

Published Monthly  
by the  
**MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **T**O START WITH !!!

The new Mosquito Phone Books are at the Fire Station and we're pleased to announce they are for sale at the same price as the 1995 books — \$2.00. However, as usual, we hardly got them back from the printers when we received notice from various sources of additions and deletions! Whatever does Pacific Bell do? So we will be publishing updates in the *Byte*, and be prepared for 1999, when the next book will be published.

We've received word that Veerkamp Construction, under contract to EID will be moving heavy equipment into the area within the next few weeks. The equipment will be using primarily Highgrade, Stope, Maidu, Ponderosa Grove, and White Oak Drive. The word is — the EID pipeline in under construction! Please use caution driving on these roads.

## **C**HIEF'S CORNER

*Leo Chaloux*

It has been rather quiet around the district in the last couple of months. There haven't been any fires or medical aids of any consequence. Not having any incidents taking place is often seen as the calm before the storm, or as the odds haven't caught up to us yet, or as I often say it is just the great prevention program we have hard at work. In reality what I have found over the years is that everything runs in cycles. We will be very busy for several months responding to all kinds of incidents and then nothing will take place. I hope I am wrong and the cycle doesn't turn around.

Since there hasn't been a great deal taking place I thought I would take this opportunity to fill you in on what has been happening in the District.

Burn permits will be required as of May 1. I have been assured by El Dorado County Air Quality Control and by the California Division of Forestry that the permits will not be changed so I am going to take a chance and issue them for three years. Anyone getting a permit now will not have to renew it until the year 2000. However, do not be surprised if some bureaucrat out there with nothing to do with his life decides to change a phone number or a rule. If that happens then I will be calling everyone back to tell them their permit is no good. Make sure that you do call the burn control number on the permit to determine if the day you want to burn is a burn day. Be sure to call after 8:00 in the morning. Otherwise you will get the previous days message. The most important thing is to burn safely and follow the guidelines established by the permit. If a fire does get away from you call 911 and we will come out

and help you with it. Often one tries to put it out on their own and soon realizes that it is too large. That is when a 1/4 acre fire can easily go to several acres and be a great deal more work to put out. We have never charged anyone for putting out an out of control burn so please do not hesitate to call. However, if a fire does burn across your property line you could be held liable for all costs to suppress and any damages done to your neighbor's property.

The County Department of Transportation has graded Mosquito Road from where it enters the National Forest to Sand Mountain Boulevard. This is the first time it has been done to that extent in many years. I want to thank the DOT for the great job they did. Mosquito Road through the forest is of key importance to this community in the event evacuation is necessary due to a severe wild land fire. Odds are a large fire that would greatly impact this community would start in the American River Canyon and blow up the sides. What this has done in the past and will probably do again is immediately force the closure of Mosquito Road and/or Rock Creek Road. That would make an evacuation through the forest the only possibility, so having Mosquito Road passable is one of our main concerns. I just hope that with the recent rains the jerks from Sacramento with their 4 wheel drives didn't come up and trash the road.

Now is the time to be clearing any ground fuels away from your house. The state requirement is no brush or other ground fuels within 30 feet of your residence and all trees trimmed up at least 10 feet. In our area because of the steep canyons and large fuel quantities I recommend a clearance of 100 feet. Within the next couple of months someone from CDF should be here doing the annual state required inspections. This year Alisha Jackson will not be doing the inspections. She is in charge of a convict hand crew at the Pine Grove Conservation camp.

In December Bob Villarreal a District Board member retired. I hated to see him go and I will sure miss working with him. However, as the Chief and as members of this community we are fortunate enough to have Ralph Hern selected to serve on the Board. His expertise and knowledge will be a great asset to this fire department. I am looking forward to working and learning from him. I am still one of the luckiest Chiefs in the county as I have a real good Board of Directors that serve this community.

Two months ago the Fire Department managed to purchase from CDF a 1983 1 1/4 ton 4X4 for \$1,500. Jerome put a rebuilt motor in it and is now in the process of painting it white. The unit will be

used as a command and utility unit. We have needed such a unit to move the large pump we have to the many ponds in the district, to take Self Contained Breathing Apparatus air tanks to fires, to perform the many utility functions needed in the District, and to serve as a command unit for Jerome.

The U. S. F. S. will be opening up Slate Mountain Lookout on June 1. If conditions continue being as dry as they are it may be opened up earlier. We are again fortunate to have Roland Smith manning the tower this summer. That always increases my comfort level when I know he is up there looking over this area.

