

# *The* Mt. Lemmon *Echoes*

December 1992

## Mt. Lemmon Highway reconstruction to begin

### Highway Hotline for Homeowners

As you may know, there is a hotline telephone number published in the current telephone directory for the general public to use and it is 749-3329. This connects the caller to a recorded message which will give information the same as in the road closure schedule printed in your last Echoes.

However, there are times when the work being done along side the highway does not actually interfere with traffic flow and the road could actually be used. Ames Construction has agreed to cooperate with us and let us know when these occasions do occur. Ames is providing a special hotline - 298-4577 - just for us with regular updates. Write this number down now and put it by your phones!

A word to the wise: DO NOT SHARE THIS NUMBER with the general public or they'll keep it busy all the time.

**By Sheri Lee  
(from Federal Highway  
Administration, Denver  
Division)**

The third phase of reconstruction on the Mt. Lemmon Highway will begin on Nov. 23 and continue until mid-summer 1994. The \$10.4 million widening and safety improvement project will be in two sections, from MP 5.9 to MP 7.5, and from MP 20.8 to MP 25.0. This is the third phase of a program designed to completely reconstruct the Mt. Lemmon Highway from the mountain's base to the Summerhaven area.

Road closures and delays are expected to begin Dec. 1. According to Federal Highway Administration Project Mgr. Dick Gillette, the project will involve widening, picnic and trailhead parking, and drainage and snow

removal improvements to a part of the highway that has not been significantly changed since its original construction in the '30s and '40s. Other results will include improved roadway alignment to conform to the existing speed limit, new roadside pullouts for slower traffic and temporary parking, new overlooks and parking, new left turn lanes at Spencer, Inspiration Rock and Lower Sabino Road and a wildlife underpass structure at Bear Wallow. The project has been designed to meet strict environmental guidelines and planned with special emphasis on visual quality standards.

Gillette emphasized the fact that the highway will be open to all traffic without delays from 6:30 a.m.

**MT LEMMON HIGHWAY**  
**CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION**  
**RESIDENTS/MERCHANTS**  
**"HOTLINE"**  
**298-4577**



## Reconstruction cont.

on Fridays to 11 p.m. on Sundays and on all national holidays during the project. Businesses in Summerhaven and at the ski area will remain open during the project. Some Forest Service recreation may be closed during portions of the project.

"We want everyone to understand that you can continue to visit Mt. Lemmon during this construction without a great deal of difficulty", said Gillette. "The road will be open every

Friday, Saturday and Sunday and on all national holidays. For details on other days of the week, you can call the Mt. Lemmon Hotline (for the general public) at 749-3329." As part of a public information campaign, the Federal Highway Administration is also printing a brochure that contains a map showing construction areas and detours, and schedules for traffic delays or road closures. The brochure will be available at sporting goods stores, recreational centers, Summerhaven merchants, and stores in the area of the Catalina Highway and Tanque Verde Road. (Ed. Note: The brochure will contain the same schedule as was in the last Echoes.)

Federal Highway Administration representatives and engineers have met extensively with interested members of the public, the Pima Co. D.O.T. and the Forest service to plan the timing of this phase.

"We worked with them to develop a construction schedule that would hold traffic disruption on the highway to a minimum", Gillette explained. That includes performing most of the heavy construction at night and utilizing detour roads on the upper four miles of the project.

Like previous phases of the reconstruction, this project is primarily designed to improve the safety of the highway which currently has an accident rate per million vehicle miles about five times the average of Pima County.

Reconstruction will increase pavement width from 22 feet to 28 feet, including a 2 foot paved shoulder. Improved drainage and substructure will reduce many

maintenance problems now common on the highway. The section of the highway near Summerhaven has been designed to improve plowed snow storage and reduce ice formation. The grade of the road section entering the village will be reduced from 11% to 8%, making access much easier during winter conditions.

Approximately 600-700 trees of nine inches in diameter or more will have to be cut to accommodate the reconstruction of the highway's upper section, but more than 28,000 seedlings and 400 larger trees will be replanted in the area when the work is complete. In addition, about 300 cacti and succulents will be removed along the lower section of the project and replanted following the reconstruction. Landscaping plans also call for 300 native trees and shrubs to be planted along the lower section. The Forest Service is providing the landscape architecture.

