

# THE MT LEMMON ECHOES

Volume 25 Issue 6

Mt. Lemmon Home Owner's Publication

August 1998

## A SLICE OF NEWS FROM THE HEAD LEMMON

by John Mulay

I hope that you are reading this on your deck at your cabin and not down in the heat of Tucson. I really feel that the only place to be in the summer is up on the Lemmon.

I want to thank Fran Zimmerman for all of her hard work on the July 4th parade. It really takes a lot of work to put this event together each year and Fran does a fantastic job. Thanks Fran!!!

The Bunko party that was held July 11th was attended by 30 plus people and a great time was had by all. It really is a great evening out on the deck at

the Alpine.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the next Bunko party. The ribs and chicken are fantastic.

The Saturday morning hiking group is still in full swing and would like to see more of you join the group. We meet at 8:00 a.m. at the post office.

If any of you have any article of interest for the newsletter please feel free to send it to us so that we can include it in the Echoes.



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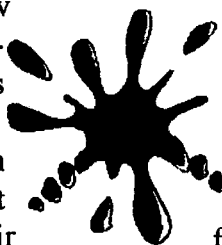
## ART EXHIBIT CREATES NEW LOOK AT THE ALPINE LODGE

On Sunday morning, August 16th, the dining room at the Alpine Lodge will take on an exciting new look. The walls will be covered with water-colors, oils, and photography; the corners filled with sculptures and pottery.

Twelve of the artists who participated in the recent Mt. Lemmon Fine Arts and Craft Show have been invited back to exhibit their artwork and have the opportunity to personally meet

those homeowners who may have missed the festival last June.

The art exhibit, which will continue through the end of October, will officially open with a buffet brunch at the Lodge, Sunday morning, August 16th, from 9 to 11 a.m., with complimentary champagne offered after 10 a.m. All for only \$5. Stop by for good food, fine art, and good conversation!



# SUMMER RAINS

Ramblings by Bill Windsor

We had just finished dancing in the streets. I was tired and hot, but still charged with the energy of our performance. Thick grey clouds had been gathering all morning, and the skies were growing darker. We waited along Carter Canyon Rd. for the last of the parade entrants to finish their pass through town. As if on command, when the Parade was finished the skies let drop their precious cargo of rain. Ah, rain sweet rain, it cooled my body and brought nourishment to a thirsty mountain.

My daughters and I had a wonderful time being a part of Mount Lemmon's 4th of July Parade this year. I was a woodland troll among an assortment of characters representing The Living Rainbow. Our hometown parade captures the spirit of rural America and I much prefer it to the parades of larger cities. The joy of participating in the parade was accentuated by the on-set of this years monsoon season. The rain may have dampened the spirits of 4th of July picnickers, but to the flora and fauna of our mountain habitat, it brings nourishment and triggers summer growth patterns.

The heavy snows of this winter gave hope for a spectacular spring, however, cold temperatures late into May and the lack of spring rainfall resulted in a poor blooming of fruit trees and hindered the growth of the abundant plant life that sprouted late in the season. Wild strawberry plants were abundant this year, but the lack of spring rains resulted in a poor fruiting. Luckily, and much to my delight, my daughters and I did manage to harvest a delicious bounty of the tiny berries in late June. The fruiting was very inconsistent and most of the berries were found in low damp areas. In previous years, the best fruiting took place on hillsides on the forest floor. The berries were eaten in the field and were very tasty. Hmhmhmhmhm. There is magic in eating a delicious snack freshly picked from the plant. Maybe next year we will have the discipline to bring some home for a bowl of berries and cream but it is hard to resist the strong sweet/tart flavor as you pick.

Late July and August is the start of our mushroom and raspberry season. I did not notice very many raspberry flowers so we will have to wait so see how this year's crop will turn out. I did see many new raspberry plants growing near existing stands which is encouraging.

