

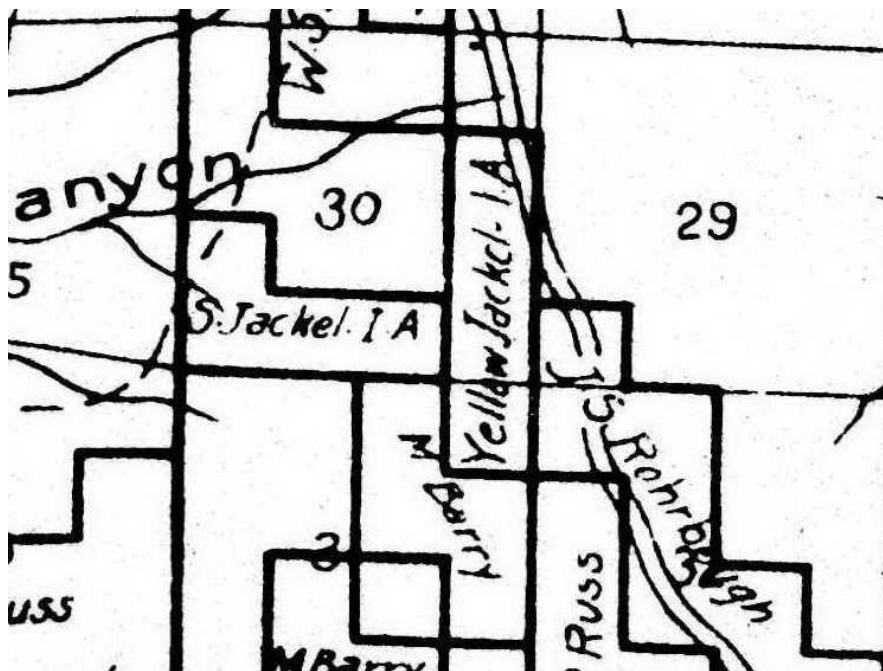
Yellowjacket and Sally Jacket/Jack French Homestead

B02 Map 4: T3S, R8E, S20.

I first visited the Yellowjacket place in October of 1983, along with MRRD archaeologist Walt Schlager, to record it as an historic site (05-10-54-266); since a timber harvest unit and access road were to be located just to the east and uphill a few hundred meters (see either the Yellowjacket or Raglan Timber Sale CRIR for more information).

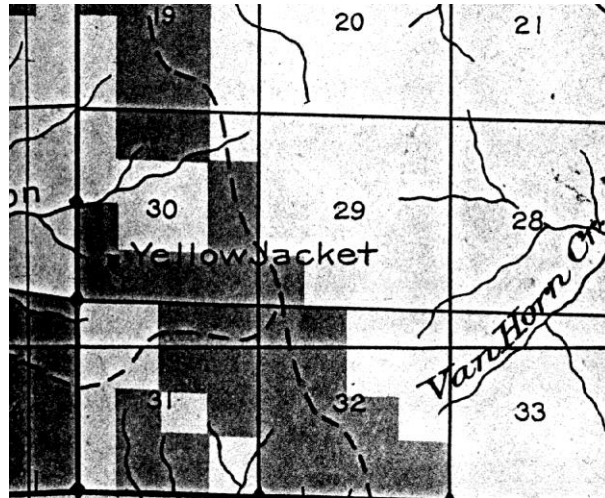
At that time the old Yellowjacket Trail (HTNF-46) led from the Rock Creek road for about one mile downslope to the Yellowjacket place and then continued on to the NFER. The site consisted of the remains of a structure (only the rock-lined foundation remained--see images below) and associated artifacts and features. Refer to information at the end of this document discussing the historic artifacts. The site record has a more complete listing of artifacts, a site map, and black and white photos.

This tract was most likely entered by Yellowjacket (he was also known as Jack French after the white man who adopted him) and his wife Sally. The TNF 1915 map shows two tracts of land that they filed for as Indian allotments under the Dawes General Allotment Act (also called Dawes Severalty Act) of 1887.



1915 TNF
(A2: 28)

The 1907 TNF map also shows these two tracts of land as private.



