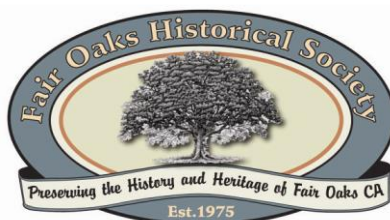


# *Fair Oaks Historical Society*

*Newsletter – October 2019*

Issue Number 131

Ralph Carhart, Editor



[www.fairoakshistory.org](http://www.fairoakshistory.org)

## QUARTERLY POTLUCK & GENERAL MEETING

6 p.m., Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

*Please bring a main dish, casserole, salad, or dessert to share.*

## **“The Gum Ranch — Past, Present & Future”**

**Jim Pearce & Ralph Carhart**



### President’s Message

**Jim Pearce**

After the April meeting with Darrell Corti and the olive oil tasting it was relaxing to slow down a little in July with Soup Night ticket sales **(We sold out again!)** and a brief history of the Feingold’s building and the plans of the new owners, Vicki and Keith Walter.

The October meeting presentation will be the Gum Ranch development and the Gum family. I’ll do the history and Ralph Carhart will cover the status of the development and the planned park.

We’re getting close to Soup Night, so be sure to bring your raffle items. You can also bring raffle items to the History Center.

It was a joy to honor Lois Frazier at the July meeting with a Certificate of Appreciation for her years of service to the Historical Society, and with a dozen of her favorite cookies.

# Pictures from the July General Meeting





## What's New at the History Center... **Jim Pearce**

The 2020 FOHS Calendar is out – Twelve gorgeous historic photos of Fair Oaks. They're available at the History Center and we will have a supply at the October meeting and Soup night. \$15.



## Chicken Festival Open House

We had a great time September 14, during the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Fair Oaks Chicken Festival. More than 50 people signed our register. Since not everyone signs in, and generally only one family member signs the guest book, we estimate that we had over one hundred visitors. Occasionally, during the open house, it was difficult to move around much. As usual, Marilyn and Lois put out the rug and rocking chairs and served my "famous" oatmeal cookies.



**Dedication of the Fair Oaks Founders' Monument**



The **Fair Oaks Founders' Monument** was dedicated on September 20. Around 50 people were in attendance to hear speakers including Ken Steen, on behalf of the Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts, and Jim Pearce for our Society. The project, coordinated by Barry Brown, funded by the Foundation and by former Honorary Mayor Karyn Barth Moore, includes a beautiful sculpture by Phill Evans, interpretive panels relating the founding days and founders of the Fair Oaks community, and a plaque honoring the late Fair Oaks druggist Charles Kanoff. Be sure to visit the monument.

## **Soup Night – Friday, November 1**

**Claudia Thorn, Chair**

**SOLD OUT AGAIN! HOPE YOU GOT YOUR TICKET 😊**

### **VOLUNTEERS**

We are still recruiting volunteers to help with everything from soup preparation to assisting in the silent auction.

We can use more adults to sell raffle tickets. If you are a gregarious, outgoing individual who will only take “oh yes” or “more tickets, please” for an answer, we want you! If you’re not so gregarious we’ll take you anyway. We need to boost the revenue stream from the raffle to provide the support needed to keep the History Center open and growing.

And, we can always use more help with set up and cleanup.

### **SPONSORS**

If you are a business owner, or know someone who is a business owner, or do business with an enterprise, there is a sponsorship opportunity. For \$100 you can help sponsor Soup Night and we will print your business card, distribute it to all the guests, recognize you in the program, and have them available at the History Center.

Vanelli Coffee has agreed to be our specialty coffee vendor for the event.

### **DONATIONS**

Please bring more quality donations for the raffle. New items such as: gift baskets, gift cards, wine or gourmet baskets— things you yourself would really like to win. Your donations will make the difference for the success of our raffle. Bring them to the October meeting or to the History Center any weekend, 10 AM to 4 PM.

Call me if you have questions or wish to volunteer: 916-747-1535.

## Old Homes of Fair Oaks

Jim Pearce

8025 Sunset Ave



Owners:

1895 – Rosetta Russell

1900 – John Rasmussen

1910 – James Cunningham

19?? – Ed Gaucher

1945 – Lyle Harris

19?? – Marion & Stu Jansen

1900 – Masterson Family

This old farmhouse, now mostly hidden behind a hedge on Sunset Avenue west of Fair Oaks Boulevard, was built about 1897. It shows on our 1901 geologic map, and when undergoing renovation the owners found the walls insulated with wads of 1897 San Jose newspaper pages. What's not certain is who built the house.

Like many early properties in Fair Oaks, ownership was an investment. Absentee owners would buy acreage, have orchards planted and build a farmhouse that would be rented out to a local farmer.

This property, about five acres on the north border of the Fair Oaks Colony, was originally bought by Rosetta Russell of Chicago, but there is no indication she ever came to Fair Oaks.

The property turned over several times from 1896 to 1900, at which time it was purchased by John Rasmussen, a hotel and saloon owner in Sacramento City. Again, there is no indication he ever lived there. A fortunate entry in the Memories book states that the home was rented out for about a year in 1906 to the Frank Vincent family. His sons refer to the home as the Rasmussen House.

In 1919, James Cunningham, pipeline boss for the Fair Oaks Irrigation District, bought the property. He ran for Justice of the Peace in eastern Sacramento in 1915 and is known to the old-timers as “Judge Cunningham.” He died in 1921.



The photo above shows the house around 1910, with the home at far right, the Blanchard cherry orchards in bloom at front and citrus orchards to the rear.

In 2000, the Masterson family purchased the property and have spent the last 20 years renovating and adding to the property, including adding a three car garage, completely rebuilding the swimming pool and redecorating the house. It is currently for sale, listed for \$899,000. For complete information and a virtual tour, Google the address and go to Zillow.com.

### **Meeting Minutes and Treasurer’s Report**

Minutes of the July 2019 General Meeting and the Treasurer’s report will be available for review at the General Meeting.

Account balances as of the end of September 18 were: Checking - \$6,856; Savings - \$2,521; CDs - \$33,922; Total - \$43,299.

FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 2044  
FAIR OAKS CA 95628

**TO:**

Dues are for the Calendar Year, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Dues are payable on Jan. 1, and become delinquent Feb. 1.  
New members joining after Oct. 1 shall be considered paid for the following year.

Please check one:     NEW MEMBER APPLICATION                       DUES PAYMENT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership level requested:

Individual \$20       Family (2 Persons) \$25       Supporting (Business) \$50

Single Life Member \$150       Family Life Member \$225

I am adding \$5 and request a printed newsletter by USPS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am including the following donation to support the History Center:

Contributor \$100       Supporter \$250       Patron \$500

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of check \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Please mail this form and check payable to:

“Fair Oaks Historical Society, Inc.” P.O. BOX 2044, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

For more information, please call Jim Pearce, 961-8415 (jpearce4104@gmail.com)