

Mt. Lemmon Echoes

March, 1985

HOMEOWNERS ASSN

Hopefully, by now you have received your notice of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Annual Dinner on April 17th. Unfortunately, we were not able to have Senator DeConcini as our guest speaker due to his busy schedule, but we were able to have one of his aides, David Steele join us to answer questions you have pertaining to the expiring forest service leases. We are pleased to have Pima County Supervisor, Iris Dewhirst as one of our guest speakers. What an opportunity for all homeowners to get some questions answered! Santa Catalina District Ranger, Steve Plevel accepted our invitation to attend and answer questions pertaining to homeowners. One of the first things that all of our guest speakers requested were your questions and concerns beforehand to better prepare themselves to answer your inquiries with recent and also accurate information.

So if you would take the time and think of those problems you feel need to be brought forth to the right people, fill out that portion on the flyer with your questions and concerns. Mail it to the Board of Directors so that we may forward them to our speakers.

This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and other cabin owners who share a common bond of love for this unique and rugged mountain. So won't you join us in April, after the thaw? REMEMBER: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17th at the EL PARADOR RESTAURANT, 2744 E. BROADWAY at 6:30 -7:00 NO HOST COCKTAILS AND 7:00 DINNER WITH PROGRAM TO FOLLOW.

We've planned a great Mexican meal for your palate for only \$8.00 per person. Make your reservations now by calling the following telephone numbers: Adena Stewart at 888-3273 Dick Martinelli at 576-1454, Fran Zimmerman at 576-1333 or Ross Quigley at 576-1461. If you are not inclined to call then send a note with your check to Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association, P.O. Box 99, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619. We will be sure to have door prizes, what would a Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's gathering be without DOOR PRIZES to complete the festivities!!!

Hope to see you there!
Fran Zimmerman, Secretary

FIRE DEPT

Your Mt. Lemmon Fire Department is now in the process of obtaining a parcel of land from the U.S. Forest Service on which to construct a firehouse. When we have our facility in place, many of the problems that we have now will be gone, such as freezing, gasoline theft and lack of training area.

In the past couple of years our call load has increased dramatically from 46 in 1983 to 59 in 1984. Seventy per cent of all calls in 1983 were medical emergencies as was eighty six per cent in 1984.

Fred Keers, Chief

EDITOR'S DESK

It was a Winnie-the-Pooh sort of day yesterday as I drove home after an extended time away. Dodging potholes took my full attention; they are that numerous. The blustering winds whipped the pines so that whole needle bundles came whizzing by. The mountain is celebrating my return, or so I imagine. The sunny, warm days had left the southern slopes nearly barren of snow. Pussy willows parade along the stream bank. The squirrels chatter and the jays cry "Spring!" But it was not to be. This morning before dawn, Winter returned featuring ten inches of cold, white magic. My car sits immobile in the driveway. I wasn't prepared.

Three years ago, a Pima County ordinance caught us unaware. It levied Mt. Lemmon sewer users prohibitive fees in the form of conservation charges.

Now the County considers another ordinance which is potentially more devastating to Mt. Lemmon home and land owners. It is the proposed new septic ordinance. Bob Zimmerman, local citizen and member of the task force appointed by the Board of Health to address its damaging effects, tells of his concerns in "Letters to the Editor" in this issue. It is recommended reading.

Additional items of note in the "being informed is being prepared" column..... Two important meetings are being held in April. On the 17th, the membership of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Assn. has a rare opportunity to have any item of concern regarding the mountain discussed with Iris Dewhirst, County Supervisor, David Steele, Aide to Senator Dennis DeConcini, and Santa Catalina District Ranger Steve Plevel. I urge you to send or call in your questions and items for discussion.

On the 23rd, the Board of Directors of the Mt. Lemmon Cooperative Water Co., Inc. meets for its once-a-year report to the membership.

Both these meetings will take place in Tucson on Week-day evenings. They should be convenient for most. Show your concern. Attend, and participate.

Fifty years ago a Pleistocene mammoth was found in Siberia, a victim of the sudden descent of the Ice Age. It was frozen to death with a flower in its mouth.