February and March have been two of the driest months in recent history. So dry that we are now finding that we are dealing with June fire conditions in April. The recent rains have greatly helped by adding additional moisture to the living vegetation. On the other hand the rains do give people a false impression of what the real hazardous fire conditions we may be facing this summer. There was a control burn that got out of control a couple of days ago that had burned about 1/2 acre before we got it out. The interesting thing about this fire was its behavior. It was burning with two foot flame height in medium high green grass, down hill with an up hill wind on it. This is not April fire behavior. So the message here is please be careful when burning.

This could be a long, and dry fire season coming up. So please be careful with all out door activities.

## COMMUNITY CORNER

### MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Patti Penrod

Our first big fundraiser of the year will be here soon, THE SPRING SPAGHETTI FEED !!!!

It is always a lot of fun to see every one and at the same time contribute to your fire department.

It will be held on May 17 at the Fire Station. Time and details are in another area of this Byte. We hope to see you all there. Doreen Frazier is the chairperson of this popular event, so give her a call if you have any questions or you would like to help.

Then of course, we can't forget the upcoming Annual Fire Department Picnic being held on Saturday, July 19. It is

always a TON OF FUN and another great way to help your Fire Department. We will have more details on the Picnic in upcoming newsletters.

See you at the Spaghetti Feed and Happy Spring!!

### THANK YOU!

We wish to sincerely thank all of you who volunteered and came to help on Friday night and again on Saturday morning at the Easter Egg Hunt. Without you it would have been very difficult. Also thank you for all the donations of fresh eggs, cooked, colored eggs, candy and monetary donations. Special thanks to the people who came and got uncooked eggs and took them home and colored them so we wouldn't be up till all hours of the night coloring. That was a terrific help! Also a big thank you to the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department personnel who brought the fire equipment over and helped with the preparations for the egg hunt. Everyone's help is so appreciated.

Sincerely,

Karen Bennett and LaVonne Moser

### TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES IN MOSQUITO:

Just want you to know how much we liked being part of your wonderful community for the past 17 years. Hope we didn't miss saying good-bye to anyone. We will always cherish the time spent there. We have been met with a warm welcome here in Cody, Wyoming and are looking forward to our new life here.

God Bless

Gary, Jody, Kyle and Katie Catanzarite

### CRAFT REPORT

Betty Kinney

Our meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> was a real success. We had 14 ladies and a junior miss in attendance. We completed most of our projects. The pot luck was delicious as always and we enjoyed eating outside in the sun.

Our next meeting will be May 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 to 11:00 AM with the pot luck to follow at 11:30. Please come if you can, we all enjoy this so much. Our projects for the May meeting will be snowmen, clothes pin angels and finishing our bean jars.

We still need at least three large baskets with handles to complete our kitchen gift basket project.

Thanks to all who are crafting at home. We do appreciate all your help.

### HANGTOWN CHAPTER 512 OF THE EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION WANTS YOU!

If you are considering learning to fly we would like to help you get A FLYING START! Come to the Placerville Airport on Saturday, May 17 at 10:00 AM for a FREE seminar which covers:

- ◆ Why learn to fly?
- ◆ How to get started
- ◆ Ground and flight instruction required
- ◆ Medical considerations

The first hour of the meeting will consist of presentations. Individual question and answer sessions will follow. There will be FREE refreshments and door prizes. We are looking forward to being your hosts at the Chapter 512 Hangar. We are glad we learned to fly and would like to tell you why we enjoy it! To reach the Airport, take Schnell School Road exit south from Highway 50 to Broadway, turn left and go east one mile to Airport Road, then right to the airport. Hope to see you there!

### AND

On June 14<sup>th</sup> the EAA Chapter will be holding a Young Eagle Rally. This gives children from the age of 8 to 18 a chance to learn about flying and experience a flight in a general aviation aircraft. The program starts at 8:30 AM at the Placerville airport, and pre-registration is a must as it is a very popular program and is limited to 50 Young Eagles. Call Lela at 626-8265 for more information.

### PHONE BOOK UPDATE ADD

ATWOOD, Esten  
6561 Highgrade Court

SMITH, Loren  
7241 Slab Creek Court  
626-1231

WHITE, Brad and Sheila  
2973 Lawyer Drive  
642-2008

MORRIS, George and Agnes  
6596 Lupin Court  
621-4083

### DELETE

CATANZARITE, Gary and Jody  
COOPER, Joseph and Renae  
THOMPSON, Rich and Suzanne

## MVFD PHONE TREE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Leslie Keene

As you know, the Volunteer Fire Department relies on its fund raising events to help defray the costs of safety equipment and medical supplies. Our phone tree has been tremendous in attracting folks to these events and for that we all owe them many, many thanks! Currently, there are eight gals on this committee - Rosemary Alexander, Barbara Atkins, Mary Gutierrez, Patti Penrod, Hazel Smith, Tina Sobol, Linda Stults, and Julia Van Dyke. Recently, Elizabeth Olson, who has been on the committee for a long time, has had to back out.

