



The Mt. Lemmon Echoes

Serving the Homeowners of Mt. Lemmon

First Snow of 1996 on January 31st -More to come*

**we hope!*

Water News

by Mike Stanley

Talk about Chamber of Commerce weather. The locals and tourists have had it great. Lots of sun and little rain. So, what's the problem? The mild winter without rain or snow will cause less spring flow. This spring flow is the main water source for our domestic use. Currently the springs are producing about 12 gallons per minute. The usual flow in the spring is about 30 gallons per minute. Without snow a possible shortage could exist this summer. The water company will keep you informed as changes happen. **REMEMBER TO DO YOUR SNOW DANCE AND HOPE FOR PRECIPITATION.**

Phase IV Mt. Lemmon Highway Reconstruction beginning early March 1996

On January 9th, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) held a meeting at the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station to discuss the upcoming highway project. This reconstruction will be from milepost 7.7 to milepost 9.6 and repair work at mileposts 3.5 and 12.7. The proposed traffic control schedule was discussed with input from residents and merchants. A schedule of traffic control is printed on page 3 of this issue. Residents will note that from March 1st through June 1st, that on Monday through Thursday the highway will open from 6:30AM - 8:30AM, 3:30PM - 6:30PM, 10PM -11PM with 15 minute delays or optional one way pilot car operating every 30 minutes. On national holidays and from 6:30AM Fridays to 11PM

Sundays there will be no delays. The road reconstruction traffic control schedule lists varying schedules through January 5th, 1997. The schedule from June 2nd through September 21st will be printed in the March issue of the Echoes. If you have further questions, you can contact John Carver, project manager, or Rick Kaneen, local community relations for further information at 885-9009. Remember, traffic delays of any kind are not permitted on weekends between 8:30AM Friday and 11PM Sunday or on national holidays, except for bridge and retaining wall construction which restricts traffic to one lane during non-working periods. For the purposes of these specifications, the day before a holiday will be treated as if it were a Friday and the day after will be treated

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Phase IV continued from page 1

as if it were a Monday. Throughout the entire project emergency vehicles, including those carrying County, State and US government personnel responding to medical emergency situations, shall be provided access through the work zone immediately upon arrival at the job site. The contractor shall either adjust the road closure periods or provide immediate escorted passage through the work zone for scheduled school bus trips. Maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian traffic is not required.

BIRDS AND BEES, FLOWERS AND TREES, & SNOWFLAKES

by Sheri Lee

As I write this we have about 8" of new snow on the Lemmon. I asked the Water Co-op president, Larry Waldron, how do they measure the moisture when it falls as snow. In general, ten inches of snow equals one inch of water, but there are some other variables he didn't go into in detail. In reading my Audubon Field Guide to North American Weather I learned a few things about snow and rain you might

like to add to your trivia bank. SNOW CRYSTALS start out as supercooled water at about -40 F. If there is something around to become a nucleus, like dust particles, nearby in the atmosphere the supercooled water will evaporate into water vapor then sublime directly into ice crystals around the nucleus. Snow crystals are very tiny and they will fall to earth that way in what appears to be a fog when the weather is really cold as in Minnesota recently. But when the air near the ground is warmer, as on Mt. Lemmon, the ice crystals clump together and form SNOW FLAKES, which are often at least an inch in diameter. Local TV weatherman, Michael Goodrich, likes to tell that the largest snowflake ever recorded was 18" in diameter. I would like to have heard that when it fell!

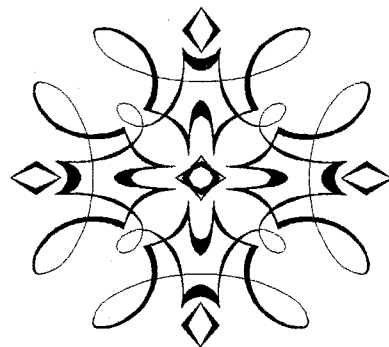
Once snow lands on the ground and begins to pile up it changes from pretty snowflakes to SNOW GRANULES due to the pressure and heat from the other flakes falling on top of it. The first recorded observation of snow was by a Chinese poet in 157 B.C., Han Ying who wrote in a poem that ... most of the flowers have five petals, but snow crystals have six. In 1635, French philosopher Rene Descartes observed and recorded in Amsterdam, seven basic shapes of snow crystals. Yet today with all our fancy

microscopes and microphotography we still maintain there are only seven basic shapes, our favorite being the six-pointed crystal.

