



December
2014
Issue

The Newsletter

Editor: Francis "Carp" Carpenter

Published by Deer Valley Rescue, CA

The Jurgens Ditch

Recently, our Historian "Carp" Carpenter was going through some pictures he had received from the Wing family when he found a new picture of the Jurgens family. This picture was taken in about 1889 looking up stream on Weber Creek drainage just east of Jurgens, El Dorado County, California.

The picture showed Jasper Pay Jurgens and his wife Anna, their son, George, his wife and their two sons. There are three unknown people in the picture that

a note on the back of the picture says they may be Clausens" Anna Jurgens was a Clausen.

To the left of center is the Murphy family farm. Just upstream you can see their grape vineyard. Across the creek on the hillside is the Jurgens Ditch.

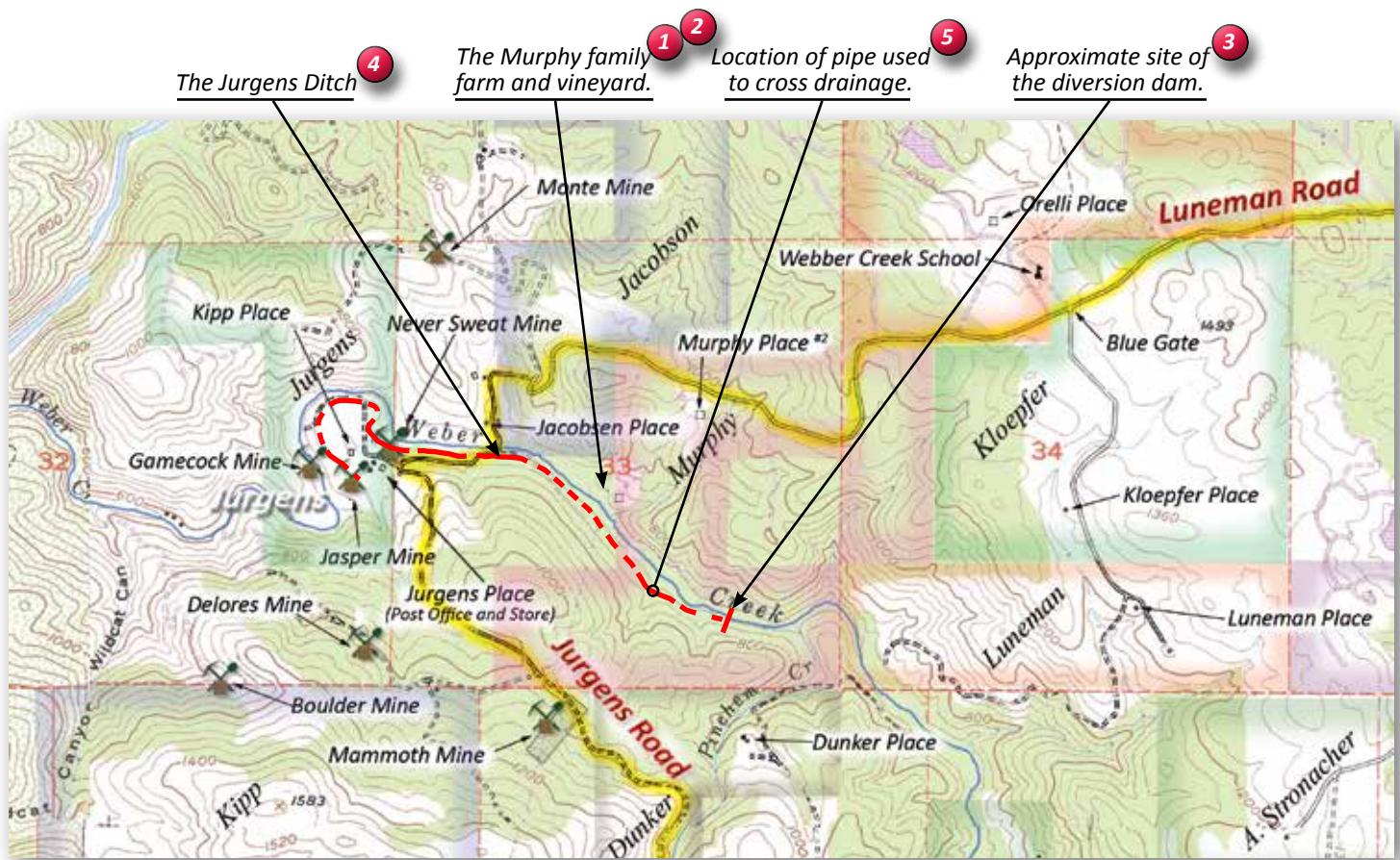
The Jurgens Ditch ran from a dam just downstream from Pinchem Creek to the Jurgens mining operations about a mile downstream.

