

FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 31 -- JANUARY, 1995

PRESIDENT:
Ralph Carhart
961-6301
VICE PRESIDENT:
Iva Langness
967-5054
SECRETARY:
Bonnie Drago
726-7310
TREASURER:
Carol Crowther
961-7096
PARLIAMENTARIAN:
June Melvin
967-5605

STANDING
COMMITTEES:
AMENITIES:

BUDGET:
Gayle Anita
961-6912

HISTORICAL:
Robert Massey
967-6197

MEMBERSHIP:
Marilyn Pearce
961-2415

GRAM:
Langness
967-5054

WAYS & MEANS:
Horace Crandell
967-2102

GENERAL
COMMITTEES:
AUDITOR:
Dorothy Dykeman
967-6713

DOCENTS:
Lois Frazier
967-2967

HISTORY CENTER:
Gayle Anita
961-6912

NEWS EDITOR:
Nancy Sherman
967-1539

PUBLICITY:
Bob Erbacher
966-2524

REGISTRATION:
Marilyn Pearce
961-8415

QUARTERLY POTLUCK/expanded GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 1995 5:00 PM

PROGRAM: Presentations to focus on early native inhabitants of Fair Oaks, the land grant period, settlement of the colony, the early farming days, the suburbanization of Fair Oaks and beyond. Also, a special musical treat with songs of old and historical displays.

LOCATION: FAIR OAKS COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE
UPSTAIRS -- 7997 California Avenue
Please bring a casserole, salad, or dessert to share with the members. You may RSVP to Warren McWilliams with message at 961-9102 or Oaks Hardware at 967-5225.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE RALPH CARHART

In many ways one hundred years seems a very short time. For my grandfather, who is 90, much of the last century is within his recollection. Yet within the twentieth century there have been large changes in the way people live and view life. In 1895, when the Howard-Wilson Publishing Company purchased a large chunk of the San Juan grant for the site of their speculative Fair Oaks Colony, the overwhelming occupation of Americans was agriculture. For more than a decade, California's agricultural settlements such as Redlands, Riverside, Pomona and Anaheim had been luring settlers from the harsh midwest, promising a relatively easy and profitable living from citrus groves, fruit orchards and vinyards. For six years, the Orangevale Colony had flourished, without frost and with early ripening of citrus, providing a competitive edge over Southern California farmers. No wonder, then, that the Howard-Wilson company had little trouble attracting prospects from the Chicago area for marketing excursions to Fair Oaks in the "Heart of California."

THE FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, POST OFFICE BOX 2044, FAIR OAKS, CA 95628, IS A NON-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL CORPORATION ESTABLISHED TO DEVELOP, PRESERVE, AND SHARE FAIR OAKS COMMUNITY HISTORY. PUBLIC ATTENDANCE IS ENCOURAGED AT QUARTERLY MEETINGS, SCHEDULED ON THE FOURTH TUESDAY IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR. THE POTLUCK DINNER MEETINGS BEGIN AT 6:00 PM WITH ATTENDEES BRINGING POTLUCK DISHES. TO ATTEND AN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING OR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING MEETING AGENDAS, CONTACT THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY. THE SOCIETY IS OPEN TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN FAIR OAKS REGIONAL HISTORY. CONTACT THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON OR ANY OFFICER IF INTERESTED IN JOINING.

On November 14, 1895, the first trainload of excursioners departed Chicago, Illinois, to check out Fair Oaks for themselves. Greeted royally at Sacramento on November 19, the excursioners then toured the newly built power plant at Folsom and the fruit-laden citrus groves of Orangevale Colony before reaching the Fair Oaks townsite on the bluffs above the American River. On the evening of November 20, more than one hundred excursioners ate supper at the temporary hotel building, sang songs and enjoyed a giant bonfire of oakwood near the edge of the bluff. Despite sleeping accommodations at the hotel, most excursioners delighted in sleeping in tents, knowing that Chicago was under a blanket of snow that night.

