



Fair Oaks Historical Society

NEWSLETTER



October 1989

No. 9

President, June Melvin 967-5605
Vice President, Edwin Eubanks 967-1135

Secretary, Michael Stafford 962-3481
Treasurer, Charles Hull 965-6210

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members and Friends:

Another Society Year is about to become history. What accomplishments have been recorded and what accomplishments are yet to be obtained? The change from monthly to quarterly meetings has proven successful by the greater attendance record. A good audience qualifies for better programs, and on this point we've scored high.

We've initiated several new programs that will remain ongoing as it will take more than twelve months for completion. Photographing old resident homes in the area, taping more oral histories from long-time residents, and the propagation of oak trees are projects in progress.

The immediate new goal that has excited our membership and moved into the No. 1 priority position is the development of our Fair Oaks History Center which will open in the early Spring. The offer and relocation of the Monson Home, built in 1896, has been a real challenge and although nothing definite has been arranged to date, the Steering Committee continues to seek a location.

A nearly-completed project to be proud of is the microfilming of every issue of the Fair Oaks Post since its first issue in 1984 to the last edition in 1989... five years of recorded community history. One copy is being made for the Fair Oaks Historical Society, and another for the Fair Oaks Library.

Some new members were drawn into our Society activities in the various committees and they will strengthen our Society. We thank and applaud the many members who planned and prepared for the meetings, programs and projects furthering the aims of our Society. To them we attribute our good attendance record and membership participation. The food, decorations, registration and amenities also take time and effort to make the meetings enjoyable and comfortable for all attending.

All in all, we have done remarkably well considering the restrictions of limited time and our thinly stretched financial position. Our fund raising was limited this year. However, a generous contribution of Five Hundred Dollars was made by a pair of new members; man and wife. The donation is for the Historical Society Fund, newly established by the Executive Committee for development of the Historical Society. Our sincere gratitude for this generous donation.

QUARTERLY MEETING - OCTOBER 24, 1989

Program Speaker: **BETSY STRAND**

President, Friends of the ^{Folsom}Powerhouse

Subject: Preservation of the First Powerhouse
and the Chinese Diggings

Election of New Officers for 1990

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse
7997 California Avenue, Fair Oaks
Lower Level Dining Room - Phone 965-9887

Social Hour: 6:00 p.m. - Potluck Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Select a casserole, salad or dessert and make your
reservations with Adele Copeland, 965-7453, or
Julia Campoy, 967-6968

Your officers end this year steadfastly dedicated in the purpose of serving our role of leadership, in preserving our history and heritage, and in protecting our future identity. The officers, the chairmen and you, the members, by your efforts and wonderful cooperation have made my endeavors possible.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President.

JUNE MELVIN (Mrs. Wm. N.)

HISTORY CENTER'S OPENING DELAYED UNTIL SPRING

The Fair Oaks Historical Center Development Committee has been working hard gathering pictures, memorabilia and other material for the Center's dedication ceremony and opening exhibit. The first exhibit will pertain to the founding families of Fair Oaks; the people who arrived with the 1895, '96, and '97 excursion trains and settled the Sunset Colony.

Many descendants of these families continue to reside in Fair Oaks and it is our Society's goal to include their names to make the exhibit as complete as possible. Some members have contributed considerable material and others have provided valuable source leads. More time is needed to complete the display with families not presently included. The Executive Board granted (Continued on last page)

Officers for 1990

President William L. McPhail
 Vice President Richard Gilmore
 Secretary Dorothy McPherson
 Treasurer Charles Hull

Nominations will be open to the floor and the election held at the October Annual Meeting.

Bob McCafferty, Chairman

GETTING ACQUAINTED

Your president and four members attended the Annual Potluck Dinner Meeting of the Sacramento Historical Society at the Towe Ford Museum on September 23. Ronald L. Setzer of Citrus Heights is the president; also he is the new Regional Vice President for the Goldfield Gateway Region of the Conference of California Historical Societies. We met several members with the County Society, the Folsom, Elk Grove and Florin Societies, with the Friends of the Folsom Powerhouse and the California Vehicle Foundation. The featured speaker for the event was Fr. William Breault, S. J. (a Jesuit priest) who spoke and presented a slide show of Bishop Patrick Manogue. Fr. Breault's recent book relates the fascinating scenes from history of Patrick Manogue who arrived in California during the Gold Rush, worked as a miner then went east to study for the priesthood. His first assignment was to a parish in Virginia City, Nevada where he remained for twenty years, making friends with Comstock Kings as well as hard working miners. When Fr. Manogue became a Bishop and assigned to the Sacramento Parish, he called upon his 'rich Comstock friends' to finance his dream of building a great Cathedral to last for generations. The Cathedral still stands today at the corner of 11th and K Streets in Sacramento. We hope to bring this most interesting program to you at one of our meetings in the near future.