The Murphy Family Farm. ¹ The Vineyard. ² Gravel Fields. The dam was about here. ³ The Jurgens Ditch. ⁴



Wing Family Collection

This picture was taken just east of Jurgens, looking up Weber Creek in about 1889. From left to right: Anna (Kohn) Jurgens (1862-1961), George B. Jurgens (1885-1981), Jasper W. Jurgens, Anna's husband (1854-1928), Jasper Harry Jurgens (1883-1973), Jasper Pay Jurgens (1824-1911) (circle), unknown, unknown, unknown, and Anna (Clausen) Jurgens (1830-1924) (circle).

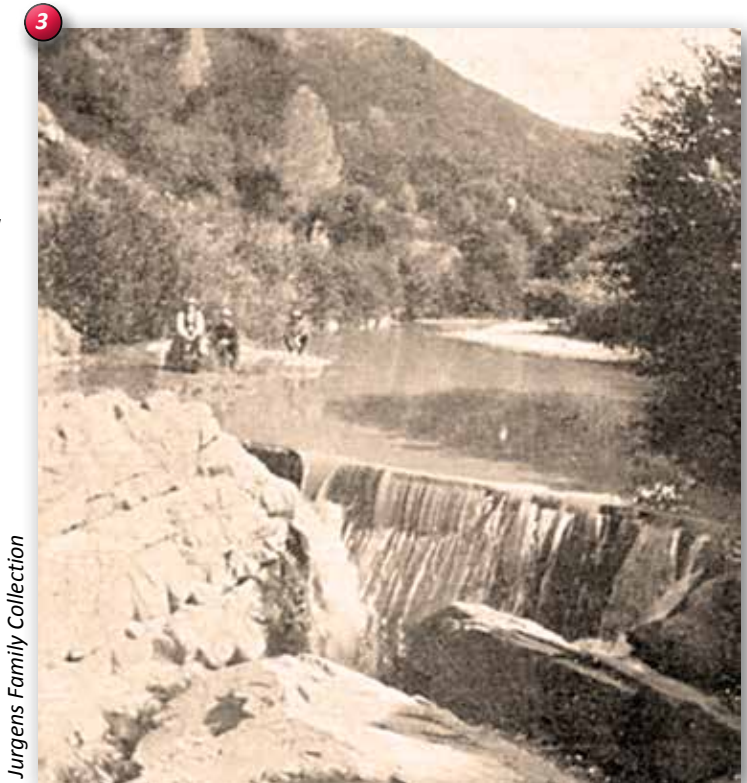


The Jurgens Ditch, in some places was literally carved out of rock. It was a little over a mile in length. When it intersected with an annual stream, an 18-inch riveted pipe was installed to carry the water across the annual stream.

The ditch, like most mining ditches, has a very shallow “fall.” (*Fall is the slope in the ditch that allows the water to flow. An example of “fall” would be a 3 inch fall in 100 feet.*)

The ditch roughly follows the 760-foot contour line from the diversion dam to near the Jasper Mine.

In the 1930s, Weber Creek was dredged from Jurgens upstream as far as the Fischer Place, a little over two miles. The Kloepfer Place, off of Luneman Road, was used as the staging area for this mining operation. “Carp” remembers seeing signs of this staging area when he visited his mother’s family farm.



