

BUZZ #12 Oct/Nov/Dec FALL 2002
SONOMA VALLEY Qrtly \$10. - 4 issues

BUZZ

wine country journal



SCOOP
Who really runs
Sonoma Valley

WINE NOTES;
A whole lot of
mixin' going on

AND WHITE WINES.
A NEW CURVE?

BENZIGER'S GOOBER SUPERVISES WINERY TOURS AT GLEN ELLEN RANCH

BOSS DOGS

SONOMA VALLEY RANCHERS' CANINE PARTNERS

Stephanie Clark,
Editor



CHRIS BENZIGER AND GOOBER

interview Chris Benziger with the BUZZ at
London Ranch Rd BENZIGER WINERY, Glen Ellen, Ca.

the B: I hear Goober's full partner now, what's up?

CB: Always been that way, for the last 10 years or so, anyway, since we sold the Glen Ellen label. Goober came aboard and look at us now.

the B So it's not just a title, Boss Dog, or anything like that.

CB Look at Goober. See the character in his eyes?. The winery tours we have here? Goober's in charge in that department, checks out the kitchen everyday all year round, never takes a day off. And more important he's right there always at the end of the day, waiting at the office, keeping things cool, that's a big job here at the winery for one guy when we get those unexpected frosts in April or rains in August. Who's there for encouragement?

the B I see. Kinda the heart and soul of the place.

CB Thanks, that's a good way to put it. C'mon Goober, gotta get to work, Bye, Buzz

name:.....NALA

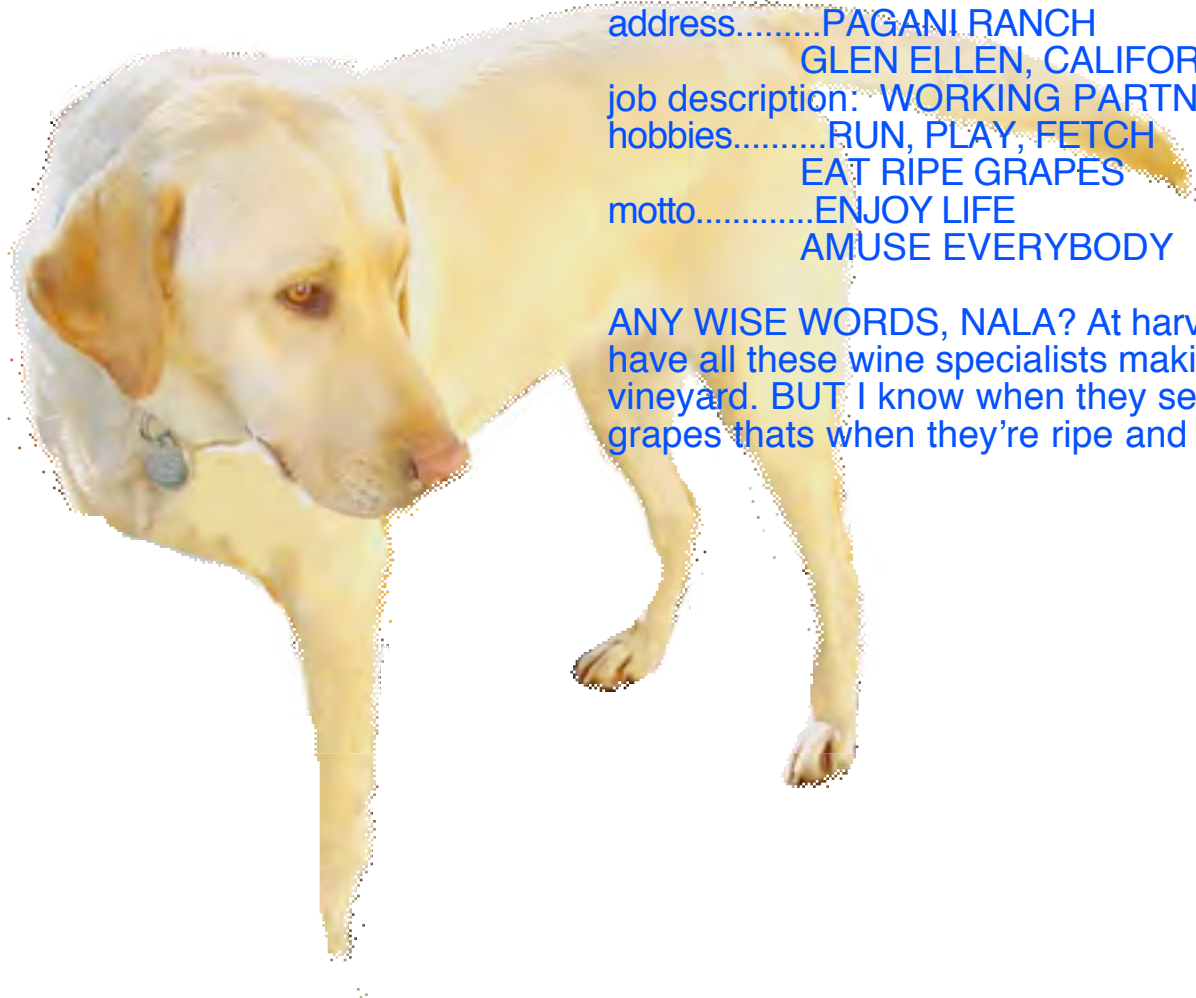
address:.....PAGANI RANCH
GLEN ELLEN, CALIFORNIA

