

THE FOOTHILL INQUIRER

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

FHInquirer@ftcnet.net

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Fathoming Foresthill - or - Does the Foresthill Forum even matter? By Roy West

The Foresthill Forum as you may know is an appointed council of seven Foresthill residents who meet once a month (on the first Monday at 7:00 P.M.) at the Memorial Hall for the purpose of hearing issues of concern to the residents of Foresthill. The Forum then can take these concerns and send a letter of recommendation to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) or the Planning Commission (PC). In some cases the issue before the Forum is generated at the County level and sent to the Forum as an action item, asking for a recommendation; a County representative, perhaps from the Planning Department may present a project to the Forum and those in attendance explaining details of the project and answering questions from the public and Forum members.

A good example of this was the Forest Ranch (FR) issue. There were many meetings when FR was in some way discussed but there were only two times that I know of that FR was

brought to the Forum as an "Action Item" which is when the Forum can actually vote and make a written recommendation to the BOS or the PC. At other times the item on the Forum agenda is purely informational in nature. The County or a citizen brings an update of a proposed project or event to the community via the Forum and gives the details but it is only to inform the community of what is going to happen.

In October of 1984 the BOS passed a resolution recognizing the Foresthill Forum (formerly the Road Safety Committee created in 1983) as having expanded responsibility on issues affecting Foresthill. Issues such as "...land use, public health, safety, public works, law enforcement and recreation."

In December of 2008 the Forum was provided with a new updated MAC handbook which gives the basics of the purpose of the MACs, how to run meetings and many other details. The

problem is that the handbook seems to have a "top-down" theme to it. While the handbook does mention some of the same subjects contained in the County resolutions, there is much more emphasis on the MACs being in a position that is more reactionary to what the County sends instead of a proactive role for the benefit of the community.

Last year there were two votes taken by the BOS that were directly opposite of the MAC recommendations of the communities they represented. One was in Penryn and the other was in West Placer/Dry Creek. Both BOS votes were in favor of an amendment to the Community Plans of the two areas and approval of projects that the communities and the MACs were vehemently against. Now while it is true that the MACs were never intended to have the final say on these issues, it seems that the trend is to disregard the stated purpose of the MACs contained in the resolutions that created them.

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Foresthill Pool turns 40 This Year By Roy West

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of the opening of the Foresthill pool. In 1969 the hard work of a handfull of Foresthill locals paid off. In the early 1960s the Business and Professional Women's Association hatched the idea for a community pool and arranged various fundraisers to collect the needed money for the project. In fact the original project and the maintenance of the pool all these years has been a private affair all along.

Names such as Winifred Akins, Elmer Partridge, Peggy Wilson, Henry Meyers, Ron Roberts and many others too numerous for the space allowed here were and are instrumental in the conception, implementation and ongoing success of the pool which is operated by the Foresthill Swim and Recreation Corporation; a non profit organization which manages the ongoing swimming needs of the community.

Fundraisers continue for the ongoing maintenance and operations which amounts, according to Peggy Wilson to around \$50,000. per year.

Forty years of enjoyment has taken it's toll on the pool and it is in need of some significant repairs. Peggy Wilson says that around \$70,000. is needed to replace the fiberglass liner and some of the

See Pool on page 5

A little history

Stage Driver Crockett Took Chances - Braved Robbers, But killed By Freight Train

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

Stage driver Henry Crockett would not take any sass from a highwayman and those who knew him well thought that would be the death of him.

He was a hero to many of the passengers who traveled to and from

the Foresthill Divide gold mining area. They knew they could trust him and he would get them to their destination—and on time. He was dedicated to his job and he did it exceptionally well until a tragedy ended his life in Auburn.

Crockett had braved robbers and dealt with unruly travelers, but he always saw that the mail and passengers were delivered. He was married to his job and everyone knew it. He was never known to turn down his scheduled time to drive a stage, or make excuses while driving the rough and tough stage runs.

He was characterized in a local newspaper as, “generous to a fault and with a heart as big as they make ‘em. Crockett was always the first

to respond to the call of charity and he was likewise foremost in all things of a patriotic nature.” It also singled out that the stage driver was, “the best known character in Foresthill.”

Some persons thought that the tough horseman and driver, who did not hesitate to resist anyone messing with his stage run, would be felled by a robber’s bullet, or a stage coach he was driving would spin off the road and he would be injured or killed. He was considered daring, but cautious.

