

THE MOUNTAIN ECHO

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 6

MT. LEMMON, ARIZONA

APRIL 20, 1979

WORK TO BEGIN ON MOUNTAIN ROADS

Hopefully, by the time you read this, major work will have started on several of the mountain roads. For the past several months a work crew has been working to fill some of the chuck-holes in the highway. There are still many to go. Four men with shovels cannot make too much progress.

Contracts are currently being issued for the federally funded work to repair the results of the winter's disastrous storms. Hopefully those of us who have walked through mud and snow for the past year will be able to drive to our doors before too much longer.

Parking area in the Village is also at a premium. The dirt areas on each side of the paved road are still very soft and some large ditches have caused several cars to get stuck. According to Ron Ayers, Director of Customer Services for the Highway Department, this will be repaired before the peak summer traffic starts coming to the mountain. Now that the snow is melting, work can be started on many of these areas that have been put off because of the weather.

Mt. Lemmon has long been a stepchild in Pima County. Too often when people have called about the condition of the highway or side roads, they have been given the statistics on the tax revenue generated by homes and businesses on Mt. Lemmon and the amount of money being spent by the county for maintenance and repair.

Of course most of us feel that all of Tucson derives a benefit from the

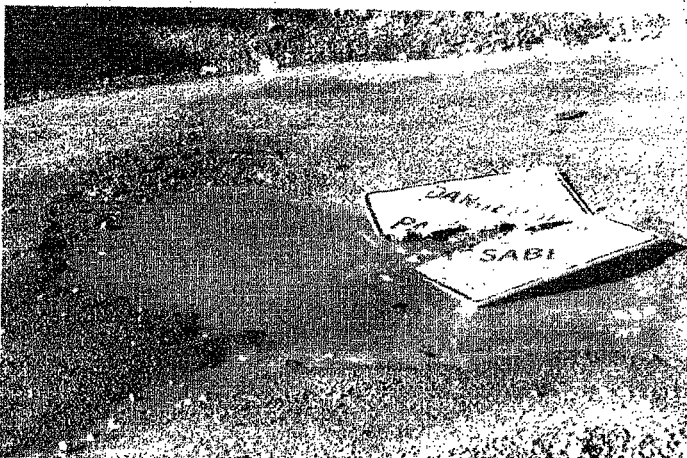


Photo by Leslie May

This is one of the many chuck holes which has hampered travel on the mountain this year.

mountain. The half million people who drive on the road a year, do not all live or even own cabins on the mountain. Many of these drivers are people who come to the mountain for fishing, bird watching, camping, hiking, taking

pictures, or skiing. Mt. Lemmon offers a decided contrast to the desert and Tucson. For this reason alone, access to the mountain should be maintained.

Now that the federal

government has stepped in to help with some of these costs of repairing the damage, we can only hope that the county will give the roads the proper maintenance they need to keep them in good condition.

MORE MONEY RAISED FOR FIRE EQUIPMENT

The third fund-raising dinner just completed raised more than \$300 for the Volunteer Fire Department bringing the total to more than \$2,400.

In addition, the volunteers are selling smoke alarms, tee shirts and ball point pens. If you need

any of these or want to help these hard working volunteers, call or stop by the Alpine Lodge when you are on the mountain.

The next dinner, on May 5 at 6 pm at the Alpine Lodge, will feature oriental food, along with all the tap beer you can

drink. Again the price will be \$3.50 for the dinner for adults and \$1.50 for the children. Beer will be \$2.00 — all you can drink.

The last dinner of the season will be on May 19. Current plans are to serve ham hocks and navy beans.

ORDER EXTRA COPIES WHILE STILL AVAILABLE

Thanks for the terrific response we have had to the paper. Your good wishes and letters have really helped to boost my enthusiasm when things seemed slow.

We still need advertisers. If you have a business and feel that we might help get your advertising message across, give us a call at 791-9733

and give us the opportunity to help you.