Ames Construction, the general contractor for the project, says the major portion of the reconstruction and heavy excavation will take place from 11 p.m. Sunday nights through 6:30 a.m. Friday mornings. The project will employ about five Tucson subcontracting firms.

During the construction no camping will be allowed at the Prison Camp Road area, however, a parking area there will be maintained.

The first phase of the highway project, from MP 0 to MP 3 was completed in 1987-88 and received a Federal Highway Administration Design Excellence Award in 1990. The second phase, from MP 3 to MP 5.9 was completed in July 1991. In Nov. 1991, representatives of Pima Co. D.O.T. & Flood Control Dist., the Forest Service and the Fed. Hwy. Admin. announced \$7 million in federal-aid secondary funding had become available for Phase 3 of the project through A.D.O.T. and Pima Assn. of Gov'ts.. Phase 3 was to begin in 1995 but was accelerated due to the availability of this funding.

## Archambault, Zimmerman elected to Fire Board

**By Dannie Hayhurst,  
Pres. MLHA**

Congratulations goes to Bob Zimmerman for his re-election to the fire board, and to newly elected member Phil Archambault. Including Roy Garcia, we have a very competent Board of Trustees representing our district.

The Fall Potluck October 10th raised \$250 toward science equipment for Zimmerman Accommodation School. Teacher Stephen Sandler is looking for supplies to fill his classroom needs.

The Homeowner's Board purchased a dual tape deck to go with the public address system donated by Fred and Olga Pace to the community. We no longer have to rent a P.A. system for use during our 4th of July Parades, for public speaking or dances at the fire department.

MLHO Board meetings will continue to be held Saturdays during the winter. The next meeting will be Jan 9.

How many of you have called the Sheriff's Auxiliary about a home security check here on the mountain? I called back in September and have not heard from any volunteer with the Sheriff's Dept. to

date. Hope you had better luck calling the 741-4685 number.

Hopefully the rumors about drug abuse by a small number of transients around the mountain is just that - a rumor. But security of your cabin or home is ultimately YOUR responsibility. Be a good neighbor and keep an eye on the cabins near you as well as your own.

The main street looks a little darker and a lot quieter at night these days. The Alpine Inn closed its doors several weeks ago.

The mountain community has a special appeal during the holidays - hope you can be a part of it!

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



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## News at Z.A.S.

By Stephen Sandler

A bunch of interesting things have gone on at school since we last talked. The weather change, of course, is one and this brings colds and other interesting ailments that many of the children have come down with. Parents are advised to dress the kids warmly. The plan is to continue having regular recess regardless of the weather.

We had a very successful camping trip in October. The children were well behaved and helped out with a lot of the cleaning and cooking. We took a couple of walks, played a lot of archery, learned how to use a compass, and involved ourselves with simulation games depicting characteristics of the animal world.

We also had a haunted house! Ask anyone who came by (thank you for coming); it was ghoulish! The children were wonderful and played their parts well. Thank you Gini Thatcher for your wonderful patience and obvious skill. The children were ghastly!

Academically, the children have been working hard. Andy Chesleigh has been working especially hard on his math along with Michael and Dan. Lee, Brooke and Jodi have been writing great stories and poems. Paul and John have done well in science. Jace and Brandon are continuing to show how smart and creative they can be. Olga, of course, is our favorite. Almost every child in school has gone out of their way to write a story or read to her.

Cory Motzkin is back from Boston. He is happy to be back with us, and we are very happy that he is with us again.

I am making up new report cards that may give parents more information about their child's progress. I will also be testing the children so that by year's end we can chart all progress that has taken place. We also have plans to fix up



and paint the school.

Children spend 25% of the day in school. Please don't hesitate to confer with me when problems arise.

One last bit of excitement - we have had two situations where a bear has come to school to investigate our sweet bunny rabbit and my rancid garbage. The former was saved; the latter was not. Bears can unfortunately, add misfortune to our lives. Let's be careful.



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## Fall Red squirrel census results

**US Dept of Agriculture  
Forest Service**

The annual fall Mt. Graham red squirrel census indicates there are between 290 and 374 squirrels. This estimate is lower than last fall's estimate of 363 to 417 squirrels. "The last two years cone crops have been very poor, so we aren't surprised to see the squirrel estimate reflect the poor food supply," said Genice Froehlich, Safford Ranger District Wildlife Biologist.

