



# The Coffee Break

*Suggested donation \$1*

Volume 1, Issue 6

Every last cent goes to the Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Co.!

## Who's Who

Louise McDonald charms you with her graciousness and her laugh. She has seen 97 years of life and, for the most part, she wouldn't change much. She was born in Antioch in 1902, the oldest of four children. Her father was a "jack of all trades" and worked gold mining, cattle and sheep ranching. Her mother worked in a dressmaking shop in San Francisco before she married. The family moved many times until Louise's mother said, "That's it. I'm not moving one more time". At this point they settled in the San Francisco area. Louise left San Francisco when she married Elmer McDonald in 1920. It was then that the newly married couple moved to Trinity Center.



Elmer worked in the 'McDonald's Merchandise Store' in Trinity Center in which he jointly owned a half interest with his brother, Ray, as his partner. In 1928 there was not enough work in the store. Elmer went to work at the Nash Mine. Louise cooked for the miners because the cook had quit. During this time the couple camped at Crosby Gulch and they took turns fishing and taking care of the kids.

Louise and Elmer had four children – Jack, Warren "Mick", Molly and Bud. Of Bud she says, "He gave us more trouble than all of the rest of the kids together".

Later, Elmer got a job as a Forest Service dispatcher. In 1939 they bought the 'Kingsbury Ranch' in Stringtown because they were told it would be above the high water when the dam was built. Then

the engineers decided to raise the dam and the ranch is now under water. They moved their home and store to the present day Trinity Center. Louise still lives in this house and the Jakri is the former 'McDonald's General Merchandise'. Louise served on the school board for 13 years. She was the clerk for 12 of these years.

Both Elmer and Louise worked in the store until it was sold in 1964. Elmer passed away in 1992 after 72 years of marriage.

Louise delights in telling stories of her life here with her family. She especially recalls the story of Pee Wee the Rooster. It seems that Pee Wee was Bud's pet rooster. One day Pee Wee spurred Louise in the leg and when Louise cracked him with her bucket, it broke his neck. There was nothing to do but make stewed chicken for dinner – a meal Bud will never forget.

Chickens seem to be a theme in Louise's life. Another favorite story involves a letter that Elmer wrote her when she was visiting family in the Bay area. Elmer excitedly recalled the chicken dinner he had prepared for his friends while Louise was gone. He described the last two hens that they had for dinner. Louise was mortified because she knew that they did not own the chickens in question and that meant that Elmer had cooked the neighbor's chickens.

She has always been content with her life in Trinity Center. She remembers the cold when she lived in Nevada and considers Trinity Center quite balmy by comparison.

Today she loves to visit with her friends and family and remains quite active. She always has a smile and a friendly word.

## Times Past - "The Story of Vernie Sewall" by Vi Karrer

Vernie was born in Dunsmuir on April 21, 1894 at the corner of Dunsmuir Ave. and Spring Ct. There is a street named for her just north of the cemetery in the south part of the town. The family apparently moved to Anderson around 1910.

Vernie graduated from Lane Hospital of Nursing at Stanford Medical Hospital. It was here that she met and married Dr. Sewall. They later moved to

Redding where the doctor had a successful practice for many years. Their beautiful home was eventually torn down to make way for the expansion of Redding Medical Hospital.

Vernie and Dr. Sewall spent a lot of time in the Coffee Creek and Carrville area. They also enjoyed being at their cabin on upper Coffee Creek where they made many pack trips to the mountain lakes. In 1947 they

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### Special points of interest:

- Louise McDonald as we know her
- News from Coffee Creek and Trinity Center
- What's happening in your community
- Meet our team player of the month

## “The Story of Vernie Sewall “, Continued

bought the Coffee Creek property from Vi White and then opened the Coffee Creek Beer Bar and Liquor Store. The beer bar was in one building and the liquor store in another but Vernie tended both. Sometime between the late 40's or early 50's an artist painted the walls of the bar showing Vernie, Dr. Sewall and several old timers. The painting is now on display at the Forest Café. After Dr. Sewall's death, Vernie operated the business alone. She was called out in the middle of the night many times when someone needed a bottle or gas for their car.

