

# THE MOUNTAIN ECHO

ONE SHEET



VOLUME 1 NUMBER 2

MT. LEMMON, ARIZONA

FEBRUARY 20, 1979

## Four-wheelers Raise \$10,000 For Local March of Dimes Drive

More than \$10,000 was raised by Tucson four-wheelers for the March of Dimes at their annual rally. Sixty-seven entrants brought in pledges of \$10,000 with more still to come. Deadline to get the pledges into the March of Dimes office is March 17. The participant bringing in the most money for the March of Dimes by that date will receive a \$700 wrench for his vehicle.

Bruce Ludeke in his 1979 Ford Ranger took first place in the rally. Dick Ecelbarger was his navigator. A member of the Southern Arizona Sports Car Club, Bruce was proud of the performance of his new four-wheel drive. This was only his second rally.

Second place went to Kevin Foley and Bob Draves from Davis Monthan AFB. They were

In a 1976 3/4 ton F250 Ford. With only a pencil and wrist watch to clock themselves, these Sergeants were proud of the showing in their first rally.

Entrants from Nevada, Southern California and Colorado were in town for the rally. The first driver left the parking lot at the After the Gold Rush at 8 am and the last pulled out at 10:15. The final car returned shortly after 3.

The Jack Dunwells of Aurora, Colorado pulled into the parking lot about 15 minutes too late to participate. They had driven in from Colorado, but a breakdown in Phoenix and working all night to get their Ford Bronco back into condition had left them too exhausted to do more than watch.

About 200 people were around to watch the rally in addition to the drivers and navigators.

Mishaps were the general theme of the day according to some of the drivers. Ray and Pat Ocegura of Tucson told how their wrong turn was copied by at least three other cars who were just following behind. One of the most popular four-wheel drives was an Army National Guard "goat" that almost didn't make it back. Part of the 50-mile route was along Redington Pass and by late afternoon cars were parked on both sides of the Pass, making it almost impossible for the large vehicles to squeeze through.

According to Wayne Pitzer of the Tucson March of Dimes, the event was definitely a success. And with the help of the Tucson Rough Riders, it will be an annual occurrence.

## It All Began With Newscaster

by Frances Morse

Lowell Thomas is often called the Father of Skiing on Mt. Lemmon. Actually, many before him skied on the mountain, but he might be called the father of organized skiing on Mt. Lemmon. Before Thomas, it would just be individuals hiking to the top and skiing down.

During World War II, Lowell Thomas' son was stationed at Davis Monthan Air Force Base. He had been sent to Tucson because of a respiratory problem. The father would fly out often to visit his son and on one of the trips he noticed the snowcapped peaks of the Catalina Mountains.

With some friends Lowell Thomas and his son drove to Mt. Lemmon. Forest Service personnel took the group to upper Bear Wallow to an area where the skiing was good. They came up often after that and built some simple ski jumps. The group picked the name "Sahuaro" because of the irony of a Sahuaro cactus and snow, and it became the Sahuaro Ski Club.

At the end of the snow season, the young club organized a Ski Ball at the Arizona Inn in Tucson. Invitations were sent to people everywhere and the Ball was a huge success.

Soon more people were skiing and the Sahuaro Ski Club was growing. The Forest Service granted them permission to set up a rope tow using a Model T Ford motor.

In the mid-fifties the ski slopes were moved to their present location. Prison labor was used to

first put in the slopes and the rope tow which was about 100 feet long. Then a foundation for the lodge itself was laid and the building was constructed of split logs. Most work was done by the prison labor and the ski club.

Mt. Lemmon received its official ski area designation in 1957 and the first permittee, a Mr. Scott, took it over. At that time the lodge was not a commercial building, so a small ski patrol building was set up with a pot-bellied stove.

In 1962 Al Grassmoen from Flagstaff took over the area. A restaurant was put into the lodge and major ski developments were made to the area. A Poma lift was added in 1964 to carry the skiers from the bottom to the top of the runs.

