

The Mt. Lemmon Echoes

Serving the Homeowners of Mt. Lemmon

Fire & Bears Top August Issue

FIRES CONTINUE TO BURN IN THE SANTA CATALINA MOUNTAINS

Final Update before press time:

Sunday night 7/30/95
Measurable rainfall today. The Shovel fire has burned 1070 acres, the Green Fire is maintained at 190 acres. There is no containment date for the Shovel Fire. The Green Fire is 70% contained and the FS is projecting containment by 6PM Monday. Over 300 personnel, both firefighters and support, plus 5 air tankers, and 5 helicopters (including a sky crane capable of carrying 2,000 gallons) are working the fires.

Situation Update: Saturday night July 29, 1995 9PM Lightning-caused fires in the Santa Catalina Mountains north of Tucson continue to burn, to date consuming over 820 acres in the Shovel-Green Complex. Firefighters from Arizona and New Mexico, aided by aircraft, are continuing their efforts to contain the two fires burning in steep terrain.

Yesterday, thanks to hand-line construction and burn-out efforts on both fires, significant progress was made on the Shovel and Green fires which are separated by about eight miles. The Catalina Highway was reopened after being closed for a few hours on Friday. Traffic delays may be possible on the highway throughout the weekend.

The 190-acre Green Fire, burning along its south flank, is located due east of Rose Canyon Campground and Willow Canyon, but homes are not threatened due in part to efforts earlier this year in the area to reduce fuels using prescribed fire. "Hot Shot" firefighting crews from Payson and Flagstaff, and crews from San Carlos hope to complete line construction and burn out operations. These crews will be supported with a helicopter making water drops with a water bucket. The Green Mountain Trail will be closed on Saturday.

Tohono O'Odham and San Carlos crews working the 630-acre Shovel Fire will improve fire lines south to a saddle on Samaniego Ridge. The Samaniego Ridge Trail and the Canada del Oro trails remain closed.

Steep terrain, high temperatures, low humidities, and strong winds, combined with dense chaparral brush, continue to hamper suppression efforts. The Shovel fire is burning in pine forest on top of Samaniego Ridge and in oak and manzanita on the west side of the ridge. The fire has produced flame lengths in excess of 20 feet. "This fire is burning in places that have not burned in 75 years," said Tom Quinn, District Ranger for the Santa Catalina Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest. Fire officials predict extreme fire behavior and warned firefighters to be extra cautious. Despite difficult conditions during the two-week-long suppression effort, only five minor injuries have been reported, two resulting from dehydration.

The public is urged to use extreme caution when driving the narrow, winding Catalina Highway, which provides access to Summerhaven, Rose Canyon Lake, and many popular recreation sites and trails of the Santa Catalina Mountains. The public is asked to stay out of the vicinity of all fires but to especially stay out of burned

areas. Although the fire may appear to be out in many portions of the burned area there are still many hazards present. Firefighters will be positioned along the highway and slow moving buses and supply trucks should be expected. Fire camps for firefighters have been established near Rose Canyon Lake and the Palisades Visitor Station and these areas are heavily congested.

THIS FIRE UPDATE compliments of the United States Department of Agriculture, Santa Catalina Ranger District, Coronado National Forest, Forest Service 520/749-8700
520/403-2754

The update on page one was part of a handout the Forest Service has been providing all weekend to homeowners, businesses, and visitors to the mountain. They have made every attempt to keep information current (and roads and campgrounds open) and up-dated through the media as well. Our thanks to the Forest Service from the Mt. Lemmon community for having the info available as many homeowners have flooded the fire station with calls about the fire. The Catalina Highway was closed for a short time (3 hrs) Friday night when the "Green" fire jumped the highway and it became necessary to slurry bomb the road. Folks stranded in the village were notified immediately when the highway was reopened.

