

# THE FOOTHILL INQUIRER

*THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE*

fhinquirer@ftcnet.net

Monday January 11, 2010

Volume 3, Issue 1

## Fathoming Foresthill

By Roy West

### FPUD Board Comes Up Short; For Now.

The five member Foresthill Public Utility District Board of Directors has a rotating system for positions such as President, Vice President and Treasurer. In other words, it is understood that each director will serve in at least one of these capacities during his or her four year term.

Back on October 29, 2010 director Bill Sadler sent an e-mail to the other directors and general manager stating that his duties at his place of employment, (San Juan water district), are keeping him too busy to take his turn as president of FPUD. "I don't feel that I could devote the amount of time it takes to be an effective FPUD Board

President,...", Sadler stated in the e-mail.

At the subsequent, November 18th 2009 regular Board meeting, the subject of this letter was discussed and director Sadler was encouraged by the other directors to reconsider and serve as president for the one year term. He indicated that he was resolved to stand by his decision even though the other directors assured him that the president position really didn't come with as much pressure and extra duties as he may believe. At the December 9, meeting Sadler was again adjured to reconsider and he finally relented and agreed to serve as president of the board.

It was learned later that week that Sadler had presented the board with a letter of resignation and a special board meeting was to be scheduled for

December 21 to, "Appoint a selection committee to conduct preliminary interviews and provide a recommendation to the Board of Directors for the directors vacancy created by the resignation of William L. Sadler, Jr." according to the agenda of that meeting.

Sadler first became a director under similar circumstances when he was appointed by the board in 2006 to fill one of two seats vacated that spring. That following November happened to be the regular election cycle for his seat and he was elected by Foresthill Utility District ratepayers to serve a full term.

As of December 22nd the vacancy has been publicly noticed and "qualified persons" are invited to submit a written resume and letter of interest to the Foresthill Public Utility District. The deadline is January 21, 2010.

## Fire House News

The Foresthill Fire Protection District has purchased a new ambulance that is due for delivery sometime in February. The \$170,000 + addition to the district will be a four wheel drive vehicle with a box style patient compartment instead of the more familiar "van" body style and will have enough room for EMTs or Paramedics to stand and attend to patients from all sides which is a great improvement over the more restricted space of the old ambulance.

Part of the money to pay for the new vehicle will come from the Vehicle Reserve Funds.

Another \$94,344.00 has been spent

on the purchase of new radios that are required by new Federal standards for emergency communications. This money was acquired as a grant from the Federal Government.

Another district project is the installation of new roll up doors at station 88 and an interior remodel designed to accommodate the new ambulance which is larger than the old one.

The Firefighter's Association has acquired three new GPS units and has provided new chairs for the training room; the Friendship Club donated and additional \$1,000.00 toward the purchase of these chairs. Keith Hernandez will be the new Association President.

New construction fees for the current fiscal year amounted to

\$18,677.35 with eleven total starts as of November 3, 2009.

The District is working with other districts to participate in a "bulk buying program" for prevention materials to save money for the district.

At the January board meeting, approval was given to place a bid on a 1999 F450, 4x4 from the Rocklin Fire Protection District. This would replace "Rescue 88" and "UT-90" which will be sold off.

Approval to go out to bid for the remodel of the Administration building was also given at the January meeting.

The next District Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 7PM at the district office on Main Street.

**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*

**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 months worth of advertising.

Contact us at our email address to place an advertisement.

