



The New Bear Facts



A Publication of Mountain C.A.R.E.

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President's Message

By Elmo Pinard, Mountain C.A.R.E.

I apologize for the tardiness of this issue. Younger generations may not understand my frustration with computers that suddenly don't work. This was my dilemma: I had the Bear Facts more than 1/2 done when the screen on my laptop went white with vertical colored lines. After trying rebooting, I took it to a repair place where I was told that the hard-drive was dead, and recovery was next to impossible. A week went by, and I took it for a second opinion, where I was told that the hard-drive was fine, and it was the display screen that died. I did not lose anything off my hard-drive. During my three weeks of suffering, our new Editor, Katherine Thomerson, stepped up to the plate and produced this issue. Thanks Katherine!

This reminds me that a couple of new generations have grown up with cleaner rivers and seas, cleaner ground water, and recycling centers everywhere because of the initiative of people of the "60's and 70's" to make their world a better place.

We CAN make a difference by thinking "clean". There are still some places in our mountain communities where trash, old cars and appliances are polluting, and some yards and empty lots which are dangerous fire hazards.

The tendency to let others take the initiative, like expecting government agencies to solve all our problems, belongs to individuals, not generations. We have terrific communities because volunteers, taking the initiative, are intentionally making efforts to make them better.

All of us benefit when someone decides to clean up their own yard. We just need more of our neighbors to get on board. They may need to hear that someone cares about the trash and unkempt foliage.

Each of us can make a difference by talking to that neighbor/friend much better than having an "Agency" take care of the problem. Please, Be Influential for Cleanliness, as many others have been in previous generations.

Gail D. Cox

1945 – 2005

By David G. Erickson, VFCCi Treasurer

Gail D. Cox, longtime Los Angeles bureau chief for The National Law Journal, passed away at her home in Forest Falls, just as she had wished.

Gail had a soft, friendly and quiet presence. A fact unknown to many Forest Falls residents, she was known as a sharp observer of the legal system – both in and out of court – who pulled no punches when it came to the foibles of lawyers and judges. She could dissect the character of high-powered law firms – and the internal soap operas they inevitably generated – but was equally at ease researching trends in civil jury verdicts or analyzing court rulings.

Despite her success as a journalist, often at the national level, she always tried to avoid drawing attention to herself, preferring instead to let her writing speak for itself. In 1985, she received a great deal of unwanted attention and publicity when, after taking a hike to look at wildflowers in the Trinity Alps in Northern California, she got lost. This led to a four-day search by some 100 would-be rescuers aided by helicopters and a psychological profiler who apparently completely misread her personality.

After searchers turned up nothing and helicopters passed over her without noticing anything, the ordeal ended when Cox happened upon a startled fisherman and walked with him to a nearby ranger station.

That misadventure, however, didn't dampen her love of nature. Five years later she took up residence here in Forest Falls in a wonderful original log home. She was known to us as a kind woman, often seen chatting with friends at the coffee house, sharing craft projects, recipes (she was an accomplished cook), or simply enjoying our mountain surroundings. She loved hiking our local trails; hearing her describe the lupine in spring brought clear and vivid visuals to any listener. Several years ago she won our local July 4th Chili cook off. Gail was a graduate of The Claremont Colleges. After her passing in the fall of 2005, her only surviving family, three nephews, Kitt, Brett and Jeff Cox, honored her very generous bequest to the Valley of the Falls Community Center, Inc. This gift enabled us to purchase the Big Falls Lodge, to be used as our own Community Center and will be enjoyed for generations to come.

From a Yokuts Traditional Prayer

translated in 1925

My words are tied in one
With the great mountains,
With the great rocks,
With the great trees,
In one with my body
And my heart...

From the new editor

Katherine Thomerson

Thank you Elmo Pinard and the Mountain C.A.R.E. Board for bringing me on as the new *BEAR FACTS* Editor....I am very honored. Three quotes come to mind when I consider any 'editor' position:

"Don't forget, both you and the editor are putting on an unceasing act for the public, and between you there should be the same relation that exists between the magician and his assistant, offstage."

Jack Woodward

"One should fight like the devil the temptation to think well of editors. They are all, without exception at least some of the time incompetent or crazy. By the nature of their profession, they read too much, with the result they grow jaded and cannot recognize talent though it dances in front of their eyes."

John Gardiner

"A competent editor is a publisher in microcosm, able to initiate and follow a project all the way through."

Marc Jaffe

Though all the above carry much truth, the latter is my aim. I will follow this project all the way through with my best abilities. However....be wary that I do "read too much." I hope to incorporate much of the philosophy behind the birthing of *The Bear Facts* – mainly the love and devotion to the beautiful mountain communities of Forest Falls, Angelus Oaks and Mountain Home Village.

In regards to this Mountain Community – I marvel that I live here and may mortar my talents into a newsletter that rings positive news with events, articles of interest to residents and care for the natural mountain environment. Thus far...I have enjoyed reading and caring for the articles received for this issue. I hope to pursue more articles and information from the community in making the *BEAR FACTS* a necessity for each mountain community neighbor.

