



Fair Oaks Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

Preserving and Perpetuating the Heritage of Fair Oaks, California
VOLUME 21
OCTOBER, 1992

QUARTERLY POTLUCK/GENERAL MEETING--TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1992

GUEST SPEAKER: **JIM STRENG**, SACRAMENTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TOPIC: REFLECTIONS ON PAST 5 1/2 YEARS AND THE FUTURE

LOCATION: FAIR OAKS COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE
7997 CALIFORNIA AVENUE, FAIR OAKS
LOWER LEVEL DINING ROOM

TIME: 6:00PM - SOCIAL HOUR

6:30PM - POTLUCK DINNER

BRING CASSEROLE, SALAD, OR DESSERT

QUESTIONS: CALL WARREN/JANET - 961-9012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WARREN MCWILLIAMS (961-9012)

We hope that you will be as excited as we are with our 1993 Historical Society Calendar. Come to our October 27th meeting with your Christmas shopping list for these great gifts. Many thanks to Gayle Anita and her committee for their super job.

Thank you, thank you -- to the many Historical Society members that came out to the **September Cemetery Clean-up Day**. The working crews included: Lois Frazier, Gayle Anita, Peter White, Horace Crandell, Linda and Al McKenzie, Lois Towe, Nancy Rawls, Bob Lee, Bonnie Drago, Janet McWilliams, and myself. We painted, pruned, swept leaves, weeded, and cleaned the History Center -- all work that needed to be done before the rains set in. If you can lend a helping hand to add a coat of paint to the rolling canopy, please give me a special call. Remember, that by volunteering our time to this worthwhile Cemetery Clean-up Project twice a year, the Cemetery Board provides insurance liability coverage for the History Center. It's a good deal for all, and we leave with such a good feeling for a job well done!

Our speaker, **Jim Steng**, outgoing County Supervisor, should be a very interesting speaker. In these days of budget crisis, the Board of Supervisors has had to make many tough decisions. He will be giving his reflections on these, talk about his experiences while on the Board, and maybe give us some of his thoughts about the future of the county. In all, it should be an interesting meeting. Be sure to attend; remember **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27....**

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ralph Carhart, (961-6301)

The speaker for the meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 1993 will be **Russ Olson**, who's presentation will be on the history of Phoenix Field and the Fair Oaks Flying Club.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Janet McWilliams, for Don Kenmonth (920-0531)

The Board of the Fair Oaks Historical Society met on September 10, 1992. The treasurer reported that we had a balance on hand of \$1,958.00 and that our total assets were \$2,918.00.

Gayle Anita: among the needs for the History Center includes the need for a small glass display case, for purchase or donation. Gordon Height of Orangevale is donating some historical pictures for the Center. Under consideration, also, is a donation of an olive cart by Mr. Barrios.

We viewed the completed 1993 Fair Oaks Calendar. Gayle Anita and her committee were commended for their terrific job putting it together. The calendars are now available and will be placed in some of the Fair Oaks Retail Stores for \$7.50 each. Call Horace Crandell, for any questions regarding calendar sales.

Nominating Committee announced their 1993 slate of Officers:

President	:	Warren McWilliams
Vice President	:	Ralph Carhart
Secretary	:	Don Kenmonth
Treasurer	:	Carol Abbott

Nominations will also be open to the floor at the election on October 27, 1992.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Horace Crandell, Chairman (967-2102)

A big thank you to all who supported our raffle at the July meeting. We had 12 donors and made \$92 in ticket sales. Six donors have pledged for our October meeting; if you would like to pledge a gift, please call me.

We sold four copies of "THE HEART OF CALIFORNIA" at \$20 each, and one copy of the VCR tape: "FAIR OAKS - THE WAY IT WAS". Both items make great Christmas presents for neighbor friends.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

June Melvin, Chairman (967-560)

The number of paid members in the Historical Society declined a little this year in contrast to past five years of growth -- not for lack of interest or enthusiasm as some members continue to attend our quarterly meetings. An oversight, for sure! The 1992 dues may be paid at the October Meeting and, for 1993, if so desire. January is **membership month** --with all dues brought up-to-date at this time. However, FOR NEW MEMBERS joining in October, dues paid will apply to 1993. Encourage friends and neighbors to join, to help preserve our history and heritage and to help our future identity.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AUTUMN POTLUCK

Fair Oaks Historical Society members attending the AUTUMN POTLUCK included Warren and Janet McWilliams, June Melvin, Lois Frazier, Bill and Pat Holden, and Lowell and Nancy Sherman. After touring the Towe Ford Museum and having a great meal, we were treated to a pictorial history of the landmarks of Placer County and a lecture on the survey and classification of approximately 1000 historical structures through a Regional Cultural Inventory made by the Placer County Department of Museums and marked by the Native Sons of the Golden West. Both the tour and the presentation were very interesting, and we were honored to have been able to attend.

SARAH GOLLER: "MISCHIEF--memories of a day gone by"

When my Dad got old he would sit in his big red leather chair and muse. Sometimes you would look over at him and he would be smiling. He would puff on his corn cob pipe and blow smoke in wafts that would encircle his old red chair.

One of his favorite stories was about the school bus. In the early days of Fair Oaks, every child over six years old walked to school. My Dad had to walk a little over two miles each way. The roads in his time were not yet paved. In the winter they were churning with mud as huge wagons full of oranges came from every direction to the packing houses downtown. In the summer, this same mud turned to a face-powder-grade dust. He walked to school until his second year at San Juan High School. This was the year the District purchased their first bus.

It was this school bus that, so often, made him smile over the years. The bus driver, Mr. Bill Spangle, picked up students from all over Fair Oaks. Very often, the bus would get mired down in the mud and all the big boys would have to get out and push it. The boys would get out and gather all around the bus and pose with hard-worked muscles. When the driver would get ready and yell for them to push, they would all dig in their heels and pull backwards making it almost impossible for the bus to go forward. Sometimes they didn't get to school until noon!

Remembering, he would laugh until the tears came. Still laughing, he would pound his pipe on the old standing ashtray and push the button to flush the ashes away. Tucking the pipe into the pocket of his worn "overalls", he would drift off to sleep..... with the sweet memories of a day gone by.

**NEEDED.....DOCENTS ... FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF
EACH MONTH ----- PLEASE CONTACT LOIS FRAZIER, 967-2967**

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