

# FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 32 -- APRIL, 1995

QUARTERLY POTLUCK/ GENERAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1995

6:00pm

Program: Mr. Mickey Knapp: "Fair Oaks Colony, 1895".

Location: Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse, 7997 California Avenue  
Please bring a casserole, salad, or dessert to share with members.

PRESIDENT:

Ralph Carhart  
961-6301

VICE PRESIDENT:

Iva Langness  
967-5054

SECRETARY:

Bonnie Drago  
726-7310

TREASURER:

Carol Crowther  
961-7096

PARLIAMENTARIAN:

Jane Melvin  
967-5605

STANDING  
COMMITTEES:  
AMENITIES:

BUDGET:

Gayle Anita  
961-6912

HISTORICAL:

Robert Massey  
967-6197

MEMBERSHIP:

Marilyn Pearce  
961-8415

PROGRAM:

Iva Langness  
967-5054

WAYS & MEANS:

Horace Crandell  
967-2102

GENERAL  
COMMITTEES:

AUDITOR:

Dorothy Dylzman  
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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE RALPH CARHART

I want to thank everyone who helped with the January Fair Oaks Centennial Kickoff Dinner meeting for the Historical Society. It was a wonderful way to begin this special year. Continuing our celebration of the Centennial, the program for the April 25, 1995 meeting will focus on the first land-promotional excursion to the Fair Oaks Colony in 1895. Mr. Mickey Knapp, Past President of the Sacramento County Historical Society, will relate the carefully orchestrated itinerary of the 130 or so midwesterners who, at the expense of the Howard-Wilson company, visited the new lots and acreage carved out of the old San Juan land grant. Bring your favorite potluck recipe. We'll be meeting in the Clubhouse basement again this month.

April has been designated as the Community Clean-up Month. April 15 is the appointed day to pick up free trash bags for people to use while they are helping with clean-up on streets, parks, empty lots, and front yards. Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce President, Horace Crandell, is spearheading this important spring-cleaning project for Fair Oaks. Our local event is coordinated with "Keep California Beautiful" Month, a statewide April effort, announced by California's First Lady, Gayle Wilson. Hundreds of other local groups as well as more than 17 State and Federal agencies will be involved in the month-long campaign to clean up communities, beaches, streams, roads, parks and recreational areas. If you can't make it out on April, you can pick your date and help keep Fair Oaks beautiful.

In keeping with our mission of public education, the Society has donated our Centennial publication "**Fair Oaks -- The Early Years**" to each of the Fair Oaks elementary, middle, and high schools and to the Fair Oaks-Orangevale Library and to the California State Library. We have sold almost \$1000 worth of books to date and have many more available. Contact Horace

It is with regret that we are late in acknowledging the passing of Leisa Gertrude Voth, 44-year Fair Oaks resident and Charter Member of the Fair Oaks Historical Society. Leisa passed away January 11, 1995. The membership will miss Leisa and extends belated condolences to Harry Voth.

Crandell, Lois Frazier, or myself if you need copies to sell or purchase. Single copies are \$10.00 -- discounted to \$7.50 each with purchases of 10 or more copies.

By the way, if you're like me and need a reminder to pay your 1995 dues for this year, you may do so by contacting Marilyn Pearce, Carol Crowther, Bonnie Drago.

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES  
MARILYN KENDRICK**

**MINUTES: SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 1995 (QUARTERLY MEETING):**

This Centennial kickoff program began with Dave Marino at the organ for the social hour. At 6:00pm, President Ralph Carhart asked that everyone take their seats.

Reverend Steven Smith, Pastor of Fair Oaks United Methodist Church gave the Invocation. From Del Campo High School, the R.O.T.C. Honor Guard posted the colors with the Pledge of Allegiance to follow.

As Honorary Mayor of Fair Oaks, Dick Hill began with greetings to the audience. At this time, President Ralph introduced the honored guests: State Senator Leroy Green, State Representative Barbara Alby, County Supervisor Dave Cox; and members of the Water, Cemetery, Park and Recreation, and School Boards. Iva Langness, Program Chairman introduced Carole Melvin Brewer, who, with a group of John Holst School students, sang "FAIR OAKS, MY HOME" written by Carole.