And speaking of 'community neighbors,' please read with care and concern the article written by Tom McIntosh about donations to the New Community Center. Please consider making donations now. Community means we all work together to bring a purpose to fruition – the Gail D. Cox Community Center will enliven our spirits – children and adults. Donate – Please. Read Tom's article carefully with your heart...and the reasons for our mountain haven.

So...my "off-stage" mountain heaven/haven neighbors...I thank you for taking me on...I thank Elmo, Marcy and David, Shirley, Tom for supporting me in this new endeavor...and Citrograph for giving to the '*New BEAR FACTS*.' I will not 'go jaded'....I will recognize the talent that 'dances in front of my eyes'....and I will follow this 'project all the way through.' Katherine Thomerson – MA in Art History and Literature – MFA in Writing – Professor at CSUSB (just in case you need to know...but I am jaded anyway because I 'read too much'.)

Forest Falls to Dedicate Community Center

On May 26th the Valley of the Falls Community Center (VFCCi) Board of Directors will officially dedicate our first ever Community Center in honor of the lady who made it all possible, Gail D. Cox. (See Gail's bio in related article.)



The official name of this site will be the "Gail D. Cox Community Center". For decades many have known this building by various names; Saddletramp Saloon, 'R Friends, San G., The Ark. From now on, the original historical name will be the common known name... "Big Falls Lodge"

Big Falls Lodge will again become a part of great memories as residents of Forest Falls, Mountain Home Village and Angelus Oaks will have the opportunity to utilize this site in a myriad of ways; Weddings & Receptions, Anniversary and Birthday Parties, Classes, Seminars, Meetings and more.

As we continue to coalesce from bedroom to year 'round community, traditions also grow. From the Boy Scout pancake breakfast in late May, to the downtown Christmas program in December, the annual Big Falls Lodge Day, while not the official start of Summer, should celebrate the end of our Winter and return to warmer weather.

The first annual "Big Falls Lodge Day" will include food, our maiden "membership drive", and Gail Cox Crafts Fair, a hands on event for children and adults (a tradition started years ago by Gail). Full details on "Big Falls Lodge Day" will appear in the next Bear Facts and be posted around town.

A goal of VFCCi is to make Big Falls Lodge meet the needs of the community, limited only by size and law. However, this program will never survive without the financial support and participation of its members. Please read the related article on how you can become a member, donor or best of all, a founder of VFCCi.

Big Falls Lodge is a great building in a good location but it has suffered from neglect. Volunteers are needed to help put the building back to a condition that will make us all proud. If you have a talent to give or are just a "willing worker", we need you. Contact a board member or check out our website; www.VFCCi.org for links on submitting your ideas or volunteering to be a part of not only the Big Falls Lodge project but other upcoming community programs. You can also contact your VFCCi Board of Directors by phone...

- Tom McIntosh, Pres.794-2518
- Thom Wellman, V-Pres794-2065
- Susan Britton, Sec.794-4403
- David Erickson, Treas.794-7442
- Shirley Bauer,389-7531
- Debi Welch,794-6160
- Michele Young,794-0228

Community Center Reaches Out

Sometimes words create confusion but make no mistake that the Valley of the Falls Community Center, Inc. (VFCCi) will offer more than the Community Center at Big Falls Lodge. (see related article)

VFCCi's goals include

- Gail D.Cox Community Center at Big Falls Lodge
- Day Care/Latch Key program at the old Fallsvale School
- Parks and Recreation Program for all ages
- Seniors Activities
- Disaster Response training through the CERT program
- College and Adult School extension classes

While the Board of Directors serve without compensation you can imagine the costs associated with our first physical asset, Big Falls Lodge. Taxes, insurance, utilities, maintenance and repairs, not to speak of outfitting a full commercial kitchen, having good media for presentations, tables and chairs, why the list seems endless and after the purchase of the building, the change left over will not go far... **we need your help** to keep Big Falls Lodge moving forward and to continue to work towards the other goals.

MEMBERSHIP

Regular Membership: Open to residents and property owners of Forest Falls who will enjoy all the benefits of membership, including voting rights at the annual meeting. Members who join in the first year, ending May 26, 2008, will be "Charter Members" and acknowledged as such. Members will receive discounted rates on the use of Big Falls Lodge, discounts on special events and other benefits that we are still working on and believe will be numerous.

Guest Membership: Available to those who are not residents or property owners in Forest Falls. Guest members will enjoy all benefits of Regular Membership except for voting rights.

Annual Membership Fees: \$50 per person or \$100 per family (family is "immediate household including minor children").

DONATIONS

Donations in any amount are encouraged and welcomed as they are essential to our ability to carry on. All donor's will be recognized annually at Big Falls Day. Donor levels are; \$1- \$249, \$250-\$499, \$500-\$999, \$1000-1499, \$1500-1999 and \$2000-\$2499.

Founders are those individuals or businesses who are able to make substantial donations during 2007. Founders will be recognized by perpetual, individual plaques at Big Falls Lodge for donations in excess of \$2500. If you are considering a Founder donation, please contact a Board Member at your earliest convenience for more information.

While the official membership drive will start at the dedication of Big Falls Lodge on May 26th, you are encouraged to purchase your membership or make a donation now.

