

*S. L. Osgood*



**Fair Oaks**



**High School Advocate**

4



**Fair Oaks, Sacramento County, California**

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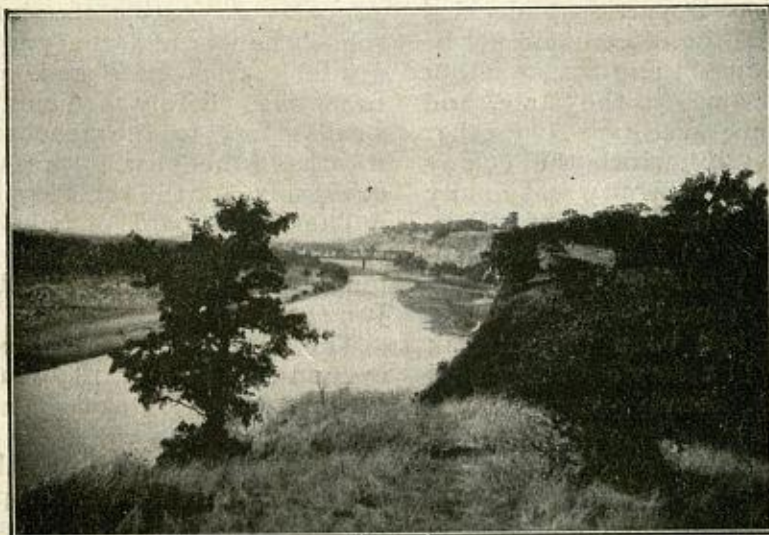
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# The High School Advocate

VOL. I.

FAIR OAKS, CAL., DECEMBER, 1902.

No. 4



SCENE ON AMERICAN RIVER, FAIR OAKS.

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## FAIR OAKS

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### A Factor in a New Empire.

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BY S. E. KIEFFER, C. E.

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#### PART III.

Prior to the completion of the water system in June, 1896, and before the close of the rainy season, there had been considerable activity in the colony in setting out of orchards of deciduous fruits and olive trees, but no attempt was made toward the planting of citrus trees until water for irrigation was assured.

Early in July the first large shipments of orange and lemon trees arrived from Southern California, and were planted in orchard rows on various tracts in different portions of the colony. In the planting, citrus trees took the lead in numbers, followed next by olives and then by deciduous fruits (which were almost entirely planted in small assorted lots for home consumption.)

By the middle of July about 500 acres were planted to orchard, in the ratio of about 300 acres of citrus trees to 200 acres of all other varieties. With the planting of the citrus trees the first season's work on the colony practically came to a close.

And surely the workers on the ground had no cause to be ashamed of the record of activity shown by the results produced in those first few months.

On November 20, 1895, the first visitors arrived to disturb the solitude of the unbroken forest, and on July 20, 1896—eight months later—at least 600 acres of land were cleared for the plough, of which 500 acres were planted to orchard.

During the enforced rest from clearing of land and planting of orchards, occasioned by the summer months of 1896, the people took their first practical lessons in the art of irrigation, and with the less "strenuous" life came the opportunity, heretofore lacking, of looking around and seeing wherein they could improve their general surroundings.

The task presented to their view was one of no small magnitude.

Already steps had been taken to have a postoffice established, which was done

on February 12, 1896. Mr. L. M. Shelton was appointed the first postmaster, a position he still occupies.

The mail came by way of Sacramento to Folsom, and was then delivered by carrier once a day. The hours of departure and arrival of mails were 7:30 a. m. and 12 m. respectively.

The Postoffice Department decided that the name of the office could not be Fair Oaks, because there was another office of that name in the state, and that the postoffice must have some other name than that by which the colony was known. The difficulty was finally overcome by making the word "Fair-oaks" (all one word), a ruling little adhered to by the public.

With the very inception of things, religious services had been instituted in the colony, the first services being held in the general assembly room of the hotel. Clergymen of various denominations officiated at different times during the first winter, but the Methodists predominating in numbers a Methodist church was finally organized, and with the warm weather of spring the pastor of the church, Rev. Mr. Sheldon, began holding regular Sunday services in a large tent that was pitched under the trees in the townsite, just west of the present church.

