

THE FOOTHILL INQUIRER

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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FPUD in for Some Changes

By Roy West

The next FPUD board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 12 which is only two days away as of the time of this issue of the Foothill Inquirer.

After the usual introductions and approval of consent calendar the board will consider the report by the district hired auditor.

An interesting item is general manager Kurt Reed's request for administrative leave pay and vacation pay upon his scheduled Jan. 31st retirement.

The following items were added to the agenda by newly elected director Brad Reeves under New Business: Autho-

rize District counsel to provide information to establish an untreated water rate. Currently the district provides only treated water.

Authorize counsel to prepare documents to allow incremental, Hydroelectric generation to the District's permit. Note: Brad Reeves is in the hydroelectric production business.

Request for Placer County Auditor/Controller to audit District accounts.

Under Old business are: Amending District policy to change the wording on how officers are selected and the selection of officers.

Authorizing counsel to proceed with water permit (rights) renewal.

Authorizing hiring of short term, interim, part time General Manager. Again; Kurt Reed is retiring effective Jan. 31. Brad Reeves had stated at the December board meeting that three people had already contacted him about the position. At the December meeting an Ad Hoc committee was formed to discuss and research the details of hiring a new general manager. As of this printing, no recommendation has come from this committee.

The meeting will be held at the Foresthill Fire Protection District Conference Room at 24320 Main St.

The public is encouraged to attend.

Foresthill Fire Protection

By Tamra West

The Foresthill Fire Protection District held their 1st meeting of the year on Jan. 4, 2010. First off they reviewed the applications they had received to replace resigning Vice President Jerry Millsaps'. Gary Hall and Chris Reims applied for the position. The board chose Gary Hall to fill in for the rest of Jerry's term. The new board members, Walter Reed and Gary Hall and newly re-elected Forrest Eklund were all sworn in. The board then chose their new board officers, Forrest Eklund was elected Chairman and Gary Hall was elected Vice Chairman.

Last month's minutes and the consent calendar were then approved both with 5-0 votes.

Director Tyler Harkness is applying

for the position as the special district representative on the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). The board nominated Tyler as their representative to serve on LAFCO with a 5-0 vote.

Next discussion item was cell phone allowance. Chief Snyder is proposing that the district pay him a \$75 cell phone allowance. At this time he has to carry two cell phones; 1 for Rocklin Fire and 1 for Foresthill Fire. Rocklin has agreed to pay a cell phone allowance to him and he will then be able to purchase a phone in his own name and use it for both districts. It will save Foresthill Fire \$25 per month from what they are currently paying Chief Snyder for phone service.

PCWA has bought new above ground fuel tanks for their new facility at the old mill site and want to give

their old fuel tanks to Foresthill Fire. One tank is for gas and 1 is for diesel. It will save the district a lot of money in diesel bills. The gasoline one probably would not be used by the district as all but 2 of the vehicles run on diesel.

There were no new housing starts this month, but as Forrest brought up, new residential homes now have to install sprinkler systems throughout the home and it will cost a lot more to build a home now.

Chief Snyder reported that the district had 685 calls in 2010. The most they have ever had!

Foresthill & Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council reports that the evacuation maps will be ready for distribution soon; the last time they were updated was in 2004.

Community Briefs

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 now available only on the web or by email. There are also hard copies at the Foresthill Library for reference. If you would like to be placed on the e-mail loop, email fhinquirer@ftcnet.net and request that you be placed on our email loop. If you would like to place an advertisement the price is \$12.00 for one month's worth of advertising, plus your ad is on our website. Contact us at our email address to place an advertisement. If you have a community notice of an event or lecture it will be put in the

Meeting	Date	Time	Place
FPUD Board meeting	Wednesday Jan. 12	7:00 p.m.	Foresthill Fire District office 24320 Main St. Foresthill
Foresthill Fire Safe Council	Tuesday Jan. 18	5:30 p.m.	Foresthill Fire District office 24320 Main St. Foresthill
WAC MAC	Wednesday Jan. 19	6:00 p.m.	Colfax Memorial Hall, 22 Sunset Circle, Colfax
North Auburn MAC	Tuesday Jan. 11	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Chambers, 3091 County Center Dr. Auburn
West Placer MAC	Thursday Jan. 13	7:00 p.m.	Dry Creek Elementry School 2955 PFE Rd.
Planning Commission	Thursday's Jan 13 & 27	10:00 a.m.	Planning Commission Chambers 3091 County Center Dr. Auburn

A LITTLE HISTORY

The Forest House: 150 years of service on the Divide

By Norm McLeod

Corresponding with the founding of the gold mining town of Forest Hill on the Forest Hill divide, 19 miles east of Auburn, was the establishment of the first Forest House by three argonauts in 1850. By this date there were several settlements on this divide, all reached by foot trails emanating from both Coloma and Auburn.