Remember, The Valley of the Falls Community Center, Inc. is an IRS 501(C)(3) charitable organization where your gifts are tax deductible, and is YOUR group to provide worthy community programs for residents of all ages.

Go to www.VFCCi.org for links to board members or call a board member.

Job Opportunities at Big Falls Lodge

With Big Falls Lodge opening this summer as a community center, the VFCCi Board of Directors see great potential to stimulate business in our communities. As Big Falls Lodge is rented for Weddings, Anniversary's, Meetings, Classes, etc. the use may require some help.

Consider a wedding or anniversary party. This use of the building could include the need for many services, such as;

- catered or site prepared food
- flowers
- decorating
- music (live or dj)
- photographer
(still and/or video)
- hosts/hostesses
- bartender(s)
- security
- firewood
- printing
- minister or wedding official
- overnight accommodations
- cleaning
- parking attendant(s)



If you wish to become a part of the VFCCi services data base you can obtain an application form from our website, www.VFCCi.org, or by stopping by Gillmore Real Estate in Forest Falls. Completed forms can be returned by; email to the Special Event Coordinators; Marcie Green-Whitney and Sheri Galloway Ross, events@vfcci.org, sent by snail mail to VFCCi, P.O. Box 41, Forest Falls, CA. 92339 or dropped off at Gillmore Real Estate in Forest Falls.

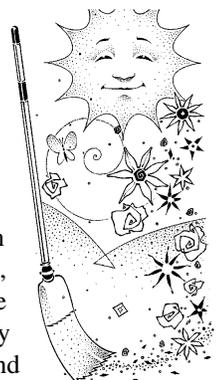
Preference for listing of services will be given to VFCCi members first, then non-member residents, then out of area services if no similar service is available in our communities. (see related article on being a member)

VFCCi

**Preserving Our Past • Celebrating Our Present
Creating Our Future**

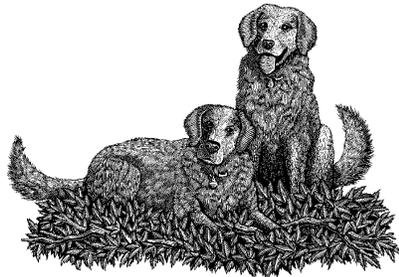
Who's Up for a Little Spring Cleaning?

The snow may soon be gone but not all the evidence of our canyon's winter guests will melt away. Any and all are invited to help plan a canyon clean-up. We're thinking April 22, Earth Day, would be appropriate for a little fresh air and hard work. The day will probably include roadside and picnic grounds cleanup and graffiti removal. We're still at the planning stages so if you're interested in participating, give me a call. Beth Tetreault, 794-8523



Dog Tails....

by Ann Klingbeil



In 2005, the American HeartWorm Society revised its guidelines for diagnosing treMing and preventing heartworm, a potentially fatal disease. The AHS is recommending that no matter what part of the country you live in, you should give your dog/s heartworm preventatives year 'round since the medicine first appeared here, about 10 years ago?

The number of positive cases are increasing, as it only takes one mosquito bite. Wherever there are mosquitoes, there is heartworm disease. The San Bernardino Valley Humane Society gives heartworm tests, vaccines (including rabies) microchips, spaying and neutering all at a very nominal cost, despite your income. Their phone number is 909-386-1400. Be sure to call ahead for spay and neuter appointments and directions to the facility.

The author of the following is unknown:

Why Rescue?

I looked at all the caged animals in the shelter... the cast-offs of human society. I saw in their eyes love and hope, fear and dread, sadness, and betrayal. And I was angry. "God," I said, "this is terrible! Why don't you do something?"

God was silent for a moment, and then spoke softly, "I have done something..." was the reply. "I created you."

This author is known:

The crowd cheered madly when they saw little Willy come into view at the far end of Main Street, and even more madly when they saw the Indian - Stone Fox was right on his tail.

"Go Searchlight! Go!" little Willy cried out.

His dog - Searchlight, gave it everything she had. She was a hundred feet from the finish line when her heart burst. She died instantly. There was no suffering. The sled and little Willy tumbled over her, slid along the snow for awhile, then came to a stop about ten feet from the finish line. It had started to snow --- white snowflakes landed on Searchlight's dark fur as she lay motionless on the ground. The crowd became deathly silent.....Stone Fox brought his sled to a stop alongside little Willy. He stood tall in the icy wind and looked down at the young challenger, and at the dog that lay limp in his arms.

"Is she dead, Mr. Stone Fox? Is she dead?" little Willy asked, looking up at Stone Fox with his one good eye.....

Stone Fox knelt down and put one massive hand on Searchlight's chest. He felt no heartbeat. He looked at little Willy, and the boy understood. Little Willy squeezed

Searchlight with all his might. "You did real good, girl. Real good. I'm real proud of you. You rest now. Just rest." Little Willy began to brush the snow off Searchlight's back. Stone Fox stood slowly. No one spoke. No one moved. All eyes were on the Indian, the one called Stone Fox, the one who had never lost a race.... Stone Fox nodded to the boy...The town looked on in silence as little Willy, carrying his best friend - Searchlight - walked the last ten feet and across the finish line."