The SNOW LINE is the altitude above which snow does not melt in the summer and precipitation falling is only in the form of snow. In the polar regions this is at sea level and at the equator it is about 16,000 feet. The presence or absence of a permanent snowfield above the snowline is most greatly affected by the prevailing winds.

It is estimated more than half the rain that falls to earth starts out as ice crystals which, as they fall through the warmer atmosphere close to the earth, melt and turn into rain.

The two major purposes snow serves on Mt. Lemmon are providing our water supply and providing an insular thermal layer to protect the vegetation from severe cold. There is another purpose ... bringing all the tourists up from the valley to go skiing and tubing and keeping the Fire Department busy rescuing them from all kinds of mishaps.



PHASE IV MT. LEMMON HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION**Proposed traffic control schedule**

The following is the proposed traffic control schedule which the contractor must abide by during the construction project. Many of the requirements are necessary due to the nature of the construction activities, but minor adjustments are possible. Phase IV will include reconstruction of the highway from milepost 7.7 to milepost 9.6 and additional work at mileposts 3.5 and 12.7.

Traffic delays of any kind are not permitted on weekends between 8:30AM Friday and 11:00PM Sunday or on national holidays, except for bridge and retaining wall construction which restricts traffic to one lane during non-work periods. For purposes of these specifications, the day before a holiday will be treated as if it were a Friday and the day after will be treated as if it were a Monday.

Approximately March 1, 1996 through June 1, 1996
(Start of construction through June 1, 1996)

Maintain continuous two-way traffic between 6:30AM Friday and 11:00PM Sunday. Between 11:00PM Sunday and 6:30AM Friday, except holidays, traffic may be maintained under continuous alternate one-way operation using flaggers or a pilot car operation, except the Contractor may delay traffic during the following periods:

Monday thru Thursday:

6:30AM - 8:30AM: 15 minute maximum accumulative delay or optional one-way pilot car operation every 30 minutes.

8:45AM* - 3:30PM: Closure allowed (6 3/4 hours)

3:30PM - 6:30PM: 15 minute maximum accumulative delay or optional one-way pilot car operation every 30 minutes.

6:45PM* - 10:00PM: Closure allowed (3 1/4 hours)

10:00PM - 11:00PM: 15 minute maximum accumulative delay or optional one-way pilot car operation every 30 minutes.

11:15PM* - 6:30AM: Closure allowed (7 1/4 hours)

Friday: 6:30AM - Remainder: No delays

Saturday: No delays

Sunday: Up to 11:00PM: No delays

11:15PM - 6:30AM: Closure allowed (7 1/4 hours)

* An additional queue shall be piloted from the Mount Lemmon end at the 8:30AM, 6:30PM and 11:00PM cycle to clear traffic in both directions prior to road closure. A 15 minute cycle is required prior to the beginning of each road closure period to allow the final queue of traffic from both ends of the project to pass through the construction.

Fire Department Activity Log - December 1995 - January 1996

MLFD utilizes the 24 hour clock. From Midnight to noon the hours are 0100 to 1200. From Noon to Midnight, the hours continue from 1300 (1:00 PM) to 2400 (Midnight). 1500 is 3:00 PM.

