

02/28/07

The North Forty may be little, but it's mighty. We have all of the necessities of life here, or at least within a one to two hour drive. We can go out our back doors and camp. Not much further than that are coveted fishing spots. We have the same sunrise and sunsets as towns and cities three and four times our size, but ours are much more vivid and breathtaking. We have definite seasons. Winter means cold weather with the mix of rain, snow and ice. Spring is our throwing out time. Summer heats up a bit, a few days of over 100 degrees, but mostly milder days of 80 to 90 degrees. And there is always the lake to jump into if we get too hot. Fall is mostly an extension to our summer... except for the colors. God uses our spring and fall as his personal palette to display the colors, scents and textures he sprinkles over the rest of the world.

So why am I telling you this? Isn't this something like "preaching to the choir"? After my recent helicopter trip to Mercy hospital, I seem to see everything and everyone with a renewed sense of wonderment, and I just wanted to share it with you.

A couple of months ago, the students at Trinity Center School were selling unbaked cookie dough, brownies, pies, apple dumplings and more. The sale went well but there was product left over that had not been sold. The Trinity Center Club Live sixth through eighth graders used the left over product and had a "Cookie Bake Off" at the IOOF Hall for our military people for Valentines Day. The assembly line started by putting the dough on pans, baking, cooling and packing. The group completed 8 boxes of cookies that were mailed to the military Chaplain in Iraq for distribution to the troops.

I am writing this from Santa Rosa, and it has rained some of each of the four days that I have been here. I heard we have had more snow up there, and that is a good thing for our summer lake fill.

My grandson, Rian, is a very advanced 6 year old first grader who has decided at a much earlier age, 5, that he would do what he could to make the world a better place. Rian is very aware of how lucky he is to have so many toys and such a nice bedroom to keep them in, and that there are a lot of children who were not as lucky. He took his battery operated jeep, his mother following safely behind, and went door to door in his neighborhood asking for food and toy donations for children who had very little or none of each. He collected about 400 pounds of food and toys. This year he went door to door again and doubled the amount he collected last year. Next year Rian's goal is to collect a ton of food and toys. One of Rian's adult neighbors said, "There goes the future man that will change the world". I couldn't agree more ... or be more proud.