While they are still available, back issues to The Mountain Echo may be ordered. We will mail any, or all of the back issues to you, for 25¢ a copy. Drop us a line with payment in advance and they will be mailed directly to you via first class mail.

MT. WOMEN ELECT PRESIDENT

Frances Zimmerman was elected President of the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club at a recent meeting. She will be installed on May 3 by Mrs. Henry Dupes of Fort Huachuca, President of the Southern

District. Other officers are Katherine Lovett, First Vice President; Vernelle Force, 2nd Vice President; Regina Rhind, Secretary; and Florence Wilhoite, Treasurer.



Fran Zimmerman will serve as President of the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club for 1979-1980.

Poet's Place

— THE POOL —

There is a tree with a hole in its trunk
That grows in the desert sand.
Where the water gathers after the rains
And nurtures the creatures of the land.
When the sun is hot it spreads its leaves
and cools the earth with its shade.
It scatters its seed upon the ground
where the rabbits and chipmunks played
Their paws left their mark
On its worn smooth bark
As they drank from the pool God made.

— Bernice O'Grotty

— MOUNTAIN MOON —

Looking to that silver face
Like a snow white gem
Shedding its magical glow
Upon your earth

She is my mirror
with which
to search my soul
She is my crystal ball
with which
to see the world
She is my Cupid
with which
to send forth

Softly I seek her
Gently I find her
Touching me
Touching you

(In honor of my Grandma
Sánchez for all she means
to me and for all that which
I neglected/forgot —)

Fannie A. LeClerc

Zimmerman School News

Students at Zimmerman School are looking forward to the warmer weather of spring. A recent class assignment was for the pupils to list the 10 reasons they were happy spring was finally here. Most of the students were happy it was spring, "because we can play kickball and baseball," and "because it is warmer."

Jimbo Morse and Kenneth Rinella brought shoes into their happiness. Jimbo likes spring because, "I can wear sneakers." Kenny was "happy it is spring because I can wear tennis shoes again."

Kenny also came up with several more original reasons for being happy it is spring. "I am happy it is spring because we can get our road fixed. I am happy it is spring because I will visit my Dad soon. I am happy it is spring because summer friends move back to the mountain. I am happy it is spring because we can go to Tucson more."

Two other popular reasons for being happy it is spring are "because school will be out soon," and "because we can go swimming." Several of the students are also looking forward to long hikes and climbing trees.

Jenny Hayes had a more specific reason. "I am happy it is spring because it is fun," and "I am happy it is spring because of butterflies."

Joey Noonkester says, "I am happy it is spring because we can go rock hunting." David Laplander came up with, "I am happy it is spring because I like all the green plants." Jimbo Morse likes "spring because of the baby animals." Vincent Tognaci was more specific. "I am happy it is spring because we can do lots of lizard hunting."

Heather Noonkester, though, is definitely looking to the future when she says, "I'm happy it is spring because it is almost fall."



Photo by Leslie May

Mayor Billy will be a safe date for anyone. Enter before May 15, 1979.



Spotlight



RANDOLPH (PAT) AND JULIA JENKS

by Frances Morse

"Today people go for walks or hikes. When we first came to the mountain, no one went hiking. You went prospecting. Wherever you went you carried a little pick and chipped at rocks. Everyone did it." According to Julia Jenks this is one of the biggest changes she has seen in her years on Mt. Lemmon.

The Jenks first came to Mt. Lemmon in 1938 to get out of the heat of Tucson. Their first summer on the mountain they lived in a little cabin across from the Mariposa Lodge. Their second year they moved into their own home, the Knagge cabin in Carter Canyon.

During the winter months they lived on their homestead at the foot of the Catalinas in Esperero Canyon, near Sabino. But when the weather turned hot, they came to the mountain. At first Mrs. Jenks drove their Chevrolet coupe up the back side of the mountain with the animals, supplies, and a nanny for the children. Mr. Jenks brought the two little children up the front trail on horseback. As the children were just babies, they were led by their father. Then once a month a trip to Tucson was made to get more supplies.