With over 350 names in our phone book, you can see why our committee would be delighted to welcome some new members! The ladies have told me that it's really fun and a great way to meet your neighbors.

If you are interested in joining in, please give me a call at 621-0508 and I'll set you up. As the current members of the committee will tell you, I provide you with a phone book, a list of who you are to call, and a suggested "script" for each event. We ask you to help us out for approximately six events per year: Easter Egg Hunt in April, Spring Spaghetti Feed in May, Picnic in July, Fall Spaghetti Feed in September, Halloween Party in October, and the Christmas Party in December.

And again, many thanks to the current committee members. Our fund raisers are a success because of you!

## 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF

Jerome Kristjanson

The cookoff will be held at High Hill Ranch on May 31<sup>st</sup>. It benefits the Pacific Burn Institute which provides a camp for burn surviving children, provides support for burned firefighters and facilitates juvenile fire center programs for fire fighters and health care providers in northern California.

This year will be the 5<sup>th</sup> annual "All Around Toughest Fire Fighter" contest. There will be antique fire equipment on display, programs and displays for children and a visit from CALSTAR. For information contact Jerome at the fire station or Neil Roby at 636-7030. Please support this event as it benefits firefighters and burn victims. Tickets are available at the fire station. There is a \$5.00 donation for chili tasting and muster events

## BARBERSHOP GOLD RUSH CHORUS

For those of you who were at the pot luck a few months ago and were entertained so well by the Gold Rush Chorus, here is some information about their upcoming concerts. And for those who weren't there — this is a great group.

Foothill United Methodist Church  
Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Matinee 1:30 - \$8.00

Evening 7:30 - \$10.00

For more information call Bill Peck at 333-2282.

If you are interested in joining the chorus, come to the open house Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the Masonic Temple on Cold Springs Road.

## COOKS CORNER

Betty Kinney

This recipe was put out by Rice-a-Roni and we like all their recipes.

### CHICKEN AND RICE SALAD

One 4 oz. pkg. Wild Rice Pilaf

(prepare as directed and cool)

2 tsp. dry butter buds or melted margarine

1 cup cooked chicken

(cut in small pieces)

2 carrots, shredded

1 cucumber, peeled and julienned

2 large green onions, sliced

1/4 cup fat free Italian dressing

1 Tbsp. soy sauce

Mix well, refrigerate and serve.

## WEATHER CORNER

Jim Hinds

### ATMOSPHERIC

Trying to predict or even guess what will happen weatherwise this month of May might be a little presumptuous, I think. However one must try. This being the middle of April the best way is to check back a few years and make some guesses. Let's begin with February, in which we have recorded nearly 20 inches of rain (1985-1986). It has averaged nearly 7 inches so far this decade and for the 122 year average more than 6.5 inches. Our 1996-97 rainfall for February was 1.60 inches. Admittedly in one of the back issues, after the deluge in December and January I mentioned that it would be nice if the rain came more sparingly. It wasn't my desire to practically shut down the water-works for the next two and one half months. March, which is always a good

rain producer, is even more dismal. We had only .64 inches of rain this month. This is a little short of the 122 year average of 6.43 inches or the nearly 18 inches for the 1990 decade to date. Now we are up to April 1997 and I have recorded ZERO ZIP NADA inches of rain this month to date. (*Ed. Note. That changed! Jim called this morning - April 23<sup>rd</sup> - and reported 1.89" of rain in the last few days.!*)

Normally April through June are not heavy rain months. As you are aware we did get more than our yearly quota of rain (50.70 inches) which is about 8 inches more rain than the average rainfall year. We, of course could use some of those "April Showers" that supposedly bring the "May Flowers" that the deer have already eaten.

At this juncture we might consider the *temperature* over the winter months since this is rather an unusual series of events and certainly temperature has played a key role. One might think that Global Warming is catching up with us. The whole winter season December 21 to March 20 only dropped my thermometer to the freezing level twice. It did hover in the low thirties several times during this period but for the most part, it was in the upper thirties and lower forties. The interesting part is this forty degree stuff lasted and lasted. Only the last few nights have gotten into the fifties and spring was supposed to come on March 22 this year. What happened to Global Warming? Perhaps we should ask some of those folks in the upper mid-states — Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois.

Warming is something they would like to have some of even as summer is approaching. Our day time temperatures have been very mild only exceeding the sixty degree mark a few times since January. So, what is the weather going to be like? If and when you come up with an answer please call me.

