

# THE MT LEMMON ECHOES

Volume 25 Issue 1

Mt. Lemmon Home Owner's Publication

February 1998

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by John Mulay

President of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners' Association

Be sure to mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 21st and send in your reservations for the annual homeowners' dinner meeting at the Savoy Opera House in Trail Dust Town. Cocktails 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm. Dinner 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Program 8:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.



This year's guest speakers will be Pima County Board of Supervisor, Raymond Carroll; Santa Catalina District Ranger, Dean McAlister; Mt. Lemmon Cooperative Water, President Chuck Autrey; Mt. Lemmon Fire Department, Chief John Roads and Pima County Sheriff Department, TBA.

There will be great gifts drawn during the evening and you will have a chance to see your mountain neighbors.

Hope to see all our members April 21st!

## RECORD LOWS ARE FREEZING PIPES CAUSING MASSIVE WATER LOSS

By Michael Stanley

This years winter has been a very cold one. The water loss is over 500,000 gallons. The leaks on the customers' side of the meter have been very hard to find. Once the snow covered the ground and the temp's dropped, the leaks started.

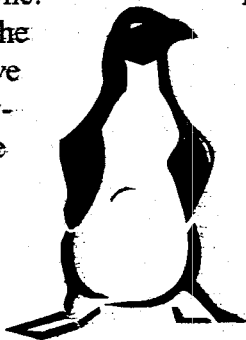
Bitter cold caused the main and customers' lines to freeze. Some of these lines busted causing massive loss. The coldest I saw it was 7 above. The cold nights would not allow the lines to thaw out. Customers were without water for days at a time. The Miners Ridge tank went down to 2°. This is a major

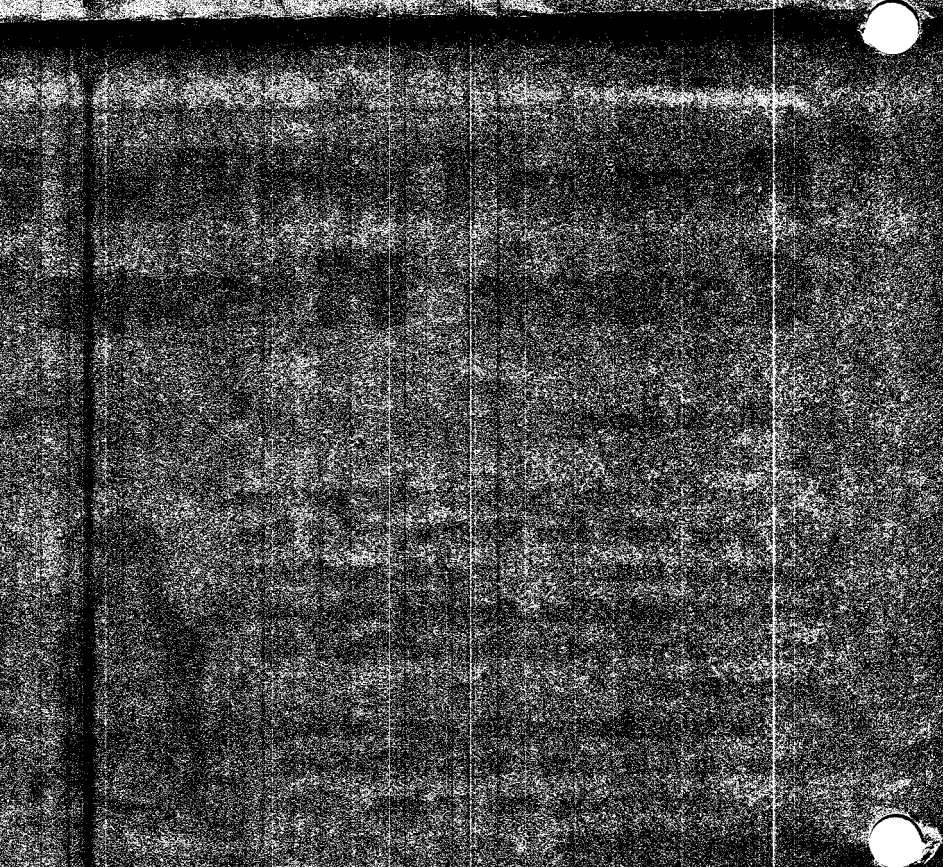
problem for fire fighting.