Date	Run #	Time	Units	Location	Nature
December					
12-3	282	1419	Rescue 311	MP23	Motorcycle MVA, injury
12-9	283	1535	Eng.-314,Tndr-317	Ray Road	Brush Fire near cabin
12-9	284	1552	Res-311	MP 17	Sick Person-Canceled en route
12-17	285	1043	Res-311, Chief-310	Kimball Springs	Fall injury
12-18	286	1141	R-311	MP 20	MVA, Canceled en route
12-20	287	1100	R-311	Fire Station	Walk-In-Hand injury
12-21	288	1313	Chief-310	MP 11	MVA-Unable to locate
12-21	289	1356	Chief-310, R-311	MP 16.5	MVA-No injuries
12-21	290	1359	Chief-310, R-311	MP 18	MVA-No injuries
12-24	291	1515	Chief-310, R-311	MP 16.5	MVA, No injuries
12-24	292	1530	Chief-310, R-311	MP 19.5	MVA, No injuries
12-25	293	1500	Chief-310, R-311	MP 22	MVA, Canceled en route
12-25	294	1639	Chief- 310	MP 20	MVA, No injuries
12-25	295	1712	Chief-310	MP 21	MVA, No injures
12-26	296	1205	R-311, Chief -310	Bear Wallow	Sled injury
12-30	297	0246	Chief-310, Eng.-314	San PedroVista	Forest Fire
12-30	298	1316	R-311	Fire Station	Walk-In, Sled injury
12-31	299	1329	R-311	Ski Valley Rd.	Sled injury

1995 ended with 299 calls for service, 100 calls more than 1994 (50% increase)

January

1-1	001	1712	R-311	ML Cafe	Fall on Ice
1-4	002	1445	R-311	Fire Station	Walk-In, MVA injury
1-5	003	1452	R-311	Windy Point	Fall injury
1-6	004	1243	R-311	Fire Station	Walk-In, Hand injury
1-11	005	1334	Chief-310	Willow Canyon	Assault, Canceled on Arrival
1-17	006	1500	Chief-310	Sabino/Goat Hill	Tree fell on cabin
1-20	007	2247	R-311, Ch-310, SARA,	Aspen Trail	Camper - Fall injury
1-24	008	1300	Eng.-314, USFS	Rose Canyon	Forest Fire, assist USFS
1-26	009	0518	R-311	MP 11.5	MVA, Canceled en route
1-28	010	1316	R-311	Fire Station	Walk-In ankle injury
1-29	011	1145	R-311	Zimmerman School	injury

F I R E DEPARTMENT NEWS

by Chief John Roads

Well, it's that time of year to start thinking about the summer and fire season. We definitely must be thinking early this year, as with the current drought on snow, last year's fire season hasn't really ended. There was a major forest fire in October and as can be seen from the run activity (see page 4), one fire in December and one in January. The lack of snow has left the forest very dry. Even the snow on the ground February 1st isn't going to help long. We are expecting severe conditions this year as the lack of snow will not only leave the forest dry, but may also limit the water supplies for fire fighting purposes.

Last year at this time I described the comparison of forest fires to fire place fires where the pine needles on the ground act the same as the newspaper and kindling used to start the fire in the fireplace. This year we will be working towards ways to eliminate the fire hazard problems. For this article I think we will start with a vocabulary lesson in understanding forest

terminology. If your property is deemed a hazard, we will be using the following phrases to describe the problem.

* Aerial Fuels - the above/over head level fuels, tree tops, branches and limbs. It is difficult if not impossible for firefighters to control and contain aerial fuel fires.

* Crown Fires - Fires in the aerial fuels that sweep through the tree tops, over head of suppression forces. Both the Green Fire and Shovel Fire (the big one in the summer of 1995) experienced some crowning fires. A crown fire going through the village or cabin neighborhood would be devastating.

* Ground Cover - any combustible materials on the ground level - pine needles and other tree litter including small twigs and branches. Ground cover fires refer to fires on the ground level that sweep under the trees. Ground cover against cabins allows a fire to sweep up and engulf a cabin.

*Downed Heavies - downed, dead and decaying trees, heavy limbs, etc. These can easily catch fire, similar to a cabin as a ground fire sweeps by. These downed heavy fuels add tremendous heat output in a fire situation.

*Ladder Fuels - these are the small twigs and branches in the lower parts of standing trees that either touch the ground, or are close enough to the ground to catch fire when a ground

cover fire sweeps by. These ladder fuels allow the ground cover fire to easily climb the trees to reach the aerial fuels that aid in forming crown fires. Ladder fuels need to be trimmed away to about five feet or so above the ground.

