

# MT. LEMMON ECHOES

April, 1986

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## ANNUAL DINNER

Last call to get your dinner reservations in before the 15th!! Call Fran Zimmerman as soon as possible at 576-1333. You don't want to miss this fun and informative evening to be held Thursday, April 17, 1986 at the lovely and spacious B.P.O. Elk's Lodge at 2440 E. River Road (east of Campbell Road). The fun starts at 6:00 cocktail hour when you renew hellos with neighbors and other homeowner members!! We all share a common bond which is our love for Mt. Lemmon. A dinner buffet is planned with roast beef, chicken breasts and a variety of salads! Afterwards we will be listening to our fire chief, Fred Keers on the progress of our fire department and Santa Catalina District Ranger, Steve Plevel and Allen Jaten, U.S.F.S. public liaison for the roadway project. They will present to us the topic of the widening of the Mt. Lemmon Highway.

So come and join us!!! Each dinner reservation is \$10.00.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

by Mary Moran

One of the unpredictable things about the mountain is the weather. One month ago we talked of spring. Since then, we've had another taste of winter as several feet of snow buried the emerging wildflowers. It also surprised numerous birds that had returned early to their summer residence.

So out went the extra birdseed and even the hummingbird feeders, though I was afraid the nectar might freeze at night. Now the snow has melted into the awakening forest floor in all but the most shaded reaches.

It's difficult to tell which season is my favorite anymore. It has become a case of "love the one you're with". In spring, I want to be everywhere marveling at the renewed life and savoring it's myriad delights. My attempts at cataloguing the wildflowers begin each March with great vigor. By May I am inundated, so many varieties abound. It may become a life long project; but what pure pleasure it affords. Soon I will make regular treks to a stream bank to monitor the progress of a small stand of delicate white shooting stars that I discovered two June's ago. Can you tell I feel blessed to be able to live in this wondrous environment?

At the same time, I am concerned, as are so many others, that this area continue as a viable habitat for the likes of us in concert with our God-given surroundings. We are not alone in our pursuit of the climate, the beauty and the opportunities for rest and recreation this mountain affords. Over a million visit each year. The U.S. Forest Service is charged by our federal government with the management and protection of this resource. In their wisdom, they feel it is time to improve the highway access to Mt. Lemmon. Last week, I was part of a group that participated in a 6 hour field trip and discussion with federal highway, forest service and county officials regarding the first phase of that work. This issue contains a report of that meeting.

You will be able to question and comment on this and other topics on April 17th at our annual dinner meeting of the membership. Steve Plevel, District Ranger for the Coronado and Allen Jaten, USFS public liaison for the roadway project will be in attendance. Fred Keers, chief of the Mt. Lemmon Fire Dept. will also be there to bring us up to date on the proposed fire house.

If only those opportunities existed for us to meet, it would be well worthwhile, as both roadway and fire house construction are slated to begin yet this year. However, in addition, we will have what promises to be a great buffet dinner in the spacious surroundings of the Elks Club on River Road.

Your board of directors also recognizes that there are other issues that concern you. In an effort to determine both the short and long term goals of the association, you are invited to complete the questionnaire contained in the middle of this issue. Fill it out and bring it to the meeting with you. I will be collecting them at the door. If turned in at the meeting, you will be eligible for a drawing for a miniature golden pine cone. If you cannot attend, please mail the questionnaire back to us as we need input from all members to be most effective.

See you April 17th!

## *Timeless Treasures*

Antiques  
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85619

Phyllis Guibor  
576-1350  
795-8219

### ECHOES

The Echoes is the publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association for its membership. Membership dues are \$15 per year. Renters and friends of the mountain may obtain associate membership for \$7.50 per year. The Echoes will be published in 1986 the first week of April, May, June, July, August, October and December. Photo ready ads, articles and letters to the editor of interest to the general membership should be submitted by the 20th of the month prior to publication. Send these articles to "Echoes", Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association, PO Box 99, Mount Lemmon, AZ 85619. Ad Rates: 3x5 \$10; Business card 2x3.5 \$5. For other sizes make inquiries to the editor.

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Membership Representation:

Fran Zimmerman

Helen Quigley

Cathie Brown

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## WATTS HAPPENING!

## MT. LEMMON WOMAN'S CLUB

by Lee Vought

by Fran Zimmerman

Let me start out this article with many thanks to Regina Rhind for the lovely luncheon that was prepared for the club, Wednesday, April 2, 1986 at Regina's home in Tucson.

