



# *Fair Oaks Historical Society*

## **Newsletter – July 2013** Issue Number 106

### **MEETING**

**6 p.m., Tuesday, July 23**

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse  
7997 California Avenue

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

Check out the latest on our website at: [www.fairoakshistory.org](http://www.fairoakshistory.org)

**Program, Trude Vasquez      Bring a Friend or Neighbor**

### **July 23rd Program— “California Early History”**

The Society will hold its third quarterly meeting and potluck dinner on Tuesday, July 23rd, at 6:00 p.m. at the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse, 7997 California Avenue, Fair Oaks. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30. The price of admission is a casserole, salad or dessert to share with others, which makes this the best potluck in town!

The program for this meeting will be **Early California History**, presented by **Howdy Hoover**. He is a docent at Sutters Fort. He has almost 5,000 hours of leading tours at the Fort and of working at a period setting historic camp site at Coloma. I'm sure he will provide an interesting and informative look at early California.

Society members, their friends and others interested in the activities of the Fair Oaks Historical Society are invited and welcome to attend the gathering. For a map and membership information, see our website: [www.fairoakshistory.org](http://www.fairoakshistory.org)

### **President's Update Joe Dobrowolski**

This Spring has been eventful for the Historical Society. We opened the History Center for the Fiesta on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, then we had our successful Grand Opening on May 8<sup>th</sup> and now we are open 5 days a week : Wed thru Sun, from 10AM to 4:00 PM. In March the Fair Oaks Park District required that we leave the Fireside room, so we had to move all of the pictures, artifacts, boxes of history and the furniture from the room. We surveyed what we had in storage; consolidated the items, moved some items out and moved more of our history in. It was a big job. You should be proud with the results of your work!

Our move to the new History Center was a big success because our membership did a great job. I have to applaud all the work everyone did over the last few years: supporting the Society, serving on the Executive Board, donating to our raffles, working on the soup nights, helping with our meetings, bringing the great food to our pot luck meetings, volunteering for outside cleanup at the History Center, helping with the packing and moving, working on the rehab of the building, advertising our events and being docents at the History Center.

It's wonderful to be part of an organization where so many contribute to its success. Here are a few pictures from the grand opening.



**NEWSLETTER;** The cost of mailing the newsletter is very expensive. If you have email we would really like to deliver this newsletter by email. We would like to reserve mailing the newsletter to those who do not have email. If you have received this by US mail and have email please forward your email to me at [joedobro@pacbell.net](mailto:joedobro@pacbell.net).

**SAD NEWS** - On July 4<sup>th</sup> we lost a beloved member of Fair Oaks, **Leonard Lamb**. He is survived by RoaeAnne Lamb. We will miss Leonard who was ever present with his big smile and happy demeanor at Historical Society events. We will remember Leonard leading RoseAnne across the dance floor whenever there was dance music playing.

**MEMORIAL DAY AT THE FAIR OAKS CEMETERY** – Linda Blue and Lois Frazier represented the Society at the Memorial Day event at the Fair Oaks Cemetery. They served the cookies our members prepared.

# Old Homes of Fair Oaks



First house about 1898



Second house about 1914

**Style** – Farmhouse

**Owners** – Monson family, 1896 – 1990

Joe Dobrowolski brought these houses to our attention when he discovered a file while moving the contents of the History Center. The file contained photos and documents of an attempt by the Fair Oaks Historical Society in 1990 to save the historic Monson house in the left photo above from demolition. The family was in the process of subdividing and developing the property. Unfortunately, no one could find a taker, so it was torn down. The second Monson house, on the right, burned. The file, along with information from FOHS member **Blanche Rosevear**, whose husband was Neils Monson's grandson, led to this article.

**Neils Monson** was born in Sweden in 1872 and emigrated to Illinois in 1891. In January, 1896 he headed west on the second excursion train to the Fair Oaks Colony sponsored by the **Howard & Wilson Publishing Company of Chicago**. He purchased ten acres just north and east of **Kenneth Avenue and Winding Way** and planted orchards, which he successfully farmed until his death in 1942.

In 1898 he married neighbor **Helena Roediger** and started his family in the little house shown above left. He had four children, one of whom died in infancy. In 1913, with his fourth child on the way, he decided that the 16 by 24 foot house was getting a little crowded and built his second house, above right, in front of the small house and closer to the frontage on Kenneth Avenue.

The Monson family owned the property continuously until 1990 when they decided to subdivide. The Kenneth Avenue access was closed off and the eleven lots were made accessible from the east on Rolling Green Way.

Many thanks to Blanche for sharing her family history and photos with us.



**Minutes of the April 23<sup>rd</sup> General Meeting** - Vicki Walter, Secretary - A general meeting of the Fair Oaks Historical Society was held in the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse, 7997 California Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Joe Dobrowolski. A quorum was present.