STONE FOX by John Gardiner
submitted by K. Thomerson
"Why God gave us the care of dogs."
and why we should

Tri-Communities Event Calendar

S M T W TH F S

Spring 2007

- Cub Scouts** Meet every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.,
Valley of the Falls Community Church
- Boy Scouts** Meet every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.,
Valley of the Falls Community Church
- Explorers Post 128** Meet every Monday at 6:00 p.m.,
Forest Falls Fire Station
- Frozen Green Thumb Garden Club**
Meets 3rd Monday every month
Call Laurie 389-7379 for location
- Fallsvale Elementary School**
Watch for Spring Sees candy fund raiser
March 23-April 9 Spring break
- Forest Falls Fire Dept.** Meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.,
Forest Falls Fire Station
- Angelus Oaks Fire Dept.**
Meets on 2nd and 4th Tuesday every month
6:00 p.m. at the Angelus Oaks Fire Station
- Mill Creek Canyon Fire Safety Council**
Meets 1st Thursday every month 6:30 p.m.,
Forest Falls Fire Station
- Valley of the Falls Search and Rescue**
Meets 2nd Monday every month 7:00 p.m.,
Forest Falls Sheriff Station 389-2435
- Angelus Oaks Fire Safety Council**
Meets 4th Saturday every other month
Angelus Oaks Fire Station

SPECIAL EVENTS

May 26th BIG FALLS LODGE DAY
come be a part of the grand opening at the
BIG FALLS LODGE COMMUNITY CENTER
Enjoy a pancake breakfast, membership drive,
barbeque and an afternoon of crafts...
Read about VFCC in this month Bear Facts

Do you have a special event/fund raiser.contact Michelle Young
@ 794-0228 Or Michelle_young14@yahoo.com

Fire Rescue News

by Tom McIntosh, Captain - Forest Falls

2006 IN REVIEW: Looking back at the number of alarms Forest Falls Firefighters responded to in 2005, one could easily deduce a lack of activity in 2006. Just over 350 alarms occurred in 2005, and last year 2006 showed only 250 calls for service. However, maybe a more prudent way to determine activity could be to compare the "firefighter hours" responding to alarms. This measure shows 2006 being almost as busy as 2005. Most people agree that the availability of the service is the real issue, not the number of calls in a year. The paid call Firefighters working out of station 128 in Forest Falls pride themselves in providing a fairly reliable service, while generally not as reliable as a full time staffed fire station.

As has become typical in most fire service organizations throughout the country, between 70-80% of alarms are in response to Medical Aid calls. Also typical around most of the country, working structure fires account for a very small percentage, less than 1/2 percent of the alarms in our communities. The typical Medical Aid call is responded to in around 5 minutes with the patient being transported by a paramedic ambulance from the Valley in about 15-20 minutes OR in the case of life threatening emergencies, the patient is transported by our BLS Rescue Ambulance somewhere on the way down the mountain.

The balance of calls in our area will normally consist of more time consuming alarms than Medical Aids. 2006 called us to several "over the side" calls on Hwy 38, some with fatal results and some, even though the vehicle traveled over 300' down a steep ravine...with only minor injuries. Serious traffic accidents and wildland fires also generally demand many hours of service from firefighters. It is an unfortunate reality that there can be times, normally during the day in an average week, when there are no firefighters available locally, dispatching an engine from Angelus Oaks or Mentone, which will create a delay for service.

January 2007, while not over at the time of this article, has been a busy one for firefighters. Exacerbated by the small snow/ice storms and considering a typical number of other alarms, we responded to 32 alarms in the first 20 days of the month. Included in these 32 alarms was a minor structure fire caused by a malfunction of equipment trying to thaw frozen pipes and a medical aid call that warrants a separate narrative.

On **January 9th**, you may recall that Hwy 38 was closed at the Mill Creek bridge from 0800 to 1600 (that's 4:00 pm). In anticipation of the impact this closure could have on our communities, we changed our procedures. Concerns included the ability to transport a medical aid patient to a hospital as well as have adequate staffing available to manage an alarm should it occur during the road closure.

Our Battalion Chief in Lake Arrowhead made arrangements with AMR ambulance company to have a medic ambulance spend the day in Forest Falls. The Forest Falls station was "hard covered" (staffed) by firefighters with 3 others being available "soft cover" (available and responding from within the community if paged). We also made arrangements with the project engineer at the bridge road closure to access the closure and transport a patient across the closed road on a gurney to an ambulance that would be waiting on the Yucaipa side of the closure.

Our planning paid off when midmorning, we responded to a medical aid call for a patient with "difficulty breathing." With a dispatch to on scene time of less than 4 minutes, including the Medic ambulance from AMR, it was soon discovered that we had two patients, one "immediate" and one "delayed."

The weather was cooperating and a request was made for an air ambulance (helicopter). Our immediate patient was transported by the AMR Medic ambulance to a landing zone at Hwy 38 and the Morton Peak Truck Trail where he was flown to a valley hospital by Mercy Air Ambulance. The delayed patient was transported by our Forest Falls rescue ambulance to the bridge, wheeled on a gurney and lifted over the outriggers of a giant crane by AMR ambulance personnel who transported her to the hospital.

