

THIS IS WHAT OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT IS ALL ABOUT!!

September 10, 1999

Dear Mosquito Firefighters,

Thank you for not letting the fires get out of hand and burn my little house down. If you hadn't stopped it, it would still be burning. It would have reached Durham. I can tell fire fighting is a tough job.

Sincerely,

Blake

(7th grade, Durham Intermediate, Butte County)

FROM THE CHIEF

Leo Chaloux

With the recent rains and lowering temperatures the fire season was declared over by the CDF as of November 8th. This past summer has been a rather busy one, especially for Northern California. We found ourselves going north on strike team assignments instead of the usual southern direction.

I was asked by several people why we go on these strike team assignments. The main reason is we have to. Every fire department in the State has to respond equipment and personnel to an emergency incident once they are requested to do so by the California Office of Emergency Services. This system was established by the State to make sure that when a large emergency does take place no matter what kind it is there will be the proper amount and types of equipment and people there to assist. Not only are OES requests made for wild land fires but also for floods, earthquakes, even civil strife, or what ever the Governor determines to be an emergency. It is one of those things where as a fire department we do not even question, we just go.

Going on a strike team is one of mixed emotions for me. Sometimes the request is a complete surprise for we have not heard of anything going on anywhere, and sometimes due to fire activity we have a feeling that a request is coming but we just do not know when. When the request does come in it is done through Camino Dispatch utilizing our paging system. If I am at the station when the pagers are toned it seems that within 22 seconds the phone starts ringing with volunteers asking what is going on and can they go along. Once

the request from dispatch is made we are suppose to be able to have an engine on the road within 30 minutes and have the people on it be able to be gone for at least 7 days. Before I can go on one of these assignments I have to notify my wife, pack some clothes, go through the process of getting volunteers to go along, get the engine ready and then wait for it all to come together within that 30 minutes. All during this time the phone is continuing to ring. Usually in my case the last person to know of anything going on is my wife. On the assignment to Shasta County she wasn't home when I left and didn't find out until one of the volunteers called to tell her that they thought I was out of the district for awhile.

Strike Teams are tough

As with the majority of what we do in the fire service we never really know what is about to happen until something goes bad and then we are off and running. With strike team assignments we can do a little planning. El Dorado County has been asked by the OES to provide two strike teams of engines. Each strike team consist of five engines. The plan is to have only one strike team at a time out of the county. Every spring a calendar is established that states which strike team is going to respond. Each is expected to be gone a week so the calendar rotates on a weekly basis. So in theory there is only half of the time in a year when are expected to respond. Then Devery and I have an arrangement where we take turns on who goes on a strike team. So technically Devery and I can be expected to be called to go out about 25% of the time. This last summer it turned out that it was my turn when it came to go to Butte and Shasta Counties. It was Devery's turn when a strike team went to Georgetown. Devery and I take turns because my policy here is to send one chief officer, one Class B licensed experienced volunteer and if possible one not so experienced volunteer. Strike teams are great experiences and provide everyone going a great opportunity to learn more.

My biggest problem when I pull out of here on an engine not knowing exactly where we are going, what



we will be doing or how long we will be gone is the first stage of worrying I go through. I worry about my wife but she is pretty tough and is kind of use to it, I worry about my son but he knows it happens and he has a tough mother, grandparents and good neighbors, and I worry about the fire district but it has exceptional volunteers who are very capable of handling anything. In fact going away for a period of time brings me back to reality and makes me a little more humble for when I get back I find that Devery has everything under control and the volunteers managed to solve every problem that came their way.

Strike teams are tough. They are filled with great expectations, and anticipations as you are going there. Then they become long moments of boredom (hurry and wait type moments) mixed with hard work, danger, and emotions filled with people suffering great losses. More than getting paid by OES and more than the experiences we gather are the little rewards we get such as the letter above.

CHIEF WILL START NEW FIRE FIGHTER CLASS

Starting January the 19th I will be starting a Fire Fighter One class. Since there are several new volunteer fire fighters that must go through this training process I thought I would open this class up to any member of the community. It would provide an opportunity for one to see what it takes to become a volunteer fire fighter. In this class you will learn about fire fighter safety, protective clothing, fire behavior, fire equipment, strategies and tactics, and fire suppression. As an introductory class to basic fire fighting there are some classroom hours and hands on training that take place. For those of you who are interested please give me a call for additional information. Your age, sex or physical condition doesn't matter as this is offered as an opportunity to see more of what volunteers have to go through. I will also provide you with more information on what your fire department does and how it is done.