Jurgens Family Collection

This is the diversion dam for the Jurgens Ditch. The water was moved to the right as it entered the ditch. This picture was in a promotional booklet for the Russler Mining Company, printed in 1904.

4



Fred Webb Collection

This is where the miners dug the ditch through a rock outcropping. The water flowed toward you.

4



Fred Webb Collection

The ditch as it flows away from you. Weber Creek is about 40-feet to the right.

5



Fred Webb Collection

This 18-inch iron pipe was riveted together.

5



When the ditch crossed a gully that flowed water, a pipe or flume was installed to carry the ditch water over it.

The Bus Tour 2014

On October 4, 2014, the Rescue Historical Society sponsored Historical Tour was held. There were two, two and a half hour tours given; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. 49 people took the tour and there was another 20 or so that wanted to take it.

The tour began at the Rose Springs Literary Society Hall. It made the Deer Valley Road—Green Valley Road loop. The group stopped for short visits at the Jayhawk Cemetery, where “Carp” briefly talked about the families and pioneers that are buried there. The next stop was in the community of Jurgens where Fred Webb talked about the Jurgens family and mining activities in the area. The last stop was at the Skinner Winery site.

It should be noted that Mike Skinner, the new owner of the site was gracious enough to supply the nice banners used to advertise the bus tour.



The bus tour stopped at Jayhawk Cemetery.



The second stop was in Jurgens, where Fred Webb told the group about the various mines in the area.



The last stop was in the Skinner Winery. This historical site will be rebuilt to its original look, soon.

Carp's Corner

The location of a local road house and store that was missed when our book was written has come to light. The name of the building was never known to me when I was young. No one locally had a name for the place. I had observed the old rock foundation (cellar) and a nearby well many times. There were also a few apple trees near by. We also considered the location to be near a rattlesnake den.

It was right on Green Valley Road, the Old Coloma Road in its day. This part of Green Valley Road was abandoned in the early 1940's when a new road, west from the Rescue Store was built up and over the hill.

The old store site is between the Rescue Store and the Sailor Jack Mine, both of which are located on White Oak Creek. Sue Silver identified the property owners and supplied some basic information. She has done a lot of research on our local area. I only wish that she was still in the area and would write about her research. The name of this historic site is "Hall's Store".

Ralph Cross in his book *The Early Inns of California* does not mention it. As with most of the original places on the old Coloma Road it had several owners over a period of time. Names mentioned in relation to this place are Hiram B. Hall, Thomas Woods and William Gaylord. There may have been others. No date is known at this time. One would imagine the 1860's or 70's. This site was developed in the 1950's and a home and shed were built in the immediate vicinity. The site is probably lost forever. It was just another road house and store on the Old Coloma Road.

On a personal note I was invited to a family reunion which was held on the 18th. of October. It was held

at the club house in the mobile home park located at Cameron Park Drive and Green Valley Road. There were about 2 dozen of the family in attendance. This get-together was billed as a Rahmer Family Reunion. With the exception of the host, I knew 1 other person there.

Most names were familiar to me, however that is where it ended. Our host is a relation of the Kloepfers of Luneman Road and therefore a distant cousin. To explore this farther I suggest that you go to the book, *The History of a Place Called Rescue*. Try page #226. Mary J. Kloepfer was my mother's aunt. Enough said, even I can get confused. I did however have a delightful time. I hope we get together again some time in the future. I recommend it for all extended families.

Recently Bill and I along with Fred Webb spent some very interesting time looking at an old mine in the Jurgens/Weber Creek Area. Additionally we

checked out the water ditches that supplied water to the Jurgens area. Fred has spent considerable time and effort walking the area. Part of our search was brought about by an old picture that just came to light. It was a sleeper in the Wing Family Collection.

Merry Christmas,



Very little remains of the Hall's Store. Hall's Store was just over the hill from this old home site.

President's Report

All in all, we have had a good year. We completed most of our planned projects.