Vernie was a very caring person and always helped anyone that needed help. She often sent fresh vegetables and fruit to her upper Coffee Creek friends via the mail stage. Vernie loved to entertain her many friends for dinner and parties and was a very gracious hostess and a gourmet cook. She was also a great animal lover.

Vernie lived at her Coffee Creek home until her death on Jan. 5th, 1996 at age 102.

She outlived her brother and sister so there were no family survivors.

Vernie is remembered by her friend, Marla Shardine: “She loved children, horses, dogs and interesting people. She found something intelligent about everyone. My dad loved her apple pie. She served brandy on each piece. She loved to travel locally and I took her on frequent rides all over Siskiyou and Trinity Counties. She had a green thumb. She was my best friend and ‘north state mother’. She was a ‘sawbuck packer’ and loved to fish the high mountain streams. She had a spark of ‘little kid’ in her until she passed away.”

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## Nature's Bounty - “Rattlesnakes” - Part 2

Ok, now that we've discussed size and rattles in last month's issue, let's answer a few questions many people have about rattlers.

Yes, they do swim, and no they make no special effort to hold their rattle out of the water. This writer has, indeed, walked on water, when surprised by a “periscope depth” rattler while swimming in Trinity Lake. They often do swim with their heads held erect

Yes, they do climb. However, they do not climb with the wild abandon of other types of snakes. Their climbing abilities are hindered by their stout body and short tails. Of the various types of rattlers it is said that the Timber rattler is more apt to climb than other species.

From studies done with captive snakes it appears that, in theory, rattlesnakes can live at least into their 20's. The San Diego Zoo has documented 18 year longevity in captivity when the snake was an adult when received.

There are many variations in temperament among rattlers depending on temperature, sex, age, weather, and the circumstances in which they are discovered. While the Western Diamondback is at the top of the aggressiveness scale, it should be remembered that there are wide differences in temperament among individuals.

I suppose you would like to know how many of the little darlings are out there. Well, for openers, you are not likely to find one above 11,000 feet in California and 9,000 feet in the rest of the country. Of course you won't find much oxygen to breathe either. You will, however, find about 1 per acre on a cattle ranch type en-

## Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Life

Dorothy Davis passed away June 18th during the night after a lengthy illness.

Dorf, her favorite nickname, will be well remembered for her beautiful tenor voice. She was in the Trinity Center Community Church Choir in earlier years and sang many solos. People requested her singing at many memorial services and birthday affairs, including Lions Club socials.

Dorf and Dr. Graham came to this community in the 1970's building their home next to Rosalie Groesbeck's home on Cedar St. in Trinity Center. After Dr. Graham died and she had married Jerry Roberts they moved to their home in Northwood Estates. She later married Russ Davis after Jerry Roberts' death.

Dorf was quite active in the Trinity Center Church and generous in her hosting Ladies' Bible Studies and luncheons in her home. Her many friends will miss her as she enters into eternal life to be with Jesus. Her companions, Brandy, her dog, and her kitty will miss her too. A memorial service will be held at 2 pm on Sat, July 8th at the IOOF Hall. *Contributed by Ruth Gray*

Dam update: David Lewis, with the Bureau of Reclamation, says the “Appraisal Level Study” regarding the potential to raise Trinity Dam 5 to 20 feet is still not complete. We will check with him again in July. He states that they are not really behind even though it was reported that this study should have been completed last September. He says that they have a limited budget and staff to work on the report.

vironment. There are really few studies of population densities for rattlers. There is one report of a rancher in Texas who killed 60 rattlers per square mile and another killed 77. There are areas of California which appear to have higher than average densities. Consider Tortuga Island where in 1934 one diamondback was seen every 100 to 150 feet.

