

## Water rationing a possibility if rain and snow don't come soon

By David Ostapuk

The Mt. Lemmon Water Co-op Board of Directors dealt with concerns about increasing water shortage on Mt. Lemmon at its regular meeting held on January 19, 1994. The weather in December and January that has been so beautiful has had a negative effect on the mountain. Due to a lack of seasonal snow and rain since the Thanksgiving snow storm, all of the storage tanks of the Co-op are exceptionally low. Compounding the problem are leaks in various parts of the system which are still being investigated and wherever possible repaired. However, as a result of the lack of precipitation, the water pressure is dropping lower and lower in all of the streams which the Co-op relies upon for its water supply. The water storage tanks are filling slower and slower and the water put in the tanks during the week is more than consumed during the weekends by cabin owners and visitors to the mountain. As a consequence, we cannot get ahead of the problem.

If rain and snow do not come soon to the mountain, water rationing measures which the Water Co-op has contingency plans for may need to be implemented. The water shortage will become increasingly critical as we move into the spring and summer months. If we don't get moisture soon, cabin owners may need to haul their own water this summer. The water board will continue to monitor the situation closely and keep you up-to-date.

As cabin owners or visitors to the mountain you can help in the current situation by conserving water, especially on the weekends when use is high. You should also check, if you have not recently done so, to make sure that all of the water lines in and around your cabin are secure and free of leaks. The lack of snow cover on the mountain, coupled with night after night of sub-freezing temperatures has caused many sections of the water lines to break. If you discover a leak at your cabin you should turn off the water supply and notify the Water Co-op or one of the board members so that steps can be taken to investigate the situation. Also, be sure to monitor fire hazards around you cabin. A cabin fire now could use all of our existing water supply.

On other matters, the Co-op's Maintenance Chairman, John Malay, reported that the Co-op's truck suffered approximately \$5400 damage recently when it failed to negotiate an ice patch in the area of the Retreat. The Co-op's Operations Manager, Mike Stanley, also reported that a \$2000 pump had to be replaced January 15. He also discussed

the thousands of dollars of needed water systems upgrades, maintenance and repairs that need to be tackled in the coming 1994 year.

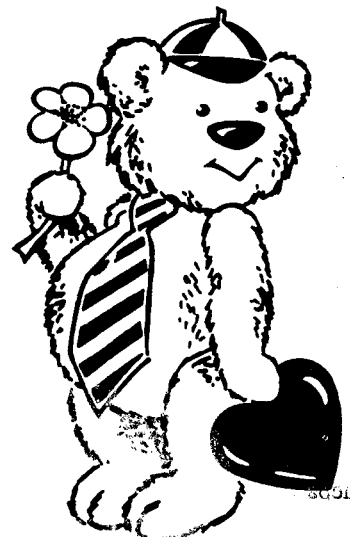
A partial listing of the working agenda for the Water Co-op for 1994 and beyond includes:

1. Dealing with the US Forest Service to create a plan for water management on the mountain;
2. Increasing storage capacity on Miner's Ridge from the current one-half million gallons to one and on-half million gallons;
3. Increasing storage capacity on Loma Linda from 340,000 approximate gallons to 500,000 or more;
4. Repairing leaks in the Loma Linda system, the Miner's Ride area and elsewhere;
5. Increasing our water testing capabilities to comply with surface water system requirements in the future;
6. Installation of distribution lines up to the Loma Linda storage system;
7. Acquisition of a Water Co-op building site and building for necessary Co-op business on the mountain;
8. The long-range planning to consider becoming a Water District.

All of the above projects will likely be costly. For example, the increased proposed storage needed on Miner's Ridge alone will cost well over \$100,000. All of these projects will also require much planning, budgeting and effort to accomplish. Mike Stanley and the members of the Board and staff of the Water Co-op are hard at work on all of these projects that affect our short-term and long-term interests.

In the meantime, one way the average water consumer on the mountain can help is to join the Co-op, if you are not already a member. Many people don't realize that even though they are getting Co-op water at their home or cabin they are not actually paid-up members. Membership gives you a say on how things are run and at the same time provides essential working capital for the Water Co-op. We urge you to join if you not already a member. And, we urge you to conserve water, always.

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## Cabin fires disastrous to three out of four cabin owners in 1993

A total of four structure fires on the mountain in 1993 kept the fire department busy. Fortunately, structure fires are not that common on the mountain, but when they happen, they often are devastating to the owners.

In April, the department responded to a chimney fire on Florence Avenue. The call came in the late afternoon and took about 20 minutes to put out. It caused about \$1000 in damage to the chimney and roof of the cabin. The fire began when the chimney and spark arrestor, which had creosote build-up and was partially blocked, was overheated by a good size fire in the fireplace. Chief Anselmi reminds all of us to check our chimneys and spark arresters to be sure they are clean and clear of all obstructions.