1907 TNF map showing the two 160 acre tracts owned by Yellowjacket.
(A2: 07)

This also comports with interview data (A6: I#316) that indicated that Yellowjacket and his wife owned 320 acres. The 320 acres are still identified as being private property on the 1977 SRNF Map (A2: 21b). However, by the time the site was recorded in 1983 it was on national forest land. It is possible that it was part of a land exchange with Twin Harbors Lumber Company sometime after 1977. It is not known when this tract was sold by Yellowjacket, but he moved to Covelo after the death of his wife, so it probably dates to the late 1930s (see below). This information may be available in the Lands Office of SRNF. This site has been plotted on the Base Map as an Indian allotment with dashed lines to indicate that this is a supposition and no documents were located providing this information.

Yellowjacket and Sally Jacket

Yellowjacket and his wife Sally Jacket (as locals referred to her) were among the best known settlers living within the NFER region from the late 1800s to the early 1930s. He was interviewed by C. H. Merriam in July of 1922 at Zenia. Included below in Appendix B02-1 are some of the consultant comments related to Yellowjacket and his wife Sally.

It is unclear where Yellowjacket was born and there are a number of local legends. For example, one consultant indicated that Yellowjacket "was an old Indian chief." Some sources indicated that he was adopted as a boy by Jack French after surviving an Indian massacre at Soldier Basin—this needs to be further researched. May Burgess (A6: I#186) in January of 1979 indicated that she knew him very well. She said that he was a small Indian boy when he was picked up by a group of men at Hayfork after a massacre that took place there and that his mother was killed during the massacre. This comports with Merriam's recording (see below) that his mother was *Norelmuk* Wintun from Hayfork.

A man named French brought him to the Zenia area and raised him. In later years, he sheared sheep for a living. Some sources (Appendix 12: Patricia Burrell) have identified Greenleaf French of Zenia rather than Jack French as being the individual who adopted Yellowjacket.

Some sources give no specific location, but said that Yellowjacket's father was killed when soldiers were in the area in the early 1860s and that he was adopted by Jack French. The information on the 1900 census form (see below), however, seems to bring into question the idea that Jack French adopted Yellowjacket when the military was active in the area from about 1860 to 1864. If Jack A. French was born in 1848, he would have only been 12 to 16 years old at that time that the military was active in the area (it ended in December 1864).

More research is needed to clarify the question on where Yellowjacket was born and who raised him. The 1928 California Indian census lists: "French, Jack, Trinity CA, Hoaglin Valley #3599 --- This is his Indian Census number (personal communication David Heller).

C. Hart Merriam's field notes on Yellowjacket

Merriam's notes suggest that Yellowjacket was indeed from the North Fork region and was like Lucy Young Wailaki Lassik (see B03). As noted earlier, this still needs to be confirmed, however, based on Merriam's linguistic notes it appears that Yellowjacket was from this area and it explains why he chose to live there.

Merriam's field notes suggest that he spoke a slightly different language (dialect) than Lucy Young. The following information was found in the field notes of Merriam at the Library of Congress (see files A/II/G14). A summary (edited for clarity) is provided below. It is suggested that researchers should review the original notes to insure that the Athabascan terms recorded are correct (Merriam used his own phonetic system not the standard system used by linguists).

Besides, I have the great good luck to find here [Zenia] an old full blood man called Jack French or Yellowjacket who is visiting here for a couple of days and who lives with his old Norelmuk wife in the upper Mad River country not accessible by road and whom I particularly wanted to find.

He belongs to another division of the southern *Ken-nés-tě* from Lucy's people [Lucy Young] but most of the words are the same--only a few different. [Emphasis added.] He calls his subtribe *Si-yahn* [this term may be spelled incorrectly] (meaning "sand eaters," from *Si* '---e, sand) and says they are called ---???-- illegible] meaning "pitch or resin stealers."

He says his country was Bald mtn and Castle Peak region--the southern part of South Fork Mountain ridge--extending east or northeast to North Yolla

Bolly and included the upper or northern portion of the north Fork of the North Fork of the [Middle] Eel River and the upper parts of Hulls Creek.