You have probably noticed in one of the newspapers that the lakes are full, or half full or a percentage of full. These are the necessary protections against problems that occurred in our valleys, highways roads etc. during the winter storms and are happening now in the upper midwestern states. There has to be room for the runoff from the snow above the 7,000 foot level

### ASTRONOMIC

The whole world seems to be under the spell of Comet Hale-Bopp as they should be. This is and has been an outstanding sky object for the past month or so and the

splendor of its outstanding performance will not be repeated in many life times to come. Perhaps a little history lesson on comets would be in order.

The following material is paraphrased and/or copied from the May edition of *Sky and Telescope* and is six pages long. Needless to say much will need to be left out: The best known comet in premodern times is Halley's apparition in 1066 AD just as the Normans were preparing for the invasion of England under the command of William the Conqueror. Both the English and the Normans saw the comet, which had first been sighted in April, as an omen of death and destruction. Neither side knew whose side it was on. Only after the Battle of Hastings in October was it decided that the comet must have been on the side of the Normans. This was noted in historical context, whereas many visits which affected people's lives have occurred throughout history and were recorded in other lands and other histories.

Julius Caesar was killed by a couple dozen of his friends during the Ides of March, in 44 BC. He was a great conqueror and statesman though his murderers claimed moral superiority because Caesar had declared himself a lifetime dictator a month earlier. His nephew Octavian, an 18 year old youth, finally became the head of the Caesarian party and slowly ingratiated himself to the Roman people by paying Caesar's promises with money borrowed from friends and the sale of property. On the first day of the games which he re-instituted July 20 a bright comet appeared in the northern sky and was visible for seven days. Octavian, who was also very intelligent, declared the comet to be the soul of Julius Caesar (Sidus Julium) being taken up to heaven. This inspired a campaign aimed at Caesar's deification. This comet was responsible for many changes in Roman History, including Octavian being looked upon as a son of a god. As such he gained control of the entire Roman Empire. He had started out with only the name but ended up as the Roman Emperor Augustus Caesar. Now you know where the names of the months July and August came from on our calendars. Comets as omens for death of emperors became the way things were in those days.

This brings us to the year AD 54 when a comet again appeared and Emperor Claudius died. Not from natural causes but because his good wife, Agrippina, poisoned him so she could place her 16

year old son, Nero, on the throne. In the year 60 a bright comet blazed in the sky between August and December. By this time it was pretty well established that comets were hard on Emperors and Nero was no exception. More may be added next month.

## SCPOA CORNER

Wayne Mikel, President

A Board of Directors meeting was held on Saturday, April 12th at the Mosquito Fire House.

COMMITTEE REPORTS were as follows:

**Airport:** Ralph reported that the volunteer work party he had planned had been canceled. He also reported that he had walked the airstrip and prepared a list of items that needed to be taken care of. Most of the items are small and will be taken care of by individual volunteers or by the Association's maintenance person. Items that need to be taken care of and will cost \$\$ are: Gate on the north side needs to be repaired or replaced; provide better lighting at night for the middle wind sock; top two trees at the approach end of runway 9 near Claim Street; replace middle wind sock (faded); seal cracks (approximately 183 lineal feet between the thresholds and 800+ lineal feet in the approaches); inspect and repair landing light seals and clamps. The contractor doing our road repairs this year will be asked to give an estimate on repairing the cracks while they are in the area working on the roads.

**Architectural:** Jim reported that there was a lot of construction going on but no problems to report.

**Bylaws & DC&R's:** There was nothing to report at this time.

**Common Areas:** Roy reported that there had been a lot of vandalism in the Dyer Lake area; the trash dumpster was pushed into the lake; a window was broken in the storage building; the mail box was stolen; fence broken on Mosquito Road. These are being taken care of. Sand will be placed at Dyer Lake around the first of June. When questioned about the basketball hoop that was to be erected at Dyer Lake, he said a part of the pipe was missing but it would be put in place soon. There is a potential problem with obtaining water from Summerfield Ditch for Dyer and Cat Fish Lakes, this will be discussed at EID's meeting on April 14.

**Roads:** Jim reported that the roads are in good shape, apparently the 4" patching

done last year has held up much better than the 2" done previously, so they will continue with the 4". The contractor will be in the area on Wednesday of next week to go over the roads to determine how much work needs to be done this year. Jim estimates there is 8,731 sq. ft of patching and 108,500 sq. ft of chip and seal. A rough estimate of cost is \$61,624. The intersection at Highgrade and Mosquito Road will be widened for safety reasons. Water lines have blown out twice at the intersection of Lupin Lane and Lupin Court causing damage to the road and a property owners driveway. The driveway has been repaired and the road will be repaired and the bill submitted to EID. Houses have been built on Highgrade Court and Gold Court which have never been chipped and sealed. They will be chipped and sealed up to the driveways only. The stone pillar at the intersection of Lupin Lane and Mosquito Road will be put back in place. The one in the intersection at Buckboard and Mosquito Roads will be removed and stored. The two at the intersection of Highgrade and Mosquito Road will be moved to the entrance to Trout Lake at the corner of Highgrade & Mosquito. The gate will be replaced there and kept closed.

