



# The Coffee Break

*Suggested donation \$1*

Volume 2, Issue 6

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

We reported last month that there were 144 living recipients of the Medal of Honor. There are, in fact, 149. Nine of the recipients are "unknowns". One of them was a women, Dr. Walker, who had served as a nurse in the Civil War. Her citation was revoked, and later restored. The most recent recipients of the Medal of Honor, following Vietnam, were recorded posthumously. Army Sergeants, Gordon and Shughart, were cited for actions in Somalia in 1993. There have been none awarded during Grenada, Panama, Lebanon, or Desert Storm. 55% of the living recipients earned their Medals more than 50 years ago. The average age of the living recipients is 68.5 years. Of these from WWII, more than 40 are over the age of 80 and the oldest is John W. Finn, age 91. The youngest recipient is Gordon Roberts, age 50. He is the only recipient currently on active duty. Since 1993, 36 other Medals have been awarded to correct past errors. Only 12 of those were still living when the citations were issued. Now that the statistics are better known let us not forget the actions and commitment of those who have received this honor. Most of them, would shrug off their actions, and only tell you that they did what was called for at the time. The rest of us know that our nation exists and prospers because of the selflessness and principles demonstrated by these true heroes.

## Who's Who

What do a flock of green winged teal, an empty football locker, and a wood stove have in common? Each was a powerful influence that helped shaped Jim Taylor's life.



**Jim Taylor**

When Jim was young, Jim's father would take his young son hunting and fishing (often at East Fork). On one trip, when Jim was 8 or 9 years old, some green winged teals were drawn to their duck blind. After Jim took a shot and missed, his dad dropped 3 ducks. Feeling that he had "screwed up", Jim remembers his dad talking to him afterward. He spoke about the need to analyze situations, uncover mistakes and to turn negatives into positives. These fatherly reflections served Jim well

in the years to come

During high school Jim was quite the football player. Trading on his success he developed what he calls the "jock attitude". One day he went to his locker and found it empty. Pinned to the locker was a note to go see "Coach Ed". When he appeared before the coach he was instructed to write the word "team" on the blackboard. Then Coach Ed Oliveira asked if Jim could see the letter "I" in the word. He told Jim that he coached teams, not individuals and told Jim he was no longer playing ball, but that Jim was always welcome to talk with him.

Jim was stunned, and pleaded daily to be allowed to play. Coach Ed said it was up to the team. Ultimately, Jim apologized to his team for being selfish and was finally told by his fellow players that he could suit up and sit at the end of the bench. Jim dutifully sat on the end of the bench for the remainder of the year and never played an-

other down that season. What Jim learned from this experience was one of the most significant lessons of his life. He learned that life is a team effort and to this day he attributes his many good friends to Coach Ed. He remained close to his coach until he passed away.

Jim's mom, who is 94, has never cooked on a modern stove, preferring to use a wood stove. She raised Jim, 5 sisters, and 1 brother. They were "quite a handful", but his mom always provided a steady foundation for the family. For her entire life, she has maintained her garden with devotion and continued to cook (on the wood stove). Jim learned a lot from his mother's perseverance, and to this day has great love and respect for her. Perseverance would later play a pivotal role in Jim's life.

Each of these experiences took place while Jim was growing up in Arcata.

Upon completing high school, Jim joined the Army, not wanting to work in the lumber business as his father had. He eventually went through Officer Candidate School and played football and baseball for his division in Europe. At one point after completing his tour, Jim decided to leave the Army. After 20 days though, he returned and added school to his itinerary. His father's words about facing "adversity with a positive attitude and you can overcome" were a constant guide to Jim as he struggled to complete school and nourish his career.

One day, while playing ball in Mt. Vernon, Washington, Jim looked up in the bleachers and was taken with the attractive girl who was intently watching the game. As all young men are prone to do, he engineered a way to meet her, and in September of 1958, he married Sandy. Jim and Sandy moved back to Arcata and began a family. They will be married 43 years in September. They have one son and a daughter as well as 2 grandchildren.

Jim continued school and graduated with a degree in Criminology, minoring in Business. Later he finished a Masters in Education and studied gifted children in different settings.

In Vietnam, the lessons Jim had learned as a boy would be severely tested. On the 9th of November 1967 Jim was serving as Executive Officer of Troop B, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, American Division. While attacking a fortified enemy position, one of his armored cavalry assault vehicles was hit and all 5 crew members were wounded. Jim realized that the vehicle would likely explode. He rushed forward and extracted all the wounded to safety despite the hail of enemy fire. Minutes later a second vehicle was hit. Regardless of the intense enemy fire Captain Taylor removed all the wounded men from the burning vehicle and moved them to the safety of a nearby dike. Moments later the vehicle exploded. As Jim was returning to his vehicle he was wounded by a bursting mortar round. He continued to his vehicle to relocate the medical evacuation landing zone. He came under machine-gun fire from an enemy position 50 yards away. Jim fired his own machine gun and killed the 3 man crew. When Jim arrived at the new evacuation site, yet another vehicle was struck. Again, Captain Taylor rushed forward

and pulled the wounded from the vehicle and loaded them aboard his vehicle, and returned them to the safety of the evacuation site. Jim was directly responsible for saving the lives of a number of his troops and he contributed significantly to the success of the assault on the enemy position. For this action Captain Taylor received the Medal of Honor, our country's highest honor.