Increased preplanning worked to the patients best interest by decreasing the time taken to transport to a medical facility but sadly, the immediate patient, after spending 12 days in the hospital did not survive his illness.

Chain, Chain, Chain. Most years, we put the chains on our apparatus once Winter sets in, and the engines stay chained until Spring when all our roads are accessible. This Winter, most of the firefighters feel like the "yo-yo" of chain installers as the chains on the Patrol, Ambulance and Squad come off as the roads clear and are put back on when conditions dictate. Our Patrol and Squad are equipped with studded rear tires during the Winter which allows them to be unchained, except in heavy Winter conditions, providing a faster response time by not having the removal of chains to respond to Mountain Home Village or Angelus Oaks.

Did You Know?

by Shirley Bauer

...that pinecones are wonderful fire starters?

...that (well you mountain residents know, but here's for the new folks, or for folks who come here weekends) we have two of the finest restaurants one could find anywhere....El Mexicano in Forest Falls and The Oaks in Angelus Oaks.

...that coyotes can carry off animals as large as welch terriers (happened to us). So...all of you folks with small and medium sized pets need to be extra vigilant when they are outside on yard lines or even in a fenced yard - especially at night. It seems now...the coyotes are close every evening in the upper canyon, Forest Falls.

...that oven cleaner is wonderful to easily clean that black film on fireplace stove windows. Then wash-off with windex. This is also good for toaster oven and oven windows.

...that paw chewing dogs can be cured. Our dog did that, and I was so glad to learn that painting the paw with oil of cloves (health food stores) cures the habit!

...if the tiny screws on your glasses just won't stay tight, and you're tired of tightening them with that teensie eyeglass screwdriver, then take the screws out, dot them with a drop of super glue, put the screws back in and tighten them firmly. They will stay!!

I welcome your suggestions for this column,:

DID YOU KNOW? C.A.R.E. P.O. Box 13, Forest Falls, CA 92339

EXTRA ❄️❄️❄️ Articles of Interest ❄️❄️❄️ EXTRA

So Where Do We Live

by Thom Wellman (Fire Chief of the Mountain)

I was a little taken back when I read an anonymous article that I found in the Post Office this last month about a recent fire we had in the community. First, I guess I should not take anything too seriously if the person that has such issues is afraid to put their name on the document.

Second, it made me reflect on just what kind of Fire Service we have. As a resident and a firefighter, I agree that we should always work at ways to better our fire department. So to do this correctly, let us look at what we do have. Currently, we have 23 dedicated individuals that leave their homes at all hours of the day...and night, usually missing some portion of family birthdays and anniversaries, giving their time to help, assist, and support this community. They have seven pieces of fire and rescue equipment that they maintain (clean, service, and check equipment on-board) and keep in operational readiness. A fire station built in 1956, and added on to numerous times over the years, is always in need of some repair, remodel or general remediation.

Our firefighters also respond to just over 300 calls a year. One very interesting fact is that in this community we have very few false alarms; in the city false alarms account for almost 20% of the call load. At 300 calls - times an average of 2 hours+600 hours (plus or minus) of time we see them out on our streets. This does not include the time required for fire and rescue training, station duty, other mandatory classes, or emergency medical training.

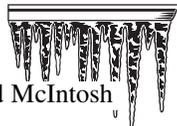
So how do we compare to fulltime fire stations as far as response time? The County keeps records of how quickly stations respond to emergency calls. The average response time through-

out the County for fulltime stations is somewhere between 6 and 8 minutes. That is a combination of the time it takes to input a call, dispatch the units, and the time it takes for the units to arrive on the scene - referred to as reflex time. In rural areas, that time increases to 16 - 20 minutes respectively, usually because they have Paid on Call Firefighters (PCF's) that are not assigned to shifts as fulltime personnel. The PCF's have the added time of being paged, going to their station, and then responding to the call. So what is our station's average response/reflex time? Interestingly enough, it is 6 to 8 minutes. Why? Simply because our fire station is in the middle of our community and our folks live in such close proximity to the fire station.

Next, let us talk about cost. The average fulltime fire station and staffing cost is over \$1,000,000 per year. With just over 600 homes in our community that would average out to about \$1600 per household. That does not seem bad until you realize that we pay a little more than \$200 per year for our fire protection now, which is less than 15% of what is needed to go fulltime. Therefore, to get to fulltime staffing we need an additional \$1400 per year per household. I am all for figuring out how to fix this shortfall; maybe the person who wrote their concerns about our fire department would be willing to help me.

We all live in Forest Falls by choice, hopefully realizing that there is not a police officer or firefighter on every corner. We understand that there are risks, and there are many, but we would still rather live here than live where we NEED to have a police officer and firefighter on every corner. One last note on the anonymous article...I have never heard of or seen unlined 2 1/2 inch fire hose, and I like spanners (a hose coupling wrench) so much, I named one of my dogs after one.....Thom Wellman

Frostbytes



By: Patricia Drummond McIntosh

So you think January 2007 in Forest Falls was harsh and cold? Just tivo back with me to winter of "83" where I first met the "YUKON EXPRESS". Winter came early. We were skiing Bear on Thanksgiving Day. The temps by Christmas reached sub-zero with the wind-chill. Our welcome Diamond Dust evolved into a suffocating blanket of freezing ice and snow, setting us up for the "holiday without water".

