

4/23/05

Hello North 40!!! We're home! And it is great being home. Part of my welcome home was my very first sighting of a 200 pound black bear lumbering across our driveway at about 10:00 pm last Saturday night. Maybe he wasn't 200 pounds, but if he were to stand up straight, he would have been between 4 and 5 feet tall, and he still wore his fluffy winter coat. He was beautiful. I am not sure it was Dick and I who frightened it away, or if it was our Mastiff wannabe Chihuahua, Pomeranian dog that was in the window barking in what I am sure he thought was bear talk. The only damage we could find was a broken and emptied bird feeder.

I came home to an email that Bridger Beverly sent to me right after his retirement dinner on March 13. Bridger had compiled and practiced a 20 minute thank you speech for his retirement dinner, only to get to the microphone and forget all the wonderful words he worked so hard on. Bridger's email said in part, "I want to thank everyone that could come to the party Sunday night. It was great to see and talk to everyone again. I wish I would have drank several gallons of antifreeze or drank more or less wine at the party so I wouldn't have forgot to tell everyone how lucky I feel to live up here and that the best part of my job was all the nice people I met at the Post Office. I am really happy Holly got the postmaster job. It feels good to leave the Post Office in good hands and to someone who cares about everyone in the community. Thanks for the generous kayak money tree. I promise not to spend any of the kayak money on beer and cigarettes. Hope to see everyone out on the lake in my new kayak. Thanks again for everything, P.S. I am considering going on tour as a public speaker but first I have to decide on how much to charge".

Your welcome, Bridger, and we are all watching for you and the kayak out on the Lake, and your speaking career.

The TCVFD Auxiliary Fish Fry at the IOOF Hall, May 21, is coming up very quickly. If you have not already bought your tickets you should do so soon. Even though there will be a sitting from 4:00 to 6:00 pm and one from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, seating is still limited. I am looking forward to eating the fish that so many of my friends have raved about. Sounds like it will be a wonderful way to have an affordable dinner out, socialize with our friends and help the fire department at the same time. You can buy tickets at the Jaktri Market, Yellow Jacket, and the Country Store in Coffee Creek. You may also buy them from the following individuals. Joanne Mathis, 286-2217, Betty Eyman, 266-3440, Gloria Eisan, 266-3399, Pat Forbes, 266-3322, and Pat McDonald, 266-3830.

Norm Zeppa has volunteered to supply the dinner music for the Fish Fry. Norm is truly a bright "gem" for our community. He is always there volunteering his music for our enjoyment. And we love him for it.

"Chef" Joe Councilman will once again fry the fish for us. I spoke to him on the phone to ask him how he got started doing this fish fry thing. Joe chuckled and said he had never been called "chef" before, but he has always had access to fresh fish, and enjoys fixing it for others to enjoy. He said the secret of a good fry is to start with fresh fish. Joe started cooking years ago for the fire department functions by cooking meat in a pit, and then in barrels. He said the pit firing got old quickly because of the labor it involved and would burn through 2 cords of wood. The barrels are much more efficient and take less wood.

Joe has lived in Trinity County for 30 years, and is also well known for his custom made knives. He learned his knife making skills from his grandfather and father, who also made custom

knives. Joe had been a long time logger until a work related injury side-lined him. Since then he has become more involved in his custom knife business, and raises pigs, and gardens. Joe's wife, Debbie, said one year he planted 1,000 tomato plants.

Joe and Debbie have 2 children. Roy, 10, is a pitcher for his little league team, and his mom says he is a great "weed eater" and is available for hire. Chaney, who is 12, placed third place in the county wide spelling bee recently.

Debbie Councilman, who will be helping her husband at the Fish Fry, has lived in Trinity County for 40 years. She is a very proactive mom who serves on the School Board, volunteers at the Trinity Center School teaching the students clay techniques, and is a very talented potter with her own business called, Yingling Pottery. You can see some of Debbie's work at the Country Store and The Highland Gallery in Weaverville.

For those of you that have been following the "Mangy Crow" award .... I have news! At a recent combined Trinity Center and Coffee Creek Fire Department Medical Training on the new Heart Monitor, our hero, Roger Chatterton once again stepped forward and claimed the "Crow". When Dr. Kobe asked for a volunteer to demonstrate the monitor on, Sue Chatterton stepped forward. We all know Sue takes very good care of herself, and teaches aerobics' three times a week. Therefore, when the monitor showed her pulse rate to be a low 58, no one was surprised until our hero announced that was Sue's IQ. As soon as he said it, the room filled with a loud moan, and a chorus of "Crow Award"!

It seems our Assistant Fire Chief is collecting awards for more than putting his foot in his mouth. At the recent Annual Fire Department Dinner, Assist. Chief Roger Chatterton earned two more awards. The first award, created collectively by Dave Forbes, Dick Hamilton, and Hal Pflueger, was a toy fire truck mounted on a board with a pile of foam in recognition to Roger's expertise at prematurely ejecting foam from the department's brand new fire truck. Okay that needs a little explaining. The TCVFD was responding to a house fire on Eleanor, when our hero flicked the wrong switch, spraying the foam up and over the fire truck, making it necessary to use the windshield wipers in order to continue to the scene of the fire. Hey, it was a new truck with a new toy!

Roger's second award merely earned him a star on a plaque probably called "Dumb Things Not To Do". Roger and his crew were responding to an out of control brush fire in the back yard of a home on Ann, when he turned his fire truck into what he thought was a drive way, running over a sign which read "Non Motorized Pedestrian Walkway". After miraculously maneuvering the fire truck onto the walk way without a scratch to the truck, and putting out the fire, it was necessary to completely remove the sign in order to back the truck out.

Roger, it may feel like we are singling you out for a few dumb things you do. Okay, so we are. But we also know you are an expert fireman, and a devoted husband who's mantra is "I am only here to make Sue Happy". You have our respect, trust, and admiration. But .... IQ?? Roger that was really dumb.

Now let's get serious. This has been a concern to me for a long time. When traveling on Highway 299, those of us who are cautious and driving the speed limits are often tailgated by drivers who are in a hurry. Most of us try to pull over as soon as we can to let the speeding vehicle have the lead. A recent head-on collision was caused by just this problem. The driver of a van was trying to pull over and let a speeding car that had been honking at him pass. He thought he had a nice hard shoulder to pull off onto only to find it soft, sending his van out of control,

back onto the highway, clipping the back of one car and hitting the second car head-on. Thankfully they were both only going between 30 and 35 miles per hour. That still makes a combined impact of 60 or 70 miles an hour. The only damage to the people involved were airbag and seatbelt bruises, but it could have been a catastrophe. As it was, both vehicles were totaled.

The man who was involved in this asked not to have his name printed, but he did want to make people aware of the dangers on pulling off the road unless it is a designated area. He is very grateful no one was hurt, but very aware it could have meant his life or someone's in one of the other cars.

**RETRACTION:** It has come to my attention that I printed some miss-information last week, when it was reported Pat McDonald lost the \$200 she won at the Red Hat event at Cache Creek. Actually Pat walked away with \$175 of her winnings. We are sorry Pat, and we hope Buddy reads this.