major efforts of Dick Hamilton, Trinity Center Fire Chief, we will soon have a new repeater installed at Morrison Gulch up Boulder Creek Road. This new repeater will enable our responders to communicate with Weaverville, air rescue and other responders all the way up Coffee Creek Road, Scott Mountain, Eagle Creek and other areas we were unable to reach in the past. Thanks Dick!!

The Coffee Creek Fire Chief, Butch Garrity, states that our ambulance is tired and getting worn-out. It has over 100,000 hard miles on the engine and often needs repairs. Butch says, "Now that our fire hall is nearly completed, our next project should be to raise funds and start writing grants to purchase a newer ambulance." - **Butch Garrity, Coffee Creek Fire Chief**

As the "Coffee Break" goes to "press" (the copier a major wild fire is burning out of control in Weaverville. Members from both fire departments are there helping our neighbors. Once again, this reminds us of the kind of community in which we live. The people in Weaverville will need our help and I know we will be ready to give.



School is Back in Session Please Drive Slowly!!

School Days



Coffee Creek School

The first annual summer camp was a great success. Highlights of the six days include a hike to Boulder Lake with a cast of thousands (actually a grand total of 24 people). The children swam and fished. They also learned about fly fishing. Equipment was loaned by the Fly Shop in Redding.

Many, many games were played, as well as a variety of sports. Thanks go to Mr. Loucks for planning such a wonderful opportunity for the children. Mr. Loucks was assisted by Ms. Crnich, Brandy, Lydia and Marlene.

The school is in the process of looking for a shed to store maintenance equipment and school materials. Due to a limited budget they will hold a fund raiser in early fall. If you would like to contribute to this project please contact Carole Havens at the school.

The Coffee Creek school calendar is:

Tuesday, **September 4th** school begins.

September 14th there will be a field trip to Coffee Creek to launch a year long water study.

September 18th will be Back to School Night

Announcement from Trinity County Schools Office:

The CAC-Community Advisory Committee is a group mandated by special education regulations. They have always had a difficult time attracting members. Anyone is welcome to attend, even if they don't want to sign on as a member. The group helps plan activities and workshops for the school year for Special Education and special kids in the county. If you are interested or wanting information call the Trinity County Office of Education at 623-2861 ext. 248.



Fly Fishing Lessons at Summer Camp

Mountain Lion Kills Horse

A mountain lion allegedly attacked and killed a horse at Eagle Creek Ranch this past month. Bill Loucks, the owner of the horse, discovered the dead horse while checking his five horses kept at the Eagle Creek Ranch pasture on the east side of the river. A mountain lion had been spotted by the daughter of Jim and Michelle Coleman in the vicinity of the pasture around the same time as the kill.

Fish and Game Warden, Steve Milovich, notified government trapper Blue Milsap from Humboldt County who analyzed the scene. He was reasonably certain that this was definitely a lion kill.

Mountain lions are chiefly nocturnal animals, but they can be seen during the day. They are very secretive. A large one can reach 7 1/2 feet from the nose to the tip of the tail and weigh up to 200 pounds. They feed mostly on deer, rabbits and rodents, but, as illustrated, will occasionally take domestic animals. They will not eat tainted meat, but will cache their kill. They will bear young, usually 2, at any time of year. Their voice is a very much magnified tom cat noise, sometimes described as a scream or a screech. They roam widely, up to 75-100 square miles. Lions in captivity have been known to live up to 18 years.

The attack at Eagle Creek Ranch reminds us all of where we live. Obviously we should remember this when we are hiking, or in remote areas. A mountain lion, however, can be anywhere. Livestock can be at risk, although this is rare. In any case, take whatever precautions for yourself as well as your pets and stock, as you deem necessary. Try to make some noise as you move through the forest, and avoid bending over or crouching in brushy areas. Learn to handle and carry a firearm for extra insurance.

PIZZA, PIZZA, PIZZA!

The Coffee Creek Country Store will be providing "Take and Bake Pizza" after the first week of September. Cooler weather is coming, so what could warm you more than a nice hot pizza around the fire. The obvious plus is a clean kitchen and no dishes. Let Esther know what toppings are your favorites and she will try to provide the flavors of your choice.



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

We Got Your Number

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

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

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

A Preview of Pumpkin Time

Coffee Creek Ranch, now operated by Shane and Alicia Ryan, will be hosting this year's annual "October Fest". This is a not to be missed event. Mark your calendars for **October 7th**. The ranch will be providing pony and hay wagon rides for the youngsters. Also, there will be a BBQ around lunch time. There will be pumpkin carving, face painting and cider making with an old time cider press. If dancing is your game, try the line dancing or the square dancing. Look for that "one of a kind" item at the crafter's booths.

Then, to round off your day, enjoy the medieval jousting and sword fighting demonstrations.

Take the family and enjoy the fun!

Subscription Information

If you wish to subscribe to "The Coffee Break" we suggest a donation of \$1.50 per issue to help cover mailing and handling costs. We only renew up until December of 2001, so if you renew in September you would be paying for only those issues left until the end of the year (that is 4 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.

Business card style advertising is also available for \$5 a month.



**Knight at Coffee Creek
Ranch**