Some of our accomplishments:

- In January we were granted permission to tour the Pleasant Grove House and photographically document its present-day condition. Marilyn Gillham produced a short video of the history of Pleasant Grove House; it can be found on YouTube. We also presented two slide shows for the 4th graders at the Rescue School on the history of Rescue.
- In February the History of Rescue slide show was put on for the Cameron Oaks Apartment residents.
- In May members cleaned up the Rose Springs Cemetery, and had an open house at the Zentgraf Home.
- In June members did some limited work at the Indian Creek Cemetery.
- In August we gave a presentation on the history of Rescue at the Folsom Library.

- In September we gave a talk to the El Dorado Women's Connection on how Rescue got its name.

- In October we put on two bus tours of Rescue.

We have ready begun planning for next year. Joyce has lined up some interesting speakers for our meetings, and we will be working with Jim in an effort to put some information on our Internet homepage.

We are also planning on doing another bus tour, but change it to include new areas and maybe some more stops.

If you have any ideas, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Merry Christmas, and may the new year be a good one for you and this wonderful country we live in.



Bill Ten

Help Wanted

The Rescue Historical Society wants to enter biographical information for pioneers buried in our cemeteries. The plan is to enter available information in "**Find a Grave**" Internet site (<http://www.findagrave.com/>).

We need someone that has some computer skills and access to the Internet. This person would establish a "**Find a Grave**" account in our name and enter information (dates, facts and photographs) that are provided.

Anyone interested, please call Bill at (530) 676-7401.



The Calendar

Mark your calendar:

- **January 10, 2015** – The Rescue Historical Society will present a talk and conduct a business meeting in the Rose Springs Literary Society Hall, starting at 10:00 am. Bonny Wurm will speak on the cemeteries of El Dorado County.
- **Early Spring** – The Rescue Historical Society will clean more cemeteries. We will need your help.
- **April 11, 2015, Saturday** – The Rescue Historical Society will meet at 10:00 am in the Rose Spring Literary Society Hall for a business meeting; speaker will be announced.
- **July 11, 2015, Saturday** – The Rescue Historical Society will meet at 10:00 am in the Rose Spring Literary Society Hall for a business meeting; speaker will be announced.

Rescue Historical Society

PO Box 13, Rescue, CA 95672

Membership Application/Renewal Form

- Anyone interested in preserving the history of Rescue and surrounding area, is welcome to join.
- Dues are for one year, from January to January.
- Individual. \$15 per year.
- Family \$25 per year.
- Make checks to: Rescue Historical Society.

New member

Renewal

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email address _____

Telephone number _____

Your Officers

President

Bill Teie
(530) 676-7401 wteie@innercite.com

Vice President and Program Chair

Joyce Green
(916) 933-1419 green9421@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Cheryl Yee
(530) 677-4531 cherylyee54@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Beverly Cullop
(530) 903-0618 BevsRetired@yahoo.com

Historian and Newsletter Editor

"Carp" Carpenter
(530) 677-2524 8300ret@gmail.com

Membership Chairman

Randy Young
(530) 677-5538 Randy.Young@sbcglobal.net

Web Master

Jim Steelquist
(530) 672-1144 jsteelquist@gmail.com

Rose Springs Literary Society Hall
Constructed in 1896



Rescue Historical Society, Inc.
PO Box 13
Rescue, CA 95672

Important Notices:

- **January 10, 2015, Saturday** – The Rescue Historical Society will present a talk and conduct a business meeting in the Rose Springs Literary Society Hall, starting at 10:00 am. Bonny Wurm will speak on the cemeteries of El Dorado County.

Visit our homepage :



For the latest news, visit our website
www.rescuehistoricalsociety.com/

History of a Place Called Rescue is a snapshot in time, starting when gold was discovered in Coloma in 1848, to about the 1930s

Your travel through the area starts with tours along prominent roads in Rescue.

A large, full-color reference map, located in a pocket in the back of the book, pinpoints all of the featured historical sites.



384 full-color pages
Over 800 pictures and graphics

\$50

Buy a copy of the book for Christmas and get a FREE one-year membership to the historical society.

**Order now by calling
(530) 676-7401**