

Woman's Club Rummage sale a success again!

By Sharon Thomas, Pres. MLWC

Our Labor Day Weekend Rummage, Book and Bake Sale was quite a success thanks to our very energetic Chairman, Vivianne Danielson. Thanks to all our members who helped set up on Friday, donated baked goods, worked on crafts to sell and showed up to sell on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. It was a lot of work for all, but the end result was over \$800. We still had people coming in on Monday as we were packing up so Vivianne suggested that we have another sale in October. So...for those of you who didn't get all of your rummage gone through, you have another chance! We will have another Rummage Sale on Oct. 9 and 10. Please contact Vivianne at 298-5713 or Sharon Thomas at 297-0990.

Mark your calendars! Due to a conflict in schedules of our officers, our October 2 meeting has been moved to Wednesday, October 6 at Sharon Thomas' house in Tucson. Dessert at 12:30, meeting at 1:00.

The GFWC Fall Conference is October 18 in Casa Grande. Let me know if you can attend.



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SKI VALLEY FALL EVENTS

GERMAN BEER, FOOD, AND MUSIC

OCT. 2-3, 9-10 OKTOBERFEST

AXE THROWING COMPETITION & MORE

OCT. 23-24 LOGGERS

Community Library

12888 E. Sabino Canyon Pkwy.

Winter Schedule

The library will be open Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. when weather and road conditions permit. Watch for the blue flag on the railing of the Woman's Club or by appointment call Nancy Goodwin, 576-1245 or 296-7993

Echoes of a quake from the past

By Sheri Lee

(Originally published in Dec. 1989)

When watching the earthquake news on television, I learned that in May of 1887 Mt. Lemmon felt a big quake. It is now estimated as a Richter 7.6. A little research at the Historical Society led me to this Forest Service account: "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 of smoke or dust ascended into the blue sky high above the queenly mountains.

"In less than one hour, all the mountains in view in this section had forest fires in several places started by rock avalanches which caused a friction setting fire to dry trees 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."

From other accounts I also learned all those huge beautiful boulders in the yards of the homes in Skyline County Club came down from the mountain tops during that quake.

What if we had another "big one"? Would cabins slide downhill and fall apart? Would the highway collapse so people could not escape? Would there be major fires from downed power lines, broken LP gas lines and from the sparks of rockslides? Could the fire department handle the situation? would the water storage tanks survive? Where would they get the water to fight fires? Is DPS ready for this?

(The local news reported on Friday, Sept. 24 that what was thought to be small 2.2 earthquakes earlier in the week, was apparently sonic booms.)

Birds and Bees, Flowers and Trees and Javelina

By Sheri Lee

Yes, two javelina came up the mountain this summer. It's the first time anyone has reported seeing them up so high. They probably were attracted to the fruit of the scrub oak and manzanita and wandered up from the foothills to eat. Bob Miles of Arizona Game and Fish told me they moved up to the 8000' level in Prescott some time ago so he's not surprised they're on Mt. Lemmon.

The first time we saw them they came running up the slope, grunting and puffing. We thought they could smell the bacon frying, and they were coming to rescue a cousin. But they went right to the birdbath and took a drink and that's what attracts them to our cabin. That and the spilled birdseed under the feeders.

What we have are "collared peccaries". In central Mexico they are the larger and more vicious white-lipped peccaries. Both are true native Americans whereas domestic hogs were developed from Old World boars. Apparently javelina have gradually migrated up from Central America through Mexico and into Southern Texas, SW New Mexico and Arizona. The fossils of a warthog-like creature found in Kansas, Missouri, Maryland and Michigan are not thought to be their ancestors. In case you wondered, razorbacks of the southeast are just domestic pigs gone wild.

The description of the white collared adult is: 32"-40" high at the shoulder and 30 to 50 pounds. It has bristles, not fur, and thus not cold weather adaptable. If you notice when you try to scare them away the bristles along the center of the back raise up. At the same time a musk gland in those bristles, and located several inches from the tail, opens and a strong odor warns the rest of the herd of danger.