As the days went by, my responsibilities as a dutiful real estate agent increased. My archrival, Tom M, and I serpentine our "high clearance" 4X4's up and down steep, narrow roads with deep snow and deeper snow burms (we'd climb the burms just to see over, neither one of us were very tall). We were looking for signs of frozen pipes in our clients' weekend homes. Later there would be whole new set of problems with the arrival of the thaw.

What turned out the main water source line had been damaged from an avalanche in Snow Canyon. Was the naming of this canyon someone's idea of a sick joke I thought??? A team of strong, ambitious Canyon Men had volunteered to come to our aid and set off to repair the problem. It was a steep, cold and treacherous climb for them. Mine being the only full time residence at the end of Canyon made our home a popular stop for them. They would replenish the adult beverage in their flasks and throw their

socks and wet clothes in the dryer...then bravely set off again to accomplish their mission. It took days, but these heroes restored our water and our lives.

Those winter days in "83". Tow ropes and shovels were a must in our vehicles. And then there was that day I just had to run down the hill for supplies, leaving my real estate office in the care of my teenager, Debi. Upon my return I inquired if anything important had occurred in my absence. "Oh, nothing important, just Conan Nolan was here to report on our water dilemma." What could a teenager, barely licensed to drive, have to tell Conan? "Well, I took him around the Canyon in our Subaru, and then I took him to our home." "Our home? You took him to our home???" You guessed it. The lead-in to the 5:00 news that day was our kitchen complete with dirty dishes (no water) and YIKES, MY BATHROOM TOILET!!! because she needed Conan to understand how full a toilet tank needed to be to flush.

I learned many valuable lessons from that Winter of 83. I learned it took five gallons of water to flush a toilet, and that there was a time to flush and a time not to flush all depending on color, and I learned never to leave a 16 year-old to baby-sit my office. As for the Snow Canyon heroes, they now take a well-deserved place in a fireside armchair, and in my fondest memories, just like the Christmas that came and went with no water.

I say these days to my archrival turned beloved husband, Tom, "How are the Newbies faring?" "The Newbies fare just fine" he says "a different stage with a new cast of characters. And the Acorn turns..."

To our Advertising Sponsors:

As the new editor of THE BEAR FACTS, I want to personally give my gratitude and huzzahs for all support given to this publication. I hope to meet everyone personally and work together with you in promoting your businesses and services to and for our Mountain Communities. Because I began the BEAR FACTS' publication on the 'whisp' of short notice (poor Elmo's computer troubles) and had to meet a very quick deadline....I am giving personal and public attention to the many businesses and services by the categorized listing below. Due to the new layout of this news publication, I am asking for new hard-copy material from each of you (business card, art/ad, design requested) so that I may publish the next issue with new ads and updated information. This is your chance to change or redo an ad and submit it. You may also submit your ad via an electronic file to katherine@forestfalls.com or ryan@citrograph.com. If you have any questions regarding formatting your ad file electronically, call Citrograph (909-792-3901) and ask for Ryan. I am very excited about The New BEAR FACTS and working with our Ad Sponsors.....thanks, thanks, thanks and many more thanks for making this Mountain Community Publication possible.....Katherine Thomerson, Editor

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VALLEY OF THE FALLS	
COMMUNITY CHURCH	909-794-2723

CLEANERS:

AMERICAN CLEANERS	909-794-7949
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CONFERENCE CENTERS:

FOREST FALLS	
CONFERENCE CENTER	909-389-2300

COSMETICS & SKIN CARE:

MARY KAY COSMETICS	909-389-7531
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ELECTRICIAN:

POWERBUILDERS	909-794-0228
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FIREWOOD:

FRED FORD FIREWOOD	909-793-1592
GIGGLING PIG RANCH	909-794-2283
HOMESTEAD FIREWOOD	909-797-2398
ROMBERG FIREWOOD	909-793-3731

GENERAL STORE:

ELKHORN STORE	909-794-1212
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HEATING SOLUTIONS	909-585-1204
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MACHINE SHOP:

RETTIG MACHINE SHOP	909-793-7811
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MASSEUSE:

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE	909-516-0600
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PRINTING:

CITROGRAPH PRINTING CO.	909-792-3901
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PHOTOGRAPHY:

BURGESS PHOTOGRAPHY	909-794-1096
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PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & RENTALS:

ACTION RENTALS	909-794-8956
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REAL ESTATE:

HAROLD GAINEY/CENTURY 21	909-496-1443
GILLMORE REALTY	909-794-2518
MOUNTAIN AIR REALTY	909-794-8956

RESTAURANTS:

EL MEXICANO	909-794-3186
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SPRAY SERVICES:

SPRAYSERVER	909-794-7139
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TRACTOR WORK:

A.E. CLEARY	909-389-0430
GIGGLING PIGS RANCH	909-794-2283

TREE SERVICE:

ROMBERG TREE SERVICE	909-797-3737
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Once again....thank you so very much for advertising in THE BEAR FACTS and giving us the opportunity to re-organize the ads and promote your businesses and services for Angelus Oaks, Forest Falls and Mountain Home Village. We want to support you as you all commit to supporting us. Katherine Thomerson - ever-so-new editor following the tracks of former editor, Elmo Pinard....

