

S. J. Osgood



Fair Oaks



High School Advocate

6



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The High School Advocate

VOL. I.

FAIR OAKS, CAL., FEBRUARY, 1903.

No. 6

see p. 15
5/03

FOR BETTER SURROUNDINGS.

An Organization to Promote Improvements in Fair Oaks.

For some time there has been a feeling that something should be done by the citizens of Fair Oaks to better the conditions in and surrounding the townsite.

There are many little improvements that may be made at small cost that help to beautify and make attractive the public grounds and surroundings, and it was felt that this work should be taken up and carried on by voluntary contributions of time, talent, and money. So at the recent Farmers' Institute, interest having been aroused as to the importance of co-operative effort, a meeting was appointed for Saturday, January 24th, with a view to effecting an organization of some character.

At this meeting, which was held in the basement of the church on the afternoon of the day appointed, the Fair Oaks Horticultural Improvement Association was organized. J. H. Cunningham was elected president, J. C. Sloan, secretary, and W. R. Gore, treasurer.

After a general exchange of views, it was decided to begin the improvement with the public school grounds.

The school house is located in the very heart of the townsite on a knoll, which slopes to the south, east, and west, and, being thus both conspicuously located and easy of adornment, and being, besides, public property and nearer the hearts of the people than any other spot in the colony, it was selected as being most likely to arouse enthusiasm and to give the best results for the efforts expended. To initiate this work, a committee consisting of Messrs. Straith (chairman), Whitaker, and Stephenson and Mesdames Buffum

and Williams, was appointed to act in conjunction with the School Trustees, Messrs. J. H. Cunningham, J. E. Holst and C. H. Slocum. These committees visited the school grounds the following week and planned the work to be done, which it was decided should consist in the setting out of semi-tropical trees, such as acacias, palms, etc., and the laying out of walks in the proper places.

In the meantime the Trustees were having the hummocks of dirt, left from the excavation of the basement last Summer, removed, the small oaks grubbed out and the yard smoothed in readiness for the trees and a possible lawn.

At this same meeting Messrs. Sargent, Mack, and Gore were made a committee on public roads, and an arbor day was suggested, when citizens should meet and plant trees. Much enthusiasm was manifested, and an adjournment to Saturday, January 31, 1903, was had, when the committees were expected to report progress.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Association met in the basement of the church on Saturday afternoon, January 31st, about forty persons being present, a goodly percentage of whom was ladies. Diagrams of the school grounds were presented, showing clearly the manner of decoration proposed by the committees, which was, in short, to arrange for cement walks extending south, east, and west from the school house to the boundaries of the lot; to plant a row of trees from the northwest corner around the lot to the south and on to the northeast corner. This row of trees will be acacias and palms, alternating, and will be set outside of the space where it is hoped there will sometime be a sidewalk. In the interior will be set some palms, magnolias and such other trees and shrubs as may hereafter be determined upon.

The committee was given authority to purchase the necessary trees and

have them ready to be set out on February 23d, which was selected as Arbor Day.

An invitation is extended to every citizen of the colony to be present on Monday, February 23d, prepared to dig a hole and set out a tree. The citizens who have inaugurated this movement are in earnest, and are determined to leave something behind them in Fair Oaks for which future generations will bless them.

The importance of the care of the shrubbery that should be put out was not overlooked. It was deemed that that matter should be left in the hands of the Trustees, any expense incurred to be met by the association.

To provide a small fund for emergencies, a fee of fifty cents was collected from each one who became a member of the association. The payment of this fee is entirely voluntary, however, and the moral support of all in behalf of the good work begun is earnestly sought, whether any fee be paid or not.

The association adjourned to meet at the call of the president, and it is hoped that other good work may be undertaken when that in hand shall have been executed.

Let all come out on next Monday, whether association members or not. Washington's birthday cannot be celebrated more appropriately than by doing something to adorn this land which he did so much to free.

—§—

From the Pan and Rocker to the Largest Gold Dredge in the World.

When the first settlers came to Fair Oaks, then called Sunset, colony, they saw, about a quarter of a mile from the east line of the tract laid out for the townsite, a small indentation on the American river containing about forty or fifty acres and known as Sailor Bar, on which there were a few Chinamen, who were mining over the ground that the '40ers had worked, and a sheep corral with a band of about two thousand sheep.