George Davies, the current owner, purchased the lodge and ski area in 1970. In 1971 the rental building was put up and the parking lot was paved. At the present time there are eight runs with several variations. A rope tow serves the beginner's area and a chairlift takes skiers to the top. Currently there are 45 to 50 people employed at the area with 20 of these being full-time permanent employees.

But what of the original group that came to Mt. Lemmon skiing with the world renowned newscaster Lowell Thomas? One of the young men went into politics and became the Lt. Governor of Alaska. Another one was Art Devlin who became an Olympic skier.

## Chilson Assumes Water Position

Jack Chilson, Fire Chief of the Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department, assumed the job of maintenance manager for the Mt. Lemmon Water Co-op this week.

Jack has been on the mountain for approximately six months. He has been running an emergency road service. Since coming to the

mountain, Jack Chilson has taken an active interest in the Volunteer Fire Department. It is due to his leadership that regular training sessions have been set up to give full training to the fire fighters.

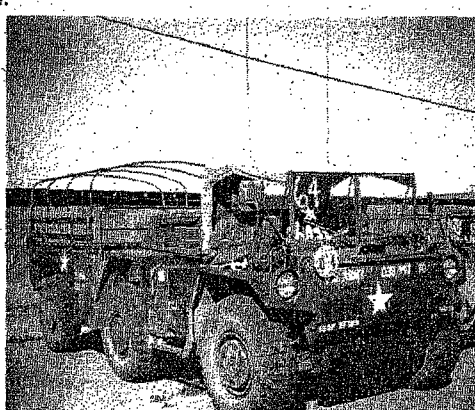
Jack replaces Leon Luke who had been with the Water Co-op for two years.



This 1979 Ford Ranger took first place at the recent March of Dimes Four Wheel Rally. Bruce Ludeke, owner and driver, has no complaints about the few scratches he put on the month-old vehicle.



Janice Engleman, Denna Wasson and Stu Bengson from Tucson Rough Riders manned the registration booth and collected time cards from the 4-wheelers as they returned.



The biggest 4-wheel vehicle was this army National Guard "Goat" driven by Captain David Neal. Others with him were CW2 Ronald League, SFC E.J. Corcurek, SKC Millard Riddick, and Sp. 4 Jeff Meyers.

# Water Rate Hearing Set March 15th

An open hearing to establish new water rates for Mt. Lemmon Coop. is scheduled for 9 a.m., Thursday, March 15, in the Arizona Corporation Commission Hearing Room 200, at the State Office Building, 415 West Congress, Tucson.

Currently water is charged at \$112.00 for the winter season (October 1 through April 30) and \$80.00 for the summer season (May 1 through September 30). Commercial rates are \$3.00 for

each 1,000 gallons.

The requested rates are \$13.00 per month for residential usage of 2,000 gallons or less. Everything over 2,000 gallons will be billed at \$1.00 per thousand gallons.

Commercial rates will also be \$13.00 for up to 2,000 gallons. The next 13,000 gallons will be \$3.00 per thousand gallons, and anything over 15,000 gallons will be \$5.00 per thousand gallons.

## Zimmerman School News

One of the recent assignments at Zimmerman School was to write letters to inanimate objects or fictitious characters. Here are a few samples.

### Dear Rock,

When someone throws a rock at me, I throw one back, but if they throw another rock at me, I take cover and I don't stop throwing them, and then if they hit me in the head I take my shield, and start charging them throwing rocks. I think you make a good weapon. But when you get run over with a car and get all smushed, I feel sorry for you.

Sincerely,

Your friend,  
Vincent Tognaci

### Dear Vincent,

Your letter made me feel good. I am glad to know that someone cares for me. It hurts me when a car runs over me. I wish they would make a special building for my aunts, uncles, cousins, mom and dad, even my relatives. I hope that will happen in the future. If you ever become President, please order that all rocks be protected.

Yours truly,

Mr. Rock  
(Kenneth Rinella)

### Dear Snoopy,

I like you. You must be cold when it snows. Do you like sleeping outside? I know you don't get lots

of attention. But you are a good character. You are a good ice skater. I like to see you ice skate. You are funny too. When you kiss someone they say 'yuck'.

