

THE FOOTHILL INQUIRER

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

fhinquirer@ftcnet.net

Monday January 26, 2009

Volume 2, Issue 2

Fathoming Foresthill By Roy West

At the last Foresthill Forum meeting the subject of AB885 was presented to a packed Memorial hall. Eighty five upset or irate people came to hear that once again the legislature of California is trying to create a new bureaucracy or expand an existing one; the State Water Resources Control Board.

This bill, AB885 was actually passed by the "Bill Mill" in Sacramento in the year 2000 but has not been implemented yet. Apparently they have been working on the EIR that will have the little devilish details that are sure to make our lives more difficult. The lawmakers are basically planning on applying a standard set of

rules on all property owners in this State that have a septic system and/or a well. You may have heard about it: mandatory inspections of wells and septic tanks every five years at an estimated cost to the homeowner of \$325.00 for each inspection.

Regardless of the obvious fact that the soil conditions and groundwater conditions and many other factors vary widely across the different areas of California, and regardless of the fact that we already have these entities called Counties that have a perfectly workable system for ensuring the safe operation of septic systems; the State of course knows better and wants to impose their will on us.

While there have been a few instances of failed septic systems that have affected adjacent waterways, these are rare and have been dealt with on their own merits and should not become the motivation for a hysterical reaction to treat all septic systems as being faulty. As I said, the counties have rules and programs in place to deal with failing systems. In fact, Placer County Health department has expressed the opinion that this legislation is unnecessary and has been holding public meetings to educate people on AB885 and are actually encouraging us to contact the State and voice our displeasure.

New Forum to be seated in February By Daniel West

On January 13, at the first Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting of the new year, the BOS approved district 5 supervisor Jennifer Montgomery's five appointments for the Foresthill Forum/MAC.

I'm going to give a little background on each of them, but first, a little history.

Some people have asked "Why in Foresthill is it called a 'Forum' when in every other town it is called a MAC?"

The Foresthill Forum began as a volunteer group that the BOS officially established as the "Foresthill Road Safety Committee" in 1983 to "Assist the Board of Supervisors and the Department of Public Works in making improvement to County Roads on the Foresthill Divide..."

On October 2nd 1984, the BOS

passed a resolution changing the Road Safety Committee to the Foresthill Forum.

"Therefore be it resolved that the scope of the Road Safety Committee shall be expanded to include other issues relating to the community of Foresthill... And be it further resolved that the name of Road Safety Committee shall be changed to the Foresthill Forum, to recognize the expand[ed] scope of responsibility of the committee," said the resolution of 1984. Hence the Foresthill Forum as we know it.

The five appointments approved at the January 13, BOS meeting were, John Laster, Gail McCafferty, Larry Jordan, Sharon Page and Roy West.

At the coming January 27th BOS meeting, one other appointee, Mike Whittle, is on the agenda for approval which will

leave one seat vacant on the seven member Forum.

And now for a little background on the Forum members. The Foothill Inquirer conducted an e-mail interview with each of the Forum members so that the community might know a little more about who represents them in that body.

John Laster is a retired law enforcement officer. This will be his first time attending the Forum as a sitting member. He has lived in Foresthill for the last ten years and originally lived in Auburn. He likes the "small community appeal with a great history that is not well known."

See Forum on page 3

A little history

She Knew What Deadwood Was Like - Estella Bowman Born, Attended School There

- By Bill G. Wilson re-printed with permission of his son, Daniel J. Wilson

Estella Bowman, the last native of Deadwood when she died in the 1990's, remembered when the mining town was alive with activity long ago.

There was not much life left in the high-country gold town when she moved away in 1896. A few residents remained. They wanted to

believe that Deadwood would come to life again.

Mrs. Bowman was the oldest and last eyewitness to events that happened in the settlement, a mining camp whose winters were so cold that school was held in the summer for the 20 to 30 children of miners.

"We went to school from May 1, to the end of October. In winter we made skis and sleds from barrel staves to play in the snow," she said. "That's about all we had to do."

When Mrs. Bowman, one of eight children, was born in Deadwood on October 27, 1886, the isolated community seven miles east of Michigan Bluff was slowly going out of existence. The town had burst on the gold mining scene in 1852 when a party of prospectors stumbled upon the precious metal along a hogback overlooking the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the American River. But within three years, the glory and pros-

perity of the gold town was on the wane.

