

THE MYERS FLAT NEWS

With occasional news also from Miranda, Weott, Phillipsville, and Redcrest
The motto of Myers Flat (Humboldt Co, CA) is: "Myers Flat Is Where It's At"

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BURNING MAN AGAIN IN THE NEVADA DESERT

Myers Flat's favorite Aussie tourists Fiona & Lew made their annual pilgrimage here last week, and commented that of the American institutions most difficult for a foreigner to understand, the Burning Man festival in the Black Rock Desert of Nevada is close to the top of the list. In fact, there are a lot of Americans who also scratch their heads and profess not to understand why otherwise sane folks, some estimated 35,000 of them, want to spend the Labor Day holiday creating and then dismantling a circular shaped town, in temperatures from 110 degrees Fahrenheit (days) to 40 degrees (nights), in the middle of nowhere.

Perhaps it is the sense of devoting a specified period of time to Art and the affirmation that every person is an artist. Perhaps the attraction is breaking out of the usual bonds of time and routine and known problems into a different universe of unique challenges, relationships and opportunities for self-expression. Perhaps it is just the sense of wonder and the delight of a "trip" in the old '60s psychedelic sense of the word.

The instructions for the many thousands who will attend from Northern California include that every scrap of matter brought in must be carried out, an extreme version of the ecological camping adage that no garbage be left behind. But at Burning Man there are not even any trash cans, because everyone is committed to remove their own garbage when they leave.

Such practical matters, however, should not obscure the dramatic difference between the ethic of Burning Man and ordinary life in America. For one, the organizers describe the gathering as "creating a community based on giving to one another," and participants are committed that "in the Burning Man community, transactions of value take place without money, advertising, or hype -- care

emerges in place of structured service." No

selling or buying is allowed at Burning Man, with a few minimal official exceptions like the sale of ice.

For another thing, art, narrative or visual, is the order of the day, the meaningful work of all participants: "community activities incorporate celebration, parties and other social events" and "in communities, people know

by stories [rather than by reports or studies]" These quotes are adapted from the

Burning Man Survival Guide, available on the web at www.burningman.com/preparation.

Preparing to go to Burning Man is not a small undertaking, but the biggest question is: what costume to wear? For some, it is none, zip, their birthday suits. Not for me. Maybe I should wear the burka I brought back from Afghanistan,

or farm overalls and a straw hat. The idea is to leave behind my usual persona. What will I do? Stay tuned.<>

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From Patty Sheehan & Steve Wright:
Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.

WILDAID DAY in Calif is 21 Sept 2002: Take a shark to lunch – and let him go.

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BROWN'S TOWING BUILDS NEW OFFICE BUILDING IN MYERS FLAT

Rising rapidly in Myers Flat there is a new building being built up to flood code. Owner is Brown's Towing, to replace the office which was closed down by the County because of lack of a bathroom.

Builders are Don Moore and John Cathy, who have almost finished the foundation. The flood code requirement is that the occupied structure be above flood level, about sixteen feet at that location. For this reason a storage shed and mechanical shop will be in the area under the office proper (and the new bathroom).

Rooting for an early completion is Howard Baker, who will be the 24 hour emergency telephone voice of Brown's Towing from his perch at the top of the building.<>

WHO RAN OVER MEAGHER'S WELL? OR ...

Was it Charlie Battiglia's well? These two old drinking buddies have been arguing for years over ownership of a tiny lot, 12' by 12', accessed by a two

foot easement, which sits on the property line between two other lots in Myers Flat.

But someone recently ran a cat over the top of the well, and pushed the pump house ten feet, severing the lines. The pump wound up in the bottom of the well, which is about 17" across.

Result? Finally the argument will be settled. Baird Engineering has been called in to do a definitive land survey.<>

AND WHO RAN OVER DEAN'S FOOT?

The San Francisco transplant who moved to Myers Flat to run the saloon but soon quit to run his own internet-based business, Dean returned to the City for a visit recently -- and was run over by a Muni bus. He hightailed it back to Myers Flat, and his foot is healing nicely, thank you.<>

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...

- One:** Don't miss the boat.
- Two:** Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- Three:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- Four:** Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- Five:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- Six:** Our entire world is a small boat: conserve and recycle.
- Seven:** It's always better to travel in pairs.
- Eight:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- Nine:** When you're stressed, float a while

Ten: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.<>