Post Script: a standing ovation to the FOREST FALLS USPO...for all efforts in helping gather and mail THE BEAR FACTS in a timely manner....your hard work is honored and appreciated!!!!

Look where we live - photo drama:

by David Dickinson



David Dickinson submitted this photo pageantry of Big Horn Sheep. On February 14th at just about 3:00 pm – David, Paul Forgues and Joaquin were working on the frozen water main when a quick movement rustled their senses and made all three look-up. There before them across the creek – a heard of Big Horn Sheep! David Dickinson just happened to have a camera laying near; he snapped this photo in the silence of the moment. The Big Horn Sheep gazed at the men, then sauntered away and up the mountain. The three men witnessed this pageantry of our mountain haven....yes...look where we live....David enlarged this photo for framing. If anyone is interested in purchasing this pageantry of photo drama....contact David at 909-794-6792....

FYI

The New BEAR FACTS is published quarterly by MOUNTAIN C.A.R.E. P.O. Box 13, Forest Falls, CA 92339.

Letters and articles are encouraged, however, MOUNTAIN C.A.R.E. cannot pay for submissions. Email the editor for submission information and deadlines to Katherine@forestfalls.com. To update, correct or add to the Calendar, please call Michelle Young at 794-0228.

Advertising: Display ads may be available. Please call for

our rate sheet and authorized formats. Payment must accompany ad. For information on advertising, contact: Shirley Bauer at 909-389-7531.

Deadlines for next special issue: all advertising and articles must be submitted no later than April 20th.

Editor - Katherine Thomerson
909-389-4581
norareads@gmail.com

Living on the Edge

Natural Disasters in San Bernardino County

A special exhibit in the Fisk Gallery at the San Bernardino County Museum

Where: San Bernardino County Museum

2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands CA 92374 (Calif. Street exit from interstate 10)

When: March 17 through July 15, 2007

Media and members' opening night Friday, March 16 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm

Hours: Tuesdays through Sundays and holiday Mondays 9 am to 5 pm

Cost: General admission: \$6 adult, \$5 student or senior, \$4 child aged 5 to 12. Children under 5 and Museum Association members are free. Group rates by appointment: (909) 307-2669 ext. 256

Public Information: (909) 307-2669,

TDD (909) 792-1462, or www.sbcountymuseum.org

Description: Earthquakes, floods, fires, and winds in San Bernardino County are the result of our unique geography. "Living on the Edge" explores natural disasters by explaining the science behind the events along with their impact on past, present, and future human populations. Because the growing Southern California population continues to encroach on the areas most prone to natural disasters, a natural disaster is ever more likely to affect each of us at some point in time. "Living on the Edge" uses imagery and personal accounts from the museum's history and archives collections to illuminate geological and geographical processes from the point of view of San Bernardino County residents who have—and will—experience these forces of nature.

We hear that Forest Falls may play a significant role in the exhibit from both the history of disaster and our attempts to mitigate and prepare for them. —Tom McIntosh



Tickets go on Sale March 1st

Tickets for the 5th annual Vintage Redlands, to be held on Friday April 27, will go on Sale beginning March 1. This event pairs wineries, restaurants and caterers with businesses in Historic Downtown Redlands. Participants will stroll through the area sampling wine and appetizers while shopping and enjoying entertainment throughout the downtown area. The evening will end with a silent auction at the final stop.

Vintage Redlands is the primary fundraiser for the Citrograph Scholarship Fund, a member of the Redlands Community Foundation. All proceeds from this event go toward scholarships for students pursuing an education in Business, Graphic Design and Music at the University of Redlands. The music scholarship was established in 2002 in memory of Richard Caudle.

Sponsors for this years event include 1st Centennial Bank, Citrograph Printing Company, Emerson & Farrar, Fallsvale Friesian's, Gillmore Real Estate, The Lodge in Forest Falls, Modern Home Relics, The Redlands Daily Facts, San Bernardino Sun.

Tickets will be available at the following locations during normal business hours: Citrograph Printing Co., Crackerjack Gift Co. The Gourmet Pizza Shoppe Hockridge Florist, and Redlands Jewelers.

Further information regarding this event can be found at www.VintageRedlands.com. Event organizers are still looking for sponsors and items for the silent auction. If any business is interested, they can contact Al Hernandez at 888-494-9044.

10th Annual Chili Cook-off is just around the corner

We are looking for volunteers for the Chili Cook-off scheduled for Sunday July 1, 2007.

An event this large and successful year after year is only possible because of people that donate their time and energy. Whether you can give much or little time, we have a place for you. If you're a planner, we need you on the committee... if you can only commit to one day, how about helping on the day of the chili cook-off?

This is a fun and worthwhile event and we would love your participation.

Please contact Gail Forgues @ Elkhorn General Store, 794-1212 or Debi Welch @ Gillmore Real Estate, 794-2518.



