

THE MOUNTAIN ECHO

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 8

MT. LEMMON, ARIZONA

JUNE 5, 1979

Fire Takes Mountain Post Office

It was 4:15 a.m. when Madonna Miller awoke and shut the window. She climbed back into bed without noticing anything. But just moments later John Miller woke her up again asking if she smelled smoke. According to Mrs. Miller the entire valley of Summerhaven was covered with a cloud of smoke. There were lights at some of the neighboring cabins but the smoke was so thick the lights couldn't be seen.

Madonna grabbed the telephone and started calling. It was only moments after she called that Jack Chilson drove past to the village.

The fire was in the Post Office and had apparently burned for quite awhile undetected. Twelve volunteers from the Mt. Lemmon Volunteer Fire

Department had the fire out before 5 a.m.

The inside of the post office was gutted. Those beautiful old boxes were warped and burned. Most of the stamps and postal records were wiped out. Mt. Lemmon Realty, which is adjacent to the post office, received major smoke damage and adjoining walls were partially burned.

The fire was evidently started around the center of the building where there were no electrical lines or gas connections. According to the arson investigators from the Pima County Sheriff's Office, the fire appears to have been man caused, however it has not been established whether it was an accident or arson.

Bob Zimmerman, owner of the building, estimates that the post

office will be back into the remodeled and repaired building before the end of the month. Temporarily they are being housed in the Chuckwagon.

Jack Chilson, Fire Chief, boasts about the

promptness with which his volunteers answered the call and had the fire out. He also stresses that the new equipment recently purchased was what actually saved the building.



Postmaster Ben Lee looks at a pile of ashes that was once postal records.



Jimbo and Tony Morse inspect what was left of the post office.



Heat warped these "double eagle" mail boxes.

Fred Keers Elected President Of Water Cooperative



New President of the Co-op smiles as he climbs in truck to patrol the mountain.

Fred Keers was recently elected President of the Mt. Lemmon Water Co-op. Fred has served on the Board of Directors for several years. He is also on the Board of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Assn.

operators of Mt. Lemmon Security.

Ray Zuikowski is the new maintenance manager for the Water Co-op. Members of the Board are Gerry Hackney, Ginny Tognaci, Walter Rich, Ted Choate, John Eichenberger, Milo Blecha, Kip Ripley, and Bruce McKeller.

Fred and his wife Mary are the owners and

Jacksons Announce Daughter's Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd L. Jackson of Tucson, AZ announce the engagement of their daughter, Elise, to Steve Choate of Mt. Lemmon.

Steve is the son of Ted

and Joan Choate, of Mt. Lemmon. Steve works for the Forest Service and Elise is employed at the Vine Restaurant. The wedding is planned for May 1980.

Activities Scheduled for Fourth

The Fourth of July will again be on Mt. Lemmon this year. With just one day to celebrate, a lot of activities will be packed in. First will be the flag raising at the Fire Station, followed by our

parade. During the day there will be demonstrations by Scottish Dancers and booths, showing handiwork of our locals.

Also included will be

the election of our Mayor of Mt. Lemmon and a raffle with many valuable prizes.

The parade, billed as "not the largest, but the most enthusiastic," is

open to anyone who wants to enter. Contact Frances Morse at the Vine if you are interested. For information on space for a booth, contact Fran Zimmerman at 791-9772 or 791-9758.

Poet's Place

(Editor's Note) This verse was written by Mabel C. Kimball, whose husband was involved in the original subdivision of Summerhaven. It was written about her cabin which was built in 1917 and sold to Charles Stewart in 1927.

LITTLE SLAB HOUSE

Give me a house on the mountain-side
Where the trail winds steep and high,
Where the tall pines sing a soothing song,
As the phantom wind rides by;
Where the shadows fall so dense and dark,
The sun shines through in broken bits,
And far, far up on a blue-tipped fir,
A lonely owl in solemn silence sits.

