

THE MT LEMMON ECHOS

Volume 25 Issue 7

Mt. Lemmon Home Owner's Publication

September 1998

SUMMER WINDING DOWN

by John Mulay

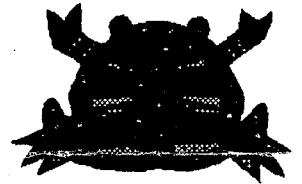
Well I had to go back to work (teaching) this week and do I ever miss the cool mountain.

Linda and I picked up the Frong Mountain tape from the Forest Service and listened to the tape on our way up and down the mountain. We now know why we have the frog signs. The signs go along with the tape. You can pick up your copy at Palisades Ranger Station.

August Bunko was a success, even if we were rained out. We met several new people, which we all enjoyed. The gifts

were donated by Tom and Patsy Riley, and Sandy and Howard Berstein.

The Saturday morning hikes continue to be enjoyable. We have discovered trails we didn't even know existed. The rain has provided many beautiful mushrooms to look at. Untill next time - stay cool.



WATER COOP WORKING HARD TO INCREASE THE PRESSURE

by Chuck Autrey

Your water company has had a good summer, very few water outages plus double digit water flow per minute from the springs that provide our water. The best summer in several years.

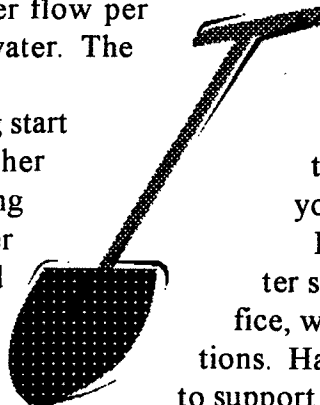
You will probably see some trench digging start in September and continue until the weather shuts us down for the winter. The trenching will be for our new transfer line from Upper Loma Linda to town. Once it is completed we should have better water supply and more pressure.

I'm sure many of you will be shutting down your cabins for the winter soon or just not visiting

the mountain as often. Please remember to turn your water off at the meter when you leave your cabin for more than a day or two.

A leak between your meter and your house could significantly deplete our water supply, damage your cabin and cost you a lot of money.

If you have any questions about your water system please call the water company office, we'll be glad to try and answer your questions. Have a great fall and winter and remember to support Wildcat Football. I think we're going to have a pretty good team this year!



THE ART OF THE HUNT

Ramblings by Bill Windsor

Picnic basket in hand, I walk slowly up the wooded ravine searching for edible wild mushrooms to fill my dinner plate. To my left, small finches flutter through the undergrowth with flashes of bright yellow and a high pitched song. I check the sky, and although I have seen this many times before, I am still amazed at how fast the clouds race past the mountain top we call home. In the distance I hear the deep rumble of an approaching thunder storm and calculate that I must soon turn back to where my old reliable International Scout is parked.

My basket is nearly full with many small *Lycoperdon perlatum* Puffballs, some *Suillus brevipes* Short Stem Slippery Jacks, and a couple of choice *Boletus edulis* King Boletes and *Boletus barrowsii* White King Boletes. I decide to take a chance and press on a little further up the ravine to a flat area just ahead. The flat has a large number of non-edible *Amanita muscaria* Fly Amanita mushrooms, some in beautiful condition. These mushrooms with their bright red caps and white polka dots have an aura about them that is saturated with beauty.

Long ago, the early Norsemen ingested *Amanita muscaria* before going into battle. They called it the "Bezzeker Mushroom" because those who took it often went into a killing frenzy during the battle. Much of the fierce reputation of early Vikings was the result of those eating *Amanita muscaria*. Unfortunately, Vikings who took the mushroom before battle killed both friend and foe with equal enthusiasm. Wisely, the Vikings ended up outlawing its use.