To this first band of settlers, Fair Oaks was a romantic mix of frontier and civilization. Sacramento and Folsom were already established for nearly 50 years, yet the San Juan grant had remained relatively untouched except for livestock grazing, wood cutting and some tentative cultivation of wheat. In 1895, the land, so recently inhabited by native Americans, was on the verge of a tremendous transformation. In a few short years, homes were built, roads were laid out, oaks were cleared, fruit trees were planted, irrigation systems were installed and all the necessities of a town were built-- stores, schools, a packing plant, a bridge and a railroad spur and station. To those of us who know Fair oaks today, it is hard to imagine how much has changed in a short one hundred years.

This year we celebrate the Fair Oaks Centennial and look forward to the next one hundred years, wondering if the changes will be as dramatic as in the past century. It is my hope that, during this year, the Fair Oaks Historical Society can encourage the community to reflect on the things which make Fair Oaks so unique and special-- the American River, with its towering bluffs and wooded canyons, the rolling oak-studded terrain, the mild climate and the sense of community that still finds its heart in the Village.

We will kick off the Centennial celebrations with an expanded January meeting of the Fair Oaks Historical Society. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Sunday, January 22, 1995, upstairs at the Community Clubhouse. Presentations will focus on the early native inhabitants of Fair Oaks, the land grant period, settlement of the colony, the early farming days, the suburbanization of Fair Oaks and beyond. There will be a special musical treat, with songs of old, and displays of local historical interest. Copies of our society's publications, including the newly published, "Fair Oaks, the Early Years-- A Pictorial Review" will be available for purchase. This will be a meeting you don't want to miss. Invite your friends to bring a potluck dish and help launch our Centennial Year. Following the presentations, there will be a short business meeting and installation of the officers for 1995.

A reminder, also, that it is time to renew your membership. Send your check to the Society at P.O. Box 2044, Fair Oaks, California 95628, or bring your checkbook on January 22.

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES
MARILYN KENDRICK**

The Quarterly Meeting on October 25, 1994 was called to order by Ralph Carhart who welcomed all in attendance and particularly, Dale Wilson, of the Sacramento Historical Society, who brought a photo of the 1907 flood which washed out the Fair Oaks Bridge. He thanked Warren McWilliams and the kitchen crew for their assistance, Iva Langness, Lois Frazier, and Betty Anne McArthur for the interesting table decorations.

--CONTINUED--

Ralph announced that Entertainment Books would be available after the meeting and that the business meeting would be held at the conclusion of the general meeting. He announced that the Chamber of Commerce was sponsoring the re-building of a downtown Fair Oaks intersection pavement, which will include 1200 signature bricks surrounding an oak tree under which a time capsule will be placed -- these bricks will be on sale for the Centennial Celebration.

Prior to Adele Copeland's presentation and slide show, we hear various candidates identify the office for which they are running in the up-coming local elections.

Following the program, Horace Crandell held the raffle and Ralph opened the business meeting. The minutes were approved as corrected by the secretary, Marilyn Kendrick.

Treasurer Carol Crowther reported the balance on hand for the Society Treasury was \$4,773.00.

Warren McWilliams, chairman of the Election Nominating Committee, presented the slate of candidates: President -- Ralph Carhart; Vice President -- Iva Langness; Secretary -- Bonnie Drago; Treasurer -- Carol Crowther. A motion was made to close the nominations. The members approved the ballot by a unanimous vote.

It was announced that **SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 1995** will be the kick-off for the Centennial Celebration For Fair Oaks and will begin at **5:00pm**.

The Centennial Book Committee spokesperson Lois Frazier presented the committee's efforts regarding the publication, which promises to be a great book. Paul Wimple is the publisher. The book will include 48 pages of pictures and descriptions and will be sold with sponsorships at \$50.00/person and with patrons at \$100.00; the price includes one book and map given to each. The first printing will cost \$5310.00 for 1000 copies-- this was approved by a motion of the general membership at this time.

Ralph thanked the speakers and adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.