[Note there is a Yellowjacket Creek on USGS maps near Sulfur Camp in this area of the Mendocino National Forest.]

In his day [they] had no round house but had feasts and ceremonies of [similar to or with] their neighbors and friends the *sitten biden*. [Lucy Young's was Wailaki Lassik from a *sitten biden* village near Alderpoint.]

Consultant Input

Irene and her husband Lee Stapp of Hettenshaw Valley (A5: #I448) both remembered Yellowjacket and knew him personally. Lee Stapp told a story about Yellowjacket showing some homesteaders how to catch steelhead hiding under a rock in a deep pool on the NFER near Soldier Basin. Yellowjacket placed a large rock on his shoulder and it made him quickly submerge---he held his breath an unbelievably long time and came up with the fish--he was an old man probably in his 70's when he did this. [See Keter 1985 and 1992 there used to be numerous pools up to 30 feet deep in the NFER before the 1955 and 1964 floods.]

Irene Stapp (A6 I#448) noted that Yellowjacket was raised by Jack Frech and it seems that he did not practice as many traditional parts of his culture as Lucy and some of the others---this of course may be due to his upbringing with the French family. Yellowjacket's wife was known locally as Sally Jacket and was well-respected in the local community. She was a full-blooded Indian who had been captured in the big round up of the mid-1800s. One consultant (A6: I#316) indicated that "She was a "wild Indian" who was sent to school. She was real educated and was a smart lady." Sally passed away in 1932. The consultant believed she was over 100 years old when she died and was many years older than 'Jacket.' [According to the 1930 census she was 23 years older than Yellowjacket.] It appears from census records that she was about 97 years old when she died. The consultant (Lee Stapp) indicated that she is buried on the hill above the Yellowjacket place (see comments below and image B02-15) and that he helped to bury her. She was buried with all her belongings (baskets, etc.).

Irene indicated that:

Yellowjacket moved into Covelo Country after Sally died. He and Jim Hoaglin died two weeks apart.

Yellowjacket, for a number of years after the death of his wife Sally, traveled back and forth between Covelo and his homestead. When spending some time in Covelo, he often visited Bill Doobie an old Wailaki. He often traveled with Jim Hoaglin. They traveled throughout the Yolla Bolly country and were always welcomed where ever they went. Sometimes Bill Hoaglin's wife Hattie would also travel with them.

When Irene Stapp (A6 I#448) (a Willburn whose grandmother was Wailaki) was living as a child in Round Valley among those who visited her house were Lucy and Sam Young, Nancy Doobie, Bill Dobbys, Yellowjacket, Ellen Tom, and Mary Major. She remembers "it was a small house with a large crowd." Sam and Lucy Young (who by then were living in Round Valley) and Yellowjacket always rode horses, but many of the others walked. These "Sunday gatherings" took place in the 1930's when the old timers began to die of old age. Many of these people were in their 80's and even possibly in Nancy Doobie's case 100.

In a recorded interview, Edith Murphey (MCHS Transcribed by Eric Smith) remembered:

In his old age I knew Jack French and tried to help him in various ways. When I saw him come riding into Covelo with his wide black hat with the buckskin thong under his chin, setting erect despite his years, I always mentally pulled up the picture of him in his youth swimming in the river with his new hat on and mentally took my own hat off to him.

Irene Stapp was not sure what Yellowjacket died of but that she was about 12 years old at the time and went to his funeral in Round Valley. This was about in 1936. There were lots of flowers and floral pieces with pine cones at his funeral. It was a Christian funeral. He is buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery in Covelo.

Census data

The location of Yellowjacket's birth and geneology are problematic. Given the fact that Merriam clearly indicated that Yellowjacket was a full-blooded Indian calls into question some of the census data and information discussed below.