The *Amanita* family grouping contains some of the most deadly mushrooms. In fact, *Amanita ocreata* the Destroying Angel and *Amanita phalloides* the Death Cap are responsible for almost 90% of all mushroom poisoning deaths in North America. Both can be found on Mount Lemmon. The intoxicating effects of eating *Amanita muscaria* has been known for centuries. I often encounter young people seeking this mushroom for recreational use. This is a dangerous practice since Fly Amanita contains other toxins which have very harmful effects. It is not uncommon for those who have ingested this mushroom to suffer permanent liver damage and in some cases to fall into a coma.

A loud crack of thunder startles me from my daydreaming of insane Norsemen and reminds me that this hunt must come to an end. Still I linger for just a while longer as I scan the forest floor for edible mushrooms. I find none and a squirrel chatters at me to leave the area. I inspect the topography and choose a direct route back to my truck. The darkening sky and increasing thunder spur me to quicken my pace. This time I return just ahead of the rain.

There are some skills that you can develop to help you find edible mushrooms and plants, but these relate not to the art of the hunt, but rather to the academics of the hunt. One skill is to keep a picture in your mind's eye of the item you are seeking. Subconsciously, our mind will match the target image to what it observes on the forest floor or in the bush. After hunting for a while you will develop a 'feel' for the environment that allows you to quickly decide if an area deserves close inspection or just a passing glance.

A few days later I am again in the woods, picnic basket in hand. This time I am with my daughters and we follow a small stream. My daughters stop often at Raspberry bushes, gathering large handfuls of the delicious fruit. We walk slowly and quietly, taking in the many delightful sights and sounds of the forest. We notice large numbers of mushrooms, but the choice edible ones are few in number and the ones we do find are old and insect infested. This time our baskets do not fill with fungi, but the shared walk and easy conversation is fulfilling in itself. We find some sticks and play at batting pine cones. Our play degenerates to mock battle, and our sticks clash ninja-style.

While returning to the truck I spot some *Cantharellus cibarius* Yellow Chanterelles and my emotions are mixed in joy and a bit of disappointment. The joy is in finding these excellent tasting mushrooms, but their very appearance marks the end of the mushroom season. Chanterelles are the last of the edible mushrooms to fruit in any given year. I know from experience that within a few weeks there will be no more choice edible mushrooms to be found.



Such is the art of the hunt. It is not the number of mushrooms found, but rather it is the experience of walking slowly and quietly through the forest, senses alert to sights and smells. It is noticing the sway of the pine needles in a gentle wind, talking with a chipmunk before it scurries out of sight. The art of the hunt does not lay in how much ground you cover, rather it is in knowing how the ground has risen or fallen, knowing just where you are. The art of the hunt is teaching your daughters how to identify the good mushrooms from

the bad, and drinking deep in their presence knowing that the time will soon come that they will leave the nest. The art of the hunt is being fully focused in the moment.

After the hunt, comes the work of preparation, storage and eventual use of the gathered edible and medicinal mushrooms and plants. But for now, this must wait for this article is in celebration of the art of the hunt, and the rest is another story.



WOMEN'S CLUB ENJOYING THE MOUNTAIN EVENINGS

We had a good time at Historical Night, August 29th. Dr. James Klein presented the history of pictures taken from 1900 to 1903. He also showed us some of the first mapped areas of the Santa Catalina Mountains, and what was established as a forest reserve.

Our next meeting will be the **family potluck at the Hensel home, September 12th, starting at 5:00 pm.** Hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided. Please bring a dessert or a side dish to share. The Hensels are located at the end of Sollers Road, between mile posts 18 and 19, between Palisades and San Pedro Vista. Follow the dirt road to the end, about 1/2 mile.

If there are any changes in your phone number or your

address please contact **Dani Hayhurst at 298-6328.** The new 1998/2000 directory will be printed in October.

Saturday morning hikes are finished for the season. They will begin again on Memorial Day weekend, 1999.

The October meeting will be held on the 10th, at Thompson Huge's house. The potluck will start at 5:00 pm. Thompson will provide the main dish. Please **RSVP to Helen at 749-0361 or Olga Pace at 577-1993** and sign up for a dish. Dr. Don McCarthy will talk at the potluck and then we will go to the observatory at the top of Mt. Lemmon. Please carpool to Thompson's place since parking is extremely limited.



