

THE FOOTHILL INQUIRER

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

fhinquirer@ftcnet.net

Monday October 12, 2009

Volume 2, Issue 19

Fathoming Foresthill

By Roy West

October's Forum meeting agenda was a very full one.

Sergeant Bill Walton, as a response to some previous questions about bear activity in the Foresthill area, brought a SKAT kit that is a box full of various bear deterrent items. Apparently the kits have been used successfully in the Tahoe area. The kit consists of educational material, (for us, and the bears) which includes brochures, (for us) and special shotgun rounds with rubber bullets, (for the bears). There is also a shotgun round that consists of what amounts to a firey bottle rocket that Sgt. Walton acknowledged should not be used in an area such as Foresthill for obvious reasons. I suspect that

item will be removed from the kit all together.

Sgt. Walton also introduced Erik Wallesen who is the communications supervisor for Placer County. Eric's department handles the dispatch and 911 calls for Placer County. He gave an overview of how the 911 system works along with some statistics that they receive over 20,000 emergency 911 calls per month and another 12,000 calls from mobile phones each month.

CHP Commander Bill Donovan, and officer Don Scholl pointed out that traffic enforcement will continue in the Foresthill area and that the word is spreading among the motorcycle clubs that Foresthill is being regularly patrolled.

Chris Fischer of the U.S. Forestry

service brought a few of the other folks that work in the Tahoe National Forest out of the local Foresthill office. Matt Triggs is the forestry biologist in charge of fish and wildlife and said that there are some "Wintering Bald Eagles that have been spotted in the area". Tony Rodarte handles timber management and reforestation. Apparently a great deal of the duties of all forestry personnel is compliance with various federal guidelines so they spend a lot of time writing reports.

Chris said that the logging trucks that we have seen coming down Foresthill Road are hauling logs from the American River Complex fire of a couple of years ago and that the logs are not going to a mill but only for chipping for use in co-generation plants.

See Fathoming on page 5

The Carpenter's Place Was Abuzz With Fun Muster Fun

The harvest festival last year only drew in around thirty locals according to Luana Dowling and the Foresthill Fire Protection District, (FFPD) was anxious about the success of this year's Fun Muster. As it turns out, this year's event on October 3rd was very well attended by Foresthill residents.

Quite a few locals took advantage of the free booth space that was provided by the FFPD and displayed their various wares. Everything from pumpkins and wreaths to jewelery and home canned preserves were being offered.

There was a pumpkin carving contest and a scarecrow contest for the more creative sort and live music in the form of an informal jam session.

The main purpose of the event was to educate the citizens of Foresthill about fire safety and defensible space. The FFPD had their own booth with a great quantity of booklets and brochures and even free videos with the theme of being prepared for a "fire event". Forest Eklund, (FFPD) director later remarked that everyone that he asked about their state of preparedness told him that they had defensible space and were prepared for a fire emergency.

He joked that since everyone is so prepared, we should close the Fire Department.

The Fun Muster activities took place beginning around mid morning with engine companies from as far

away as Fresno. The main event consisted of competing crews on a fire truck running a timed, straight course and rolling out dry firehoses then hooking up to a hydrant and "putting out a fire"; the fire was in fact an orange traffic cone that was to be knocked over by the water stream.

Also part of the fire related activities was a team bucket brigade competition. Anyone could join in this activity; some of the teams were fire crews and some were just spectators that didn't mind getting wet while having a lot of fun, (my three kids and I along with Chase Dowling were able to maintain last place in this timed event with two attempts).

See Fun Muster page 5

Community Briefs

Note:
The Foresthill Forum, FPUD and Fire Protection District board meetings are filmed by the *FhInquirer*. Copies of these meetings can be rented from the Foresthill Library or can be purchased from the *Inquirer*. Contact: fhinquirer@ftcnet.net for more info.

The Foothill Inquirer
fhinquirer@ftcnet.net

The Foothill Inquirer is an independent newspaper/newsletter that covers news-of-interest mostly dealing with the foothill area but also covering State and national issues. Our goal is to provide current and accurate news for the foothill area.

The FhI is published twice a month. On the second and fourth Monday of the month. The FhI can be procured at our newsstands outside of the Foresthill Post Office, Worton's Grocery store and next to the Library, or by contacting us at our email address and requesting that you be placed on our email loop. If you would like to place an advertisement the priced is \$12.00 for two issues or one month worth of advertising. Contact us at our email address to place an advertisement.