job description: WORKING PARTNER

hobbies:.....RUN, PLAY, FETCH
EAT RIPE GRAPES

motto:.....ENJOY LIFE
AMUSE EVERYBODY

ANY WISE WORDS, NALA? At harvest time, they have all these wine specialists making tests in the vineyard. BUT I know when they see me eating grapes thats when they're ripe and ready.



A DOGS TALE FROM HOBO TO HERO



A few years ago, Sylvia and her husband were operating a resort on the island of Antigua. It is there that a bedraggled, starved, abused dog came to their door; in fact, he was so skinny, they called him Cigar, - he “looked like one”.

Well, this is a happy story- the canine beggar with no home and the sad eye, made his way into the hearts of the resort owners, and after doctoring up Cigar, all three flew back to the States where they settled in Oakmont in Sonoma County.

Nowadays you can find Sylvia and Cigar both on the staff of Oakmont Gardens, a senior residence in Oakmont, to the delight of all there.

Sylvia is Front Office manager and Cigar is Resident Therapy Dog. He has no lack of attention and exercise as many residents take turns through the day walking him. He attends Friday cocktail parties, loves the music and people and recently they showed their affection by throwing a huge birthday party for him, his seventh.

From Nowhere to Somewhere
Cigar is a Hero and a Champ



Sylvia and Cigar ride to work together every morning

“Who are you going to believe, me or your own eyes?”

Groucho Marx

“My next house will have no kitchen - just vending machines and a large trash can” the Internet

“A doctor can bury his mistakes - but an architect can only advise his clients to plant vines”

Frank Lloyd Wright

“Unlike horses, donkeys are not indigenous to Britain. It is believed that the Romans brought them over as pack animals nearly 2,000 years ago. And along with donkeys came mules”

“For at least 3,000 years until the invention of the steam engine, the mule was the favoured pack animal for long distance transport, for war, and for agriculture. ..even in England mule-breeding was practiced on a small scale from the time of the introduction of the donkey by the Romans”
(Juliet Clutton-Brock and Anthony Dent on Internet)

Cynthia Attar in her book. *The Mule Companion relates:*

“Since George Washington had been a farmer he keyed in on the fact that mules had the potential to be the perfect work animal (hardier, healthier, smarter...not to mention that they ate considerably less!). Unfortunately mules were not being bred out of very promising stock. It seems that people were breeding their most ornery, mean, poorly conformed mares to jacks since they had the notion that a mule was going to be mean, ornery, miserable and 'funny looking' anyway. Therefore, there was not much from which to choose during the 17th century. Washington knew that Spain had the best jack stock known at the time and he wanted to acquire one of the Spanish jacks to breed with some high quality mares...both saddle horses and draft horses. Unfortunately, Spain had decreed that their donkey stock was not to leave the country. Our first President was not going to give up on his idea so he used his status as 'top dog' in our new nation to lure King Charles III into allowing him to acquire both an Andalusian jack and jennet in October of 1785. The jack was named Royal Gift and within a couple of years started producing great draft mules.