Little slab house on the mountain-side,
Far, far from the cities' roar,
Let me sit by your glowing fire,
Let me dream and dream some more;
My weariness falls like a garment old,
Forgotten are grief and despair,
Stars shine over the fine old trees,
God knew my dream was a prayer.

LOS CONQUISTADORES

It was not very long ago
Just a few hundred years or so,
The land teemed with fish and birds
Plains dotted with mighty herds
At the end of a thousand years.
Rivers flowed through forests thick
On their trek to the open sea
Men ran amuck when they grabbed that land
Stretching as far as their eyes could see.
The days were long
From the cool of the dawn
To the fire of the setting sun
They cleared the land and, with Midas touch,
Turned all of it into gold
Built cities and towns where they settled down
And laughed as they counted their trove.
They dined and danced and drank their wine
With boasts of themselves as they roared.
But the rays of the sun reflected the change
And dried up the rivers and streams
The rains that fell where the forest had been
Washed away the land and their dreams.
The flood rolled down through the cities and towns
Where the despoilers gathered to see
They laughed and sang and taunted the flood
With "This cannot happen to me!"
The mud oozed high in the deep morass
It filled their gaping mouths
And buried the conquerors and their hoarded gold
Beneath its molten mass.

—Bernice O'Crotty

The Survivors

What was once
a blind memory
of how
one could have
made it
as friends
or lovers
but didn't
for some reason
and the indecision
associated
with attempting
to revise
the outcome
of that script
as it turned out
for me
is only

a nightmare

If today
you are who you are
by what you
have not done
but are still guilty
of some crime

then I am who I am
for what I
have done
needless
to mirror
the mask
any longer

—Gerry Blombeck



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Spotlight



MARY CHILDS COTTEN

by Frances R. Morse

"I was the phone girl. They chose me because I could leap over the rocks and get the people to the phone quickly. I don't remember the exact year, but I was just a girl. The Forest Service put one of their phones outside our cabin on a big pine with a little roof over the phone. People in Summerhaven had two hours that the phone could be used to make outgoing calls. During the other times the phone could only be used for incoming calls or by the Forest Service. It was my job to answer the phone and get the person called there as quickly as possible. I took my responsibility gravely and practically flew to get the people to the telephone."

Mrs. Cotten assures us that people didn't use that phone just to chat. Most of the calls were important and were for important people in Pima and Pinal Counties.

E.W. Childs, Mrs. Cotten's father, was the gentleman who originally put Summerhaven together. The Childs family lived in Mammoth where he was a Road Commissioner. He was looking around for a cool place to put his family for the summer and he found Mt. Lemmon. Again Mary Cotten wasn't sure of the exact date, but can place times by some of the big events. She remembers her brother going to the mountain to visit in 1910 and getting involved with fighting the big forest fire that year. Apparently the Forest Service drafted all the volunteers they could get.

So, apparently it was prior to 1910 that her father first nurtured an interest in developing a colony on Mt. Lemmon. And in 1915 he finally had enough backers to get Summerhaven Land & Improvement Co. started. These men were John F. Hankins, F.E.A. Kimball, Ira E. Huffman, B.F. Morris, Charles A. Thomas, John B. Ryland, R.B. O'Neil, J.B. Toohy, J. Edward Owen, and of course E.W. Childs as president. So on September 26, 1916 the incorporation papers were filed, the Frank Weber homestead was purchased and the name changed to Summerhaven. Three cottages were built almost immediately, one of them the Childs cabin.

In 1917 the sawmill was purchased from Jim Westfall and 20 more cabins were scheduled for completion. The first cabins rented for \$35.00 per month and each had its own outhouse.

According to Mrs. Cotten, the only people she remembers from Mt. Lemmon when she first came were Leta and Jim Westfall. Later she got to know the Huntsmans in Marshall's Gulch and Kitts in Soldier's Camp. Pauline Kitt and Nancy Huntsman were her companions and the walk



Photo Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society

from Summerhaven to Marshall's Gulch to Soldier's Camp was nothing.

