



MT. LEMMON ECHOES

February, 1983

Homeowner News

It is winter on the mountain, and it's very beautiful though difficult. Getting to my cabin means parking some distance away and walking up hill through deep snow not knowing if each step will be two to three feet deep or stay on top. The County road crews are working hard to keep the highway clear and the County has contracted with local residents to clear the County maintained roads. Compared to previous years, it is much easier to get around up here - a nice change!

The Homeowners attended a meeting about the sewer and its cost to businesses. Supervisor Katie Dusenberry, George Brimscoe, Division of Wastewater Management and Bob Rice, City Engineer, attended along with people connected to the sewer and a few Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Board Members.

We learned several things:

- 1) Due to conservation efforts a "discharge" rule exists, prohibiting any discharge of treated and potable waste water into the creek
 - 2) The final decision about waste water made was to build treatment facility and pump it over the back side of the mountain.
- The Forest Service, which owns this land, has set a limit on the amount of water which may be pumped. The average flow must not exceed 12,500 gallons and there may not ever be more than 17,000 gallons in a day.

Because of this limit, conservation is essential and that's where the "conservation charge" (Mt. Lemmon is the only community in Arizona with this charge) comes from. This charge is prohibitive for any business which uses a lot of water - particularly the Alpine Lodge. It also will prevent other high water usage businesses.

Mt. Lemmon people made several points:

- 1) We were not involved in the original planning for the sewer.
- 2) We asked, over and over, at public meetings "What will the cost be?" and got no answers until the bills arrived.
- 3) Current businesses will fail and others will not be developed.

A committee of Mt. Lemmon people has been created to work with the County in developing a more equitable solution to this problem. Whatever happens there are - a Federal Order, a State Order and the Forest Service to contend with so it is a complicated issue. If you want more information or clarification, feel free to call.

The Board Meeting in March will be Wednesday, March 9th at my home in Tucson. Everyone is invited - call for directions - 748-1781 or 791-9720.

Spring can't be far away!

JUDITH MAXIMOV, President
MT. LEMMON HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club

Seven years ago, Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club began to plan to acquire property for their Club building. Now we are happy to say that after thousands of cookies, gallons of Mt. Lemmon Ade, cake walks, rummage sales, generous contributions and wise investments, we did it! We not only acquired the property but have nearly completed the remodeling of the Building.

We hope to share our Club Building with the Community, the School and all other Civic organizations on the mountain. No civic organization in the community or the school will be charged a fee for the use of the Building; however, when we use the word "Share", that's exactly right "SHARE". It would be financially and physically impossible for the Woman's Club to maintain and pay the expenses incurred by constant use of the building. Liability insurance, electric, water and fuel are right now at the peak of inflation rates so as we want to share our building with you and all in the community we do ask that you in return share with us.

It is hoped that all organizations can work together on general clean-ups, repairs, fund raising events and social activities so that we can all enjoy this building in the manner for which it was intended.

Private parties who wish to use the building must meet with the Building Committee of the Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club and terms can be established.

Plans are already under way to re-open the library for the benefit of the residents of Mt. Lemmon and best of all we hope to be able to establish once more regular church services every Sunday morning and ask that you please join us then.

LINDA BROOKEY, President
MT. LEMMON WOMAN'S CLUB

POLICIES FOR USE OF THE MT. LEMMON WOMAN'S CLUB BUILDING:

Any civic organization or private party wishing to use the Building must show proof of proper liability insurance for injury, negligence and property damage. Electric, water and fuel use must be compensated for. All facilities of the kitchen will be for the user's convenience but will be expected to be left as clean as when entered. Any damage to appliances, furnishings or building must be repaired or replaced by the user.

STANLEY STEAMER

.....Ring - Ring..."Hello, this is Michael."
"Michael, you have to come over to our cabin right away. I have water running all over the basement. It's 3-4" deep and I can't find the water meter. The snow is too deep. Please help me!"

Just before Christmas, the temperatures soared down to 10 degrees and lower. This continued for almost a week. Everyone living on Mt. Lemmon had water concerns. About a dozen cabins had frozen and sprung leaks. I was losing pressure and having problems finding the cabins with the leaks. Then it was a job to find the meters to shut off the system.