Several participants gave an over-all history of Fair Oaks from 1895 forward:

Iva Langness -- Fair Oaks Sunset Colony  
Gayle Anita -- The First Inhabitants  
Antoinette Egan -- Rancho San Juan Land Grant  
Harry Dewey -- Agriculture of the Area  
Bob McCafferty -- Urbanization - The Early Years

..Bob McCafferty also presented President Ralph with a picture of the last plane taking off from Phoenix Field, October, 1988.

..Barbara Alby presented a joint legislative resolution congratulating Fair Oaks on its Centennial Year Celebration.

..Linda MacKenzie read Farmer Bob Massey's thank you for the flowers sent him during his hospital stay.

..President Ralph acknowledged special thank you's to Jeanne Hill and June Melvin for their coordinating efforts to make this first Centennial event of the year such a success; to Steve Abbott for his great historical display; to the Fair Oaks Park and Recreation District, Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce, the Sierra Chapter of American Theater Organ Society, Steve's Pizza Parlor, and Jan Brewer, Carole Melvin Brewer's husband, for his providing and operating the sound system.

Honorary Mayor Dick Hill presided over the Installation of Officers, acknowledging the following:

**President - Ralph Carhart  
Vice President - Iva Langness  
Secretary - Bonnie Drago  
Treasurer - Carol Crowther  
Parliamentarian - June Melvin**

Carol Brewer closed the festivities with her rendition of "I LOVE YOU CALIFORNIA".

**MINUTES: FEBRUARY 2, 1995 SPECIAL CENTENNIAL WRAP-UP MEETING**

Expenditures for the Centennial dinner included the following:

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
Horace Crandell/Ways and Means	\$240.50	\$ 69.15
Ralph Carhart/Centennial Committee		59.00
Iva Langness " "		84.00
Warren McWilliams/Kitchen Committee		72.40
Steve Abbott/Centennial Display		<u>55.44</u>
	<u>\$240.50</u>	\$340.00

**Motion** to reimburse the above people was made and passed.

The group agreed to the complimentary distribution of the Centennial Book, FAIR OAKS...THE EARLY YEARS to local schools and libraries and to the editors of the GOLD RIVER MAGAZINE. General sales will include distribution to Levensons' book store, to the Rotary Club as a fund-raising project, and a booth/table at the Fair Oaks Fiesta.

The group gave the treasurer the following authorizations: 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 and to be inscribed "Fair Oaks Historical Society".

**Motion** was made and carried to accept Norman Hongola as a life member with the approval of the general membership at the next general meeting in April.

Secretary's minutes for October, 1994 were corrected to read: Paula Wessels, publisher of the book: FAIR OAKS...THE EARLY YEARS.; Horace Crandell will take 30 copies of the "walking tour map of Fair Oaks" for the next Chamber meeting.

**Motion** was approved to accept the Treasurer's report as shown below:

<b>Balance for 11/30/95</b>		<b>\$4828.24</b>
Income:		
Pictorial Book Sponsors	\$ 350.00	
<u>Entertainment 1995 sale</u>	112.00	
Publications	40.00	
Memberships	<u>12.00</u>	
	\$ 514.00	
Expenses:		
Pictorial Book	32.81	
brick project/F.O. Chamber	<u>40.00</u>	
	\$ 72.81	
<b>Balance for 12/31/94</b>		<b>\$5269.43</b>
Income:		
Pictorial Book	\$ 700.00	
Membership	410.00	
Tapes, books, calendars	128.00	
<u>Entertainment 1995 sales</u>	80.00	
Amenities	<u>66.35</u>	
	\$1384.35	
Expenses:		
Pictorial Book	\$2605.00	
Newsletter	116.45	
Sunshine Committee	36.64	
CA Hist. Soc. Consortium dues	25.00	
Non-profit Org. filing fee	5.00	
Name tags	<u>7.87</u>	
	\$2795.96	
<b>Balance for 1/31/95</b>		<b>\$3857.82</b>

IF A RED DOT APPEARS ON  
 YOUR ADDRESS PORTION OF  
 YOUR NEWSLETTER, PLEASE BRING  
 THIS BE YOUR UP-TO-DATE LEST  
 NEWSLETTER.

Motion was approved to accept the proposed Budget as shown on page 5.