The affairs of church and state having been temporarily disposed of, the point of next greatest importance to the physical (and possibly the moral) well-being of the community was the subject of roads. During the construction of the pipe system the surveyed roads had been cleared to permit of laying the pipes, but no grading had been done. The roads still followed the old winding course, much of which crossed tracts that had been plowed up for the planting of orchards, thus compelling still further deviations and windings, until a trip from east to west of the colony was not a joy forever, and was provocative of much that was not conducive to the moral well being of a people.

A campaign was inaugurated for "good roads," which finally bore a certain amount of fruit during the following winter.

Of first importance at this time was the recognized necessity for a public school for the education of the children of the colony, who could no longer be

overlooked. As yet there was no machinery in existence whereby a public school in Fair Oaks could be established, and a teacher paid.

Steps were taken to form a school district, the Fair Oaks school district being carved from the districts of Orangevale and San Juan. There was no taxable property to justify the building of a school house, and the per capita fund available from state and county school funds was barely sufficient to pay a small salary to the teacher for eight months of the year, with a very limited equipment for the school room.

The first Board of School Trustees was appointed by the County Superintendent of Schools and held office until June of 1897.

The first public school in Fair Oaks opened in October, 1896, in the upper story of (then) Dean's Hall, near the hotel. This was the only building in the colony at that time suitable for such purposes. The number of pupils in attendance during the first year was about forty.

During the summer of 1896 the population of the colony was steadily growing, and new dwellings were erected.

With the opening of the winter season of 1896-97, great activity again prevailed along the lines of clearing and planting of land. The record of the previous season was equalled, and by spring of 1897 approximately 1,000 acres of land was planted to orchard.

An atmosphere of permanency had settled over the community. The people and their created institutions had come to stay, and already the community at large was beginning to recognize Fair Oaks as a factor to be considered in the reckoning.

The second winter of the colony's life was entered upon with the topic of road building as the vital issue. The heavy teaming between Fair Oaks and Sacramento, occasioned by hauling the thousands of cords of wood awaiting a market (as many as 75 teams of from two to ten horses each being engaged in the work), resulted, when added to the natural difficulties—in an aggravated case of bad roads. Early in the season the Howard & Wilson Pub. Co. began the grading and bridging of the main roads through the colony, making fairly passable about six and a half miles of roads

that served as trunk lines for the heavy travel. Several miles of lateral pipe lines were also put in during the winter, for the purpose of opening new land to settlement.

Up to this time most of the development had been in the eastern and central portion of the colony, in what was known as Fair Oaks Tract, with only here and there a small tract cleared in the addition.

A gradual development now took place in the affairs of the colony for a period of two years. The great rush of the first two seasons was not repeated.

Sales of land to the aggregate of 2,200 acres were made by the Howard and Wilson Pub. Co. up to the close of 1898, when for various reasons they were compelled to relinquish all business connection with the colony.

In June of 1897 the first school board was elected in Fair Oaks, and during the summer following contributed materials and labor on the part of the Howard and Wilson Pub. Co. and the people, resulted in the erection of a very neat and commodious school house. This building was occupied for the first time in September, 1897. The colony still suffered from a dearth of public buildings, and the school house for many months served not only as school, but church and town hall.

At the time the population of the colony was about 300, and the dwellings of all descriptions numbered about seventy-five.

There was little change in these figures at the close of 1898.

By this time in the neighborhood of 1,200 acres of trees were planted in orchard, in the ratio of about 800 acres citrus trees to 400 acres of all other varieties.

The fact was now recognized that without enlarged water mains the extended growth of the colony must come to a halt. The Howard and Wilson Pub. Co. having failed in their promise to put in larger pipes, and having withdrawn from the colony, the people settled down to await developments, and meanwhile they carried on an active campaign for the betterment of the internal affairs of the colony.