If you have a community

Meeting	Date	Time	Place
<b>FPUD Board meeting</b>	Wednesday January 13	7:00 p.m.	FPUD District office 24540 Main St. Foresthill
<b>Foresthill Fire Safe Council</b>	Tuesday January 19	5:30 p.m.	Foresthill Fire District office 24320 Main St. Foresthill
<b>WAC MAC</b>	Wednesday January 20	6:00 p.m.	Colfax Memorial Hall, 22 Sunset Circle, Colfax
<b>West Placer MAC</b>	Thursday January 14	7:00 p.m.	Dry Creek Elementry School 2955 PFE Rd.
<b>Planning Commission</b>	Thursdays January 14 & 28	10:00 a.m.	Planning Commission Chambers 3091 County Center Dr. Auburn

**Widowed Person's Association of California (WPAC)** will hold it's monthly luncheon meeting on Fri. Jan. 15, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. at the Sizzler Restaurant in Auburn. Call Jeanette at 888-6880 by Jan. 14, to make reservations. All Widowed People are invited to attend three activities of this organization prior to joining our membership. Other activities include: card playing, luncheons, bingo, bowling, trips to Reno, coffe clatches and special activities.

For a free newsletter call 530-878-1728. For one-on-one grief support call 530-885-8298

**The Bluegrass jam** has been moved to Auburn. Jams are held at the Auburn Library the third Sunday of every month from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. come to play or come to listen. Accoustical instruments only. Next jam is Sunday, January 17, 2010.

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## A LITTLE HISTORY

### Forest Hill

Re-printed from the Placer County Directory of 1861

Forest Hill is situated upon the divide between the Middle Fork of the American River and Shirt Tail Canon. Its altitude is about 3,600 feet above the level of the sea. The location is beautiful, the atmosphere is pure, the water good, and the people are healthy and prosperous.

The first settlement at Forest Hill was made in the fall of 1850 by M. Fannan, James Fannan and R.S. Johnson, who located there and established a trading-post. During the winter of 1850 and '51 they built the house now known as the "old Forest House." The place, at the time they made the location, being a dense forest of pine, spruce, fir and oak timber, they gave the place the name of "The Forest House," from which the town derived its name, Forest Hill. At the time of the building of the Forest House no mining was carried on in the vicinity, except at the gulch diggings at "the Gordons" in Yankee Jim's Gulch, the canon diggings in the Jenny Lind Canon, the diggings at Sarahsville (Bath), and other localities at a greater distance. The Forest House being on the road leading to Bird's Valley, Humbug, Horseshoe and Stony Bars, and the mines on the upper divide, made it a good stand for teamsters, packers and travelers to stop at, and so the enterprising proprietors added the business of hotel-keeping to their mercantile business. They succeeded so well that other houses, built with a design to carry on business similar to that of the Forest House, were erected in the fall of 1851, at short intervals upon the road, the nearest of which was the Middle Fork House, by W.T. Henson, Brown & Co. Both these houses were liberally patronized by the traveling and mining communities; the

proprietors made money, and their property became valuable.

The rich deposit of gold at Forest Hill, like the celebrated silver mines of Potosi, were discovered by one of those accidents that it is impossible for man to foresee, but which all are willing to take the advantage of. The discovery led to the running of the numerous tunnels which pierce the ridge on which the town of Forest Hill is built, and eventually, as the mines became developed, to the building up of the town. During the heavy storm in Dec., 1852, and Jan., '53, (which the citizens of Sacramento and Stockton perhaps hold in remembrance), a slide took place at the head of the Jenny Lind Canon, just above the claim of Snyder, Brown & Co. Upon going to their claim in the gulch, when the storm was over, the company was surprised to find that a large part of the hill had slid down, covering up their claim and burying their tools. They were still more surprised, when walking over the mass of dirt which had thus fallen down to learn the extent of the damage they had received, to find that chunks of gold were plainly visible in the bank and loose dirt which had slid off from it. The company procured tools and set to work removing the rubbish and washing the paydirt in sight, and were reported at the time to wash out from \$2,000 to \$2,500 per day.

