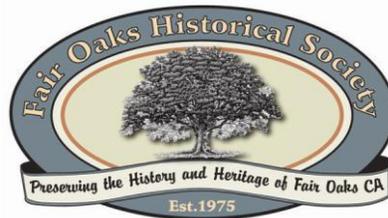


Fair Oaks Historical Society

Newsletter – October 2018

Issue Number 127

Ralph Carhart, Editor



www.fairoakshistory.org

QUARTERLY POTLUCK & GENERAL MEETING

6 p.m., Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

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

“What’s Happening with the Slocum House”

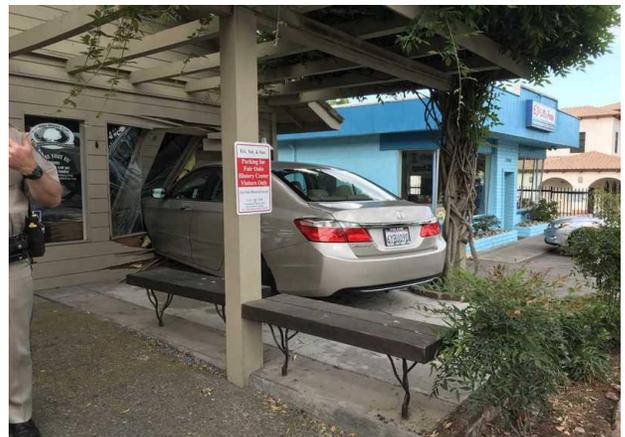
Owners, Wei and Gary Juels

President’s Message

Jim Pearce



In case you haven’t heard, we had an unexpected “open house” the morning of the Chicken Festival. What I especially like about Fair Oaks is our sense of community. By the time I got to the History Center about 20 minutes after the accident, just about every agency was there to help out.



We had great help cleaning up the mess. At the risk of leaving someone out— we had help from the Park District, Water District, Chamber of Commerce, Sheriff, Highway Patrol and Sac Metro were all there. EJ's next door let us run an extension cord to the History Center so that we could have light and run a vacuum (the Fire District wisely shut off power to the building).

We really appreciate all the effort. We were semi-open for business by the time the Chicken Festival started at 10am. Insurance will cover the repairs which should be complete within a month.

We've cleaned up, roped off and have resumed our normal hours, Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 4pm. So drop by, but please park only in designated spaces!

Read on— we have an interesting program for Tuesday night, October 23. I hope to see you there.

Vice-President's Message

Ron Lingren

If you missed the July meeting, you probably don't know all of the programs and services that are available at the Fair Oaks Community Library located near the corner of Madison and Fair Oaks Boulevard.

Tom Grunersen, District Librarian for Fair Oaks, gave a presentation and answered many questions from the floor on everything from Internet access, to Veteran's services, to programs for teens.



We've put a link to the library's home page on our website. You'll find an index to services there as well as other information on the Sacramento County Library System and its programs.

The October program will be an update on what's going on at the Slocum House as well as a recent visit from a Slocum-Gore great-granddaughter from Seattle who brought some old scrapbooks. Our guests will be the Brew Pub duo of Wei and Gary Juels, new owners of the Slocum House, who will talk about their plans for the restaurant and answer questions. It should be very interesting.

Photos from our July General Meeting



What's New...

Jim Pearce

We've added a new item to our gifts selection down at the History Center— a 2019 Fair Oaks Historical Calendar featuring 12 of our classic historic photos.

At 11 inches wide by 17 inches high, it's the perfect size for a wall hanger in the kitchen or by the desk.

It's priced at \$15, and makes a great gift. All proceeds go to the History Center fund. The calendar will be on sale at the October General Meeting and is available at the History Center.



Membership Reminder

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, we urge you to continue your support of the Fair Oaks Historical Society and the Fair Oaks History Center. You can check your current status on our website: www.fairoakshistory.org

On the top of the home page we've highlighted the "Join, Renew, Donate" link. We've also created a credit card link so you can renew from home. You can also renew at the History Center, at the General Meeting or by mail.

Board Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Minutes of the July 2018 General Meeting and the detailed Treasurer's report will be available for your review at the General Meeting. Account balances as of the end of October 10 were: Checking - \$4,763; Savings - \$1,521; CDs - \$33,651; Total - \$39,335.

Soup Night 2018

Friday, November 2, 2018

Soup Night Donations—

We're still accepting quality raffle items for Soup Night. We will have three raffles— open bidding for the more expensive items, progressive-list bidding for medium cost items, and ticket-in-bag raffle for lesser cost items.