The colonists during the first three years were so intent upon the struggle to clear the land and plant orchards,

that little time was left for the less practical but no less desirable external adornment of the homes and grounds surrounding them. Gradually the "priming" coat of paint of earlier days gave way to the more cheerful and artistic finishing coats, and green lawns added their touch of color to the landscape.

TO BE CONTINUED.

## A Tale of the Mines.

(CONCLUDED)

There was in the relief party a stalwart young man—a comparative stranger in the vicinity—who held to the latter theory. He was "six feet five," square shouldered, sallow complexioned, as one who smokes opium. We will call him Jack Hartlet, which is probably as near his right name as the one by which he was then known. Jack was a miner, and at the time of these occurrences was working a "gravel claim" in the neighborhood of the missing man's cabin. He was working alone at that time, and making his headquarters at the town of W—, coming in about once a month to replenish his larder. He first made the discovery that the subject of this tale was missing from his cabin, and he it was who organized and led the relief party. He even searched alone for days after all others had given up in despair.

If poor John Thompson had met with either of the accidents mentioned, it must be an easy matter to find him, and so the party set out on the search. Some of them went first to where Thompson had last worked, thinking that he might have met with an accident there. The immediate vicinity was then thoroughly examined, the search widening and extending as the day advanced. But their labors were not rewarded. Other parties were formed and the search continued for days. But the country was mountainous and covered with pine timber, and in many places with a thick undergrowth of manzanita. There were canyons and gorges where a man might lie undiscovered for years, if only he got there once.

The only alternative was to try the dog, he he being now somewhat recovered

from the effects of his prolonged fast. But, whether his sensibilities and natural instincts were blunted by starvation, or whether he had not accompanied his master on his fatal trip, he would not leave the cabin unless forced to, and would not lead in any direction. This last resort proving a failure the matter was dropped and poor John Thompson, the "shake-maker," was left to his fate.

Some years after the time of the above occurrence, Jack Hartlet, the miner of sallow complexion, broad shouldered and "six feet five," had some difficulty with a fellow miner in W—— and shot him. He was arrested, tried, convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary at hard labor. He was about thirty-five years of age at the time of the sentence; a service of ten years seemed a long time to him. He would be forty-five when released; could he survive the time without the drug which had become indispensable to him? Preyed upon by the knowledge of crimes committed for which he had not been apprehended, he became gloomy and morose. Probably the absence of the drug made the future look even more dreary and blank to him. Be that as it may, on the night previous to the time set for his departure for the State prison, with an old knife which he had been permitted to retain in his cell in the county jail, he managed to sever the jugular vein. Toward morning his cell-mate heard him groaning, and occasionally a gasp, as if of someone experiencing difficulty in breathing, was heard. Hardened as this wretch was by scenes of suffering and crime, he but turned over and again slept the sleep that should belong only to the innocent.

When the jailor made his rounds in the morning he found poor Jack still gasping, but too far gone for any human aid to avail. He had sufficient strength, however, to make this confession:

Having but slight prospect of getting immediate returns from his mining enterprise, and being in need of money, both for his personal expenses and to carry on his work, he had been casting about him how he might raise a small amount, honestly or otherwise. While out one evening looking for game, he came, unexpectedly, upon the hut of Thompson, the shake-maker. He

knocked and was bidden to enter, in the open-hearted miner fashion. He found Thompson counting some money—bright gold pieces—which he is supposed to have received from friends in the East who knew of his retreat and almost destitute circumstances. The fiend in Hartlet arose. Here was an opportunity to obtain the cash needed to carry on his mining enterprise. If he killed the old man, arranged things to indicate that he had prepared his meal to cook and then gone out with his gun, it would be supposed that he had met with some accident and had lain down to die in some out-of-the-way place. He was never known to have money, so the theory of murder would not be thought of. Why should such a poor old man as he be murdered? Such a theory was never even suggested during the long search for the body. Accordingly Hartlet committed the murder, how he did not state, carried the body to a safe hiding-place, secured the dog and left him to starve. He took the precaution to fasten the dog in the house to prevent his following to the hiding place of his master, in which case he would have been able to lead the searchers there. This explains why the dog persistently refused to leave the house.