The new slate of officers were nominated and they are as follows: President, Fran Zimmerman; First Vice President, Betty Mobley; Second Vice President, Cathie Brown; Secretary, Doris Harris; and Treasurer, Florence Wilhoite. Our hats off to these ladies for taking on these jobs for the oncoming term. The installation of officers will be held at Florence Wilhoite's home in Tucson, Wednesday, May 7th. Plan to join us for a luncheon and an enjoyable afternoon.

The bake sale and cake walk held at Ft. Lowell Park in March for Pioneer Days was a huge success with the event netting \$134.85 for the day! Our big thanks to Betty Mobley for being the chairman and all the ladies that contributed bake goods and the ladies that helped work that day. Our thanks to non-members that contributed bake goods - Debbie Vought and Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley.

At the end of the month, it is once again State convention. This year it will be held in Phoenix and we are encouraging our club members to participate in this two day event.

Our first mountain meeting will be Wednesday, June 4th and if you are interested in attending a meeting contact Fran Zimmerman, 576-1333 for more information.

Hi there, are you warm yet? For those of you that didn't read last month's Echoes, I covered the advantages of gas appliances (heater, water heater, clothes dryer) over electric, citing savings of up to 50%. Well, this issue I'd like to point out that whenever possible, wood is the best bargain, save solar. Wood is cheaper, more romantic?, a renewable resource, but for some it is a hassle. You make the choice, wood or gas, either way you save a bundle over electric!

Oh, by the way, it might not be on your budget, but wood is cheapest right now in the spring. Get yours before the Thanksgiving termites set in.

P.S. If you have an old fireplace, plug it up! (it steals heat from a house).

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Good 'Ole FH39!

by Bob Zimmerman

That is the Forest Service's designation for what we call the Mount Lemmon Highway -- one of the most dangerous highways in the State of Arizona. Most of us are glad that the narrow and dangerous highway providing access to our cabins and business is to be made safer, but the thought of fifteen years of road blocks, gives one pause to wonder if there isn't a better way.

The purpose of this federally funded road improvement is to reduce the number of accidents and the cost of road maintenance with the minimum impact on the environment. The average accident rate is 21.3 accidents per million vehicle miles (MVM) as compared to the State's average of 2.7 making FH39 almost 8 times more dangerous than the average Pima County road. The highest accident rate, 27.8/MVM, occurs during the last 11 miles where snow related accidents are an additional factor. Twenty percent of Mount Lemmon's accidents are alcohol related as compared to the State average of 14%.

To say that FH39 is little more than a county maintained breeding ground for pot holes would be unfair, yet.... A lot of the cause for pot holes goes back to the original construction when inadequate base and subbase were laid down. A modern road bed not only can take the pounding of today's high speed vehicles but keeps out subsurface water. Most of the larger colonies of permanent pot holes feed on temporary springs that crop up

during wetter seasons. Patching or even re-paving will not kill these pot holes -- deeper surgery is required.

Besides improving the subbase, the road will be widened from 22 feet to 26 feet providing two 12 foot lanes plus 2 foot shoulders and 4 foot drainage ditches. By way of comparison, the road up to ski Valley is a 28 foot wide paved road plus a 4 foot drainage ditch. The road width will be increased an average of 12 feet. These 4 foot drainage ditches will be a blessing. Water will actually drain off the road and, what's more, stay off. Hopefully, snow melt from plowed snow won't be able sneak back on the road and refreeze. We all know the excitement of a little un-expected ice. County snow plows will have a place to deposit snow, rather than making the road narrower after each snow fall. This narrowing usually occurs in the sharper curves where it is most dangerous for motorists.

The project also calls for straightening a few of the sharper curves somewhat which together with the drainage ditches will improve the forward site visibility. In some of the sharper curves a vehicle traveling at the legal speed limit has less than four seconds in which to stop before hitting a slow moving or stopped object -- like a bicycle -- but that is another story.

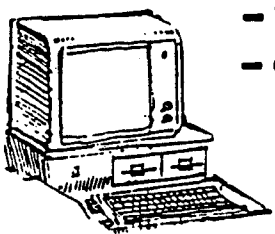
Another improvement will be to construct roadside pulloffs for slow-moving vehicles, sightseers, photographers, etc. Where these are to be constructed was not cited in the environmental impact study.

Passing pull outs for slower vehicles will not only be improved but there are plans to construct a few more. Getting motorists to use them is another problem which requires proper signs. Signs are the responsibility of Pima County. It was suggested in a recent meeting that the signs read something like, "Slower traffic use pull outs." One person at the meeting noted that in some states motorists must give way when more than three cars are following you. Perhaps a sign of this nature should be placed near mile post one.