From Malta, compliments of Marquis de Lafayette, Washington got some smaller donkey stock to which he bred smaller horses and created saddle mules.”

Here, in Northern California, The North Coast Draft Horse and Mule Club members regularly haul their draft horses and mules and wagons and equipment to prearranged ranch sites in the area to share rewarding times on picturesque wagon train rides. Photos on the following pages follow one such trek on the Circle Bar Ranch south of Sonoma.

* * * * *

The entire club meets once a year each May at Vallejo's Home in Sonoma for "Plowing Play Day" where they demonstrate Draft Horse & Mule-team pulling and driving exhibitions. Admission is free for kid's rides, antique plows and engines, harnessing and blacksmithing demonstrations featuring Clydesdales, Shires, Percherons and Belgian Draft Horses.



club member Jan

KEEPING COUNTRY IN THE COUNTRY

THE NORTH COAST DRAFT HORSE AND MULE CLUB meets regularly in Northern California for wagon-train rides through members' ranches.

Wagons and horses and mules are trucked to pre-arranged destinations; this time eight wagons with members rode 2 hours through historic Circle Bar Ranch south of Sonoma. See following pages.



Looking east from Circle Bar Ranch south of Sonoma in Sonoma Valley, California



GOING

T E A M S ** H E A D **



Joan and Ernie



Jenna Shawn Carl Jerry

CATHERINE REIBLI
Chief Coordinator



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Ellen and Hoppy

Sue Smith getting ready 6-mule team headed by Belle and Hillie, pictured right, at the Circle Bar Ranch



H O M E *** F O R *** C H O W ***



Pat and daughter



Joan and Ernie



cool Ellen

In May 2002 members of the North Coast Draft Horse & Mule Club from all over the area gathered at the Circle Bar Ranch south of Sonoma for a two-hour wagon-train ride.

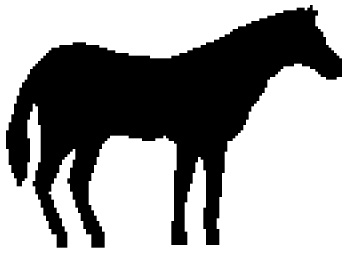
It was a spectacular sunny Sunday with clear skies and view for a pleasant lazy ride in contrast to the racing speeds of the Sears (new name now) Raceway just across the highway.

The ride ended back at the Circle Bar where a fine meal was spread out- chicken, great creamed potatoes, etc., and Joan's special salad.

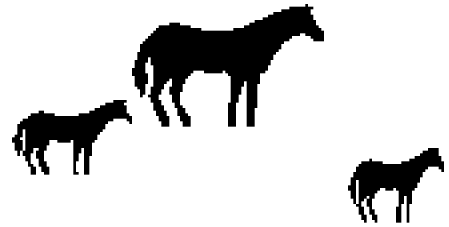
Red lettuce with-- olive oil, Balsamic vinegar, garlic and mustard with blue cheese-- dressing

We are thankful that a dedicated group of good people, the North Coast Draft Horse & Mule Club, keeps this spirit alive

stephanie clark



HORSIN' AROUND



COCA-COLA WAS ORIGINALLY GREEN

ICELAND CONSUMES MORE COCA-COLA PER CAPITA THAN ANY OTHER NATION.