Motion was approved to table until the next Board Meeting the discussion of the authenticity of historical references as they appear in the Society's own publications.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm

**MINUTES: March 21, 1995 (Executive Board Meeting)**

Motions approved at this meeting included the following:

.. Motion to accept the corrected minutes of the Executive Board Meeting of December 13, the general meeting of January 22, 1995 and the executive meeting of February 2, 1995;

.. Motion to accept the treasurer's corrected report as shown *below*.

.. Motion to reimburse Carol Crowther the \$40.00 paid to Fair Oaks Post Office for box rental for the Society;

.. Motion to have members of the Fair Oaks Historical Society represented at an information table during the Opening of the new Sacramento Library;

.. Motions were approved to use a special stamp to identify the source of information used in the Walking Tour Map of Fair Oaks, and to edit the map in the event of a second printing.

**TREASURER'S REPORT  
CAROL CROWTHER**

<b>Balance as of 1/31/95</b>		<b>\$3857.82</b>
Income:		
Pictorial book sales	\$862.00	
Memberships	137.00	
Publications	<u>80.00</u>	
		<u>1079.00</u>
		<b>\$4936.82</b>
Expenses:		
Amenities (dinner)	216.55	
Equipment	55.34	
Artifacts (lithograph)	25.00	
Membership refund	<u>50.00</u>	
		<u>346.89</u>
<b>Balance as of 3/21/95</b>		<b>\$4589.93</b>
Pictorial expenses	\$5325.93	
Sponsors and sales	<u>4462.00</u>	
	\$ 863.93	

L O T and found at the last Potluck  
pineapple bowl, blue plastic bowl, blue  
salad servers, tongs with white handle,  
cake  
server/ wooden handle. Will be at next  
mtg.

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
Horace Crandell**

So far this year, we have received \$185 in publication sales, and \$135.50 from donations for wine and sodas, while our expenses were \$69.15. Our treasury, therefore, has been enhanced by \$251.15. Thank you, Lee and Mary Scott, for "tending bar" and to Janet McWilliams for handling publication sales at the January Meeting.

We didn't have time for a raffle at the January Meeting, but look forward receiving your donations for the April 25th potluck. We have two gifts so so could use several more. Plants or baked goods are always appreciated.

**FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROPOSED BUDGET**

BALANCE ON HAND -- 1/1/95

\$ 5269.43

**ME/RECEIPTS:** membership dues (50 individual @\$8.00) 400.00  
(60 family @\$12.00) 720.00  
(2 supporting @\$25.00) 50.00 - 1170.00

**WAYS & MEANS** Heart of California sale (10 @ \$20.00) 200.00  
calendar sale (25 @ \$2.50) 62.50  
raffle tickets 250.00  
refreshments (45 x 4) 180.00  
video sales (2 @ \$25.00) 50.00  
Centennial Books (350 x \$10.00) 3500.00  
(350 x \$ 7.50) 2625.00  
Centennial Bank Loan Payment 1000.00 - 7867.50  
**\$14306.93**

**OPERATING EXPENSES** President 50.00  
Vice President/Program Chairman 50.00  
Secretary 125.00  
Treasurer/Post Office Box Rental 80.00 - 375.00  
**\$13931.93**

**CHAIRMEN'S EXPENSES** Membership 35.00  
Registration 50.00  
Amenities/refreshments 150.00  
Decorations & Centennial Dinner 240.00  
Kitchen supplies and Centennial Dinner 300.00 - 775.00  
**\$13156.93**

**SOCIETY'S MEMBERSHIP DUES** Conference of California Historical Societies 30.00  
Sacramento County History Society 20.00  
Save the American River 10.00 - 60.00  
**\$13096.93**

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** Printing 250.00  
Postage (\$0.32 x 150 x 4) 192.00  
Half tones (15 x 4) 60.00  
Special mailing (\$0.32 x 150 x 2) 96.00 - 598.00  
**\$12498.93**

**WAYS & MEANS** Miscellaneous materials 50.00  
Projects/History Center 800.00  
Photography 250.00  
Oral history 50.00  
Centennial Book balance 2605.00  
Project/Arbor-crosswalk 1000.00  
Developing costs--prints, glass plates etc. 500.00 - 5255.00  
**\$7243.93**

**UNDECLARED BALANCE ON-HAND** \$ 7243.93  
balance for 1996 \$ 4000.00  
**DECLARED BALANCE** \$ 3243.93

DOCENTS' REPORT

Lois Frazier

KUDOS AND THANK YOUS to the following people for their time volunteering to keep the Center open: for January, Marilyn and Chuck Kendrick; for February Lois Frazier and Bonnie Drago; for March, Meg and Larry Smart; and for April to be Warren and Janet McWilliams.

