

MT. LEMMON ECHOES

325-1190

Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

BOX 99 - MT. LEMMON, ARIZONA - 85619

1978

THE LITTLE HOUSE ON THE MOUNTAIN

Once upon a time, on a lovely mountain not far from the legendary Old Pueblo, there arose a little building. For awhile it was just the framework of a building and everyone would ask "What's that?". Upon being told it was the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station they laughed in disbelief. Oh, ye of little faith! Working long and hard on this first stage of development were Chuck Molander, Gerry Hackney, Ted and Steve Choate, Steve Sharpe and Jim Morse, all good men and true, but summers are short and working conditions are too, so things rather coasted along for awhile and it was during this time that the Little House came into it's "What's that?" Period.

Thereupon, this past October, the citizens decided to buckle down and get the Little House finished. This was truly a Community effort in every way with almost everyone involved and is a testament to what can be done and what must be done to keep the mountain safe. On October 28th, a mountain sprite tells us, the paint flew thick and fast and the "swish" of paintbrushes was heard for a goodly distance. All but one side was painted and, we are told, this one side bore the legend: "Madonna Miller, this is your side to paint by Saturday, October 28, 5:00PM. Please!" Needless to say this was done in record time and the Little House stood very proud in it's coat of redwood log oil and it's new sign 'MT. LEMMON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT' - complete with stylized pine tree logo - prominently displayed. Not only was it beautiful to behold from the outside, but inside it had been dry-walled, insulated and painted with two coats of paint and trimmed with red Spanish tile. And as soon as weather conditions permit, it also would have a nice, new concrete floor.

Many hands were involved and we salute the workers: Jack, Mary Ann, Bob and Beth Chilson, Toni Morse, Mary Frances and Annie Luke, John Eaton, Bob Murphey, Gerry Hackney, Larry Feters, 'Tiger' Atkinson, Leroy Scalf, Chuck Messing, Muff Falugher, Jim Hogan, John McClarren, John and Madonna Miller, Gary Mitchell and Vision Quest helpers, under the direction of Steve Bloom, Director.

The lumber was donated by Bob and Fran Zimmerman, the sign by Gerry and Eden Hackney, the concrete floor by Bob and Kasey Murphey, John and Madonna Miller, and the paint by Fred and Mary Keers, Leroy and Freda Scalf, Charles and Betty Mobley, Gerry and Eden Hackney and George and Chris Sheldon.

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But alas, more drama was in store for the Little House. The work crew finished their chores about 5:30 PM the night of Nov. 11, with much merriment and thoughts of a job well done. The winds that evening were very high and one of three large dead trees fell about 9:00PM, but fortunately missed the Little House. However, a second tree fell sometime after midnight and this time fortune did not smile on our fire station. The tree crashed into the roof - shaking the entire structure on it's foundations. We understand at this writing that it has been temporarily covered over to protect the interior from the elements and the materials have been purchased to redo the job.

There was one silver lining in the dark cloud, however. The fire engine was not in the station at the time the tree fell. It was in Tucson at Bill Breck's getting the brakes adjusted, rear axle replaced, leaks welded and generally tuned-up for another rugged mountain winter. Damage would have been far greater had the engine been in the little station at the time. As it is

considering the number of volunteer hours put into the building by the residents as well as the actual physical damage, the loss is in the neighborhood of \$3,000-5,000.

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THE MT LEMMON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department met with their new Fire Chief, Jack Chilson, and Madonna Miller, Board Member in Charge, on Nov. 10, 1978 at the Alpine Lodge. We have 33 volunteers plus an unspecified number from Vision Quest.

The following people have made their telephone numbers available in case of fire. These are strictly volunteers, but at least a few of them should be near their phones at any time. In case of fire keep trying until you reach someone at one of these numbers:

Jack Chilson - 791-9870; Fred Keers - 791-9804; LeRoy Scalf - 791-9710; Tony Wojnar - 791-9740; Jeanette Cowling - 791-9814; Bob Zimmerman - 791-9758; Walt Rich - 791-9862; George Sheldon - 791-9731; Leslie May - 791-9705, or Madonna Miller - 791-9779.

(Why not clip out the above numbers and post near your telephone?)

