

MT. LEMMON ECHOES

325-1190

Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association JANUARY-FEBRUARY

1979

BOX 99 - MT. LEMMON, ARIZONA - 85619

FIRST THINGS FIRST!

The main project for the MLHO Assoc. this year is getting our Volunteer Fire Department off the ground. This is also where most of our money is going. The Fire Department was started several years ago when Chuck Molander served as Chief. He made it possible for us to get the truck we now have through the State Land Department and also, with the help of four or five volunteers from the mountain, got the fire station well under way.

As Chuck moved up in importance and responsibility with the Tucson Fire Department he had less and less time to spend on the mountain and, without his leadership, the Fire Department almost ceased to function.

Chuck has always looked for someone who lived fulltime on the mountain to take the responsibility for the station, equipment and training up here. This past summer Jack Chilson and his family purchased a house and moved to the mountain. Jack brought with him letters of reference from Ohio Volunteer Fire Departments where he has served. He has a total of more than twenty years experience with his last few years as Assistant Fire Chief. Jack agreed to serve as our Chief with a committee headed by Madonna Miller from our Board of Directors, and a lot has been done.

The station has been completely finished, including a concrete floor and electric heat. The truck has been repaired and is now in excellent condition, ready for any emergency. Thirty-three volunteers plus the counselors and students at Vision Quest have signed up as fire fighters. Currently an active training program is being conducted on Friday nights and a program with the Forest Service is being planned for the near future.

Chuck Molander is working with Fire Departments around the state trying to find a fire siren or warning system that would work on the mountain and one that we could afford. Right now our warning system consists of telephoning. A list of volunteer telephone numbers was published in the 'Echoes' and each member was urged to post these numbers beside their telephone to have in case of fire.

Also, the State Land Department has notified us that we are in line for a new and bigger truck in the near future. This is desperately needed, but as with all things it poses problems. With a new truck we will either have to build a second building or increase the size of our current one and this would mean more materials (all labor has been volunteer) and higher utility bills.

Despite the excellent progress made so far, there is much work still to be done. We need more equipment for our fire fighters - boots, hats, gloves and coats for each man running at least \$200. new. Insurance is another factor that is being looked into. We need insurance for our fighters and insurance for you, the homeowners, in the event something goes wrong. Needless to say, all of this costs money.

As you can see, the Fire Department is something that benefits each of us directly. It can lower our insurance rates and protect our homes. We have an active, enthusiastic department now, even though we must remember they are all volunteers - no one gets any reimbursement for any of their services.

The Homeowners Association has applied for matching funds from the State Land Department. If we qualify, we could get up to one-half of what we spend

back from the State. Of course, we have to spend the money first. In addition, our volunteers sold Christmas trees before the holidays and are currently selling ballpoint pens. A package of five is \$1.00 with 50¢ on each box going to the Fire Department, but it does take a lot of fifty centses to raise money for one outfit.

We would appreciate any donations or contributions toward the Fire Department - any amount is needed.

MT. LEMMON SECURITY REPORTS.....

A man's best friend is his dog unless he lives on Mt. Lemmon this winter, then his best friend is his shovel! A point of fact; there are five steps up to our back door under normal conditions. At this point we have two left - then a long patch of packed snow.

According to the latest report from Palisades, accumulated snowfall to Feb. 1, 1979 was 55 inches, and of that, anywhere from 12 to 36 inches has stayed on the roofs, but old-timers tell us "not to worry" until the load raches 60 to 72 inches.

The Highway is plowed, but still requires caution, chains and/or four-wheel drive. The curves, for the most part are blind and down to one lane. Large snow banks, created by the Highway plowing, are blocking the road entrances to Soldier's Camp, Loma Linda, and Middle Sabino. Even if this weren't the case, they're still impassable unless on foot or snowmobile. Carter Canyon and Upper Sabino roads are still washed out.

In planning a trip up soon, it's best to remember:

1. You'll probably have to hike in - dress for it! Some of the drifts are knee to hip deep (we speak from experience).
2. If you're going to heat with wood, it's probably wet and may be buried.
3. You'll have to find a safe place to park your car.
4. An easy way to transport your food (sled, etc.)
5. Your shevl!

Aside from the above adversities, we've never seen the mountain more beautiful.

Fred Keers
P.O.Box 708
Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619

Since the above article was written several sunny days have been enjoyed, but the general status remains pretty much quo so I am told. ED.

A REPORT FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

The Volunteer Fire Department meets each Friday night for training with the Chief Jack Chilson. George Wieringa has been elected as Assistant Chief.

The department has been selected for matching funds and a letter will be arriving as to how it may be used and how it was selected. We will be receiving \$5750.00 in funds and we may use the bill for the fire truck on these funds as well as the work on the station.

I am registering all residents on the mountain in preparation for forming a Fire District. It requires 10% of the registered voters who are residents - not property owners.