One of the more fascinating features of rattlers is their denning practices. While rattlers are not the only snakes to den they do so in larger numbers than most other snakes. The urge to head for the den is strictly dependent on temperature. As temperatures fall in autumn they begin their migration. Their dens must possess two requirements: depth and dryness. They usually find holes and crevices in rocks which are below the frost line and not subject to flooding. Most dens are protected from the north winds, so are most often found on the southern slopes. Winter populations in dens have ranged from fifty to a thousand in a single den. Dens are generally used year after year.

It is not reliably know how far rattlesnakes travel to reach their dens. Distances of 20 to 30 miles have been speculated, but scientists believe that generally snakes do not travel more than a mile or two to reach their den, since longer distances would be very hazardous. Once in the den they form large masses called “balls” generally consisting of 200 to 300 snakes. Surprisingly, other types of snakes are known to den with rattlesnakes.

So, I lied. This is not a two part series, but, instead, a three part series. No dissertation on rattlesnakes would be complete without discussing the bite, the effects and the mysterious “combat dance”. Next month, I promise, will be the last of the snake stories.





You can now play Bingo at Wyntoon Resort. Come join the fun every Wednesday and Saturday night from 7pm to 10 pm. The games are sponsored by the Trinity Lake Lions Club and are well known for providing a great evening's entertainment.

The Garden Club will meet July 11th at 1 pm at Marge Lauerman's house. A professor from Shasta College will give a stimulating program on bees. For more information call Audrey Eyman at 266-3440

The Bonanza King Resort Fish Pond opened June 24th with free hot dogs and soft drinks and loads of fish! It will be open this summer from 9 am until 4 pm Wednesday through Sunday and closed on Monday and Tuesday. No license is required to fish and fishing poles are available. The fish weigh 3/4 of a pound to 4 pounds and there are 700 of the big guys stocked with lots of them trophy size. The cost is \$6 pound. Folks, this is a wonderful place to take the kids and those of you who aren't too adept at climbing over rough terrain. It is situated in a beautiful shaded spot with picnic tables to rest your weary legs. Judging from the activity that I saw opening day these fish are hungry critters and the kids were cleaning house! So, come on out and support a new local business and have a great time in the process.

The new Youth Program will begin June 29th. There will be crafts held at the Trinity Center School from 1-3 on Thursdays for K through 5th grade children. There will also be a



*"Sarah" Catches a Big One Opening Day at the New Bonanza King Fish Pond*

day hike to Kangaroo Lake June 27th for grades 1-8 and an overnight hike to Boulder Lake July 13-14 for grades 6-8. Call Linda Solven for information at 266-3241. Linda is looking for volunteers to help with the hikes.

The Forest Café has begun their summer hours. They will now be open everyday except Tuesdays from 9 am until 8:30 pm. On Friday and Saturday nights they have prime rib and fresh fish. Mondays will be traditional "meatloaf Monday" with mashed potatoes and Wednesdays will be Mexican night. Sundays and Wednesdays are also Pizza nights.

## Fire Call



Thanks to all of you, the new Coffee Creek Fire Hall is nearing completion. As soon as the electrical and plumbing are complete the department will move to the new building.

The Coffee Creek Fire Company, along with Trinity Center Fire Department, has had a very busy spring, with several medical and accident responses and a couple of fire calls. Remember when you buy this publication you are donating to a very worthy cause. Aside from responding to medical and fire calls the existence of these two fire departments enables those in both communities to obtain fire insurance. In areas where there are no volunteer departments the residents are often unable to purchase this type of insurance.



*Good*



*Better*



*Best*

## Subscriptions and Advertising

Many people have asked about subscriptions and advertising in "The Coffee Break". Subscriptions are available through December 2000 to **out of area people only** at \$1.50 per issue to cover mailing and handling costs. All subscriptions will renew annually in December, making great Christmas gifts for your out of town friends and relatives and for yourselves if you are visitors to the area.