(For some who may not know, a "divide" is an elevated section of land separating two rivers, in this case the North and Middle Forks of the American River.)

On the ridgetop at a spot where the two trails intersected, the three amateur entrepreneurs agreed the site appeared ideal for a trading post so they erected a house and hotel. The hotel they named The Forest house, situated as it was in the center of a dense forest of oak, pine and cedar trees.

There being no milled lumber on the Divide in 1850, the first Forest house probably was nothing but a brush shanty. In 1851 other houses were erected in the vicinity, with the Forest House becoming an important trade and travel hub.

Two years later gold was discovered in the area in large quantities. That meant Forest Hill (original spelling) as



The Forest House in 1858

a town was soon to be recognized as the principal settlement on the Divide. It originally sprang up adjacent to the mines, located about a mile southeast of its current site.

In 1858 the second Forest House was constructed, this time with milled lumber. The following item appeared in the January 30, 1858 issue of Auburn's Placer press "Forest Hill, we understand, is the name of a new mining town laid out on Forest Hill by Esquire Phillips, at which he is building the largest hotel in the county. The town is situated near Yankee Jim's and Todd's Valley and is expected to out-rival both." (Note: it did out-rival both.)

At about the same time this second

House was being built, this time at a spot on the ridgetop in a different location from the town, Phillips was joined by other visionaries who purchased neighboring lots upon which they erected stores or shops. In time a considerable town was established with an extensive trade.

This new location of the town signaled the gradual repositioning of the old settlement under the ridge to the new, until several years later there was but one town, one Forest Hill.

The town grew and prospered until a great disaster struck.

The fire of Sept. 5, 1887, attacked the sleeping town at 11:45 p.m. when flames were seen leaping between David Orr's saloon and the Forest House. In less than five minutes the building was one mass of hungry flames vaulting high in the air.

This fire destroyed the entire block on the south side of Main Street, from Soap to Gold Streets. The town's population on this date was approximately 700.

Sometime after this disastrous fire the Forest House was rebuilt by its owners on the same site. It lasted until December, 1918, when it too was destroyed. A Christmas Day fire wiped out the major part of the Foresthill

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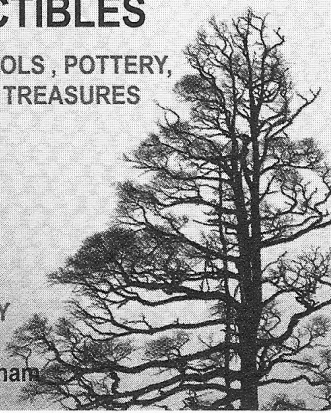
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Pam Covell & Jeanne Cunningham



The Editor's view

Rights. Where Do They Come From?

By Daniel West

Someone sent us an e-mail recently that I have seen circulating for about two years now.

The e-mail is titled "Gun ownership poll; TAKES 2 SECONDS". It is a simple one-question survey from USATODAY.com that asks, "Does the 2nd Amendment give individuals the right to bear arms?"

Every e-mail that it comes in usually asks you to 'please vote yes and then send it on to all pro-gun people you know.'

But this question is deserving of close scrutiny. Read it very carefully; "Does the 2nd Amendment give individuals the right to bear arms?"

The correct answer to the survey is NO. By asking if the 2nd Amendment gives us the right to bear arms it is implying that our rights are given to us by the Constitution. If this is true, then it would mean that the only rights we have are those listed in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It would also mean that our list of rights can be changed at the whim of a two thirds majority of Congress. It would also mean that we have only the rights that Congress or a majority of the voters decide we can have. Hence, it would mean that our rights are given to us by the government.

This was one of the main arguments brought against having a Bill of Rights when the Constitution was awaiting ratification by the states.