We urge all residents as well as property owners to have smoke detectors as this was responsible for getting our matching funds. We will be selling them soon and we ask that you wait to get one from the firemen as this will be used to raise more dollars for the Fire Department.

We will also be receiving letters from the Tucson Fire Department as soon as they finish their count as to what articles of clothing they have to replace and we will be on the list to receive and buy them.

Also, the Tucson, Fire Department invited us to attend seminars they are holding on fire prevention, etc. Jack Chilson and George Wieringa both attended the first on Feb. 9th and we are going to be represented every in-

itation we get.

I also talked to John McKelvey of the Forest Service, who is in charge of the fire fighters, and he is making arrangements to have a few of our most interested volunteers meet with them to go over all of their equipment and for their men to come and get acquainted with our truck so we can all work together. Jack will show them structural fire-fighting and they will train ours for Forest Fires. This will be within the next week or so.

Madonna Miller
Fire Department Chairman

Even the smaller mountain residents have had a little 'consciousness-raising' regarding the Fire Department. Jack Chilson took our fire truck and the Forest Service brought their equipment to the Zimmerman School and gave the children a talk and demonstration. As children are such enthusiastic 'firemen' this is really good PR at the ground level.

!!! DUES NEWS !!!

Dear Fellow Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Assoc. Member:

Once more it is that time of year when we usually bill you for your Membership dues, but this year we are taking a different tack and are asking you to fill in the form below and mail along with your \$10.00 dues to Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association, P.O.Box 99, Mt. Lemmon, AZ, 85619. In return you will be sent a 1979 sticker for your automobile windshield indicating that you are a paid up member.

The reason for doing it this way is that it will save your Association 15¢ per Membership in that we will not be sending a separate billing and if you have read the preceeding material, you know a lot 15¢ savings can go a good way toward the fire dept, insurance, utilities, equipment and other contingencies that arise in an organization of this type.

(As part of your Membership you will be receiving the Newsletter which is put out every two months to keep you posted on the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association and other happenings on the mountain. In fact, we would appreciate any suggestions and contributions for the Newsletter - this really is your Newsletter and we want your news and views. Please call 325-1190 or write in care of Betty Mobley, 4051 Calle Chica, Tucson, AZ, 85711. No one can be everywhere at once or even hear everything that would be of interest to the Membership; we need your help in making this a relevant publication. BJM Ed.)

Those who paid their 1979 dues at the MLHO Annual Meeting in October, '78 need not return this form as we have your payment on record and also new members who have joined since October need not heed it, either. Should there be a question in your mind as to whether you are paid up or not, please call 791-9779 and we will be glad to verify your records.

It would be wonderful if everyone on the mountain would join with us in our efforts. If you have paid your dues and do not heed the form here, pass it along to a neighbor who may not be a member - we all need to pull together. Wouldn't it be great if everyone on the mountain could be an active, interested participant!

NAME _____ TEL. NO. _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

MT. LEMMON PROPERTY: LOT _____ BLOCK _____

SUBDIVISION _____

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

There being no electricity on the mountain, all cabins used either kerosene lamps or candles. For walking at night you used what was known as a 'bug' which was a metal Towles Log Cabin syrup can. The pouring spout was used as a chimney. The end opposite had a square hole cut out from the eaves to the bottom. The bottom had a hole punched in large enough to let a candle go through. The sides of this hole had the tin sticking up so that the candle would not drop out. The bug had a wire handle. With the 'bug' one could see about 5 or 6 feet in front so you would not step on a rock and turn your ankle.

The summer of 1919 there was a boy, about 15 years old up there, who was afraid of the dark. He had a 32 caliber revolver and always carried it with him. Sometimes he would go to Summerhaven and not start home till just before dark. He always looked up in the pinyons and if there was an extra thick clump of needles making a dark spot he would leave the trail and not walk under it, because he was afraid it was a mountain lion waiting to jump him.

One evening some of us decided to play a trick on him. One place the trail went through a very dense thicket of small oak bush. The thicket was about 40 ft. across and almost impossible to leave the trail after entering. We drove a nail through the bottom of a can, then poked a string through it and tied a knot. We were going to tie the can to a tree and hide about 25' away, put some resin on the string and then pull it tight when the boy entered the thicket and rub the string with our fingers.

We told the ranger what we were going to do and he laughed and thought it would be a good trick, then changed his mind and told us not to do it. He remembered the boy's gun and said he might start shooting and somebody could get hit. In our delight over the trick we had forgotten all about that gun of his! Might not have been so much fun after all!!

****PINE NEEDLES****

Hopefully next month we will carry the TRAILS TO EXPLORE feature, but as the trails are under snow at the moment we decided to postpone it this time out.

We have had some really super newspaper coverage in the last month or so - particularly one full page, front and back, in the Tucson Daily Citizen of January 11, 1979. Hope you saw it.

Mt. Lemmon Echoes
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