We handle 'business card' style advertising at a suggested donation of \$5 a month. We will accept donations for advertising through December 2000.

### \*\*\*\*\* Important Notice \*\*\*\*\*

The Coffee Creek Fire Company's Annual Community Meeting will be held Tues., July 11th at 7 pm at the new Fire Hall. This is an important meeting as many things are happening with your fire department. Now is the time to come and support the ongoing efforts.

### Mrs. McDonald Made a Horse.....

What began as a desire to honor the memory of Bob Hart has also resulted in the discovery of extraordinary talent. On June 3rd the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation dinner and auction was held in Yreka. One



of the many items auctioned was a meticulously crafted child's rocking horse. In years past, Bob Hart had made and donated rocking horses for auction at this event, and this year Pat McDonald desired to remember Bob's generosity and talent with her own creation.

The result—a splendid horse and a \$450 winning bid.

The surprise—The winning bidders, Steve and Jo Gregory, presented Pat with her horse so that she could give it to her grandchild due in October!

## North Trinity Lake Wave Survey

While conducting the North Trinity Lake Wave Survey it has been noted that there seem to be many different "wave techniques" in the area. Depending on the "wavers" relationship to the "wavee" the waves range from the ever so Casual Index Finger Lift Wave to the Exuberant Hand Thrashing Wave.

There are all manner of in between expressions, my personal favorite being the Super Cool Two Finger Wave. Long hours of practice have produced just the right casual drape of the wrist over the top of the steering wheel. For this particular wave timing is everything. While keeping the guy in the oncoming car guessing one should spring the first two fingers up at the last possible moment. This has the desired effect of completely confusing the tourists and keeping the locals alert.

In contrast to the Super Cool Two Finger Wave you have the Window Washing Wave where the perpetrator violently and enthusiastically repeats an intricate and rapid pattern ranging from true lateral side to side motion all the way to complete rotary displacement.

Another wave frequently seen is the Somewhere Over the Rainbow Wave involving a rainbow like arc of the hand starting on the lower left corner of the windshield sweeping all the way through to the right side.

Newcomers will happily note that the more abrupt gestures frequently seen on the freeways of our bigger, distant cousins, are absent here.

Unsuspecting tourists who encounter the non-discriminating wavers of the area should consider themselves highly fortunate and may want to perpetuate our friendly custom.

### Do You Know the Way to Cecilville?

Where the heck is Cecilville? That's the question 5 young cyclists wanted to know when they stopped at the Coffee Creek Country Store for directions. The 5 had started out in Fort Jones to celebrate a reunion of friends. The plans were to bike to Cecilville. Only one slight detail was overlooked. They missed the turn in Callahan. Esther Montana broke the bad news and gave them some coffee and directions to a local resort to stay the night. The next morning they could be seen trudging back up Scott Mountain.

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### My Mother's Garden – by Mary Scott Hamilton

Long ago, it seems another lifetime now, in a valley surrounded by green meadows and tall mountains, there existed a place I called home. It was a working cattle ranch and in order to supplement an almost non-existent income, my parents started a ranch resort. Being long on work and short on cash, almost all that went on the table came from the ranch. My mother was the cook, among other things, and she had a garden, a big one.

I cut my teeth on weed pulling, vine ripened tomatoes and I

played hide and seek in teepees of green pole beans. In this garden was magic. My mother adored flowers, so among the rows of vegetables, she planted tall, jewel bright zinnias, which grew almost as tall as she, brilliant cocks combs, and, her pride and joy, the dinner plate sized dahlias. Forty years ago, a man made lake named Trinity covered my valley and my mother's garden; yet in the valleys of my mind, my mother's garden with the rows of green vegetables and brightly colored flowers still grows.



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## School Days



### Coffee Creek School

There was a big tribute on June 4th when the community gathered to pay tribute to Rosalie Collins as she retired. She was honored for her love and devotion in educating the children of Coffee Creek School for 26 years. A water fountain with this sentiment engraved on a plaque now stands next to the playing field that the children and community use and enjoy.