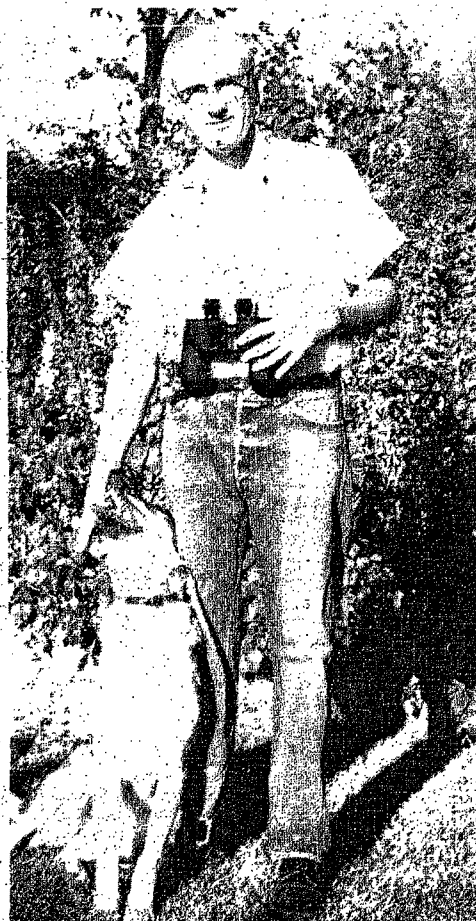
O'Neal's Store was the only one at that time and they carried only staples like sugar, flour, and coffee.

The Jenks also kept a goat for milk and chickens for eggs. The goat was taken back to Tucson every winter, but the chickens were left to run wild in the winter. According to Pat Jenks, "Our second summer in the cabin the chickens came in with wild turkeys and something we called 'Chiturks,' half turkey and half chicken. I've talked to a lot of people about that and no one has ever heard of it happening anywhere else."

The nearest cabin to the Jenks' place in Carter Canyon was a summer

school run by two women, Mrs. Ransier and Mrs. Broadbent. Mrs. Broadbent also acted as the mountain nurse when someone was hurt. One summer the Jenks' children brought a kitten to the mountain with them. The kitten broke its leg. It was broken bad with the bones sticking out each side. Mrs. Jenks continues her story. "We took the kitten to Mrs. Broadbent at the school. She soaked the leg in Lysol and set the bone. After she bandaged it, we would take the cat home and put it in a little pen we had set up. The next morning when the children went out to check on their pet, the bandages were off and the bone separated again. We took it back to Mrs. Broadbent and she soaked it, set it, and bandaged it again. And the next morning the bandages were off and the bones separated again. This went on all summer. It became the summer's entertainment for the entire mountain. Every morning all the kids from the school would walk up Carter Canyon to see how the kitten was. And every morning we would all walk back down the road to see Mrs. Broadbent. She would soak, set and bandage the leg. The entire group then would walk back up to our place to see the kitten put into his pen. This went on most of the summer. Suddenly one morning the bandages were off, but the bones were still in place. Shortly after that the kitten was running around all over the place as if nothing had ever happened."

The Jenks family had a lot of experiences with animals during their years on Mt. Lemmon, some of them good and some not so good. There were a lot of chipmunks on the Mountain then. When he was small, Randy Jenks took one each summer for his pet. He would keep the chipmunk with him constantly all summer. Each fall Randy wanted to take his pet to the desert with him, but his parents would say no. And each summer the cycle would



start again.

Mrs. Jenks remembers her encounter with a mountain lion as though it only happened yesterday. It started one summer when Francis Knagge was lion hunting on the mountain. He showed Julia and Pat Jenks some lion tracks that he had found on Mt. Lemmon.