ROLAND SMITH RETIRES FROM FIRE BOARD

It is with considerable sadness that the Mosquito Fire Protection District Board of Directors recently accepted the resignation of Roland Smith as a Board member.

Roland is one of those rare birds that could always be counted on to get the job done. As a Mosquito Board member, he represented us on the El Dorado County Pre-hospital Care Joint Powers Authority where he gained a reputation for coming up with direct and workable solutions, especially in the early stages of the organizations formation.

And, of course, as most of you subscribers know, Roland was the master eagle eye at Slate Mountain Forest Service Lookout for several years. We can credit many wildland fire first reports to Roland, who knew the Mosquito District so well he could pinpoint a smoke location in an instant, thus preventing small fires from getting out of hand.

As Board members, we will miss his upbeat humor and wisdom at our meetings. We wish him a speedy recovery from recent health problems and look forward to a continuing relationship as a friend and good neighbor.

The Board of Directors
Mosquito Fire Protection District

MOSQUITO KIDS CORNER

Deborah H. Arsenych

The grades are out for the first quarter of the 1999-2000 year. I only have the children's names from Markham, so if your child is at another school please let me know.

The winners of the Principal's Honor Roll with a GPA of 3.0 to 3.49 are Alissa Hansen, Chelsea Norman, Rex Hays, Daniel Norman, and Amanda Pearson. The winners of the Scholastic Honor Society with a GPA of 3.5 to 3.9 are Dorothy Callahan, Michael Devlin, Krystal Laymon, Zoe Arsenych, Elizabeth Frazier, Stephen Loree, and Tawnia Peissner. We had three students with a perfect report card of straight A's. The three students are Stanley Okumura, Amanda Susmill, and Caroline Veerkamp. You make us very proud. Keep up the good work.

Markham had a very strong volleyball squad this year and two of the twelve players were from the Mosquito Area. With Elizabeth Frazier and Zoe Arsenych, bumping, hitting and spiking, Markham became the County Champions in their division. They were celebrated and given awards at Markham. Amanda Susmill, Daniel Norman and Zoe Arsenych made the Western Slopes Music Educators Association Middle School Honor Band. They practiced for two days with about 70 other honor band members from eight schools all over the County and then gave a concert at Sierra Ridge Middle School on November 6th. Amanda Susmill plays the French Horn, Daniel Norman plays the Clarinet and Zoe Arsenych plays the Bass Clarinet.

Please call and let me know what your child is doing.
Deb Arsenych 626-7120

In Memory of June Florin

**GEORGETOWN CHRISTMAS
BAZAAR**

Hazel Smith

**GEORGETOWN DIVIDE HEALTH CARE
AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
IOOF Hall, corner of 193 and Main Street,
Georgetown**

The bazaar will feature a bake sale, a white-elephant table, a soup and pie luncheon, prize drawings, a visit from Santa Claus and a wealth of homemade products that make excellent and unique holiday gifts. Admission is free.

Profits from this bazaar go the three fire districts on the Georgetown Divide. Our fire department always receives a generous donation. You can help by donating to their bake sale.

Baked goods of all kinds are welcome - home made bread, cakes, cookies and jellies, jams, pickles, etc. Please label items and package them in non-returnable containers. Baked goods should be delivered to the Mosquito Fire Station by 9:00 a.m., Saturday, December 4th. We'll call to remind you.

**NEW MVFD BOARD MEMBERS
ELECTED**

Debbie Minor

The annual meeting and election of the Mosquito Volunteer Board of Directors was held on November 4, 1999 with the following results: representing the Firefighters are Diane Brady, Lee Hair and Jean Pearson; representing the Support Group is LaVonne Moser; and representing the Community at Large are Rosemary Callahan, Tim Ficksner and Debbie Minor. The Officers for the next year are Debbie Minor as President and Lee Hair as Vice President. Also formally elected as the chairperson of the Finnon Lake Project is Diane Brady. Lois Pearson continues to be our Secretary/Treasurer, and Chief Leo Chaloux as our mentor and advisor, and we dearly appreciate them both. We are sorry that Leslie Keene has decided to resign from the board, we appreciate all she has done for us in the past.