Jack French, the white man who it appears (given the earlier discussion about Greenleaf French) adopted Yellowjacket, and his family are listed on the 1900 census for Long Ridge. From their placement on the census rolls it appears that they were living in the Zenia area. Given the 1900 census data, Jack A. French aged 52 would have been between the ages of 12 and 16 during the "Indian wars" of northwestern California (Bledsoe 1885) that lasted from 1860 to the end of 1864. As noted earlier, this fact calls into question the story that Yellowjacket was adopted by French immediately after surviving a massacre of his tribe. Some individuals have suggested that the location of the "massacre" was Soldier Basin. That also appears to be questionable unless further documentation can be located that sheds some light on this.

16	16	Friend Jack A.	Head	W M	Sept 1848	52	M	15
		Adeline	Wife	W F	June 1863	36	W	15
		William C.	Son	W M	Sept 1885	14	S	
		Fred L.	Son	W M	Dec 1899	10	S	
		Ray L.	Son	W M	July 1891	8	S	
		Harry	Son	W M	Jan 1895	7	S	

Jack A. French and family 1900 census
(A3: 1900-1)

Jack French—Yellowjacket-- and his wife—her name was recorded as "Sarrah"—are listed on the 1900 census for Long Ridge. It is somewhat illegible, but it appears that Yellowjacket (Jack French) was 42 years old and was born in 1858. His wife's age is listed as unknown.

4	Sarrah	Sister	born Dec 1858	42	1	1
	French Jack	Head	born Cal 1858	42		
	Sarrah	Wife	born Cal 1858			

1900 Census (A3: 1900-7)

One item of interest on the 1900 census form relating to Yellowjacket is that under a section *Special Inquires Relating to Indians* the census taker recorded that the father of Jack French—Yellowjacket-- was white (see below). The listing also shows that his father was born in California. This appears to be an error on the part of the census taker since, as noted above, most ethnographers and locals assumed that Yellowjacket was 100% Indian blood.

French Jack	Sligger or White	Sligger
Sarrah	Sligger or Sligger	Sligger

1900 Census *Special Inquires Relating to Indians*
(A3: 1900-7)

They were not listed on the 1910 census or the 1920 census. They were, however, listed on the 1930 census. The 1930 census records Yellowjacket as Wailaki and Sally as Hayfork [Wintun]. The census entry indicates that Yellowjacket was age 28 "when first married" and Sally Jacket was 18, so it appears (if she is 23 years older) that she may have been previously married (this is not indicated on the census form). The census listing, thus, indicates that if Yellowjacket was 28 years old when he was married that the marriage took place in about 1886.

French Jack	head	0	72	m	28	no	no	California	Hayfork	Hayfork
Sally	wife-18		95	m	18	no	no	California	Hayfork	Hayfork

1930 census recording Yellowjacket as Wailaki.

3031	French Jack	head	0	72	m	28	no	no	California	Hayfork	Hayfork
	Sally	wife-18		95	m	18	no	no	California	Hayfork	Hayfork

Close-up of the 1930 census record.
(A3:1930-10)

Site Record: The Yellowjacket Homestead

Given the importance of this site, a description of the historic features and artifacts identified is provided below.

B02

There were numerous historic artifacts at the location of what appeared to be the house foundation (a rock alignment still defined the approximate dimensions of the structure—see site record) as well as a number of groundstone artifacts (for acorn and grass seed processing). Historic artifacts included shovels, saws, horse shoes, porcelain pans, machine made cans, nails (machine cut), and some broken glass--including some purple glass. There were also some fruit trees and a more recently constructed pond (by Larry Brown of the Flying Double A Ranch under questionable circumstances) on a flat to the northeast of the structure. Refer to the site record for more specific data on the distribution of artifacts and features on the site.

Unfortunately like a number of sites both prehistoric and historic within the NFERW, this site has been looted and a number of artifacts stolen. The most significant was the hay-cutter in image B2-05. It was stolen from the site sometime between about 2000 and 2002. At that time logging was taking place on private lands in the area and given the weight and location of the hay cutter it was likely taken out by helicopter.