Please call Lois Frazier, 967-2967, if you would like to volunteer.

WE NEED YOU!!!!!!!!!!

*this footstep has a shadow.....*



***the day the President of the United States died.....\****

On April 12, 1945, the planet was in turmoil with World War II raging in Europe and in the Pacific. My brother, Leland was in the U.S. Navy training for service in the Pacific. In spite of this, life continued on in the town of Fair Oaks.

As a 10-year-old and as a part of my "up-bringing" my mother insisted that I have some musical instruction. Thus, I went into piano lessons and enrolled as a student of Mrs. Geysbers, the resident piano instructor for many of the Fair Oaks. Mrs. Geysbers taught in her shingled home on the northwest corner of Park and Main Streets, Fair Oaks. It was her expectation that each of us students would participate in the annual Piano Recital. As a reward for this participation, each of us was to receive a molded bust of his/her favorite composer.

At this time and throughout the 1930's, 40's, and 50's, the Woman's Thursday Club clubhouse served as a very important social part of the lives of Fair Oaks residents. Meetings, wedding receptions, school dances, spaghetti feeds, all kinds of get-togethers including piano recitals. The Clubhouse was located in a large wooden building on a hilltop on the southeast corner of what is now called Sunrise and Fair Oaks Boulevards. As I recall, the building had a wood-shingled exterior and in the interior there was a large foyer, cloak room, hardwood flooring, a large curtained stage, and long windows enclosing a dining room on the west side of the structure.

It was in the grandeur of this Clubhouse that Mrs. Geysbers had her students prepared to perform in the annual recital at 2:00pm, April 12, 1946. As we were gathering to perform with last-minute rehearsals, newspaper hawkers and radios were blaring out the news of the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The news spread rapidly among us students, parents, and teachers alike -- everyone seemingly concerned and alarmed as President Roosevelt was the only President that many of us had known. What would happen to the Country??? the War??? Who would be strong enough to replace him now???

Well, the Recital was carried out as planned. As a conclusion to the recital and in a memorable performance, as I recall, Harriet Camden, a long-time Fair Oaks resident and composer, accompanied herself as she sang her original composition: "Fair Oaks, I Love You". And I earned my composer's bust -- my white marbled bust of Bach still stands proudly on our curio shelf.

Memories of this April, 1945 date remain vivid in my mind as do those of the Woman's Thursday Club, Mrs. Geysbers, Mrs. Camden and Fair Oaks in the early 1940's.....LOWELL SHERMAN

*UP SUNSET AVENUE* is a light-hearted coffee table book of stories collected from the early days of Fair Oaks. Fair Oaks history is woven into stories of the town, school, and our ranch. These stories are written for my children as part of my family history. On a lark, I sent one of these stories into a story-writing contest. It became published. Over the past ten years some of the stories have been in the Chamber of Commerce Newsletter, the Sacramento Union, The Bee, Fair Oaks Chronicle and Reminisce Magazine.

Last year my daughter, Michelle Goller, asked if she could help me compile the stories into a keepsake book for the Fair Oaks Centennial. Michelle has set the book up in a beautiful form with the stories, short anecdotes and old family recipes. The book includes 20 pages of pictures of old timers of Fair Oaks going about their daily activities.

The book covers period 1890 through 1940 when my grandfather came to California looking for land and to my early childhood. My parents, Walter and Wanda Vincent, both came to Fair Oaks as little children with my Vincent and Kennedy grandparents. We grew up in Fair Oaks with a large clan of aunts, uncles, cousins, great-grandparents and a favorite great-uncle. Sixty-four members in the family including in-laws have graduated from San Juan High School.

I was born in the house on Sunset Avenue and grew up there during the war. We were tied to our farm chores so most of my activities took place there on the ranch. It should be noted that most of the stories mention, "*up Sunset Avenue*" or "*down Sunset Avenue*". It was not intentional in the beginning but became the name of the book when we saw how often it was mentioned.