The Halloween party in October was a great success. All that attended had a wonderful time and the children left with lots of candy. I would like to thank all of you who helped me with this function. I greatly appreciated it.

The Community Christmas Party is being held on December 18th this year. It's a community potluck held at the fire station and is always an event where you can mingle with your neighbors in a very festive atmosphere, and enjoy wonderful food as well! Santa will be there, and we will also have some prize drawings.

You can find details on the times for this event further in the *Byte*. Please plan on joining us!

We also have a Christmas Basket program. This is a time for giving and helping the less fortunate in our community. Please open your hearts and help out with donations. If you have questions regarding this program, please contact LaVonne Moser.

And last but not least. Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving!

A DIFFERENT RECIPE

Evelyn Potter

If you like chicken gizzards and hearts you will like this. Chicken wings can also be used very well. *This one's for you, Ellen!*

1 ½ lb. chicken gizzards and hearts
or

1 doz. chicken wings
½ medium onion coarsely chopped
1 clove garlic coarsely chopped
1 can RoTel brand tomatoes and green chilies (10 oz.)
1 can tomato sauce (8 oz.)
1 sauce can water - reserved
¼ tsp. chili flakes (optional)
½ tsp. oregano (powder or leaf)

Flour and slowly brown giblets or wings in large pan using preferred shortening. Salt and pepper to taste. Cook until almost tender, about 45 minutes. Add onion and garlic, stirring while browning. Add can of RoTel tomatoes and can of tomato sauce. Cook on low heat until meat is tender. If needed, add can or water gradually until desired consistency and taste is reached. Adjust seasoning to your taste. Serve over hot rice.

THE WET STUFF IS HERE

Jim Hinds

There is no problem at all with beginning a weather article in the middle of November in the middle of a heat spell after a minor rain storm with predictions of rain and snow for Tuesday the 16th. The problem is just where does one begin? The minor rain yesterday was just that .23 inches which brings the season total to whopping 3.45 inches. Last year on this date we had just under four inches of the wet stuff. So far we are in line with the 120 year average.

This is a new day and of course a new weather outlook. The rain and snow are still in the forecast; but not for our altitude. The forecast is for snow above 6,000 feet, maybe. At any rate instead of the bright sunshine we have been so accustomed to we now have an overcast sky which looks like rain is about to get to us. The prediction made for today looks like it was a good one. In all fairness to the weather people, they do a pretty good job predicting over the short term and they are becoming better at looking farther into the future.

It just might be that winter may get here on schedule after nearly 150 days without any rain at all, we are beginning to see changes in the pattern. Our Sun is on its way southward and will arrive over Tropic of Capricorn on December 22. This will mark the beginning of Winter in the Northern Hemisphere and the beginning of Summer in the Southern Hemisphere. Whatever the Sun is doing the rains started at 5:00 PM today the 16th of November. It has all the earmarks of a good rain. My barometer just dropped .20 of an inch, the winds are up considerably and the cloud cover was thick and black before it got too dark to see. I only hope that we do not get another rain like the one on October 27th this year; where it rained so hard in a short period of time

HILL HAPPENINGS

Jo Thomas

First off, a big welcome home to **Tom Atkins** who spent a week at Marshall Hospital last month which resulted in removal of his gall bladder. Barbara had taken him to emergency but they sent him back home. However, it wasn't long before he asked her to call 911 and the next thing they knew **Leo Chaloux, Devery Minor, Lee Hair** and **George Kellison** were there doing what they have spent many hours training to do. Tom was very sick, but thanks to our amazing volunteer fire department, some caring doctors and our hometown hospital, we hope he will soon be the "old" Tom we all know and love. (Please don't say I didn't warn you) (Ed note: Unfortunately, Tom is back in the hospital as we go to press. We wish him a speedy recovery.)

Bud & Ruth Brillsour spent a month with their second daughter in Massachusetts. It didn't take long for Bud to pick up the local slang, such as merchants saying "All set? All set.", answering themselves. Another one was "and everything else like that". Some highlights, between working on home improvement projects (and everything else like that), were seeing how granite is harvested from the pit. On Halloween carved pumpkins, with candles, were scattered throughout an apple orchard and at night the pumpkins appeared to be "floating" in the darkness.

