



SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT

Fair Oaks Historical Society

July 2022 Newsletter

Issue No.: 141

Editor: Wendy Key

President's Message

Bob Sours

The highly infectious Marburg virus has been reported in the West African country of Ghana this week, according to the World Health Organization. Natural disasters, economy, elections, global unrest, and climate changes totally consume the daily news.

Yes everyone, in spite of above that is obviously uppermost important in our lives - I KNOW, our little village History Center is open and awaiting your arrival. Just a short visit, looking at all the pictures of life in our Village during the early years, might lessen the stress of TODAY for you! We need a little departure from the FAST-trending world, and I assure you that most folks that visit just once do come back, and tell their friends, and maybe even join our Historical Society.

As you walk through our Village you will notice fences around most of the Parks, and buildings. It is time to freshen up, refurbish, get trendy while saving the quaintness. That is exactly what our Parks Department is doing. During the next 18 months you can witness the newness coming to light, buildings looking brighter, roosters crowing more, and so on.

My suggestion to all our residents: Take pictures as you take your daily walks and keep a diary of pictures to memorialize how it looked today, and how very special it now looks ----(fast forward) in 18 months. And wouldn't it be fun at that time, when it's complete, to show our pictures and maybe have a show and tell and awards for the best job done.

Thanks to all for all your contributions to the Village, and stopping by the History Center, if for nothing else but just saying hello.

WANTED!!

Fair Oaks Artists to feature in our newsletters! We'd love to feature YOUR work in our newsletter!

Please submit only original artwork or photography via our Facebook page, by email to keywendy@gmail.com, or in person. Remember, we want to feature Fair Oaks' artists, so the original works don't have to be of Fair Oaks - you just need to live and/or participate in Fair Oaks life!

Remembering Barry Brown

Jim Pearce

Long time Fair Oaks Historical Society member Barry Brown passed away on May 18, 2022. Barry was active in all aspects of Fair Oaks life, most notably as chair of Save the Bluffs project and recently Project Coordinator for the Founder's Monument Project. Barry's obituary is on the FOHS Website <https://fairoakshistory.org/barry.pdf> and tribute is on the FOVEC website.



Those memorials summarize Barry's many community improvement efforts but my fondest memory of Barry and Eleanor is their annual Christmas Party. I was so sad to have it discontinued several years ago. Those of us who were lucky enough to be invited over the years were treated to the most interesting group of people imaginable (and Eleanor's famous spread of hors d'oeuvres).

Marilyn and I will always have fond memories.



Fair Oaks Artist Spotlight:

"Bald Eagles in Nest Above Lake Natoma" submitted by Jody Reese.

Thank you, Jody!



Summer Lovin', Havin' a BLAST!

In a much anticipated first, the Fair Oaks Historical Society hosted our first social event since the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown social gatherings on Saturday, April 30! (Okay, so it wasn't summer yet, but you probably sang that headline anyway!)

It was so great to see many of our members in person again! We hope we saw you this week at our July quarterly meeting held July 26!!



History Notes, Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks

Sandra S. Navarro, Ph.D.

The Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks was organized in 1902 and is still active in 2022. The club maintains an archive which documents its 120-year history.

Included in the archive is the club's *Twenty-sixth Annual Announcement, 1927-1928*. The copy in the archive belonged to Mrs. E.H. Buffum who wrote her name on the cover of this six-page, beige, 3 ¼ inches by 6 inches booklet.

Mrs. E.H. Buffum is listed as a WTC member. She is not the only Buffum listed in the 1927-1928 WTC booklet. Mrs. A.M. Buffum is identified as club president in 1902-1903, and Mrs. J.H. Buffum is identified as club president in 1910-1911.