The discovery thus made was the cause which led to the development of the rich deposits of gold in the hill, as, by washing up the pay-dirt which had slid off the hillside and following the vein of pay-dirt into the hill, it was found to be merely an outcropping of an extensive deposit, and immediately tunnels were started along the base of the hill for miles above and below

where the discovery was made. The next company which penetrated through the rock to the auriferous gravel was the Deidesheimer Company, whose claim was located about three-fourths of a mile further up the ridge, and near where Yankee Jim's Gulch forms a flat, from which claim it is said upwards of \$300,000 have been taken in about one year. The Independent Company was the next which reached pay-dirt, which claim also proved very rich, yielding immense sums of money.

Although the rock in most of the tunnels was very hard, costing in some instances as high as \$40 per foot for running the tunnels, yet the miners received fresh courage from each discovery, until the existence of an immense deposit of auriferous earth in the centre of the hill became an established fact in the minds of the miners, and each one considered the probability of his becoming a millionaire as being a question of time only; each being satisfied that the gold was in his claim, if he could only reach it. Time wore on, and at intervals the news was spread abroad of one claim after another having penetrated through the rim-rock and obtained prospects similar to those already mentioned.

As nearly all of these claims are well known, to many persons at a distance from the scene of these rich discoveries, it will not be amiss to mention some of them in the order in which they were worked through the rock, and reached the gravel containing the gold. The Jenny Lind, the Northwood & Fast, the Rough and Ready, the Jersey, the Dardanelles, the Alabama, the Eagle, the India Rubber, Garden, and others of equal richness,

See Foresthill on page 6

## The Editor's view

### Colonialism and Imperialism; Things of the Past?

By Daniel West

The “war in Afghanistan” has been a much-discussed issue in the media lately, with Obama sending 50,000 more troops to that place to continue the so called “war on terror”.

But few people bother to question our reason for even being in Afghanistan anymore.

Even fewer bother to ask why we are in this “war on terror”.

Even more important, few, even among so-called conservatives, bring up the fact that America has no constitutional authority to be in Afghanistan, just as we have not had the constitutional authority to be involved in any of the conflicts we have fought in since World War II.

The U.S. Constitution in Article 1, Section 8, states, “The Congress shall have power...To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water; To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years; To provide and maintain a navy; To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.”

In Article 2, Section 2, the Constitution states, “The President shall be commander in chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states, *when called into the actual service of the United States.*” (emphasis mine).

Only Congress has the constitutional authority to call the military into “actual service of the United States.”

Only after Congress has called them into service can the president take unfettered command of their operations. In time of peace, the presi-

dent is still the Commander in Chief, but he is answerable to the Congress.

No ammendment to the constitution changes any of this.

Everyone, including our Congress, knows that we have never had the right or the authority to go to war in Afghanistan, Iraq, or any other country since WWII, yet they choose to ignore and disobey their oath to uphold and defend the Constitution and continue to usurp their own — and allow the office of president to abuse his — constitutional authority.

This is just one more bit of proof that our government has scrapped our contitution in all but actually throwing it away.

Yet that is what we should expect.

Since the first nations appeared on the earth, history has shown this pattern; in their infancy, nations have no military except armed citizens; the militia that our Founders tried to protect and keep for posterity. After a nation goes through several wars to establish itself as a world power, it then establishes a small standing army. Then, in its lust for power and its desire to eradicate its enemies, the nation raises large, permanent armies who can enforce its will upon its neighbors.

History shows this same pattern over and over again. Greece, Carthage, Rome, England, France, and now, America, prove this fact.

But, some would argue, the age of world conquest and imperialism is a thing of the past.

I disagree. Webster's Dictionary defines Imperialism as “1. imperial state or authority 2. *the policy of forming and maintaining an empire, as by subjugat-*

*ing territories, establishing colonies, etc 3. the policy of seeking to dominate the affairs of weaker countries.*” (emphasis mine.)

Webster's defines the word Colonialism as, “The system by which a country maintains foreign colonies, *especially for economic exploitation.*” (Again, emphasis mine.)

This is exactly what America is doing in other countries right now. As of 2003, the U.S. maintained 702 military bases in 130 countries around the world. Our government is bent on spreading “democracy” around the planet at any cost.