Thanks to All the Volunteers & Fire Fighters

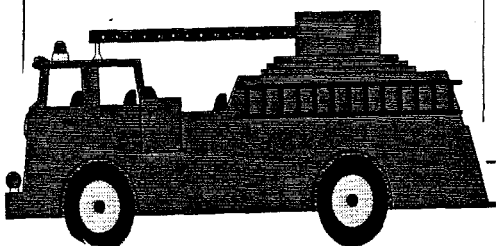
These fires have, as of this writing, over 300 personnel working on the fire lines and in a support capacity. The Mt. Lemmon Fire Dept, its reserve volunteers, Northwest Fire Department, the Flagstaff Hotshots, the Payson Hotshots, the Tohono O'Odham, San Carlos, and Mescal Firefighters, and crews from Forest Service, BLM, Arizona State Land, and the Mounted Assistance Unit (horseback unit) are all working in concert to bring these fires under control. *The Forest Service also requested we pass on their thanks again to the restaurants on Mt. Lemmon for their contributions of food.*

Water News

by Mike Stanley

Summer is upon us. The mountain weather has been wonderful. The late snows in April and the small rains have aided in keeping our domestic water flowing. On the news, Tucson water use for one day during 113° temperature was in excess of 153,000,000 gallons. Our usage, even though much less, is still climbing. On the average weekend our usage is 30,000 to 40,000 gallons per day. Weekday, our usage is about half that. Our main water source, Upper Sabino Spring, is producing 14 gallons per minute. Last year at this time the

source was producing only 4 gallons per minute. Simple math will show you how much storage is necessary to supply water during our low inflow with such high demand. Storage of water during our hi inflow is necessary. However, we have major storage problems. Our Miner's Ridge tank (500,000 gallons) is in need of repair and coating. When this tank is finally able to be repaired, we will have ½ million gallons less to supply during construction. When the tank is ready it will require over 30 days to fill. The estimated cost to repair and coat Miner's Ridge is \$27,000 to \$30,000. (That's the approximate cost of the tank in 1960.) Our other storage problem is the need for a more massive storage tank. We're preparing to ask for a 1,000,000 storage tank in the same area of Miner's Ridge. Also we're asking to finish the installation of our 6" transmission main. The transmission main was started in 1990 and is 8" ductile iron from the Miner's Ridge tank to the main road in Summerhaven. A 6" main travels south down Sabino Canyon Parkway to Upper Goat Hill Road. We're requesting funds in the form of Block Grants and loans to complete the Eastern side of the main from Sabino Canyon Parkway to our 283,000 gallon storage tank on Loma Linda. This main will enable water to flow directly to the east side of the system. Currently the water must travel via our undersized distribution system. During the week, there is usually less customer demand. The water from Miner's Ridge will flow to Loma Linda tank. We get about 6" a day into a



32 foot high tank. However on the weekends no water will flow to the tank. Water reverses and comes out of the tank to supply the demand of customers. It's kind of like 2 steps forward and 1 step back. On Mondays, barring any leaks, the tank starts to fill again. The transmission main will allow over 1000 gallons per minute to the Loma Linda side. This would cure one of our major supply problems. Plans to install fire hydrants on the transmission main would aid in higher flows to the east side of the area. Right now the biggest main line on the Loma Linda side is 1 1/2 inches in dia-meter. This small line will flow about 30 g.p.m. When customer demand is over that amount, the service connections in the higher elevations run out of water.

The cooperative is working to solve major problems in the system. I hope my explanation of this is not too confusing. I'm trying to set up a basic tour for customers and coop members*. this will probably be after Labor Day. If you have more questions maybe I can answer them then.

Even though I've been long winded, there is another item I wish to discuss with you. During the last month, customers have had leak problems. The first leak was in a sprinkler system at the top of Phoenix Ave. We caught the problem during meter reads. Approximately 15,000 gallons and 3 hours of labor were required to find and solve the problem. The other, a cabin used as a rental, blew a supply line hose from under the kitchen sink. A 30,000 gallon loss caused major damage to the inside of the cabin. I mention these

incidents to encourage you to shut off your systems when you are not around to monitor them. The loss causes other customers major inconveniences. The operator must find and correct these problems and charge *you* for the service. The customer usually understands the charges but sometimes wishes to bring the situation before the board. Generally, the board will not adjust the charges due to *the rules and regulations stating that the customer is responsible for this kind of loss.* If the loss is extreme and causes water to be hauled, the party causing the problem would be charged for all expenses. Please turn off your water when you leave.