This bar was owned by Clarke & Cox. The heaps of rocks and gravel on which the California poppy was growing,

with here and there a small plot of grass-covered ground, were good signs that it had been a lively place in early times.

Nearly four years passed in this way, when, in the spring of '99, the Ashburton Mining Company sent two drills to Sailor Bar to see whether or not it would pay to put in a dredge.

The gravel was found to be quite rich, and the company soon decided to put in a large dredge, which would work the gravel down to bedrock.

The Ashburton Mining Company leased the land for twelve years and began at once to prepare for the construction of the dredge.

Bids were advertised for and the job was let to the Buchyrus Company, and Mr. Stanton, who was one of the firm, was sent to superintend the work.

The boat was launched in June, 1900, and christened the "Hercules," but it was not until the following year that the machinery was all in and the boat in working order.

At first buckets of eight hundred pounds weight were put on, but as they were altogether too light for the work they were taken off and buckets weighing sixteen hundred pounds each were put on in their place. Afterwards, finding that these were somewhat too light, lips two hundred pounds in weight were put on, making the entire weight of a bucket eighteen hundred pounds.

The buckets, sixty-three in number, are fastened together forming an endless chain.

The dredge is run by electric power, which is supplied by the plant near Folsom. Five thousand volts come from Folsom, but as so much could not be used it is run through three large transformers and reduced to five hundred volts. There are four motors on the dredge, and the largest one, which runs the bucket line, is of five-hundred horse power.

The dredge sits on a large pond of water about 200x300x28 feet in dimensions, and is supplied with water by a pumping apparatus which will be explained later.

The buckets come up full of water, rocks, and gravel and empty into a large revolving steel cylinder called a

"grizzly." This is full of holes of various shapes and sizes. Over the mass of rocks and dirt on it is poured a powerful stream of water, which washes the gravel off of the rocks and carries it down the flume, where the gold is caught by quicksilver. The stones keep going down the "grizzly," which is on an incline of about five degrees, until they reach a hole large enough for them to go through, when they drop through a chute into the pond. In this way the rocks and dirt fill up the rear end of the pond as excavations are made ahead.

The pumping station consists of a small house, in which there are two motors of forty horse power each. These suck the water out of the river through two pipes, which empty it into an eighteen-inch pipe that carries the water to the dredge. The dredge takes a swath of two hundred feet in width and takes out 89,600 cubic feet of dirt every twenty-four hours' run. Lengths are added to the pipe as the dredge moves ahead from the station and taken out as it comes back.

The dredge is cleaned up every time a run of one hundred hours is made.

C. O. S.

INCIDENTS OF A SUMMER VACATION.

The Porpoise.

Arthur and Willie Grant were brothers and lived with their parents on the south bank of the O—l river. This river emptied into H— Bay, about a quarter of a mile distant.

At the time of our story the boys were fourteen and sixteen years of age respectively.

One morning late in September the boys decided to take a trip on the bay. Thinking that they might get a salmon, or maybe get a shot at a duck, they took their fishing tackle and shot-guns along with them.

They visited the old deserted mill and pushed their boat around and under the rickety old wharfs. After amusing themselves by pulling the great red and brown starfish from the rocks, and watching the gulls soaring

here and there, for several hours, they started homeward. As it happened the tide carried them toward their home. So the boys let the boat drift, while they talked about the several incidents of the day. Suddenly Arthur, the younger, pointed to the left of the boat and called Will's attention to a great black fish. Its great black back could be seen rolling and turning above the surface of the water.

"It's only a porpoise," said Will, "and a small one, too. Say, let's get a little nearer and give him a dose of shot." Consequently the boys pulled their boat to within twenty yards of the fish. Then, as the head of the fish was momentarily pushed above the water the boys fired two good big charges into the side of the brute's head. But now a very unexpected thing happened. The fish, maddened by pain, churned the water into a foam and at once charged straight for the retreating boys. They had started none too soon, for when they reached the shallow water the fish was barely ten yards behind them. The boys were unable to leave the shore for nearly an hour, and when the porpoise did give them a chance they lost no time in rowing up the river to their home. This adventure was a lasting lesson to the boys, and they were, after this, contented to capture such fish as they could handle without danger to themselves and their boat.