Some people had not drained their cabins and some even left the meters on. Even people with electric heat tape had problems. In some areas trees had brought down the power lines which severed the electrical service. Of course, the heat tape went off and the pipes froze and broke. What a winter! Some cabin owners let the water drip in the kitchen sink to keep the lines from freezing. This was fine until the sink drain froze and caused the sink to overflow and run onto the parquet or wood kitchen floors. Most cabin owners need to check their water system before winter sets in again. Pipe insulation is not enough to keep the pipes from freezing. Heat tape is a must! When leaving for any length of time, the system should be shut down and drained. Cabins that are lived in during the winter should have the water meter location staked and some type of insulation installed in a plastic trash bag. Also, a wrench or meter valve wrench should be kept at hand so that you can shut off the meter should your pipes suddenly burst. The Co-op customer is responsible for doing these things. It is not my job to shut off your cabin when there is a problem. Soon, there may be a service charge to take care of this. Let's be conscientious about winter water usage this year. After all, we do not live in a metropolitan area where you can take water for granted. Winter is not yet over!

MICHAEL STANLEY, Maintenance
MT. LEMMON COOPERATIVE WATER,

WINTER CARNIVAL

For those of us who are ski devotees, better known as ski bums, there has been little motivation to leave the slopes of Mt. Lemmon to seek whiter pastures. Ski conditions have been marvelous - the best I have seen in a couple of years. There is no greater pleasure than spending time on skis on a sunny afternoon, basking in the mild sunshine that only the southerly Mt. Lemmon slopes can offer.

Jeanette Cowling-Bott, area manager, and Mt. Lemmon resident, reports that Ski Valley is sponsoring a Winter Snow Carnival in honor of this glorious winter. The event will be held at the end of March, possibly in April, if the snow holds. The events will be numerous but are all contingent upon adequate participation. Prizes will be awarded for all events. Adult entry fee will be \$2.00 and \$1.00 for children. Among the events there will be timed gate races, mogul races judged on style and time; a jump, built with a pond in front; obstacle races, that is bales of hay and tires to climb over and through. There will be ballet on skis and a softball game between ski patrol and instructors on skis. There will be a costume discount - \$2.00 off the lift ticket for the day - for any type costume, which must include a mask or face make-up or an outfit unusual to skiing. Be sure to plan on joining in on this fun day. There will be clowns, balloons and lots of champions. Come one, come all!! Sounds like a great time. Be sure to find out the exact date so you won't miss out on this special event on the mountain this winter.

LIZ



WATER CO-OP

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One good thing about heavy snow falls is the warmth they provide water lines. With three to five feet of snow in the colder canyons, water lines in those areas are safer from freezing. Prior to the heavy snows, we had hard freezing which froze the main line in Upper Sabino - something that hasn't occurred in a few years. This line, among others, needs to be buried deeper as the main service, at least, should be deep enough to escape freezing during the coldest weather. Another weak link in the system is the Loma Linda Tank. This tank more resembles a sprinkler than a storage tank. Years of no protection of the interior has allowed rust to riddle the tank. The bottom failed years ago. To ensure continuous water supply to the folks on the East side of Sabino Valley, we need a tank of at least 200,000 gallons (preferably 500,000) as opposed to the 27,000 gallons now available. Due to the uncertainty of the Spring fed water supply in drought years and peak demand during holiday weekends, the Co-op is in need of more storage. With adequate storage to reserve water flows from the winter months and proper water conservation practices, there can be a continuous water supply to everyone.

During the last several meetings of the Fire Department a lack of trained, permanent volunteers was brought out as a major problem to be overcome. The general feeling is that there is just so much one can expect from volunteers. For the most part the volunteers are made up of non-property owners who work at one of the establishments. Why there are not more property owners involved is a question to which there is no good answer. I am sure that during the period your house was on fire, or your neighbors', your interest would not be lacking.

To combat this problem, the Fire Department intends to begin paying volunteers to attend training sessions.

The problem with depending on local workers is that when called to a fire during working hours there is no assurance that their employer will allow them to leave. The ancillary problem is whether the employee can afford to leave. I feel that property owners owe a lot to the folks manning the fire fighting equipment on our behalf. Letters of appreciation and donations to purchase training films would be greatly appreciated besides being a good investment to your cabin.

BOB ZIMMERMAN, President
MT. LEMMON COOPERATIVE WATER

LIFESAVERS

George and Chriss Sheldon are longtime Mt. Lemmon homeowners. They raised five children up here and sent their youngest twin boys through the one room school. Rick and Rob Sheldon learned to ski on the slopes of Mt. Lemmon's Ski Valley. Both are excellent skiers and were on ski teams sponsored by parents of Mt. Lemmon children. Rick returns from his Forest Service position in Idaho each winter to be the professional ski patrol in charge of the Ski Valley area. Rick was anxious to inform the skiing public about the National Ski Patrol - its requirements, history, duties and functions on Mt. Lemmon. I am most appreciative to Rick for his contribution.

