

THE MT LEMMON ECHOES

Volume 26 Issue 1

Mt. Lemmon Home Owner's Publication

February 1999

WHERE HAS ALL THE SNOW GONE?

by John Mulay

What a change from this time last year. We need everyone to do their snow dance so that we will have plenty of water this next summer.



If you haven't been on the mountain you should see the great progress that the Water Co-Op is making on the new 6" line extension from the Loma Linda tank to the pump house. With no snow to speak of they have been able to make great progress so far this winter. A portion of your Homeowners' dues went towards the purchase of four new fire hydrants that will go on this new line. The new hydrants will greatly improve our fire protection.

If anyone has some new ideas for the homeowners board,

such as projects or activities, be sure and contact one of us so we can plan for this spring.

There are a lot of new cabins and new cabin owners on the mountain. We need our current members to try and get the new people to join our organization. If you know of someone who is a potential new member let one of the board members know and we will get a membership form to them.

The annual homeowners' dinner will be coming up on April 27th. This is a great way to meet your fellow cabin owners and get to know your neighbors. Be sure and mark your calendars.

WE NEED SNOW FOR THE SUMMER

by Ross Quigley

Although the weather has cooperated very nicely with our new main-line construction, we are beginning to have some concerns about our summer water supply. As you all know, snow is vital to replenishing the water table here on the mountain and hopefully we won't have a totally dry winter. In the meantime, Michael, Mike, John and Anthony have made excellent progress on the new six-inch main. They are approximately half way to the pump house and have installed three of the new fire hydrants. Our new backhoe is performing better than we expected.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Mt. Lemmon Homeowners Association for their generous contribution of \$4000, to purchase



fire hydrants. Also, we thank the Loma-Sabino Homeowners for their recent decision to contribute to the cost of installing four hydrants on the new line. By installing these hydrants as we put the line in we can keep the cost much lower for each new hydrant and they are already operational. As dry as it has been, the fire department must be glad to see the improved protection in this area.

Recently the Forest Service, under the guidance of Jim Etshokin, undertook the task of moving their fuel tanks from Palisades to the Saw Mill site. Jim was able to make this a cooperative effort by the Forest Service, Pima County, the Fire Department,

and the Water Cooperative. Each agency was assigned a portion of the move and our job was to help move the Saw Mill gates and to install the electric service to the tanks. We would like to express our appreciation to Bill Turner (Loma-Sabino homeowner) for supplying not only the expertise, but much of the materials to hook these tanks up. He spent several

weekends on this job and saved the Cooperative quite a bit of money. It's always great to see members of the community pitch in! All four of these agencies will now share in using the fuel tanks.

REMEMBER TO



THINK SNOW!!

JUST ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE

Ramblings by Bill Windsor

The wind was rushing in gusts that rocked the house. I looked over at the clock and groaned audibly when I saw it was 2:48 am. "You awake too?" asked Michele as she pulled the blankets closer in about her. "Yeah" I sighed, another fitful winter night of falling in and out of sleep.



You have to live on a mountain top for several years to fully appreciate the severity of alpine winter wind storms. Our home seems to be directly in line with the prevailing wind and when it blows hard, our entire home shakes as the structure resists being pushed over. While the winter weather has been mild this year, we have had a couple of strong wind storms so far. During one of these storms, it seems impossible to get truly warm. Although the heater keeps the desired temperature at the thermostat, the perceived comfort level is compromised by freezing wind currents that blow past window and door seals. A good fire in the wood stove will bring warmth in the early evening, but after midnight, only an extra comforter on the bed keeps the chill away.

One of our cats was curled up on top of me and refused to move as I shifted positions. "You guys awake too?" asked Paige immediately followed by "What was that?" from Madeline as something outside hit her window.

Up to late 1997, we had three large Ponderosa Pine trees that threatened the house during strong gusts, and we became concerned about the family's safety should one of these dying giants fall during a severe storm. Twenty years ago I worked as a lumberjack, however, two of the trees were leaning towards the home, and I did not trust my rusty cutting skills with my prized dwelling. We contracted with

Jim Etshokin to cut them down and he and his partner did a fantastic job of dropping them away from the house and between the other trees. What was once a risk, will now help keep us warm burning in the wood stove during the worst wind storms.