Mrs. Bowman's grandparents, Louis and Fredricka Ebbert, settled in Deadwood in 1856. They built a small house and Ebbert opened a general merchandising store. Fredricka Ebbert also sold bread and butter and did washing and ironing for the miners.

A journey to and from Deadwood was an arduous trip then and only was accessible by a toll trail from Michigan Bluff. The toll was charged to anyone walking the trail, riding horseback, or driving livestock or leading pack trains. Duncan Ferguson, who owned the town's only hotel, collected it.

Mrs. Bowman, who lived all her life on the Foresthill Divide and never traveled farther than 500 miles from home, was a waitress as

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The Foothill Inquirer

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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 advertising 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 notice notifying people of an event or lecture it will

Community briefs

On Thursday January 29, Assemblyman Ted Gaines will be holding a Town Hall meeting at the Board of Supervisors Chambers 175 Fulweiler Ave. Auburn, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Forum: The Foresthill Forum will be holding its next meeting on Monday February 2, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Foresthill Veterans Memorial Hall.

FPUD: The Foresthill Public Utility District will be holding their monthly board meeting on Wednesday February 11, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at their district office at 24540 Main St. Foresthill.

FFSC: The Foresthill Fire Safe Council will be holding their next monthly board meeting on Tuesday February 17, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Foresthill Fire District Office at 24320 Main St. Foresthill

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Sharon Page was on the Forum from 1997 to 2006 and moved to Foresthill thirty-two years ago from the L.A./ Santa Barbara area.

“My desire to be on the Forum is to be responsive to the needs of the community which is to balance our quality of life with the needs of the business community,” Page said in the FI’s interview.

Gail McCafferty has been on the Forum since 2004 and moved to Foresthill fourteen years ago from Orange County. What does she like about Foresthill? “I like the people, young and old and in between; what is there not to like?”

Roy West is a general contractor who moved his family of five to Foresthill from Auburn in 2002. He was appointed to the Forum in 2007 to fill the seat vacated by Don Robinson. “We have attended Forum meetings since we moved here”, he said, “and I like the opportunity to be involved in the community.”

Larry Jordan has served on the Forum since 2004. He is a self-employed custom logger and has lived in Foresthill since 1983, having moved here from Rocklin.

“I like working with people who can respect others for their convictions, while keeping an open mind”, Jordan said. “It is important to keep personalities and issues separate. It is okay to disagree and still be friends.”

Mike Whittle is a self-employed business owner who has lived in Foresthill for the past four years having moved here from Antelope and has served on the Forum since 2007. Says Mr. Whittle, “I believe we need to guard against Government waste and unnecessary fee/tax hikes as we have recently witnessed by Placer County Health and Human Services fee hikes to our local food service businesses....”

The following is a letter expressing opposition to AB885

Dear Mr. Thompson,

We have recently become aware of the coming implementation of AB885 which will establish statewide minimum requirements for the permitting, monitoring and operation of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS). As you know, this will include regular monitoring of septic systems and domestic wells.

We strongly oppose the implementation of this legislation; not only is it redundant to have the “State” get involved in the monitoring of septic systems and wells (each county in California already has stringent standards and permitting processes) but, the added expense to homeowners and businesses will be an excessive burden that in many cases will result in severe financial hardship. This is especially true for senior citizens who are on a fixed income.

Another problem with this legislation is the burden of excessive record keeping imposed on homeowners and businesses. No one knows the impact this will have on future home sales, insurance or re-financing, but we suspect that it has the potential to be financially harmful.

Since the State has not shown with any certainty that there is a widespread problem with pollution from septic systems contaminating ground water or surface water in the State of California, it is unfair and immoral to treat a large percentage of California citizens as if they are causing a problem that does not really exist.

We view this as another attempt by the State of California to raise revenue and grow another useless bureaucracy. Both of these actions are contrary to the best interests of the people of California.

Please take these points into consideration and recommend that AB885 NOT BE IMPLEMENTED.

The Editors view

U.N. 'Rights of the Child' Granting rights or taking them away?

By Daniel West

In October of 2007, Kris Wylie, an American servicewoman stationed in Italy, returned from a training mission with her U.S. Air Force unit expecting to be greeted by her seven-year-old daughter Leighlora and five-year-old daughter Lillian Ann. Instead, she found that while she had been away, Italian authorities had taken the two girls from their home on the U.S. military base in Aviano Italy.