One more point of interest. One day a consultant (A6: I#I315; his name is on file at SRNF) went by their place and noticed that Sally was gone. He asked Yellowjacket where she was and he pointed at a hill and said "up there." He told him that his wife had died and he had buried her up on the hill above their house. In 2002 on a trip to this site with Wailaki elder Coyote Fred Downey, we both noted that there is a small prominent knoll (Image B02-15) just to the southwest of where their house stood and we both felt (if somewhat scientifically incorrect--sensed??!!) that it is the likely spot where she is buried—there was no marker or other indication of a burial (see site map for more information).

One final note of interest is the following newspaper article from the *Ukiah Daily Journal*, 3/24/2002, by Judy Martinez who was republishing some old news articles. This article indicated that:

March 28, 1902: "Jack French, alias "Yellow Jacket," one of Trinity County cattle thieves, appeared for sentence in the Superior Court Tuesday morning. W.D. Held his attorney, made and argued a motion for a new trial, which was denied and Judge Mannon then sentenced French to imprisonment at the Folsom penitentiary for five years."

It is unclear the source of this article. During years of research and discussions with consultants who personally knew Yellowjacket this subject has never come up and therefore seems doubtful. It is possible that records in the court house in Ukiah might answer this definitively. It is more likely that there was a second individual with the same name.

Photograph Collection

In late June and early July of 1920 C. H. Merriam visited the Zenia area and interviewed both Lucy Yong and Yellowjacket. Tachetsa Thelili, a descendant of Lucy Young, informed me that the young girl in the photo is her great grandmother and the great granddaughter of Lucy Young. I was told that "*Tachesta*" (there are various spellings) was the Wailaki name for Lucy Young (see Keter 2009). Both photos were taken in Zenia at the Clark place see Lucy Young B03 entry.]



Image B02-1

Yellowjacket, Lucy Young, and her great granddaughter at Zenia.

Merriam's photographic note: "Mrs. Lucy Young with Yellowjacket of the *che-teg'-ge-keah*."

