



Fair Oaks Historical Society NEWSLETTER

January 1990

Number 10

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

1990--the year that marks our 14th anniversary of the Fair Oaks Historical Society also begins the decade that heralds the 100th anniversary of Fair Oaks in 1995. Thanks to our active and dedicated membership, we are a growing, dynamic organization that promises to grow even larger this year!

Speaking for our entire membership, I thank outgoing President June Melvin (Mrs. Wm. N.) for her extensive and successful efforts on behalf of our organization. Our programs have been exciting and enlightening. We have enjoyed wonderful potluck dinners, and--most important--we have come together in a warm, informal environment to exchange stories of Fair Oaks, past and present. Fortunately, June has agreed to continue on our Board of Directors as our membership chairman, and has also agreed to do whatever is necessary to make your new president appear busy, productive, and organized!

Our goals for 1990: To carry on the rich tradition of warm comederie that has given our meetings the reputation for being the best party in town! To give Gayle Anita all of the support she needs to make our new Historical Center a major Fair Oaks attraction after it opens in April! To help Don and Jennifer Miller Kenmonth find a home for the Monson Home! To encourage all of our members to bring a friend to our next meeting on January 23rd!

See you there!

Bill McPhail

PROGRAM FOR JANUARY 24th MEETING

We are going to begin our interviews for our oral history of Fair Oaks. All members are asked to consider the following questions:

- (1) Do you recall approximately in which year your earliest recollections of Fair Oaks occurred?
- (2) That year, how were you rewarded for an achievement? What did you do for that reward?
- (3) Who was the towns leading citizen that year?
- (4) How did you celebrate the 4th of July that year?
- (5) What was the funniest thing that happened to you--or to your best friend--that year?
- (6) What time did you have your days biggest meal? What did you do between 6pm and 9pm on a Sunday night?

(Continued on Page 2)

QUARTERLY MEETING

January 23, 1990

Program Subject:

The Oral History Project

See description following President's Message on left

Seating 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

SOCIETY HONORS HARRY AND LIESA VOTH

At the October meeting, the members of the Fair Oaks Historical Society voted unanimously to award honorary memberships to Harry Voth and to Liesa Voth. These are the first honorary memberships awarded by the Society and are in special recognition of the long and devoted service by these members.

Harry and Liesa are charter members of the Society. Harry served as the first president of the society. Harry was also a member of the Fair Oaks Park Board and our liaison with that agency. In subsequent years, Harry and Liesa served in various capacities as officers and advisers to the Society. Harry was the production manager of the historical pictorial calendars.

In addition to Harry's service on the Park Board, both Harry and Liesa devoted many hours of volunteer service to the Sacramento County Sheriffs office in tabulating statistical data.

Harry's interest in history is not confined to Fair Oaks. He has also served as president of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia. This society preserves the history of the German Mennonites and dissidents who were invited to Russia by Catherine the Great to settle the Ukraine. Harry is descended from this group.

The Voths have not been able to participate recently in our activities because of Liesa's health but the honorary memberships show our appreciation of their service and support!

Fair Oaks Historical Society

P.O. Box 2044, Fair Oaks CA 95628

A non-profit educational corporation established to develop, preserve and share Fair Oaks community history.

Meetings, open to the public, are held quarterly: on the last Tuesday in January, April, July and October. Meetings consist of a social period at 6:00 p.m., a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m., an educational presentation related to Fair Oaks history, and a short business meeting.

Membership is open to all persons interested in Fair Oaks regional history. Interested persons can obtain information at the regular meetings, by writing to the Society at the above address, or by calling one of the officers listed below.

Officers:

President Wm. R. McPhail, 967-6000
 Vice-President Richard Gilmore, 967-7887
 Secretary Dorothy McPherson, 967-6522
 Treasurer Charles Hull, 965-6210 (962-3194)
 Parliamentarian Theo. L. Olson, 967-5538

Committee Chairmen:

Amenities/Social Hour Edwin Eubanks, 967-1135
 Auditor Alfred B. McKenzie, 961-1642
 Budget Gayle Anita, 961-6912
 Decorations Iva Langness, 967-5054
 Historian Robert L. Masser, 967-6197
 Membership June Melvin, 967-5605
 Program Richard Gilmore, 967-7887
 Publicity Bob McCafferty, 961-8318
 Refreshment/Dinner Maybelle Scott, 966-3536
 Registration Jennifer Miller Kenmonth, 920-0531
 Ways and Means Janet & Warren McWilliams, 961-9012
 Hist. Center Development Gayle Anita, 961-6912
 Monson Home Acquisition Feasibility Donald & Jennifer Miller Kenmonth, 961-0637 (482-0340)

The Newsletter is published preceding each quarterly regular meeting, and is distributed by mail. Subscription is included in membership dues, and is available to non-members upon pre-payment of Two Dollars per year.

The Newsletter welcomes articles and items for publication. Articles must relate to the history of the Fair Oaks area, and must be submitted to the Editor no later than the First of January, April, July, or October to be considered for publication in those respective months issues. The editor reserves the right to amend or omit items. Views and opinions in articles do not necessarily reflect those of the Society or its general membership.