The charge for the 30,000 gallon loss is:

\$4.00 per 1000G for 1st 10,000 G	\$40.00
\$7 per 1000G for 2nd 10,000 G	\$70.00
\$10 per 1000G anything over 20,000G	\$100.00
plus monthly charge	<u>\$31.85</u>
	= \$241.85

plus \$30 per hour for leak find.

* in a co-operative, the member is the "owner"

Bear Facts : This seems to be a record year for bear sightings. Tell us your bear stories.....

These are some of the sightings that we've heard about recently:

Frannie Crowe on Goat Hill has had numerous bear sightings.

These bears move very silently. Frannie was on her 2nd story deck reading a book when one saddled up near her before she noticed it. She started yelling, and the bear went to the base of her stairs and then rested it's head on the railing and looked up at her before slowly wandering off.

The empty ice chest in the bed of Marti Mollo's pickup truck was rifled thru by a bear last Thursday, and only glanced at Fran Zimmerman as she drove past the scene. Then later that same day, the bear was sighted on the roof of Pam's Mt. Lemmon Cafe looking down on the diners around 6PM. The patrons were all amused by the sighting.

This was how we were originally going to offer an article on the bears of Mt. Lemmon. But several incidents over the last weekend have shadowed these "cute" tales.

We heard about a small bear that visited Chriss Sheldon's cabin. It was a warm afternoon last Friday and her front door was ajar to allow air to circulate. (We had a record 92 degree afternoon). Jean Martin & her sister Bonnie were visiting Chriss. Bonnie was sitting by the open door when a bear weighing about 90 lbs sauntered thru Chriss' open front door. The bear pawed Bonnie in the back of the head as it tried to enter and left quickly. She did not appear to be seriously injured, but the incident was unprovoked on Bonnie's part.

Saturday was a long day for Chief John Roads. The fires and a busy week on the mountain had

occupied all his waking hours, and he and his son, Adam, were coming home from the fire station at 9:30 that evening. John parked his truck near the comfort station, and walked past the dumpsters to his house. A mother bear, 3 cubs close by, had John & Adam on the ground before they knew it was there. The bear bit John on the thigh, and a dozen patrons of the Alpine ran yelling and waving their arms to force the bear to back away. Thanks to the speedy response of Adam and the Alpine patrons, John was not more seriously mauled. The bear and cubs had been circling the Alpine and dumpsters looking for food. John was back to work on Sunday. That was Adam's first sighting of a bear. Right now he's hoping it will be his last.

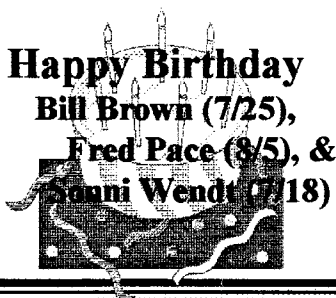
Report problem bears to Az Game & Fish 628-5376 or violations to 1-800-325-0700

As The Lemmon *Twists*

This has also the year of Granddaddy-long-legs.... Debbie Hardesty reports two large dark balls of these spiders - hundreds of them bundled together into a ball shape outside her residence... We've had granddaddy spiders in record numbers in the office as well - I have scooped up and deposited at least a half dozen outdoors each morning for the last two weeks ... maybe it's the same

6 spiders finding their way back into the building every night when I leave but I don't think so.

The feedback on the Logo for Mt. Lemmon - the logo has had a positive reponse, but as one member wrote " the lemon is a negative connotation - remove it and we'd be happy". Any other suggestions to improve or change the logo?



The Mt. Lemmon Post Office celebrated its 50th anniversary this summer. The post office was established as a summer only post office in June of 1945 with Tony Zimmerman as the post master.

Mary Rugg is recovering from surgery last Thursday and doing well. Everyone sends their best wishes for a rapid recovery.