Joe welcomed everyone and said that the previously scheduled movie shorts will be shown at the next meeting. He

thanked everyone that brought potluck items and the Blomquists and Saunders for setting up the meal and room. Lois Frazier, on behalf of Linda Blue, circulated a signup sheet for people to bring cookies to the Memorial Day Celebration at the Fair Oaks Cemetery on May 25.

**Historical Moment** - Jeanne and Joe Maloney shared some memories about their former landlords and loving friends, Iva and Norm Langness. They are now storing their trunk and armoire.

**Fireside Room** - We were informed by the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District that we needed to move out of the Fireside Room by May 1. Ralph Carhart was able to get a two-month reprieve on the non-glass items. Those items will be moved May 1 and stored at the FOR&PD maintenance yard. Final decisions on disposition of these items is June 28.

**Grand Opening of the New History Center - Trude Vasquez** - Our grand opening will be on Wednesday, May 8th, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. While the Historical Society will provide the food and drinks, we are asking for members to bring desserts.

**Fiesta Days** - We are looking for volunteers to work two-hour shifts on Saturday and Sunday, May 4th and 5th.

**Membership - Tel LaBelle** New members were introduced: **Joan Schumacker** and **Bob and Ann Rohwer**.

**Program - Jim Pearce** talked about How to Trace Your Family and described the online tools available

**New Business** - Minutes from our January 22, 2013 meeting were approved as distributed.

Our next general meeting will be Tuesday, July 23rd. Howdy Hoover, docent at Sutter's Fort will be our guest speaker.

**Treasurer's Report**—Summary as of 2/28/13:

Checkbook ending balance \$11,553.76

Savings ending balance \$ 1,069.59

CD ending balance \$30,346.55

Total assets **\$42,969.90**

**Raffle and Wine Sales - Claudia Thorn**-Tonight we made \$118 on wine and \$113 on raffle tickets. She is looking for volunteers to sell wine and raffle tickets at the July meeting (two people for each). Raffle donations are needed.

**Sales Soup Night - Claudia Thorn** - Soup Night will be November 1st. Tickets will be available for sale at the July Meeting

## **Fair Oaks' Banks** - Summarized from the February 1973 San Juan Record.

In June 1909 a group of local people opened the Fair Oaks Bank with a capitalization of \$25,000.00.

CH Slocum was a cashier and WW Hinsey was an assistant cashier. This bank was located on California Ave just east of Fair Oaks Blvd. After two years the building burned down. The bank promptly moved to Fair Oaks Blvd. around the corner. In 1911 a new building at the corner of Fair Oaks & California was built for the bank. The upstairs were living quarters used by Slocum, who was the manager at the time. The story goes the bank was robbed one day while Slocum was upstairs having lunch and discovered the theft only after lunch. In 1933 FDR declared a bank holiday and the bank closed never to open. Fair Oaks had no bank until 1947, when the Fair Oaks National Bank was formed. In 1952 the two story building was demolished and the building, which still stands was



built. In 1959 the bank moved to its location on fair Oaks near Howard. The bank had various

names: Suburban Bank; Angelo-California National Bank; Crocker Anglo Bank, Crocker Citizens bank and then the Crocker National Bank

# HELP NEEDED

## HISTORY CENTER MANAGER

A person who will oversee the staff working at the History Center.

Primary duties will be:

To get the hours worked from the time card twice a month and send to the payroll firm.

To be available to answer the staff's questions.

Periodically check on staff.

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Prepare the newsletter four (4) times a year.

Put together the articles written by others into a newsletter.

Familiarity with Word or other word processor app will work.

Email a PDF copy to the printer

Email a copy to the person with the email listing

## Businesses that Support the Society or have donated time/materials.

<b>Jeane Maloney</b> Interior Design 916-965-6528	<b>Indian Electric</b> Kirk Choate, Orangevale CA 916-870-3025 KDC@indian-electri.com
<b>Godfrey Tile</b> 4137 Joy Ln, Carmichael, CA 95608 Phone:(916) 961-4093 godfreytile@sbcglobal.net	<b>R K Jacobs Insurance Services</b> 4777 Sunrise Blvd. Fair oaks CA 916-966-3733 rjacobs@pacbell.net
<b>Sandy Davis Design, Inc.</b> Carpet 10426 Fair Oaks Blvd. Suite A, Fair Oaks, (916) 9619044	<b>Heritage Heating and Air</b> Patrick 988-2111
<b>Dianda's Bakery and Café</b> 10131 Fair oaks Blvd, In the FO Village Fair Oaks CA 916-966-3757 Mon thru Sat 6:30AM to 5:00PM	<b>Phil Evans Art Studio</b> 7958 Entrance St, Fair Oaks 916-966-7686 phillart@sbc.global.net www.phillevans.com
<b>Brothers Electric Centers Lights,</b> 911375 Sunrise Park Dr., Ste #600, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742 (916) 536-1620 or (866) 478-5320	<b>Ships and Trips Travel</b> 8547 Shawnee Ave, Fair Oaks 916-207-3166 trude@trude4travel.com