Following the wind storm, the morning sun broke the grip of the sub-freezing temperatures and the day slowly warmed. The wind storm brought moisture, but not any precipitation, and as the sun's warm rays worked their way into the Summerhaven valley, a mist rose which clinged to the mountain tops. It was beautiful and although we were still tired, Michele and I were enjoying the view from our balcony. As we were watching the changing weather Judy and Lefty Lefton walked past the house. "What do you think?" I asked as I gestured to the rising mist. They looked out over the valley and without missing a step Lefty replied in a loud voice "Just another day in paradise!" Right On!

**WHETHER THE WEATHER IS COLD
OR THE WEATHER IS HOT,
WHATEVER THE WEATHER
WE'LL WEATHER THE WEATHER,
WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT.**

MLFD REFLECTS ON A GOOD YEAR PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR LOOKING GREAT

by John Roads

1998 Fire Statistics

1998 is over. CONGRADULATIONS to all homeowners. 1998 ended, as did 1996 with \$0 lost to fire in the District. In 1994 and 1995, there were two building fires each. 1996 had no fires. 1997 had two wall fires and one outhouse fire for about \$5000 in losses. 1998 had no fire losses, no fire injuries, and no fire deaths.

Other activity in 1998 included 170 total calls, 35 of which were fire related responses (false alarms, public assists, and small brush type fires). There were 135 EMS related calls (mostly medical emergencies and falls). The department only responded to 19 motor vehicle accidents all year, none with serious injuries. 50 calls were to help residents. 98 calls were to non-residents (mostly from Tucson, the furthest from Zurich, Germany). 38 calls were walk-ins at the fire station, and 132 were responses to the incident location. The department transported patients 35 times. Saturday was the busiest day (41 calls) followed by Sunday (34 calls). Almost 50% of the calls occurred between noon and 6:00 PM. August was the busiest month with 26 calls (the only month over 20 calls). November was the slowest month with 8 calls (the only month with less than 10 calls). The Forest Service reported a total of 32 stat fires on the mountain for 1998. The record low of 30 occurred in the early 1980's. The average number of fires on the mountain is 75.

Board Members

Fred Pace was successfully re-elected to another term as Fire Board Member. Bob Zimmerman is the Chairman and Phil Archambault holds the position as Clerk.

Training Room - Heater Donation

The upstairs portion of the station is being converted to a Training/Fire Board Meeting room. The room has conference style table and chairs and is now, for the first time, heated. Thank you Joan Klinger for your generous donation of the LP gas wall heater.

Training Success

During the fall, Firefighters Charlotte Watts and Jordan Walker successfully completed the Arizona State Firefighter

II certification program, while Firefighters Chris Massingill and Anthony Walkosak completed their EMT training programs. Four additional firefighters will go for the FFII certification this spring at Pima Community College.

New Hydrants Can Save You Money

The Water Co-Op is currently installing hydrants along the new water transmission line. If you live within 1000 feet of a new hydrant, measured by the way a fire engine would lay a hose line, your homeowners insurance rating will change from an 8 to a 7. This should result in a decrease in your homeowners fire insurance premiums. Check it out, and if you are not sure, call the station. We can assist in the measurements. Then contact your insurance agent.

Fire Potential - 1st Warning

Last January I wrote that there was concern over the lack of snow and the effect it would have on the 1998 forest fire season. Before the article was published, our water fears were eliminated. Well, the 25 feet of snow last year will most likely not be repeated this year. As of January 15th, the prediction of a warm, dry winter seems to be accurate. If we do not get enough snow, we could be in for a repeat of 1996 for summer fire hazard conditions. Stay tuned for further updates as the winter progresses.

Current Department Projects

In addition to on going training, the department is involved in several special projects. A new garage building is being planned for the area just north of the station. The building will house the three emergency vehicles that currently sit out in the weather. The Department's 1-ton type 6-brush rescue engine is in need of a pump upgrade. This small but quick attack engine (former Water Co-Op truck) has the most capability of reaching the hard to get to cabins. The plan is to upgrade the unit with a slightly larger fire pump combined with the compressed air foam capability.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

WOMEN'S CLUB UPDATE

by Luann Waldron & Helen Quigley

We had a great time at our Christmas Brunch, hosted by Olga Pace. Thank you Olga for your hospitality. Sheri Lee, our former Echoes contributor of the Birds & Bees articles, came from Colorado to be with us. Our newest member, Donna Roll, was also with us. Welcome Donna.

The children of Zimmerman Elementary put on their annual Christmas program on December 16th. Thanks to Fran Zimmerman, arrangements were made to have it at the Iron Door Restaurant. The event, which involved the children singing and playing Christmas carols, was short but enjoyable. The MLWC gave each student a candy cane and gift certificate to the Living Rainbow.