We farmed the three pieces of Vincent and Kennedy land that were along Sunset Avenue until 1974. We earned our entire living working the land. Our ranch was lovingly called Rancho Confusion.....

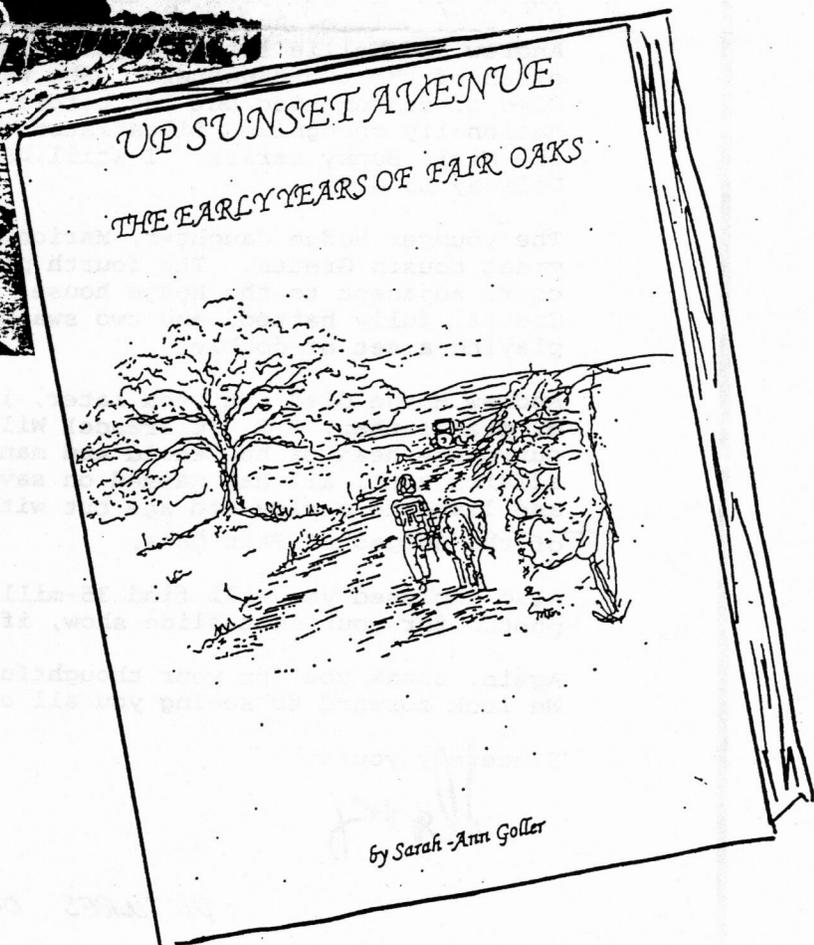
SARAH GOLLER, April 4, 1995



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Earnest, Walter, & Frank Vincent  
with Walter Carpenter fishing on the  
American River near Folsom, 1908.

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**DOUG'S** footsteps..... Please welcome Doug Dupen as a new addition to this newsletter. This edition will include Doug's December 27, 1994 letter to Adele Copeland.

Dear Adele:

Thank you very, very much for sending us the photographs of the Caulfeild/Burg/Landis house on Minnesota Avenue. My mother was indeed able to view them -- thanks to her illuminated magnifying glass -- and enjoyed them immensely.

In return I enclose two photographs of the same house, taken about 1900. One is from the southwest and shows the front of the house as it was built. The other is from the southeast and shows the rear of the house.

When we were reviewing these photos, I remarked to my mother how barren the entire area looked. She said, "Oh, yes, Fair Oaks was always very, very brown with little vegetation until the people could put in irrigation."

In your slide presentation at our last meeting, I think I remember you showing views of the Hodge house. My family was very close to the Hodge family and I found some old photos of that house as well. Enclosed is a view of the Hodge house, taken about 1910, which shows three girls -- the two Hodge daughters and my great-cousin Marguerite (Gretta) Hanvey -- sitting on the edge of the front porch.