FIRE HOUSE CHANGES

The bad news is that we are losing two of our trainees. The good news is that we have gained two new trainees.

Jonelle Miranda is taking over the bookkeeping job for the Mt. Lemmon Fire Board. Suzanne Hensel is resigning so she can spend more time with her family and reading meters for Trico.

HISTORICAL NOTE

If you attended the Historical Night given by Dr. Klein you probably learned that in 1910 Frank Weber turned 152 acres of the Catalina Mountains into private land. He did this through the power of the Homestead Act of 1862.

But did you know that in 1938 Pat Jenks acquired that same land for a mere \$4,300?!

THE MT. LEMMON-TEXAS CONNECTION

by John Roads



When MLFD was formed in 1979, the Fire Board signed a contract with the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD). This contract had the following 5 components:

1. The ASLD provides available surplus federal fire equipment to the district at **NO COST**. In 1979, ASLD provided the first two pieces of fire equipment to get the District up and running. The 1952 tender still remains at MLFD 19 years later. This unit is outdated and no longer runs, and is soon to be replaced with a 1984 tender - from State Land, at **NO COST** to the district.

2. The ASLD will provide wildland fire training at no or minimal cost to the district. This training covers from the very basic wildland shovel operation class all the way to the upper levels of wildland resource management. These classes are necessary for the protection of the village.

3. The ASLD provides access to government contract pricing for all wildland fire equipment. This results in great savings to the department.

4. The ASLD will provide all necessary equipment, manpower and support services to this district, at **NO COST**, to handle any major crises. In the event of a forest fire threatening the village, slurry bombers, helicopters, engines and crews are all available as needed. During the 1996 fire season, conditions on Mt. Lemmon were so severe for forest fires, State Land pre-positioned 5 Colorado engines and 38 firefighters at our station just in case there was a fire. There was no cost to MLFD.

5. In return, the Fire District agrees to respond as needed to assist the ASLD on any emergencies in other jurisdictions that require additional resources. For this response, the **ASLD pays MLFD**. We are paid handsomely for this service. At no time is MLFD expected to provide a response when high fire danger conditions exist on this mountain. In addition to being paid for the response, fire fighting personnel also receive hands on experience and training.

In May 1996, MLFD sent on engine to assist on the big fires on Mt. Graham. Last month, the MLFD Fire Board and the Fire Chief agreed to assist the ASLD in sending resources to the north central area of Texas. Texas has been suffering from severe drought and has severe fire conditions. Hundreds of resources from 18 states were sent to Texas to

pre-position in case of severe fires, similar to what had already occurred in Florida. A MLFD engine and Chief were on a 21 day assignment. **The MLFD engine generated revenues of just over \$20,000 for the 3 week assignment.** Depending on drastic weather changes in central Texas, out of state resources may remain there until May of 1999. It was estimated that Texas was spending over a million dollars a day for these pre-positioned resources.

MLFD purchased a Compressed Air Foam (CAF) unit for the yellow engine in 1997. This foam unit is a highly desirable and highly paid piece of equipment in the wildland arena. In 1996, the MLFD purchased the 1-ton utility truck from the Water Co-op. It is the desire of the board to purchase a second CAF unit for this smaller truck. The estimated cost of such a unit is **\$45,000**. Just a little over six weeks of travel could pay for this unit, that would essentially double the departments foam fire fighting capability. Generating such large funds does not come easily. With the second foam unit, there would always be one unit on the mountain, while the second unit could easily be utilized to continue to generate funds for future apparatus purchases and possibly set aside funds to assist in bringing fire fighter wages in line with the local market.

Many disasters have increased in size in the last 15-20 years, mostly due to the increase in wildland/urban interface areas. Single jurisdictions can no longer protect themselves alone. The State Land system, which is a part of a national organization, basically creates one very large national fire department. When any part of the country is in trouble, the other parts provide the resources to help. Looking at the above 5 contract issues, it is a definite **WIN/WIN** situation for all involved, including MLFD.