In mid August a neighbor had called the Italian police claiming that the children were being abused. An examination at a local hospital proved that there had not been any abuse but while Wylie was away, Italian officials came and took the girls away. Wylie then went through a month-and-a-half battle to regain custody of the children, during which time she was only allowed hour-long supervised visits with them each week and half-hour long conversations which were recorded by the authorities.

The reason the girls were taken? Apparently 'nothing', but Italy is one of the countries who has signed the U.N. 'Convention on the Rights of the Child,' (CRC) and under this 'treaty' the government can do just about whatever they want to families.

Article 2, Section 2, of the CRC says, "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or

beliefs of *the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members.*" (Emphasis mine) and of course, "all appropriate measures" and what forms of "discrimination and punishment" are bad for the child is decided by "States Parties."

The phrase "States Parties" is mentioned numerous times throughout the CRC and the general idea throughout the document is that any country who signs the 'treaty' has absolute control over every aspect of all children and their families' lives. And in the Preamble to the CRC the wording "Considering that the child should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society, and *brought up in the spirit of the ideals proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations....*" (emphasis mine) means that it doesn't matter what the parents think as to how to raise their children, the 'States Parties' are following the guidelines and socialist mindset teachings of the U.N. Charter and therefore they surrender the freedom of their citizens to raise their children as they see fit to the U.N..

Also in Italy, in December 2007, the Italian courts ordered the parents of Friday Germano to rename him Gregory; the parents refused and the court then changed the child's name itself, over the objections of the parents.

These cases are just two of many that happen in countries all over the world who have submitted themselves to the U.N.

So what's this got to do with us here in the United States?

The U.S. is one of the few countries that has not signed the CRC. The ratification process of the CRC would require a two-thirds vote by the U.S. Senate to get passed. On Feb. 16, 1995, Madeleine Albright, then U.S. ambassador to the U.N. signed the treaty on behalf of the United States, but the CRC has never been sent to the Senate for ratification due to insufficient support.

Our new Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton is a longtime advocate of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and as Secretary of State has direct control over the submission of treaties to the Senate. And it is not unlikely that during the next four years the treaty will be presented to the Senate under the guise of protecting 'children's rights' when in all actuality it will be depriving American parents of their rights to raise their children as they see fit.

If the United States does not heed the lessons learned by other countries and passes this treaty into law, it will only surrender more of its sovereignty to that one-world body, the United Nations. And it may yet, considering who we have as president and our new Secretary of State.

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We (my wife Tamra and I) have written a letter and attached it in this newsletter on page 3; you are welcome to sign it and use it as your own if you wish. Or if you want to change it around or write your own from scratch, that's fine too. But please do something.

There is a website that you might want to visit; www.stopab885.org that has some good information on the details associated with this issue.

On January 29th at 6:30 p.m. Ted Gaines is having his "Town Hall Meeting" at the Board of Supervisors chambers at 175 Fulweiler in Auburn. This is the weird looking building known as "The Domes". His original

agenda for this meeting was to discuss the regional wastewater treatment plant but he has had so many calls on AB885 that he has expanded the discussion to include it as well. I am sure he has been doing his homework so as to have some answers for us.

As you know, all of us here in Foresthill utilize an onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) or septic system since there is no sewage treatment facility up here. The same is true for approximately 26,000 citizens of Placer County. But even if you live in Roseville or Auburn or somewhere else and you don't use a septic system, please contact the State anyway and object to AB885. We all know that the State Government is not

very good at managing things and in my opinion will make a mess of this.

As Tom Jones so eloquently stated at the last Foresthill Forum, "AB885 just doesn't pass the smell test".

We encourage you to contact the Water Board and Senator Dave Cox and Assemblyman Ted Gaines and the legislators in other districts as well. Write letters to the editors of as many newspapers as you can think of. Please remember that this is a State law and was not generated by Placer County so if you are angry take it out on the State; the County is on our side. [See contact information below.](#)

Mr. Todd Thompson, P.E. Program Manager
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 2231
Sacramento, CA 95812-2231

State Assemblyman Ted Gaines, 4th District
State Capitol Bldg., Room 4164
Sacramento, CA 95814

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Bldg., Sacramento, CA 95814

State Senator Sam Aanestad, 4th District
State Capitol, Room 2054
Sacramento, CA 95814