CITY WITH MOST ROLLS ROYSES:HONG KONG

EVERY DAY MORE MONEY IS PRINTED FOR MONOPOLY THAN US TREASURY

SMARTEST DOGS: SCOTTISH BORDER COLLIE, POODLE, GOLDEN RETRIEVER.
DUMBEST: AFGHAN HOUND

COST OF RAISING AVERAGE SIZE DOG TO AGE OF 11: \$6,400

THE SAN FRANCISCO CABLE CARS ARE THE ONLY MOBILE NATIONAL MONUMENTS.

THE HIGHEST POINT IN PENNSYLVANIA IS LOWER THAN THE LOWEST POINT IN COLORADO.

ALMONDS ARE MEMBERS OF PEACH FAMILY

TIGERS HAVE STRIPED SKIN, NOT JUST STRIPED FUR,

WHO'S PLAYING THE PIANO ON THE "MAD ABOUT YOU" THEME? WHY IT'S PAUL REISER HIMSELF.

THE MICROWAVE WAS INVENTED AFTER A RESEARCHER WALKED BY A RADAR TUBE AND A CHOCOLATE BAR MELTED IN HIS POCKET.

FIRST NOVEL WRITTEN ON A TYPEWRITER: "TOM SAWYER".

JOHN LENNON'S FIRST GIRL FRIEND WAS NAMED THELMA PICKLES.

THE AVERAGE PERSON FALLS ASLEEP IN SEVEN MINUTES.

THERE ARE 336 DIMPLES ON A REGULATION GOLF BALL.

"STEWARDESSES" IS THE LONGEST WORD THAT IS TYPED WITH ONLY THE LEFT HAND.

A GOLDFISH HAS A MEMORY SPAN OF THREE SECONDS.

ON AN AMERICAN ONE-DOLLAR BILL,THERE IS AN OWL IN THE UPPER LEFT-HAND CORNER OF THE "1" ENCASED IN THE "SHIELD" AND A SPIDER HIDDEN IN THE FRONT UPPER RIGHT-HAND CORNER.

(I think I see the spider but can't fine the owl, S.C.)

NUTMEG IS EXTREMELY POISONOUS IF INJECTED INTRAVENOUSLY

NO NFL TEAM WHICH PLAYS ITS HOME GAMES IN A DOMED STADIUM HAS EVER WON A SUPER BOWL.

ONLY ONE PERSON IN TWO BILLION WILL LIVE TO BE 116 OR OLDER.

ON A CANADIAN TWO DOLLAR BILL, THE FLAG FLYING OVER THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING IS AN AMERICAN FLAG.

MAINE IS THE ONLY STATE WHOSE NAME IS JUST ONE SYLLABLE.

FROM THE WEB SITE *FUNNY FACTS* ON THE INTERNET

The only United States President born on the 4th of July was Calvin Coolidge
Presidents Thos Jefferson and John Adams died on the 4th of July 1826 within hours of each other.

Recently seen on kitchen blackboard--
"WE SERVE ONLY THE FINEST WINES,
DID YOU BRING ANY?"

CHEERS & KUDOS

to

PET ADOPTION

VOLUNTEERS



ADOPTABLE PETS LIKE ONE-YEAR-OLD FRANKIE, PICTURED HERE, ARE BROUGHT TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SEEKING NEW HOMES-- BY SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS WHO CARE

APPEARING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ONCE A MONTH-- LOOK FOR US

"YOU STAY...WE'LL ROLL OVER"



The "TAIL WAGGIN'" TRAVELS AT REGULAR POSTED TIMES THROUGHOUT THE SONOMA COUNTY AREA. WITH CHARMING ADOPTABLE PETS--DOGS AND CATS--ALL NEUTERED AND READY WITH ADOPTION PAPERS ON THE SPOT.

The pets are attended to by volunteers who cuddle and walk them about, giving each enough attention so they are able to assess the personality of each for easy adoption transition.

Happy treasures like the young dachsy above will fit into your life so easy. Give them a try.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF SONOMA COUNTY
PET ADOPTION CENTER
ANIMAL RESCUE UNIT
707 542-0882

A WHOLE LOT OF MIXIN' GOIN' ON

our local winemakers are mixing
and matching and coming up
with new taste treats
and darned if they aren't good....