Rachel Crawford, daughter of Dorothy & Roger Crawford, was in a auto accident last week. Kind wishes and cards for her recovery can be sent to UMC c/o Rachel Crawford or to her parents

Tucson home, 3956 E Cmo de Palmas, T.A. 85711

Fire Department Update

by Chief John Roads

**STATION SCHEDULE for-
AUGUST 12 - SATURDAY**

2:30 PM to 7:15 PM - Fire Department Benefit Burgers at the Summerhaven Suites and Sweets

6:30 PM to 7:15 PM - Clown Show Performance at the Summerhaven Suites and Sweets (FD Benefit)

7:30 PM to 8:00 PM - Forest Service meet the Public to review the recent fires - at the Station

8:00 PM to ??? - Community Dance

(isn't it nice how we schedule everything to fit an easy plan?)

Well it's very difficult to sit here and write this month's article. Right at this moment, (7/29/95) there are 11 visiting firefighters sleeping in the station (they were on the Green Fire line all night last night), 4 of my firefighters are assigned to two different fires, Channel 13 just left after doing an interview of me about the bears, and hundreds of people are calling to see if the road and campgrounds are open during the fires. I never figured that life on Mt. Lemmon would be so active.

Anyway, the runs for July are way up. I anticipate over 40 runs (January's record) before the end of the month. There is no easy

trend to identify this month. The call load includes a mixture of hiking related falls and injuries, wrecks, forest fires, fire alarms, bicycle wrecks, bee stings, and medical emergencies.

In late June, MLFD fought one structure fire. An arsonist set fire to one of the comfort stations at Bear Canyon. The fire was quickly controlled, however due to the complexity of the organic disposal system, the dollar loss to the unit was high.

The Mt. Lemmon Community Center and Social Club is open for fun on some Saturday nights. On July 8th, the Mulays & Olga Pace organized a dance at the station. So much fun was had that they decided to do it again. This time we decided to add a Fire Department Safety Talk before the dance. However, due to the recent fires, we decided to have the Forest Service use the time to communicate with the interested public. Anyone wanting to discuss the recent fires, ask questions, or just learn something new, please come to the station at 7:30 on August 12th. Just prior to this talk, the Summerhaven Suites and Sweets will be hosting a fund raiser for the fire department and the Water Co-op. The schedule calls for Benefit Burgers starting around 2:30 PM. Clowns will provide a benefit show at 6:30 PM and will be available for face painting. The proceeds will be used to aid the department with communications equipment upgrades. Participation will be greatly appreciated. *Hope to see you there.*

August 12 Fund Raiser to benefit the Fire Dept., and the WaterCo-op. The fun starts at 2:30PM until dark. The Feature performance will be a professional clowns act at 6:30PM. A third pound sirloin burger, beans and chips plate for \$5 will be served all afternoon from 2:30 on - cookies and drinks also available. ALL proceeds collected from 2:30PM on will go into this fund raiser. Vic Zimmerman & Summerhaven Suites and Sweets are donating the costs of foods and preparation, so the Fire District and the Water Co-op benefit entirely from your support and contributions. Clown face painting and photo "ops" with your favorite dalmation (Pongo) or with your favorite clown will be available for a donation as well. Remember - kids of all ages welcome - come and support a part of your community the fun way!

Thanks to Summerhaven Suites and Sweets and Vic Zimmerman for his support!



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Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club

Sharon Thomas

Thanks to all the ladies who have been most generous in helping to keep the events of our club going on the Mountain this summer.

Many of our members along with their families and friends have been enjoying the Saturday morning hikes. Remember ... all you have to do is to show up at the Post Office in the village at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning and join in.

Our thanks to Linda and John Mulay and Olga Pace for organizing the dance at the Fire House. Everyone had a great time!