Mrs. Cotten remembers the mountain as an unbelievably lovely place back in those early days. There were beautiful butterfiles, and the flowers were everywhere. Streams were much more numerous, and water seemed to "ooze from the ground every place you went. Shooting stars, purple violets, and lilies of the valley grew all over the mountain."

She also remembers the trip up the mountain. They came up the back side as far as Bob Leatherwood's orchard. There they parked the car and walked up. And the females had to wear high laced, hobnail boots.

Mary Childs Cotten spent every summer on the mountain until 1926 when her father died. She has many memories from this time. She remembers driving from Mammoth to Tucson with her family and the washboard dirt roads between the towns. By the time you reached Tucson, you were almost sick.

She remembers riding horseback around the mountain and Mr. Kimball bringing the mail up every week. Even though the Childs family had their own spring, Mary remembers bathing and washing clothes almost daily. She didn't have to haul water, but she did have to heat it over a wood stove.

With her father's death,

Mary Childs moved to California. Her mother had died at her birth and now her father was gone. Her stepmother was nice, but Mary felt it was time she left. In California Miss Childs met a friend of her brother's from Tucson and soon became Mrs. Lamar Cotten.

When the Cotten family moved to Tucson several years later, Mary again spent her summers on the mountain. At first she stayed in the old family place which now belonged to one of her

stepsisters. Eventually she built her own cabin on the mountain, where she stayed with her children Janice and Jerry. During this time she remembers the building of the front road. Even before the front road was completed, cabin owners were using it to get to their cabins. A gate was set up at the old prison camp and a ranger had to let you through. Eventually, she had her own key to the lock because she

(continued to page 4)

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Letters

Dear Editor:

Dear Francie,

Utterly Amazing! The Mt. Lemmon Post Office has been flooded with letters from my many fans, trying to win a date with ME! Surprisingly 99% of the entrants were people that had never met me.

While I'm at it, I'd like to put a stop to the ludicrous rumor that the only reason I ran this contest was because it was the only way I could get a date. What an absurdity! I just had a date back in 1967. It was my high school Senior Prom...My mother looked fabulous in a formal!

Yours Affectionately,
Mayor Billy

Thanks a million for being so thoughtful and sending us the Mountain Echo and the extra copies for our children! The article came out surprisingly well. Also, we learned a lot from it about Dr. and Mrs. Lemmon which we didn't know.

Yes, we want to receive the Mountain Echo regularly. Enclosed is the \$5 subscription.

Looking forward to seeing you again and continuing the story.

Gratefully,
Pat & Julia Jenks

Mountain Women Take More Awards At State Conv.

Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club again took awards at the State Convention of the Arizona Federation of Women's Clubs in Phoenix last month. Eight first places and nine second places were taken, as well as several third place awards and honorable

mentions.

Six members attended the convention with three staying for the three days. Those attending were Katherine Lovett, Chriss Sheldon, Mary Ann Arford, Fran Zimmerman, Regina Rhind and Francie Morse.

ACC Rules On Water Rates

Arizona Corporation Commission has notified the Board of Directors of the Mt. Lemmon Water Coop of their decision on metered rates for the membership. Clarification is still needed on several technical points.

ACC's ruling stated, "...the following rates and charges are hereby approved: \$10.00 minimum, no water; \$2.25 per

thousand gallons." In addition, the Commission approved a \$75.00 reconnect fee per year if the property owner has the water cut off for any reason.

The meters, though, are to be hooked up at no additional charge to the membership and members must be notified 30 days prior to the date the new rates will go into effect.

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Santa Catalina Mountain History

by Katherine Lovett

The Homestead Act of 1863 gave any citizen 160 acres if he would live on the land five years; make his home on it, and cultivate the land. When he had met these requirements, the acreage went to the patent and became his. This opened up the west to settlement, but on Mt. Lemmon it was a different story. The rough terrain between Tucson and the top of the mountain discouraged possible homesteaders' before 1882.