A Logging Camp.

A number of friends and myself decided to visit one of the great logging camps, which was situated about twelve miles from our city. So three days later we were up bright and early and had started at 7:30 o'clock. After two hours' riding we crossed a small stream and then stopped. Here we unhitched our teams and walked through the cool woods. Two of the boys took their lines and trout flies and soon had a good string of the speckled little trout. The lunch baskets were then relieved of their wonderful contents, the fish were roasted on hot stones, and we sat down on the ground to a regular picnic dinner.

After dinner we traveled on to the camp. There was no wagon road, as the camp was among the steep hills, but

there was a railroad track. This we followed and at last came to one of the greatest logging camps in the State. The huge bull-donkey engine was just hauling a great string of logs into camp as we came up. These were loaded onto cars and then the cable that hauled the logs was pulled back into the hills by another engine at the opposite end of the cable.

It was easy to follow the tracks of the logs, because a great hollow had been worn into the ground, and this was lined with logs split for the purpose. A small stream of water was kept running over this ditch or hollow, so that the logs would drag more easily. After following this hollow for a mile or more we came upon a second camp. Here the logs were cut into the required lengths and the bark burnt off. They were then fastened end to end by short chains. When a sufficiently long string was thus collected a signal was sent over electric wires to the first camp. In less than a minute the great string of logs was in motion and was pulled down the hills and around the curves to the cars. As these logs made a trainload, we had a chance to ride back to where we had left our horses. So we boarded the engine and tender and thus left the logging camp. When we again reached the city we were thoroughly tired out and ready for a good night's rest. D. H. S.

FAIR OAKS FRUIT COMPANY.

The Fair Oaks Fruit Company has had a good season. It has easily handled all of the olives and oranges offered, finishing the making of oil about the middle of January.

Over one hundred tons of olives have been produced in the colony this season, and have been easily handled by local firms, the greater part being used for oil. Several hundred gallons, however, have been pickled and a first-class grade of ripe pickles obtained. Since olives must be handled with great care, whether for pickling or for oil, it is greatly to the credit of the company that it took care of this amount of fruit, under existing conditions, without any loss. It has been demonstrated that olives can be properly processed

here and that they meet with ready sale when so prepared for the market.

Several carloads of oranges have been packed and shipped. This does not, however, represent the whole product of the colony, as some sold their oranges in Sacramento for the local market.

With such increased facilities as can easily be had in the way of a better oil room, more crushing capacity, etc., the company will be able to handle the increased production of next season with equal ease and with much more confidence as to results.

Credit is due the President, the Board of Directors, and the Superintendent for the fidelity with which they have devoted themselves to the interests of the company.

The company has handled about 1,200 boxes of oranges, which have netted the growers an average of \$1.63 per packed box. It has disbursed in the colony to growers and for labor, in cash or the equivalent, about \$4,000.

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION.

The Cemetery Association had a meeting on Saturday, January 31st, at which by-laws were drafted and lots were apportioned to the stockholders present.

The method of selecting lots was as suggested by the Board of Directors, as follows: The numbers of the lots, by blocks, were written upon slips of paper; these slips were deposited in a hat, and each one drew a slip. The slips not drawn will be held by the President, Mr. C. H. Slocum, and stockholders may call upon him and draw their numbers.

The cemetery seems to be well planned. Water will be put in soon, and probably some steps toward the setting out of ornamental shrubbery taken this Spring. Here is work for the Horticultural Association.

Rev. James Whitaker recently delivered a lecture, "Misplaced Men," at Elk Grove and at Roseville.

Trust is Best.

If thou couldst trust, poor soul.
In him who rules the whole,
Thou wouldst find peace and rest.
Wisdom and sight are well, but
Trust is best.

Adelaide A. Proctor.

✠	The Advocate	✠
Vol. 1.	FAIR OAKS, CAL., FEB., 1903.	No. 6

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

Subscription 10 cents per month or 75 cents for 10 months, payable in advance.

Communications should be addressed: THE ADVOCATE, Fair Oaks, Sacramento, County, Cal.