We will be having our Annual Labor Day Rummage, Book and Bake Sale on Sept. 1, 2 and 3rd from 10:00 to 5:00 every day. Please contact Vivianne or myself to volunteer to work. **WE NEED RUMMAGE!** I know it's too hot to do any spring cleaning but please look around for those white elephants you have and donate them to the sale. Since we are trying to keep the club house clean, please consider storing your items at your cabin or home until the week before the sale. If it is a problem please call Vivianne Danielson (298-5713) or Sharon Thomas (297-0990) and we will work something out. We would like to set up for the sale on Thursday, Aug. 31. Any members who can donate the time to help set up *please* let us know - preparation is essential for a successful sale. Our next meeting will be at the cabin of Sheri Lee August 5th. Look for her postcard reminders in last week's mail.

BIRDS AND BEES, FLOWERS AND TREES AND LITTLE GRAY FOXES

by Sheri Lee

Finally I saw a gray fox by our cabin. It was about 40 inches long from nose tip to tail tip. The fur was kind of salt-and-pepper and its long, bushy tail had a black streak along the top from base to tip. the fox's face was pretty and its eyes reminded me of a cat's eyes.

At one time the gray fox ranged all over North America, but now it does not inhabit the open plains states. My book about the Catalinas says it prefers to live at the chaparral elevation, but ranges over the entire mountain. Our gray fox mainly lives in hollow logs, but might also live in a hole in the ground or a tiny cave among the rocks. It does not hibernate, but hunts all year around no matter how cold the night.

It is a solitary hunter, never seen in packs as dogs, coyotes and wolves are. Its prey mainly consists of rabbits, mice, chipmunks and squirrels, and maybe birds which nest or roost close to the ground. Also it may eat some roots and fruits. It has been noticed that since the appearance of the gray fox on Mt. Lemmon the feral cat population is greatly reduced... is that just a coincidence?

Usually the fox is nocturnal, retiring to its den during the heat of the day. They are clever and intelligent; man being their chief enemy even though they usually avoid traps and poisons put out by man.

Foxes are not monogamous, but because of a scarcity of possible mates, the same pair often

is seen together year after year. In the spring usually four cubs are born to a litter and they are blind for the first ten days. Both parents bring food to the den while the cubs are young. By fall the cubs are able to care for themselves and when they are one year old they are considered fully grown.

I found it interesting that the gray fox is the only fox that climbs trees readily. Maybe that critter in the tree you thought was a 'coon, was really a gray fox !?

The Mt. Lemmon Hiking Club

by Linda Mulay

Last year the Woman's Club started a hiking (walking) program. Trailboss, Luanne Waldron has taken the group to such places as Mint Springs in Carter Cyn, Sunset Trail from Soldier's Camp to Marshall's Gulch, Incinerator Ridge (where trash was disposed of years ago), and a few miles on the Butterfly Trail towards Bigelow. John and I have owned property for 19 years and have had a cabin for 16 years. For many years all we did was drive up the mountain and work. It was nice to get to explore the mountain and see the many beautiful trails. When Barbara Welsh joins us she will be able to teach us all about the flora and fauna. We ended last season with a walk to an overlook off Sunset trail where we had a wonderful evening potluck. About 10 couples participated. The hikes are usually short. We always take water and wear hiking shoes. WE want to encourage everyone (men & women) to join us any Saturday 8AM at the Post office. Questions? Call myself or Luanne.

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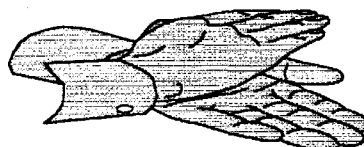
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power back on so quickly
last weekend!

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Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Assoc.
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This Echoes is brought to you courtesy of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association. It is one of the benefits of being a member. Your board members are: Bob Evison, *Vice President*, Fran Crowe, Red Greth, Paul Hawkins, Dannie Hayhurst, *President*, Pete Krauss, Sheri Lee, John Mulay, Carolyn Autrey, Larry Waldron, Florence Wilhoite, *Treasurer*, Fran Zimmerman, *Secretary*, and Carrie Reitz. Dannie Hayhurst is Publisher and Editor of the Echoes. If there are any questions or articles to submit, contact Dannie @ 576-1512, 298-6328 or 576-1333

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