

North Forty (February 24, 2010)  
By Tony S. Valls (tonyv@tds.net)

I've messed around with computers since I was barely a teen. My first computer was a Texas Instruments TI-99. No hard drive, no mouse, not even a monitor. It was more or less a keyboard connected to an old black and white television set. The amount of memory on these machines was 256 bytes (the lack of a "k" is no mistake). The first program I wrote was making the computer beep "The Entertainer." I like electronic gadgets, both silly and useful, so it's no surprise that my home has several hand-held electronics, three working computers and at least two more forgotten projects. It's also no surprise that my daughters have no experience of living in a world with no personal computers.

What is funny, however, is that we sometimes communicate electronically while being in the same room. But I do embrace it. Chatting on line with any of the girls brings us closer, I think. I even send my wife little electronic love notes. It doesn't replace face-to-face communication, but on line chatting can bring out other parts of our personality. I don't mean split personalities like people who live double lives on line. Writing, or typing, requires a little more thought. Anybody can talk faster than their brains can keep up. But writing takes more effort. You have to dig a little deeper in yourself to get the letters of all the words from your brain to your fingers. More parts of our selves end up coming out through our fingers than our mouths. Good thoughts can come out sweeter. But be careful with the angry words.

Representatives from the Trinity County Resources Conservation District (TCRCD) will be visiting Trinity Center March 2 immediately after the Trinity Center Community Services District (TCCSD) meeting. You can help us make our community more fire safe and possibly even get some help with fuels reduction and brush clearing on your own property or your neighbor's. TCRCD wants to get our input for the Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (TCCWPP). By participating in this plan update, residents can provide input on areas of wildfire concern and planned fuels reduction projects. The TCRCD has funding for fuels reductions on private and public lands. Come to the meeting and find out if your property qualifies for help from this funding. You are welcome to attend the TCCSD meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the IOOF Hall and the TCCWPP meeting, which will follow at around 8 p.m. This meeting will focus on Trinity Center, Lake Forest Estates, Covington Mill, Long Canyon and surrounding areas.

Tomorrow is the presentation by Trinity County Historical Society at the IOOF Hall. The public is invited to join the Trinity Lake Lions, who will present Society members Jim French and Bill Horstman. They will tell us about the history of the Dorleska Mine which is located approximately seven miles from Coffee Creek Rd. and the Union Creek Trailhead. This presentation promises to be an interesting and historical event. Contact Cindi at 266-3504 or Cheryl at 266-3216 for details.

And a reminder for the Trinity Lake Lions' First Annual "Spaghetti Sauce Cook Off" with an all-you-can-eat pasta dinner. Sauces will be judged by a group of renowned judges. This event will be April 10 at the IOOF Hall in Trinity Center. More event details will follow.