A few days later Mrs. Jenks decided to walk over their property to the mines where Pat was working. The first unusual thing she noticed on her walk was a huge tree that was shaking. A small squirrel was running around the tree just chattering like mad. The tree was shaking as though there were high winds, but it was a calm day. "I looked and noticed it," said Mrs. Jenks, "but it didn't interest me enough to make me stop and investigate."

"Shortly after that I

grew tired and stopped to rest at a rocky spot where the columbine were growing beautifully. As I looked around, I saw the area was covered with fresh lion tracks. Suddenly I remembered the tree and was so afraid I started shaking. There was a small opening underneath one of the rocks, so I just crawled in and hid until I could calm down. It must not have been very long, but it seemed like hours. When I crawled out, I started running and didn't stop until I reached the house."

Pat Jenks takes over the story and continues from there. "That evening the horses were real skittish. One of them jumped the fence and came up to the house. We never saw anything, but two days later Francis Knagge got a lion a few miles from the cabin. He

(continued to page 4)

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Mountain Is Monument To Sara Plummer Lemmon

by Frances Morse

The year was 1880. Arizona was definitely the Wild West. The Shoot Out at O.K. Corral in Tombstone was still in the future. And the arrival of the first train to Tucson with President Rutherford B. Hayes was a social event.

Stepping off that same train was Professor John Gill Lemmon and his new bride, Sara. Since botany had been the interest that brought them together, it was only natural that their first months as husband and wife be spent in pursuing their joint hobby.

A preliminary excursion was made to Sabino Canyon at the foot of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Because of stories of the sudden winter storms that could descend with no warning, the Lemmons decided to postpone the trip until spring. A botanist friend, Mr. Pringle, and General Carr, the founder of Fort Lowell, warned the Lemmons that no white man had ever succeeded in passing over the southern rim of the canyon and that, but recently, it was one of the strongholds of the savage Apache nation. This information intensified their resolution to penetrate those unknown mountains.

The Professor and his wife set out from Tucson in March 1881. Sara Lemmon was 45 at this time and her husband was



1884 artist's conception of the Lemmons' journey up Mt. Lemmon.

49. She wore a short suit of heavy material, firm calfskin shoes nailed along the soles and heels with gimp tacks, and strong leather leggings to protect from cactus and snakes. A broad-brimmed hat with buckskin mask, and heavy gloves, a botanical portfolio, and a long staff, completed her outfit.

Using a deserted stick and mud cabin at the foot

of the mountains as headquarters, the Lemmons set forth every day at sunrise searching the foothills for plants. It took a week for them to explore and find a route which could supposedly be climbed.

Following a dry creek bed, they discovered a cave in the side of a ravine. The interior resembled a half-open clam shell. Bits of pottery were in the dust of the floor, but there were no signs of snakes nor any other animal except for bats and moths. Sara set about making the cave a temporary home. Wooden pins were driven into cracks in the wall. Cords were stretched from these pins and soon the week's rations were suspended from this rope in little bags and cans.

The first day was spent on the stone porch of their cave, digging thorns and spines out of their hands and feet, repairing their clothes, discussing the past few days, and planning the next day's ascent of the mountain.

By 10 am the next morning they were well up the first bluffs of the ridge giving them an extended view of the plains below. Nearest lay the square parade ground of Fort Lowell, surrounded by tall, green poplar trees. Farther out on the plain to the west lay the old city of

Tucson, bunched together for protection against Indians. But every way they climbed they were turned back by deep chasms, impossible to cross. For a week they tried, resting every other day, but each route became impassable, each a little higher up the mountain.

Dejected they returned to Tucson without reaching the top of the mountain, but with heavy bundles of plants and full sacks of fern roots. In the town they conferred with Colonel Poston and General Rice, for whom Rice Peak was later named. Both of these men were interested in mining on the north side of the Santa Catalinas and suggested the Lemmons try climbing from that side as it was less steep. Mayor Robert Leatherwood suggested they stop first at the Stratton Ranch.

