

3/14/05

There were 120 people at the Bridger/Holly dinner, and every one there had one purpose in mind. (Well, maybe two) And that was to show Bridger and Holly, how well loved and respected they both are. The other was to eat the fantastic dinner of Prime Rib, Chicken, and Pork Loin that Sheri Macy prepared.

We are sorry we could not accommodate everyone who wished to attend, but space just didn't allow for even one more person. The entire 96091 zip code was represented. One gentleman commented he didn't know that many people lived in our area.

Anita Pickard amazed all of us with her table decorations. She created a different outdoors theme on each table, and tied it all together with a camping scene on the stage, complete with pup tent, logs set for a camp fire, camp chair and fishing rod. Some of the table scenes had mini pup tents Anita created from glue gunning twigs, and covering with cloth. She created little camp fires by breaking small twigs, and gluing red ribbon suggesting fire. The fishing poles that were about 5 inches long are the one decoration that won the most comments. Anita made these poles complete with the reel that held yarn threaded through fish line guides and a tiny fish dangling from the hook.

What an amazing lady. Anita's husband Bob is seriously ill and is in the hospital, and she still had the energy left over to put these decorations together. Bob, we wish you a speedy recovery, and we thank you for sharing Anita with us.

Bridger said he is enjoying retirement, but does miss seeing all his friends. From the response of the people Sunday night, I would say his friends miss him too. Holly has stepped right into her job as postmaster, and is carrying on the same wonderful customer service we have all become accustomed to.

My sister, Rita, is doing miraculously well. By the time you read this she will have gone home. She is walking with a cane, and is gaining back the use of her left side. The doctor credits this miraculous recovery to the new medication administered to her, and the strong motivation and hard work on Rita's part.

Don't forget the Lions Little Reno Night scheduled for Saturday, March 19, at the IOOF Hall. If you have any questions about this function, you could ask Bernie, at the Jaktri Market, or call Barry Bowen at 266-3623.

This fund raiser is worth repeating as well. The Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, the Fire Flies annual Chili Feed and Auction will be held on April 9 at the Coffee Creek Fire Department. The fee is \$10 and includes Chile, Salad, Garlic Bread, drinks and brownies. There is no charge to participate in the auction. Nor is it necessary to participate in the chili feed, although, from what I hear, you will want to.

My search for an "information source" from the "upper Swift Creek" area has led me to a delightful lady. You folks know her as Robin Reilly, who is our local real estate guru. Robin and her husband, Don Reilly, are owners of Coldwell Banker @ T.A.R., with offices in Weaverville and Trinity Center.

In answer to my request for information, Robin says, "As for news from "upper Swift Creek", (folks know us better as the settlers in "Gratten Flat") I sure will be anxiously awaiting something earthshaking enough to warrant your kind words! We have a little microcosm up here. There is 160 acres of private land (one section) all surrounded by SPI. There are 6 property owners. Hiking in a mile or so through 3-4 ft of snow in the winter, and fording a raging creek in the spring is a challenge for some of us! Home power is tricky too. I kid the neighbors about this constantly, since we have been doing it for 17 years. We always are happy to see the roads open. This year it is early. I can't say I'm not OK with this".

People like Robin are exactly who I am looking for to make this column a "true community" column. As I stated in my first column, "You folks will dictate how you want this column to manifest itself by the

information you get to me". So, that being said, it is time for me to ask for some input from all of you. Is the column representing your idea of a "community column"? Are there topics you would like to see more of, or less of? I tend to be "wordy" in both, my writing style and conversation style. Is it too much, not enough, or just right? I have had very positive responses so far. My wish is to make myself an addiction to your reading habits.

I am off to Costa Rica. I will miss being here, and I will miss my sweetheart. But, I gotta tell you, I am looking so forward to seeing what Costa Rica is like. I hear it is truly beautiful, and the natives are very warm and friendly. As I said, I will continue the column from there, so most of you won't even know I am gone.