It will be remembered that Jack Hartlet was the first to discover that the old man was missing. He also stated that the dog met him at the door in his starved condition.

He had committed this crime and had successfully covered up his tracks, but the knowledge of it, and possibly of others, was too much of a strain upon his nervous condition consequent upon the absence of the drug and the heavy sentence, which was unexpected by him and his friends. Thus murder will out.

—2—

### Thanksgiving in Fair Oaks.

The Ladies Aid entertained Fair Oaks on Thanksgiving Day. At 11 o'clock Rev. James Whitaker preached an able sermon to an audience that filled the church to overflowing. After the services and during the afternoon a chicken dinner was served in the basement of the church, which was well patronized, and which was a financial success. The Ladies Aid desire to thank very kindly all their patrons.

**The Advocate**

Vol. I. FAIR OAKS, CAL., DEC., 1902. No. 4

THE ADVOCATE is published monthly by the Fair Oaks High School.

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Advertising rates made known on application.

**EDITORIAL****NO COMPLAINT**

We are grateful to the people of Fair Oaks for their generous support of the *ADVOCATE*, and we assure them that it is our desire at all times to be worthy of their support and confidence. Should there be a balance at the close of the school year it will be devoted strictly to school purposes. The paper is published solely in the interest of the schools.

**Water Question Settled.**

The announcement that R. G. Hanford has succeeded in organizing a company to take the interests of Clarke & Cox in Fair Oaks colony, including the water right of the North Fork Ditch Company, made this Christmas a particularly merry one for Fair Oaks residents.

This is understood to mean an adequate supply of water, which is of paramount importance to the success of the colony, an hotel, and many other improvements. With these things accomplished this colony will advance very rapidly.

The original option held by Hanford expired in September, when an extension was given until November 15th, to be again extended to the first of the New Year. In the meantime several who had intended to build homes last autumn postponed this work until such time as the water question should be settled. It is now understood that they will proceed as soon as the weather will permit.

Upon the receipt of the news of the settlement of this vexing question a jollification was proposed but was deferred until after the signing of the papers of transfer should put the matter beyond question. When that time comes Fair Oaks will shout itself hoarse.

**Fair Oaks Scenery.**

We present in this issue some scenes in Fair Oaks, which might be duplicated indefinitely. If these samples shall inspire any with a desire to behold more let him come to see us and he shall be satisfied. Some of nature's choicest coziest corners must, ere long, give place to the cultivator—the orchard and the vineyard; but many more, especially the river views, are proof against the inroads of the industrious innovator, and future generations shall rejoice in them. We may say with the poet,

To him who, in the love of nature,  
Seeks communion with her visible forms,

come to Fair Oaks.

**Centralizing.**

Michigan is agitating in behalf of the centralized rural school, i. e., a system whereby there will be one central school for a large area, in which there are now many schools at different points. Children are conveyed to the central school at public expense, more than enough being saved by the centralization plan to do this. The plan has been proven feasible and is being gradually adopted by many states.

**Prize Essays.**

Two prizes have been offered for the best articles written by grammar school pupils and published in the *ADVOCATE* in the issues of November, December, and January. A first prize of \$1 in cash and a second prize of fifty cents will be given. Two articles were presented last month. Look out for these articles and see if you can pick the prize winners. A committee will be appointed to make awards.

**Rapid Transformation.**

Fair Oaks has made good progress in the six years of its existence, and stands today a wonderful example of American pluck and brains. Six or seven years is not a long time in which to convert a wilderness into an orange grove, yet in 1895 the territory of the colony was a wilderness, while today a goodly portion of it is producing golden fruit for the markets of the east.

In this world a man must either be anvil or hammer.—Longfellow.



TIMBER VIEW.

### Comment.

In Nye county, Nevada, is situated the town of Tonopah, which at three years of age has about two thousand inhabitants.