Jim has arranged for Mendoza Tree Service to give him an estimate on the brushing that needs to be done this year. They will work with Leo from the Fire Department on this. Jim will also check with Mendoza on an estimate for doing the spraying and brushing around the lakes next year.

**Budget & Long Range Plan:** The Committee recommended and the Board approved the following changes as an alternative to either borrowing money to cover our shortage or going to the membership for a one time special assessment.

**FY1997/98 Budget:** 1.) No contributions to Reserve Funds with the exception of the special reserve fund for enforcing the DC&R's. 2.) Cut road maintenance budget from \$61,921 to \$57,273. 3.) Increase liability insurance from \$15,850 to \$26,952. This will leave a shortage of funds in the amount of \$18,939 for FY 97/98 which will be made up in the following year.

The following changes were approved for the FY 1998/99 Budget: 1.) No contributions to Reserve Funds with the exception of the special reserve for enforcing the DC&R's. 2.) No increase in road maintenance budget until the fiscal

year 2000/01 - then normal increase of 3.5% as called for in the Long Range Plan. 3.) Common area budget reduced due to the fact that the lakes should not have to be sprayed this year. 4.) No increase in salaries and related expenses - other items increased by the normal 3.5% inflation factor.

**Long Range Plan: Approved changes:** 1.) Delay purchase of copy machine and printer to FY00/01. 2.) Delay purchase of picnic tables to FY00/01. 3.) Delay re-roofing the Pavilion and Rest Rooms at Dyer Lake to FY00/01. 4.) Contributions to Reserve Funds will be resumed in FY99/00 at an increased rate to bring the Long Range Plan back on track in FY02/03.

Copies of the revised Budgets and Long Range Plan will be mailed to all members at the same time copies of the annual audit are mailed to save the cost of a separate mailing.

#### **General Information:**

**Worker's Compensation Claim:** This is still pending. On the wrongful discharge claim, individual is now asking for reinstatement to his position as maintenance person and three years back pay. He is presently in a rehabilitation program.

**SCPOA v. Village Concepts, Inc.:** An agreement has been reached in the lawsuit. Copies of a "RESOLUTION" on the placement of Modular Homes in Swansboro were mailed to all members on Monday, April 7, 1997. If any member did not receive their copy please contact the secretary.

**Directors & Officers Liability Insurance:** The association was able to obtain this liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000, with \$2,500 deductible, through Atwood Insurance Agency at a cost of \$14,727.38, which was accepted. The second two million of insurance would have cost another \$10,000. Efforts will continue to find insurance at a more reasonable rate.

**Mosquito Bridge Update:** Debbie and Leo Chaloux and Bob Slater, Dept. of Transportation, El Dorado County met to discuss the status of Mosquito Bridge and presented the following information at the Board meeting:

Cal Trans will not pay 80% of a \$20 million high level bridge (alternative 4).

Federal \$(HBRR funds administered by Cal Trans) would pay 80% of a low level bridge (alternative 5). This bridge would require removal of the old bridge. El

Dorado County does not support alternative 5.

El Dorado County supports alternative 2 because it eliminates roadway on several hundred feet either side of the bridge and 2 hairpin turns.

With alternative 2 it would be possible to reconstruct Mosquito Road from the new bridge to the old flume, eliminating all hairpin turns on the north side. This construction could be included in DOT plans in the future.

Alternative 2 cost was 5.6 million in 1994 dollars, let's estimate 6 million today. El Dorado County and Cal Trans may, almost surely, build this bridge if the community of Mosquito/Swansboro (1000 parcels) would help pay.

At this point Debbie and Leo would like input, should we pursue a vote of the community. Keep in mind the effect of the recent Mosquito Road closure to you, the benefit of emergency equipment (fire and medical) to our area and the future. There are currently 1000 parcels in Mosquito/Swansboro, 400 homes in the area now, building will continue as people pursue their dreams to live in this beautiful community.

## **KNOW YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT**

*Diane Brady*

There aren't too many people who can claim to be Mosquito natives. Lois Pearson is one of the few. Lois has lived in Mosquito all her life, and has been involved with the fire department since its inception. In fact, she is one of its founders.

"In 1972, Orval Beckett, Tony Darr, Stan Strange and I decided we should start our own fire department rather than being annexed to another district, because we felt that would be too far away to give us fast emergency service," Lois said recently. Prior to that time, the only "fire department" in the area was Orval's bulldozer and water wagon. The group consulted an attorney to find out how to go about starting a volunteer fire department, and the charter for the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department was obtained on July 2, 1973.