When asked how he felt about receiving such a high honor he replied that at first he was a "bit upset" as this meant that he would be pulled out of the field, however, he was extremely honored that his country would recognize him in this matter. Jim had 144 men in his troop. He knew all of their wives and children's names and birthdays. He was intensely committed to bring his men back. He believed that they had all come together, and they should leave together. Their welfare was paramount in his mind.

Each of the lessons Jim had learned earlier in his life played an important role during that 9 hours or so that came to shape the rest of Jim's life. His dad's words on turning negatives into positives, Coach Ed's tough lesson on teamwork, and his mother's perseverance and steadfastness all came into play in Vietnam.

Today Jim and his wife, Sandy, enjoy life in Trinity Center. He has returned to the country where he spent time as a kid sitting in a duck blind talking with his dad. He loves the quiet and peace he finds here and says the people are great.

When asked what people would be surprised to know about him he replied that he "was a caring and compassionate person". He says he does it his way and has little patience with people who want to sit on their butt and do nothing. He believes that everyone has a "menehune", a Hawaiian word for their version of the Leprechaun, that he learned while stationed in Hawaii. Basically, he describes a "menehune" as a call waiting button waiting to be activated. Obviously, Jim has his own "menehune" that comes out when the situation demands. Through it all Jim remember the words of Coach Ed. "We're a team , not individuals."

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## Lions Club Scholarships

Once again the Trinity Lake Lions Club has awarded their scholarships. Each recipient will receive \$1000 from the club. The winners for this year are Ms. Mikela Holmes of Long Canyon. She has been accepted at Brown University, which is in Providence, Rhode Island. She is interested in art and writing at this point, and will have to establish a major at a later date. Jessica Vandergrift of Coffee Creek already has one year of attendance at Chico State under her belt and has established her interests as architecture and art. The third winner is Valerie Davis.

The awards were presented on Wednesday, May 30th at the CD Hall in Weaverville.

*(The above was contributed by Dick Rymer.)*



# Times Past - "The Story of Derrick Flat and Derrick Loop Road"

## By - Vi Karrer

Derrick Flat was named for the Derrick family that lived there in the twenties and possibly the thirties. I first saw the place in 1934. There was a flume that went over the county road to supply water to the ranch. One of the Derrick girls, Edith Cade, told me that Mr. Beli had dug a ditch from Scorpion Creek and had built the flume. The Derricks bought the property from Ilandine Beli February 11, 1924.

Joseph Alexander Derrick and his wife Laura Josephine had twelve children, 6 boys and 6 girls. Two of the children were born at Carrville, Ulysses Samuel Grant in 1902 and Edith Genevieve in 1904. Several were born in Washington and two in Modoc County, California.

One boy, Jack, was born in 1912 and died in 1925. He is buried in the Stoddard Cemetery at Eagle Creek Ranch.

Frank Derrick, the oldest boy and his wife, Estella, lived on the property that is now Seymour's place. The Seymours bought the

place in 1953. They tore the old house down and built a lovely new home in its place.

Adair Johnson, daughter of Edith, tells me that her grandfather was famous for the strawberries that he raised both on Derrick Flat and later on their place at Stringtown.

The Derrick road is part of the old California/Oregon Stage Road. It is no longer Derrick Flat Loop, as the floods have taken care of all of the loops of the old stage road. Eagle Creek Loop will probably be restored once the old bridge is replaced. Bear Creek Loop went during the 1997 flood.

The last man on the right in the picture of the Derrick family reunion on Derrick Flat is not a Derrick, but Mel Engle, an old time miner, and a very tough character. He had a mine up at the head of Eagle Creek, and I've been told, that he always walked up to his mine barefoot with his boots tied by their strings and hanging around his neck.

### 1936 Derrick Family Reunion in Coffee Creek



left to right: Lawrence and Ethel Basworth and baby Virginia, Faye and Roy Criss, Jack Derrick (about 8), Maxine Stockard, Alfred Derrick, Adair Williams (rear standing), John Hess, Rachel and Nick Derrick, Tip Williams (rear), under Nick's arm Helen and Alan Bassham. Behind Alan's hidden by beer can? Alice Hess, Russell Williams, Elmer Hess. In front of Elmer, Edith Williams and Doris Hess. Rear John Williams, Frank Derrick, Dorothea Risher. Front: Lester Yancey, Laura and Grant Derrick, Joe and Sue Baker, Ella Risher Derrick, In front of Ella, Billy Criss. Boy with face hidden, Edward Basworth, Myrtle Williams, Jean and Laura Williams, Irene Stockard, Mel Engle.