If you have a community

Meeting	Date	Time	Place
Foresthill Fire Safe Council	Tuesday October 20	5:30 p.m.	Foresthill Fire District office 24320 Main St. Foresthill
WAC MAC	Wednesday October 21	6:00 p.m.	Colfax Memorial Hall, 22 Sunset Circle, Colfax
North Auburn MAC	Tuesday October 13	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Chambers, 3091 County Center Dr. Auburn
Planning Commission	Thursday October 22	10:00 a.m.	Planning Commission Chambers 3091 County Center Dr. Auburn
Coffee Clatch	Monday October 26	9:00 a.m.	Foresthill Memorial Hall, 24601 Harrison St., Foresthill

Community Steps Up To Help Local Family

A couple of months ago it became known that the Herlehy family needed some help with their water bill.

Their son Max is suffering through treatment for a childhood disease and is very sensitive to dust. As a result the family had installed sod around their home and had been watering more than usual in order to keep the dust down dur-

ing this hot dry summer.

Several Foresthill citizens came forward to make payments to the Foresthill Public Utility District on behalf of the Herlehy family and they now have a sizeable credit on their account there.

Once again, Foresthill folks came through to help one of our own. Thanks.



A little bird tells us that our new Sergeant, Bill Walton has come up with an innovative way to pool resources with the Foresthill Fire Protection District, (FFPD). It seems that Sgt. Walton became aware that the Sheriffs Department had more exercise equipment than it needed and no place to put it.

His solution? Share it with the FFPD. The Sheriffs Department will provide the equipment and the FFPD will provide the space to use it. Now the Foresthill deputies won't have to make a trip to Auburn for a workout and firefighters have access to exercise equipment. They can share the equipment at the FFPD Station 9. Captain Kurt Snyder said of Sgt. Walton, "You've got to meet this guy; he's really small town."

A LITTLE HISTORY

Yankee Jim's

Re-printed from Placer County Directory of 1861

Gold was first discovered at Yankee Jim's by Yankee Jim, a Sydneyite, who built a corral in 1849 upon the flat or bench of land where the town afterwards was located, and now stands. The name, Yankee Jim's, has often caused the town to be mistaken for the locality known to early pioneers as "Yankee Jim's Dry diggings," which latter place is a gulch which heads at the Forest Shades Hotel and empties into the Middle Fork of the American River. A few logs of the old cabin in which Yankee Jim lived during the winter of '49, may yet be seen at the "Gardens," about one half mile east of Forest Hill, where he lived and mined, using the corral at Yankee Jim's to hide his stolen horses until he could get an opportunity to run them from the neighborhood. This notorious character's real name was Robinson. He suffered the extreme penalty of the law, for horse-stealing, in 1852, in one of the lower counties, and the State was thus relieved of his ravages.

Among the first permanent settlers of Yankee Jim's were B.F. Gilbert, G.W. Gilbert, N.F. Gilbert, and Thomas Farthing, all of whom are yet residents of



the place, and continue their vocation as miners, in which they have ever been successful. These gentlemen were emigrants from the State of Missouri, and drove an ox team into Yankee Jim's early in the fall of 1850, loaded with their winter's provisions, mining tools, clothing, etc., it being the first wheeled vehicle that ever came to the place. A short time after the arrival of the Gilbert brothers and their companions, a store was started by Thomas Adams, James Cartwright, and Ben. Thomas, a company of Tennesseans, who came from Illinoistown, with a large stock of miner's supplies.

Soon after the store was established and the settlers had prepared themselves suitable cabins for the winter, operations in mining commenced in Devil's Canon and the gulches emptying into it, which, proving very remunerative and easily worked, caused large numbers of miners from surrounding camps to flock to the spot, and soon the place grew to a large town - what gamblers were wont to call a brisk place. In the month of June, 1852, the place was almost to-

tally destroyed by fire; but was again rebuilt, and in the fall of that year, rivalled in size any town in the county. The *Placer Herald* of September, in giving a partial history of the place, at that time, says: "The town is nearly as large as any in the county, and contains several fine buildings that will compare favorably with any structures in this part of the State."

In March, 1851, the diggings on Georgia Hill, opposite the town on the south side of Devil's Canon, were discovered by a company of Georgians. The discovery of this rich deposit of gold was purely accidental, and is said to have occurred in the following manner: The discoverers were four in number; unsuccessful gold-seekers, on their return from a prospecting expedition in the mountains above Yankee Jim's, and were making their way slowly to some of the old camps in El Dorado County, with the intention of going to work in some of the old dry diggings.

See "Yankee Jim's" page 6

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The Editor's view

Is Biometric ID Un-Constitutional?

By Daniel West

After the last issue of the newsletter came out, I received an e-mail from a gentleman who had a question concerning the article I re-printed in this column.

To refresh your memory, the article was about the dangers of biometric or national ID.

The article stated that "The U.S. Constitution states that personal ID is restricted to be issued only by each State individually and not by the Federal government."

The gentleman asked me (paraphrasing) "where in the constitution does it state that national ID is to be issued only by the states and not the Federal government as the article claimed?"

The answer is that there is no article or amendment that *allows* the issue of national ID to be tackled by the Federal government.