This Chief is proud to be a part of such an organization. It is a comfort knowing that there are avenues where we can assist other entities and at the same time generate revenues that can effect the future and long term protection of our own village.

Enough about **WHY** we went to Texas. So what did happen in Texas? Well, Suzanne says I have to save that for the next issue. To be continued next month. (Besides, my pictures will be back by then).

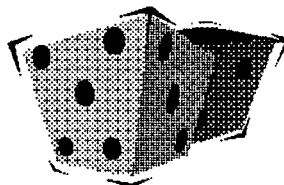
Bunko Night

Saturday September 19th

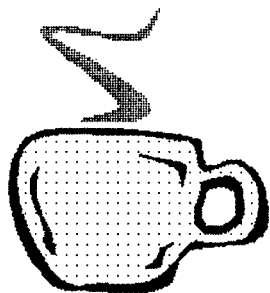
Dinner will begin at 6:00 pm at the Alpine Lodge. Barbequed ribs or chicken with all the fixins for \$12.15.

Bunko will begin after dinner. The prize for the most Bunko's will be a special hand crafted toy donated by Eden and Gerry Hackney.

Please RSVP by **Sunday, September 13th**, with the number of people and if you want ribs or chicken, to **Linda Mulay at 327-4615 or 576-1417**.



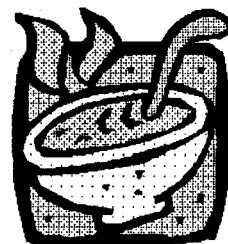
Good Things Are Worth Waiting For



Summerhaven's newest business, the **Summerhaven Coffee House**

located in the old Kimball Springs Cafe building, is being remodeled. We

wanted to be sure that everything was just right before the opening day. Your patience will be rewarded with the opportunity to share good food and beverages with good people.



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Loma Sabino Homeowner's Association, Inc.
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August 20, 1998

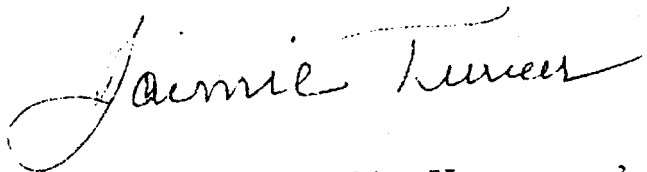
Dear: Mount Lemmon Neighbor:

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Charles Jackson
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The Loma Sabino Homeowner's Association, Inc. (LSHOA) has recently resolved the issues associated with the use of the (LSHOA) road system by those having no other practical/usable access to their property. Deeds of Easement are being offered to eligible property owners for a limited period of time. Letters are being sent to property owners who may be eligible. If you do not receive a letter concerning road ~~system access by please contact our~~ Association in writing at P. O. Box 31034, Tucson, Arizona 85751-1034.

Jaimie Turner



President, Loma Sabino Homeowner's Association, Inc.

OFFICERS

Jaimie Turner
President

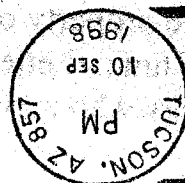
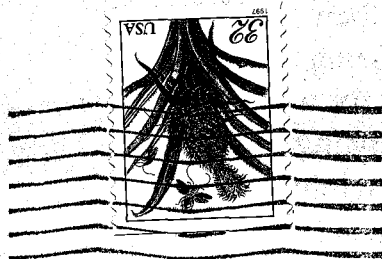
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Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association
P.O. Box 699
Mt. Lemmon, AZ 85619-699

The Echoes is brought to your home courtesy of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowner's Association. It is one of the benefits of being a member. Your board members are: Carolyn Autrey, Red Greth, Pete Krauss, Olga Pace, Carrie Reitz, Kathy Shields, Larry Waldron. The Officers are: John Muley, President; Franny Crowe, Vice President; Dani Hayhurst, Secretary; Florence Wilhoite, Treasurer; Fran Zimmerman, Membership. Suzanne Hensel is the Publisher and Editor of this newsletter.