At the neck and shoulder the bristles are 7" long making it appear to have a large neck. Actually the javelina has a very short neck and when rooting out your daffodil bulbs it has to drop to its knees to root very deeply. Old javelina develop big calluses on their knees because of this.

Bob Miles says they can't see very well, but they have average hearing and a great sense of smell. Miles says peccaries have four sharp canine teeth (and 34 others) for ripping and tearing plants, but they can cause a nasty wound to a person's body, too. We call these collared peccaries "javelina" from the Spanish "jabalina" meaning "spear" because of the sharp tusks. Hand feeding them is not a smart thing to do. He says they're VERY QUICK and can attack you before you can even think of getting to safety. He warns us to be

careful!

Miles warns when they feel threatened, or even when they don't, all adult javelina are unpredictable, and if you're in the way or have them cornered, you're in big trouble. As with the bears, use caution when watching javelina and **DON'T FEED THEM!** They'll learn to associate food with people.

The javelina's favorite food is prickly pear; the pads, the fruit and the spines. It also eats seeds and fruits of the desert and reptiles, rodents and insects. It has been seen catching and eating birds! Some things it doesn't like are chollas, rattlesnakes, tarantulas and lightning storms.

It is a social critter and stays in herds of 5-35, in the winter, 40-50 animals. A herd's territory is about 3 miles in diameter. A sow is often the leader, and a herd follows along single file. Leadership is not determined by dominance, but by exceptional senses like hearing and smelling.

The peccary grunts when happy or contented, squeals when hurt, whoofs when there's danger and barks when annoyed, but does none of this oink-oink stuff.

Piglets are born at any time of the year. Unlike the domestic pig which may have a dozen piglets in a single litter, only one or two are born at a time to a javelina. The piglets have soft reddish-tan hair with a dark stripe down the back. They can run a few hours after they are born and will follow the herd around. Mama doesn't take very good care of her offspring. Although she lets them nurse, she will walk off and leave them behind and will abandon them when there's danger.

At one time the collared peccary was nearly extinct, but good hunting laws have changed that situation. It's now hunted in season for meat, skin and bristles. Today packs of coyotes and sneaky bobcats and mountain lions are its biggest threat.

With fall in the air and the nights getting colder, our collared peccaries should be moving to a warmer elevation. They've been an interesting diversion at our cabin, grunting and snorting and rooting up the gas line, or plopping down to nap in the middle of the driveway. Maybe they'll be back next year, and maybe they won't.

References: Collared Peccary-The Javelina by Iona Seibert Hiser and The Moon of the Wild Pies by Jean Craighead George. These are books for kids, but they're all the Wilnot Library had.

Medical emergency calls keep fire department busy

By Phil Anselmi, Chief MLFD

During the month of August, the Mt. Lemmon Fire Dept. responded to a total of 17 calls. Of these, eight were medical ranging from an injured person at Ski Valley, a possible stroke victim, broken ankle at Rose Canyon, chest pain, difficulty breathing and a man struck by lightening at the movie set at Bigalow. Three grass fires were called in, but all were cancelled.

The call on Bigalow involved a man who had been leaning against a pick-up truck when a bolt of lightening struck the vehicle. He was thrown about 100 feet and suffered burns and was in shock when we arrived. He was transported to Tucson and was released the next day.

There was one rope rescue call at MP 18 in which a 15-year old was stuck on a rock about 100 feet above the road. He had been hiking and climbing, but hadn't taken any rope equipment with him. He climbed too high to come down and could not proceed up. It took about three hours to complete the rescue, after which the young man was somewhat upset because he felt that "all I needed was a rope." He was also upset when he was told that he would be billed for the call.

Training for Fire Fighter Two is in the final leg and two members should complete the training this month. The L.E.M.T program should start in January or February. There are six people signed up now with hopes for four more by the starting date. This class will cost each person \$700 and is a seven month course. With this certification, the Fire Dept. will be able to provide better and more complete medical treatment for the mountain. In addition, the department has picked up several new Reserve/E.M.T.'s lately.