Exploration of mineral wealth was promoted by the Mineral Land Act of 1866 and the Timber Culture Act of 1873 made it possible for any settler who would cultivate trees on 40 acres to get a 160 acre tract. The Timber and Stone Act of 1878 made it simple for lumbermen to obtain more land at \$2.50 an acre. Because of these well-defined federal and state laws, many acres of land within the forest boundary passed into private ownership. Summerhaven is one example. There were 160 acres of patented land plus 200 acres of patented mining claims. One 160 acre block was filed on in 1882 by William Reed and Ira Carter under the Timber Homestead Act. Bad weather and no timber market caused the men to give up and claim was abandoned.

The first successful homestead on the mountain was in 1880 on the north side of the mountain. E. O. Stratton settled there and with his family became one of the first families of the Santa Catalina Mountains.

About 1900 William Kellogg and Frank Weber moved to the mountain and built a cabin on Upper Sabino Creek near where Carter Canyon and the main road meet. On May 4, 1905 William B. Alexander, U.S. Deputy Surveyor, made the original survey of the Mt. Lemmon area. This survey was necessary to embrace the agricultural claims of Kellogg and Weber. Mr. Alexander made this survey under his contract No. 131, dated May 4, 1905.

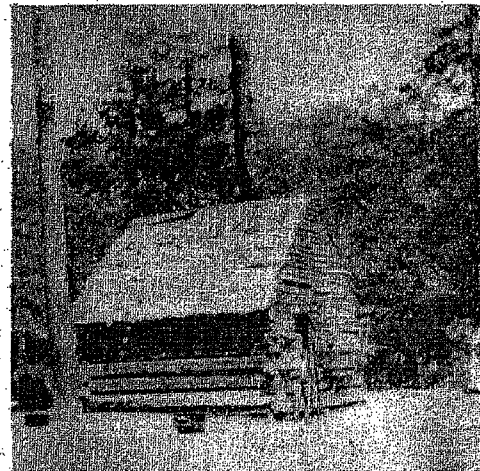
He began work on July 15 and completed his work on July 31. This survey reads like an unusual diary. The terrain was very rugged. Surveying was quite difficult. Many times he used pine trees for markers or sites. He used stones for center monuments. Other times he remarked, "Land extremely mountainous, soil fourth rate. Heavily timbered with pine and fire. Underbrush of oak very dense." At one point he even put "Land east and north of this place is impractical to survey."

But in spite of this rough terrain and the almost impossible access, the Catalina Mountains were used for recreation soon after the Civil War. After their sweltering desert campaigns against the Indians, soldiers from Ft. Lowell on the outskirts of Tucson camped near the top of the mountains near present day Soldier's Camp in the cool air of the pines.

In 1881 the following newspaper article appeared: "When adequate accommodations can be secured, there is no doubt the region will largely be resorted to by the ladies of Tucson who seek to escape the tropical climate of our heated time. Wherever the ladies go the gentlemen will follow and thus an attractive society will be gathered, and the expense of a long and tedious trip to distant states will be averted."

But in 1887 there was a drastic change in the Catalina Mountains. One early Tucson resident, Sophie Hughes Pickett, remembered the terrible earthquake in May, 1887. She told the Tucson Citizen on October 12, 1962, "an earthquake shook the Catalinas. Boulders were jarred loose by the tremors, and rattled down the mountains. This brought fears to the hearts of the beholders and many rushed to the church."

The Forest Service gave this account of the quake, "When the quake struck the Old Santa Catalina Mountains, great slices of the mountain gave away, and went tumbling down into the canyons, huge clouds



Original cabin from the Weber Homestead.
Photo Courtesy of Arizona Historical Society

of smoke or dust ascended into the blue sky high above the queenly mountains.