The Volunteers are selling pens in order to raise funds for our department. Currently \$3.14 has been raised this way. You get five pens for only \$1.00 and they are good pens. One-half of each dollar goes to the department. Pens can be picked up at the Alpine Lodge, Mt. Lemmon Realty Office or at Ski Valley. Gary (Mitch) Mitchell currently holds the record as the number one seller of pens. Stop in the Vine some weekend and hear his sales pitch, it is really something.

Currently these fire fighters are discussing the possibility of selling Christmas trees on the mountain - we are open to all fund raising ideas.

Our fire truck is now completely repaired. It should be in top shape and will be returned to the mountain as soon as the repairs on the fire station are finished.

It looks like we will soon have another fire truck to join the current one. This 2½ ton tank truck now belongs to the Forest Service on the mountain and should be delivered as soon as they get a new one.

One problem that worried us all was insurance. We find that our fire truck is fully insured by the State Land Department. License and registration is also furnished by them. We also now have a policy on our fire house, which should cover fire and any future mishaps.

Through state matching funds, we could get reimbursed for up to one-half of what we spend on the volunteer fire department. First we must spend our money and complete the necessary forms. We could get a refund of up to \$3,000, within our limits.

Madonna Miller

Volunteer Fire Department Chairman

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A WORD FROM OUR SECURITY PERSON

Is Security on the Lemmon really necessary? The facts speak for themselves.

Last winter and this past summer are proof of what a concentrated effort by Sheriff's Deputies and Private Security can do. August of this year break-ins had been held to three. At this point, we lost our resident deputies, and, as of the first of October, the total has risen to twelve. Obviously, the less security the greater the opportunity for those who care to take advantage of it. Perhaps luck, perhaps not, but none of the twelve were subscribers to Mt. Lemmon Security, save one.

There have been many articles written about the whys and wherefor's of securing your home and/or vacation home, but the best that I have read appeared in the July issue of Popular Science. In it they described their Lock-box Leisure Home, which they built in 1977, incorporating all the latest security devices and alarm systems. Unfortunately, there was no one to answer the alarm when the time came. The conclusion arrived at by their panel of experts was as follows, and I quote, "It's no longer a question of whether

you'll become a victim, but only a matter of time." (Scary-ED.) "An estimate from a new U.S. Dept of Justice publication indicates that if the trend continues, one out of every four homes will be burglarized within the next four years. Whatever the hardware you use, (be it dead-bolts, security cameras, intrusion alarms, etc.) don't expect too much from state police or the county Sheriff. Burglary arrest in recreational areas have plunged below 10% No, with a leisure home you're on your own. So start beefing up your built-in security. The time is already upon us when a man's home is not his castle, but his fortress."

In conclusion, our best suggestion is an audible alarm system and private security.

Is security on the Lemmon necessary? We think so.

Fred T. Keers
Mt. Lemmon Security
791-9804

Since this article was written we are happy to report that we have acquired a new resident Deputy Sheriff, Steve Merritt, who can be contacted at the Palisades. Welcome, Steve!!

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ANNUAL POW-WOW

The Annual Meeting of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association was held at the Tucson Woman's Club, Thursday, October 12, 1978. A delicious meal of Chicken and Rice and all the trimmings, plus super comemade cakes, was served by the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club following the usual Annual Happy Hour.

Before getting down to business we had the chance to see some very lovely young ladies dancing to entertain us - a refreshing change of pace.

At 8:30 PM the meeting was called to order by President George Sheldon, Katherine Lovett, President of the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club let the Pledge of Allegiance and Ted Choate gave the Invocation.

Reports for the year were given by Bob Zimmerman on the Sanitation Situation and Chuck Molander on the Fire Department. Leslie May announced that on October 23, a 8:00 PM a town meeting was to be held at the Mt. Lemmon School and Francie Morse gave the Nominating Committee Report.

The slate for election of officers was: Fred Keers, John Konigsfeld, John Montgomery, Mary Ann Arford, Madonna Miller and Ray Zukowski. Ted Choate was nominated from the floor. The final tally showed Fred Keers, John Konigsfeld and Madonna Miller the winners.

Door prizes were awarded and a film on firefighting was presented by Chuck Molander.