Yellowjacket; Caution; Trinity Co.; 1 July 1922; 1 print

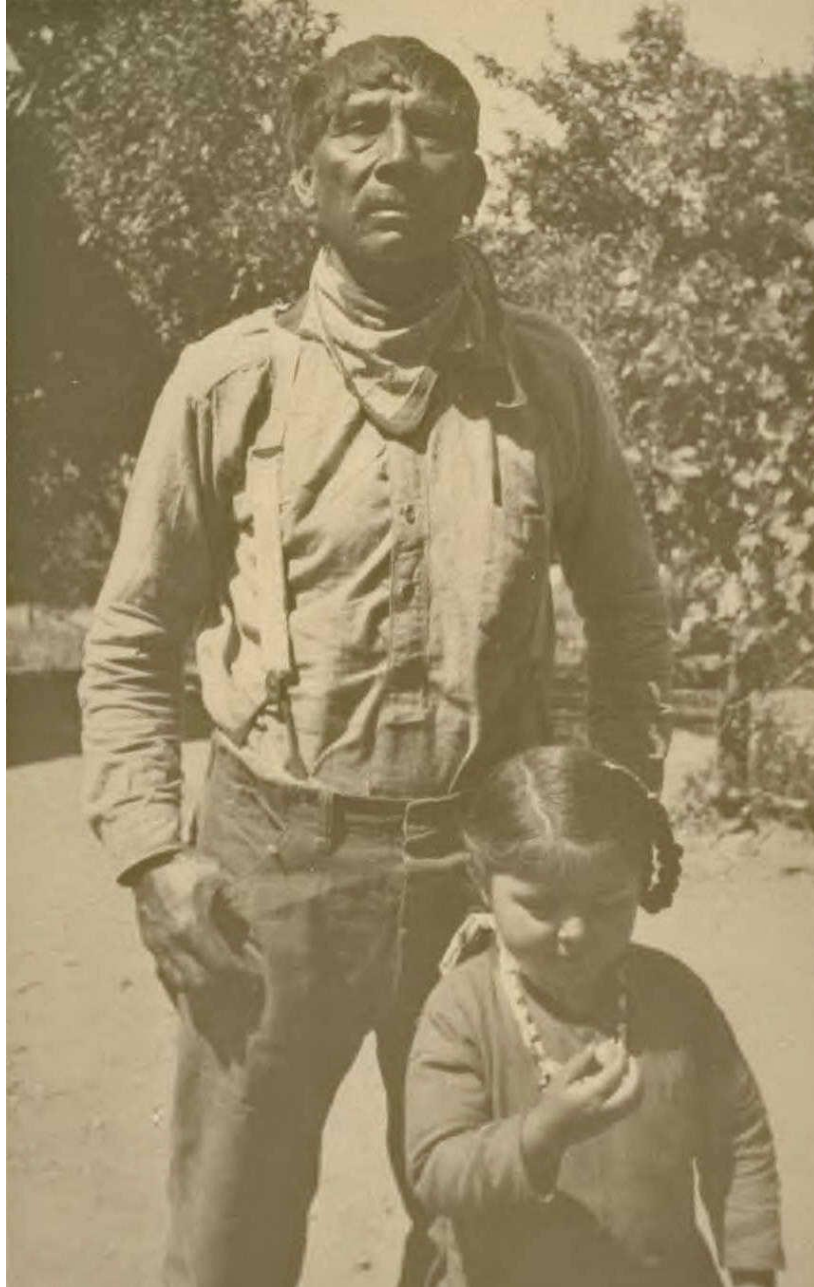


Image B02-2

YellowJacket and Marie the great granddaughter of Lucy Young
photo taken at Zenia. Merriam's photograph note: "Che-teg'-ge-kah Yellowjacket;
Caution; Trinity Co.; 1 July 1922"



Image B02-3

Yellowjacket unknown date and location--quite possibly given his age it may have been after he moved to Round Valley since the photo was located at the MCHS archives. (Bauer and Barney 1997: 293)

The following image of Yellowjacket was identified by Bauer and Barney (1997: 261) as "...Bill Nowlin's back camp near Blocksburg."

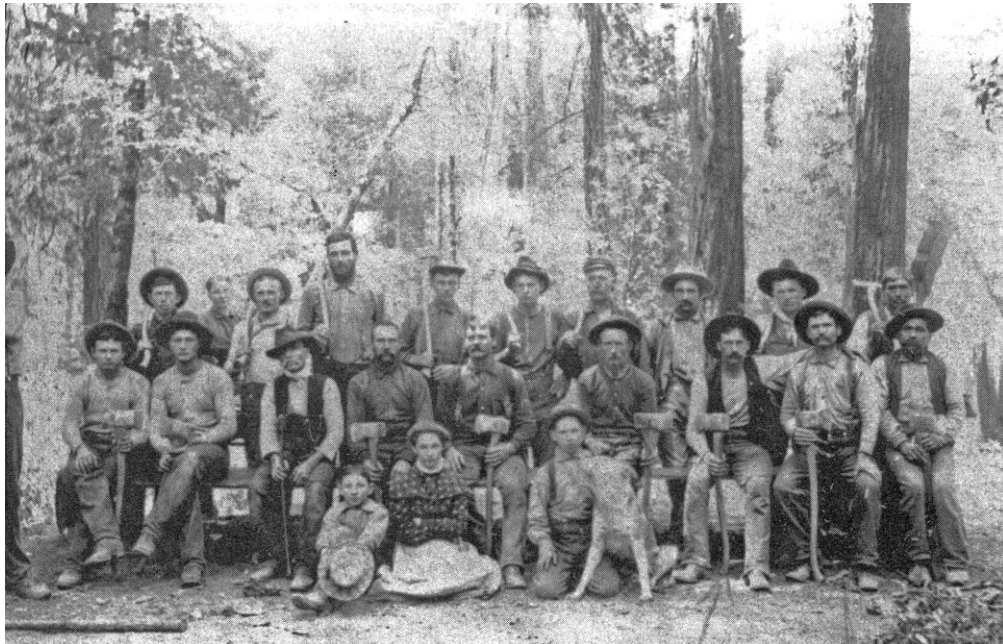


Image B02-4

Yellowjacket (Jack French) is standing on the far right. No date but it is likely just after the turn of the century.

B02

Images of the Yellowjacket Place

All photos by T. Keter in 1983 or 1984 unless otherwise noted.