"In less than one hour, all the mountains in view of this section had forest fires in several places started by rock avalanches; which caused a friction setting fire to dry grass and leaves. Over the summit of Mt. Lemmon for quite awhile after the shock hovered a huge dark canopy of smoke or dust until it gradually faded away.

The first major effort to make a passable trail to Mt. Lemmon was in 1906 or 1907. Prior to this the only trail was the practically non-existent, one made by the soldiers. Ranger Robert Rogers was the driving force behind this new route. Six hundred dollars was raised from private donations and the Tucson Chamber of Commerce added \$500 to complete the project. The route was selected and surveyed by E. O. Stratton. It branched off the Sabino trail at Pinchot Park, followed Pine Ridge and connected with the old Soldier's Trail later. Camp spots were set up at intervals along the trail. It was completed in 1911 and called the Pine Ridge Trail.

In 1910 the Santa Catalina Mountains were again beset by a disaster. That was the year of the terrible fires, many of which might have been stopped before they became dangerous if there had been trails by which the firefighters could reach the fires quickly. This disaster, though, did point out the

problem to Washington D. C. where steps were taken to set up a trail system throughout the Santa Catalina Mountains. Between 1912 and 1916 many miles of trails were constructed which not only tended to reduce the fire danger, but also served the stockman, hunter, fisherman and recreationist.

By 1917 the main route to the top was still via the Pine Ridge Trail through Sabino Canyon. The only alternate route was through Oracle to Apache Camp. From the mine there was a trail to the top for the last five miles.

Already there were summer homes on the
(continued to page 4)

USDA Studies Fee Changes

A meeting on June 27 from 8:30 to 8:30 p.m. will be held at Fickett Junior High School in Tucson to allow input on the proposed fee changes for cabins within the Coronado National Forest. The fees are reappraised every five years and the new rates will go into effect on January 1, 1981.

Fees are based on 5 percent of the current market value of the permitted lot. The Forest Service especially needs any information regarding transaction evidence of comparable real estate sales.

If you are not able to attend the meeting, information can be mailed to Coronado National Forest, Federal Building, 301 West Congress, Tucson, AZ 85701.



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Mt. Problems Can Be Forecast of Better Times

by Frances Morse

It seems as if problems have been falling on Mt. Lemmon more than usual in the past few years. It really started during the country's bicentennial celebration when the problems with our wastewater facility came to public notice. For months I heard comments from Tucsonans about our raw sewage running through the creek. No one would believe it was not quite as bad as the E.P.A. put out.

Just prior to that we had fought the Forest Service over the cancelling of leases and the purchase of private land. Seventeen cabins were given notices that their leases would not be renewed after the ten-year period. Large blocks of property were purchased by the Department of Agriculture, but the encroachments into Summerhaven itself were temporarily halted. No new cancellation notices have been given recently. As a matter of fact, one

owner — whose cabin went down during the winter storms — has received permission to rebuild.

It was bad this winter when the roads were washed out, but even this setback seemed to have a silver lining. As a federal disaster area, attention was focused on us long enough to get some needed help. With federal aid, many of our roads will be repaired this time, where they will not wash out with every rain.

The Mt. Lemmon Water Cooperative has even received approval for a major loan which should solve some of these problems on a permanent basis. And the disaster money they received pulled us through a hard time.

In 1973 the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association recognized some of these problems. Committees were formed to work with the county on the sewer project, to work with the road problems (including

drainage), to work on a zoning proposal, and to work on establishing a Volunteer Fire Department. Now after six years and many adding problems, it looked like these dreams would finally be a reality. The University of Arizona School of Natural Resources after endless study and expenditures submitted basically the same plan to Planning and Zoning that we had submitted five years ago. Hearings on this plan will be scheduled soon.

After all these years, we have an active, qualified Volunteer Fire Department. The men are equipped, the truck is in good condition, and the volunteers seem to know how to use the equipment. A petition has been presented to the Board of Supervisors requesting the establishment of a fire district. Hopefully, this dream could also be a reality soon.

