



Fair Oaks Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

Preserving the History and Character of the Fair Oaks community

OCTOBER 1990

NUMBER 13

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(or SIDE)

Certainly it is one of our favorite experiences to meet and greet fellow members of our Historical Society at various other local gatherings -- the Moonwalk on the Bridge every full moon, the monthly lunch of our local Chamber of Commerce, a Theatre Festival performance, or a fund-raising event like the recent Art-In-The-Park that was held in our village gathering place. But the best experience has to be the pot-luck get-together of the Historical Society every three months as we meet and exchange stories of early Fair Oaks days!

Each meeting witnesses the addition of a few more filled chairs at our dinner table, and then, a new table is added for a few more additional members. This miracle of growth-- more chairs, more tables, more members-- would indicate that we have a good thing going--and it will continue that way!

Gayle Anita has opened the History Center on several occasions to local Girl Scout and Brownie groups who want to know more about the old days of this special community. Several groups of history buffs from outside the area have visited us, and more will certainly follow. Our recently-purchased microfisch is now ready for viewing; the five-year record of our recent history that has been compiled in the Fair Oaks Post and permanently stored on microfilm is just the beginning of our visual history records. A new project, waiting to be designed and implemented, is the steady amassing and photographing of other significant documents that should be part of our microfilmed history.

I hope that all of us, before coming to the October 23rd meeting, will take a few minutes to think about where a birth certificate is stored, where an old photograph has been saved, where an interesting newspaper article from years ago has been tucked away! Does anyone have a report card from the Fair Oaks School before it became our community clubhouse? Do we dare ask if there are any old love-letters waiting to be published?

Will each of you take a few minutes to write down a list of historical items that you would let the Society

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QUARTERLY MEETING

October 23, 1990

Program Subject:

The Fair Oaks/Nimbus Fish Hatchery

Mr. Fred Meyer, Marine Biologist at the Nimbus facility and 30-year veteran of Fish and Game, will discuss our American River facility and anadromous fish.

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 J. Campoy, 967-6968
or Jennifer Miller-Kenmonth, 961-0637



FAIR OAKS' FIRST BRIDE & GROOM
Neils Monson and Helen Roeteger - 1895

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 third 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, 961-5054
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
History Center 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.

IN MEMORIAM

Alden Brock Janet Eubanks Wendell Frazier

We personally feel the loss of our members and friends of the community. Jan's positive personality warmed the gatherings in which she participated. Wendell made many contributions including founding of the Fair Oaks Theatre Festival. Alden gave many years of service on the Fair Oaks Park Board, giving special attention to youth and the quality of recreational programs.

The influence of their high ideals will continue to be felt among us.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (Continued)

photograph for our microfilm preservation of history? Our own descendants in 2030 will appreciate our efforts!

I havent had a good meal in three months and am waiting for our pot-luck feast-of-favorite dishes to select from!! See you on Tuesday! ...And, dont forget: ...Bring a Friend!!

Fair Oaks Historical Society Newsletter

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Proposed officers for 1991:

President William McPhail
Vice President Warren McWilliams
Secretary Donald A. Kenmonth
Treasurer Charles Hull

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

EDITOR NEEDED

Is there someone in the Society who will gather and organize material for the Newsletter? The publication is issued in the middle of January, April, July, and October, just prior to the quarterly general meetings. Articles and notices should be submitted about the first of each of those months and edited for typesetting and page composition.

Charlie Hull is willing to continue with typesetting and publication, but lacks time for the editing function. Heres a chance to be creative - apply and develop your editorial skills.

Call Bill McPhail, 961-9641.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a hearty welcome to these recent joiners and look forward to relating with them at the meetings and in the Community.

Ralph and Eileen Carhart
Warren and Diana Fischer
Allan and Sarah Goller
Kathryn Harris
Bill and Pat Holden
Lee Roy and Mary Scott (Mary Scotts Antiques)
Leland and Myrtle Sherman

June Melvin

THANKS, CHARLES BEEBE

We are grateful to Mr. Beebe for donating his skills in the design and installation of the beautiful wrought-iron gate at the entrance of the Fair Oaks History Center. Our apologies, Charles, for not acknowledging your generous act in a more timely manner.