Our spring meetings will be held in Tucson. They are scheduled for Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM at various member's homes.

February 3rd will be at the home of Mary Van Sickle.

March 3rd will be hosted in Helen Quigley's home.

April 7th will be at Cathie Brown's home.

If anyone has ideas of guest speakers, topics, arts/crafts

presentations or, if you as a member, have an interest to share with our membership please call **Helen, Luann, Olga Pace, or Franny Crowe.**

The Southern District Spring Convention of GFWC will be held March 27th at the Tucson Woman's Club. The State Convention will be held May 15-17th at the Holiday Inn in Tucson.

All Clubs are being encouraged to sponsor a high school student for our GFWC music contest at the Southern District level. Should that person win, they will go on to the State level competition. If you know someone who might be interested, please let us know and we will get the information out to you or to the student.

Dani is sending the reminders of the monthly meetings to the E-mail addresses and post cards to all other members. Please check your E-mail or let her know if you prefer a postcard.

Anyone interested in becoming a Women's Club member please contact us. We are a community oriented club. If you have an E-mail address please contact **Dani Hayhurst @ hayhurstaz@aol.com** or call her at 298-6328.

Annual Homeowner's Dinner

Tuesday, April 27th
Mark your calendars today.
The place, time and menu
will be announced in the
next issue of the Echoes.

APRIL



MLFD *CONTINUED*

Prevention Activities

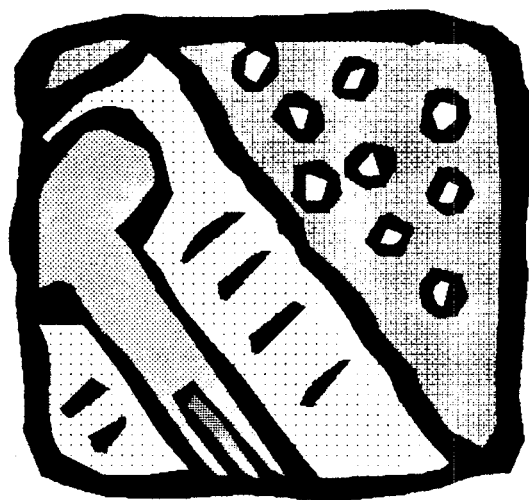
The Department received a new public education tape (A Matter of Time) covering the effects of fire in the wildland/urban intermix. Plans are in the works to schedule a public night at the fire station viewing of the program. This will occur in late spring when the truck bays are warm enough for a public gathering.

As long as the weather holds, the Department will continue with the pine needle pile burns, which were pretty much cancelled last summer due to the volume of rain. If you have a pile that needs to be burned, contact the station (576-1201).

The department is currently researching the feasibility of securing roll-off dumpsters for a pine needle cleanup campaign. If it is workable, a dumpster could be brought to the station for a specific time period for homeowners to dump pine needles and tree slash. This clean up campaign would aid in a fire hazard reduction in the village. Stay tune for further updates.

Prescribed Fire

On January 19 and 20th the Forest Service conducted the Loma Linda burn. This burn covered an area from just below the Fire Station, on the north side of the Control Road, to Crystal Springs. High winds on the 21st prevented the entire burn from taking place. This burn not only improves forest health, but also provides a forest fire buffer zone for the village.



SUMMERHAVEN WEATHER

Our Postmaster, Mark Hopkins, has been keeping track of our weather from month to month and year to year. Here is a comparison of January for 1997, 1998, and 1999.

January, 1997:

Precipitation - 8.77" Snow - 47"
High Temperature - 57 Low Temperature - 10.

January, 1998:

Precipitation - .93" Snow - 7"
High Temperature - 57 Low Temperature - 13.

January, 1999 (so far):

Precipitation - .20" Snow - 1"
High Temperature - 60 Low Temperature - 15.



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Mailing address: _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

(Please mark the appropriate lines)



membership dues ----- \$25 _____

associated members (rentors, friends) ----- \$20 _____

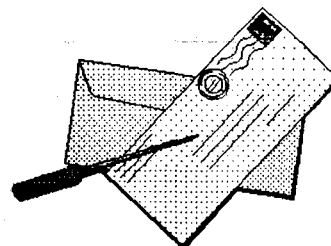
Please indicate your choice:

_____ I am enclosing a self addresses, stamped envelope for my membership card.

_____ I will pick up my membership card at the annual MLHO dinner on April 27th, 1999.

_____ I do not wish to receive a membership card.

_____ Mail my member card to the address above.



Return Top Portion With Payment

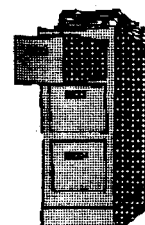
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Homeowner's Dues

