

North Forty

By: Bob Bryant (coptrainer@tds.net)

Forty six years ago Trinity Center as we know it today was a brand new town. In 1959, Trinity Center was moved to its current location. Many of the homes and buildings were quite old but the streets, landscaping and some buildings were new. There were about as many residents as there are today but there was no fire department. Shortly thereafter the Freethy fire burned over the hill from the south and into town. The scars from that fire are still visible today.

Local residents held meetings and in 1961 the Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department was formed. JD Guice, who currently lives in Red Bluff, became Chief. JD moved many of the houses from the old Trinity Center to their new location. Dick Hamilton was selected to be the Assistant Chief. In 1966 Dick became Chief and has been Chief ever since. Until, that is, Tuesday night, June 12. On that night, during the Community Services District meeting, Dick Hamilton announced his retirement as Chief of the Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department.

A lot has been accomplished in Dick's 46 years with the department. The original fire department was located in a small building purchased from the Forest Service for \$35. In its previous life the building was a Forest Service shop that was moved to the new Trinity Center in 1959. That small red building still sits next to the IOOF Hall. The first engine to occupy that building was a 1947 Ford purchased from the Cottonwood Fire Department.

The first stage of the current fire department building was built in 1971 and occupied in the spring of '72. It was built with volunteer labor and cost \$12,000 to build. The blocks used to build the structure were brought up from San Jose by a friend of Dick's who was driving truck up from Los Angeles with an empty load. Bill Justice donated Masonry work and the building grew on property donated by Mary Hamilton's father. Later, additional footage was added to create the building you see today.

Over the years Dick and his crews fought many fires and responded to countless other emergencies. Fires at both Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Schools occurred on Dick's watch as well as a fire at the Coffee Creek Deli, now known as the Forest Café. Although the Trinity Center school fire burned a structure, the Coffee Creek School and Coffee Creek Deli building were saved with a quick and efficient response. Chimney fires are a regular occurrence.

Dick's career has too many highlights and there are far too many accomplishments to cover in this short space. However, the true legacy of his tenure as Chief is the department itself. Dick is handing over the reins of a strong agency with quality people, great equipment and a healthy future.

Dick said he appreciates the cooperation and assistance over the years from the members of the fire department, the Community Services District Board members and the residents of Trinity Center. He says the department wouldn't be where it is today without all the people who contributed over the years.

Dick plans to remain active with the Fire Department which is a good thing. As a new member of the department I look forward to having Dick continue to share his 46 years of experience with us. Next time you see Dick, give him a big pat on the back and a hearty "Thanks Dick!"

Summer is here, the lake is getting crowded and the bass fishing is slowing down compared to the awesome spring bite we had. The spawn is over and the post spawn bite is the rule. That doesn't mean there are no fish out there to be caught. There are!

I don't fish for trout in the lake but my understanding is that there is a good trout bite for fisher men and ladies who troll. According to Steve down at DragonFly Outfitters, the suggested lure is the CripLure trolled in the river channels.

The bass are reported to be in 30 feet of water and suspended at about 12 to 15 feet. Crankbaits are producing during the day as are brown Gitzits. The early morning and late evening top water bite is also good and should be much better as a high pressure system builds in this week. Another low pressure system is supposed to move in at the end of the week which will probably put the fish down.

Roger and I fished the tailings last Tuesday. I hesitate to admit I was out fished by Roger. To hear him tell it, I was trounced. Well, the fact is I caught 20 fish and Roger caught 21. I'd like to think I caught bigger fish but Roger says he did. Since we weren't fishing side-by-side, it's going to be difficult for either of us to make a solid claim.

We floated the lake from about 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. I was spin fishing with top water lures and plastic worms. Roger was fly fishing. I got most of my fish on a white buzz bait and the others on a weightless watermelon Senko. My bigger fish came on the Senko.

If you'd like to talk fishing, come to KOA on Saturday afternoons at 2 o'clock. KOA is hosting fishing seminars on fishing Trinity Lake. I'll be talking about basic fishing tactics for Trinity Lake including where and how to catch fish. Free! (Except this Saturday as I'll be out of town.)

Are you doing anything Thursday afternoon at 5 o'clock? The Coffee Creek Community Church has been working to clean up the Trinity Center Cemetery. So far their crews have removed thirteen loads of pine needles, cuttings and other vegetation from the cemetery. If you have a little time to spare, they could use some help. If you have a rake, weed whacker or other, as Arlo Guthrie sang, "implements of destruction" come by the cemetery and give them a hand.

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