Advertising rates made known on application.

EDITORIAL

The suggestion of the Advocate has been acted upon and an improvement club organized. The first action of this citizens' club was directed toward beautifying the school grounds, which movement shows the trend of the sentiment of the community. This is a healthy sentiment and there is ample scope for its exercise. Located, as the school house is, in a most conspicuous place, it and its surroundings attract the eye of the stranger, and a favorable or an unfavorable impression is made according as it is pleasing to look upon or otherwise.

§ §

Bills of many degrees of demerit are before the Legislature, but perhaps none is more worthy of defeat than the one which proposes to furnish free textbooks to school children. Unless new books are furnished every year the scheme would prove a failure, as parents would not want their children to use soiled and torn books that had been previously used. The writer has had some experience with free textbooks. The system does not work well.

§ §

We are sending out some copies of this paper to non-subscribers, and we hope that many will like it well enough to subscribe for the remainder of the year.

§ §

As there seems to be some misunderstanding in the matter we will say that those who have paid for a school paper will not be expected to pay again for

The Advocate. Subscriptions may be sent in through any member of the High School.

§ §

Physical training seems to be catching; even the Legislature has it. At this writing it seems to be in a mild form, but it is likely to break out in unexpected places at any time.

§ §

Nothing will promote mental power but persistent mental effort. Hard study is what counts in the acquirement of an education. Diligence will overcome many obstacles.

LOCAL NEWS.

Mr. F. W. Johns has moved to one of Mr. Buffum's houses.

Mr. J. B. Wrangham has moved from San Francisco to his orange orchard on the north side.

Mr. H. Rice has begun the erection of a new house in the western end of the colony. Within a quarter of a mile of the site chosen by Mr. Rice Mr. Geo. W. Stephenson will build during the coming Summer.

Mr. Lapham has made a quantity of olive oil at his new plant this season, as well as pickles. He is well equipped for handling the fruit. Fair Oaks will be able to handle its product for several years yet.

Mrs. W. K. Dobbins, who formerly resided here, has recently returned on a visit to her daughter.

Rev. Galvin, formerly of Sacramento, has moved into Mr. Burchard's house, thus adding himself and family to our community.

Mrs. M. J. Chamberlain has rented her property and will go to Minnesota as soon as it is occupied.

Mr. R. E. Dunlap and family are expected here from Pennsylvania about the middle of March. They will occupy Mrs. Chamberlain's house.

Professor Wickson, who recently conducted a Farmers' Institute here, gives Fair Oaks a good write-up in the Pacific Rural Press.

Rain has fallen in abundance within the last few weeks.

H. J. Lawrence has added a job press to his equipment, and is prepared to do work in that line.

The residents of the east end of the colony want a new road to the west, and it is hoped they will be able to secure it before long. The road problem is a big one and cannot be solved off hand.

Through the kindness of Judge Shields two copies of Booker T. Washington's anti-biography are circulating in Fair Oaks, and are being generally read. The Judge will give several prizes for reviews of the book.

J. G. Bluhm, who came here from Minnesota last Autumn, died on February 1st. The remains were taken to the old home for interment.

A meeting of the Horticultural Association was held on Saturday evening, the 21st instant, to discuss road matters with Supervisor Brooke. The meeting was too late for a report in this issue.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Mr. Geo. W. Stephenson of Western Springs, Illinois, will arrive here about the first of March with his family, in which there are two High School pupils. The young ladies will enter the Fair Oaks High School.

One public improvement very much needed is a shed for horses here at the school house. While not exactly an ornament, it is decidedly a necessity.

The grading of the school yard has improved the appearance of things very much.

Miss Ada Shelton has been obliged to drop her High School work on account of the great strain on her eyes.

The attendance during the severe storm of the last week of January was not much below the standard.

When you trade with our advertisers tell them who you are. You will thus help us, inasmuch as advertisers like to know that they are getting returns from their advertisements.

The clearing of the undergrowth from the school yard enables us to see what really beautiful grounds we have.

Our little nucleus of a High School library was a good investment, if a

constant use of the books is to be regarded as evidence. Nothing else is so helpful to a school as a well-selected list of reference books, such as we have made a beginning toward.