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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 FI is published twice a month. On the second and fourth Monday of the month. The FI 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 price 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 of an event or lecture it will be put in the

Community briefs

Forum: The Foresthill Forum/MAC will be holding it’s monthly board meeting on Monday March 2, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Foresthill Veterans Memorial Hall at Leroy E. Botts Memorial Park 24601 Harrison St. Foresthill.

FPUD: The Foresthill Public Utility District will be holding it’s monthly Board meeting on Wednesday March 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 monthly Board meeting on Tuesday March 17, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Foresthill Fire District

Office at 24320 Main St. Foresthill.

Other events: On Sunday March 15, from 2-5 p.m. at the Foresthill Library there will be a **bluegrass jam**; anybody’s welcome to come listen or you can bring an instrument of your own, accoustical only!

The Foresthill Art Contest dates are Monday March 30, through Saturday April 11, 2009. Applications and information packets will be available at the Library, Tue. March 3rd. A \$2.00 donation per application is requested. Funds benefit the Friends of the Library and the Foresthill Historical Society.

Legal Plunder

Guest Article by Dean Foreman

“The State is the great fiction through which everyone tries to live at the expense of everyone else.” (The Law by Frederic Bastiat). As we move into economic meltdown, many are asking how we got here and how can we get out?!

The solutions are in a return to the Declaration of Independence (DOI) and the organic documents of our country, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Found therein are life, liberty and property (pursuit of happiness). These rights existed long before articulated in the DOI or by government or laws. The Constitution and Bill of Rights were set up to protect these three rights. Furthermore, each of us possesses a right to defend his person, his property and his liberty. It naturally follows that a group of men can be delegated those rights as well. As an example, we have delegated to the military to defend our country and homes from a foreign power or the police to protect us from a domestic threat to our person or property rights. The reason we can delegate these rights to government is because they naturally reside in each of us.

But suppose I notice my neighbor has 3 cars and two houses and I have none. Can I arbitrarily decide to take one of each for myself since he has more than he needs? No, that would be stealing and illegal to take from my neighbor what he has labored to produce for his family. The only legitimate ways to satisfy my needs are to labor myself. What logically follows then is how can a Government that derives its power from the people and is a creation of

the people possess a power to redistribute property? Can you or I give a right to government that we do not possess ourselves? If we give such a false right to legal plunder why won't people gravitate to the point of least labor and greatest reward at the governmental trough? By meeting my needs under the facade of good will or governmental philanthropy without the requirement of labor who can blame me?

What are the problems with this gov-



ernmental redistribution (legal plunder)? First, it creates a whole set of interest groups constantly fighting over the spoils that government will hand out. (He who has the best lobbyists wins). Second, government becomes the great philanthropist or god set up to cure all the perceived inequities to hand out the spoils of political war to the victor of the ballot box.

In the first instance here are some of those we see in line at the public trough: public education, government jobs (without furlough of course), guaranteed jobs, unions, subsidized credit, tax credits, free higher education, minimum wage,

tax refunds to those that don't pay taxes, price supports, farm supports, the list could fill volumes. Under the mental philanthropy program we find, welfare, free healthcare for children (who can be against children), free healthcare (the newest inalienable right), the right to watch TV with a subsidized box to convert to digital, etc. Are you starting to see the never ending goodwill offerings?

To summarize we have evolved in 200 years from being a nation of independents and independence to a nation of slaves and false philanthropists paying homage to the political gods of the moment. In short a nation that got lost on the road of “general welfare” to “general plunder”. Government has been put in the role she was never suited for, that of redistributing property in lieu of protecting property. We don't need social welfare, social healthcare, government credit, government run banks and businesses, or plundering our future labor, property and liberty. How can we find our way out? First we must make it more attractive to labor than encouraging the legal plunder of my neighbor.

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Guest articles and letters to the Editor are always appreciated and welcome and can be submitted by e-mail at;
fhinquirer@ftcnet.net
 We want to hear your voice!!!

The Editor's view

2nd Amendment rights once more under assault

By Daniel West

If you are like most Americans you probably own at least one gun, whether it's a handgun, shotgun or hunting rifle.

But did you know that if a bill called H.R. 45 gets passed into law, you would have to register yourself as if you were a sex-offender just because you own a gun?

House Resolution 45 was introduced in the house of representatives on January 6, 2009 by Rep. Bobby Rush, (D-IL) who by the way is a 'former' Black Panther.

It is loosely known as 'Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and Record Act of 2009.'

The bill 'amends' the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act to prohibit a person from possessing a firearm unless that person has been issued a firearm license under this act.