I admit that the article was poorly written in that it neglected to state why it is un-constitutional for the federal government to address the issue.

However, there are two Amendments to the Constitution that do address the issue in principle.

Amendment 4 states, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

The instituting of a national ID would put our right to be secure in our "persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures" at risk of being denied.

I believe that the most oft repeated argument for a national ID is to help protect us from terrorists.

If it was instituted as law, it would allow the government to have instant access to all of our personal information and we could potentially be at risk of unlawful searches and seizures on the suspicion of being terrorists.

Our government has already used the "war on terror" excuse to wrongly imprison and harass law abiding citizens contrary to the 5th and 6th Amendments to the Constitution (which is another lengthy issue in itself.)

Governments throughout history have proved that they are very bad about keeping information on their citizens without using it to harass them.

As Thomas Jefferson said, "A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have."

The second Amendment to the Constitution that can be applied to this issue is Amendment 10, "The powers not delegated to the United States [government] by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

An issue such as national ID, if discussed at all, should only be discussed at the state level.

The judicial system in our country has, for the last 150 years or so, broadly interpreted the Constitution to wrongly grant more power to the Federal government and issues such as national ID

which should be handled by the states, are constantly being tackled by federal lawmakers and bureaucracies rendering the states in subjection to the Federal governments opinion and authority, which is expressly the opposite of what the Constitution states is the role of state and federal government.

As I said before, I think the author of the original article erred in not stating why national ID is un-Constitutional, but I thank the gentleman who brought the point to light.

The gentleman also pointed out in his e-mail that I neglected to state the source of the article; he is right and I am at fault for this.

On looking at the article (which was sent to me by e-mail) it was discovered that the source and author was not stated, however, there were several other articles attached to the same e-mail that did.

For those interested these can be seen at www.globalimmigrationcounsel.com/articles/us-immigration/verify-1/ and also the legislative pieces H.R. 98 sec'. 3 and 5, H.R. 3200 Sec's. 1173A. and 242, H.R. 418 Sec. 202, H.R. 676 Sec. 101, H.R. 3174 introduction and Sec's. 2 and 3, and the HITECH Act (stimulus bill) Sec. 3001.

Fathoming Foresthill

continued from page 1

The Chamber of Commerce reported that the Heritage Festival in September was well attended and that “The goal of the Chamber is to have one significant event each month for Foresthill”, to promote Foresthill businesses and bring people into town.

Rich Murray said that the ball field lighting project is moving ahead on schedule and should be completed by Thanksgiving.

Ken Grehm from Placer County gave some information on the County’s position on emergency plans for

Foresthill as it pertains to side roads such as Yankee Jim’s and Iowa Hill Roads. Basically, the County does not recognize or recommend the use of these roads for emergency purposes. Yankee Jim’s Road is categorized as “primitive” since there are portions that are not paved. The various bridges are inspected every couple of years according to Mr. Grehm and while there is no plan for improving or replacing the bridges on these roads, he said that his department would look at alternatives and pricing for upgrading of the bridges.

Foresthill Highschool Principal,

Sue Lundsford introduced Dave Horsey as the new superintendant that is taking over for retired Bart O’Brien. According to Horsey, Foresthill High has the lowest attrition, (dropout or transfer) rate of any comprehensive school in the district.

Supervisor Montgomery gave an update on County matters: Lake Clementine will not be closed this fiscal year as has been rumored, the chipper program grant funding is not expected to be released until spring of 2010 although she is working on redirecting \$50,000 to fund at least one chipper crew in the interim.

Holiday in the Pines

This year’s event to benefit the Foresthill swimming pool is called Holiday in the Pines; a gift and gourmet food show.

Scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 7th from 10 A.M. till 4 P.M., there will be

craft tables with quilts, clothing, gourmet food, lawn and garden items as well as chimes and wood carving.

Dianne Tobin is the contact person and can be reached at 367-5489.

Spread the word and come join the fun and help support the Foresthill Pool.

Holiday in the Pines will be held at the Foresthill Memorial Hall on Harrison Street.

Fun Muster

Continued from page 1

The aim is to have a team of five people with buckets dip water out of a horse trough and pass the full buckets down the line to be emptied into a second smaller trough; there is a mechanism that allows a ping-pong ball to pop out when the trough is full. The result was a lot of fun and a lot of wet clothing; we brought spare clothing since we knew that we were going to participate in the bucket brigade.

There has been some talk since the Fun Muster of planning ahead for next year to form bucket brigade teams from the various groups around

Foresthill. The Lyons Club, the Forum, the Chamber of Commerce and even the highschool could surely put together teams to challenge each other at the next muster. I’m thinking that a trophy of “The Golden Bucket” could be a prize that many would be willing to get wet for.