We have rebuilt who-knows how many countries after they have been through a war, and continue to prop-up many small, third-world governments around the globe.

If this isn't imperialism I don't know what is.

But you see, it is not called imperialism any more. Instead it is called “spreading democracy”, “helping our sworn allies”, or “fighting the spread of communism.” All at great expense and loss of innocent lives.

A primary reason we are so deeply involved in the affairs of the rest of the world is our “treaties” with so many other so-called “democratized” nations. NATO, our damning membership in the UN, and other treaties, all make us bound to come to the aid of any member country who is in trouble.

I haven't the time nor the space to go in depth into the dangers of entangling alliances or the so-called “war on terror” (both cover-up terms to conceal our imperialistic policy.) I will reserve these issues for future See Imperialism on page 5

**Foresthill Forum Factoids**

By Roy West

The first Forum meeting of 2010 began with an update by supervisor Jennifer Montgomery as follows: Since there have been several complaints about the large quantity of real estate signs that have been placed on main roads around Foresthill, the supervisor will ride around with Kathy Wisted from Placer County Code Enforcement to collect any signs that are placed in locations that violate County code. Signs are allowed on private property but not in County easement areas.

The chipper program has been fully funded and will be reinstated sometime in January; the County is considering a fee for chipper service that may be initiated in June so get your pruning done and call for chipper service early.

The Iowa Hill Phone service project is moving ahead with completion expected by the end of March. There will be a tower installed at the old mill site near the corner of Bath and Foresthill Roads. Iowa Hill residents will need to contact Sebastian phone company for the details and cost of actually getting service once the infrastructure is installed.

The proposed eight-lot subdivision known as Foresthill Heights is apparently on hold as the project was pulled

from a previously scheduled Planning Commission hearing and has not been re-scheduled.

**Foresthill Fire:** Deputy Fire Marshal Gary Kirk announced that the antique fire engine known as the USA has been installed into the recently built museum extension on Harrison Street. Foresthill resident Bart Finning disputed Captain Kurt Snyder's claim that the USA was the first motorized piece of fire equipment for Foresthill. "They had a model A truck and then an old Buick with a chemical tank before the USA came to town", Finning was heard to say.

Gary Kirk once again pointed out that there is a real problem with drivers not pulling over when they see an emergency vehicle with lights and siren on. The California Vehicle Code states that all vehicles must pull over and stop when an emergency vehicle is approaching. Failure to do so can create a very dangerous traffic situation. Sheriff Deputy Glenn McNama stated that the Sheriff's deputies will keep a look out for violators and will issue citations to them.

**Parks Project Sub-committee:**

Last spring the Forum created a sub-committee to give monthly updates on the progress of the ball field lighting project; the lights have been installed

and the committee has agreed to extend it's tour of duty to put together a re-lighting event sometime this spring before the baseball season begins. Members include Forum member Gail McCafferty, Parks Commissioner Rich Murray, Kevin Raymond and long time Foresthill resident, John Clark.

It was noted that John Clark's father Harold Clark is the namesake of the ball field and was very involved in the creation of not only the ball fields but the baseball leagues, (a future issue of the Foothill Inquirer will contain more information on this subject).

**PCWA:**

Andy Fecko of PCWA spoke about the recent aquisition of the Blayock's building next to the old mill site. PCWA had been planning to build a facility on a 22 acre parcel that it owns on the old mill site but since the existing facility had many of the features that PCWA needs such as 55,000 square feet of warehouse space as well as room for administration operations, they decided to purchase it and move in; thus saving the district money and time.

The next scheduled Forum meeting will be on Monday, February 1, 2010 at 7pm at the Memorial Hall.

**Imperialism**

Continued from page 4

articles. I will close with these quotes from some of the Founding Fathers.

“ ‘Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world...”