Mary Moran

WATER Co-op

Mt. Lemmon Cooperative Water Co., Inc. has set April 23rd as the date for its annual membership meeting.

If you are a member (most homeowners with coop water service are), this is your opportunity to hear complete reports of the past year's activities, both physically and fiscally. Election of several new board members takes place at this time also. If you are interested in serving on this volunteer board, call Jeanette Cowling-Bott at 576-1435 or Wayne Coates at 297-1500.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, April 23, 1985 at the Jaycee Building, 1115 East Ft. Lowell Rd., Tucson beginning at 7:00pm.

Ski Festival Soon

"We have a base of 55" and are looking forward to continued good conditions" says Jim Pitcher, manager of Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley. "Ski season will continue another month or longer depending on snowfall and temperature".

Preparations are underway now for the annual ski festival to be held the week-end of March 23-24. Competitions include slalom, giant slalom, obstacle course, and free style. A small entry fee will be charged per event. Both prizes and trophies will be awarded. Buxton-Smith Coors and Sunset Sports are co-sponsors of the festival.

MLFD RESCUE INVOLVES MANY

It was 4:30 pm Friday, February 22, 1985. Members of the Mt. Lemmon Fire Department were going about their daily lives. Fred Keers (MLFD Chief) sat reading manufacturer's literature on the newest auto extrication devices. Mary Moran (EMT) was doing homework for the fire training meeting that evening while rotating batches of cookies into the oven. Marty Mollo (fireman) was enroute between two of his several jobs. Richard Hammarstrand (fireman) finally found time to relax in his only day off. Bill Brown (Ass't Chief) sat mulling over income tax preparation. Tom Mangano (EMT & fireman) was at home preparing an early dinner. Dennis Cox (fireman) was discussing a job with a Mt. Lemmon homeowner over a cup of coffee at the Alpine.

Donald Astrom (33 yr old UA political science professor) lay injured and unconscious ninety feet below the highway near Milepost 18.

The only evidence that he was there lay in a set of tire tracks heading off the edge of the roadway. But it was snowing, it had been most of the day, and the tread marks were fading. Clouds rolled along the ground and up the canyons.

Three Tucson youths remember seeing the tracks on their way up the mountain 40 minutes earlier. They stop to investigate and notice a small, white car crumpled among the trees and snow.

Minutes later Jack Simmons and Casey Czech, Pima County Sheriff Deputies, arrive on the scene. The same 911 call summons members of Rescue 310 (emergency medical services) and Mt. Lemmon firemen for rescue assistance.

While Czech, Simmons and Moran assess and treat Astrom, other firemen are preparing the ropes, pulleys and winch necessary to assist with the lift up to the highway. By the time the hoist is ready, the patient has been immobilized and extricated from the wreck. Ten minutes later he is on his way to Tucson Medical Center.

It was a "good" rescue. Manpower was sufficient. A member of So.AZ Search & Rescue, Jay Miller, was on the scene early and helped immensely. Several Forest Service people came by.

Unfortunately, this is not the usual situation. More normally, manpower is much more limited; sufficient equipment is not available.

If the fire department is successful in its application for grant monies from Arizona Health Services, this "good" rescue will be the norm, even under the more adverse conditions which regularly confront them.

Mary Moran, Lieutenant
Mt. Lemmon Fire Dept.

According to data compiled by Irvin R. Haynes of the National Weather Service, Mt. Lemmon's record low temperature of -7 set in February, 1963 was matched on February 2, 1985. Although snowfall certainly was not sparse this year, we came no where near breaking the record of 65" in one month that was recorded in December 1961. I, for one, am willing to trade off an average of 144 days each year that yield temperatures below freezing for 0 days per year when the temperature exceeds 90. In fact, our highest recorded temperature, officially, is 91 (June 1960).

Official weather measurements are currently taken at Summerhaven by the Alpine Lodge and shown most evenings on Channel 4 news at 6:00 pm.

What would you like to see in the Mt. Lemmon Echoes? Contributions of ideas, suggestions, articles and artwork should be sent to Mary Moran, Editor, P. O. Box 659, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619.