The first edible mushrooms to appear will be Wood Ears and Oyster Mushrooms. Both fungi grow within dead trees and help to decompose the wood. Their mushrooms, which are the fruiting body of the fungi, will appear on the surface of dead and fallen trees. **Again a word of warning, do not eat any wild food unless you can positively identify it and are certain that you are not allergic to it.**

Wood Ears on Mount Lemmon are dark brown and have a "rubbery" feel. They do not look like a gilled mushroom and have no stem or cap. Instead they look like a jelly-like growth, roughly the size and shape of a very small human ear. These are the same fungi as used in chinese cooking. In addition to their unique flavor and texture, Wood Ears may also provide some health benefits. Wood Ears have blood thinning compounds that may reduce heart attack risk. They may also contain anti-tumor chemicals.

As a food, I enjoy Wood Ear Mushrooms in soups and in stir fried dishes. Marinated beef with yam noodles, wood ears and tofu is a personal favorite.

Oyster Mushrooms are a white to cream colored gilled mushroom that grow in bunches on dead wood. They look much like white mushroom wings but are attached to the wood at a single point on their stems which are located on the side of the "cap". Oyster Mushrooms may be a very powerful cancer fighter. Western Scientists are beginning to study this mushroom based on research that was conducted in the orient. Certain anti-tumor chemicals have been identified in Oyster mushrooms, but I am not aware of any human or animal studies.

Oyster mushrooms have a very mild fish-like flavor that lends itself to pasta dishes and chowder style soups. I like it sauted in butter and served over toast. This is a simple and great way to enjoy almost any mushroom!

Both Wood Ear and Oyster mushrooms can be purchased in Tucson food markets, so even if you do not enjoy the "hunt", you can still enjoy the unique flavor and benefits of these gifts from the earth. To me, the hunt is as rewarding as the meal, so in the next issue we will discuss the "art of the hunt". Until then, enjoy and appreciate the unique environment we are so lucky to have at our door steps.



# COME TO THE YOUTH LIBRARY



The young people's library, sponsored by the Mount Lemmon Woman's Club, is located at 11249 East Carter Canyon Road, Summerhaven. This is the residence of Phil Archambault and Nancy Goodwin.

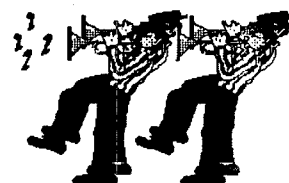
The interest level of available books is planned for the youngest of children up through young teens. There are books for beginning readers, and books for all reading abilities. There are a few books for adults about the West and Arizona.

For information phone 576-1245 or 296-7993. The library is open afternoons, 1-5, any day that Phil or Nancy is at home.

## 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Many thanks to those who participated in this years July 4th parade. The winners are as follows: Humorous Award went to Debbie Hardesty's "Winnie the Pooh" Living Rainbow Giftshop; Patriotic Award went to the Berstein and Gasch children "Uncle Sam and the Firecrackers"; and the Mount Lemmon Women's Club won the Original Award for their depiction of what each lady enjoys doing on the mountain.

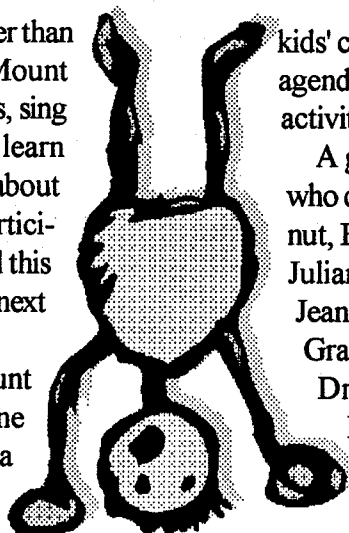
Marching in the parade each year has become a family tradition for some. So next year why not join us?



# SATURDAY MORNING KIDS' CLUB LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER SUMMER

The Saturday Morning Kids Club was better than ever this summer. The young children of Mount Lemmon had the opportunity to make tortillas, sing songs, play games, visit the observatory to learn about stars and view the sun, hike and learn about plants and animals on the mountain, and participate in a scavenger hunt. Things went so well this summer that plans are already being made for next summer's Saturday Morning Club.