January, 1999

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 MT. LEMMON, ARIZONA 85619

Amount paid \$ _____



HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION 2000

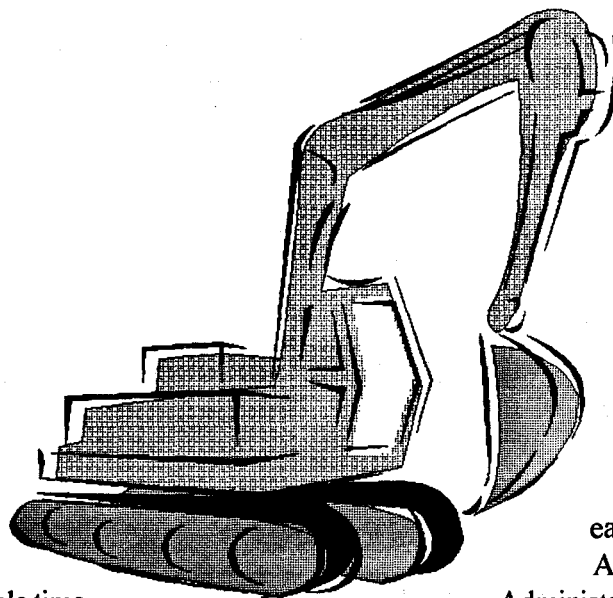
by Suzanne Hensel

Is everyone ready for the next highway widening project? Probably not. It is not something most of us look forward to. The results are pleasing, but the process is nothing but painful. By far the worst part is the wait; the long wait for the infamous pilot car that never seems to come. This is a lovely time when you get to sit in your car thinking of all the things you need to do once you are released from construction prison.

The wait is an especially enjoyable time for parents with young children. Once the car is stopped there is an, all too brief, peaceful pause before the verbal bomb goes off. "Why aren't we going? I'm hungry. Why do we have to wait? Who is that person in front of us? Are we going to be late?" If the wait is too long not only does the parent get to hear these wonderful intonations, but the heart stopping "Can we get out of the car and run around?" and "I really need to go to the bathroom!"

Of course the wait is not all bad. Sometimes it gives you the opportunity to visit with neighbors, making the time pass quickly. There is also the opportunity to see other people who have come to visit the mountain. We often forget that tourists use this road more than we do. Like the family bringing the kids up for a chance to play in the snow, or the older couple that would like to see the leaves changing. Then there's the car packed beyond comprehension with teenagers, none of which look old enough to have a drivers license. Or the slightly older crowd that come up to shoot the breeze (and hopefully nothing else) with their buddies. At these moments we may ponder, "Did I lock the door?"

The wait for the pilot car also gives us the opportunity to stop and enjoy the mountain. In fact by the time the project is completed we will know two areas of the highway very well, the place at the beginning of the construction and the place at the end. We will have every crack in the asphalt memorized, every tree, rock and piece of grass committed to memory. Only the full time residents can claim such



privileged knowledge.

So when exactly is the new construction slated to begin? That is a good question. The last official date given by the Forest Service was March, 2000. Wow, more than a year away. Almost far enough in the future to put it out of our minds. However, rumors have been floating around stating that it may start earlier. As early as the fall of 1999.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, the contract for the project is scheduled to be awarded in January, 2000. As soon as things can be pulled together the construction can begin after that date. Certainly no sooner than the year 2000. At least they don't think so at this time.

The other rumor about the construction is that two sections will be worked on. The original one, from Bigelow Road to Lizard Rock, and another one from the bridge to Bear Canyon.

Well . . . are you sitting down? This rumor is true. Additional funding is available to complete the part of the highway that was excluded during the last project. This section is about 1.8 miles long, extending from the bridge up to Bear Canyon. The upper section, from Bigelow Road to Lizard Rock, will be 4.9 miles long.

The estimated cost for the widening of these two sections is \$6 million. Part of the upper section will involve modifications at the Palisades Visitor Center near mile post 20.

The Federal Highway Administration would like to work closely with the residents and the businesses to make things as simple as possible. They will be holding a meeting sometime in March or April to discuss the construction.

The two projects should be completed by December, 2001. If you weren't sitting down before, I know you are now. Look at the bright side, that's more than a year to visit with neighbors, ponder your life, listen to the kids and memorize the scenery.

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