

YHHS NEWSLETTER

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P.O.Box 4031, Yankee Hill, Ca

Improvements To Our Publications

The “Yankee Hill Dispatch” has been published since 2007. Devoted specifically to the history of the area from Pentz to Pulga, the articles in the dispatch many times require extensive research and run eight to fourteen pages. This edition ran over 28 pages on Flea Valley. Because the amount of research varies from article to article it has been difficult to maintain a consistent rate of publication. Our intent has always been to publish at least three times a year but the last two years have averaged one to two editions of the dispatch per year.

The desire is to still have three publications for our members each year so we have decided to adopt a new approach with publications. Similar to other historical societies in the area, we have decided to create two different publications, one a brief newsletter, two to four pages and the other a more extensive document devoted to detailed articles on local history. We will continue with “The Yankee Hill Dispatch”, but it will become a yearly publication published each September and continue to provide new, extensively researched articles on local history as it has in the past. We are also creating a more simplified newsletter that will be published twice a year to supplement the “Yankee Hill Dispatch”. It will simply be titled the “YHHS Newsletter”. There will be a spring edition published in February/March and a summer edition published in June/July. This publication will be a smaller publication covering things the society is doing as well as some historical information as outlined below.

We have an extensive archive of articles from

the Butte County newspapers published over the last 150 years as well as articles from the local Yankee Hill/Concow publications, “The Golden Feather Echo”, “The Canyon Courier” and the “Feather River Canyon” published in the 1970’s and 1980’s. We will reprint excerpts in the Yankee Hill Historical Society Newsletter with some additional background information as needed to supplement the article as it appeared in the newspapers. These articles, while interesting and informative, require less research before publishing. This change to two different formats will allow us to publish more overall information that we hope you will find interesting and informative on a more consistent basis.

We have also permanently set the third Saturday in October as the date we will have our yearly general meeting. These meetings will always include a presentation on local history as well as time to elect our officers. We will include information on these October meetings when we publish the “Yankee Hill Dispatch” in September. We may occasionally have additional activities during the summer months which we will publish in the newsletters. We feel these changes strengthen our commitment to serve the community with better and more timely recording and presentation of our local history. We thank you for your support!

Early Concow/Yankee Hill Settler

We recently received an email from an east coast resident Barry Swackhamer who had written an article some years ago about John B. Silva, a photographer for the Union Pacific Railroad in the late 1860’s (see www.cpr.org/museum/silvis/ for Mr. Swackhamer’s article). Mr. Swackhamer sent us an

article in the paper he uncovered during his research about Mr Silvis that mentions this area. Silvis came to California in 1849 and later settled in Concow and farmed with Dr Thompson, one of the first settlers in the Concow Valley. Later William Mullen bought the property which was adjacent to the current Concow Camp Ground. This article, sent by Mr. Swackhamer, printed in 1852, is the earliest known article about life in the Concow Valley and provides insight into the Indian and settler relations here; the oldest previously existing accounts are from 1854. John Silvis left the valley and moved to Chico after this article was printed. He left California in 1863 moving to Nevada. The fever and ague mentioned in the article is usually associated with Malaria. The McCormick's mentioned in the article were in the Sacramento area.

Clinton Democrat April 20, 1852

JOHN SILVIS.—We have been favored with the perusal of a letter from this young adventurer, written to the "old folks at home." He writes from French Town, near Marysville. He is in partnership with Dr. Thompson of Iowa, in farming. They have taken two quarter sections of land in a valley about five miles from French Town, right in the neighborhood of the Indians. He says these natives can be hired for little and be paid in old clothes. It is their intention to plant, this season, two hundred bushels of potatoes, ten of barley, two acres of onions, five of corn, together with quantities of cabbage, turnips, watermelons, &c., &c. He has no notion of returning home poor. He has been broken up several times, but has always had money plenty to warrant his return to Lock Haven. He regards California, with all its accidents and bad luck, as a good place. If he is disposed to hire out he can get five dollars a day, but he has always worked for himself. He has had the fever and ague for the last sixteen months, but he has got it reduced down to an attack for every third day. He has not met with John & Saul M'Cormick yet, but talks of writing to them or paying them a visit. He has no idea of returning home before next winter a year.

Yankee Hill Historical Society Happenings

Working on our Archives

We are looking for missing copies of the Golden Feather Echoes, a local publication, for our archives. For the last year Patty Dummel has been indexing the copies we have and has indexed over 280 issues so far. Patty has discovered the following issues missing from our copies.

Year 1977: issues 1 thru 24, 29, 31, & 40. Year 1979: issues 142 & 144. Year 1980: issues 149 & 155.

If you have any of these issues and want to find them a new home we would greatly appreciate a chance to add them to our archives. If you do not want to part with them we would like to borrow them long enough to add them to our index by subject matter and list of local advertisements.

Recent Donations

Recently the Concow Garden Club has decided to disband. We are grateful for their generous donation of over \$2,000 to our general fund to support the maintenance of the old school. We intend to add sprinklers and plants to the landscaping with the money as well as repaint the building. THANK YOU!!!

Thank You Richard Burrill!

Thanks to Richard Burrill for his presentation on Ishi at our general meeting in October, it was informative and well received. We have an exciting offering for this year's speaker and think the subject will be very interesting. More information will be available as the date gets closer and arrangements are finalized.

First Saturday Every Other Month, Bunko Party!!

The first Saturday of every other month (the next bunko is in April) 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 source of revenue for the restoration and preservation fund for the old school. It is fun and supports a great cause. SEE YOU THERE!

Yankee Hill Historical Society Web Page

You can visit our web page at www.yankeehillhistory.com. and read past copies of the Yankee Hill Dispatch. Email the web address to relatives who might be interested in your local history!

www.yankeehillhistory.com

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“Dedicated to Preserving Our Local History”
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