The bigger fire hydrants are supplied from this tank. I still want to encourage all customers to shut off your water meters whenever you leave your cabin. This effort on your part will aid the water systems operation.

January was a very dry month. We hope more precipitation will help us get through the spring. Please conserve water. In the next issue, I will cover the status of the loan and grants.

The board of directors and operators hope the rest of your winter is excellent. See you at the annual Home Owner's dinner.





# A SKI TRIP BACK IN TIME

## WHO WAS THE FIRST TO SKI IN THE CATALINAS?

By Suzanne Hensel

With our recent snowfall Ski Valley, once again, has become a favorite attraction for Tucsonans. That's not surprising. Living in the desert where the winters are mild and there is no snow to shovel doesn't mean skiing is out of the question. The slopes can be accessed after only one hour of driving. It's like having

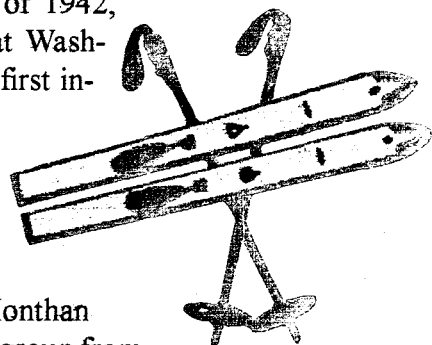
your cake and eating it too. Ski Valley is noted for being the most southern ski resort in the United States.

Of course, it wasn't always so simple getting from

saguaro slopes. Until the highway was constructed very few people came to Summerhaven during the winter. A short time after the highway was completed the road to ski valley was cleared. By the mid 1950's the area now known as Ski Valley had become a popular place for local skiers. However, people were skiing

in the Catalinas years before that.

In December of 1942, First lieutenant Nat Washington became the first individual to ski in these mountains. At that time, his career in the military had him stationed at Davis Monthan Air Force Base. A group from the base planned a trip to the mountains to gather Christmas trees.



*First ski school in the Catalinas, December 1943. Captain Nat Washington, third from the right, shown here instructing first-time skiers. The skier at far right is just about to ski down the hill.*

"I went along for the specific purpose of scouting out skiing possibilities," explained Washington. "On top near Summerhaven, I found about two feet of snow along with an expanse of naturally skiable terrain which required no clearing. I enjoyed great skiing for several

hours, all alone on a mountain slope overlooking and in full view of the famous resort city of Tucson. I found it hard to understand why skiing in the Catalinas had

*Continued on the Next Page*

not been developed long before."

Washington, enthusiastic about the prospect of skiing the Catalinas on a regular basis, approached the special service officer at the base about making skiing an official part of the Davis Monthan recreation program.

"I was given the responsibility of managing the program and providing skiing instruction to beginning skiers," stated Washington. "Skis, poles and bindings for about 25 people were secured by the Air Force. Arrangements were made to use four-wheel-drive military vehicles to go to the top of the Catalinas by way of the southwestern side of the mountains, using the prison camp road and the jeep

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November 1943 to March 1944, and from November 1944 to March 1945.

It was during their second ski season that Lowell Thomas and his son, Lowell Thomas, Jr. joined up with the Davis Monthan group. Thomas, a famous news corre-

spondent, came to Tucson to see his son, who was recovering from an illness at Davis Monthan. Thomas was not the first individual to ski in the Catalinas, but he was a strong advocate of the winter sport.

Thomas and Washington decided that the opportunity to ski should be extended beyond the Davis Monthan program. Washington explained, "It was decided that we should establish a broad-based ski club with both civilian and military members to be known as the Sahuaro Ski Club; and that one of the club's major functions would be to actively promote skiing in the Catalinas."