"Money was being collected in a jar at Fannon Lake to help Orval pay for his tires," Lois recalls. "Once the department was formed, we started depositing the money in a bank account. Then we had a

spaghetti feed to buy our first piece of fire equipment, a used vehicle from CDF. Orval and Dick Dyer and I signed on a bank loan to get enough money to overhaul the engine, but we eventually got enough donations to cover the bank loan so we didn't have to pay." Twenty-five years later, we still do things the same way: buying used equipment and then rebuilding it to meet our needs. We're sure that Leo does this out of respect for tradition — it's not because he's cheap or anything!

Lois' husband Milt recalls the early days of the fire department: "Orval was the chief and Stan drove the truck. He would honk the horn outside my house and I would come and be the fireman. Anybody else who happened to be around grabbed a shovel and headed to the fire."

Several years later, the group petitioned to become a Fire Protection District, which would enable the department to receive funding from property tax revenues. It went to a vote and was passed on November 8, 1977. Five board members were elected who took office in January 1978, and two of them have been on the board ever since: Lois and the current board president, Jim Hinds. Lois has served as the secretary of both the Volunteer Fire Department and the Fire Protection District since their inception, for a total of 25 years of service with very little pay. Her job as secretary involves keeping the minutes of meetings and paying the bills. One of her biggest challenges is dealing with the county auditor's office, which controls the Fire Protection District's funds that come from the property taxes collected, but the money received by the FPD is never enough to fully fund the department. That's why the Volunteer Fire Department organization is so vital for its fundraising efforts.

Even after 25 years, Lois says she wants to keep on doing the job of secretary as long as she can do it efficiently. When asked about the possibility of Lois retiring, Leo says, "I don't know what I'd do without her. People may think I'm the backbone of the fire department, but Lois is the brains of the organization. Plus she's a neat person, with the kind of character and values you don't see much anymore." After observing Lois' dedication and her efficient handling of her fire department responsibilities, it seems obvious that she'll be able to continue her service well into the next century!

The *MOSQUITO BYTE* is available by subscription and is mailed first class to subscribers. Cost of subscription is \$8.50 per year. Deadline for news and advertising is the 19th of each month.

Editor: Lela Edson - 626-8265

Asst. Editor: Pat Relfe - 622-6436

## ADVERTISING

There is no charge for advertising in the *Mosquito Byte* for our subscribers. Deadline for advertising is the 19th of each month. Call Pat at 622-6436 or Lela at 626-8265. Ads in the "For Sale" department will run for three months unless you call to say the item has been sold, or you want the ad extended.

**GARAGE SALE:** Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM. 3463 Stope Drive. Household items, curtains, pillows, pictures, dishes, shoes, some clothes, jewelry, craft books and lots of goodies.

### RENTAL

**ROOM FOR RENT;** In Swansboro. Non-Smoker; House privileges. \$200.00 + 1/2 utilities a month, Call on weekends 626-6946.

### MEETINGS

**HOMESCHOOLER'S UNITE!** Let's get together and share ideas. Call Teresa at 626-6970.

Bipolar disorder? Depression? Support group now forming up on the hill. 622-6338.

**QUILTERS** meet other Quilters. Bring a project. May 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. - noon. Sandy Nester, 642-9865, 6680 Peycos Drive.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at the Mosquito Fire Station from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

### WANTED

Wanted: an old fashioned push mower (non-motorized). Call Diane at 622-7019.

**CLEAN FILL DIRT:** Call Doug 642-2118.

### SERVICES

**QUALITY REMODELING AND REPAIR:** Vinyl siding and window specialist. L. B. Smith,

General Contractor. Lic. #418862/ Call Loren at 626-1231.

**VIDEO TEC:** Electronic repairs of VCRs, Stereos, Fax machines, typewriters, etc. Call 626-5167. 175-Q Placerville Drive.

**SIERRA NEVADA SEAL COATING.** Spring discount good for April and May only. 2-4-1 (2 coats for the price of 1). Call Scott now for a free estimate 626-0166.

**ROTOTILLING:** All types of jobs, by the hour. Small garden tractor with tiller. 626-5278. If no answer, leave message.

**PROSPECTOR PLUMBING:** Plumbing for your propane and natural gas needs. Hot water heaters, gas lines, leak repairs, etc. Licensed, bonded and insured. 622-1241.

**COMPUTER HELP:** Need Help with your computer? A+ certified computer technician. Upgrade, troubleshooting, repair, hardware and software. Call Mike at 622-1336.

**SUNSET PAINTING:** High quality interior and exterior painting. Preparation is the key to your quality paint job. Brian Giatras, license #658171 644-8705.