The bill would require you to pass a complex test written by the Attorney General, pay a tax (of up to \$25 at present but it is left open to whatever amount the Attorney General decides), give up your fingerprints and a biometric-capable photo of yourself, which, by the way, can be turned into a digital facial-recognition number and could be used as part of a national ID.

Unless you can pass these tests every gun you own can be confiscated as contraband and you can stand trial for imprisonment.

By the way, your 'rights' will have an expiration date set at every five years at which time you will have to re-register and jump through the hoops all over again for your li-

cense.

The bill prohibits you from; transferring a firearm to any person other than one already licensed unless the transaction is conducted through a licensed dealer who is in accordance with national instant criminal background check system requirements, with exceptions; failing to report the loss or theft of a firearm to the Attorney General within 72 hours; failing to report to the AG an address change within 60 days; and keeping a loaded firearm, or an unloaded firearm and ammunition for it (supposedly to protect children who might get hold of the gun and injure themselves or someone else.)

The bill starts off by saying, "because the intrastate [in-state] and interstate [between state] trafficking of firearms are so commingled, full regulation of interstate commerce requires the incidental regulation of intrastate commerce." Did you catch that? "full regulation of *interstate* commerce requires the incidental regulation of *intrastate* commerce."

The U.S. Constitution does say in Article 1, Section 8, that "Congress shall have power to...regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several States..."

At the time the Constitution was written each State had it's own rules and regulations on products from other States and the tariffs they appointed were usually very high to discourage out of State sources from selling their goods at lower prices than in any other State and maybe drive other producers out of business.

The clause quoted above was only meant to ensure that the States weren't laying burdensome taxes on products from other States and to promote free commerce between all the States; NOT to burden them with "full regulation of interstate commerce." And it *definitely* does not mean that the government can regulate commerce *within* a State. The Founders didn't want MORE regulation and neither did the States, they wanted less.

That is just one of the problems with this bill. Without even mentioning the Second Amendment. The people behind this know that they can't get away with banning guns so they, (in effect), want to ban gun owners.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government."

That, my friends, is the real reason for legislation like this, the disarmament of the American people. The government has gotten very good at taking away our rights under the guise of 'protecting us from ourselves.'

Thomas Jefferson also said, "No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms."

With all the government regulation and wasteful spending we have now, this begs the question, how free are we in this country?

I'll leave you to decide.

Pool Continued from page 1

concrete deck, wiring and other needed upgrades.

Lately there has been talk of building a new "state of the art" pool complex to replace the existing pool; perhaps on the Highschool grounds although no definite plans have been put forth.

With a price tag that ranges from \$2.5 million to almost \$5 million according to various sources, the new pool idea is not likely to gain much traction considering

the state of the economy and the probability that the use of a pool on school grounds by the community at large would be restricted rather than fully available.

Peggy says, "I would like to see the pool remain where it is and expand if possible because it is a family affair with tennis courts and other facilities already nearby."

This pool has served this community

for forty years. If we work together now as the creators of the pool did then, we should be able to raise the necessary funds to give the community a new gift that can serve for many more years.

Future issues of the Inquirer will address the issue of keeping the pool and bringing it up to "new" condition.

Fathoming Foresthill Continued from page 1

In fact Bruce Kranz stated at one of his "coffee clatches" last fall that, "The purpose of the MACs is to let the communities know what the County is up to." This is quite different from what the 1984 resolution says, "...the Council [MAC] shall advise the BOS on matters...referred to it by the BOS.", and in 1995, "...may advise the BOS on matters of concern...including but not limited to land use, public health,..", etc. These resolutions have a bottom up sound to them.

Three of the West Placer MAC members were so disgusted with the disregard for their community's wishes that they resigned in protest; the chairman included. (Auburn Journal 1-26-09)

On page one of the MAC handbook we see that it was prepared by Teri Sayad, Senior Administrative Aide to the Board with assistance from the six district aides to the supervisors. It is reasonable to conclude that the BOS saw the handbook and approved it which speaks to the opin-

ion they must hold of the MACs, but if they didn't see and approve it, then we basically have County staff people deciding the level of input that is acceptable from the various communities across the county.

A meeting with the principals on this subject is scheduled for Feb 25th and we will be discussing the issue.

If it is true that the Forum and other MACs are provided as an avenue of input from the communities, it is also true that the people must insist that these avenues be honored.