This program was sponsored by the Mount Lemmon Women's Club. Olga Pace is the one who originally came up the idea of having a



kids' club. The past two summers she has planned the agenda and gathered volunteers for refreshments and activities. Many thanks to Olga!

A great big thanks also goes to the many people who donated their time for the children: Wendy Chestnut, Bonnie Simmons, Suzanne Hensel, Raggie and Julian Garcia, Helen Quigley, Florence Wilhoite, Jeannie Hartmann, Sally Couthard, Melissa and Jim Grantham, Bill and Kathy Brown, Mary Van Sickle, Dr. Don McCarthy, Barbara Welch, Wendy Lawson, Dani Hayhurst, and Dorothy Crawford.



# A Look At The Lookouts

## A GREAT VIEW WITH A GREAT PURPOSE

By Suzanne Hensel

Forest fires are an important ingredient to keeping a forest healthy. Occasionally, large fires threaten the vegetation. As far back as the early 1900's the Forest Service began to take positive steps towards preventing large, devastating fires. They began by building two lookout areas, one on Mt. Lemmon and the other on Mt. Bigelow. Countless fires have been found from these high perches in the pines since they were first established over 80 years ago.

In 1913, a pine pole tower, about 25 feet high, was built on the very top of Mt. Lemmon by Jim Westfall and a man by the name of Sigfried. A small, one room cabin was also built nearby for the fire guards to stay in.

Summer residents often went for day hikes from Soldier Camp or Summerhaven to the top of the mountain,

and down to the lookout cabin. Once there, they would lay out a large feast and enjoy the view from above.

In 1934, the old pine tower was replaced by the Lemmon Rock lookout that is there today. This new lookout was primarily constructed by the CCC. Gilbert Sykes, the ranger at that time, and Francis Knagge placed copper wire on the house to ground lightning strikes. When they ran out of wire, Sykes sent Knagge to remove some

from the old tower. That night a heavy lightning storm struck the old tower, destroying it. Apparently the old copper wire had been protecting the tower quite well for the past 21 years. It didn't last a night without it.

Today the "new"

Lemmon Rock lookout is over 60 years old. Things have changed a little since it was first constructed, but the one thing that hasn't changed is the spectacular view of Tucson and the Catalinas. It is breathtaking, but than so is the thunder and lightning that flash and shake the small, one room house when a storm is directly over Lemmon Rock. During fire

season, from about May to August (depending on precipitation), a Forest Service volunteer lives at Lemmon



Before there was a lookout tower the top of Mt. Lemmon had a rock monument marking the highest place on the Catalinas. Today there is a 40" U of A telescope standing at this spot. Jim Westfall is the man in the picture. The photograph was taken in the early 1900's.

*Continued on the Next Page*



A hike to the top of the mountain was usually accompanied by a meal at the lookout cabin. The structure stood below the summit, about halfway down the trail to the current Mt. Lemmon lookout. This photo was taken around 1915.

Rock, searching for smoke in the Catalinas and other nearby mountain ranges. Stan Kuba has held the position for 5 years. His dedicated service has resulted in the discovery of countless fires.

In an attempt to view a portion of the Catalinas that is not visible from Mt. Lemmon, a wooden platform was built on Keliogg Peak, southeast of Bigelow. Apparently that wasn't good enough and in 1916 a lookout was constructed on Mt. Bigelow.