Image B02-5

View from area of structure to the east towards Mad River Ridge.



Image B02-6

View from trail to NW from above the homestead (center) with rock foundation and artifacts (note gray pine). Note hay mower lower right.



Image B02-7
Hay mower that was stolen and fencing.



Image B02-8
Foundation and possible fire hearth (see site map).



Image B02-9

Fencing on hill by trail HTNF-46 about 100 meters to east of the datum (see site map).
Note the invading manzanita.



Image B02-10

This type of "woven" fencing with split oak was common during the homestead era.



Image B02-11

View NW from rock outcrop on site map to pond area and fruit trees. Note several gray pine, also young Douglas fir in the background invading the meadow.



Image B02-12

Broken pestle that was mixed in with more contemporary pots and pans.

B02



Image B02-13

View NW to site (Kettenpom Peak is high point in the background).
The knoll on the left is the probable location of the Sally Jacket grave site. The hay mower
—later stolen is just to the left of the fence lower center see B02-15 below.



Image B02-14

Rock alignment for structure--cook stove is in the background.



Image B02-15

The knoll to the left in the mid-ground is the possible location of where Sally Jacket is buried. Please treat this area with respect. Note that by 2002 the hay mower had been stolen from the site
(T. Keter 2002)



Image B02-16

Hay mower.

B02



Image B02-17
Hay mower company name.



Image B02-18
Artifacts along the edge of the rock foundation.

B02

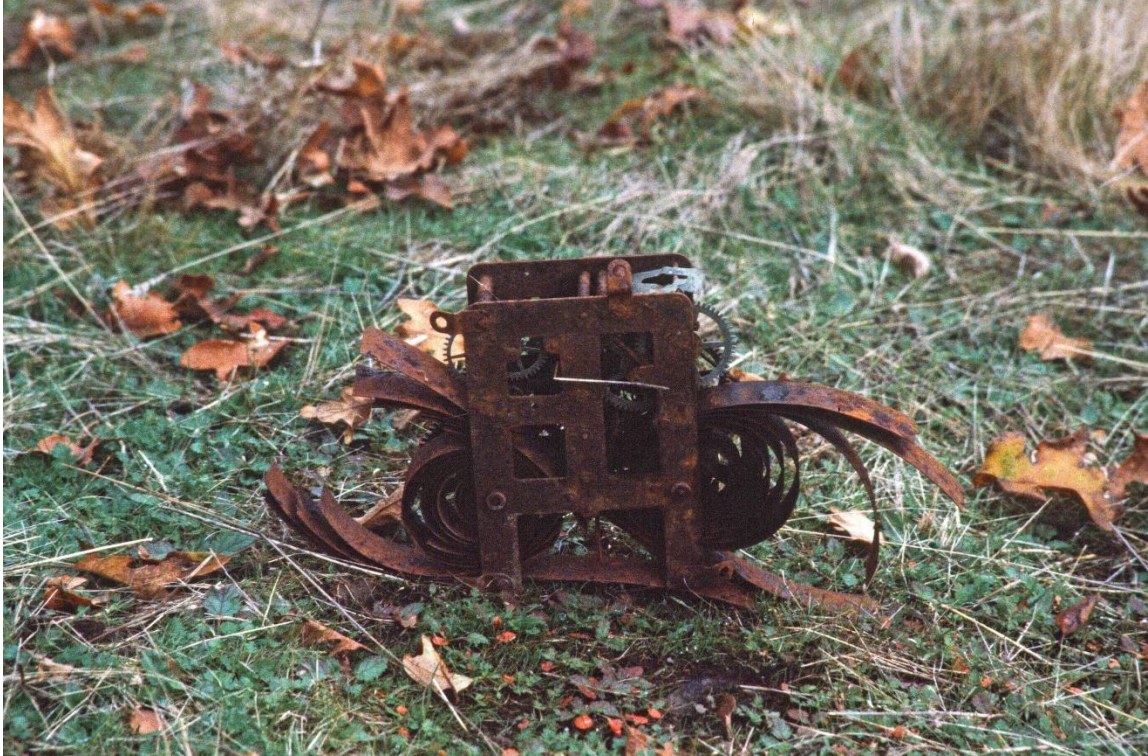


Image B02-19
Possible clock mechanism



Image B02-20
Horseshoes



Image B02-21
Possible kerosene can and stove part.