We know that October is a very busy time of year and if you had to miss the meeting we are sorry. It is our once a year chance to get together, compare notes and exchange ideas and opinions on how things are going on the mountain and how we think things should be going on the mountain. If you don't show and make your wants known, it is difficult for the Board to know in which direction to proceed. These are your meetings and your Officers we elect and we need your help in directing affairs to your ultimate satisfaction.

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HO HO HO!

There will be decorations going up for Christmas on the mountain this year! The date for 'Decking the Halls' will be the first Sunday in December, which is the 3rd. The time will be 10:00 AM and the meeting place will be the Mt. Lemmon Real Estate office - everyone is welcome!! Francie Morse is Chairman, so please contact her for any further information. Needed very urgently are decorations if you have any you no longer use. Needed especially are outdoorlights, extension cords - even more so, and perhaps any lawn type figures such as Santas, snowmen, carolers or reindeer that you can share with the residents and visitors to the mountain during the Holiday Season. These can be left at the Real Estate office. We have no need for Christmas tree type decorations, but any larger, showier items can be put to good use. If you have anything of this nature, please call Francie at 791-9882 or

Fran Zimmerman at 791-9881 and let them know what you have. Your help in making this a colorful Mt. Lemmon Christmas will be greatly appreciated. The mountain, though always beautiful, is loveliest at Christmas. Noel!!

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At the November meeting of the Woman's Club, Officers Mulligan and Gallegos from the Tucson Police Department gave a talk on the concept behind 'Neighborhood Watch' and also explained some of the various types of locks and alarm systems available. They said that 'Neighborhood Watch' would work on the mountain as well as in the valley and might be something to look into further - this type of interaction is known as "Community" and caring.

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TRAILS TO EXPLORE

ORACLE RIDGE TRAIL

To find this easy trail, drive down the road to Oracle (the back road to all familiar with the mountain), past the sawmill until you come to the first cattle guard. Park right before crossing the cattle guard. The trail starts across the road, to the right of the saw dust dump. There is a nice metal sign marking it so you can't miss.

The first mile or so is very easy, almost flat in fact, as it travels along just below the ridge. It is really beautiful, too. You pass along through huge pines, oaks and various shrubs, as well as some open spaces. The view out over the canyon is spectacular. Reef of Rocks is majestic out over Red Ridge to your left, and you can look into Canyon del Oro far below.

As I said before, the trail is very easy all the way to Dan's Saddle. There it drops sharply into the saddle, then levels off again for a mile or so to the top of Marble Peak.

For the more adventurous, it's a few more miles DOWNHILL to Catalina Camp, then on into Oracle. Going down's fairly simple, but oh, that climb back out!!

It's really quite a lovely hike all the way to Oracle, but for most of us the walk to Dan's Saddle is the prettiest (and easiest) of all.

-Ted Choate-

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Fifth in a Series

****WHISPERING PINES****

A Bit of History

MT. LEMMON FIRE GUARD - 1919 (Con't)

After breakfast, we took some canned food, water and tools and went around the bluff (which I had almost walked off the night before, but my burro warned me in time) and put out the fire. We left for Soldier Camp about the middle of the afternoon and after getting back on the Tucson Trail we came upon a young man and woman who were hiking up the trail and carrying their bedrolls and groceries. They had run out of water and were tired. I gave them a drink from our canteens and put their bundles on a burro to take as far as Soldier Camp. When we reached the ranger station I called in the fire report and the man and woman took their gear and headed for Summerhaven.

There was a very primitive road from Oracle up to the Old Stratton mine and the Supervisor decided to pay a visit to the mountains. He drove up to the mine and had a ranger come down with a spare horse and a burro to take him to Soldier Camp. During his visit he questioned me about the report I had made and wanted to know why it took so long to get to the fire. He seemed not to believe me when I told him it was because we couldn't find the burros right at first. They wouldn't stay in the corral and never did find out how they got out. He still questioned my reason for delay.