Legal Plunder Continued from Page 3

This means re-enthroning virtues such as hard work, thrift, saving, community service, individual philanthropy and giving. With government currently usurping these functions there is little incentive for me or any of us to take on that role. Instead, I will hire lobbyists or put money into political coffers to protect my needs and desires along with all the other special interest groups. Independent Americans, Independent Charities, Independent Businesses, Independent Banks can solve societal ills better, faster and more economically than government, politi-

cians or lobbyists.

Would it be so bad to live by the 10th Bill of Right that states: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."?! (Exclamation added)

And now a word of caution, advice and warning to California Legislators and to our elected leaders in Washington. Thomas Jefferson, one of the wisest ever among us once said, that it is against nature nor do you possess the power to encumber another generation with your debts. We and

our children and grandchildren are not your slaves, nor are we your toys. We The People have granted you limited power for a short time. If you continue to plunder our inheritance and that of our posterity we will vote you out and start over again. You remember the words..."When in the course of human events..." Why not try liberty, virtue and independence? It worked once 200 years ago why won't it work again? Why are you more enlightened than our founders? Where is your track record?

Thank you,
Dean Forman, Meadow Vista

Crockett

Continued from page 2

But after dealing with a life time of threatening incidents on his stage runs, Crockett died on January 12, 1904, when struck by railroad freight cars being switched to other tracks at the Auburn Depot.

The accident occurred while he was collecting bags of mail for Foresthill residents. Witnesses said Crockett was watching a freight engine and did not see the flat cars bearing down upon him.

He was 64 and still doing the work he had done most all his life.

Crockett was a stickler for time. He pushed his teams hard, making sure that he would be on schedule.

For some three decades he hauled freight and mail from Auburn to Foresthill and other mining towns on the divide. He was not afraid of anyone; neither a highwayman nor an abusive passenger.

His hero status rose into prominence when he confronted a robber on a stage run to Foresthill on July 3, 1901. The masked highwayman, armed with a double-barreled shotgun, stepped out from behind a large black oak tree about midway to Foresthill and ordered Crockett to stop. When the stage driver ignored the demand, the robber swung the shotgun around and fired one shot. The lead horse, named Old Joe, fell dead in the harness.

Crockett had been through stage robberies before, but none that cost him the life of his best horse. Although he was greeted in the

Foresthill area and in Auburn as a stage-driving hero, he was depressed and humiliated that he had lost Old Joe and a Wells Fargo strong box.

It was the last robbery of an Auburn-Foresthill stage and the crime bothered Crockett years later. He said he never wanted to give up property that he was entrusted to protect.

Crockett never forgot his favorite horse. During the next three years as he drove the stage between Auburn and Foresthill he regularly paused briefly at the burial site of Old Joe.

He was scheduled to pass by the horse's grave after picking up the mail that was regularly dropped off at the depot by the Southern Pacific Flyer. Crockett was hit by the rolling freight cars that he never saw until he was hit. He was critically hurt with his legs crushed and was taken to the Placer County Hospital where his lower limbs were amputated. He died the next day from shock and loss of blood.

Coroner W.A. Shepard scheduled an inquest the following Sunday in the county courthouse and the eight-man jury, W. Rodehaver, M.M. Murphey, M. Michael, E.S. Birdsall, George C. West, W.C. Mellow, W.F. Knief and A.S. Fleming, returned with a verdict that stunned Southern Pacific Railroad Company officials.

The jury concluded: "After inspecting the body and hearing testimony,

we find that the deceased, Henry Crockett, a native of Maine who was 64 years of age, came to his death by having been run over by railroad cars of the S.P. Railroad on the 12th day of January 1904. That the accident occurred while Mr. Crockett was in the performance of his duty, and that the Southern Pacific Railroad Company is criminally careless in allowing its employees to switch cars upon the house track of their yard immediately after the passing of mail trains and while carriers are gathering up the mails there from."

Although the railroad company was declared criminally careless, SP was never prosecuted. Most observers considered Crockett's demise a tragic accident.

There was a huge turnout for Crockett's funeral in Foresthill where he and his family lived. He left a wife, Maggie, and daughters, Francis and Eva Crockett.

The family published a card of thanks stating that, "we take this means of thanking the many friends who so kindly went to the relief of our husband and father." When local residents remembered Crockett, they also recalled that he had often said that the worst incident during all the time he drove the stage was when Old Joe was shot and killed.

(Note: Old Joe's monument is down the road from Everybody's Inn on Foresthill Road and has flowers and an American Flag on it)