Two more cabin fires in the Willow Canyon area were a total loss. These fires were a couple weeks apart in October and began from suspicious origin.

The first cabin to burn to the ground had apparently been burglarized before the fire was set. The call came in at 10 a.m. and was fully involved when the fire department arrived. The cabin had not been used recently and break-ins had been reported in the area. According to Chief Anselmi, they believe a transient had been using the cabin, stole a television and stereo and set the fire to destroy any evidence. A PC Sheriff's Officer had been through the area checking on cabins about 45 minutes before the call came in to the fire department and saw nothing suspicious. It is believed the person involved was hiding and watched the officer leave before setting fire to the cabin.

About 10 days or so later and

about a quarter of a mile from that cabin, another was set on fire in the same manner. That call was received at 6:50 a.m. and, again, was fully involved when the trucks arrived. It is believed that the person involved was breaking in, using the cabins for a few days before moving on to another. Again, this cabin had been closed for some time.

Willow Canyon, which is just below Rose Canyon, has no water making it doubly difficult to fight fires. All water must be trucked in by the department. During the first fire, Ames Construction provided their 10,000 gallon water truck which was available. With the distance, size of the equipment, dirt roads and lack of water in the area to fight these fires, the department has a real struggle.

*(As a side note, it was discovered the first cabin to burn was not in the Mt. Lemmon fire district while the second cabin was. Not all properties in the Willow Canyon area are in the fire district. It is recommended you check to be sure your property is in the district.)*

Sunday evening, at the end of the Thanksgiving weekend, the fire department got a call of smoke in the upper Loma Linda area by the water tanks. While there was plenty of smoke when they arrived, there was

(cont. Pg 4)

## Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club News...

By Sharon Thomas

The Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club ended the year with a wonderful Christmas Brunch hosted by Jo Ann Foor. Thank you, Jo Ann, for sharing your new home and beautiful views with us.

Frosty the Snowman and Christmas lights decorated our building during the holiday season thanks to the efforts of Fran Zimmerman and Dannie Hayhurst. We truly appreciate your time and efforts.

Our next meeting will be Feb. 2 at the home of Frannie Crow with a program on wild birds. Dessert at 12:30, meeting and program to follow at 1 p.m..

Please mark your calendar for the following dates:

- Mar 2 Meeting at Olga Pace's. She will teach us to do Ukrainian Easter eggs.
- Mar 19 So. District Spring Convention at Tucson Woman's Club
- Apr 6 Meeting and elections  
Regina Rhind/Spring luncheon

I hope your new year is off to a good start and I look forward to seeing all of you at our coming meetings.





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## Homeowner "Red" Greth to be honored in Hall of Fame

Mt. Lemmon's own Gary "Red" Greth will be inducted into the International Drag Racing Hall of Fame in Ocala, Florida on March 17, 1994. You can see it all on ESPN! He'll be the one wearing the interesting tie. Red is the first Arizonan to receive this honor.

At the age of 16, with help from Roger McCluskey and Bill Cheeseborough, Red began racing his souped up '32 Ford coupe at organized meets in Phoenix. Tucson didn't have a facility for such meets. What they did have was a deserted stretch of straight flat pavement known as the "Mt. Lemmon cutoff" - a perfect place for the informal races with a cattle guard to mark the start and finish.

As a member of a high school club known as the "Lords of Tucson", Red raced some mean machines with his partner, Don Maynard and later, Lyle Fisher.

In 1956, they introduced Old Noisy, a hand-built, modified Speed Sport I. In 1957, Red turned in 169.11 mph on one-quarter mile, racing Old Noisy at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Old Noisy not only became the only roadster to hold a quarter mile world speed record, but the only non-dragster to ever do so to this date. His time was 9.10 seconds. Red also holds the world record for modified roadsters, clocking 186 mph.

Red's daily life finds him at Tucson Newspapers, Inc. where he has forty-two years of service and is currently senior account executive. His wife, Marge, and sons Kindle and Kenton often accompanied Red on his racing trips. A close family, both sons are now active in the racing world along with their dad.

The Museum of Drag Racing is home for Old Noisy these days, but Red is busy rebuilding his famous red racer from scratch to take to nostalgia races. While Red hung up his jacket in 1974 with many contributions to the sport, his biggest contribution has to be his desire to be good will ambassador of drag racing. Red always take time for the fans, especially the kids, allowing them to sit in the race car for pictures after races. Fans always walk away thinking they had just met a superstar. And they have!