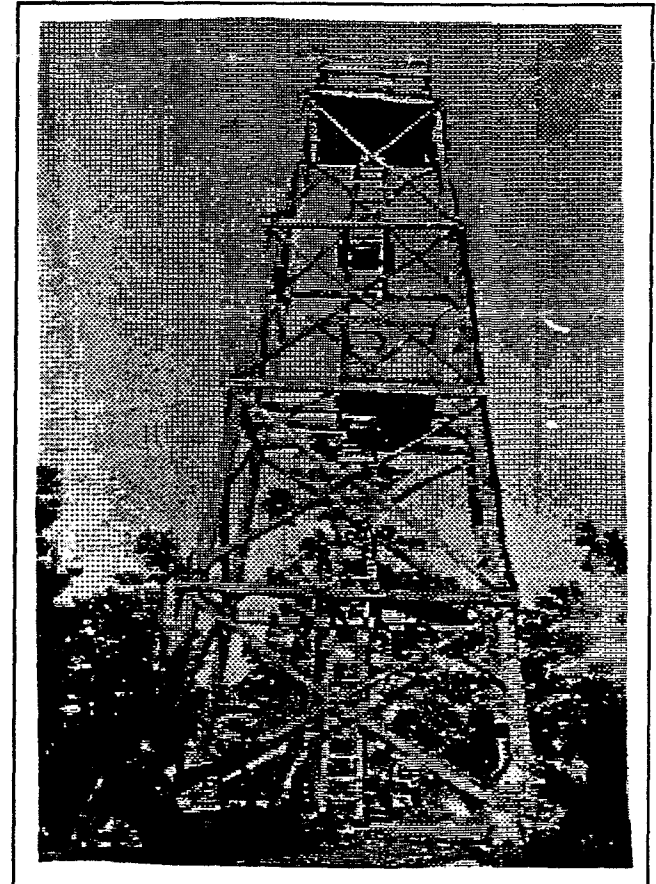
The original Bigelow tower was made from pine poles in 1916 by, who else, Jim Westfall. He was assisted by Henry Hiller. In 1917, the new pine tower was dedicated. Summer residents and dignitaries walked up for the ceremony from Soldier Camp.

In 1919, Gilbert Sykes, just beginning his Forest Service career, was stationed there as forest guard, and he painted it. Gilbert was not as fortunate as his brother Glenton, who was manning the Mt. Lemmon lookout that same summer. Gilbert did not have a cabin to live in. Instead, he constructed a dugout close to a nearby spring. Its roof was made from slabs of Douglas fir bark.

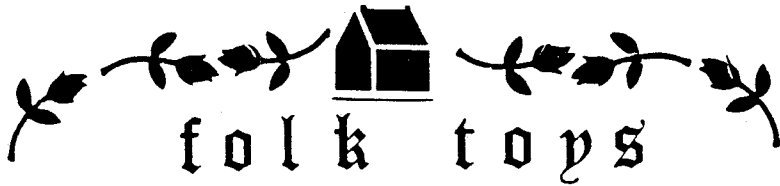
In 1934, the pine tower was replaced by a steel one constructed by the CCC. In order to haul in supplies for this project, the workers cleared, by hand, the first road to Mt. Bigelow. Prior to that time a narrow trail was used to access the tower. In the 1950's, the tower was replaced, this time by the Forest Service. They constructed a larger steel building. Today, lookout personnel are sta-

tioned at Mt. Bigelow during lightning storms and when conditions are extremely dry.

The Catalinas' two lookouts, by locating fires when they are small, have saved countless acres from burning. They are indispensable.



The old Bigelow tower as it look in the early 1920's. Boy Scouts from camp Lawton used to earn their "squirrel" card by climbing the ladder to the top of the tower.



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## Opening Soon In Summerhaven

A new coffee house will soon be ready to serve the residents and visitors of Summerhaven.

The doors will officially open Labor Day weekend. Along with different kinds of coffee, the menu will include sandwiches, desserts and fruit smoothies.

The atmosphere will encourage the customer to visit, relax and enjoy the scenery.

The coffee house is located in the old Kimball Springs Cafe building. Stop in and see the new place if you're on the mountain this fall.

# ATTENTION MT. LEMMON HOME OWNERS

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# WOMEN'S CLUB REFLECTS ON AN EVENTFUL SUMMER

By Luann Waldron and Helen Quigley

The Mount Lemmon Women's Club has had a busy summer with its many activities.

Olga Pace held the Saturday Morning Kids' Club, which was a great success.

The Saturday morning hikes also went very well. Anywhere from 3 to 11 people participated. The last hike will be held September 5th.

The Women's Club celebrated its 25th year as a charter organization at the annual membership tea, held June 27th. Dani Hayhurst and Vivian did a wonderful job with decorating B.J. Singh's beautiful cabin. The the setting and delicious food accompanied by the string quartet made the event a memorable one.