Bob & Joyce Davidson had been thinking about Hawaii for their 45th anniversary, but after reading that the Roods had gone to Tahiti, they contacted them and were quickly convinced a week in Tahiti would fill the bill (especially since they had never been below the equator and Tahiti is running promotions). After an eight hour flight from the states and a 45 minute boat ride, they arrived in Moorea, which was clean, and no building is more than 3/4 the height of a coconut tree. From their thatched roof, open-sided hotel room, they would take an outrigger to the grocery store, about a mile away. But one day on the return trip the current,

wind and tide were against them and Bob wound up swimming while pulling Joyce and the boat back! I'll bet the natives were impressed! Way to go, Bob. The snorkeling was fabulous and the passengers from a cruise ship intruded on their favorite lagoon only once.

Weather watcher and reporter, **Jim Hinds**, who's been measuring rain the better part of half a century, was measuring the rainfall inside his home recently when his NEW roof sprang a leak. Were raindrops falling on your head, Jim? And only last month he was pointing out in his column how dry we were!

Congratulations to El Dorado High School seniors **Jaime Donner**, daughter of proud parents **Jim & Julie Donner**, and **Tricia Penrod**, daughter of proud parents **Rob & Patti Penrod**, who were voted senior Homecoming princesses by their peers. Tricia, with a 3.8 grade point average, qualified for early registration (which is limited) at Chico State. While attending college next year, she plans to stay involved with skiing by coming home on weekends to coach.

And keeping it all in the family, Rob and Patti left the day after Homecoming for a week in Switzerland, which is also an eight hour flight from the states. They toured Zurich, Montreux-by Lake Geneva, Interlaken -- which is in the country and was their favorite, and the Matterhorn -- "the top of Europe" at 14,691 feet.

Stephen Loree, son of **Steve & Lori Loree**, ditched 8th grade at Markham school the week of Veterans Day so he could go visit his sister, Amber, in Killeen, Texas. **Mark & Amber Wilke** are still newlyweds, I guess, since their first anniversary isn't until March, and Mark is stationed at Fort Hood with a mere two more years to go till they can come home to Placerville. Amber works on the base and really likes her job and coworkers. The highlight of Stephen's trip, besides seeing his sister and brother-in-law, was going to Medieval Times where you watch jousting and root for your knight while you eat with your hands, yummmmy. And all of Steve's friends and supporters should know that he has finished up a good go-kart season (9 races in 9 months) very much IMPROVED. I asked him how improved he could be when he's already won a trophy, but he said that was by default. Now he even has people in the grandstands cheering for him, so we expect big things next season, Steve.

Jim Szykowny, former Deputy Commander of Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron 85 in Cameron Park, recently took over as Commander of the Squadron. I'm certain Jim, a retired electrician who served four years in the Air Force, will be very successful in his new position as he loves working with these youths aged 12 to 18. This is his "retired" job!

That **Jones** girl, (**Carolyn**) was in the news again. Lefthanded and all, she won first place in cakes with her "The Forgotten Torte" in the Mountain Democrat-Shakespeare Club Holiday Baking Contest. But that

wasn't enough for our Carolyn. She also took first place in cookies with her "Crunchy Munchers (both first place recipes were in the newspaper) and second place in pies with her "Fall Macaroon Pie". Just can't keep a good cook down!

Leslie Keene suggested I list my e-mail address in case anyone has anything "fun" to tell us about. <catjct@jps.net>

See you at the Christmas Potluck (with the spiffy new floor under our feet) and a Merry Holiday to everyone.

The *MOSQUITO BYTE* is available by subscription and is mailed first class to subscribers. Cost of subscription is \$8.50 per year. Mail check to 2300 Mosquito Cut-Off Rd, Placerville, CA, 95667. Deadline for news and advertising is the 19th of each month.

The editors reserve the right to edit, limit or refuse any article submitted for publication in the *Mosquito Byte*.

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Pat Relfe - 530-622-6436 relfe@inforum.net

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.

ROSEMARY WILKINSON'S CALENDAR POETRY: 2000 is just out. This calendar contains poetry from some of her 20 books of poetry spanning a 35 year literary career, including some about our area. The cost of the calendar is \$10. Rosemary is donating \$5 for each calendar sold to the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department. Henry Wilkinson will be at the Fire Station on Saturday, December 4 and Saturday, December 11 from 9:00 AM to noon and at the Christmas Party, December 18, or call 626-4166 and he will deliver. These calendars will make useful gifts and you will be supporting the MVFD.