The squirrel census took place October 19-22, 1992, as a cooperative effort by approximately 30 biologists from Coronado National Forest, Arizona Game and Fish Dept. and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. There are 614 known middens in the Pinaleno Mountains and 217 of them were visited during the survey. 107 or about 49% of the middens visited showed signs of recent activity.

Biologists explained that middens, rather than squirrels are surveyed. A midden is a cone debris pile squirrels use to cache cones and mushrooms for their winter food supply. Each midden is defended by a single animal. Biologists determine if a midden is occupied by looking for signs of recent squirrel activity.

## Fire Dept. continues training activities

**By Phil Anselmi, Fire Chief**

We have been continuing our training in the areas of relay pumping and fire attack. We have completed a driver's certification course involving all members of the department. The course taught "relay pumping" where the first pumper responds to the scene and, in route, drops a "stinger line". A second pumper then attaches to the stinger line and pumps to the first unit. When we are in an area that is void of large fire hydrants, a water tender is utilized to supply water to the second pumper via a dump tank or catch basin. We have been able to complete the entire hookup and supply in about seven minutes. The entire volunteer force must be commended for the excellent work they have completed in this operation.

We responded to a total of 10 calls during the month of October and 4 calls in November. It has been relatively quiet which is good news. The majority were for medical assistance, several minor auto accidents and three fire calls involving campfires.

We hosted the Homeowner's Fall dinner in October where we were entertained and enlightened by Jim McQuiston's Bat Program. There was the usual variety of good food and good company. I used this time to present several awards to members of the fire department and other members of the community for outstanding contributions to the fire department.

We are now using our fireplaces and heating units quite extensively and must caution ourselves to use them wisely. When you empty the ashes, put them in a metal container with a tight fitting metal lid. **DO NOT SPREAD THE ASHES ON THE GROUND AROUND YOUR CABIN!** It might be a good time to check your smoke detector.

Have a safe and wonderful holiday.



## Cabin tours a success

By Sharon Thomas, Pres. MLWC

A warm fall day, the changing colors of the leaves and beautiful cabins were all part of our First Annual Cabin Tour. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Fred Landeen, John and Anne Miller, B.J. Singh, John and Georgiann Carroll, Steve Littell and Kathi Doudnik for their generosity in allowing us to use their Mt. Lemmon Homes on our tour. Everyone who attended enjoyed themselves as did the Club Members who worked on this project. A special thanks to Dannie Hayhurst, Olga Pace and all of the other ladies who helped plan, set up and acted as hostesses. Last, but by far not least, a big thank you to Fred Pace and Pat Hayhurst who shuttled people between cabins. We hope to see everyone next year at our 2nd Annual Cabin Tour.

I would like to extend an invitation to our new members as well as all of our old members to attend our Annual Christmas Brunch. It will be held at the home of Barbara Welsh on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 10 a.m.. Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift - a project you haven't finished and have had for years or any other old thing you have around for a funny gift exchange. We call this "recycling stuff". If anyone needs transportation, let me know.

Again thanks to two of our member's husbands, Bill Brown and Pat Hayhurst who installed a light in the library, replaced another board on our deck and winterized the Club House.

As our holiday season approaches I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for your support and help over these past months since I became President. But most of all I would like to thank you for your friendship. It is very important to me. May you and your family have a joyous Holiday Season and very Happy New Year. See you in 1993.



The Echoes is the Publication of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association for its membership. Controversial and political articles reflect the opinions and decisions of the Board of Directors. The Board reserves the right to approve all submitted articles. Membership dues are \$25.00 per year. Renters and friends of the mountain may obtain an associated membership for \$20.00 per year. The Echoes will be published in 1992, monthly April through November, and February. Photo ready ads, articles and letters to the editor of interest to the general membership should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Send these articles to Echoes, Box 699, Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619. Ad rates: 3x5 business card = \$10.00; 2x3 = \$5.00. For other sizes, inquire to the editorial staff.

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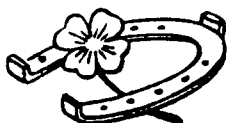


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