Thanks again to Fran Zimmerman for all her time and effort in heading up the 4th of July parade.

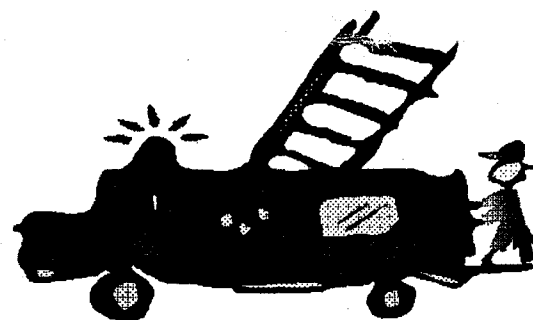
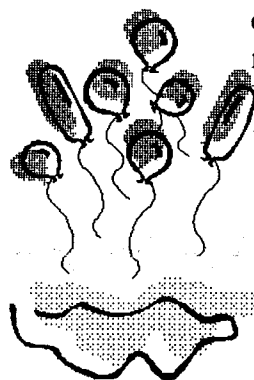
Mark your callendar for August 29th. Dr. Klein will be presenting a historical night about Mt. Lemmon at the fire station from 7 to 8:30. Refreshments will be furnished by MLWC. We are also buying 20 new folding chairs to be used for mountain functions. These are replacing some of the chairs that are no longer useable.

We have changed our November through May meetings to Wednesday nights instead of afternoons. Hopefully those who work will be able to attend more meetings.

MLWC has prepared a welcome packet for all new cabin owners. Thanks to everyone who participated in preparing letters and brochures. A special thanks to Judy Epstein and Linda Mulay who headed the committee in gathering the information and contacting the participating businesses and agencies.

Mt. Lemmon Realty and Summit Realty have the packets to be given to new owners at closing. We are asking neighbors of new cabin owners who may not have obtained the packets earlier to contact either Helen Quigley or Luann Waldron and we will give you the packets to give to your new neighbors.

We are always looking for new members. If you would like information on the MLWC please contact our Co-Presidents: Helen Quigley at 749-0361 or 576-1461 and Luann Waldron at 743-3034 or 576-1568.



We have no news from the Fire Chief this month. No it has not been so slow that there is nothing to report. Texas is in desparate need of fire engines. Chief Roads has personally driven one of our engines there. The truck is on lease for use in Texas. This trip will help generate funds for the fire district. Look for John's article in the next issue of the Echoes. You can hear all about his adventures in Texas.

## Can't Get Enough Of Bunko

The Bunko party in July was perfect with an excellent dinner, great weather, and many mountain neighbors. Gifts were donated by Bonnie Simmons. Thank you Bonnie!

If any of you would like to donate gifts for Bunko, let me know.

August 15th Bunko party will once again be barbequed ribs or chicken on the patio for \$12.15, including tax and gratuity, at the Alpine Lodge.

August gifts will be very special as Tom Riley has donated two pieces of his art work.

Please **RSVP by Sunday, August 9th to Linda Mulay 327-4615.**

Be sure to let me know if you want ribs or chicken, so the Alpine Lodge will know what to cook for you.



## Callandar Of Events

**Bunko** - Alpine Lodge patio, Saturday, August 15th at 6:00 pm. Please RSVP to Linda Mulay by Sunday, August 9th at 327-4615.

**Art Exhibit Opening** - Alpine Lodge, Sunday, August 16th from 9 to 11 am. Champagne brunch for only \$5.

**History Night** - Fire House, Saturday, August 29th from 7 to 8:30 pm. Dr. Klein will be the speaker. Refreshments provided by the MLWC.

**Women's Club Meeting** - Thompson Hughes' cabin, Saturday, September 12th.



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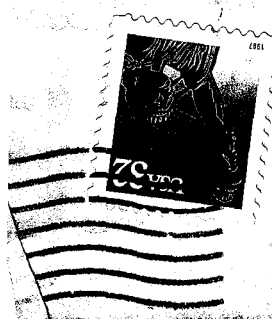
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