From

Heather Noonkester.

### Dear Heather,

I'm very cold when it snows but I have to live with it. I hate that Charlie Brown. He doesn't give me any attention. I hate sleeping outside. But sometimes I like Charlie Brown. He always falls for my tricks. Once I said I was starving and he gave me a piece of meat. But I still hate that rotten pig.

Your friend,

Snoopy  
(Joe Noonkester)

### Dear Record,

Don't you get dizzy from spinning around all the time? Why do you make so much noise? I think you should cut the noise a little. Do you ever get mad at people for scratching you or do you get mad at the record player?

Jimbo Morse

### Dear Jimbo,

I can't help I make so much noise. It is the peoples fault. When I get scratched they throw me away. I don't get dizzy. I just throw up all the time.

By your friend,

Record  
(Jenny Hayes)

# Spotlight

## "BUSTER BAILEY"

"It used to be Mr. Bailey. But now it's just 'Buster,' he said as he reminisced about the old days in the Santa Catalina Mountains. His mind works like a clock as he ticks off the names of the ranches on which he worked back in the twenties and thirties. "Those were the good days when Arizona was a state of cowboys, miners and railroaders. Never got into mining or railroading myself, but there were some good ole guys who did."

"Back then people respected me. I was known as one of the best horsemen around. Had some really beautiful show horses in my day. Did I show you the pictures of Ginger?"

Born in Pedula, Texas, Buster came to Arizona back in 1927. "Came out with my mother. We had the old Verdugo Ranch close to where Rancho Romero is now. I was just a kid."

Buster continues, telling about coming up Mt. Lemmon from Romero Canyon on horseback. "Knew every trail on this mountain, and there were a lot of them back then." According to Buster, a lot of the old trails across the mountains were used by moonshiners bringing illegal brew through during prohibition.

He pulls out more pictures, yellowed with age. "This is a plane crash... October 23, 1928. Crashed on the backside of the mountains. Buried several men. I was one of the first there...knew the mountain better than anyone."

But from 1942 until February 1946, Buster Bailey was off the mountain. He doesn't talk much about the exotic places he was stationed during WW II — New Guinea, the Philippine Islands, and Japan he skips over very quickly — to get back to 1946 when he moved back to the mountain.

"Back then there wasn't no talk about pollution. Everyone had their own outhouse. And the water...man it was good. You could drink out of any stream on the mountain."



Buster skips back again to the days before the war. "Have you ever heard of Burro Jack? Don't remember his real name. No one ever called him anything but Burro Jack. One of the few people I ever met who could work burros. He had a way with them. He was a real old timer. Hauled timbers down the mountain behind those burros. Most of those old adobe houses around Oracle used beams from Mt. Lemmon in the ceilings."

But back to 1946. "When I got out of the service, I came to Mt. Lemmon. Worked for a man in Soldier Camp first. That's when I met Tony Zimmerman. Tony and I hit it off real well. I was hired to keep his equipment running, but I did a little bit of everything. I remember when I used to run the mail for him. People'd say, 'It'll be on time today. Bailey's driving.'"

But horses were still his true love, even in 1946. He pulls out his album again and shows me a picture of 'Baby,' his Seven-Up-drinking horse. "Had Baby from 1946 to 1949. She was a real beauty. Used to love to go into the Mt. Lemmon Inn. and

drink Seven-Up with the kids." And the picture he pulls out shows 'Baby' standing in front of the bar at the old Mt. Lemmon Inn.

His duties working for Mr. Zimmerman were numerous. He played in a little band at the Inn on Saturday nights. "There were three of us who worked up there. We used to get together and play for dances at the Inn. I played the mouth harp."

And with this he walks over to his dresser and pulls out a little box. Inside is a mouth harp, still shiny and new looking. After a few strange noises to get warmed up, a toe-tapping rendition of "Put Your Little Foot" has his dogs barking and my children entranced. And the sounds of a train with which he ended his serenade, caused me to look out the window to

(continued to page 4)

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# Nordic Skiing Gains Popularity

by Lane Larson  
Wilderness Sports, Inc.