A FEATHER IN OUR HAT

Appointed by the County Board of Supervisors to the Sacramento County Science and History Museum is Donald A. Kenmonth, one of our esteemed members. Don and his lovely wife, Jennifer, have been residents of Fair Oaks for a few years, sharing a love for the community and its unique history. They have been active in our Historical Society for the past two years and made a generous contribution toward establishment of the Fair Oaks History Center.

Congratulations, Don, on your appointment. Do keep us posted on the activities of the Commission

June Melvin

The FAIR OAKS HISTORY CENTER

Now that summer vacations are over and so are the hot sizzling temperatures (Oh please be over!), a Sunday visit to our History Center could be an enjoyable experience.

If you havent taken your family and friends to our charming museum, consider putting it on your Sunday agenda. Our docents are friendly and would just love to show you around.

We are open the second Sunday of every month from 12 Noon until 4 p.m. We can always use more docents, so if you havent signed up yet and would like to particate, please contact me.

With the new year we are looking forward to having specialized shows in the Center. Any ideas on themes can come from you and we would like to hear from you. In order to keep our history alive and interesting we need your input.

If anyone has a small desk-high table for our microfilm reader, please give me a call. We are anxious to start using it. Al MacKenzie has offered us a filing cabinet and we could alwayse use one more in order to start putting our archives together.

Remember the Second Sunday of every month at the Fair Oaks History Center. Drop by and bring a friend!

If you want to contact me my numbers are 961-6912 and 482-0340

Gayle Anita



A VISIT FROM MRS. RUGGLES

When memory moves to smiles or tears...

(James Whitcomb Riley)

It is always good to be ther and to listen. My mother told me this delightful little story this past week when we were going over the Good Old Days.

My Parents, when they were first married, lived with my Grandfather Vincent. Just a little over a year later they had their first child and the first grandchild, Wanda. The elderly Frank Vincent loved the tiny child so much he would hold her and coo and rocher all day, and then she would cry all night when she was put down.

The young couple in desperation moved across the street into the garage of a burned-out house that had belonged to my Kennedy grandparents. Not having set up housekeeping when they lived with my grandfather, they had very little with which to start a home. My mother took orange crates and stacked them and sewed pretty curtains of printed chicken feed bags to cover them. It was a one room sort of affair, but home to the young couple.

One day they looked out and up the driveway thay saw Mrs. Ruggles coming in her fine horsedrawn carriage. This was about the first visit in their new home and it was a real mess. As fast as they could they shoved the dirty dishes into the crates and pulled the curtains. My dad kicked all the stuff that was on the floor in under the bed.

Walter and Wanda Vincent met their first guest at the door, a little breathless but ready. In bustled the gracious woman. She was delighted with their little home. (She lived in the

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NEW MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Annual membership fees for 1990 and 1991 may be paid at the general meeting or mailed to the address below. We hope 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 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 dont want to cut up your newsletter.

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

----- (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

A VISIT FROM MRS. RUGGLES *(Continued)*

stately home on Chicago Avenue where Henry and Katherine Kroeger live now.) The first thing she did was admire the lovely little curtains my mother had sewn and when she lifted them, ther were all the dirty dishes. She then walked directly to the bed and looked under it. She stood up straight and looked at my mother. Wanda, shame on you! She stroked her finger at the young couple.

Several days later up the drive came Mrs. Ruggles in her horse-drawn carriage. She had it filled with pots and pans, dishes, blankets and household items she had gathered from her home for the young couple. Even an elegant vase.

What a golden memory.

Sarah Goller

VISIT THE FAIR OAKS HISTORY CENTER

7780 Olive Street, Fair Oaks
Open Second Sundays
Noon - 4 p.m.

The Center is located in the Fair Oaks Cemetary in the administration building on the West side of the Cemetary. The gate and drive is on Olive Street across from the church.

For information or to make arrangements for visits at other times, phone 961-6912 or 967-5605

Fair Oaks Historical Society

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



Dorothy McPherson
4225 Minnesota Avenue
Fair Oaks CA 95628