

NEWSLETTER

Yankee Hill Historical Society



Sponsor of

Messilla Valley Schoolhouse Restoration

Welcome to our first newsletter!

The Yankee Hill Historical Society is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the Messilla Valley Schoolhouse in the Yankee Hill/Concow Community. The schoolhouse is to be used as a community center and museum. Our goals are to restore the schoolhouse and collect and preserve local history for both the Messilla Valley and the Yankee Hill community.

Messilla Valley Schoolhouse was built in 1856 in the community of Pentz, and served as a school until 1966. It was one of the oldest and best rural schools in Butte County. It has been moved at least four times with the final move to the Yankee Hill area on June 27, 2002.

Officers: President, Bob Huffman, ▪ Vice President, Jay Nicholson ▪ Treasurer, vacant ▪ Secretary, Debbie Ingvoldsen ▪ Board Member, Gayle Corey

JOIN OUR HISTORY SEARCH

MESSILLA VALLEY SCHOOL
PENTZ / MESSILLA VALLEY COMMUNITY
YANKEE HILL COMMUNITY including CONCOW, and BIG BEND

Can you contribute? We are gathering information about our communities. We would welcome stories, articles, books, and photographs of historical interest. Call, write or come to one of our meetings and share some of your history. See contact information on page 4.

FORMER STUDENTS & YANKEE HILL "OLD-TIMERS"

Thanks for your contribution of stories, and photographs.

Margaret Grimshaw Pequine
Lowell and Clara Stringfellow
Norm and Lesta Williams

TIN CUP FOUND IN WALL

While applying new siding to the school's cloakroom, a tin cup was found lodged inside the wall. One of the stories of the school at the turn of the century tells of the "wash-room" featuring tin basins hung on nails on a wall, a low bench used as a wash stand, and a metal dipper for water available in a big stone crock. A similar crock, with a spout at its base, provided drinking water; a bevy of tin cups hung from nails on the wall above.

ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSES

Featured in the magazine *California Country* (September/October 2003) is an article about the old Bogus School in Siskiyou County. Also included are brief descriptions of six historic one-room schoolhouses in California. For more information visit this great website: www.johnstown.k12.oh.us/cornell/states.html. Thanks to Mary McMullen for bringing this to our attention at the September meeting of the Yankee Hill Historical Society.

UPCOMING EVENTS



YANKEE HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ICE CREAM SOCIAL/POOL PARTY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2003
2:00-5:00 P.M.

AT THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE & THE GF POOL
1 1 666 CONCOW ROAD

This community event will benefit the restoration of the Messilla Valley Schoolhouse. There will be a variety of ice cream flavors for your tasting pleasure. There will be a raffle for a beautiful handmade quilt, tickets are \$5.00 each. We will also raffle off School House T-shirts for \$1.00 each, most are small sizes. All children and adults are invited to swim, \$1.00 donation per person, as there will be a lifeguard at the pool. Thank you for supporting our wonderful community and this event! Come check out the schoolhouse, a lot has been done and more to go!

RESTORATION REPORT



Last November after the new roof was completed and the winter rains began, all restoration work was put on hold. Due to the late spring rains it was mid-April before the volunteers could begin working again.

The following is an overview of progress made this spring and summer of 2003.

- Replacement siding boards were scraped, puttied and primed before being installed on the back wall of the school in May.
- The site was cleaned of weeds and scrap wood hauled away. Dirt was leveled with a volunteer's tractor.
- The original soffit and frieze boards were prepped, primed, and reinstalled by the end of June.
- The Bell Tower and a major part of the cloak room was reconstructed by mid-August.
- Electrical conduit was laid by volunteers and electricity turned on by P.G.&E in early September.

Future plans are to have the exterior painted before winter rains set in. A new Heat/AC unit has been donated and will be installed soon. With electrical power and heat the volunteers can work on the interior throughout the winter.

VOLUNTEERS

A special thanks goes to electrical contractor Bud Strang for electrical work and to Jim Giles for digging the ditch for the project. We now have electricity!

WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!

Do you like to paint? Call Bob Huffman at 533-4132 or Jay Nicholson at 533-2273.

WISH LIST

Here is a list of items we need. Do you have one or more laying around?

- Propane tank, 250 gallon or ?
- Half-inch black pipe
- Electrical conduit
- Metal boxes
- THNN wire – 12 gauge, 8 gauge
- Electrical fixtures
- Furnace ducting
- Gravel – How about donating a truck load?
- Money

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.
at the Messilla Valley Schoolhouse

Alternate meeting place at the
Concow School Library

Guests are invited

For more information contact:

President Bob Huffman
530-533-4132

Vice President Jay Nicholson
530-533-2273
jaylou@cncnet.com

Secretary Deb Ingvoldsen
530-533-1133
ingvoldsen@accessbee.com

Historian Louise Nicholson
530-533-2273
jaylou@cncnet.com

Yankee Hill Historical Society
1666 Concow Rd.
P.O. Box 4031
Yankee Hill, CA 95965

Membership Roster

Alvarez, Bob & Nancy
Banes, Richard & Marjorie
Barber, Clara
Brooks, Dawn
Brown, Mary Ellen
Corey, Gayle and Marjorie
Crispin, Virginia
Dequine, Margaret
Divine, Phil & Katy
Donoho, George
Dooling, Don
Farris, Kathy
Felder, John & Emily
Harris, Jake & Geneva
Hugg, Sally
Huffman, Bob and Barbara
Hocevar, Lisa
Ingvoldsen, Debbie

Jarschke, Frank
Jenks, Wendy LeRoy
LeRoy, David & Doreene
LeRoy, John David
McMullen, Mary
McWherter, Jack
Nelson, Sheila
Nicholson, Jay & Louise
Paulson-Pierce, Laurel
Pitt, Dave & Betty
Schwede, Peter
Stotts, Oscar & Wilma
Stringfellow, Lowell & Clara
Thompson, Larry
VanDeVelde, Henriette
Williams, Norman & Lesta
Woods, Becky

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Membership Application

Annual membership - \$10.00 per person

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Date _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Newsletter

I would like to receive my Newsletter by () U.S. Mail () Email

Make checks payable to
Yankee Hill Historical Society
P.O. Box 4031, Yankee Hill, CA 95965

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!