We're seeking items such as:

- gift cards for restaurants, spas, craft and specialty stores
- gift baskets with food items, garden supplies, kitchen supplies
- hand crafted items pictures, quilts, place mats, scarves, art objects
- NEW clothing
- time shares. vacation homes
- antiques,
- quality wine

Ask the businesses you patronize to donate an item or service. Or buy something special yourself to donate. We will recognize your donation and you will be helping to keep our History Center open and operating. Items can be dropped off with Bob Sours at the History Center on weekends or contact Pat Neufeld at pgneufe@gmail.com or 916-698-6654, for pick-up.

And, we're always looking for donations for our General Meeting fundraising raffle. Bring something special to the raffle table prior to the meeting. And, be sure to buy some raffle tickets

501c3 Tax Status

We've finally resolved our tax status with the IRS. We received a letter from them stating: "We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501 ©(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522."

So, keep those Soup Night raffle items coming in.



FOR SALE, Cozy cottage near the bluffs...

Yes, the historic Straith house is up for sale—a bargain at \$1,695,000. The house was built in 1900 by George Straith, a wealthy clothier from Chicago. For more information and a slide show of the home, Google “3910 Edgevale Court, Fair Oaks.”

Old Homes of Fair Oaks

Sally Dunbar

“Kate Smith” home, 7710 Tobia Way

When looking at the history of an old home it is easy to unearth who owned it. We simply research the Chain of Title with the County, which is the list of owners who, just like a chain, are linked to each other as the home changes ownership. A to B. B to C. C to D, etc. A bit more difficult, yet still something we can partially identify, is the record of who occupied the home. Our US Census, taken every 10 years, records who is living at the home at that moment, and it frequently tells a different story than the registered ownership.

What is even more difficult to research is the history of what happened within the home, and why various changes were made. Such is the puzzle of this quarter’s “Old Homes Article on the “Kate Smith” home at 7710 Tobia Way— one of our earliest grand homes on the Fair Oaks Bluff, built in the late 1890s.

We know the ownership chain lists Kate Smith as the original owner, purchasing the property on 13.09 acres from investors Clark, Cox, Wilson and Foster, in 1899. We then have records of Kate selling the home to Elizabeth Spencer in 1912.

Elizabeth and her husband Dr. George Spencer are shown on the census records as living in the home in 1920. It’s a bit vague between 1920 and 1925, when there is an Elizabeth Jones transferring her title to Paul Jones in Dec of 1925.

The McNabb family and the Barrister Macum Phelan families may have rented during that time, as well as someone Chinese, because the neighbors referred to the home as “The Chinese Mansion” before 1926, according to Lucy Houser Memories of 1958.

We know that Paul Jones and family lived in the home from 1932 until at least 1959 when he was interviewed for his article in the Memories. Was Elizabeth Jones the remarried name of Elizabeth Spencer? We don’t know.

But 7 years after taking ownership in 1925, the Paul & Aurel Jones family moved from Utah to live in their “Big Old Redwood home on Minnesota Avenue”, later to be identified as Tobia Way.

In April 1926 there appears a deed from Paul Jones and wife to A. R. Gallaway of Healdsburg. We have no idea who he was, but the Jones family continued to live there until after 1959 at least. We also know that from 1988 until 2005 John Frances and his wife owned the home, with the 3rd floor being her art studio.

What is even harder to discover is how the changes in a home came to be, and when. And that is where this home is a real puzzler. The Kate Smith home was originally a 3-story home, with a deep wrap-around covered porch encircling the house. With a full hip roof

and pop out dormer windows on the 3rd floor, it cut quite a silhouette perched up on the bluffs. If you drive by the home today, you would not recognize it, however. While the body of the solid redwood home remains with the original floor plan mostly intact, gone are the wrap around porches and the full hip roof. In their place is a French Country feel with a mansard-type flat-top roof and no overhang over the front door. There has also been a 2-car garage added towards the street, with stairs up to the foyer.

Why would this dramatic change have occurred? It is hard to tell, but a possible clue resides in Paul Jones' Memories article from 1959 when he mentions he is "sort of retired", or at least will be once he finishes "rebuilding new steps on all these redwood porches!" Can you imagine the work to rebuild all the decks and steps around the entire home? Despite the expense, the effort involved would be enough to convince many people to eliminate the decks. I know, from my own memory, that the current design was in place in 1979 when I moved to Fair Oaks, so the redesign must have taken place between 1959 and 1979.

The view from the house, once described as "one of the finest views in the world" is still spectacular, looking out over Sacramento Bar, the river, and on a clear day you can see all the way to Mt. Diablo. No wonder this was one of our first developed home lots!



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)