Ralph Carhart called the Executive Board Meeting to order on December 13, 1994 at 7:00pm at the Cemetery Office. Those in attendance were the following people: Ralph Carhart, Jeanne Hill, Bob Erbacher, Nancy Sherman, June Melvin, Horace Crandell, Bonnie Drago, Lois Frazier, Carol Crowther, and Marilyn Kendrick.

A motion was approved to acknowledge Bob Massey, who has been in Mercy San Juan Hospital, and to send flowers.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

The Kitchen Committee requests that you rsvp for January 22 to Warren McWilliams, 961-9012 or Oaks Hardware, 967-5225, indicating how many people in your party and what food you might contribute to potluck.

The treasure, Carol Crowther, gave her report:

Balance for 8/31/94		
Income: Centennial book sponsors		\$2550.00
<u>Entertainment 95</u> books sale		750.00
raffle		105.50
membership		76.00
publications		<u>42.00</u>
	total	\$3493.50
Expenses: Centennial book publishing		\$2688.12
<u>Entertainment 95</u> cost to company		640.00
artifacts-pictures		222.98
newsletters (2)		86.61
Conf. CA Historical Societies		30.00
amenities		<u>15.15</u>
	total	\$3682.86
		\$4975.10
		<u>+3493.50</u>
		8468.60
		<u>-3682.86</u>
total		\$4785.74

As part of the Ways and Means Committee, Nancy Sherman indicated that the Society had sold 42 Entertainment 95 books, earning \$312.00 to date. Nancy has agreed to continue handling the sale of the books through 1996.

Horace submitted his annual report:

	<u>January</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>October</u>	=	
Income	\$200.50	\$176.55	\$231.00	\$200.50	=	\$808.55
Expenses	<u>31.64</u>	<u>17.18</u>	<u>20.97</u>	<u>10.50</u>	=	<u>80.29</u>
	\$168.86	159.37	210.03	190.00	=	\$728.26

Now for the **Centennial year, 1995** we anticipate twice as many people as usual to attend the January meeting, which means we will need lots of raffle items donated. **Any pie or cake bakers out there????** Indoor plants are always appreciated at this time of year as well. Give it some thought and call me at 967-2102 if you have some thing for us to raffle.

I was announced that Gayle Anita is preparing the 1995 budget. Any requests for changes or additions should be submitted to her soon.

The Board agreed to have the **Society's January 22, 1995 meeting begin at 5:00pm** and to be held upstairs in the Club House -- and to include insurance coverage for guests, as well. It was requested that we use reservations by telephone to insure we don't exceed the maximum capacity seating of the room.

The newsletter deadline for articles should be in to Nancy Sherman, by December 30, 1994. Nancy requested an up-to-date and complete membership list with additional one-time only list of names and addresses for the Centennial January newsletter mailing.

--continued--

Lois Frazier reported on the Centennial Book Committee's efforts. To date, 31 sponsors and 13 benefactors contributed \$2850.00. The book will sell for \$10.00 with orders of 10-or-more books given a 25% discount. Free copies will be issued to Fair Oaks and Central libraries and 11 Fair Oaks schools. A copy of the book will also be placed in the Centennial Time Capsule. Horace also requested 30 copies for the January Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Bob Erbacher indicated that he expects the Sacramento Bee: Neighbors section will give the Centennial Celebration good coverage and that the major thrust will be the Centennial **Walking Tour Map**.

Lois Frazier, expressing sincere appreciation to the participants, gave the following as the docents' report for 1994:

JANUARY	--	Larry and Meg Smart
FEBRUARY	--	Dottie Dykeman, Elva Reed, and Lois Frazier
MARCH	--	Mike and Darlene Aylward
APRIL	--	June Melvin, Harry Voth
MAY	--	closed
JUNE	--	Iva Langness, Lois Frazier, Gayle Anita, Meg Smart, Wilma Rice
JULY	--	Larry and Meg Smart
AUGUST	--	June Melvin and Harry Voth
SEPTEMBER	--	Mike and Darlene Aylward
OCTOBER	--	Adele Copeland and Lois Frazier
NOVEMBER	--	Larry and Meg Smart
DECEMBER	--	Historical Society Open House.

