

May 21, 2012

Lazy L

This is Jill Duffy with Community Comment

A fellow struck up a conversation with me when I was stocking up on my monthly supply of carrots at a local grocery store. I suppose one can't help but to wonder why on earth anyone would purchase 75 pounds of carrots at one time...is she a carrot cake freak? On a carrot juice diet? Making carrot sticks for the masses? No. Just my monthly supply of carrots for that old horse of mine.

He nodded sympathetically when I explained my old girl was coming up on 32 years, and keeping her weight on is increasingly difficult. He said he'd once had an old horse that he'd boarded at Lazy L Ranch and ^{well} understood the challenge of caring for geriatric horses.

But while he was talking I thought 'boy, I hadn't thought of Lazy L Ranch in a long time'. When we were kids we'd go to Lazy L to rent horses, hang out in the western town, and the weekend dances featuring blue grass music and contra dancing that was held up there. And when I was older and working, to attend company picnics and softball games that were held up there or Camp Bauer in Korbels or bowling at Arcata Bowl.

What happened to the company picnics, softball, bowling, and volleyball leagues or general after-hour fun days with our co-workers anymore? It isn't just Humboldt, it's everywhere! When my Dad was with Ma Bell he participated on a volleyball team and they competed with other internal teams and other companies. Here on the north coast there used to be hospital, local government, bank and timber company leagues.

Now, in fairness there are leagues sponsored by various community recreational departments, and I don't mean to take away from all they do. Nor do I believe we are socially doing less – because there is an upsurge of community organizations, celebrations and music festivals. I am wondering about the events we used to spend after hours with our co-workers and families.

There was something reinvigorating that after a long work week, when you're mentally tired and then being able to go out with your coworkers to engage in activities that form and strengthen friendships and affirms the sense of camaraderie. Getting to laugh with people, regardless of their position in the company and developing a shared sense of being on the team that was brought back into the workplace. Being able to meet and develop friendships with your coworkers ^{their} families – ^{bc they're} not just pictures on a desk.

I am thinking maybe it would be fun to gather some workplace folks, and see what sort of event we could come up with sometime this summer. Maybe a bar-b-que at Freshwater Park or volleyball and sand castle building at Moonstone Beach, kayaking at Stone Lagoon, or an evening of roller skating at the Blue Lake rink. It will take a bit of thought and coordination, and maybe even prodding of certain folks, but I think we could all have a little bit of fun.

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