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## Seeking 1994 Summitt Award candidates

By Dannie Hayhurst

In 1990 the first annual Summitt Award was given to Bob Zimmerman. The award is to honor members of our community who give unselfishly their time and expertise to the betterment of Mt. Lemmon. Other winners include Mike Stanley, Ross Quigley and Roy Garcia.

If you know of a community member you'd like to suggest for this award, write their name on the return portion of your annual dues billing. It's that easy. We all know of folks who have helped make this community what it is today and what it can be tomorrow!

Some movie trivia...

### Ted Dansen at a phone booth near Windy Point?

Okay, so you thought you saw him, right? In a phone booth... well, you did if you were on the Catalina Highway anytime between January 19 - 21st. Filming for the movie, *Pontiac Moon*, starring Ted Dansen was being done between Windy Point and General Hitchcock. The area is supposed to be an Idaho highway circa 1969. The scene has the actor stopping at a roadside phone booth.

The movie, *Tombstone*, which is in theaters now, also has some scenes filmed around MP 16 incorporated into the film.



## Birds and Bees, Flowers and Trees

By Sheri Lee

### Bare Winter, Bear Summer

Unless we have quite a lot of snow or rain in the next couple of months the bears are going to be affected by the drought, too. Recall a few years ago when things were so dry and the bears were hanging around the cabins looking for food and water? There were knocking over bird baths, raiding humming feeder and see feeders and even breaking into cabins. I would see, this will happen again if the drought continues

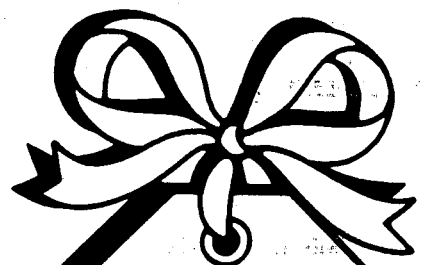
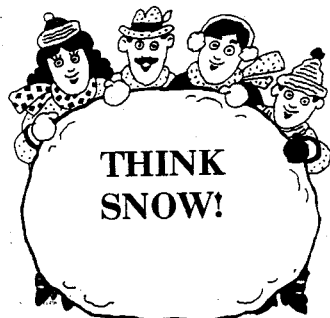
### Javelinas still on mountain

Last summer Game & Fish assured us the pigs would go down the mountain in the fall when the weather turned cold. Well, it hasn't been that cold and the two adult female javelinas and their three "hamlets" are still around. Supposedly, if a big storm comes with lots of snow, the pigs will die. They have no fur, only bristles, to keep them warm.

Rumor has it a few folks have been feeding them all winter to keep them up there. Since I don't know who these people are, I have not talked to them to find out why they would do this. Perhaps they are ignorant of the problems they are creating both for the people and the pigs. If you know who is feeding the javelinas and enticing them to stay on the mountain unnaturally, you might just enlighten them and get them to STOP FEEDING THE JAVELINAS!

Most of us would rather not have the javelinas on the mountain. At our cabin they have rooted up our gas line from the tank to the cabin, rooted up and eaten all the young pine trees, over-turned our bird bath and broken it, knocked down parts of the retaining wall below our deck, and they are just plain hanging around probably hoping for a morsel of dropped birdseed.

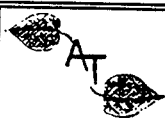
If they don't freeze to death this winter, we can look forward to a pack of five big pigs hanging around all summer. Assuming nature takes its course, won't there be more little hamlets born to join the pack? This could become quite a nuisance, even for those who love javelinas. Somehow I can accept bears, raccoons, ringtails, mountain lions, deer and skunks as native and natural, but to me javelinas belong down in the desert.



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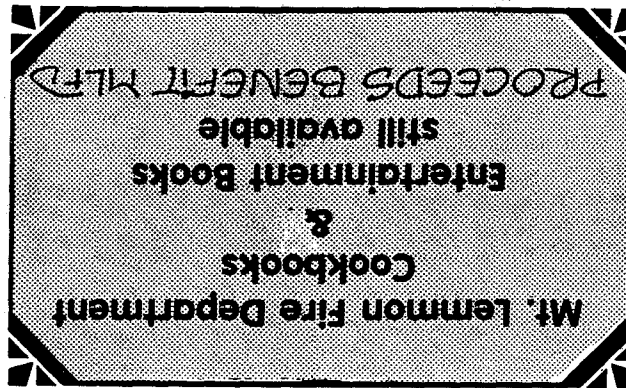
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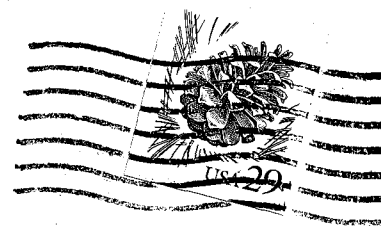
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