

3/14/07
by Ann Elsbach

Friends in the Bay Area ask, “How can you live in such an isolated place? You say there are fewer than 14,000 people in the whole county, and only 200 in your town!” “Yep”, I respond, “it’s isolated all right – isolated from stop-and-go traffic, isolated from polluted air, isolated from alienation; here we know our neighbors.”

In 1975, I first flew into Trinity Center. I had only been flying for a couple of years and a pilot friend suggested that I fly in for my first trip into a mountainous area. So in I flew in my little 65 horse power Taylorcraft, catching up and downdrafts along the way. Wow, what fun! Then I landed, opened the door, breathed in the fresh, cedar and pine-scented air and decided then and there that Trinity Center was where I wanted to be.

In 2000, I was finally able to move from the Bay Area to Trinity Center. What joy! So, what do I tell my friends about Trinity? First, that they need to come for a visit – any season will do; they are all beautiful. They should come to experience the beauty: clean, scented air; gorgeous sunrises and sunsets; mountains and lakes; sparkling dew on pine needles; the alive colors of green, red, brown; and the million diamonds glistening on sun-lit snow.

They should also come to experience the joy of knowing one’s neighbors; of passing a group of children who look you in the eye and say, “hi!”; of knowing that if you are in need or in trouble, your neighbors will be there to help you put out the fire, or get the tree off your roof, or bring you food when you are sick. In Trinity, we take care of one another; we are not alienated by over-population. I say to my Bay Area friends, “I like the tree-to-people ratio in Trinity, a million trees and 200 people rather than a million plus people and a few trees.

People ask, “What is there to DO in Trinity County?” That may be the most surprising thing they discover about our area. There is a lot to do and many services available right here in the North Lake area: There’s an excellent auto repair shop where you never have to worry about being over-charged or for bogus repairs (which you have to be wary of in the Bay Area); there are three grocery stores among which you can find most everything you need; there’s the best post office anywhere – no waiting, and a warm, friendly postmistress who knows everyone and keeps track of whose mail needs to be held and whose needs to be forwarded, etc., and does it all with a smile; a hairdresser who will come to you if need be; a body worker who does fantastic acupressure treatments in your home; a nursery open spring through fall; a KOA campground; absolutely super ERT and fire fighter folks whom you can count on when in need; a couple of marinas open spring through fall; building contractors and carpenters; electricians; and the list goes on!

There are all sorts of ongoing groups: bridge groups; dancing groups; aerobics classes; book groups; coffee chat groups in the morning; movie nights among various groups; there’s even a poetry writing group in town. Then there are people with a lot of talent: an excellent nature photographer; several singers; a fine pianist (whose practicing I love hearing in the summer when all of our windows are open); and those who write superb poetry. Yep, Trinity is a fine place to live!