

SIGN ON...

I, LIKE MOST OF YOU, I IMAGINE, AM SO GLAD TO SEE THE RAIN. AS I LISTENED TO KING'S RADIO MONDAY MORNING JUST BEFORE I WROTE THIS COMMENT, I HEARD SOMEONE SAYING-" THIS RAIN IS GOOD, BUT WON'T DO MUCH TO HELP THE DROUGHT-" IN SO MANY WORDS. I'M NOT SURE I AGREE WITH THAT LINE OF THOUGHT. I'M NO METEOROLOGIST, BUT MOTHER NATURE CAN FOOL YOU IN SO MANY WAYS. THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN HERE FOR MANY YEARS MIGHT REMEMBER 1976-1977 WHEN TRINITY AND ALL THE OTHER NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LAKES WERE WAY LOW. WE LAUNCHED OUR BOATS AT ESTRELITA ON TRINITY AND HAD TO DRIVE WHAT SEEMED LIKE A QUARTER MILE OVER WHAT WAS LAKE BOTTOM TO GET THEM IN THE WATER. I'LL TELL YOU- THE LAKE LOOKS A LOT DIFFERENT WHEN ~~THE LAKE~~ <sup>IT</sup> IS LOW. WE WERE TOLD BY THE "EX PERTS" (AN QUOTATION MARKS) THAT IT WOULD TAKE THREE YEARS TO FILL IT UP. IT TOOK THREE MONTHS! DO YOU KNOW WHAT <sup>IS</sup> THE DEFINITION OF EXPERT<sup>IS</sup>? AN EX IS A HAS BEEN, AND A SPURT IS A DRIP UNDER PRESSURE! MAYBE MOTHER NATURE WILL FOOL US AGAIN. I HOPE SO. LET 'ER RAIN!

I ALSO HEARD ON KING'S THAT SAME MORNING SOMEONE TALKING ABOUT ATVs. ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES- AND HOW DANGEROUS THEY CAN BE. AS I WATCH THE ADS FOR THEM ON TV, I SEE THEM BEING RIDDEN AT WHAT LOOKS LIKE BREAK-NECK SPEEDS. MOST OF THE TIME, WHEN A PERSON IS RIDING AN ATV, IT IS IN THE MOUNTAINS, HUNTING PERHAPS, OR JUST CRUISING, ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS. FARMERS AND RANCHERS USE THEM A LOT IN PLACE OF HORSES OR PICKUPS, ROUNDING UP CATTLE, CHECKING ON FENCES OR CROPS. NOW AND AGAIN, YOU HEAR OF A RANCHER OR FAR-

MER GETTING KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED BY ROLLING  
ONE OVER IN DANGEROUS TERRAIN, GETTING BACK TO THE MAN  
I HEARD ON THE RADIO. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAIN-  
ING, WHICH I WOULD SUPPOSE ALL THE DEFLERS WOULD INSIST  
UPON, ESPECIALLY FOR NEW RIDERS - YOUNG OR OLD. OF COURSE,  
THEN YOU HAVE THE BUNCH OF GUYS HANGING AROUND - SAY-  
ING - "TAKE 'ER FOR A RIDE!" THE RIDER HAS SEEN THE  
TV ADS AND AWAY HE GOES! IS HE (OR SHE) GOING TO BE ONE  
OF THE LUCKY ONES? OR ARE THEY GOING TO TIP IT OVER IN  
A VERY UN-FRIENDLY PLACE? THE SAME GENERAL PRINCIPLE  
APPLIES TO JET SKIS. UP AT TRINITY LAKE, THEY USED TO  
DRIVE ME NUTS. THE RULES ARE PRETTY CLEAR, BUT YOU HAVE  
TO KNOW THEM. THE OLD MAN BUYS A JET-SKI AND TURNS THE  
KIDS LOOSE - PERHAPS WITH A WARNING, PERHAPS NOT. MOST  
PARENTS (AND KIDS) ARE GOOD - BUT THE FEW THAT AREN'T CAN  
CAUSE A LOT OF PROBLEMS. SUMMER'S COMING - BE CAREFUL OUT  
THERE! I'LL SAY GOODBYE TO A COUPLE OF LONG-TIME FRIENDS.  
BOB BROWN WAS A HARD WORKING, SPECIAL MAN. HE TOLD ME  
HE FOOK GARDEN SNAILS, CLEANED THEM BY FEEDING CABBAGE, MAKING IT  
WAS - AND USED THEM FOR HOR'S D'OUVRES AT HIS PARTIES. REMIND  
ME NOT TO EAT HIS HOR'S D'OUVRES. TOM MONROE - THE COLONEL -  
PART OF A MILITARY FAMILY - HIS DAD - "BIG TOM" WAS A MILITARY OF-  
FICER, TOO. CO NDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES. || ECMS - EUREKA  
CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES PRESENTS CYPRESS STRING QUARTET -  
FRIDAY FEB. 21 - CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH - ACROSS FROM ALICE BURNLEY  
SCHOOL - 7:30 PM ~~BE THERE~~ - MEET THE PERFORMERS  
AFTER THE CONCERT - BE THERE!

SIGN OFF