SEE THE NEW REDS UNDER \$10.

Winemaker Michael Lee of Kenwood Winery,
Kenwood, Ca, calls their 2000 VINTAGE RED WINE
a flavorful and fruity combination of
ZINFANDEL AND CARIGNANE.
for lighter meat dishes

AND SOME OTHER MIXES

Kendall-Jackson of Santa Rosa calls its new blend
COLLAGE.
60% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 40% SHIRAZ
K-J touts it as a good hamburger wine.



THAT'S FINE WITH ME BECAUSE I'M FROM THE POT ROAST SCHOOL OF
CHOOSING WINE.--Don't spend more for your wine than you do for your pot roast.
Hey, if it's chateaubriand or filets, spend a little more--that's when you go for it.

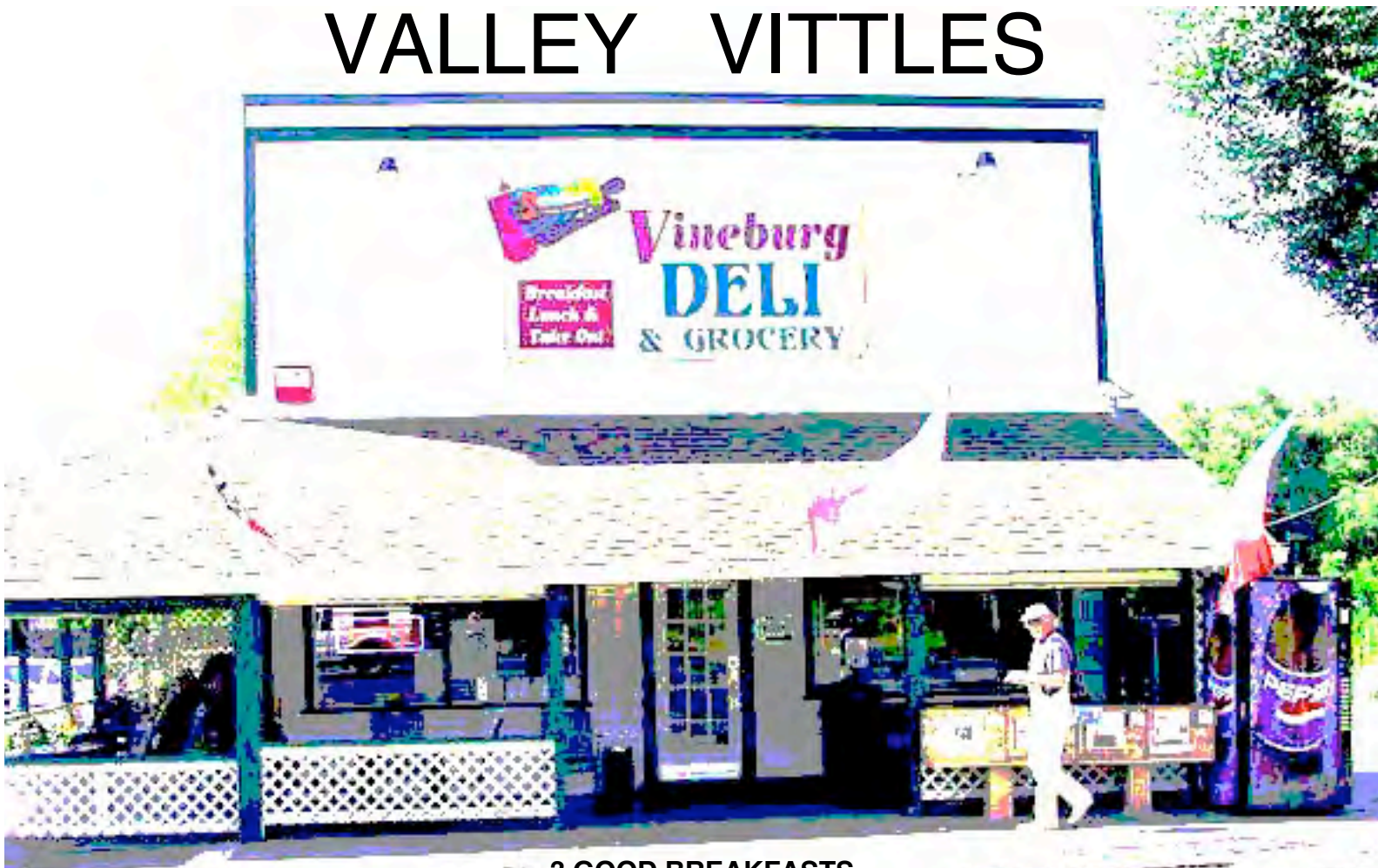
"Gundlach Bundschu Winery's Winemaker, Linda Trotta is blending Merlot with small amounts
of Cabernet Sauvignon to create the Sonoma winery's 2000 Estate Merlot: the process (blending)
is used to create half of the 16 wines that Gundlach Bundschu will sell from its 2000 vintage."
Ted Appel, *the Press Democrat*