Our History Center is in the Administration Building in the Fair Oaks Cemetery. The Center is open to the Public every second Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00pm. If you would like to volunteer, please call: Lois Frazier, 967-2967.

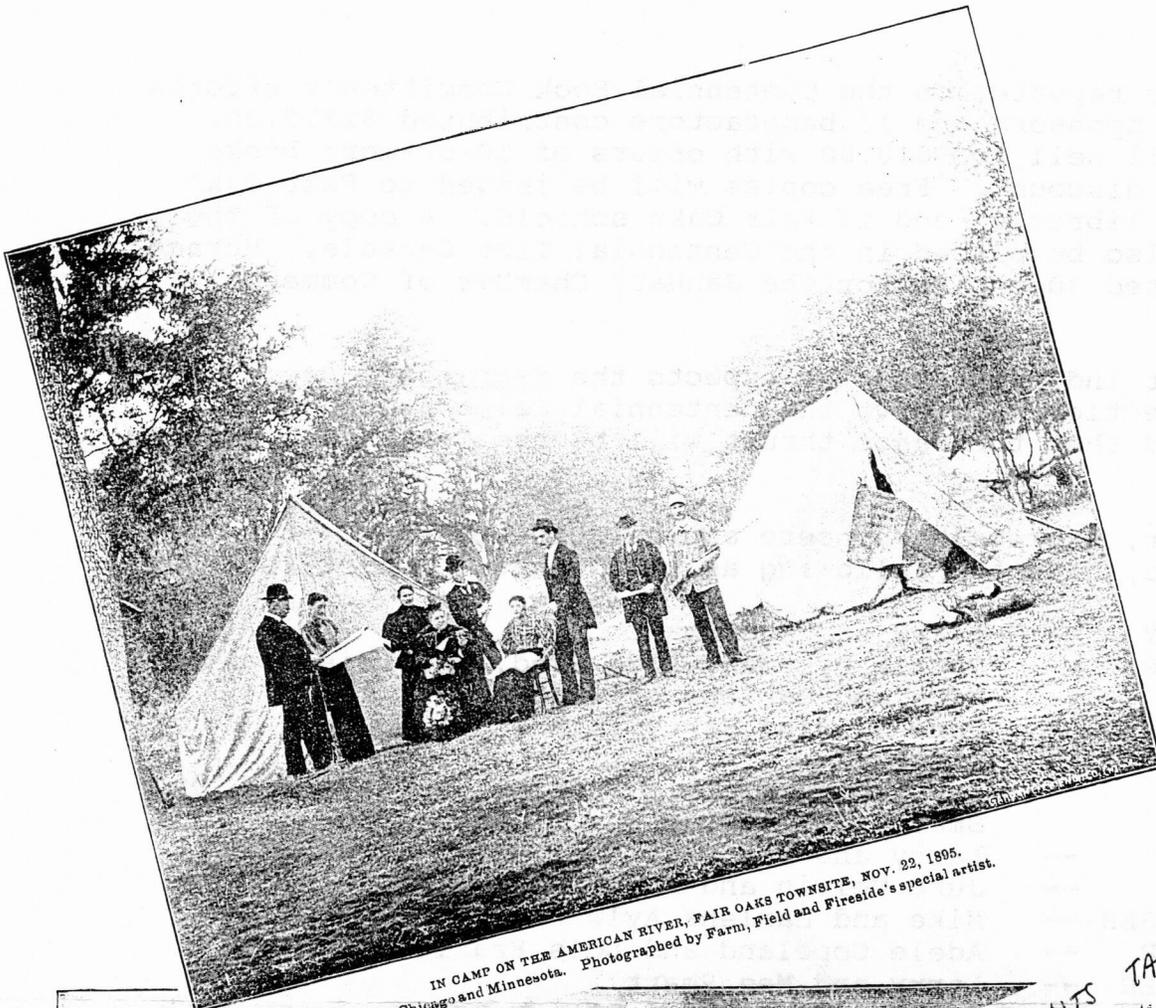
JANUARY 22, 1995 Program: the objective is to announce the Centennial year activities and to cover the following areas: Indian history, two land grant periods, founding excursions from the East, the port war, Aerojet influence, and the future of Fair Oaks. Suggested speakers were also given.