TREASURERS REPORT FOR 1989

ASSETS:

Liquid Assets:
 Cash in Bank Jan. 1, 1989 1,467.10
 1989 Receipts 1,397.10
 1989 Disbursements 352.86
 Net, Cash in Bank Dec. 31, 1989 2,511.34
 Other Assets: None
 Total, ASSETS 2,511.34

LIABILITIES: None
 NET WORTH 2,511.34

Total, LIABILITIES & NET WORTH 2,511.34

OPERATING STATEMENT

INCOME:
 Membership Dues 629.00
 Sale of Publications 141.00
 Cash Donations 503.00
 Misc. Income 124.95
Total, INCOME 1,397.95

EXPENDITURES:
 Office Supplies 14.91
 Newsletter Publication and Mailing 60.40
 Membership Dues in Sister Historical Societies 0.00
 Amenities for Dinner Meeting 46.24
 Misc. Administrative Expenses 2.50
 Project Expenditures 228.81
Total, EXPENDITURES 352.86
NET INCREASE <decrease> in Net Worth 1045.09

Reconciliation:

Cash on Hand Jan. 1, 1989 1467.10
 Deposits 1397.10
 Checks Written 352.86
 Net, Cash on Hand Jan. 1, 1990 2511.34

Prepared by C. H. Hull, Treasurer

January Meeting Program (Continued from Page 1)

(7) What questions would you like to have asked for this history?

This will begin our oral history program and give all of us an opportunity to be a permanent part of our community's record. What do you want to tell a Fair Oaks resident who listens to your thoughts -- 100 years from now?

THE FAIR OAKS HISTORY CENTER

by Gayle Anita

We are finally getting organized! After postponing the opening date of the Fair Oaks History Center to the spring, it looks like April will be a good month for a dedication and opening show.

We have collected some wonderful old photographs so our photo exhibit should be a delightful and interesting experience. Here is a little quiz for you--Anyone who can identify this darling couple will win a small prize at the January 23rd pot-luck dinner at the Clubhouse.



"THE TOM THUMB WEDDING"

Remember, we need your support. Please read over the following list of History Center needs and take a look in the attic for those historical goodies. You might be an important part of our Fair Oaks History Center! See you at the meeting!

(List of Needed Items Appears on Page 3)

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE HISTORY CENTER:

- Framing material
- Display cases
- Book Case
- Antique baby carriage
- Mannequin
- Round antique table, at least 48", with leaves
- Chairs
- Posters etc on the Sunset Colony
- Artifacts pertaining to citrus farming and the olive packing plant (Crates, presses, burners, etc.)
- Throw rugs
- Telephone directories from early years
- Old record books pertaining to early business, including the gold mining that took place south of the American River
- Pictures, news clips of all kinds (especially pictures and writings by Mary Bowen that appeared in the San Juan Record thirty years ago.

If you have any of these items or something else of interest please contact Gayle Anita at 961-6912.



MEMBERSHIP

January and February are membership months. Annual membership fees are now due and may be paid at the general meeting or mailed to the address below. We hope that each member will want to rejoin our Society and invite others to join. Giving a membership as a gift to a relative or friend is a gracious and appreciative way to say thank you.

We meet four times a year; on the fourth tuesday of January, April, July, and October; for a time of fellowship, of family gathering, for edification of the area in which we live and the sharing of a common goal -- preservation of our community

----- (Cut along this line) -----

Last Name _____ First Name(s) _____

Street Address / P.O. Box No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone No. _____

Mail to:

C. H. Hull, Treasurer
7887 Olive Street
Fair Oaks CA 95628

FAIR OAKS GRANGE DONATES OLD THEATER STAGE BACKDROP

On Sunday, January 14th, some of your officers gathered at the Fair Oaks Grange Hall for a breakfast* and a surprise donation to the Historical Society. Mr. George Dupray, Master of the local Grange, presented a large stage backdrop/projection screen formerly used at the old theater next to Plaza Park in the Village. The artifact

- is a ten-by-twenty-foot canvass with hand-lettered advertising for local businesses, with a small silvered projection screen in the center.
- predates the current telephone numbering system. Many of the numbers consist of two or three digits.
- is an invaluable source of business names for historical research purposes.
- is in remarkably good condition.

The next step is to find interim storage for the item, pending restoration and development of a permanent display site.

A photograph of the item will be circulated at the General Meeting on January 23rd, and will undoubtedly stir memories and evoke comments from long-time Fair Oaks residents.

The Granges met important socio-economic and political needs for local citizens, providing family group benefits and representation at the state and national level. We'll have an article about the Fair Oaks Grange in a subsequent newsletter.

* The Grange breakfast is held monthly on the second Sunday, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m., in the lower level of the Grange Hall at 7657 Woodland Lane; off Bannister between Fair Oaks Boulevard and Winding Way. Good food, service, and price; in a friendly atmosphere of historical interest; make it well worth attending.

Charlie Hull

heritage and the identity of Fair Oaks.

If mailing, use the coupon below, or enclose the same information on a piece of paper if you don't want to cut up your newsletter.

Dues are \$8.00 for an Individual Membership,
10.00 for a Family Membership
25.00 for a Supporting Membership
100.00 for a Life Membership

June (Mrs. Wm. N.) Melvin, Membership Chairman

FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
4225 MINNESOTA AVENUE
FAIR OAKS, CALIFORNIA 95628

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Fair Oaks Historical Society

P.O. Box 2044, Fair Oaks CA 95628-2044



Dorothy McPherson
4225 Minnesota Avenue
Fair Oaks CA 95628

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EVERY ONE'S CHOICE DONATES OFD