It actually seemed that finally people would

realize that Mt. Lemmon was a viable community. We were getting help and recognition from all quarters of government. We have been trying to do what we know should be done, but in this day of big government it cannot be done alone.

The Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club went to work on a major campaign to help raise money for the wastewater facility. Their "Save The Lemmon" tee shirts raised money for this project and the newspaper and television publicity they received did even more good than the money.

Finally, after years of hard work on everyone's part, it looked like the county was ready to start on the facility. Now, there is another setback. What is the E.P.A. thinking about? What must we, as a community, do to show them we are willing to help? Please give us a little help, to make something of this community we all love.

Forest Service Completes Draft Of Pusch Ridge Plan

The Coronado National Forest has recently completed a draft of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness Management Plan. Their proposal contains such breakdowns as use patterns, trails, fire suppression costs, and developed recreation

areas. Comments by the public are included in the back of the draft book.

The book is available for study by the public at Wilmet Branch Library and at the Santa Catalina Ranger District Office on Catalina Highway, and Bear Canyon Road.

Classifieds

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

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NEED A NEW ROOF? Free Estimates. Experienced Individual. Mountain references. Call 791-9123.

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consultation. Legal Clinic of Robert Arenz, Attorney at Law. 753 N. Park Ave. 884-8681.

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FOR RENT: Mt. Lemmon cabin. Week-end, week. Ph: 881-2582.

HELP WANTED: The U.S. Forest Service is accepting applications for positions in the Senior Conservation Employment Program. Applicants must be 55 years or older and meet low income requirements established by the Department of Labor. Employment will be light duty work with flexible days and hours. For more information, call Dennis Laplander at Pinaldes Ranger Station, 791-9861, or Pat Redman at 296-6245.

New Daughter Born To Iranian Visitors

A new baby girl, Vida, weighing 9 lbs and 6 oz was born Wednesday, May 9, to Joseph and Ferideh Rasoolzadegan of Iran.

Ferideh has been a

guest at and spoken to the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club on many occasions. Katherine Lovett and her daughter, Diane Borne are the host family for this young couple, and

recently gave a shower for Ferideh. Many people from the mountain attended.

Joseph is working on the Ph.D. at the University of Arizona.

Longtime Mt. Resident Dies in Mesa

We were sorry to hear of the recent death of Harold Lehan of Leisureworld in Mesa and Mt. Lemmon. The Lehans have been summer residents on Mt. Lemmon for many years. Hopefully we will still see Mrs. Lehan this summer and our condolences are with her.

Madonna Miller Honored With Surprise Party

On May 14 the employees at the Vine Restaurant and Alpine Lodge surprised the owner, Madonna (Mama) Miller with a birthday party. Many of the residents came by for cake and ice cream and to give Mrs. Miller their best wishes.

Madonna, with her husband John, have run the Vine Restaurant for the past seven years. In addition, Mrs. Miller is the broker for Summerhaven Realty and the Volunteer Fire Department Chairmen for the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Assn.

Mountain History

(continued from page 3) mountain and Knagge mule train hauled supplies, building materials, furniture, and people up the mountain through Sabino Canyon. There was talk of a road up the mountain. It appeared

that the newspaper prediction of 1881 was already coming true.

SPOTLIGHT

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used the road so regularly.

Mrs. Cotten has seen much happen to the mountain since the original subdivision by her father. She sold her cabin years ago when the children were grown and she was alone. When the old Childs' cabin burned down in the early 70's she had mixed emotions.

For a time she came to

the mountain to visit friends, but now her doctor tells her she must not even do that. So she spends her time trying to put together a little history of her family. She also reads quite a bit. She really doesn't mind not visiting the mountain because to Mary Childs Cotten everything has changed. Even the flowers are not as pretty anymore.



FRAN ZIMMERMAN
Sales Associate

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