## Fish Derby

Ninety one kids attended the Lions Club Annual Fish Derby at the Carrville Pond on May 19th. Beth Clark, 10 years old, from Douglas City caught the biggest fish, Sharon Clark, 11 years old, from Cottonwood caught the longest fish by a girl, and Tyler McCoy, age 12, upheld the honor of Coffee Creek with the longest fish for a boy. There were 210 total fish caught. More importantly all the children enjoyed a memorable day of fishing!



*A Youngster Shows Off His Catch*



*The "Scene" at the Carrville Pond*



*More Fun at the Hot Dog Stand*

## Town Crier



The Garden Club will have one of their most popular programs of the year. They will meet at Olga Darling's house on **June 5th** at 1 pm for their plant exchange. Everyone is asked to bring plant starts or seeds to trade with other members. This is your chance to get one of those coveted plants. Call 266-3440 for more information.

The Lions Club will hold another blood drive on **June 15th** at the IOOF Hall from 9 am until 2 pm. The last drive netted 26 pints. Let's see if we can all spare enough blood to beat the last effort.

The North Trinity Artisans Guild is looking for new members. There are 13 members so far. Many talented people are represented at the moment with art such as watercolor, photography, pottery, carving, poetry and many more. Call President Dick Rymer to join the fun.

### Coffee Creek and Trinity Center Life

Angela Healy and Richard Berglund tied the knot in a beautiful ceremony held at the Forest Café on May 5th. Pastor Steve Ratzlaff officiated the honors. Angie was given away by her mother, Pam Long.



*Angie and Rich Exchanging Vows*

### Tis' the Season for Summer Hours

The **Sasquatch** is now open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 5 pm until 9 pm.

After June 10th the **Forest Café** will be opened Wednesday through Sunday from 9 am until 8:30 pm. On Monday the restaurant will be open from 4:30 pm until 8:30 pm. On Tuesday the Café is closed.

The **Jaktri** store will be opened Monday through Sunday from 9 am until 6 pm.

The **Coffee Creek Country Store** will be open every day from 8 am until 8 pm.

The **Coffee Creek Firefly Gift Shop** will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 am until 4 pm.

The **Bonanza King Fish Pond** will now be open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am until 4 pm.





## *Coffee Creek School*

On Tuesday, May 1st, the students at Coffee Creek School put on a demonstration of some of the science projects and ideas that they have been working on this school year. The Science Fair was held along with the annual Open House event, and was very well attended.

Parents and guests were treated to some amazing and beautifully organized displays and demonstrations. The lower grades showed off their understanding of how plants grow as well as how the scientific process works. The students made Miss Crnich's room look like a greenhouse with their bean plants and fertile soil. We are all looking forward to harvest time.

The upper graders projects ranged from an experiment on plant dyes to a realistic model house that showed how circuit breakers are wired to switches and outlets. There was a model seismograph that actually worked, a model telegraph system that actually worked, a model geothermal energy generator that sort of worked, a photosynthesis experiment that is still working and a model roller coaster that worked if you did it right. All in all, each project succeeded in demonstrating the scientific process involved in learning.

The teachers, parents and friends all had a wonderful time watching the demonstrations and learning from the students. The refreshments were good too! (Where did they get those chocolate Oreos??)



**Parents Take a Close Look at Science Fair Projects**



**Jessica Loucks Demonstrates Her Roller Coaster Project**

## *Trinity Center School*

Trinity Center School will be holding a raffle for an Ice Chest with everything in it. The chest will be a 68 quart Coleman Ice Chest with items such as 2 8 lb. bags of charcoal, deluxe hibachi, soft drinks, beach towels, beach umbrella, flashlight, explorer boat, beach ball and many, many more items. The total approximate value of the chest and contents is \$225

The raffle tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5. All of the proceeds will go to help fund the 7th and 8th grade field trip in 2002. You can buy tickets at the Jaktri, Sasquatch and Forest Café They will be available through Sunday, the 29th of July, with the drawing held at the Trinity Center Fire Department BBQ. You can see the basket at the Forest Café. Trinity Center School thanks you for helping the kids.



**Trinity Center Schools 4th of July's Basket**



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



Coffee Creek Fire Co.

A Coffee Creek Firefly Publication



"The Coffee Break"  
HCR 2, #4014  
Trinity Center, CA 96091

Phone: 530-266-3276  
Fax: 530-266-3571  
Email: eaglecreek@tds.net

### Subscription Information

If you wish to subscribe to "The Coffee Break" we suggest a donation of \$1.50 per issue to help cover mailing and handling costs. We only renew up until December of 2001, so if you renew in March you would be paying for only those issues left until the end of the year (that is 10 issues at \$1.50 per issue). Again, we can only accept out of the area subscriptions, as we are all volunteers, and it would be prohibitive to try and handle local subscriptions also. Please make checks payable to CCVFC.

### My Turn

One more time, George and Ann Bauman have surprised me with another case of paper. Imagine my delight when I returned home and saw the box of paper on my front porch—kind of makes you feel warm all over. Thanks again George and Ann!

The July issue will be out a little early as I will be traveling at the end of the month. If you have any items you would like included in the next "Coffee Break" please have them to me as soon as possible, so that I will not leave anyone out.

Thanks from ye very old editor.



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# Did You Know.....?