Image B02-22
Groundstone artifact found adjacent to the foundation.



Image B02-23

Stove Part—see artifact list in site record for more information.



Image B02-24

Rock alignment of foundation--see site record.

B02



Image B02-25
Six foot cross-cut saw

Appendix B02

Interviews with local residents Regarding Yellowjacket and Sally Jacket

The following information is taken from interviews with consultants and ethnographer's field notes. I have included the original texts concerning the following consultant information on Yellowjacket and Sally Jacket in the Appendixes using an OCR program. The information is presented unedited. The original hard copy interviews are filed in the HR office SRNF. See Appendixes 4, 6, and 8 for location of the documents below. Some of this information repeats from above.

A6: Interview #I315 August 23, 1981

Present at Interview: Consultant: Bud Goe Man in his 60's.
Interviewer: Mary L. Williams, Theodoratus Cultural Research, Fair Oaks, California.

Yellowjacket was a full-blooded Indian who lived by Tub Springs. The consultant knew him to talk to but not very well. Yellowjacket had been in the area all his life, but the consultant was not sure if he had been born there or if he had moved in at a later date. He remembers Yellowjacket as being an old man and believes that he was over 100 years old when he died. People used to ask Yellowjacket how he got his name but no one ever found out for sure. The consultant once asked Yellowjacket and the Indian just smiled and answered "it's because I sting a lot."

Shannon Butte was named after the Shannon family who had a homestead in the area. The consultant recalls riding his horse along a trail from Shannon Butte to Yellowjacket's Place but does not know if this trail is still in existence.

Interview #1316a August 26, 1981

Present at Interview: Anonymous (for name see SRNF HR interview file)

Interviewer: Mary L. Williams, Theodoratus Cultural Research, Fair Oaks, CA.

Yellowjacket was an old Indian chief. He was raised by a man named Jack French. Yellowjacket's father was killed when soldiers were in the area rounding up the Indians in the 1800s. His mother was killed at the massacre at Hayfork. Yellowjacket started his

career in Hetten Valley. He was a buckaroo; he rode around the country and raised stock--mainly hogs and cattle.

Interview with Irene Stapp (A6: I#448):

Irene remembers that Lucy and Ellen and the other Indian women were very small and short. The men like Wailaki Tip and Yellowjacket were about 5'6" or 5'7" at the most.

Interview with 96 year old Wailaki man in 1985 (A6: I#378)

"Yellowjacket, yeah I knew Yellowjacket. He worked in sheep too. He was raised by white man from little boy. He liked to be by himself. Sometimes he come to dance and stand and watch but he never dance while I was there and I was a young one who liked to dance; so I was at all the dances. I'd travel up to two days to get to Indian dances, white man dance too but that wasn't until later in time when white man let us in to dance. They'd let half breed in their dance because most their kids are half breed but not us wild injuns as they call us that like to dance in round house. Las dance I dance in was about 1920."

Letter Regarding Yellowjacket to Thomas Keter from Ben Schill Oct. 1994.

Relevant section:

I listened to a tape (80-56-1) made by Edith Murphey which is at the Mendocino Co. Museum at Willits. My interest was in her account of her trip with Lucy Young to South Fork Mtn. She tells a story about Jack French "Yellowjacket", presumably the namesake of Yellowjacket Ck.: French was accompanying Lucy when she had been called from Zenia to Round Valley to doctor. The North Fork was dangerously high and after a difficult crossing it was discovered that Jack had left his hat behind. He immediately recrossed for it and explained on his return that he had a close "white man" friend in the area and was afraid that the discovery of the hat would result in a long search for Jack. Lyman Jewett, a well-known Wylackie rancher near Harris, states that he knew "Yellowjacket" and that he also knew Sam Young when Sam had a cabin at Soldier Basin. He does not remember Lucy.