Sara and John took the stage to Oracle Camp and slowly started up the mountain with their things packed on a burro. A few days later they reached the home of E. O. Stratton. Mrs. Stratton and her two little girls had not seen another white woman for eight months.

Taking this as an opportunity for a hunting trip, Stratton equipped the expedition with horses. He took his rifle as much to defend against roving Apaches, as to shoot any deer. On the way up the mountain they stopped at Copper Mine Camp. Since it was the first time a white woman was seen on the mountain, the miners celebrated by a party in the superintendent's cabin.

The next day the Lemmons continued. Soon the trail disappeared and they were compelled to dismount and lead the horses. Stratton had never climbed as high, but he was able to select a passable route and slowly, hour by hour, they ascended the mountain.

In his memoirs, E. O. Stratton writes that the first time he saw the Lemmons, "Dr. Lemmon was riding a small burro and she was walking behind." Stratton continues "...we went to the highest peak of the Santa Catalinas and christened it Mt. Lemmon in honor of Mrs. Lemmon who was the first white woman up there. I chopped the bark (continued to page 4)

Letters

Dear Editor:

I just thought I would drop you a line and let you know how much I enjoyed reading the first edition of the Mountain Echo.

Mount Lemmon has always been one of my favorite places for spending a few pleasant hours among the pines and just plain relaxing. Your paper reminded me of those times and with all of the hectic activity of the Congress going on around me, I have made myself a promise that on my next trip home I will once again take off a day and come sit on the mountain.

Keep up the good work. I'm looking forward to future issues.

Sincerely,

Morris K. Udal
Congress of the
United States

Dear Frances:

Note Page #3 of this month's issue of my Rag...

"...Maybe it goes back to our Indiana farm upbringing, but we still enjoy reading small town newspapers. One of our favorites is the 'Mountain Echo' of Mt. Lemmon, AZ (in the Catalina Mtns. above Tucson). This bi-weekly four pager is the funniest we have read in years. Recent feature articles were on a March of Dimes car rally the

town drunk, the Polish (!) Ski Club, and an old-time ranch hand. Only \$5 per year subscription. Write: The Mountain Echo, Box 48, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619."

At least, this will show you that someone out there appreciates The Mountain Echo.

Your article on "Mayor Billy" was a classic!

Keep up the good work!

If you ever want to exchange subscriptions, please drop me a line and I will put you on my "comp list."

Good luck.....

Frank Ashley,
P. O. Box 291
Culver City, Calif. 90230

Dear Ed,

Okay — Okay, I lie, I cheat, I'm egotistical and I'm incompetent. But I'll be hanged, if I'll listen to any more of this nonsense about being unqualified. With my characteristics the only job I'm qualified for is to be a politician. If the voters would wise up and realize that politics is the only occupation that a politician can do and that you, the voters, would have to pay us welfare anyway if it wasn't for politics, maybe all that complaining would stop.

Mayor Billy

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

FOR SALE: 1941 Chevy 1/2 ton, original factory engine overhauled, 4 speed, radio, heater, defroster, electric wipers, all works. Too much rebuilt and replaced mechanical to list. Body needs work, but complete and restorable. Excellent interior. \$895 firm. Cash. Call 791-9733 after 7:00 p.m.