* Defensible Space - this is a clear space around a cabin or other structure that allows firefighters the chance to defend (i.e. defensible) the structure as a fire approaches. A defensible space must have a clear area (clear of both ground and ladder fuels) to allow firefighting forces room to move in and protect. Without the defensible space, fire fuels burn right up to the structure allowing almost no chance of defending it.

*Write-Off - a cabin or other structure providing no defensible means of saving the structure. Instead of wasting valuable firefighting resources and needlessly endangering firefighters lives, a non-defensible property will be written-off and allowed to burn. No one wants to write off a cabin, but if the property owner provides no assistance in protecting the structure, no lives will be wasted. We will do everything in our power to protect your property, however your help is needed. Unfortunately, there are currently a couple of abandoned or dilapidated cabins now that under certain fire conditions will be write-offs.

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***Prescribed Burns** - a carefully designed and followed plan to burn off an area to eliminate the ground cover, ladder, and downed fuels to mitigate the threat of an uncontrolled wildfire from passing through the area. Prescribed burns are conducted under favorable weather conditions, with adequate resources, and monitored by other agencies. While there is some smoke generation, it is nothing compared to an out of control fire. For example, there was a controlled burn last year just below MP 16. Several months later, it was almost impossible to tell that there had been a fire. On the other hand, the Shovel Fire was an out of control, combination ground and aerial fuels crown fire, that left a large area completely devastated. It will be many years before the area returns to normal. Prescribed burns are good for both the forest health and for the control of wild fires.

There are plans in the works for prescribed burns in and near the village later this year. Your support and cooperation will be necessary for a successful program. Without the prescribed burns, the

village and cabin areas actually have little protection from a major wildfire. More to come in the next issues of the Echoes.

Composting is Moving Indoors

by Bob Zimmerman

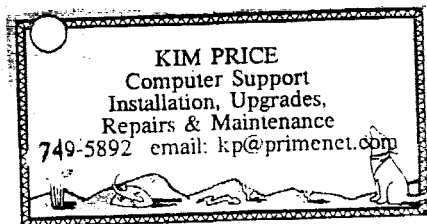
Two issues ago I mentioned that Pima County Health Department had recently begun enforcing old state guide lines which, in many situations, prohibits the use of standard designed septic systems for Mt. Lemmon lots. These guide lines, contained in State Bulletin 12, concerns the minimum design criteria for septic systems. Although Bulletin 12 was published in 1989, several of the design criteria were not enforced until recently. I think this was largely because there were not alternate septic system designs acceptable to Pima County. One of these newly enforced design criteria, which I call the daylight rule, makes it almost impossible to meet the minimum design criteria on lots which have an appreciable slope. This rule affects all lots which have slopes exceeding 20%, which most on Mt. Lemmon do. Other design criteria now being enforced additionally contribute to making it difficult for Mt. Lemmon lots meeting minimum septic design criteria.

To cut to the chase, Pima County is now approving combined systems requiring both a standard septic system with shorter fields to handle the gray water (sinks and showers) and an alternate system for the toilet, the subject of this article. Composting is moving inside! Many of us have had composters in the back yard. This same idea works well inside except body waste is composted rather than clippings and food scraps. There are several composting toilets on the market which use the natural composting process of decomposition and evaporation to recycle human waste. These toilets can be relatively easy and inexpensive to install and can, for the dry toilets, require no water supply or sewer lines. Ninety percent of human waste is water. This water is evaporated through heat generated in the composting process with the fumes and moisture going up the vent pipe. The small amount of remaining solids, including toilet paper, which provides carbon used in the composting process, are naturally converted to fertilized soil excellent for the gardens and plants.

Composting toilets are designed to accelerate the activity of the microbes, which cause the composting process, by providing and controlling an oxygen rich, warm and moist environment. Composting becomes dormant below 60 degrees, but resumes once

temperatures are raised above 60 degrees again. Some toilets use electricity to control composting temperatures and enhance evaporation.