The class in physical culture is longing for warm weather. The recent cold snap was a great enemy of wood.

Every pupil should take pride in helping to beautify the school premises. Let everyone who possibly can do so plant or adopt a tree and see that it is cared for.

SCHOOL REPORT.

The following is the record of attendance of the Fair Oaks schools for the month ending January 16, 1903:

Boys enrolled	49
Girls enrolled	39
Total enrollment	88
Average number belonging.....	76
Average daily attendance.....	71
Percentage of attendance.....	94
Number of tardinesses.....	54

The following were neither absent nor tardy: High School—Carl Johns, Elmer Green, William Cunningham, and Hortense Gore. Grammar Grades, Miss Newman teacher—Albert Fowler, Marion Hodge, DeWitt Rice, Robin Broadley, Mabel Cunningham, Frank Green, and Cora Sloan. Primary Grades, Miss Higgs teacher—Clive Baugh, Irl Dickson, Simeon Green, Frank Cosby, Norma Riddle, Elinor Holland, Ruth Holland, Genevieve Canada, Harvey Bluhm, Helen Baugh, and Andrew Cunningham.

Report for month ending February 10, 1903:

Number of boys enrolled	41
Number of girls enrolled	38
Whole number enrolled	79
Average number belonging.....	75
Average daily attendance.....	66
Per cent of attendance.....	91
Number of tardinesses.....	46
Number of days absence.....	178

Following are the names of those who have been neither absent nor tardy for the month: Albert Fowler, Robin Broadley, Luella Holst, Frank Green, Hazel Slocum, Ruth Slocum, Ella Ward, Clive Baugh, Arthur Holst, Simeon Green, Frank Cosby, May Ward, Ruth Holland, Evelyn Whitaker, Walter Johns, Carl Johns, and Elmer Green.

BERRY GROWING.

As all well know the chief occupation of the people in the Sacramento Valley is the raising of citrus and deciduous fruits and grapes.

But besides these the cultivation of berries is important and successful.

At Fair Oaks, on the north bank of the American River, phenomenal, Logan and Primus berries, and mammoth black berries have been brought in, and large tracts have been set out with them. The Phenomenal berries are the largest and bring the best price in the market.

The above named berries, all except the Mammoth black berries, were brought into Fair Oaks in the spring of 1900, and the culture of berries has grown to be quite an industry here. They are an early crop and pay well.

In the months of December and January the vines are tipped to form new plants, which are ready to take up during the month of February.

Then about the first of March the vines are trained on a trellis, the old growth is cut out and the ground is spaded up.

The berries blossom sometimes in April, and from that time on through the season they must be thoroughly irrigated.

They start to ripen about the middle of May and last until the first of July. They are then left until the next season.

C. O. S.

PRIZES AWARDED.

The Grammar School contest, for which Mr. J. H. Cunningham generously offered the prizes, closed with the January number, Carrie Osgood winning first prize and Clarence Smith, second. The award was made by Judge Shields and Superintendent of Schools B. F. Howard. The following extract from Judge Shields' letter transmitting the decision is extremely pertinent:

"I like the idea of the competition very much, and hope your pupils will engage in many more of them. It is one of the cases where even those who lose have won, because it is a success and a triumph even to have engaged in competition of this character."

As to our engaging in more competitions of this character, we can only say that "Barkis is willin'."

A PANCAKE SOCIAL.

On Thursday evening, the 12th inst., the gentlemen of Fair Oaks gave the third annual pancake social at the church.

The entertainment consisted of a lecture by Rev. Sheldon on the subject, "From San Diego to Siskiyou," illustrated by stereopticon views of some of the most famous scenery of California and the Grand Canon of the Colorado.

After the lecture, which was enjoyed by a large audience, all repaired to the basement, where pancakes, said to have been made by the gentlemen, were served with the proper accompaniments.

The social was a success in every way and seems to have come to be a fixture in Fair Oaks.

NOTICES.

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.
Regular prayer meeting each week as announced.

Methodist Episcopal Church, Fair Oaks.

Sunday School at 10 o'clock.
Preaching services at 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M.
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Regular official meeting first Monday in every month at 7:30 P. M.

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