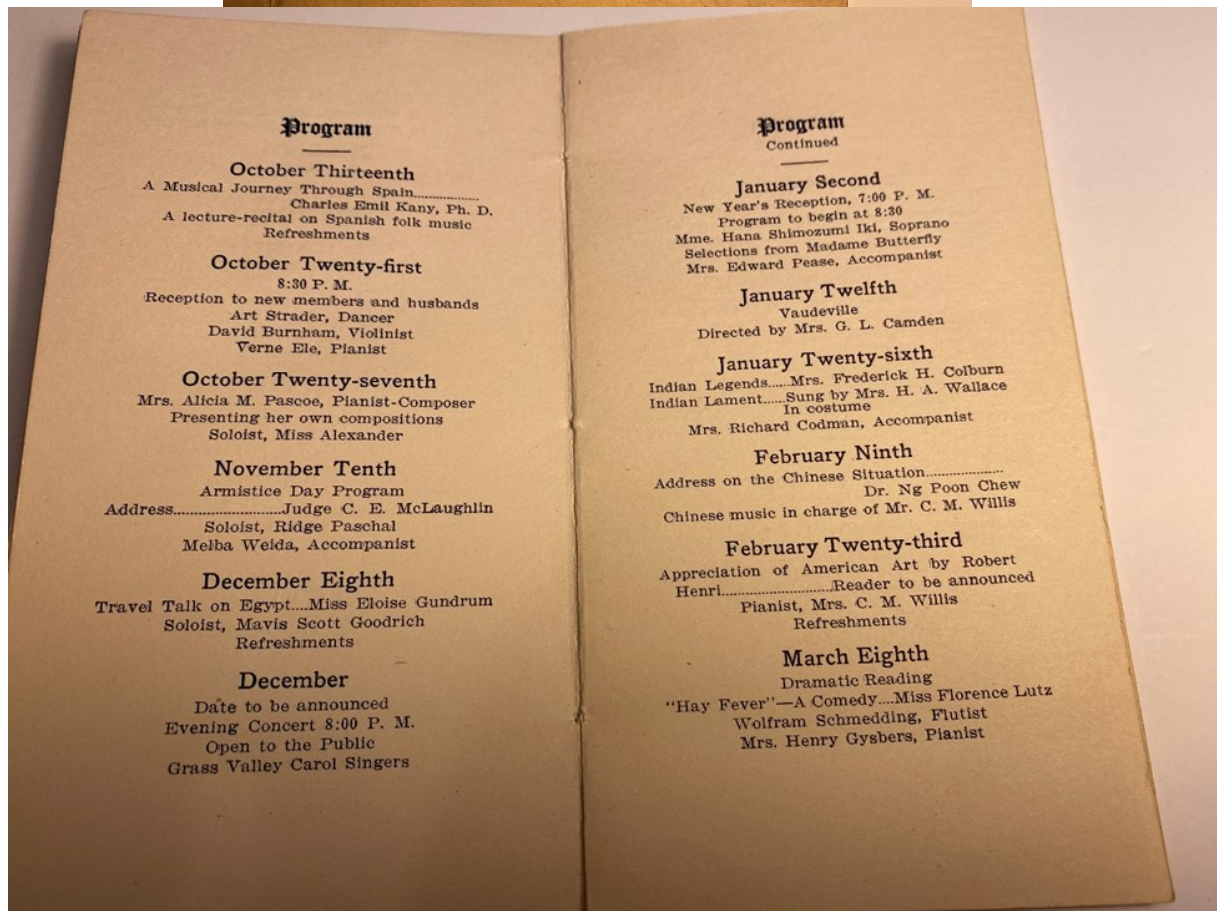
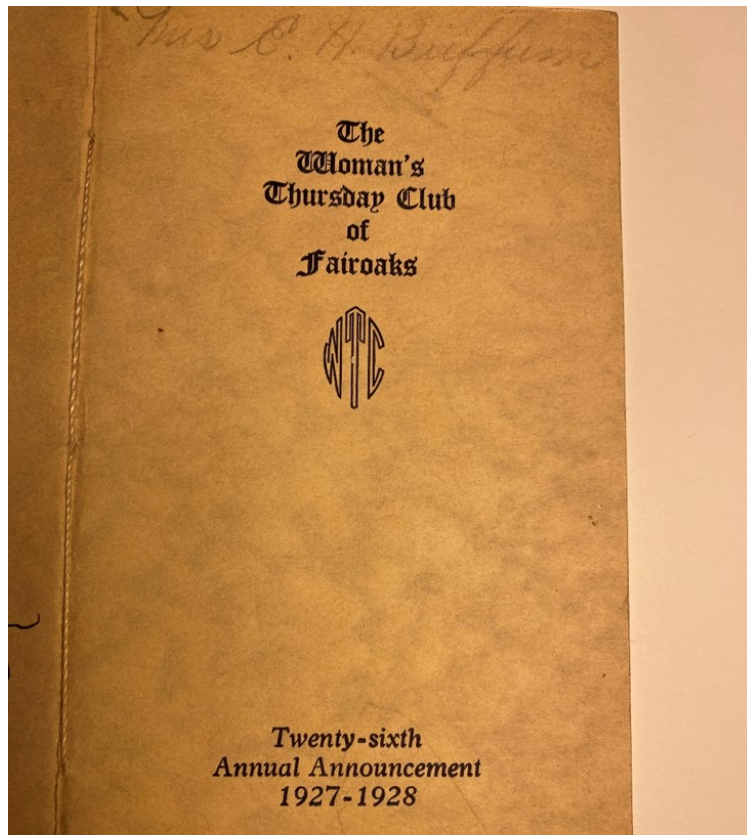
The meeting programs for the year are listed in the table to the right.

The Program Committee which arranged this ambitious slate consisted of Mrs. R.N. Bramhall, Mrs. A.D. McDonell, Mrs. Richard Codman, and Mrs. A.M. Webb.