MUSEUM ATTENDANCE

How often do American high school students visit a museum?

Once a month or more ... 2%
 Once every 2-3 months ... 11%
 Once a year ... 48%
 Never ... 27%
 No answer ... 12%

(Source: Brother International survey of 3,319 students.)

Since 1954, the University of the Pacific and the Conference of California Historical Societies (to which the Fair Oaks Historical Society holds membership) have assisted each other in bringing together for cooperative purposes local and regional historical organizations from throughout California. The University has provided office space, encouraged its employees to serve as Conference officers and in general assisted the Conference in its activities. The Conference has utilized University personnel, identified itself with the University and encouraged its members to support University activities and programs related to a fostering of historical interest. The principal office of the Conference is at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California 95211.

The new Regional Vice President, Ronald L. Setzer lives in nearby Citrus Heights and you may meet him at the next general meeting in October.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER & BYLAWS

These were given to members in good standing (dues paid) at the last general meeting in July. They will be available at the October meeting for members who did receive their copies. If you are unable to attend and wish to have them mailed with the next Newsletter, please contact Alfreda Weiss, 965-0759.

BRING IN A NEW MEMBER. HELP OUR ROSTER GROW.

?? NEW LOGO ??

Your Executive Board recommends to you the consideration of adopting a new logo. The present one that appears on your membership card is an antique table lamp. An oak tree and other suggestions have been made. Something simple and representative hopefully will evoke from our thoughtful and talented members. For information, call Gayle Anita, 961-6912.

OUR APOLOGIES

A conflict of schedules and printing problems has resulted in the lateness of this Newsletter. With our apologies, we trust everyone has been notified of the coming meeting by telephone.

If you are interested and can help with the Newsletter, please contact Bill McPhail, 961-9641.

CENTER OPENING DELAYED

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the Committee's request to postpone dedication until early Spring.

If you have personal knowledge and/or information, please call Gayle Anita, Chairman, at 961-6912.

With the development of our mini-museum, Fair Oaks history will be given a home; a sound, safe repository to house the material remains of our community's history. The Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks, the oldest service organization in the area (organized in 1902), is placing on loan a glass encased display cabinet for historical items. Various old documents and period clothing from the area (from old trucks and closets) will be shown.

As the Center develops, we hope to keep it open on weekends for the public at large, with member docents present. During the week, educational tours for schools and other groups will be available by appointment.

It is a beginning and, with membership support, we can all feel proud to see our History Center grow. Remember, today's happenings make tomorrow's history.

ITEMS NEEDED

1. Telephone directories from early years.
2. Packing boxes, fruit crates or labels from the Fair Oaks Fruit Packing Co. and the Olive Growers Association.
3. Old record books pertaining to those or other early businesses including the gold mining (dredging) which took place south of the American River.
4. Pictures, newspaper clippings of all kinds. (Esp. pictures and writings by Mary Bowen that appeared in the San Juan Record thirty years ago.)

Fair Oaks Historical Society

Post Office Box 628, Fair Oaks CA 95628

FROM THE PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

As we have all seen our enjoyable group grow and read with pleasure the constantly improving Newsletter, it seems we might use this Newsletter to help recruit more members.

If each of us will make just one copy of this one and share it with a neighbor, friend, or acquaintance, we surely can have a record membership by next year

Bob McCafferty

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Wilma Roufa Phone: 456-5847
5507 Esmeralda Street
Sacramento CA 95820

Mrs. Roufa is the lucky winner of an Individual Membership for 1990, given by our Society to the Sacramento County Historical Society as a door prize at its annual potluck dinner meeting. (Memberships were also donated by the Folsom, Elk Grove, and Florin and Friends of the Powerhouse Societies.) Please meet and greet Mrs. Roufa at the October meeting.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

Does anyone have recruiting ideas? Every member of our Society is a member of the Membership Committee. Be proud and enthusiastic about our Society, our goals, our achievements as you approach prospective members. Attend the quarterly meetings and bring someone with you.

Gayle Anita

Dues paid by members joining at the October meeting will apply to 1990.