Composting toilets are not new as they have been used extensively in many countries which have high water tables, like Sweden, or steep slopes, like Switzerland, for over 25 years. Properly operated and maintained they are odorless and require little attention. The waterless and flush types require rotation of the composting drum inside the toilet once a week by turning a handle. The compost is removed 1 to 4 times per year, depending on activity. The flush variety use about a pint of water per flush and look like the toilets used in trailers although china toilets are also available. Capacity varies from the occasional weekend couple to full time family of six. Cost, including installation, can be as low as several hundred dollars for the dry type to several thousand for the wet variety. However, this cost is in addition to installation of the gray water septic system which can vary in cost from \$3,000 to \$6,000. For more information please give me a call. 576-1333.



Mt. Lemmon Woman's Club

by President Sharon Thomas

By the time you get this we will have had our first meeting of the new year at the home of member Fran Crowe. The program was presented by Maryanne Kruszewski, special unit clinician with cardiac rehab at St. Joseph's Hospital. The topic was "Healthy Heart for Women" and included information on the leading killer of women - heart attacks.

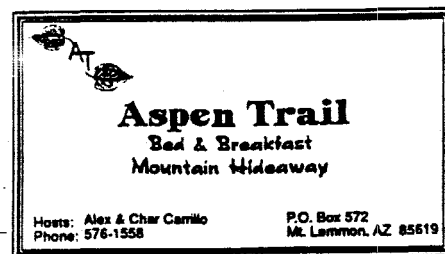
I now that March seems a long way off but I would like for you to mark your calendars for March 23rd - the GFWC Southern District Spring Convention in Tucson. Our "own" Dannie Hayhurst will be installed as Southern District President. Former Southern District President and long standing member Regina Rhind will perform the installation ceremony. Lets all turn out to support her in this big undertaking. Good luck, Dannie! I understand that Fran Zimmerman will be Southern District's corresponding

secretary as well.

We will be electing new officers for our club in April and hope more of you will want to take an active part. I have been president for 3 years, and it is an enjoyable experience, but I am ready to turn the reins over to another qualified member.

I have some sad news to pass along with the first message of the new year. A long time member, Freda S. Botkin, passed away December 6th at the age of 85. She was a WWII Coast Guard Veteran, former president of the Arizona Women's Bowling Association, named WIBC, assistant, then executive secretary treasurer. She was a life member of the Arizona WBA and AWWB, and a hall of fame member of WIBC, AWBC, and Tucson WBC. She was a long standing member of the Arizona Federation of Business and Professional Women. Freda could not have had a better or closer friend than member Midge Swanson Mioduski, who was by her side through Freda's illness.

Midge Mioduski's husband Chet passed away shortly after Freda, and had been hospitalized for awhile. Our prayers, sympathies and thoughts go out to Midge for all she has had to endure these last few months.



WE are so pleased that many of you responded early to the statement in the December issue of the Echoes to forward your dues. For those who have not yet paid, we will include another general statement in this issue.

The Annual Homeowner's Dinner will be coming up in April, so watch for the date and menu in the next issue.

Thanks for paying your dues so promptly!

VOTE Feb 27

anyone who wishes to vote in the February 27th Arizona Presidential Election the Fire Station will be open during regular voting hours!

Congratulations to homeowners Marc & Evelyn Jerden on the arrival of their 2nd child, a daughter on 12-27-95. Years ago, the Echoes used to announce births in a column titled "lemmon drops".

Congratulations to Phil Archambault and Nancy Goodwin on the celebration of their 50th anniversary on January 19th, 1996!

cut here →

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	Please indicate your choice:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am enclosing a self addressed, stamped envelope for my membership card	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will pick up my membership card at the Annual MLHO dinner in April 1996	
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Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association
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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, Pete Krauss, Sheri Lee, Dannie Hayhurst, President, Florence Wilhoite, treasurer, John Mulay, Fran Zimmerman, secretary, Carrie Rietz, Carolyn Autrey, and Larry Waldron. Dannie Hayhurst is publisher and editor of the Echoes.

*can you guess the
year this photo was
taken?*