Once a sport enjoyed by few, cross country skiing is now one of the fastest growing outdoor sports in the United States.

Cross Country, or Nordic skiing, differs from downhill skiing in many aspects. First, whereas cross country skiing developed originally in Europe as a means of transportation, downhill or alpine skiing, developed as a sport for enjoyment.

Second, cross country skiing does not require an incline to develop motion as does alpine (downhill) skiing. The Nordic skier, through his own power develops the forward motion. Cross country skis, then, respond well on inclined slopes, and excel in areas of rolling hills and flat land.

Cross country skis are constructed differently from standard alpine skis. The ski is highly 'cambered', or in other words, the ski demonstrates a pronounced built-in arc.

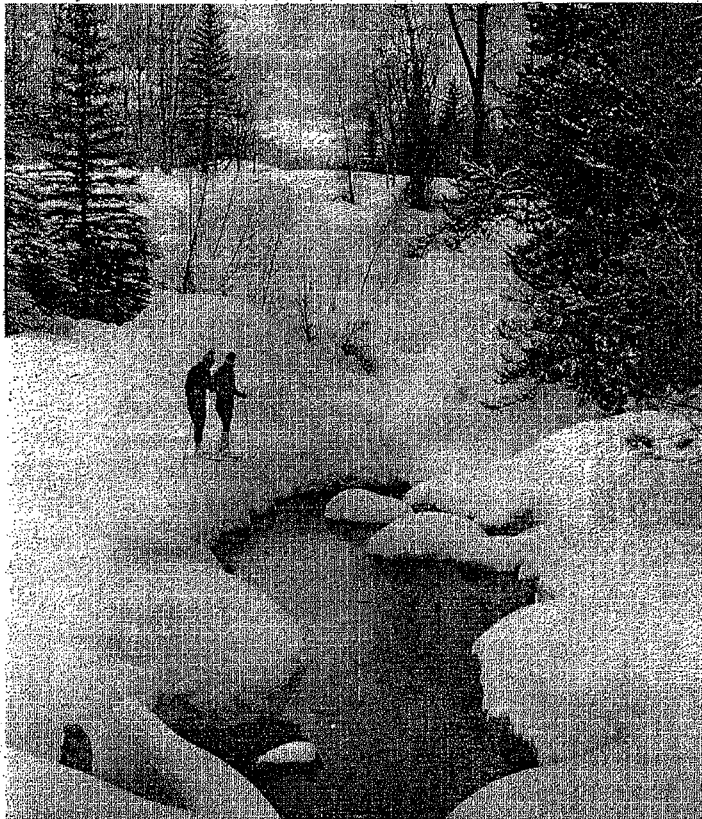
Because of this arc, the skier must put his weight on the ski in order for the center to touch the snow. The shovel and the tail of the ski are constructed such that when properly waxed, they slide over the snow.

It is in the center portion of the bottom surface that the cross country ski exhibits its most marked uniqueness. On this portion of the ski is placed a medium which allows no reverse travel.

What this means to the skier is that when weight is placed on the ski, and the cambered portion comes in contact with the snow, the skier will have a firm anchor from which to push off, removing weight from the other ski.

As this happens, the weightless ski is thrust forward and weight is transferred back upon it. As the movement cycle repeats itself, the skier progresses forward in an exaggerated pattern of thrusts and glides.

The medium utilized to provide a static contact with the snow comes in basically two forms. The first one we shall consider is the waxless type, consisting of strips which are set into the ski. Into these strips are carved either steps or fish scale patterns which are directional so as to allow no reverse movement.



Cross Country skiing is gaining wide popularity as an attractive alternative to crowded downhill skiing facilities.

Other materials such as Mohair, with the hair laying in one direction, may also be used on the waxless ski.