**George Washington (1796)**

“I deem [one of] the essential principles of our government [to be] peace,

commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none...”

**Thomas Jefferson (1801)**

“Commerce with all nations, alliance with none, should be our motto.”

**Thomas Jefferson (1799)**

And lastly,

“Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”

**George Santayana**

History shows that empires always overextend themselves in the end, leading to their demise. America's empire building will only cause us more grief, unless we are wise enough to listen to the advice of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and avoid entangling alliances with foreign powers.

## Foresthill

Continued from page 3

were gradually opened, and made to add to the wealth of the country, by furnishing constantly large sums of gold to supply fresh courage to the weary miner who had toiled for years, day and night, in blasting through the rock; and, although a large number of them have been engaged for nearly eight years in running bed-rock tunnels, at a cost in some instances of forty or fifty dollars per foot of tunnel run, yet one can read upon their countenances no signs of discouragement, all seeming confident of eventually being successful.

After the Jenny Lind, Rough and Ready, Jersey, Northwood & Fast, and Gore companies had reached pay dirt, the increased demand for laborers caused such a rapid influx of population, that a considerable town was soon built up under the hill. A store, well stocked with miner's supplies, and a number of saloons had been established, and the place assumed that brisk business appearance characteristic of new mining towns in the mines of California.

In November, 1856, the Forest House and Ranch, embracing the land on which the town now stands, was purchased of the original proprietors by Messrs. Hardy and Kennedy, who built a store-house near where their

brick block now stands, and commenced business upon a large scale. In 1857, they sold to J.W. Phillips the old Forest House, and the south half of the ranch, who immediately laid off the ground into suitable sized building lots, and offered them for sale. In January, 1858, he laid the foundation and commenced the erection of the building now known as the Forest House, which was completed the following May. At about the same time that Phillips commenced building the Forest House, other parties purchased lots and also built, and soon a considerable town had sprung up, and an extensive trade was established.

In the summer of 1858, the first fire proof building built in Forest Hill was erected by Messrs. Hardy and Kennedy; and many other buildings, though not of such substantial materials, were erected and opened as business houses.

The building of the town where it now stands, not only drew large accessions to its business population from the surrounding towns, but those doing business under the hill moved up into the new town, where the whole business of the place was soon concentrated; and soon a heavy trade was drawn to the place from the rivers and towns, and camps surrounding it; being situated on the main thoroughfare leading to Michigan Bluff, Last Chance, Deadwood, Forks House,

and the whole upper divide.

We have taken considerable pains to ascertain the amount of tunneling done, and the cost of running the same upon the Forest Hill and Michigan Bluff divides, and give the following as the result: We find that there have been 124,530 feet of bed rock tunnel run, at a cost of \$1,888,300. A very large proportion of this immense outlay of capital has been made immediately in the vicinity of Forest Hill; and by far the greater proportion of those now paying, are within three miles of that place. The resources of Forest Hill are perhaps greater than those of any other mining town in the county. In addition to its vast mining resources, its extensive forests are supplying not only sufficient lumber for the wants of its people, but the mills in the vicinity are sending large quantities to Auburn, Sacramento, and the ranches in the agricultural districts. Lumber is so cheap upon the Forest Hill divide, that notwithstanding the great distance it has to be hauled to market, it can be furnished at Sacramento at prices as low as from any other part of the country.

*Editors note: Forest Hill was moved from Mosquito Ridge Road (where my great aunt and uncle live - Carmen & Ben Wilson) to where it is now.*

### PJ's COLLECTIBLES

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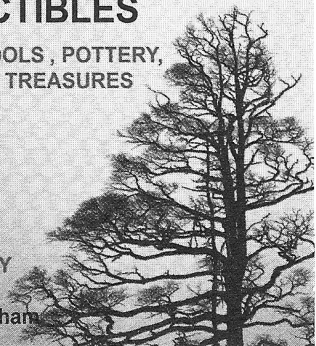
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