

North Forty **by Betty Eyman**

Roger and Sue Chatterton's granddaughter, 13 year old Sterling, continues to improve from the ravages of Steven Johnson Syndrome which is caused by a rare reaction to an antibiotic. The antibiotic prescribed to Sterling contained Sulfa Drug. The syndrome itself is extremely rare, (one in a million) and usually the elderly are the most likely to be affected, making it even more rare for a 13 year old to react this violently to the sulfa drug.

Sterling has amazed everyone (including her doctors and nurses) with her valiant fight and how fast and well she is recovering. She has been an extremely sick young lady and has been in an induced coma to give her body a chance to recover. She is now out of the coma and is off the respirator. This syndrome creates blisters on the skin surface and the damaged skin sloughs off. Her skin is starting to heal and new skin has begun the re-growing stage.

Sterling was able to sit up for a short while yesterday but is still in the ICU. She is expected to be moved to the next level down critical care ward soon. Roger and Sue said "We are taking this one step at a time". A family member has been with her every minute since her admittance, and will continue to be until she is completely out of danger, and as long as she feels the need to have one of them with her.

Sterling has been in the Santa Clara Burn Hospital going on three weeks now, and the doctors and nurses have bonded with her. While they are wishing her a speedy recovery, they will miss her when she leaves for a different ward.

There have been a lot of prayers for Sterling from every church, and all of us who know of her condition. It is the power of these prayers that is helping her to overcome this dreadfully painful syndrome and to heal as rapidly as she is.

Our "**mock shelter drill**" that was scheduled for a couple of weeks ago was cancelled because of the heat and the high fire danger. We all missed the spaghetti dinner, and the chance to become more familiar with a fire evacuation process. But, as it turned out, our DAT team was put on stand-by alert to help maintain the shelter set up in the Weaverville Elementary School for the evacuees from the Junction City area. I worked two days at the center, and was very impressed with the dedication and professionalism of all of the fire fighters and fire personnel. Some of the Cal- Fed fire fighters used some of the class rooms to sleep in.

When one of us bids on or buys something from our two fire department fund raisers, we really get our money's worth. Brian and Mary Bogdanich placed the winning bid at this years CCVFD' **Chili Feed/Auction for a dinner for four hosted by Greg and Debbie Amoss**, that was served by their pond at the front of their property. To heighten the suspense, Greg and Debbie hung huge tarps blocking the view of the setup process from passers-by. Each tarp had large questions marks spray painted on them.

The night of the dinner, Debbie had timed the arrival of the two couples, Brian and Mary and Ken and Diane Rieke to arrive at the same time and the tarps were lowered to display white linen

tables set for a formal dinner. After a few glasses of wine, Brian was asking the Amoss' what was going to happen. Greg would only say, "You'll see". Soon the owner's, chef's and entire wait staff from the Garden Café in Weaverville came down the driveway, each carrying a tray of appetizers and food to serve the party of four an eight course dinner with each course paired with two different wines. The first course started out with Pecan Crusted Grapes, Smoked Salmon Bites, Salami, Cheese and Pepper and Olive Tray. Each course out did the course before it, and the sixth course was thick cuts of Prime Rib, Country Potatoes and Grilled Asparagus wrapped in Pancetta and paired with two different wines. There were two more courses with four more bottles of wine.

Brian's winning bid was for a little over \$700.00, and it sounds like it was worth three times as much, not only for the party of four, but also Debbie and Greg Amoss. Debbie, how are you going to top this one next year? And now that I know how creative you are, I am going to start saving my coins to bid on your dinner next year . . . if that is what you are going to do??? We'll see, it may even be something more exciting. I am not sure how.

Dewey and Linda Baird put on a BBQ that was the BBQ equivalent of Amoss' dinner. Linda and Dewey created a wonderland in their front yard with tables, chairs, and three different types of BBQ "cookers" that cooked wild pig, buffalo meat, and chicken, corn on the cob, hot garlic bread, and tons and tons of salads prepared by some of the best cooks in the area.

Time to check your calendars to make sure you have marked Friday, August 1 at 1:00 p.m. for the **"Pot Party" at the Eyman's**, the first Tuesday in August 5 at 6:30 at the IOOF Hall for the Community Service District Board meeting. The Red Cross will be meeting the first Thursday. I will get back to you with the time and place for that meeting.

I mentioned in last weeks column that I was seeking people who wished to be guest columnist for the North Forty, as it has become necessary, for health reasons, to slow down some. I am still looking for guest columnist, and I am also passing the Red Cross baton on to Pat Sprick for her to become the Captain of our local Red Cross Disaster Action Team. Sheri Macy will be Pat's Co-Captain. Both of these ladies are fantastic and our community is very lucky to have them.

I will be doing some more "stepping back" but I will NOT step back from the Pot Party. Playing in clay is very therapeutic, and besides that, it is just plain fun. Come and join us. We try to meet every other Friday at 1:00 p.m. in the Eyman Garage. We all work at our own speed, and do the type of clay work we enjoy doing... so you will never be "behind", and have to worry about being at each meeting. That would become too regimented and take some of the fun away.

Lions meet on the second and fourth Thursdays at the IOOF Hall. They are still looking for new Lions, so if you are interested, talk to any of our Lions, and they can tell you how to start the process.