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ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE MAYOR'S WAR
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VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Goings On

MAY, 1979

- 1 Tucson Rough Riders, Inc.
7:30 pm — Gusto Beer Distributors
3635 E. 34th, Tucson
- 2 Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club
1:00 pm — 4787 N. Via Entrada, Tucson
Cub Scout Troop 108
4 pm — Zimmerman School, Mt. Lemmon
- 3 Mt. Lemmon Girl Scout Troop
4:30 pm — Zimmerman School, Mt. Lemmon
- 4 Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department
Business Meeting — 7:00 pm
Alpine Lodge, Mt. Lemmon
- 5 Oriental Dinner
VFD Fund-raising Project
6 pm — Alpine Lodge, Mt. Lemmon
- 9 Cub Scout Troop 108
4 pm — Zimmerman School, Mt. Lemmon
- 10 Mt. Lemmon Girl Scout Troop
4:30 pm — Zimmerman School, Mt. Lemmon
- 11 Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department
Training — 7 pm
Fire Station, Mt. Lemmon
- 13 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
- 16 Cub Scout Troop 108
4 pm — Zimmerman School, Mt. Lemmon
Tucson Four-Wheelers
TAGRA Clubhouse — 7:30 pm
Air National Guard, Tucson
- 17 Mt. Lemmon Girl Scout Troop
4:30 pm — Zimmerman School, Mt. Lemmon
- 18 Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department
Training — 7 pm
Fire Station, Mt. Lemmon
- 19 Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association
Board of Directors — 10 am
Alpine Lodge, Mt. Lemmon
Ham Hock and Beans
VFD Fund-raising Project
6 pm — Alpine Lodge, Mt. Lemmon
- 23 Cub Scout Troop 108
4 pm — Zimmerman School, Mt. Lemmon
- 24 Mt. Lemmon Girl Scout Troop
4:30 pm — Zimmerman School, Mt. Lemmon
- 25 Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire Department
Training — 7 pm
Fire Station, Mt. Lemmon
- 26-27-28 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
- 30 Cub Scout Troop 108
4 pm — Zimmerman School, Mt. Lemmon

SARA LEMMON

(continued from page 3)
off a great pine tree on the very top and we all carved our names."

Finding mule tracks, the climbers followed them to a crude cabin. Inside were two grizzled hunters, almost starved to death from the heavy winter that had just passed. They were shocked to see a woman in the party, feeling it was not possible for a woman to do what Sara Lemmon had done.

While the Lemmons collected plant specimens, Stratton hunted. He killed 10 deer, hanging one up by a tree one night, intending to bring it in the next morning. According to the Lemmons a lion took the deer, carrying it away in his mouth. The lion was so big that the full grown buck dragged neither the antlers nor hoofs on the soft ground as he was carried away. In addition, Stratton killed wild turkeys that weighed at least 40 pounds each. Part of the meat was left with the starved men and the remainder packed back to the Stratton ranch.

Several years later when George J. Roskrige constructed a map of Pima County, he placed Sara Lemmon's name on the map so that the peak became officially known as "Mount Lemmon." While several mountain peaks are named for women, Mt. Lemmon appears to be the only peak in the United States named after the first woman to climb to its top.

After the Catalinas the Lemmons visited the Chiricahua Mountains and then Fort Huachuca, Arizona. In September 1882 John wrote to friends in California, "This botanizing in the land of the Apaches and cowboys is a very risky business to be sure, but then its results are most satisfactory."

According to her grandnephew, Dr. Harold St. John, Sara Plummer Lemmon was enthusiastic, sincere, intense, a driver, and an organizer, cultured, literary, and scientific. She devoted her life to "doing something."

One of the most amazing facts about Sara and John Lemmon is that on their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, they again returned to Tucson. And with Mr.

Stratton again as guide, the Lemmons once more climbed the highest peak in the Santa Catalina Mountains. At this time she was 70 and her husband was a spry 74.

In addition to having the mountain peak named for her, Sara Plummer Lemmon had an entire group of plants named for her by the outstanding U.S. botanist of the 19th century, Harvard's Asa Gray. The plants, plumera, yellow wildflowers in the daisy family, somewhat resemble the goldenrod and bloom each summer from July through September in southeastern Arizona.

In 1890 Sara Lemmon undertook to get the golden poppy adopted as the California state emblem. She was the author of the bill which was passed in the California State Senate on March 7, 1891. The eagle quill with which Governor Pardee signed the bill was presented to her by the governor.