The question suggests itself as to why this community has grown so rapidly. The answer may be given in one word, "Gold." People have flocked there in the hope of gaining wealth more rapidly than they could elsewhere. Two newspapers are published there, brick blocks have sprung into existence as if by magic, and habitations of one sort or another have been built for all those people. Yet this town is sixty miles from the railroad, water has been very scarce and very unhealthful, and fuel hardly to be obtained at all. It is situated in an alkali desert where nothing will grow, at an altitude of about one mile above sea level. So wonderful a stimulus is the desire for gold that these seeming obstacles of Nature have been surmounted, and many of the conveniences of modern life will soon be in their possession. A water system is being constructed, and a railroad is expected in the near future.

In a short time Governor-elect Geo. C. Pardee will take the oath of office, and Governor Gage will step down into—obscurity. An election to the Governorship of California seems to be a deadly blow. There is no recovery from its evil effects. The gubernatorial chair casts a spell over its occupant, causing him to be invisible ever after. That is not a new sensation, however, to several of them and perhaps, after all, they only go back whence they came.

In most of the states, in fact, the governors are non-entities. The office seems to be a mere convenient stow-away almost equal to that of the Vice-

Presidency. There are, nevertheless, brilliant exceptions to the rule, and some states elect really big men to the office, who use it as a stepping stone to the Senate, or even to the Presidency. Let us hope that Governor Pardee will smash the Californian precedent.

It is authoritatively announced that our State University now ranks third among the colleges of the United States. With plenty of funds at its disposal it can easily be made to rank with the highest. It has advantages of location, and is otherwise destined to rise to the top. Leland Stanford Jr. University is also gaining rapidly and ranks well up toward the lead. With two such institutions in our midst, besides some smaller denominational colleges, we have educational facilities for years to come. It will be several generations before these Universities shall have reached their limit of expansion, and not before that time shall there be room for more colleges. Let the wealthy who are contemplating endowments remember this and give their money to the institutions already established and struggling along under burdens which money will lift. We do not need more colleges, but better ones.

An improvement club would not be a bad thing for Fair Oaks. Many things may be done by co-operation that, while not of very great importance in themselves individually, would, in the aggregate, be of immense value. If the gentlemen of the colony would meet occasionally and talk over matters of general public interest, measures of far-reaching import would doubtless result. Fair Oaks colony is making history, and while these are the pioneer days they are also the ones which shape its future destiny. We have an abiding faith in the future of this colony. It has everything in its favor which Nature can bestow. All that is needed is wise concert of action upon the part of its citizens.

You will be known and esteemed for what you are, not for what you pretend to be; therefore be what you would have others think you are.

At what age may a young lady properly go into society without a chaperon?

Ans.—When she can rightfully call some chap'er own.



## LOCAL NEWS

## A Merry Time.

The following was the program for the Christmas entertainment at the church on Christmas eve:

Organ Voluntary.  
 Invocation.  
 Opening chorus, "Ring on, Ye Bells."  
 Prayer.  
 Chorus, "Christmas Tidings."  
 Class exercise by seven little girls, "A Christmas Rainbow."  
 Chorus, "Glory in the Highest."  
 Recitation.  
 Class exercise, "Our Christmas Tree."  
 Music, "Hurrah for the Merry Christmas."  
 Class exercise, "Message of the Bells."  
 Music, "Christmas Bells."  
 Solo and quartet.  
 Recitation, "Lo, They Come."  
 Music.  
 Class exercise, "Remembered Blessings."  
 Song, "Bethlehem's Star."  
 Recitation.  
 Music, "Christmas Tree."

Carrie Osgood, Hortense Gore and Ruth Bowers recited, and Luella and Mabel Holst sang, each with much credit to herself.

The church was filled notwithstanding the fog and consequent darkness. Two trees were loaded with presents, and a log cabin completed a scene that was calculated to warm old Santa's heart. That easterners might feel somewhat more at home, a snowstorm preceded the advent of Santa Claus, who, by the way, was accompanied by Mrs. Santa Claus. Nuts, apples and candy were liberally distributed and every child in the colony was remembered.