The project is to provide around \$50,000 to \$60,000 to re-vegetate after construction. Iris Dewhirst is hoping additional funds would come from the sale of plant along the right of way -- particularly the saguaro cactus near the bottom. She is also looking for labor contributions from environmental groups and Mount Lemmon property owners.

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From: "HAWKS EYE" Zimmerman  
School paper by Jessica Lutz

POSTMASTER

Luke Boerger is the postmaster for the Mt. Lemmon post office. Luke has worked up here for about 27 months. Unlike other postmasters, Luke does all of the custodial, maintenance, cleaning and book work himself. In a large post office there would be a larger staff to do these jobs.

There are 234 post office boxes at the Mt. Lemmon post office and only 113 boxes are being rented. It is obvious that Luke enjoys his job as postmaster because he is always friendly and cheerful.

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## LETTERS TO EDITOR:

Dear Echoes:

In March of 1986, the annual water cooperative meeting was held. There were approximately 30 members in attendance. The meeting was informative. The past year of work was discussed and business was handled. One item brought to our attention was a proposal for grant monies to install a large diameter water main from our 500,000 gallon tank to the pump house adjacent to the Alpine Lodge. The main purpose of the main would be for fire control.

At this time, our distribution main in that area is 1-1/4" diameter. When we need to use that main for firefighting, no one has water and the fire flow is inadequate. Thus causing customers lack of water and firefighting lack of water. This new main is one phase to help solve this problem. The Co-op doesn't have the funds to do this type of improvement, so we, with the businesses and the fire department chose to apply for a grant to install this needed line. This grant, if approved by the Pima County Board of Supervisors would enable this main line to be installed. The installation of this main would improve customer water service. This main would enable a better quantity of water for fire fighting. The other benefits are with the first phase of this improvement it will give the water system a better start on over all improvements.

The reason I'm writing to the Echoes is to ask everyone to write to the supervisor of our area and ask that this proposed project receive funds from the grant monies available. I along with

many others feel this project will benefit the whole community by giving us better control over our system of water supply and fire safety.

Please write or call Iris Dewhirst, Pima County Board of Supervisors, 131 W. Congress, Tucson, Arizona 85701. Telephone number is 792-8126.

Michael A. Stanley, System Operator. Mt. Lemmon Cooperative Water Co., Inc.

Dear Echoes:

## TRAFFIC COUNTS

I am worried that Forest Service and Pima County officials do not really understand how sensitive the business are to the traffic count of vehicles coming to the mountain. If this protracted road improvement project causes a decrease in the annual traffic count rather than the customary annual increase, there is a great danger that the business will fail.

Fifteen years of hassle and road blocks combined with the news media's continuous warning of delays and dangers of road construction and blasting will, I believe, condition the entire population of Tucson to stay away from Mount Lemmon.

WHY NOT WORK AT NIGHT? Shut the road down at some appropriate hour and give the crews the entire road to work without constant interruption. Eliminate angry property owners and business people.

Blasting at night would be safer as there would be less chance of injuring hikers and on-lookers.

Shutting the road down at night would increase productivity by virtue of giving heavy equipment two lanes to maneuver in rather than 10 to 15 feet. And, they would not be constantly interrupted by the 1000 car per day of one lane traffic.

Costs would be lowered not only because of increased efficiencies but the traffic control crew and equipment would be eliminated. There would be an increased expense for lighting.

But most importantly, the businesses would be preserved. You can bet the traffic counts will be closely watched by the business.

Fortunately, each years' work will have a separate contract so that changes can be made as work progresses. More fortunately, Iris Dewhirst, Pima County Board of Supervisor and Steve Plevel, Coronado District Ranger are listening to the business and Honeowners and are seeking ways to lessen the impact of this 15 year construction project.

Bob Zimmerman

MICHAEL STANLEY

**MT. LEMMON  
COOPERATIVE WATER CO., INC.**

P.O. Box 706  
Mt. Lemmon, Arizona 85619

628-2214

## NEW BUSINESS

TIMELESS TREASURES has something for everyone.

Late last summer Phyllis Guibor fulfilled a long time dream when she opened her antique shop on Mt. Lemmon. The shop houses a wide array of both antiques and collectibles, ranging from furniture to glassware. "Our things are reasonably priced and there is something here for everyone, from old kitchen ware you could easily use in your cabin to fine china and cut glass", Phyllis says. She obviously enjoys the antique and collectibles trade. She has been learning it since she first accompanied her mother to yard and estate sales as a child. "It has always been a part of me, although this is our first commercial venture." Her husband Bryck, a licensed contractor, is also involved as much as possible. He constructed the attractive addition to their duplex that is the shop area.