James Madison addressed this concern on July 8, 1789 saying, "It has been objected also against a bill of rights, that, by enumerating particular exceptions to the grant of power, it would disparage those rights which were not placed in that enumeration,

and it might follow by implication, that those rights which were not singled out, were intended to be assigned into the hands of the general government, and were consequently insecure. This is one of the most plausible arguments I have ever heard urged against the admission of a bill of rights into this system; but I conceive, that may be guarded against. I have attempted it, as gentlemen may see by turning to the last clause of the 4th resolution."

I believe that Madison is referring to Article 4, Section 4, which says, "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence."

In the Declaration of Independence our founding fathers said, "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Each one of us is 'endowed' or given our rights by God (our Creator). You have the right to say what you think (the right of free speech). Why? Not because the Constitution or the government, or any human entity says you do, but because God gave you that right. The same goes for all of our rights.

Think about it: if our Constitution were abolished, would you no longer have the right to free speech? The right to bear arms? The right to be safe in your home against unlawful search and seizure? If our rights are not written down, does it mean that they do not exist? No. Re-

member that the Declaration was written in 1776 and the Constitution followed in 1787. Therefore the rights that are referred to in the Declaration *predate* the Constitution.

Our rights were not nonexistent before the Constitution; the Constitution and the Bill of Rights do not *give* us our rights, they *list* the rights that God has given each of us and were designed to *protect* those rights against those who will try to take them away. As the Declaration of Independence continues, "That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

We are very fond of referring to our "constitutional rights" in this country. But that very phrase itself is a false statement. It too implies that our rights come from the Constitution.

Therefore, the question, "Does the 2nd Amendment give individuals the right to bear arms?" is either poorly written, or it is a carefully crafted lie.

If you answer YES, then you are admitting that your rights come from the government. If you answer correctly, NO, your answer can be construed by the anti-gun lobby to mean that you do not believe you have the right to keep and bear arms.

I hope that the creators of the US-ATODAY poll are just ignorant of how dangerous the wording of their question is. If not, they are guilty of helping to spread the belief that our rights come from the government (or man). This is a very dangerous idea that will always end with socialism or dictatorship.

The Prosperity Congress

Speech by Congressman Tom McClintock to the House of Representatives

House Chamber, Washington D.C.
January 6, 2011

Mr. Speaker:

I rise to express the hope that historians will look back on the 112th Congress as the session that restored American prosperity – and to express my strong agreement with the new leaders of this House who have declared that every action of this body must be measured against this goal.

We speak of "jobs, jobs, jobs," but jobs are a product of prosperity. And prosperity is the product of freedom.

Government does not create jobs or wealth – it merely redistributes them. Jobs and wealth can only be created through the free exchange of goods and services in a free market. Government's role is to create and protect the conditions which promote prosperity.

If I give you a dollar for a cup of coffee, what's going on in that transaction? I'm telling you that your cup of coffee is worth more to me than my dollar. And at the same time, you're telling me that my dollar is worth more to you than your cup of coffee. We make that exchange and both of us go away with something of greater value than we took in – each of us goes away richer.

That is the freedom that creates prosperity. That simple exchange –

whether for a cup of coffee or for a multi-billion dollar acquisition – is what creates wealth.

But now suppose some third party butts its nose into this transaction. "The coffee must be between 110 and 130 degrees; it has to include a swizzle stick; it must be covered if it is to be consumed more than 25 feet from the point of sale" – and on and on. Every one of these restrictions reduces the value of that exchange for one or both of us.

That's the fundamental problem that we face today. Our government has not only failed to protect the freedom that creates prosperity, but it has become destructive of that freedom.

To create jobs we must restore prosperity and to restore prosperity we must restore freedom.

We must restore the freedom of choice that gives consumers the ultimate say over the output of our economy. In a free and prosperous society, consumers vote every day with their own dollars on what kind of light-bulbs they prefer, on how they wish to get to work, on what foods they like, on how much water they want in their toilets, on what kind of cars they want or on what kind of housing they desire. These consumer choices signal – every day – what things are actually worth and what our economy will actually produce. Government is destroy-

ing the elegant simplicity of this process, and this Congress must reverse that destruction.

We must restore the freedom of individuals to enjoy the fruit of their own labor so that they can make these decisions for themselves once again.

That's why excessive government spending is so destructive to prosperity – it destroys the freedom of individuals to make their own decisions over what to spend and where to invest their own money. It robs them of both the ability and incentive to create prosperity.

Presidents like Coolidge, Truman, Reagan and Clinton who have reduced government spending relative to GDP all produced dramatic increases in productivity, prosperity and the general welfare of our nation.