The department has been looking into the purchase of a new piece of fire equipment. We are looking at a 1500 gallon pumper with four wheel drive and 300HP diesel engine. With this unit we will be able to respond to most all location on the mountain. Our present Engine Two is not able to respond to some locations because it is not four wheel drive and is getting older. This unit served us well, but it is time to retire to greener pastures. It may be able to be sold to a needy department somewhere in the valley. A new replacement pumper would cost around \$160,000.



Oct. 9 & 10
at the Woman's Club

*Call Vivianne Danielson 298-5713
or Sharon Thomas 297-0990 if you
have rummage you would like picked
up. Otherwise - see you at the sale!*



and other treats

Gallery

Thanks to all those who
attended our Artists'
Receptions this summer
making them a success.
Look for more shows
next summer.

**Be sure to check out the
high quality Estate
jewelry! Limited selection
of unique pieces.**



The Mt. Lemmon Echoes

October 1993



Tidbits

A surprise blessed event was marked Sept. 18 with the arrival of Hamlet, the newborn javelina on Mt. Lemmon. The proud parents, Olivia de Javelina and Gregory Peccary, have been the talk of the village this summer as they have been sighted by many. (See article on page 3). The little tyke was fuzzy red and smaller than a football when he first appeared.

Fall colors are at their best about Oct. 10-15. To see them up close and personal, try hiking up along the ski slope.

Road paving should begin any day now starting at the village and working down. Paving can be done as long as the ground temperature stays at 40°F or above. When it's too cold, chip seal or another surface that will withstand the rigors of winter will be used until work can be completed next year.

Weak response to plea from Water Co-op

By David Ostapuk

The estimated cost of repair of the leaking main water tank on Miner's Ridge is approximately \$20,000. The Co-op did receive a few hundred dollars from the plea in the last Echoe's, but no where near enough to cover the cost of the project. Efforts are being made to forge ahead with the critical repairs before winter sets in, so your financial backing is needed more than ever.

There are also other leaks in the system, including the Loma Linda section. These problems help to underscore the need to expand the financial base of the Co-op if it is to be able to keep up with the costs of running the water system. We will be looking hard at forming a Water District soon as a way to provide greater income to finance the regular activities of the water system.

The Co-op's attorney feels that the U.S. Forest Service's Severance and Transfer application can be successfully challenged by the Co-op. Briefs are being finished and will be filed to protect the Co-op's water rights. The cost has been high, but the generosity of the Homeowner's Association has greatly helped pay these bills. Where to get the money for the next round of battle is another question as the Homeowner's Association has no more money to give. After we hope to be successful in defending against the U.S. Forest Service's Severance and Transfer application, the Co-op will then have to take up defense against the Forest Service's Instream Flow application. Defense of these applications is crucial to the protection of our stream sources of your water. If the Forest Service is allowed to sever water rights and transfer them down the mountain or is allowed a greater portion of our instream water rights, the impact will be felt by all of us. Again, these legal battles illustrate the need for the Co-op to take a realistic look at per-

manently increasing its revenue base. More on that issue will be presented later.

In the interim, any and all new membership sign-ups are welcome and appreciated.

Finally, our thanks to Roy Garcia for his long service to the Water Co-op. He has resigned from the Board recently and the Co-op will sorely miss him. Good luck, Roy and thanks.

Enjoy the water...

MLFD History

The Fire Dept. is looking for any pictures or information you might have regarding the early days of the department as they are working to put together a history of the Mt. Lemmon Fire Dept. If you can help, call Chief Anselmi at 576-1649.

Roy Garcia resigns from Fire Board

We have lost one of our long-time Fire Board members with the resignation of Roy Garcia. Roy decided to resign effective this month. We are sorry to see him leave and will miss his input.

Fred Pace will step in to fill the empty seat. Fred is a welcome addition to the Board and we look forward to working with him.

Fred and his wife, Olga, have donated several items to the department in the past, and they have shown considerable interest in the mountain and the Department.