The second major type of cross country ski is the waxable type. Instead of using a section of ski which has vertical relief, the skier uses a series of waxes to obtain the same effect. These waxes have the ability to bind with ice crystals to provide a static anchor. Depending on the temperature and snow conditions, different waxes need be applied. The reason for this is that as temperature and snow conditions change, so does the shape of snow crystals. It is the sharp edges of the snow crystals which bind with the wax.

Cross country skiing is unique among other winter sports. It is relatively inexpensive compared to the other sports. Cross country skiing can be done anywhere there is snow and it contributes more to overall physical fitness than just about any other winter or summer sport. Furthermore, Nordic skiing can cover a broad range of human activity — from a Sunday

picnic to a full-fledged Olympic event.

Arizona has a number of areas where snow conditions remain favorable for some period of time in the winter. Around Tucson we have five major mountain ranges which provide areas for cross country skiing.

To the north of Tucson are the Catalina Mountains which reach an altitude of 9100 ft. and have snow for 2-3 months of the year which is skiable on Nordic skis. A very nice run is the trail which passes by Lemmon Rock. An abandoned jeep trail, this enjoyable route can extend anywhere from 1/2 to 10 miles, if you care to progress into steeper grades. Several other old roads and trails in the Catalina range can also be skied once snowed over.

The Rincon Mountains, to the east of Tucson offer some very nice remote skiing around Mica Mountain. Further to the east are the Pinalino Mountains, commonly called the Grahams, which reach an altitude providing suitable snow conditions for Nordic skiing. The paved road winding to the top of the Graham range may or may not be open in heavier snow conditions.

In southeastern Arizona are the Chiricahua

Mountains, an area with extensive roads and trails accessible to the cross country buff. Just to the south of Tucson are the Santa Rita Mountains, and further to the east of these are the Huachuca Mountains. These two mountain ranges may also have favorable snow conditions as winter peaks.

The White Mountains, in central Arizona, are a five-hour drive from Tucson, and is one of the most popular areas for Nordic skiing in the state. These mountains peak at over 11,000 ft., and have cross country trails that are packed and marked near both Greer, Arizona and Sunrise.

Due to the ever-growing downhill ski populace, more and more skiers are getting away from the crowds and lift lines and enjoying the wilderness solitude areas on cross country skis.

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# Davies Elected Vice President State Co-op

George Davies, owner and manager of Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley, has been elected Vice President of the statewide Grand Canyon State Electric Co-op Board of Directors. Mr. Davies is a Director of Trico Electric

Co-op. J. A. Kartchner of Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Co-op is the new President. Lyle McDonald, General Manager of the Trico Co-op was chosen for another term as secretary.



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## THE MOUNTAIN ECHO

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| Minimum 3 months | \$2.00/column inch (6 issues) |
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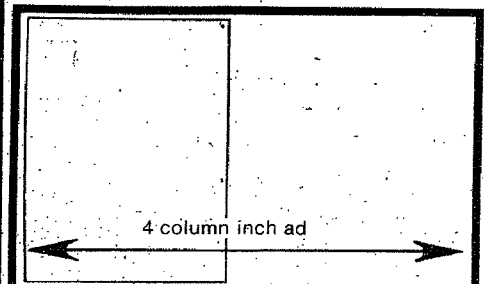
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## THE MOUNTAIN ECHO

is published twice a month

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Editor & Publisher Frances R. Morse

