



Photo Credit: Winetta Owens

The American River Water Education Center – The Bell Story

This old bell, made between 1800-1900 by the C.S. Bell Company, was donated to the American River Water Education Center by the Folsom Historical Society in 2007. The bell previously hung in the Pioneer Village, the interpretive area managed by the Folsom Historical Society, before it was purchased from a garage sale and donated to ARWEC. ARWEC's vision was to replicate the old Mormon Island School House and have a bell installed in a tower on top of it. The school house would be used to educate children on water recycling and conservation, Folsom Dam and Beals Point. Unfortunately, the structure of the school house was not strong enough to support the bell.

Lucky for ARWEC, a volunteer proposed an Eagle Scout project to build the water well to hold the bell. The concept, design and symbolism evolved, and the water well was dedicated during the 8th Annual Get W.E.T. Event on May 16, 2009.

The well is symbolic of the Bureau of Reclamation and ARWEC in the following ways:

- The bell represents education.
- The core samples used in the construction of the well represent Folsom Dam.
- The well itself and the river rocks from which it is made represent water.
- The bucket represents conservation.
- The roof represents protection of our water by Reclamation.