State Senator Dave Cox, 1st District
State Capitol Bldg., Room 2068
Sacramento, CA 95814

Placer County Board of Supervisors 1st District
175 Fulweiler Ave.
Auburn, CA 95603

"Rocky" Rockholm
Robert Weygandt
Jim Holmes
Kirk Uhler
Jennifer
Montgomery

There is a public hearing on February 9, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.
at the Byron Sher Auditorium Cal EPA Building , 1001 I street, Sacramento, CA

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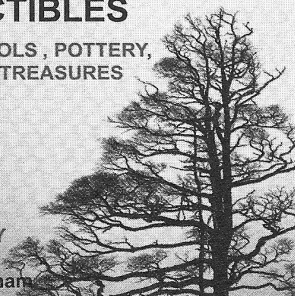
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Pam Covell & Jeanne Cunningham



Deadwood

Continued from Page 2

a young woman in the ghost town of Red Point and at other Divide locations. She recalled the names and activities of many of the early day residents, remembering that the Chinese settlement was separated from the main part of the town.

"Mrs. Ferguson gave us cookies made with goat's milk," she said, recalling when she was given the treats as she walked a mile to school and stopped by the hotel.

Mrs. Bowman also told of hearing the sounds emanating from "Bogus Thunder," a site upstream on the North Fork where a waterfall cascaded into the canyon sending sounds like thunder two miles to Deadwood. "We took the sounds for granted as we grew up," she said.

Deadwood had a blacksmith shop, a jeweler, Odd Fellows building, a corral where the Fergusons kept their goats, a store, two boarding houses and a scattering of cabins on the pine-covered ridge. During the early days of the community, there was some hydraulic mining there, but Mrs. Bowman remembers limited drift mine activity at the Basin Mine and in other tunnels sunk into the hillside.

"Salt, sugar, beans and other food-stuffs came in sacks that when washed were turned into clothes and handkerchiefs. Sugar sacks were used to make shirts for the boys and our underclothes were made from flour sacks," she said.

"We had great times and on warm, summer nights I would sit beside my father on the porch and listen to the crickets while my mother sewed

or knitted by candlelight."

Her father worked in the Elkhorn Mine but never had any success. He later cut wood to make shakes and burned logs for charcoal to sell to the local blacksmith and miners.

There also was violence connected with the mining town, incidents that were not out of the ordinary in mining camps. But the violence occurred long before Mrs. Bowman was born in a small house near the Elkhorn Mine southwest of the Deadwood Cemetery.

While her grandfather was squirrel hunting along the road into town, three armed men approached him and wanted to know how far it was to Deadwood.

"Not far," Mrs. Bowman recalled her grandfather relating what he told the men.

A short time later a sheriff's posse rode hard down the road. The sheriff had a tracking dog with him and asked about the three riders.

"They were going toward Deadwood," her grandfather said as he pointed in the direction he last saw the men.

A few minutes later the dog led the posse into Black Canyon and one of the men being pursued shot and killed the pursuing canine. A shootout followed and one of the highwaymen was killed and another wounded, but two other wanted men escaped. Later that summer, the skeletal remain of a man believed to be the one who had been shot was found near the river.

There also was the tragic story about owners of a ditch that supplied the town with water. John Williams and David Davis, two

Welsh owners of the water system in 1860, took out on snowshoes on December 24, during a snowstorm to unplug a clogged ditch. They never returned. The body of Williams was found 10 days later and the remains of Davis were discovered some two months later. Both had died of exposure.

On the same day Williams and Davis left Deadwood never to return, A.J. Felch and his eight-year-old son, William, were in their house that sat on a steep canyon slope. An avalanche crushed the residence and they were swept away into the North Fork Canyon. Felch, although bleeding and bruised, searched through the mass of timbers and fortunately found his son unharmed.

Mrs. Bowman said she often heard these stories told as Deadwood headed toward becoming a ghost town. She did not visit the town site years before her death.

At Deadwood, the main attraction is the old cemetery where some of Mrs. Bowman's relatives are buried. There also are 14 other names of pioneers on a black, granite marker, placed there by the Dru Barner Foundation. There are several other gravesites around the marker, but the identity of those buried there is unknown.

Deadwood once lived, and Stella Bowman remembered it as it was in the days of gold up until she died.

Wanted:

Yarn, any color for making lap blankets for senior citizens.

Please call 367-3414