Also in attendance were the Placer County Sherriffs Department with a specially outfitted Hummer and deputies and even the new Sergeant, Bill Walton. Sergeant Walton told a story of a gathering of children near the muster activities when the fire fighters were asking the kids who wanted to grow up and be a fire fighter; one young boy blurted out

that he would rather be a police man because he thought they get free donuts.

Food choices included Indian tacos and snow cones and lots of folks availed themselves of one or both of these.

All in all it was a fun time and the Fire District considers it a successful effort of fun and firesafe education. The Fun Muster has the promise of becoming a Foresthill tradition for many years to come. Much thanks goes to Kathy Wing, Gary Kirk, Luana Dowling and the others that organized this great event.

Yankee Jim's - continued from Page 3

After passing Yankee Jim's, and reaching the top of the hill one of them vowed he would proceed no further until he had rested; and, throwing his blankets, tools, etc., upon the ground, he laid down in the shade of a tree to rest. The others of the party proceeded a few yards, and also came to a halt, to rest themselves and wait until their companion got ready to proceed upon their weary journey. While lying upon the ground, the one who first stopped discovered particles of gold upon the surface. Informing his companions of his discovery, they returned to the place, and, in a few minutes, the wash pans were filled with dirt, and each of the prospectors proceeded to the canon to wash it. The result of the washing was ascertained, and the supposition among them was that the gold had been lost or buried there by somebody, and scattered by the gophers; but the washing of a number of pans of the dirt from different places, with equally good results, soon convinced them that the deposit was natural, and sufficiently extensive to warrant them in locating, and working the claims. The diggings thus discovered were the richest surface diggings, perhaps, ever discovered in the State. The discoverers made large fortunes, and it is said that when the party left the place for their native State, a few months after, they loaded these mules with clean gold dust. The claims changed hands several times, the purchasers each time paying large sums for them, and each party thus purchasing, made money by their investment, until the claim was worked out.

It is claimed that the first ditch ever cut to convey water upon a mining claim from a canon in this State, was constructed by H. Starr and Eugene Phelps, at Yankee Jim's, in 1851, to convey the water from Devil's Canon

to wash the dirt upon their claims, in a "Long Tom." It is known to be the first ditch of any extent cut in the county, and, we doubt not, is the pioneer one in the State. Hydraulic washing was first introduced at Yankee Jim's, in June, 1853, by Col. Wm. McClure, who had heard of this mode of washing being practiced in Nevada County, and being a large stockholder in a ditch which was then supplying the diggings in that neighborhood with water, he traveled to Nevada to witness the operations by this mode, and upon his return to Yankee Jim's procured hose, built a "telegraph," and put the first hydraulic claim in operation.

Colonel McClure is also the pioneer fruit-grower in the eastern part of Placer County. He purchased his trees in Philadelphia, in the fall of 1852. They were shipped around Cape Horn, and arrived in time to be planted in his orchard in March, 1853. His first planting consisted of about five hundred trees of all kinds.

Many important events have occurred at Yankee Jim's, which the limited space allowed for this sketch preclude the possibility of their receiving even a passing notice; the object of the sketch being more to relate facts which are valuable as being a part of the history of the place worthy of preservation, rather than to write a thrilling story. The brief mention therefore made of each occurrence, it is hoped, will be considered sufficient to answer the purpose designed by the writer.

During the flush times of Yankee Jim's, which, as has been shown, was from the winter of 1851-52 until 1855, the place was not exempt from those popular outbreaks of the people, which, in the early days of California, occasionally occurred in almost every town of any note, where desperate characters congregated, and where daring deeds of violence were committed. During the

time mentioned, there were a number of men killed in fights and street brawls, and one or two persons charged with murder, or theft or both, hung by the people. But these matters do not compose any part of the history of the place which should be preserved, but rather should be forgotten, and such scenes never re-enacted where the semblance of civilization exists, particular mention of them is omitted.

The first newspaper printed at Yankee Jim's the *Mountain Courier*, was published during the winter of 1856-57, by Messrs. Parker and Graves. It was continued three months, and died for want of patronage. On the 4th of July, 1857, E.B. Boust issued from the same office the first number of the *Placer Courier*, which was continued by him until November, 1858, when he was succeeded by R. J. Steele, who issued the paper regularly in that place until April of the following year, when the office was removed by him to Forest Hill, where its publication has been continued by him and his successor to the present time.

Although Yankee Jim's has gradually decreased in importance since 1856, yet its downfall is not attributable so much to the failure of the mines as to the building up of towns immediately adjacent. Since that time the trade has been diverted from it to Forest Hill, and Todd's Valley, leaving it dependent solely upon the mines in that immediate locality for the support of its trading population. The wealth and trade of the place is not lost, but merely transferred to a more favored locality. There are now being worked at Yankee Jim's a number of hydraulic claims, which yield large amounts of gold, and will last for a number of years.