SERVICES

Creative Memories scrapbooking classes and workshops here in Mosquito provide a fun way for folks to get acquainted. You can learn and share creative ideas as you finally get those pictures into meaningful albums! Call 642-9441 for workshop schedules. Diana Adams, Consultant.

HORSESHOEING: Hot, cold or therapeutic: Call David Greenlee at 647-9100.

WINTER'S COMING: I'll split your wood for you. \$20 per hour. 626-8856.

VACATION HOUSE WATCHING: Services include bringing in mail and/or newspapers, turning lights on at dusk and/or off at dawn, watering plants, feeding/walking pets. Please call Stan Okumura at 626-5321.

COMFORT CONTROL HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING: Sales - service - installation. Free estimates on replacement. 10% senior discount. 530/642-0987 or 1-800-770-7747.

GOODYMZ ENTERTAINMENT: Offering the newest and best music for dancing and for karaoke singing. Private parties, corporate parties and clubs. Reasonable rates and service with a smile. Call John or Lee-Ann Becton at 642-1444 or e-mail at g00dtymz@pacbell.net.

ROBERTI ROOFING License #754951. Call Nick Roberti at 626-7116 or 957-6399.

NOTARY PUBLIC- Anytime, Anywhere: I live in Mosquito and will come to your house to do notary work. Call Elaine at 621-2433.

SOCIAL SERVICES MINISTRY: For help in times of crises. If you or anyone you know is in need of food, clothing, transportation, abuse intervention drug dependency, emergency housing or any other need, please call Sharon McCoy 621-4383 or Mountain Fellowship 621-4282. All requests will be confidential and needy parties are treated with respect. Your help and support are needed. Call us to assist in this ministry or to donate food, clothing, cash or other usable items.

PLUMBING: Vick's Plumbing, license No. 605357. Victor Garcia, 626-6493.

CLEANING: Swansboro resident for 7 years to clean your home, meal preparation or errands done with TLC. Reasonable, experienced, references. Call Renee at 626-3280 OK to leave message

NUTRITIONAL AIDS and free information. Call Teresa at 626-6970.

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

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

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.

REALTOR: Continuously serving this area with efficient, friendly service. Associated with Coldwell Banker, Inc. 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. **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:** Coldwell Banker, 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.

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.

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

FOR SALE

CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR, There is nothing like the scent of a fresh evergreen wreath or swag to bring the holidays to life. Let us design one for you. Cost, including shipping, standard wreath, \$31.50, standard swag, \$18.00. Mary Ann's Wreaths, 622-2477.

TWO 10-GALLON FISH TANKS with accessories \$10.00 each. Two 20-gallon fish tanks with tropical fish and all accessories \$25.00 each. Two small bikes \$5.00 each. Call Daniel Adams at 642-9441.

72 MAZDA PICK-UP (you haul home!) \$50.00. Call 642-8762.

CRAFTSMAN 10" RADIAL ARM SAW. Model #113-29441. Motor, single phase, 60 cycles, 115/220 volt. Saw mounted on steel stand with rollers. Five (5) blades. Excellent condition. (530) 626-5449, Leave message.

FRIGIDAIRE FREEZER: white, upright, good condition, one owner. \$140. TWO TWIN BEDS: dark, solid wood. \$40. each. Free - two box springs. SET OF TWIN MATTRESS AND BOX SPRING: perfect condition. \$80.00. 622-9492

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



**CHRISTMAS PARTY
MOSQUITO FIRE STATION**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

Santa Claus will be there 5:00 PM to 6:00

Pot Luck dinner 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Please bring a main dish, a salad or dessert and your own plates and utensils. Punch and coffee will be available.

There will be a special prize drawing.



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday


December 1999

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4 Support Group
10:00 AM
Happy
Hanukkah

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9 MVFD Board
Meeting 7:00 PM

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16 MFPD Board
Meeting
7:30 PM

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18 Christmas
Party - See flyer

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Mosquito Byte
2300 Mosquito Cut-off Road
Placerville CA 95667-9081



Don't forget to donate non-perishable
food, new toys or cash for the
Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department
Christmas Baskets! Call Jean at 621-
1653 or LaVonne at 622-
6337