There will be a January 8, 1995 planning meeting at 1:00pm at the History Center to discuss finalizing the Historical Society's program for Sunday, January 22.

Motions were approved for the following:

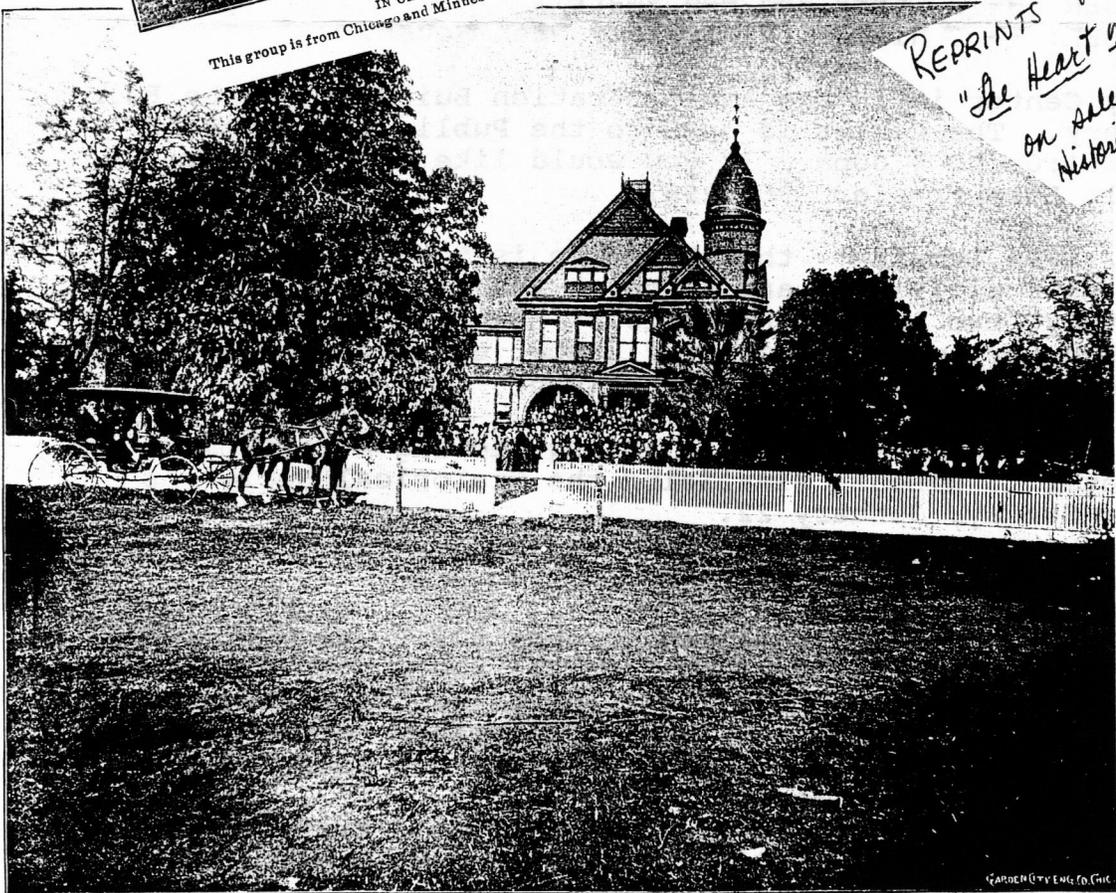
1. Carol Crowther authorized to send \$25.00 as membership fee to the Sacramento Historical Society Consortium.
2. Carol Crowther authorized to purchase two of Steve Abbott's packing box label lithographs -- one for the Sacramento History Museum; one for the Fair Oaks Historical Society.
3. Carol Crowther authorized to purchase a centennial brick for \$40.00, inscribed "Fair Oaks Historical Society".