# Goings On

## March

- 1 Cub Scout Troop 108  
3:30 p.m. — Mt. Lemmon  
Mt. Lemmon Girl Scout Troop  
4:30 p.m. — Mt. Lemmon
- 2 Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department  
Training — 6 p.m. — Mt. Lemmon  
Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department  
Meeting — 7 p.m.
- 6 Polish Ski Club  
7:30 p.m. — 2744 E. Broadway, Tucson  
Tucson Rough Riders, Inc.  
7:30 p.m. — Gusto Beer Distributors  
3635 E. 34th, Tucson
- 7 Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club Luncheon  
1 p.m. — 3232 E. Flower, Tucson  
University Ski Club  
8 p.m. — Student Union  
University of Arizona, Tucson
- 8 Cub Scout Troop 108  
3:30 p.m. — Mt. Lemmon  
Mt. Lemmon Girl Scout Troop  
4:30 p.m. — Mt. Lemmon
- 9 Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department  
Training — 6 p.m. — Mt. Lemmon
- 12 Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association  
Board of Directors — 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Mt. Lemmon National Ski Patrol  
7:30 p.m.  
Polish Ski Club  
7:30 p.m. — 2744 E. Broadway, Tucson
- 14 University Ski Club  
8 p.m. — Student Union  
University of Arizona, Tucson
- 15 Public Hearing on Water Co-op  
Rate Change — 9 a.m.  
Room 200, State Office Building,  
415 W. Congress, Tucson  
Cub Scout Troop 108  
3:30 p.m. — Mt. Lemmon  
Mt. Lemmon Girl Scout Troop  
4:30 p.m. — Mt. Lemmon
- 16 Fireman's Ball  
8 p.m. — Mt. Lemmon Ski Lodge
- 20 Polish Ski Club  
7:30 p.m. — 2744 E. Broadway, Tucson
- 21 Tucson Four Wheelers  
7 p.m. — Golden Eagle Distributors  
705 E. Ajo, Tucson  
University Ski Club  
8 p.m. — Student Union  
University of Arizona, Tucson
- 22 Cub Scout Troop 108  
3:30 p.m. — Mt. Lemmon  
Mt. Lemmon Girl Scout Troop  
4:30 p.m. — Mt. Lemmon
- 23 Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department  
Training — 6 p.m. — Mt. Lemmon
- 27 Polish Ski Club  
7:30 p.m. — 2744 E. Broadway, Tucson
- 28 University Ski Club  
8 p.m. — Student Union  
University of Arizona, Tucson
- 29 Cub Scout Troop 108  
3:30 p.m. — Mt. Lemmon  
Mt. Lemmon Girl Scout Troop  
4:30 p.m. — Mt. Lemmon
- 30 Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department  
Training — 6 p.m. — Mt. Lemmon

# Letters

## Dear Editor,

I enjoyed your first edition of Mountain Echo received today. My cabin is in Upper Sabino Canyon and I really am wondering if it, and the road, are still there. The night (November 11, 1978) the firehouse was hit by falling trees, my International Travelall truck was flattened by another tree in front of the cabin — total loss!

I belong to a hunting club which is very conservation oriented. They have all volunteered to work on a Mt. Lemmon

fence removal project close to the Youth Camp on February 24, with full approval from the Forest Service. About 25 members of S.A.W.C. (Southern Arizona Wildlife Callers) will climb to the fence and take it down. (They removed half of it last year.) Probably few people knew about it.

Anyway, just a note for your paper. Keep up the good work!

Hope the road gets better.

Roy V. Haskell  
Tucson

# Spotlight

(continued from page 2)  
make sure there wasn't a train. "Can't play it like I used to," he grinned as he carefully put his mouth harp away.

Stories about the icy Catalina Highway cause Buster to shake his head. "I drove that road summer and winter in a 1937 pickup truck pulling a horse trailer. Never used chains or anything. It's just a matter of knowing how to drive it."

In 1956 Buster Bailey went to work for the Forest Service. That was his last summer on Mt. Lemmon and he worked up at Lemmon Rock. "Rebuilt the corrals and put the road in up there."

From the Forest Service, Buster went to work for the Fish and Game Commission. But after a year or two with them he moved to California. Since 1967, he's been back in Arizona. But he has no desire to see the mountain again. "It's just changed too much — all this pollution — and most

of the old timers are gone."

For Buster's biggest regret about the mountain he blames himself. Back in 1937 he had a little business going. He opened up the mouths of a couple of caves at Peppersauce Canyon and started taking people in on tours through the caves. But the people he took in told others and pretty soon the caves were just ruined. "I know where there are a lot more back there," he smiled, "but I'm not telling anyone where. I don't want them torn up, too."