Date	Program
October 13	A musical journey through Spain (lecture-recital on Spanish folk music) presented by Charles Emil Kany, Ph.D.
October 21	Reception honoring new members and husbands; entertainment by Art Strader (dancer), music by David Burnham (violin) and Verne Ele (piano)
October 27	Presentation of her compositions by Mrs. Alicia M. Pearson (piano) with Miss Alexander (soloist)
November 10	Armistice Day address by Judge E.C. McLaughlin; Ridge Paschal (soloist) and Melba Welda (accompanist)
December 8	Talk on travel in Egypt by Miss Eloise Gundrum; Mavia Scott Goodrich (soloist)
December TBA	Concert by Grass Valley Carol Singers
January 2	New Year's reception. Selections from "Madame Butterfly" sung by Soprano Mme. Hana Shimozumi Iki
January 12	Vaudeville
January 26	Indian legends told by Mrs. Frederick H. Colburn and "Indian Lament" sung by Mrs. H.A. Wallace
February 9	Address on the Chinese situation by Dr. Ng Poon Chew and Chinese music in charge of Mr. C. M. Willis
February 23	Appreciation of American art presented by Mr. Robert Henri
March 8	Dramatic reading and "Hay Fever" (a comedy) by Miss Florence Lutz; selections on flute by Wolfram Schmedding
March 22	Lecture and songs of Armenia, Turkey, India, and Persia, given in costume and with native instruments by Fifi Gabrielle Southard
April 12	An afternoon with the poet Charles Keeler ("A Wanderer's Songs of the Sea"), philharmonic ensemble with Wilmer Oakes
April 26	Wild flowers of California by Dr. A.O. Holmes; Girls' Glee Club, Sacramento Junior College
May 10	Program to be announced; club election
May 24	Annual luncheon; annual reports; installation of officers



Images of the Women's Thursday Club's 26th Annual Announcement



He Went That-A-Way: The Saga of Texas Slim Jackson

Jim Pearce

The late 1940s saw the beginning of the Fair Oaks Fiesta as we know it. The Fair Oaks Citizens decided to go all out in 1949 in an effort to raise money for a swimming pool in Fair Oaks. There were all sorts of events, but after the tally, expenses were \$5,534.09 and revenue was \$5,559.60, for a net profit of \$25.51.



There was talk of abandoning the effort, but after much discussion it was agreed to try again in 1950. One feature of the 1950 Fiesta was a rodeo, billed as one of the biggest ever to be staged in the Sacramento area. Called a “Cowboy Reunion” it was managed by Texas Slim Jackson and starred Harvey Rex and his family of famous trick riders and ropers. Also participating were the O'Neill twins of Citrus Heights with their trained donkeys.

The rodeo included saddle bronc riding, calf roping, wild cow milking, bareback bronc riding and horse racing.

The rodeo arena was at the east end of Sunset Avenue.

But, alas, it came to a shabby end. The San Juan Record of June 29 reports, “Texas Slim Jackson's rodeo was a first rate show but failed to gross enough to pay the bills Jackson had accumulated.” On the final day it developed that Texas Slim could not account for a considerable amount of money paid in advance to him by the cowboys as entry fees, which should have been set aside as prize money.

In order to put the show on Sunday night the pool committee promised the cowboys that they would be paid out of Jackson's share of the gate receipts. In the end it turned out that all of the gate receipts above taxes were still not quite enough to pay the cowboys what was due them, but such money as was available was stretched as far as it would go by Ted Robles.

Texas Slim quietly left town and was not heard from again.

For all the details on the 49 - 50 Fiesta, see the excerpts from the San Juan Record on our website “Beginnings of the Fiesta” under the history section at the end of our home page.



Treasurer's Report - Second Quarter 2022 Summary

Jim Pearce, Treasurer

The first 6 months of 2022 saw revenue of \$6,908, mostly from Soup Night (\$5,000) and memberships (\$900). Expenses were \$9,613 which included special projects - two scholarships of \$1,200 each and refurbishing the information panels at the Bluffs Plaza (\$3,296). We ended June 2022 with \$12,694 in the checking account which is consistent with the 2022 budget approved by the Board in March. Details are available on request.

The Board intends on keeping our checking account at about \$10,000 with any excess being devoted to community improvement projects. The Savings account stands at \$19,458 and the CD is \$28,228.



DO YOU WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED? (Nothing would make us happier!)

Maybe you enjoy searching for artifacts. Maybe setting up and refreshing displays is your thing. Love researching local historical topics and sharing what you've learned? Us too!! We're always excited to take on more volunteers. If you'd like to get more involved, please let us know. We could use more contributing writers and artists for the newsletter, researchers and scrapbookers for the History Center, members willing to document and share their memories or experiences living in or visiting Fair Oaks.



Fair Oaks Artist Spotlight: The Bluffs - soft pastel on sandpaper, submitted by Karen Austin



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

You can check your membership status on the FOHS website at <https://fairoakshistory.org/>.

If you haven't paid your dues for the current year, please fill out the following and send via mail to Fair Oaks Historical Society, PO Box 2044, Fair Oaks, CA 95628 or go on-line and use the PayPal system.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Membership dues are: (circle one)

Individual \$20, Family (2 Persons) \$25, Supporting (Business) \$50, Single Life Member \$150, and Family Life Member \$225.

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Check number _____ Date of check ____/____/____

For questions, please call Carolyn Spotts at (916) 342-1701 or carolyn.spotts@comcast.net.

Note: Dues are for the Calendar Year, January 1st to December 31st. Dues are payable on January 1st. New members joining after October 1st shall be considered paid for the following year.

**FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 2044
FAIR OAKS, CA 95628.**