**MOWING - \$14.00 per hour,** have riding mower. Call Bob Darr 622-5702.

**ASPEN LITES ELECTRIC:** We specialize in working with the owner-builder. New construction, remodels, additions, outdoor lighting, communication lines, back-p generator systems. Licensed, bonded and insured. Call Rich at 621-2911.

**CARETAKER/DOOR SHAKER SERVICE:** Available to vacation/vacationing homeowners at modest cost, daily, weekly, monthly. Reference available. Call "Crittter" Don Reid, 622-7622.

**ORDAINED MINISTERS:** Non-denominational ministry in the Mosquito area. We can help with Marriage ceremonies, Baptisms, Blessings, Funeral and Memorial services and Personal Counseling. Call Eric Strickland or Ian Warfel at 622-3960 for assistance or someone to talk to.

**NOTARY PUBLIC - ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.** I live in Swansboro and will come to your home to do all your notary work. Call Elaine 621-2433.

**REFINANCE** to lower your mortgage interest rate and payment OR consolidate all your high interest bills (auto/credit cards) into one lower tax deductible payment. The BEST rates anywhere are available right here on the hill, and I have programs for EVERYONE, including slow credit. Call Chuck 621-2433.

**PRIMESTAR SATELLITE:** Mosquito Resident. Sales and installation. Mosquito price: \$99

installed, includes one month free programming. Monthly fee \$32.00. Call cell phone 995-3196.

**DON'S CRITTER CARE:** Pets, livestock and gardens, too. While you're away. Reasonable rates, references. Call 622-7622.

**SENIOR CARE:** Light housekeeping; meal preparation; transportation and TLC. Please call Kathy Lee Hale at 622-1241.

**TAX PREPARATION:** Lowest prices in county...Accuracy guaranteed. Hilltop Tax & Bookkeeping Service. 621-1762

**CLEAN NEST:** Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning. Bonded Lic#614582. Lou Avina, 626-8566, Pager number 962-4117.

**BACKHOE AND TRACTOR WORK:** Trenching and driveways. Call Jim at 622-6414.

**BUSINESS CARDS:** Small quantities, 10 to 100. Designed for you. Cost plus \$5.00. Call Lela, 626-8265.

**ANIMAL OUTREACH:** Cats for adoption. Low cost spay, neuter and vaccinations. Call Pat Hair at 642-1944 for information.

**SENIOR COMPANION CARE:** Experienced care provider (CNA/HHA certified) offering assistance with activities of daily living for home bound seniors. Call Ms Lewis, 622-6742.

**REALTOR:** Continuously serving this area with efficient, friendly service. Associated with Coldwell Banker, Gerwer and Assoc., Inc. residential affiliate. Member of Multiple Listing Service, Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department Support Group and Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department Board. Call LaVonne Moser for any of your real estate needs. 622-6337 or 626-3333.

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:** Coldwell Banker, Gerwer and Assoc. Inc. Now has property management services. If you are a landlord or prospective tenant, please call LaVonne Moser at 622-6337 or 626-3333.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** Are you stressed to the max about your bills? Are you having difficulty making your monthly payments and the creditors are calling and getting nasty? WE CAN HELP! Call Barbara Proctor at Hampton Financial for a FREE consultation at 621-3153.

**CHILD CARE:** Loving Mom will provide quality child care in my home. Reasonable rates. Have infant and child C.P.R. Call Vicki, 626-7873.

**TLC:** Try Linda's Cleaning. Need an extra hand around the house? Give me a call. I will do laundry, kitchens, bathrooms, dust, mop and vacuum. Will work weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. 642-2905.

J. R. PLUMBING: Licensed plumber. Repairs, remodels, new construction. Gas Lines and gas appliance conversions. Local gas company references. Call John at 626-6552.

COMPUTER SERVICE: Frazier Electronics. Computer/printer service and repair. Free estimates. Call Stu at 621-4221.

ROBIN'S NEST CLEANING: Commercial and residential. References. Call Robin 621-1030.

CONSTRUCTION AND PLUMBING: Osterkamp Construction, Licensed plumbing and general building contractor. New construction, remodeling and repair. Call Doug at 626-7873.

TAX HELP?? Professional Tax Preparation and Electronic filing. Call Don Bates, licensed and bonded tax consultant, 622-1886

RICK'S PORTABLE WELDING: AWS certified. 626-5278.

VICKS PLUMBING: Licence # 605397. New

construction; Repair; Remodeling; Water heaters; Disposals. 10% senior citizens/. Call Vick at 626-6493.

### FOR SALE

BOAT: Package deal - 12 foot Westcoaster aluminum fishing boat, (2 seats, floor boards, rod holders), Johnson 9.9 motor, Skipper trailer with wench. \$2,500 excellent condition. 622-1787.