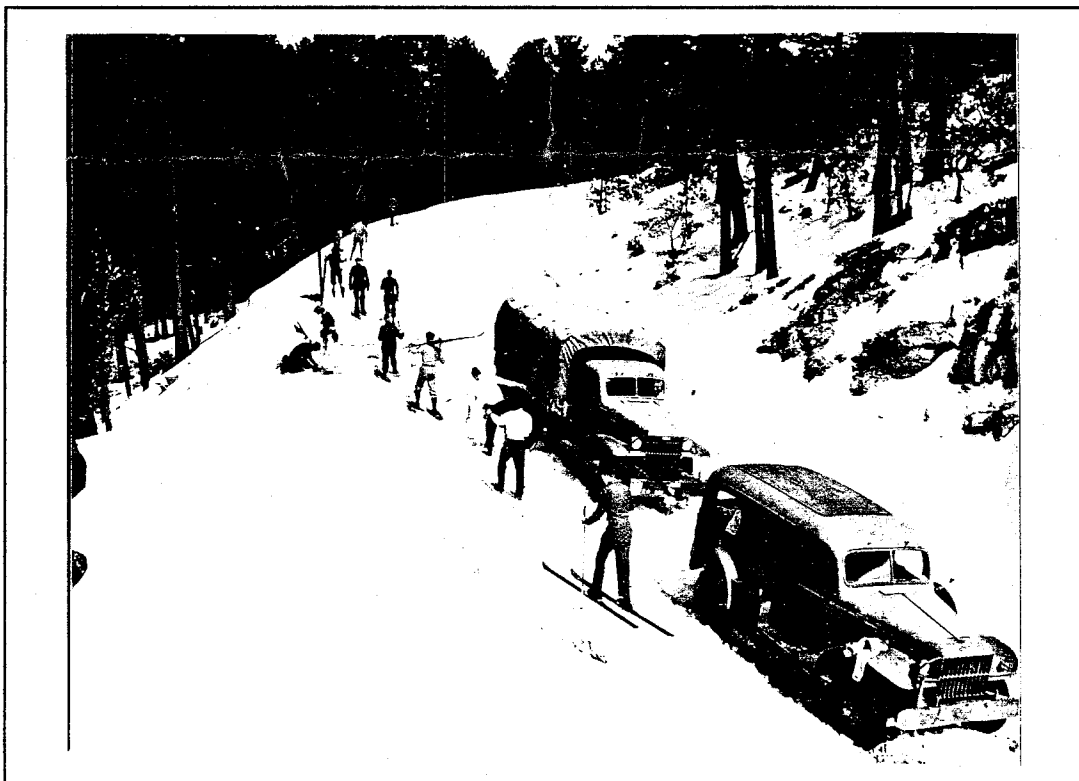
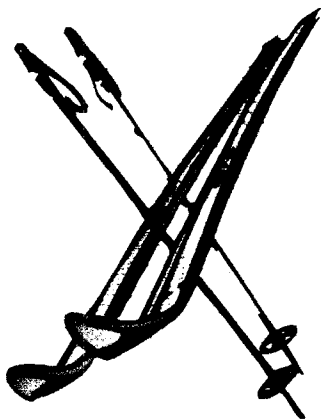
The club was established, and by 1951 they were skiing in the area that would later be known as Ski Valley.

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T o d a y ,

Ski Valley has 15 runs, ranging from beginner to advance. Skiing in the Catalinas has become what Lowell Thomas hoped it would be - a place where Tucsonans can escape for a full day of skiing and, when the day has ended, return home to the desert.



*After traveling up the mountain in military 4-wheel drive trucks, Davis Monthan soldiers prepare for an afternoon of skiing. One of their favorite areas to ski was Bear Wallow.*

# FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

By Chief John Roads.

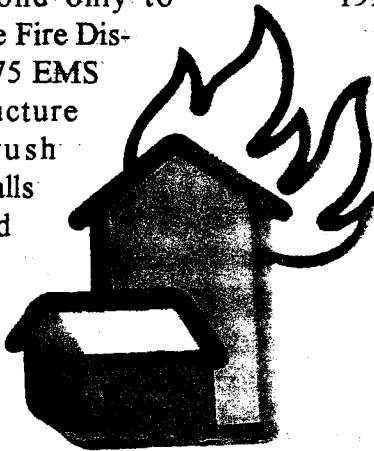
## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

1997 ended with mixed numbers. As far as total runs (206), it was the second busiest year of the 90's; second only to

1995 (299 runs). The Fire Department handled 175 EMS cabin/structure forest/brush 19 other calls

assists and calls).

structure out - (zero \$ caused



place ashes, a cabin (which burned before Thanksgiving with a loss of \$3500) caused by an electrical short, and a cabin fire prior to Christmas (\$1000 loss) caused by a faulty fire place with too hot of a fire.