THE WHITES

"Wine style is a moving target, like fashions in food and clothing." Rod Smith, *Los Angeles Times*

.....from Bob Nomberg of *Press Democrat* ... "Robert Mondavi is continuing to change the flavors of
its Private Reserve wines TO FIT CONSUMER TASTES. Its 2000 Chardonnay, for instance will have
9% Johannesburg Riesling grapes to give it a sweeter taste and it is decreasing its time in oak."

VALLEY VITTLES



3 GOOD BREAKFASTS

PEARLS on 5th St. W. across from Safeway in Sonoma. Good eats, friendly spot, sit at counter and enjoy the conversation or make your own at tables, even outside. I asked him where he gets his bacon, answer, at Angelos. Need I say more. Open all day, haven't yet tried the meatloaf Friday nights but looking forward to it, absolutely tops for breakfast. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

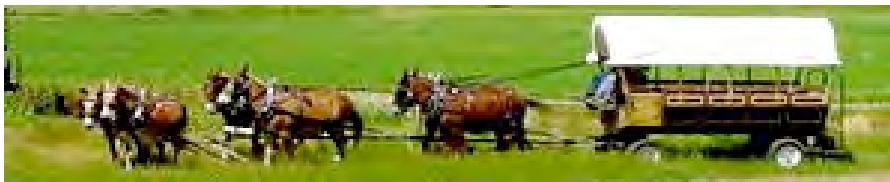
GARDEN CAFE Glen Ellen, situated up on Hwy 12 just out of the village. My grand blue ribbon for them, a few good counter seats for conversation with friendly staff, plus window-bright tables. Open breakfast and lunch only, Bacon, scrambled, toast, good fresh hot coffee- great breakfast.

EGGS & COMPANY Calistoga Rd. in St. Francis Shopping Center, Santa Rosa, good breakfast, always friendly, wish they had a handy counter for singles to park..(breakfast & lunch)

And lots of extra fine take-out foods of infinite variety. Some highlights: the Bread Pudding at Vineburg Deli on Napa Rd south of Sonoma, Tri-Tip Sandwiches at Angelos south of Sonoma, Fish and potato dishes at Village Market in Glen Ellen. Also, try the spinach omelette that Louie makes at the Quail Inn in Oakmont where they always put avocado in their Club Sandwiches. Best Hamburgers still Heavenly Hamburger, Hwy 12 in Santa Rosa and the Hound Dog on Hwy 12 out of Sonoma.

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Circle Bar Ranch south of Sonoma in Sonoma Valley, California

LET ME TELL YOU A STORY

by Stephanie Clark

ONCE UPON A TIME there was a farm with all kinds of animals, -- like Ol' MacDonald's Farm, -- and also a cat like Webster and a dog, something like Lassie of TV fame.

While cutting wood one day in the back 40, Farmer Mac got his leg caught under a fallen limb and hollered out to the collie,

"Take heed, Shep, better run back to the house and get help."