"The development of the National Ski Patrol System(NSPS) has coincided with the growth of skiing in the United States. The NSPS has been provided with volunteers who have recognized a need in ski safety or winter first aid and who have then provided the leadership required to do something about it. As a result, the lives of many skiers have been saved, thousands of injured skiers have received prompt and skillful first aid making skiing a safer sport.

The idea to organize some sort of first aid group for skiers originated in 1936 with Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole who broke his ankle and had to be helped down a mountain by a friend. A few weeks later that friend was killed in a similar accident. The National Ski Association established a Ski Safety Committee and, in 1938, NSPS was formally organized as a committee of the National Ski Association, of which Minnie Dole served as its first chairman. Tremendous growth took place, and today the Ski Patrol has active charters in 42 states, Canada and many foreign nations, where US military forces are stationed. The NSPS functions side by side and in cooperation with both National Park and National Forest Service as well as the American Red Cross, the Federal Communications Commission and local law enforcement agencies. The NSPS is a non-profit organization and charges nothing for its services.

The Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley Charter is comprised of 19 certified volunteer patrolers and 15 candidates, who are Tucson businessmen, physicians, college students and people who care about safety in skiing. To become a basic patroller, the candidate must be at least 18 years old, must possess good

skiing skills and be willing to complete a year of intense on the hill training. They must hold a current American National Red Cross Advanced First Aid and Emergency Care Certificate or the equivalent thereof, and a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation card. They must purchase copies of the NSPS manuals for study and training and complete the NSPS Winter First Aid Course. The candidates' winter training includes work in each of the following six categories:

- 1) First aid knowledge and skills
- 2) General Skiing proficiency
- 3) Toboggan handling procedures
- 4) NSPS Organization and History
- 5) Local patrol procedure
- 6) Attitude

Testing takes place for two days in March covering the six categories. The last testing stage is an endurance test, in which the candidates have to walk on skis from the bottom of the chairlift to the top. The passing percentage is about half with most of the candidates failing the on the slope First Aid and the toboggan handling portions of the test.

Once a basic patroller, in order to remain certified, he or she has to complete an eight hour annual First Aid refresher and an annual on the hill refresher, including emergency chairlift evacuation and self evacuation from a stranded lift. Additional training takes place for those patrolers who wish to become Senior Patrols. These Patrols are tested on advanced skills and techniques and are also required to have completed a Basic Avalanche Rescue Course. A Senior Patrol can then ski at any ski area in the region that is staffed by the NSPS. After one attains a Senior classification by showing extraordinary service and demonstrating leadership can a Senior Patrol become a National Ski Patrol. Pete Krauss, a Mt. Lemmon Homeowner is the only active member that has received this national recognition and award. Homeowner, Jerry Hackney was the first Patrol from the Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley to be on the National Ski Patrol. Pete Krauss has been an active Patrol since 1966 and can patrol at any ski area in the country that uses the NSPS. Pete is the section chief for this area.

Several years ago, the Mt. Lemmon Ski Patrol was voted outstanding Ski Patrol Charter in the Far West Division and received the runner-up award for the country.

WINTER'S PATH

My Ski Patrol also are active members in Southern Arizona Search and Rescue Association and are certified First Aid and CPR instructors.

The duties of the Patrol are many. A Patrol must schedule to work at least 2 weekend days out of the month. They take the first run down the slopes (called a sweep) to ensure that the trails are safe and free of downed trees and debris and that hazards are marked. After snows, all toboggans are dug out and walkways to the Patrol Room are clear of snow. They assist the Ski Area Managers in shoveling snow, raising tower pads, digging out drift fences and clearing snow from the ski ramps. Of most importance they assist the skiing public in answering questions, giving a helping hand and promoting a safe skiing attitude. When the need arises, they are the competent First Aides that assist the injured skier, insuring proper treatment, handling and toboggan transport to the Patrol Room. In the Patrol Room the victim is warmed and stabilized and arrangements are made to provide safe transport to the valley. The Patrol is the last skier down the ski slopes to insure all are safe and off the slopes.

The Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley also has Professional Ski Patrol who patrol during the week. Anyone wishing to become a candidate or wishing further information, please contact Richard Thompson, Mt. Lemmon Patrol Leader at 325-9725. Since the Mt. Lemmon Ski Patrol is supported by donations, anyone wishing to donate medical supplies please contact Richard Thompson or Rick Sheldon (791-9731.)

"We are here because we care."