A beginning has been made toward leveling the school yard and cutting out some of the superfluous trees. This work will be prosecuted as rapidly as funds will permit until we have a lawn and graveled walks.

The theatre train on the 6th inst. was held at Brighton until 4 o'clock a. m. of the 7th on account of a wreck at Natoma.

Native sons and daughters of about one dozen states of the Union are attending the Fair Oaks schools.

We must not stint our necessary actions in the hope of escaping malicious censure.—Shakespeare.

Heaven never helps the man who will not act.—Sophocles.

There is no past so long as books live.—Lytton.

All of our advertisers are worthy of your patronage. Give them a call, and please mention the *ADVOCATE*.

The *ADVOCATE* for the next six months for fifty cents. Send it to your friends in the east.

Several vegetable gardens planted in the Autumn are looking all right. They will supply vegetables as early as the earliest next Spring.

Fair Oaks now has a dentist, Dr. E. W. Whitman, of Oakland, having located here. He and Dr. Bramhall will have offices in the McMurray house just west of the Murphy block.

Fair Oaks is rapidly assuming its holiday attire. The old saying that "a green Christmas makes fresh graves" does not apply to California.

Mr. J. H. Cunningham intends to clear a five acre tract this winter, which he may possibly set to Tokay grapes.

We can say with the old hymn, "December's as pleasant as May."

"Stuff a cold and starve a fever" is the popular way of putting it; but we heard a good doctor say: "Do not stuff a cold lest you may have to starve a fever."

A car load of oranges was shipped east by the Fair Oaks Fruit Company on the 10th instant. It consisted of 362 boxes of fine fruit, which ought to meet with ready sale.

All the surplus labor of the colony is being utilized by the Fruit Company in handling oranges and olives.

Miss Bessie Smith, of Minnesota, is a recent arrival. She will spend the winter season in Fair Oaks.

It is probable that within a short time Fair Oaks will have a rural mail delivery from the local postoffice. The official in charge of this service was here recently to investigate, and it is believed that a sufficient showing can be made to secure a delivery from the Fair Oaks office.

Mr. Frank J. Bramhall, of Chicago, who is in charge of the advertising department of the Michigan Central Railroad, is spending some time in Fair Oaks visiting his son, Dr. Bramhall.

Mr. Lester, a resident of Fair Oaks for a number of years, has gone to Point Richmond. He has rented his house for a year.

The Fair Oaks train changed time on December 21st, and now leaves Fair Oaks bridge at 7:45 a. m. and 3:30 p. m. Returning it leaves Sacramento at 9:15 a. m. and 5:00 p. m.

Mr. F. O. Turner, of Sacramento, spent a few days in Fair Oaks recently. He expressed surprise at the progress the colony has made, and thinks the future of this section very bright, indeed.

The friends of Rev. Whitaker made up a generous purse and gave him as a Christmas present. Mr. Whitaker feels very grateful to the donors and thoroughly appreciates their kind remembrance.

Some of the papers are complaining that much of the fruit at the Citrus Fair, San Francisco, is not of first quality. We opine that the selection and preparation of fruit for exhibition purposes is a fine art and should be supervised by experts if the best results are to be attained. The telegraphic reports generally speak approvingly of the Fair Oaks exhibit.

#### NOTICES.

##### Methodist Episcopal Church, Fair Oaks.

Sunday School at 10 o'clock.  
 Preaching services at 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M.  
 Junior Endeavor Sunday afternoon at 2:30.  
 Superintendent, Mrs. James Whitaker.  
 Christian Endeavor Service at 6:30 Sunday evening.  
 Regular prayer meeting on Wednesday evening at 7:30.  
 Regular official meeting first Monday in every month at 7:30 P. M.

JAMES WHITAKER, Pastor.

Presbyterian church services are held each Sunday at San Juan Hall at 11 o'clock. Sunday School at the same place at 10 o'clock.

## The Curio Store

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