



Fair Oaks Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

Preserving and Perpetuating the Heritage of Fair Oaks, California

JULY 1991

NUMBER 12

SUMMER'S ARRIVED - MEETING TUESDAY JULY 23 - CLUBHOUSE

QUARTERLY POTLUCK GENERAL MEETING July 23

Program Speaker:
Henry J. Harjunpaa

Photo Lecturer, former history teacher, and collector of historical photos, will talk and share photos of local history.
(See President's comments)

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

Social Hour 6 p.m. - Potluck Dinner 7 p.m.
(Bring a casserole, salad or dessert and join us for an evening of informative fun.)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Time flies when you're having fun" is a much-used phrase, not always true, but reasonably accurate. This quarter we have not had occasion to bring out the fun-meter from its box in the closet, but time has flown, nonetheless. It has been a busy quarter for many of us and I apologize to all for the delay in getting the newsletter into your hands.

Our Society is moving at a strong pace with the membership increasing each month and our pot-luck meals enjoying the raves of the town!

This Tuesday at 6pm, we meet again for more fellowship and an opportunity to hear another informed and learned speaker present aspects of our area's history that are subtle and revealing. This year's speakers have roamed over a wide range of the historical landscape; Fr. Bill Breault S.J. gave us the "real story" behind our downtown cathedral and our area's Bishop Monogue; we learned about the fish hatchery and our river; next, the railroad in the area; and finally, last meeting, a wonderful and detailed history of early supermarketing with Bonnie Warren, who traced the evolution of Bel Air Markets over the past 35 years for us.

This month, another splendid speaker to provide another dimension to our understanding of our valley's background.

Henry J. Harjunpaa (pronounced "Har-jun-pa" in Finnish) is the owner of Quick Silver photo Service in Carmichael and is very active in myriad local organizations, among them the Executive Club of Sacramento and the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce. He is married and lives in Carmichael with his wife and three children. He specializes in the reproduction of old photographs, printing copies that cannot be distinguished from the 80-year old originals.

He is a Photo Lecturer and former teacher/Lecturer of American History and Political institutions at Jyväskylä University in Finland. He wears many hats. Henry graduated from UC Berkeley with his degree in German Literature, is a local history buff, and once even had a gold mine claim near Downieville where he dredged for gold. Busy as he is, he also has had time to serve his country with a tour of duty in Viet Nam as a Marine Corps' rifleman. This is a man who clearly has done some worldly sightseeing! Don't miss his talk on Tuesday, and don't forget to bring your favorite pot-luck dish!!

Bill McPhail

LAND TRUST IN FAIR OAKS - CAN IT BE DONE?

Julie and Mike Spezia of Carmichael are getting actively involved in the serious fund-raising business, all intended to finance the buying of property for perpetual retirement from development. They will join us Tuesday and spell out their intended program. It is certainly ambitious, and we should all know about it!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO BE SELECTED TUESDAY NIGHT

Please think about whom you would like to have serve on our Nominating Committee to select our officers for 1993-94. The nominees for the Committee must be approved by the Members present at the July 23 meeting, and will prepare a slate of nominations for 1992 officers for approval by the Membership at the October 22 meeting. Nominations may also be made by Members from the floor at the October meeting, prior to the balloting.

If you want to serve, either on the Nominating Committee or as a 1992 officer, please call President McPhail at 961-9641.

HISTORY CENTER NEWS ON BACK

DOCENTS NEEDED - SEE PAGE 2

THE BEST "THANK YOU" OF ALL"

We made an appointment for a walk through of the Fair Oaks History Center.

Steven arrived with a friend and we spend a delightful hour while they snapped pictures, asked questions, and gathered material for their project. I was impressed by their intelligence and thoughtfulness. A few weeks later, I stopped by the Center to do a few chores. On the table was a large envelope containing the materials I had loaned Steven. Written across the envelope was an exuberant "Thanks, Gayle, we got an A!"

I can tell you, I was thrilled.

Shelley Wrigley was another visitor in need of information. She and a friend have recently purchased the old Fair Oaks Theater, and would like some history and pictures of that building. Perhaps some of our Members can provide information for Miss Wrigley. Please let me know if you have anything on this building.

It's time for our History Center to become more efficient. Sarah Goller has been a great help in that direction. She has done a wonderful job organizing materials in our collection. She also has a terrific idea about selecting certain items for microfilming for our reader and for posterity. This will make information easily available to those interested in certain subjects or dates. I feel this will be of inestimable value in the future. You can be sure your photos, clippings, and assorted pieces of information will be put to good use by people interested in our history.

We also need to provide a regular service for the public. This means a better docent organization. In order to do this, we need a Docent Coordinator; Someone to organize a group of people willing to take turns spending a couple of hours a month at the History Center. Let me know your ideas on this. We have a wonderful opportunity to give information to our community. Let's not let the opportunity get away.

Many people are drawn to our area because they sense a special connection our residents have with their community. If we are able to share the rare qualities of our "Colony" with our *new* neighbors, perhaps they also will want to cherish and protect our beloved Fair Oaks. Hope to see you at the meeting on Tuesday.

Gayle Anita

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS (This is new??)

The Sacramento History Society Commission is inviting all local History Societies in the greater Sacramento area to participate in a History Day at Miller Park (Downtown, foot of Broadway) on August 3 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.. There will be food, games, and displays by local societies highlighting their unique contributions to the regional history scene. If you would like to sit at a table under an umbrella, pass out literature about Fair Oaks, and be seen by the rich and powerful, let Bill McPhail know you are game! If you would rather attend -- and attendance is expected to go beyond 5,000 visitors -- just put the date on your calendar.

WHAT'S IN A NUMBER?

On the address label affixed to your Newsletter, above and to the right of your name(s), is a number; a code designating your membership status as follows:

- "1" indicates Life or Honorary Members not required to pay dues;
- "2" - Active Members whose 1991 dues are paid;
- "3" - Active Members whose 1991 dues have not been paid;
- "4" - Inactive Members dropped for non-payment of 1990 dues; and
- "5" - Non-Members on the Newsletter mailing list.

If you are "Code 3", you can retain your status as an Active Member by paying your 1991 dues at the July meeting, or by mailing your check to the FOHS Treasurer, P. O. Box 1225, Fair Oaks CA 95628 (\$8 for Individual Members; \$12 for Family Members; \$25 for Supporting Members; \$100 if you want to become a Life Member).

Fair Oaks Historical Society

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



William McPhail
4236 Hill Street
Fair Oaks CA 95628