Read this poem and think about where we live...

by Mary Oliver

I thought the earth
remembered me, she
took me back so tenderly, arranging
her dark skirts, her pockets
full of her lichens and seeds. I slept
as never before, a stone
on the riverbed, nothing
between me and the white fire of the stars
but my thoughts, and they floated
light as moths among the branches
of the perfect trees. All night
I heard the small kingdoms breathing
around me, the insects, and the birds
who do their work in the darkness. All night
I rose and fell, as if in water, grappling
with a luminous doom. By morning
I had vanished at least a dozen times
into something better...

Mary Oliver originates from Cleveland, Ohio where she was born in 1935. She went to college at Ohio State University, but she only stayed for one year. After that she attended Vassar College. Oliver was strongly influenced by poet, Edna St. Vincent Millay. During the 1980's, Oliver taught at Case Western Reserve University. In 1984, her collection of poetry AMERICAN PRIMITIVE won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. In 1986, she moved to Bucknell University where she was honored with the title "Poet in Residence." She is known for her writing about the 'natural' environment. She exudes and celebrates nature and the soul.....

I think we all have "vanished at least a dozen times into something better" because we live in this natural and beautiful Mountain Community...look out your window in the morning.....Katherine Thomerson



Garden Times

by Laurie Gerber

Spring is an exciting time in our gardens and canyon. Look for the Crocus, Tulips and Daffodils to start pushing their way up through the soil. Soon we'll soon see wildflowers.

We can feel the beginnings of Spring but be careful what you plant now, since there is still a chance of snow and freezing temperatures for just a little while longer. It's not quite time to remove the mulch but here are a few things you can do. Be sure to check the "Mountain Gardening" book for a more detailed listing of information. "Mountain Gardening" is available at Jessica's Treasures and from any Garden Club member....

Finalize those garden plans and start your seeds indoors or in a greenhouse now. Order plants online or by catalogs. They will be sent at the proper planting time. Plant: Anemone, Azalea, Bleeding Heart, Candytuft, Coral Bell seed, Delphinium seed in flats, Edelweiss seed, Foxglove, Hibiscus, Monkey Flower seed, Primrose, Rhododendron and Vinca.

Prune: Ceanothus, Forsythia, Holly, Hydrangea and Rose.

Fertilize: Apple, Azalea, Bleeding Heart, Delphinium, Dogwood, Hibiscus, Holly, Iris, Mahonia, Phlox, Rhododendron, Rose, Tulip, and Violet.

Divide: Bleeding Heart, (3 year intervals)

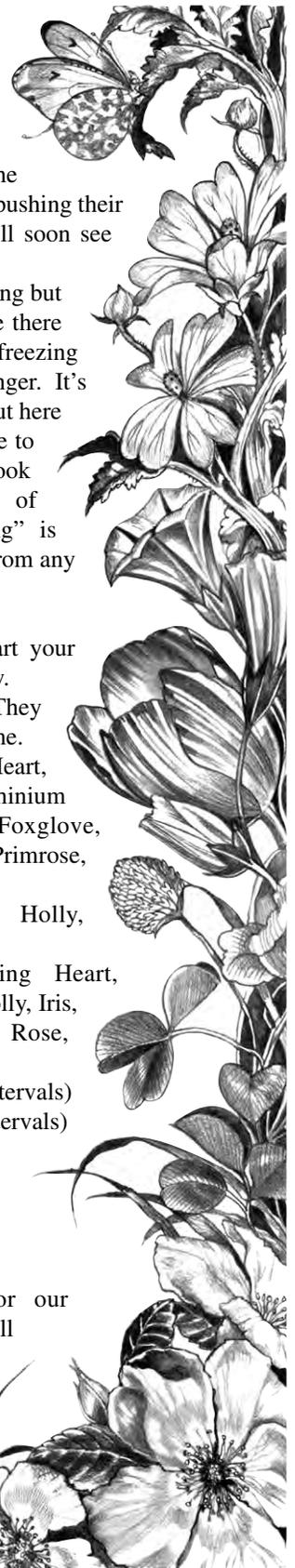
Coral Bells, Shasta Daisy (3 year intervals)

Jap, Anemone (6 year intervals)..

Keep your walkways clear and safe.

Check yard/garden tools – make sure they are clean and ready to use.

This begins a busy time for our community. The Garden Club will enjoy their first field trip of the year in April. Our new Community Center will open in May. We plan to have a plant sale in early summer at the Center so look for further information regarding this.



Enjoy the sun – though beware of more clouds and snow!!!!

"There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments."

Janet Kilburn Phillips

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Is it Time to Renew Your Mountain CARE Membership... if so

Your Membership with Mountain CARE helps to support the education and environmental work we do in the community of Forest Falls, Angelus Oaks and Mountain Home Village. It helps to sponsor The Bear Facts, local community events, meetings, educational trips and much more.

Membership is only \$10 per family and includes First Class Mailing of The Bear Facts, if you do not have a Forest Falls, Angelus Oaks or Mountain Home Village mailing address. Mountain CARE is a non-profit, charitable organization. All donations are tax-deductible, as permitted by law and gratefully appreciated.

Thank you for your continuing support of Mountain CARE

To join or renew your membership, please complete this form, enclose a check or money order for \$10.00 (payable to Mountain CARE) and mail to:

**Mountain CARE & Fire Safe Council
Post Office Box 13
Forest Falls, CA 92339**

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