RICK SHELDON

MOUNT LEMMON SKI PATROL ALL VOLUNTEER



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The groundhog played havoc with Mt. Lemmon this year. Early evening, February 2, it began to snow. The next morning when we awoke, it was still snowing. In fact, it snowed continuously until Sunday evening of that week, with an overall accumulation of over four feet. Now, that's a snow fall. As the days of snow turned into four, Bob Zimmerman in his jeep snow plow nearly disappeared in the walls of snow building along the side roads that he so diligently tried to keep passable. The moment of truth was at hand. Time to bring in the heavy Caterpillar to move that snow. Even with four feet of snow, Bob, who has the County contract for the side roads, kept those roads plowed. The County worked hard to keep the highway in decent shape. Mt. Lemmon survived what in the past would have been an emergency situation!

A look back tells us that the mountain was not as fortunate in December of 1967. Right before the Christmas holiday, it started to snow. When the storm had finally passed, seven feet of snow had been dumped and there were drifts of 20-25 feet. Power lines were knocked down by falling trees, and the mountain was without power for several days. Trice workmen moved to the mountain for the duration. People were stranded in their cabins, and George Sheldon had to crawl on his belly to reach a woman who was burning furniture in her cabin to stay warm. Summerhaven was locked in, the highway closed. Food was running short and sick people had to be evacuated. But the residents hung in there and January of 1968 brought relief and restoration of power to Mt. Lemmon.

Hopefully we will not experience the devastation of the storm of 67 or the flooding of 1978, but there is something special about a snowstorm. The mountain is so peaceful and beautiful before it is plowed open to the Tucson valley. Fortunately, we are no longer stranded up here when it snows. Pima County, especially this year, is doing a good job of keeping us plowed out, and as one who lives on a County maintained side road, I am most appreciative of the fine job Bob Zimmerman has done keeping these roads cleared. It makes so much sense to have a resident plow these roads, because in the past the County rarely, if ever, got around to it. I believe that Mt. Lemmon and Pima County are finally entering the twentieth century when it comes to winter maintenance. Perhaps you will be fortunate enough to be nestled in your cabin when we get the next great storm.

LIZ HARDY

BOX 727



The following letter appeared in the "Arizona Daily Star" last week. I found it to be a very interesting concept. If you, as homeowners, have any thoughts on this matter, please write me.
"To the Editor:

Being an old-timer here in the "Old Pueblo," I would once again like to ask the same old question: Why don't we have a tram running from the base of the mountain up to the ski-run and Mount Lemmon?

When I first posed this question, 20 years ago, I was told that Tucson did not have enough population to support one. With 500,000 people (or more) in the greater Tucson area, that is no longer true.

In my opinion, it is time to have an alternative to this murderous, alarming Mount Lemmon Highway. My wife and I have not been up there for years because we both fear that trail.

Think of the advantages at both ends; a huge, city-run parking lot at the bottom to generate revenue and chalet-type hotels with restaurants, gift shops, etc., at the top. Wouldn't it be nice to have lunch on Mt. Lemmon when it's 105 degrees down here without having to drive?"

J.M. Parkinson

You have been most generous in your support for the "Echoes." I really do appreciate the letters I get about the "Echoes." However, I am in need of a support of a different kind. My well does run dry, and I find it nearly impossible to put out an "Echoes" of quality each month based solely on my own contributions. Face it, I'm just not that interesting all the time. This is your newspaper, and I am glad you enjoy it. I need your written contributions of any nature - creative, factual, historical or editorial. I represent one point of view. I would never attempt to speak for the Mt. Lemmon community as a whole. It is much too diverse a group. Please share your thoughts with the "Echoes." Don't leave the task to someone else. If you do not like to write but do have an interesting story or point of view to express, just give me a call at 791-9897. I would be delighted to write your thoughts into an article for you. Let us all keep the "Echoes" viable - it takes many contributors to keep it stimulating!! LIZ HARDY

..." Life is much more fun than those will ever know who see it through telegraph wires and chimney stacks."

- Robert Louis Stevenson

At different times in our lives, we approach crossroads. We see an opportunity to make a change in our lives, but change can be an awesome decision. Old lifestyles are often discarded and the new path is filled with uncertainties.

Three years ago, our family took the plunge into a new life. As cabin owners for many years, we had always enjoyed spending the summers up here away from the maddening crowd and intense heat. Each year we returned to Tucson a little more reluctant to resume our suburban life. Extreme, rapid growth had turned Tucson into a city that not even closely resembled the "Cowtown" my husband grew up in. My involvements in community organizations and in the schools trying to get a quality education for our children were stifling. Our two children were not interested in school - not turned on or tuned in. They put in their time. Test scores indicated that the gray matter existed but performance was poor.