Timeless Treasures will be open weekends from now until Memorial Day. After that it will be open every day except Monday and Tuesday. Located on the main road through Summerhaven, next to the Women's Club building.

# INTERVIEW WITH FRED, THE MAGNIFICENT

Echoes: Hi, my name is Mary Moran. I'm the editor of the Echoes, a mountain paper for our homeowners. I wonder if you could take a few minutes to talk to me.

Fred: Sure. I realize that most of you outdoor types, as you call yourselves, are fascinated with us. Incidentally, my name is Fred. Well, at least that's what they call me here at Sollers, my northern home. My real name is Eugene Fugens. More would recognize me as a magnificent (rivoli) hummingbird. No crowing intended, but there obviously is a good reason that we are known by the, uhmm, common name of magnificent.

Echoes: Oh, you are definitely magnificent. You are also probably the largest hummingbird I have ever seen. And your iridescent purple crown, brilliant green throat and green-black breast make you quite showy.

Fred: Why thank you. Outside of the broad-bills, we are the largest of the sixteen species that make summer homes in the U. S. I, myself, am 5-1/4". But talk about big. Lady, you look gigantic to me. Why, I have to hover some distance away to see all of you.

Echoes: Really? I'm only 5 foot 9.

Fred: Really, when I view you through my "search" vision, that's from the side, I see you magnified 30 times. I use this vision to distinguish tiny objects in green areas. Pretty nifty, wouldn't you say?

Echoes: I would. Now, come back over here. I want to know

more of you. You seem quite friendly.

Fred: Well, this has been my home from April to October for six years now. So Steve Hensel and I know each other fairly well. I have him trained. Watch this. "Steve, make me a perch out of your finger."

Echoes: That's very good. He responds quite well. What else have you trained Steve to do?

Fred: I keep thinking I have him trained to keep the feeder full. But sometimes when we have lots of company, I have to remind him it's empty by tapping on the window or screen.

Echoes: Besides Steve, what draws you here?

Fred: It's a nice environment. There are few people (excuse the expression), the air is clean, it's cool, the housing is good and the food is great. Plus, a lot of my friends live around here in the summer.

Echoes: What do you consider good housing and great food?

Fred: I prefer canyons, forest and high grasses. You can see why I feel comfortable here. As for food, those little gnats that live in the grass and swarm at sunset are tasty little morsels. Then, of course, the nectar in the tubular wildflowers that grow hereabouts is especially sweet. I particularly like pestamons, monkeyflower, and columbine.

Echoes: But here we are talking very near a large supply of sugar water. I've seen you make numerous trips just within the last few minutes to that feeder. Are you trying to tell me this dawn and dusk ritual of yours and your friends is purely a social event?



Fred: To some extent, it is. Look around, there must be 30 hummers congregated tonight. Most evident are the broad-tails. The males are 4/5 my size and have green crowns and rose-red gorgets (throats). There is always a large broad-tail community on Mt. Lemmon in the summer. You might hear them erroneously referred to as ruby-throats. But, in truth ruby-throats have a slightly different coloration and inhabit the eastern U.S. I personally, have never seen one in Arizona. Look over there, was that an Allen's? No, I didn't think so. Most Allen's hang around the coast of California. That fellow is a rufous, I've seen him before. They look so much like the Allen's it is difficult to tell. The rufous is named for his brownish-red back and tail coloring. It goes nicely with the iridescent metallic copper gorget. The others you see, but may have trouble identifying, are the females and immature males.

Echoes: This is fascinating. I could talk to you for hours. But to get back to that feeder...

Fred: Yes. I and my friends love the sugar water. It's like a bottomless pestamon and unfortunately, the wildflowers seem to be diminishing.

Echoes: I, too, would like to see a greater abundance of them. They are a favorite study of mine. Tell our readers, if you will, what you prefer in the way of man-made nectar.