The house was occupied by the large Hodge family -- Andrew Hodge and his wife Nellie, Andrew's two "maiden" sisters Ida and Agnes, and Andrew and Nellie's two daughters, Helen and Marion. Helen was the older of the two daughters. She was always sickly and eventually died of consumption but not before becoming a very successful, nationally recognized illustrator of children's books, especially of the Nixie Bunny series. I still have a copy of "Nixie Bunny in Holiday Land."

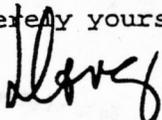
The younger Hodge daughter, Marion, was a close companion of my great cousin Gretta. The fourth picture enclosed is of the tennis court adjacent to the Hodge house. The photo shows Marion and Gretta, fully hatted, and two swains, fully collared and necktied, playing a set of doubles.

Andrew Hodge died not much later, leaving a household of five women. My grandfather, C.E. (Clarence) Wilson, took on the role of surrogate head of household and managed the family's financial affairs until all had passed on save Marion. Marion later married and lived to a ripe old age but without issue. Thus ends the story of the Hodges of Fair Oaks.

Also enclosed you will find 35-millimeter slides of each of the four photos for your next slide show, if you'd like to use them.

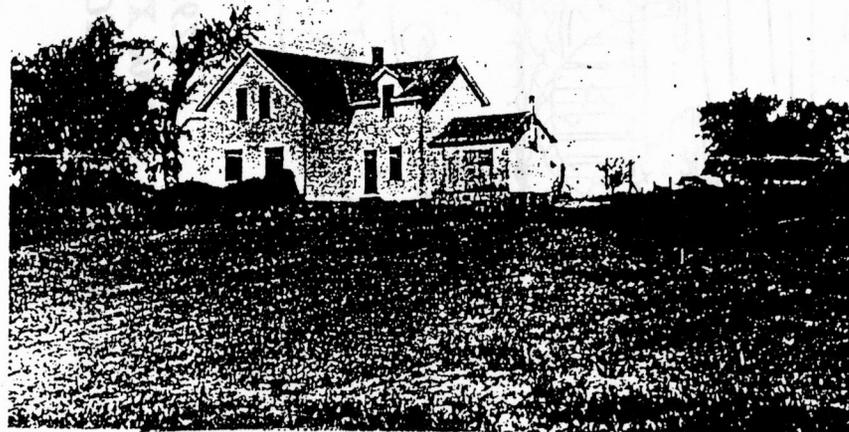
Again, thank you for your thoughtfulness in forwarding the pictures. We look forward to seeing you all on the 22nd.

Sincerely yours,



PICTURES ON NEXT PAGE

The  
Hodge  
House

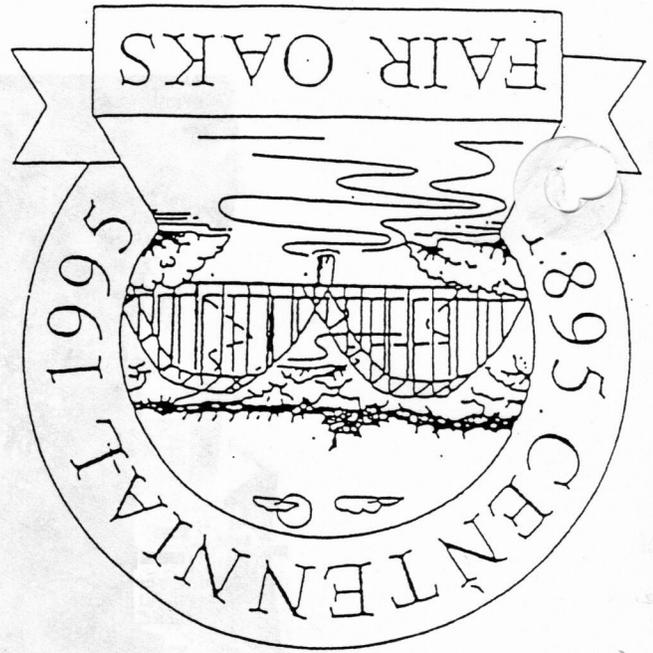


c. 1910 Hodge, Andrew and Nellie



Marion Hodge, Cousin Gretta and guests  
playing a set of doubles on the  
tennis court.

CITRUS HEIGHTS CA 95610  
12633 FAIR OAKS BLVD  
BONNIE DRAGO, #155



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



### FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ (CIRCLE:renewal/new member) DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_ FOR \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF PERSONS

**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**

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