CAR: '90 Toyota Camry LE, blue, V6, automatic transmission, cruise control, air condition, AM/FM radio and cassette, sun roof, 4 door, blue velour interior, original owner, mint condition. Retail for \$11,500. Leave message 626-79780.

CAMPER: 8 foot cabover camper, portapotty, not self contained, good condition, \$500. 626-7001.

WATER BED: Light pine, California King; 12 large drawers, bookcase headboard. Make offer. Call Ken at 626-6970.

FREE WOOD: Ponderosa rounds. Leave message 626-4943.

MISCELLANEOUS: Creeper \$5.00; recumbent aircycle Tunturi 803E, \$300. Leave message 626-4943.

FREEZER: Small, good working condition. \$25.00. 626-0691

DUNE BUGGY: Needs work \$500.00 -626-0691.

FRESH BROWN EGGS: \$1.25 per dozen. Call 622-7622.

HERBS: Evergreen Herb Garden, 2001 Swansboro Road. Herbs, herb classes, products, plants and books. Call or write for information. 626-9288.

## SPAGHETTI FEED!!!

**MOSQUITO FIRE STATION  
SATURDAY, MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>  
4:30 TO 7:30 PM**



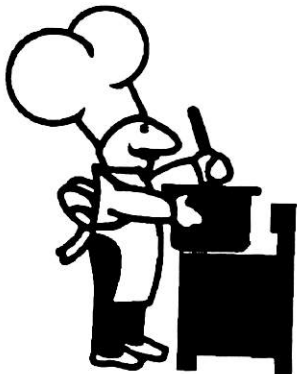
**\$6.00 FOR ADULTS — \$3.00 FOR KIDS UNDER 12**

**ALL YOU CAN EAT: Homemade spaghetti, salads, desserts, bread, punch and coffee.**

**PRIZE DRAWING FOR A GAS BARBEQUE.**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
THE MOSQUITO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT EVENING!!**



*The following story was submitted by one of our subscribers. Does anyone else have good stories for us?*

## **The Back Page**

Norm Ostrander, Chaplain, Ret

The 26 year old mom stared down at her son who was dying of terminal leukemia. Although her heart was filled sadness, she also had strong feelings of determination. Like any parent, she wanted her son to grow up and fulfill all his dreams. Now that's no longer possible. She took her son's hand as asked, "Bopsy, did you ever think about what you wanted to be when you grew up? Ever dream and wish about what you would do with your life?"

"Mommy, I always wanted to be a fireman when I grew up."

Mom smiled back and said, "Let's see if we can make your wish come true." That day she went to her local fire department in Phoenix, Arizona, where she met Fireman Bob, who has a heart as big Phoenix. She explained her son's wish and asked if it might OK to give her six-year-old son a ride on a fire engine.

"Look, we can do better than that," Bob said. "If you'll have your son ready at seven o'clock Wednesday morning, we'll make him an honorary fireman for the whole day. He can come to the station, eat with us, go on all the calls. And if you'll give us his sizes we will fit him out in a real fireman's uniform, including the helmet which won't be a toy. They're manufactured here in Phoenix so we get 'em fast."

Three days later Bob pick up Bopsy, dressed him in his uniform and escorted him from his hospital bed to the back of the waiting hook and ladder where he rode and help drive from the back seat — the one way back. He was in heaven, and there were three calls that day in Phoenix and Bopsy went out on all of them riding an engine, the paramedics van and even the chief's car. He was also videotaped for the local news program.

Having his dream come true, with all the love and attention so deeply touch Bopsy that he lived three months longer than any doctor thought possible.

But, the inevitable came early in the evening. His vital signs began to drop dramatically and the head nurse, who believed in the Hospice concept that no one should die alone, called the family members. She then remembered the day of Bopsy's life as a fireman and called the chief and asked if it would be possible to send a firemen in uniform to the hospital to be with Bopsy as he made his transition. The chief replied, "We can do better than that. We'll be there in five minutes, but please do me the favor, when you hear the sirens screaming and see the lights flashing, announce over the PA that there is not a fire. Say it's just the fire department coming to see one of its finest members one more time. And, will you open the window to his room? Thanks!"

Five minutes later a hook and ladder engine arrived extending its ladder up to Bopsy's third floor window and 14 firemen and two firewomen climbed up the ladder into Bopsy's room. With his mother's permission, they hugged him and held him and told him how much they loved him.

With his dying breath, Bopsy looked up at the fire chief and said, "Chief, am I really a fireman now?"

"Bopsy, you really are," the chief said. With those words, Bopsy smiled and closed his eyes for the last time.



