

Yankee Hill Dispatch

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Wishing You Happy Holidays And A Prosperous 2010

Our apologies for the delay in publishing this newsletter, regrettably there were no newsletters published in 2009. The editor's 2010 new years resolution is to publish 3 editions in 2010. In this edition we have included a booklet that was developed in 2009 on the history of the area. As it is with most of Butte County, this area has a rich history dating back to the 1850's. If you would like to read previous articles about the area, check out our web page at yankeehillhistory.com. Click on the newsletter heading and you can read and print out all the previous newsletters. The next newsletter will feature an article about Spanishtown, a rip roaring mining town in 1856 which had a short but violent history. Spanishtown was located at the intersection of Concow and Pinkston Canyon Road. The enclosed booklet has some information about Spanishtown as well.

2010, Time for a New Census!

Every ten years there is a nationwide census. On the surface it may seem like the Government is just invading your privacy. I would like to give you another perspective. I'll try not to bore you too much but I would like to give you a brief overview of how the census helps create this newsletter.

There were two early history books written about Butte County that were widely distributed, one in 1882 and another in 1918. The 1918 history incorporates the 1882 history and adds some additional history. They include about four pages related to the Yankee Hill, Concow, Cherokee, Messilla Valley history. It is a valuable starting point for researching articles for this newsletter. But to make these stories more personable, it helps to add information about the people who were contributors to our history. The census is available on line to everyone 75 years after it is taken; the waiting period protects your privacy. This means the 1940 census will soon go on line. From that census information about family birth dates, professions, immigration dates if applicable, and other information such as when approximately a person moved into or left the area can be attained. This information also provides clues that can be used in researching additional records at the County Clerks office. In the article that was published in 2008 about the Concow Camp Grounds (available in our on line archives), I was able to determine when the Mullen family acquired and sold the Concow Camp Grounds from information I first got from the early census. The census helps associate a person with a historical place or event. Many families research their own history; without the census the

job is almost impossible. The first United States census was taken in 1790. The information gathered was minimal, only heads of household names (usually men) were listed by county and city with number of household members but not names. Each ten years when the census was taken, additional information was added. In 1850 the name and basic information, including approximate age, for all family members was added. This was a significant improvement in helping the researcher. In a time when three generations, especially males, with the same first name were not uncommon, it helped link generations together from census to census. You can track a family's migration across the country thru the census. So when the Census Taker comes to your door you may be providing information that your ancestors or some researcher 75 years from now can use to complete the story for their family or this area's historical society newsletter. So make sure your information is properly documented for posterity; oh yea, make sure they also spell your name right!

From the Archives

Oroville Mercury Register
6-3-1949

Yankee Hill Hotel Burns

ONE OF BUTTE county's historic landmarks, the old hotel at Yankee Hill built in the 70's, burned to the ground Thursday night leaving four families homeless.

The structure was linked to Oroville because it was built by M. H. Wells, father of Mike W. Wells, Oroville druggist, and was constructed throughout with clear sugar pine.

Mrs. John Crawford, one of the residents, was the only casualty. She suffered burns when flames flashed in her face, and received emergency treatment on the spot by neighbors and forest service officers.

The disastrous fire started on the roof of a small adjoining building that had been converted into living quarters, E. P. Biggs, state forest ranger, announced today. He was in charge of the fire-fighting crews from Oroville and Paradise who responded to the call. The first word of the fire was received at 5 p. m.

Those who lost their places of residence and their personal belongings included the J. M. Prevette family and their two children; Mr. and Mrs. Green with six children; the Crawfords with two children and Mr. and Mrs. Carr. The latter were absent and only a few belongings were rescued by neighbors.

With Biggs on this call were David Hall, Henry Gaub, assistant rangers, the Oroville and the Paradise crews.

Oroville Mercury Register 6-7-1949

Yankee Hill

SEVERAL FAMILIES were left homeless Wednesday evening when the old hotel at Yankee Hill burned to the ground, the fire was said to have started from kerosene that had been accidentally spilled. The hotel formerly owned by Mike Wells and his wife Dora was one of the few remaining landmarks of the once thriving mining town of Yankee Hill which was named in the early days Yankee Hill, because a party of miners called Yankees settled on the hill and engaged in mining the then rich ravines and streams. The mining property is now owned by the Hoeftling brothers who recently sold the grazing rights to Mr. Smith who is engaged in the cattle business.

MRS. FREIDA MILLER and Evelyn Hendricks returned from a few days visit in Woodland recently.

JACK SCOTT who has been ill at his home here for a few days is improving and able to be out.

MR. and MRS. ROBERT OAKS of Concow Valley have moved to Grass Valley where Oaks will be employed on a ranch.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Ladies Club of Yankee Hill was held at the home of Mrs. Frances Harris where plans were made for the refreshments to be served by the club for the outdoor pageant to be held at the Hopkins ranch in Concow, at the close of school here.

GRADUATION exercises were held Friday evening at the Concow school followed by a dance and refreshments were served.

Self Guided Tour Booklet

The enclosed Self Guided Historical Tour booklet is our gift to you for supporting the Yankee Hill Historical Society. There are two enclosed maps, one from 1957 which shows the proposed changes to the freeway and train routes when the then proposed Lake Oroville would be built. The location of sites in the booklet are identified on that map. The second map is a more recent map of the area for reference. The roads in 1957 follow the same path as the roads do today so you can drive to most of the sites. **Please pay attention to notes in the booklet about accessibility and the need for 4 wheel drive vehicles on several of the stops**, especially #1 Jordan Hill Road and #8 the Nelson Bar Bridge site. Note: #11 is on private property so you can not reach the site. Flea Valley, above site #1 on the map also requires a four wheel drive in winter and a vehicle with good ground clearance in the summer. The rest of the sites can be visited in your car year round. Additional copies can be purchased for \$2.00 at the old school house on Bunko days, the first Saturday of the month.

In 2009 we had the privilege of offering a tour for the 3rd grade class of the Golden Feather School District. Information from this booklet was used as a basis for the tour; it was a great success and enjoyed by all.

YHHS Happenings

First Saturday each month, Bunko Party!! - The first Saturday of each month at 1:00pm we have a bunko party at the old school. Prizes and a raffle are held to raise funds for the school restoration. The money raised from the bunko party is a primary contributor to the restoration fund. It is fun and supports a great cause. SEE YOU THERE!

Building Benches for Concow School and the old Yankee Hill Cemetery - The school house crew is building wooden benches for the Concow School and Yankee Hill Cemetery. In 2009 parking lot lights were added to the old school house grounds, the storage building behind the school was completed and a garden area irrigation system added. Many thanks to those who maintain and improve our old school house and the community. Several groups that service our area now use the school on a regular basis for their meetings. We are happy to see the old school put to good use.

Membership Dues - The Yankee Hill Historical Society dues are now due for 2010. See the attached form for renewal. If the label on this newsletter states 2009, then your dues are now due. If the label states "C" or "2010" or later you owe no dues.

Officers and Contact Information

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“Dedicated to Preserving Our Local History”
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