The dog took off in a flash, ran through a field, jumped a fence and then a creek, and after another mile across a plowed field, ran up to the farmhouse, pushed open a creaky screen door and barked out an SOS to Mrs. Mac in the kitchen.

"What are you trying to say, Collie? she asked. And when Collie made some more yips, she knew her husband was in trouble. Down at the lower 40 Under a big Black Oak. Hurt. His leg is caught.

Within seconds, rescue efforts had begun. Two neighbor farmers, with the collie showing the way in their pickup truck, were headed out with tools for the rescue.

WHICH BRINGS TO MIND another story happened a few years ago. But this time Ol' MacDonald had his big barn cat with him, a huge orange specimen, made his living around the farm catching mice and gophers, a big job, with what the cat thought was no thanks for all his efforts.

So. Same Story. Ol' MacDonald got himself hurt, seems to be a clumsy fellow, signaled to Orange Cat to go back to the house and get help.

The big Orange Cat took off immediately. Through the field. Over the fence and then the creek and through the plowed field, up to the creaky screen door of the ol' farmhouse. He pushed through, passed by Mrs. MacDonald busy in the kitchen, ran upstairs into the bedroom, jumped up on the bed and settled in for a nap. He knew there was something he was supposed to do but he was tired and would think about it later.

NOW, THERE'S A LESSON TO BE LEARNED HERE. Either you better get your dog a job in the movies so you can afford to hire someone to cut wood for you or improve the sleeping arrangements in the barn for your working cat so he won't have to wait to take advantage of an emergency to sneak some decent shut-eye in your comfortable bed.

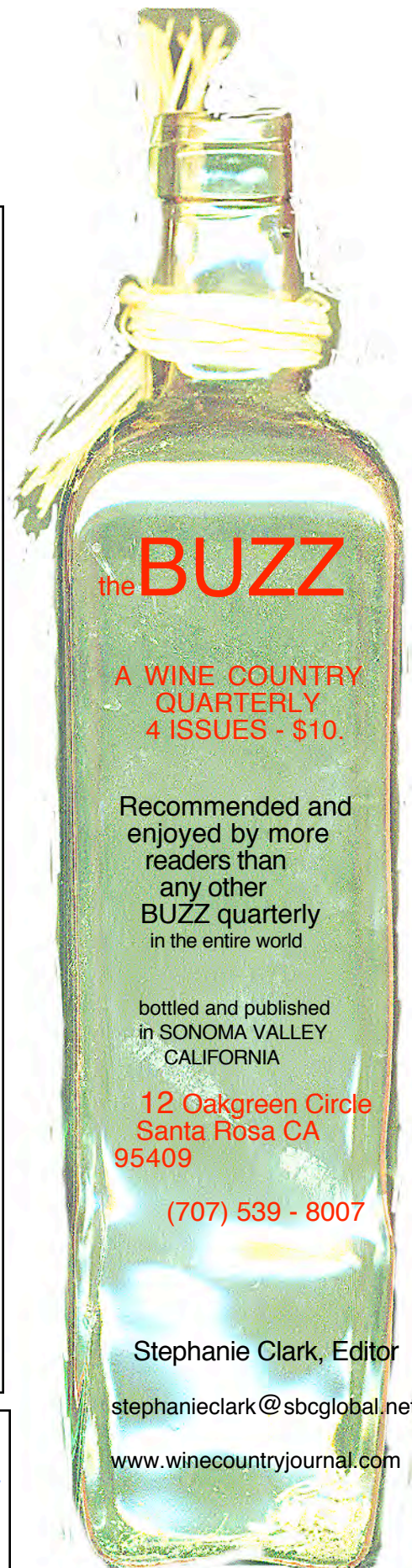
"No thanks, Hop Sing, I wouldn't care for any salad, I'll just have the porkchops"

Hoss Cartright

"There are no stupid questions-but there are alot of inquisitive idiots"

the Internet

"Atomic Weapons-the supreme tragedy" Mohandas K. Ghandi



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