Before I leave, Mr. Bailey wants to show me one more thing. In his back yard is a 1937 pickup truck. It's pretty rough looking, but there's a twinkle in his eye when Buster explains that this is the very same truck he used to haul supplies up Mt. Lemmon. And he's rebuilding the truck. He hasn't lost his knack for keeping equipment running and his goal now is to get this running again.

# Classifieds

Mt. Echo's classified ads reach more than 2,000 readers. Rates are \$2.00 for the first ten words and 10¢ for each additional word.

Call Frances Morse at 791-9733 to place your ad today!!

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# Poet's Place

## THE AFTERMATH

Anxiety is tearing at my sleeve  
Loneliness has opened up to me.  
I stand back and reflect in awe.  
Why fly through my thoughts.  
Barely stopping to share a moment

What is my karma?  
Why am I here?  
Alone... Something so new  
Scared breathless of the unknown.  
I don't know what happened.  
I probably never will.  
I feel like a child  
Lost at the fair.

Fannie A. LeClerc



A sprinkle of morning dew in your eyes  
A forest of hues in their color  
Looking through me  
Looking with me  
Sharing a secret so obvious

Fannie A. LeClerc



# Woman's Club Works for Community

by Regina Rhind

"Where there's a woman, there's a way." This seems to be true of the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club. Under the guidance of President Katherine Lovett, the women have, during the past year done a lot for their community.

One of their major projects has been to raise money to attempt to acquire better sanitation facilities for the mountain. This was done in conjunction with "Mt. Lemmon Presents" by selling "Save the Lemmon" Tee-shirts. These can still be obtained by contacting Florence Wilhoite, 326-3380, or any member of the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club. In June 1978 a check for \$1100.00 was given to the County to assist them in acquiring Federal Funds for the necessary sanitation facilities.

Another of their projects has been the continuing goal of getting a Community Building. The building is needed for meetings, religious services, potluck dinners, and school programs. In the meantime the group has been working on acquiring some place to hold religious training for the young people on the mountain.

For the third consecutive year, the Woman's Club presented the annual Fourth of July Festival on the mountain. This includes the Arts and Crafts Fair, Parade, Fiddler's Contest, Children's games and three days of fun. The group is making plans for a fourth annual festival for 1979. In 1977 the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club organized and sponsored the first Cub Scout Troop ever on Mt. Lemmon. But in 1978 several of the young men graduated from the Cubs and a Boy Scout Troop was organized. Girl Scouts and Brownies were combined, so a third group was started. Now the women are sponsoring three active scouting groups on the mountain.

A continuing project which the Club does every year in December, is the decorating of the village for Christmas. Lights, greenery, tinsel, red bows, and life-sized figures of Santa, his sleigh, and the reindeer are used.

Because of the small size of Zimmerman School, the Mt. Lemmon

Woman's Club works closely with the students. This past year they furnished drivers for several field trips and presented a record of historic music "Music of America" for the school.

Another continuing project of the women on Mt. Lemmon has been the Mt. Lemmon Library. A small building, located just off the main road in Summerhaven, the library is open regularly during the summer months and is open in the winter when the weather permits. The shelves are full of both fiction and nonfiction. Special emphasis has been placed on books for young people and children. Each year the group tries to make a major purchase of books to add to the supply. In addition all donations of books are happily accepted.

For several years the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club has hosted the annual dinner just prior to the general meeting of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Assn. Again, in 1978 this project was a major fall event.

At the first of every summer the women try to sponsor a safety program for the children of the mountain. This past summer, with the help of Ken and Irene Smith, a bicycle rodeo was conducted. Ken showed the children how to care for their bikes, gave them pamphlets on safety, and acted as judge in several races. Safety flags were given as prizes.

Several fund raising projects are held during the year. The money raised is always used to community improvements. Current goals are to continue with the beautification project for Sabino Canyon Park which was started several years ago, help the Fire Department raise fund for needed equipment, build the community building, and help with the new sanitation system scheduled to be completed sometime during the summer.



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ROUGH COUNTRY • STROPPE  
ADVANCE ADAPTER • HOUSE OF STEEL

## Lee's 4 - Wheel Drive

3 W. FT. LOWELL  
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