Wendell had been trying for years to get me to try a year on the mountain. I resisted the change as only a New Englander can. But each summer, I seemed to be bringing more of our things up from Tucson - a few extra plants, a favorite copper skillet, the electric blanket (How revealing!) That summer of 1980 was filled with landmarks. Looking back now I should have realized that I had had it! The mountain was spinning its web on another soul. I had finally gotten the squirrels to eat nuts out of my hands - even had the little devils named. I had canned over eighty jars of Mt. Lemmon Raspberry Jam. Wendell was insulating the house and pouring over catalogs on furnaces. The drafting table had been set up - Wendell had designed a wood stove. This must mean something!!! One rainy day in August, Wendell closely resembled the squirrels hurriedly pushing away nuts for winter. He was splitting firewood like mad. Suddenly he threw down his axe, flew into the cabin and exclaimed, "What have you got to lose, Liz?" (Ordinarily a person might want to know what her husband was talking about, but I knew. It had become an obsession with Wendell. He wanted to stay - he wanted to say we tried it instead of we could have tried it.

For a week of sleepless nights and investigative days, I tried to build a convincing argument of what I had to lose by leaving "civilization" for a year. What if the school was inadequate? What if we couldn't get water during the winter? What if I couldn't get to my exercise class three times a week? What if I couldn't make it down to Levy's Warehouse sale in a snowstorm in March? What if strawberries were only on sale in flats at Safeway on a Thursday afternoon, and the County was planning to blast Barnum Rock that very day thus closing the highway? What if it starts snowing in the morning after Wendell has descended the mountain and he cannot get back up - where will he stay? Who will split the wood if he is not here? What shall we do with our house in town? What will I do with my days up here? Well, one by one all the questions were answered very quickly.

But it was the question of the school that nagged at me the most. This was really an unknown. There was to be a new teacher. Nobody knew anything about him. After conversations with the school district, we decided that we would at least register the kids at Zimmerman School, and if the teacher was incompetent - that was my ticket home!!!! I'll never forget that misty September morning when I registered the kids. Hand in hand we entered this strange building, more resembling a cabin than a school. A young man met us at the door, and said to our youngest, Todd, "What grade are you going to be in?" Todd, who was very shy, whispered "First" "Oh, great, I keep all first graders in this drawer over here!" That was it -

"Heather, what grade are you in?"

"Fifth," replied Heather.

"Wonderful. Go make my bed, will you?"

All fifth grade girls are required to make my bed." The ice was broken. I could tell in just those few moments that I had found it (as some say) This man with his weird style and extreme energy was there to make a difference. He approached teaching as an adventure, and this has been reconfirmed to me over and over again during our three years up here. Of course, if you read the "Echoes" with any regularity you know that I speak of Mr. Art, that same man who was chosen Teacher of the Year by the State last year. My children not only enjoyed success, they learned how to spell it, too. They have both become

high achievers with high self esteem. They learn to study, they learn to be responsible and caring, and they learn that learning can be a fantasy trip through the Himalayas - also known as social studies in a very clever disguise. When Heather graduated from Zimmerman School last June, she came gift wrapped in good grades and self confidence!!


I do tend to ramble when I talk about our life on Mt. Lemmon. It was so difficult for me to make this change. Each year right before school starts, we have a family conference and more or less vote on where we will spend the year. "I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm staying!!" is my annual reply. I suppose that my enthusiasm for the mountain life has poured out in my writing in the "Echoes".. I hope so! Our family is closer. We feel ready to make changes again in our lives. We feel special. We think our lives are different and make a difference. We have made close friends up here. The mountain is filled with diverse, caring people. But there is always one thing that hangs over the mountain like a cloud each year. If enrollment in the school drops below six children, the school is in danger of closing. Perhaps, finally, I am to the intent of my message. YOU, as cabin owners have the opportunity to try something that most people can only dream about. Perhaps you have wondered what a year on the mountain would be like. Believe me, it's filled with hard work, but it is so well worth it. Your family has the opportunity to really get to know each other. Your children could have a year of school that they would always remember as special. Your kids can learn to ski the pants off any Tucson kids. I have a selfish motive - I desperately want the school to remain open. I am not ready for valley life again yet. Keep yourselves open to change. Take it from one who was totally resistant to a change in lifestyle. I am a convert. I now run to the crossroads. I have only touched upon the many changes that have occurred as a result of our decision three years ago. I would love to talk with any of you. Be one who attacks life at the crossroads - instead of saying you could have, tell the world you did it! Life is so much fun when you plot your own course.

LIZ HARDY

Joe Wilhoite
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