In addition Sara Lemmon served as Artist for the California State Board of Forestry from 1887 to 1891. She also wrote and published, "Marine Algae of the West," and "Western Ferns." She continued to travel with her husband and collect specimens. During the World Exposition in New Orleans in 1884-85, the Lemmons took six first place awards in Botany.

Apparently Sara Lemmon was active in club work. In 1900 she published a pamphlet for the California Federation of Women's Clubs, entitled, "Some Hints Upon Forestry." She did this in her capacity as first Chairman of the Committee on Forestry for California's Federation.

In 1902 she served as Chairman of the Executive Board of the California State Red Cross. As a warm, personal friend of Miss Clara Barton, Sara was very active in this organization and edited, "The Record of Red Cross Work on the Pacific Slope."

Sara Lemmon lived a full and remarkable life. She was 93 when she died on January 16, 1929. But the monuments to this woman live on.

SPOTLIGHT

(continued from page 2)
said it was the biggest lion he had ever seen. We never had any more trouble afterward."

At another time the Jenks family adopted a fawn. It quickly became a member of the family. As Marie Jenks was a baby at the time, the fawn was raised with her on the same formula. The deer was named Bambi and followed Pat Jenks all over the mountain like a dog.

Mr. Jenks remembers, "We took Bambi to Tucson with us when we left in the fall. All winter Bambi would lay in front of the fireplace with our dog, King. When he greeted me after I had been out all day, he would throw his paws on my shoulders and lick my forehead. As he got older, I really had to brace myself."

"We were always afraid we would be caught with the deer," Julia Jenks added. "And one of our best friends in the desert was the Ranger from Sabino Canyon. That year we just weren't as friendly. One day I was out walking and he stopped to offer me a ride back to the house. I insisted that I enjoyed walking and he insisted that I get into his truck. I climbed in, but before we got to the house I told him about Bambi."

"If he isn't fenced, if he is perfectly free, there is nothing I can do about it." As we pulled up to the house, I saw King and Bambi sitting beside the front steps — perfectly free. The strange vehicle must have startled him because he took off as we pulled in."

"Bambi's favorite foods were graham crackers and the neighbor's flowers. But our neighbor got terribly upset over her flowers. One day her husband hauled Bambi up to the old prison camp about seven miles up the front side of Mt. Lemmon. At first everything was fine. Everyone was making such a fuss over him and he loved attention. Then a whistle blew. It was one of those that signaled a change of shifts or something. It scared him. Later, they told me that he scaled a wall that was 20 feet high to get away."

"That was almost the end. For years we stopped, and called everytime we saw a deer. It must have been about eight years later when we were driving near Loma Linda one day and saw this beautiful buck. We called and the buck stopped. He would seem to be listening just as Bambi used to do. He came to about 10 feet from us. If we stepped closer he would back away. If we backed away he would step forward, keeping about the same distance between us. Oh I wished I had some graham crackers. I was just sure that was Bambi. We never saw him again after that."

It is obvious that the Jenks family has some wonderful memories of their summers on the mountain. Because of their properties in New Mexico, they don't get up very often any more. Hopefully we'll see more of them on the mountain this summer. They still have many friends on the hill.

Lemmonites Throw Party for Rogers



On April 14 residents of Mt. Lemmon turned out to surprise Ray Rogers on his 50th birthday. A party was held at the Vine Restaurant with sandwiches, cake and ice cream. Ray is the driver

that brings the mail up to the mountain daily. In addition, he brings up supplies for the businesses on the mountain and picks up emergency items for all the locals when needed.

THE MOUNTAIN ECHO

is published twice a month

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Editor & Publisher Frances R. Morse

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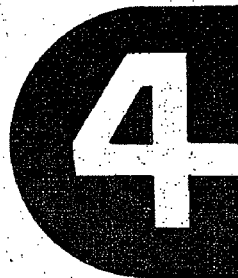
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