The first cabin had a smoke detector that was far from the ceiling. The detector did activate about the time the Fire Department arrived - too late. The second cabin had no smoke detector. The three occupants luckily smelled smoke. If you can't tell where I'm headed, keep reading. **SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES.**

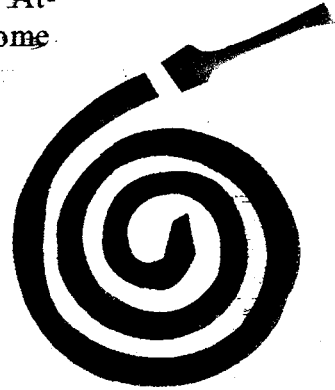
Make sure you have a working detector in your cabin, and make sure it is properly placed. If you aren't sure, call the Fire Department at 576-1201. We will assist you.

It's a little too early to tell what type of fire problems we can expect this summer. I will keep you informed as the spring approaches. However, with the high grasses in the desert, state land officials are already preparing for a bad summer.

Now is the time to plan on cabin and yard cleanups for potential spring burns. There are

several piles from last fall waiting to burn. Attempts to burn some on January 29th proved futile, as the needles were a little too wet. We had success in our first season burning raked piles.

We will start earlier this spring and burn as much as we can handle. If it seems like we are going slow, remember that we must have additional manpower and just the right weather. Fire fighter resignations and wet weather effects our scheduling. Rushing to complete all the piles can be risky too. If you have any questions or want to know where to put piles, please call the station.



## No LINE EVERY-TIME A MESSAGE FROM YOUR POSTMASTER

By Mark Hopkins

Don't forget to use your Mt. Lemmon Post Office. We do stamps by mail. I will send you a post-paid envelope for your order.

We have a large selection of stamps including most commemoratives (collector stamps). Remember there are no lines at 85619. You can pick up phone books 24 hours a day in the P.O. lobby.

We also have ballots to vote on future stamp issues.

# WOMEN'S CLUB WARMING UP FOR SPRING-TIME EVENTS

By Helen Quigley & Fran Zimmerman

We've missed those members that have not attended any meetings or events. To keep you updated: our Christmas brunch was held at Sarah Road's lovely home in Tucson. There were twenty-five ladies enjoying the delicious catered brunch that morning.

We usually have a white elephant exchange, but this year we changed that to Christmas ornaments. So many of the ornaments were so beautiful, that it was decided to keep this tradition!

Southern District Music Contest will be held Saturday, March 7 at Tucson

Woman's Clubhouse at 9:30 a.m.

The contest is open for 9th through 12th graders with vocal and instrumental talent. Our club is sponsoring a youngster this year, so you don't want to miss it. It is a worthwhile time to see the positive side of our youths.

Saturday, March 28th is the Southern District Spring Convention with President Dani Hayhurst ending her two-year term.

We invite all to attend to represent our club. Call Fran (576-1333) for more information on both events and joining our organization. You can be a mountain-homeowner or a friend to the mountain.



## HOMEOWNER'S ANNUAL DINNER

Tuesday April 21st

At the Savoy Opera House in the Trail  
Dust Town.

Send in the Attached Reservation Sheet

**MT. LEMMON  
HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION**  
P.O. Box 699  
MT. LEMMON, ARIZONA 85619

DATE	1998
ACCOUNT NUMBER	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT

DATE	CHARGES AND CREDITS	AMOUNT
	(Please mark the appropriate lines )	
	membership dues .....(\$25)	
	associated members (rentors, friends(\$20)	
	 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 1998	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not wish to receive a membership card	
<input type="checkbox"/>	mail my membership card to the address above	

PAY LAST AMOUNT  
IN THIS COLUMN

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*Thank You*



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