**Rosalie's Surprise Drinking Fountain**

Superintendent Jim French presented many awards to Rosalie: A resolution from the Trinity County Board of Education, a certificate from the U.S. Congress, a flag that flew over the capitol in

Washington D.C. was sent by Congressman Wally Herger, a resolution from the California Senate introduced by the Honorable Maurice Johansen.

County Supervisor, Chris Erickson, Bill Horstman, County Board of Education, former parents and students, plus two members of the Coffee Creek School Board that hired Rosalie, Cora Wiborg and Mary Havener, paid tribute to Ms. Collins. Judge Underwood and his wife were there also. Earlier she had received many phone calls and letters.

The children sang several songs in her honor and presented her with a picture of Billy's Peak. The class of 2000 children and staff had signed the back. They also presented her with a scroll that the community had signed.

Later the popular Clarridge Family Fiddlers performed, as did Jimbo Dahm and the Solid Country Band. People enjoyed the music and tasty potluck. This was a wonderful day for a very special lady. *Contributed by Mary Bowen*

### Trinity Center School

The Governor's Reading Award has been received by the Trinity Center School. The schools students read an astounding 146,431 pages this year! Over 700 schools applied for this award and the school was one of 400 selected.



Every last cent from the sale of this newsletter goes to the Coffee Creek Volunteer Fire Company!

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emergencies!**

A Coffee Creek  
Firefly Publication



Coffee Creek Fire Co.

## Team Player

The committee was formed, the meeting was held and a name was selected. The North Trinity Lake Lions Club named its Lion of the year. The selectee has been showing to us all, what "help your neighbor" is all about.

This very busy local businessman always seems to find time to lend a helping hand. He helps with the Lions Clubs activities, the Fly In, the Fish Derby and Little Reno Night to name a few. If it's too big and needs to be moved, his backhoe seems to be ever available. If there is a lot of it, his truck appears to move it.

Bruce Dunn has been in business in San Diego, Redding and now full-time in Trinity Center. I know he spends much time and energy helping those in need in and around this area. His truck was there with many others hauling fill for the new fire hall in Coffee Creek. He has committed himself to finish the plumbing. His contribution with many others moved this project along. As a community we are fortunate to have this gentleman among us. In spite of the fact that he was recently named as an honorary con, truth remains he was instrumental in clearing highway 3 after our recent tornado.

As I see it, the North Trinity Lake Lions Club made a good call.

*Contributed by Bill DeWolf*

## Your Turn - Send Us Your Letters



I am forever thankful to live in a community like ours. Examples of community pride, community service and volunteers abound. I was asked to repair a water leak in the Trinity Center Cemetery. While there I noticed much work had been done.

Who did all the work? I began to ask around, but no one seemed to know who was responsible. Whomever it was expended much energy and accomplished much. Brush was cleared around the fence line. The roadways were cleared and gravesites were cleaned and cleared. In my view, this was not a one day job.

My curiosity was heightened. I asked people who lived nearby "who was putting out all this work?" No one knew or they were not telling. The only information I could get was "it's a blond lady wielding one wild pair of lopping shears".

Whomever you are I hope you see this letter and know we

do appreciate all of your efforts.

Thank you—Bill DeWolf

We'd like to thank everyone who unhesitatingly donated prizes for the Andy Stephens Benefit Bass Tournament and Weaverville Rod & Gun Club's Andy Stephens Benefit Shoot. There were many who supported both events but we'd like to mention the generosity of the local folks who have pitched in again and again: The Forest Café, the Sasquatch, The Yellow Jacket, Langford Nursery, Jaktri Market, Wyntoon Resort, the Mini-Kat, Bob Gray of CFN Gas Co. John A. Eaker Construction, B. Dunn Trucking, Trinity Lakes Resort and the Trinity Center "City Council". Three cheers to all of you!

Leroy and Cecilia Mohr