And Presidents like Hoover, Roosevelt, Bush and Obama who have increased government spending relative to GDP all produced or prolonged or deepened periods of economic recession, hardship and malaise.

Our government is embarked on the latter course, and this Congress must reverse that direction.

Government has an important role to play in the marketplace. It is there to assure that representations

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Forest House

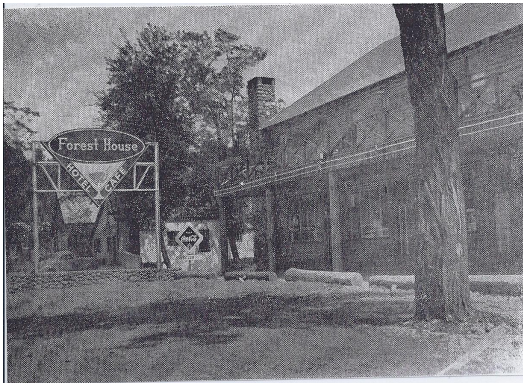
Continued from page 3

(corrected spelling as of 1895) business section. Sixteen buildings were consumed by the flames. The Forest House, the only hotel operating in the town was among the structures demolished.

From 1918 to 1947 there was no Forest House. On Saturday, May 17, 1947, the grand opening of the fourth Forest House was celebrated. This new hotel was constructed at a cost of \$230,000 and was completed in record time. Building began in the early part of the previous December. Earl J. Powell, the manager, announced a full day's schedule of events, including an open house in the afternoon, a free buffet lunch and dancing and entertainment in the evening.

General contractor was G.O. Griffith. Completely modern in every respect, this new Forest House had 40 guests rooms, two dining rooms, a bar and cocktail lounge and a dormitory in its basement for 300 men. There were also 19 cabins in its rear yard.

Co-owner of the new hotel with Powell was Bob Jang, a prominent Courtland, Calif. rancher and businessman. Jang was sold on the Foresthill Divide by Powell as a future recreation center and hub of the expanding lumber industry, especially upon completion of the new Access Road by the U.S. Forestry Depart-



The Forest House in 1947

ment.

This road opened the eastern territory of the Divide that included tremendous timber stands, rushing trout streams, ghost towns and old gold mines, plus mountains and deep canyons for splendid outdoor recreation.

Great care was taken by the new hotel owners to stress an early California atmosphere, noticeable in its decorations and furnishings. Knotty pine was most evident throughout the two story structure and all its furniture was in rustic style.

The huge fireplace in its lobby was built from native rock and petrified wood. The latter came from a hillside between Colfax and Grass Valley and a varied assortment of nuggets was installed in it, that somehow through the years disappeared.

For the history buffs a bronze plaque from the front door of the original Forest House is embedded in

the fireplace chimney.

Other features of the new building included fireproof construction and indirect lighting installed throughout the main floor, including its spacious lobby, dining rooms and lounge.

The first three Forest Houses were renowned throughout the west for their hospitality and fine menus. Bob Jang and his associates spared no effort and expense to maintain that reputation. They obtained the advice of two of San Francisco's finest chefs to create the dining room meals. Here was a new building erected in the heart of the town's business district of which its residents could be proud. Earl J. Powell, its manager, possessed a successful background as a Bay Area businessman. It was his ambition that the newest Forest House would become a popular resort prominent for its hospitality and high standards of service.

Not generally known today is the rather surprising fact that when Powell opened for business he pulled a triple play — his new Forest House covered the bases as a hotel, a casino and a brothel.

It is not known exactly how long the fourth Forest House maintained its "high standards." We do know that 25 years later, in 1972, the hotel that cost \$230,000 to erect was sold to new owners for \$30,000. Sadly it had been abused, neglected and finally closed — for many years.

Congress

Continued from page 5

are accurate and that contracts are enforced — in other words, you have to tell the truth and you have to keep your promises. Government exists to assure that the currency is stable and reliable and that property rights are secure.

When it fulfills this fundamental role, it maximizes the freedom that a buyer and a seller have to assess their own needs and resources and to make those exchanges that allow both to go away better off than they were. When it steps beyond this role, it destroys the conditions that maxi-

mize prosperity.

M. Speaker, let us together revive and restore the freedom and prosperity of this nation and fulfill that sacred command inscribed on our Liberty Bell: "To proclaim liberty throughout ALL the land, and unto ALL the inhabitants there of."