Fred: We consume great quantities of food, relatively, to provide enough fuel for our metabolism, which is quite high. If you had a metabolic rate as high, you'd have to consume 155,000 calories per day, just to maintain. Of course, our weight

is quite low (3 to 10 grams). Did you know our leg and wing bones are hollow? Still, we need fifty per cent of that weight each day in sugar, plus protein, minerals, vitamins, fat and water. The sugar and most of the water comes from nectar, but the other goodies are provided by insects. "Gnats and nectar" as we like to say. Now, as for your question. When mixing sugar water for feeders, the best ratio is one part sugar to five parts water, since this most closely approximates the concentrations found in wildflower nectar. Please don't make it too much sweeter! I would recommend that you stop by the Audubon Society shop in Tucson (on Tucson Blvd. just north of Broadway) and pick up their free literature on hummers and how to provide supplemental feeding. Basically, it says to keep the feeders clean as mold and fungus can build up. Clean the feeder and change food at least once a week even if not all eaten. The sugar solution must be boiled and cooled. What is not used to fill the feeder should be kept refrigerated. Do not use food coloring, it can harm us. Also do not use honey, fungus grows too rapidly. White granulated sugar is best. What else? Oh yes, the Audubon Society also has information on how to keep bees away and get rid of them after they arrive. Preventive measures are best. The society also sells nice feeders. So does the Ace Hardware on Pima near Craycroft. We really like the kind with perches. That way we can sit and visit and conserve energy while we eat. Actually, we lick. See this tongue? Listen, Mary, it's been great talking with you. But it's getting dark, I've got to turn in. You come back another time. I've got lots to tell you. Bet you wonder how fast my wings beat, where we live in

winter, how we manage such aerial acrobatics, how we hum, why we hum.....

Editor's Note: This interview took place last September at the USFD residence at Sollers near Palisades. Some license has been taken.

### WHY DOESN'T THIS MAKE SENSE?

There are 8,000 ppb (parts per billion) known carcinogens in coffee and 7,900 in cola. The federal government tells us not to drink water with more than 10 ppb and closes wells when they contain close to 100 ppb of these substances. Source: American Water Works Assn.

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EVES. 576-1538



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Sales Associate

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### KITCHEN CORNER

The Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club once again had a booth at the Pioneer Days held at Ft. Lowell Park last month selling bake goods and doing an old fashioned cake walk. One of the treats were granola cookies contributed by Debbie Vought, owner of the Living Rainbow Gift Shop. Debbie was kind enough to give us permission to pass this great cookies recipe on to all readers of the Echoes and here it is:

### GRANOLA COOKIES

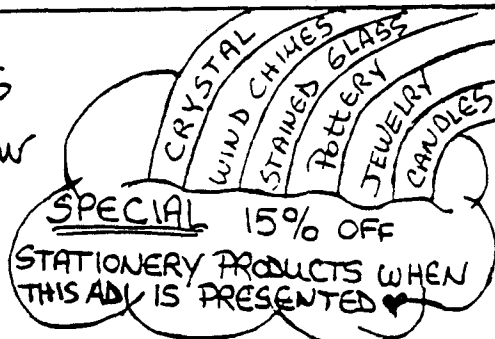
- 1 Cup Oil
- 1 Cup Honey
- 2 Eggs
- 1 Cup Pecans or sunflower seeds  
can add raisins also)
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 Cups Whole Wheat Flour
- 2-1/2 Cup Granola

Mix oil and honey. Add eggs, nuts and vanilla. Sift flour, add flour, add granola and stir all ingredients. Oil cookie sheet. Bake at 300 degrees for 15-20 minutes. Thank you Debbie.

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Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Questionnaire  
1986

April.

This questionnaire does not require that you identify yourself or your property except in general terms. We are interested in the information requested only to gain a composite of the membership in an effort to serve you better. A compilation will be published in the Echoes.

1. Is your cabin on private land?\_\_\_\_\_Forest Service\_\_\_\_\_
2. How long have you been a homeowner on the mountain?\_\_\_\_\_
3. How often do you use your cabin?  
(Check as many categories as may apply)  
Weekends and/or holidays \_\_\_\_\_  
All year round \_\_\_\_\_  
Summers only \_\_\_\_\_  
1-3 days at a time \_\_\_\_\_  
4+ days at a time \_\_\_\_\_  
As a summer resident \_\_\_\_\_  
As a full-time resident \_\_\_\_\_
4. On how many occasions did you use your cabin last year? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many adults regularly use your cabin?\_\_\_\_\_
6. How many children? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Do you rent out your cabin?\_\_\_\_If yes, how often\_\_\_\_
8. What do you enjoy most about being a homeowner? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What aspects to you like least? \_\_\_\_\_
10. If you could change anything about the mountain, what would it be? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What issues do you feel should be addressed in the Echoes? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What do you perceive as the function of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association? \_\_\_\_\_

Upon completion, pull page from Echoes and bring to membership dinner on April 17th. If you cannot attend, fold and staple questionnaire and mail it to us. It has been preaddressed. Don't forget, if you bring it to the meeting with you, you will be eligible to win a golden pine cone. Thank you for your participation.

Mary Moran, Editor

The Echoes

P. O. Box 659

Mt. Lemmon, AZ

85619