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.



IN CAMP ON THE AMERICAN RIVER, FAIR OAKS TOWNSITE, NOV. 22, 1895.
 This group is from Chicago and Minnesota. Photographed by Farm, Field and Fireside's special artist.

REPRINTS TAKEN FROM
 "The Heart of California" -
 on sale at the Fair Oaks
 Historical Society Meetings



RESIDENCE OF HON. R. D. STEPHENS, ON THE AMERICAN RIVER, CALIFORNIA.

Farm, Field and Fireside special train excursion party from Chicago in the front yard. The large tree in the foreground is a tree from which fresh, ripe figs were gathered Nov. 20. Mr. Stephens has become moderately wealthy from the products of forty acres of orchard and vineyard.

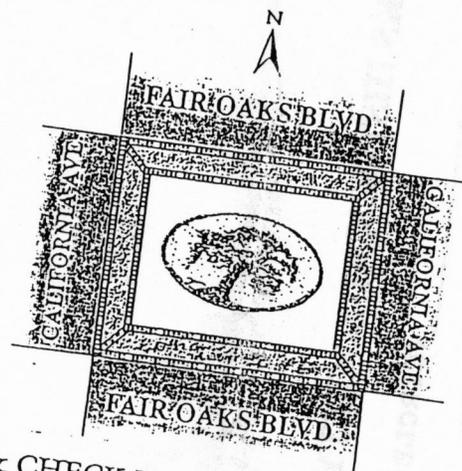
Fair Oaks Centennial
1895 - 1995

Fair Oaks Centennial!

Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

"Signature Brick" Beautification Project

FAIR OAKS CENTENNIAL - The Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce plans to bury a Centennial time capsule in the "town Square" at the intersection of Fair Oaks Boulevard and California Avenue, under an "inlaid" brick oak tree design. All the crosswalks, at this intersection, will be replaced with a design of "signature bricks". The names of businesses, clubs, organizations, schools, etc. or residents with their names or messages will be engraved on the bricks. All of you who would like to be part of Fair Oaks history can buy a brick to be placed in the beautification project. Leave your indelible mark for future generations



SEND ORDER FORM & CHECK TO:
FAIR OAKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - P.O. BOX 352 - FAIR OAKS, CA 95628
For More information call Fair Oaks Chamber Office at 967-2903



The Cure For The Common Couch Potato

The Entertainment* book. It really gets you going...to the best restaurants, theatres, sports events, special attractions, hotels and more, nearly all at 50% or two-for-one savings. So stop letting the TV listings be your social planner and get the Entertainment* book. And live it up all year long.

Available through community groups and charitable organizations throughout your area.

\$40.00

- 1/5/95 last day to order -
Makes an appealing gift, too!

entertainment.

LEFT TURN LANE

The southbound to eastbound left turn lane to Fair Oaks Blvd. from Sunrise Blvd. was eliminated in 1988 to increase traffic capacity on Sunrise. Not having a normal intersection has caused accidents, confusion and loss of business for downtown Fair Oaks.

On Tuesday, January 24 the Board of Supervisors will decide whether or not the county will restore the left turn lane into Fair Oaks Village. We are scheduled to be heard at 11:00am and we need people there! The supervisors are impressed with numbers of people present at their hearings.

WE HAVE A CHANCE! LET'S RESTORE OUR VILLAGE.....

Jeanne Hill

ANNUAL DUES -- ALWAYS BEGINNING JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR:	
INDIVIDUAL	\$ 8.00
FAMILY	12.00
SUPPORTING --	25.00
(organization or business)	
LIFE	100.00
FAMILY LIFE	150.00

mail to: MARILYN PEARCE
 4104 EARNSCLIFF AV
 FAIR OAKS CA 95628

NAME _____ (CIRCLE: renewal/new member) DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____ FOR _____ NUMBER OF PERSONS _____

FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 POST OFFICE BOX 2044
 FAIR OAKS CA 95628**



CHUCK/MARILYN KENDRICK
 8056 WESTCAMP DR
 FAIR OAKS CA 95628