When the Supervisor was ready to go back he told me that he wanted me to pack his gear down to Stratton, so that evening just before dark I called him outside the station and told him that I wanted him to watch me put the burros in the pasture. The next morning I went to get the burros and they were gone! I borrowed a horse from a friend and we started down. About one

mile from Soldier Camp I saw the burros lying down in a small ravine. I stopped and said "You saw me put the burros in the pasture last night, didn't you?" Then I pointed out the burros and asked "What is that lying down there?". He never said a word or made a sound. I was so mad that I believed I would have quit right then and there and gone back to Soldier Camp and told the Ranger to take him back down, but I didn't. However, the rest of the trip was made in complete silence.

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**** PINE NEEDLES ****

We hear on good authority that the Annual Oktoberfest went very very well - nothing like German food, music and dancing among the great pines, is there? This year, for the first time, there were elections for the King and Queen of Oktoberfest. Our Royalty elected for this years festivities were King Ken 'Tiger' Atkinson and Queen Jane Redmon. Hail! Hail!

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There are still some 'Sweeten-the-Lemmon...Save Sabino Canyon' Tee - shirts for sale. These would make ideal Christmas presents for everyone in the family. The prices are \$4.00 for adults, \$3.50 for youths and \$2.50 for children. If you are interested call Joan Choate at 791-9778 and she would be glad to giave you any information you might need and help in any way she can.

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Another idea for an excellent Christmas gift, says Jack Chilson, our new Fire Chief, would be Smoke Alarms - buy a gift and save a life! No one on the mountain handles them, but they are available all over the valley and just to help make this a happy and safe holiday season, Jack suggests you look into purchasing an alarm as a means of showing your concern for your family - they'll love you for it. If you have any questions as to type or proper place if installation just give Jack a call at 791-9870 and he will be happy to lendahand - or an ear, in this case.

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The Mt. Lemmon Chap and Prayer meeting groups which have been meeting on the Choate's sundeck during the warm months are still waiting to hear from the Forest Service as to whether they will be able to have their meetings at the Ski Valley Lodge some evening. We hope to have further news on this in the January issue as it is of great concern to many living on the mountain.

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The Mt. Lemmon Echoes wishes to Wilcome new Association members who have just joined our growing group: Dr. and Mrs. Philip Weinstein, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Lepin, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Tognaci, Leslie May, Lionell Griffith, Robert Bergquist, Ron Stewart and William Clar, also known as 'Mayor Billy' who has joined our ranks again - stout lad!! Welcome Aboard, all of you.

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In answer to many questions as to who is on the Village Council we are pleased to tell you: Leslie May, President pro tem (she says), Francie Morse, John Risso (Schizzo), Muff Faugher and LeRoy Scalf with Jack Chilson as Advisor

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One Sunday, late in October, on leaving the mountain just before twilight, we came through Bear Wallow. Although the maple leaves were not all gone from the trees enough had fallen on the ground to completely cover it with a soft cover that looked like pink snow. In the fading daylight the whole world looked pink - ground, trees and the wispy clouds overhead reflecting the setting sun. Never have we seen this beautiful stretch so

lovely - almost otherworldly. One could wait for years and never catch that particular, fleeting moment again. Long after we leave the mountain forever, the memory of that pink world will linger on.

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For those trivia lovers who keep track of such things, the first snowfall of the year was on October 24th, when three inches of snow fell lightly on the very top of Mt. Lemmon. Now, doesn't that just make your day?

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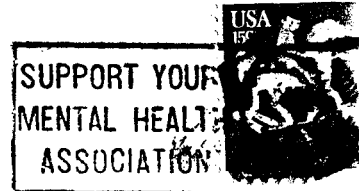
There was an interesting article in the Arizona Daily Star last week about the value of controlled burning in the forest which we hope you all got to read. When we can see the smoke from the fires here in the valley it still causes a twinge in the pit of the stomach, although we have been told by the Forest Service that it is for the forest's own good - that it reduces fire "fuel" and protects the forest from catastrophic wildfire for three to five years, have "very little" effect on surface vegetation, that most of the trees killed by the burning are very small and in dense thickets and, finally, that the Ponderosa pine seems to be highly heat-resistant when the burning is done at the lower temperatures.

We hope all this is one the plus side, but it is hard to take this all in when we see so many blackened trunks as we drive up and down the mountain. Sometimes we wonder if we will ever see it soft and green again in our lifetime.

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The Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association wishes all of you a very happy Holiday Season and hope to see you on the mountain sometime during the Yuletide. *

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