

3/15/06

Few of us are lucky enough to see a bald eagle perched way up high on a tree top. Fewer still are as lucky as Barbara Hummel, a Trinity Center resident, who was treated to a spectacular view of three adult bald eagles, two flying and one on the ground, in her back yard. Barbara describes her view of these birds in her story published in the Trinity Journal last week, where she said a loud crash and metal screeching sound made her go out to investigate, and was treated to an up-close and personal view of these “majestic birds in flight”. She said the screeching of the eagles was extremely loud, mixed with the screaming of other animals and a fox running past the eagle on the ground. It was discovered later that one of the eagles lay dead in a drainage ditch from apparently pecking damage to the top of its head.

Her story intrigued me so much; I searched the net on more information on our “U.S.A. National Symbol”. I learned that the bald eagle is very territorial, and aggressively protects their mate, which they select for life, as well as their nesting territory, which is usually one to two square miles. Which means somewhere within a one or two square mile area, these particular bald eagles have a nest built, and are producing a “family”. It was interesting to note that bald eagle builds their nest, usually around 5 feet in diameter, and often uses the nest over and over, adding new nesting material each year until the nest could grow to be 9 feet in diameter and weigh up to two tons.

Bald eagles can choose a mate and reproduce when they are 4 to 5 years old, and will live to be about 30 years old. They produce from one to three eggs that take about 35 days to incubate, which has helped restore the bald eagle from a threatened species of less than 50 nesting pairs to over 7,000 nesting pairs. But as Barbara pointed out, they are still protected, and it is against the law to even own an eagle feather, unless you are Native American Indian with a permit, and must use them for traditional ceremonies or teaching purposes.

The Coffee Creek Community Church Pastor Fred Boring said their choir, under the leadership of Norm Zappa, is so good, it is on the verge of needing to “acquire a bus” like rock stars. Choir Director Zappa sets up his Karaoke system and has acquired karaoke CD’s of Hymns from the Green Book. The choir meets each Tuesday evening for practice and is open to new choir members. Pastor Boring said you do not need to be a member of the church to sing in the choir, but he admits to being ready to start “working on you” to love the church so much you will want to join.

Church services start at 10:00 a.m., but Norm Zappa sets up his music and sings hymns from 9:45 to 10:00 a.m., and invites anyone who would like to sing along to join right in. Pastor Boring said people have started to come early to enjoy the music.

Most of you either know or have heard about Linda Cunningham and her husband, Bob, who are the owners of Eagle Creek Ranch in Coffee Creek and are very active in the CCFVD and other community interests. Linda was the Editor of “The Coffee Break”, a monthly newsletter that brought news from Coffee Creek and Trinity Center, local schools and fire departments, and a section on “Who’s Who” profiling members of the community, and much more.

Linda, an avid antique collector, found three wooden frames in a recent foray of antique hunting. One of the frames, which measured about 8”X12”, had a four petal flower carved into each corner, and the backing was wood that had been cut to fit, and then carved in a beveling effect to fit the frame sides. One frame held an old picture and the other two held etchings. Linda bought the frames thinking they would look great with some of pictures she had at home.

When she removed the back of one of the frames, she found an old 1905 newspaper clipping glued to the back of the board, describing the picture in the frame as a stage coach robbery somewhere between Stockton and Yosemite, where one of the stage coach passengers was a writer, and talked the robber into letting him write about him and take his picture. The robber, in a long white linen duster, obligingly posed with the stage coach passengers whose hands appeared to be tied behind their backs.

Linda has decided that photograph belongs to the frame and shall be hung as is.

The fire log for the month of February is as follows:

2/5/06: Flue fire on Cedar St, T/C. Extinguished fire in flue by having resident close off air supply to free-standing wood furnace. Spark cover removed from top of chimney to monitor and temperature decreased. Thermal imager used to confirm no further fire or hot spots other than in stove. Resident instructed not to build fire until chimney could be cleaned.

2/5/06: Medical, Female patient weak and unable to eat. Patient was treated and transported.

2/7/06: Medical standby. Requested to confirm patient deceased and make coroner arrangements.

2/8/06: Training, CDF, joint w/CCVFD @ TCVFD. Forward/reverse hose lays, simultaneous 1 ½" fire fighting lines off single 2 ½" using Y adapter.

2/16/06: Training, Joint w/CCVFD at CCVFD. Pediatric emergencies, anatomic terminology.

2/23/06: Medical, Female patient complaining of shortness of breath. Patient treated and transported.

2/24/06: Medical/traffic collision, Solo vehicle and solo occupant traffic collision State Route 3 near Mule Creek. Vehicle over the side 75' on east side of State Route 3. Patient extricated, treated, transported.

2/28/06: Medical: Male patient reporting possible broken ankle Patient treated and transported.