

# FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 34 -- OCTOBER, 1995

**PRESIDENT:**

Ralph Carhart  
961-6301

**VICE PRES.:**

Iva Langness  
967-5054

**SECRETARY:**

Bonnie Drago  
726-7310

**TREASURER:**

Carol Crowther  
961-7096

**PARLIAMENT'N:**

Jane Melvin  
967-5605

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**AMENITIES:**

**BUDGET:**

Gayle Anita  
961-6912

**HISTORICAL:**

Bob Massey  
967-6197

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Marilyn Pearce  
961-8415

**PROGRAM:**

Iva Langness  
967-5054

**WAYS & MEANS:**

Warren McWilliams  
961-9012

**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 - GENERAL MEETING

**OCTOBER 24, 1995 -- 6:00pm**

Program: **STEVE ABBOTT --**

**"Fair Oaks History Review"**

And Bob Massey's vignette: *the girl that wouldn't say no*

Location: Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse (downstairs)  
7997 California Avenue.

*Please bring a casserole, salad, or dessert to share with members.*



## RESIDENT'S MESSAGE : RALPH CARHART

It was my pleasure to preside over the placement of the Centennial time capsule in Plaza Park on September 16. Many interesting items were placed in the capsule which is to remain sealed until 2095...newspapers, magazines, telephone directories, restaurant menus, school yearbooks, pictures and writings from the school children, money, stamps, trophies from the toilet bowl races and frog jump, wine tasting glasses, a brick from the crosswalk project, records of the Fair Oaks Water District, a Chamber of Commerce plaque, a Hugh Gorman artwork, a license plate with Fair Oaks frame, a centennial T-shirt, a copy of the Society's history book and Sarah Goller's history book, Coke, Pepsi, and Snapple containers, an American Flag, a Rotary banner and many other items guaranteed to entertain and puzzle our great great grandchildren.

Now as fall is in the air and the pumpkin harvest in, we prepare for our October 24 meeting of the Fair Oaks Historical Society. Member Steve Abbott

-- continued --

It is with a great deal of sadness that we, too, acknowledge the passing of Horace Crandell, our Ways and Means Chairperson. Much has been said in the press and by many of the leaders of the organizations in which Horace participated. I think Jeanne Hill's quote in the Sacramento Bee said it all: "He just adopted Fair Oaks and Fair Oaks became his family." **THANK YOU, ROSEANNE, FOR SHARING YOUR HUSBAND WITH THE FAIR OAKS COMMUNITY.**

will be our featured speaker, recapping the importance of this Centennial year to our community. I look forward to seeing you all there. This is the last meeting of the Centennial year and it will be the last time we meet downstairs at the Community Clubhouse. Beginning with the January 1996 meeting we will be meeting upstairs to accommodate our growing membership. At the October meeting, we will be presenting the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for the 1996 officers. Other nominations may be made and then we will take a vote. The newly-elected officers will then be installed at the January 1996 meeting.

**The last major event of the Centennial year will be a special postal cancellation ceremony at the Fair Oaks Post Office from 10:00-1:00pm on November 18, 1995. A special cancellation stamp has been designed for this one-day-only event which corresponds almost to the day one hundred years ago when the first group of excursioners came to "Fair Oaks" to purchase farms and lots. I hope you will join us FOR TOURS AND THE FESTIVITIES.**

Also, put **December 10** on your calendar. From 1:00 to 4:00pm we will host the **Fair Oaks Historical Society Christmas Party/Open House** at the Fair Oaks Historical Center. It is a good chance to see the new display cases and artifacts that we recently acquired. This is also a good chance to pick up extra copies of "**Fair Oaks, the Early Years**" for your Christmas giftgiving.

Last, but not least, support your Society and buy the **Entertainment 1996 Book**. Help sell them to your friends and neighbors who enjoy dining out for bargain prices, who take vacations and like discounted motel/hotel accommodations, or those who like shopping at the local grocery stores with coupons. Since the **Entertainment 1996 Book** sales will continue through December, consider buying one for a Christmas gift for someone special.

A reminder that the next Board Meeting will be December 12, 1995.



**SECRETARY'S MINUTES** : The minutes will be submitted and available for your perusal at the Quarterly Meeting, October 24, 1995.....**BONNIE DRAGO**



**TREASURER'S REPORT**: The current (September 26, 1995) balance is \$5612.87. Please see the minutes at our meeting for the full report.....**CAROL CROWTHER**



**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**: Committee members **PETER WHITE, DARLENE AYLWARD, AND JUNE MELVIN** have nominated the following slate of Officers:

**President:** Iva Langness

**Vice President:** Ed Eubanks

**Secretary:** Bonnie Drago

**Treasurer:** Steve Abbott

These footsteps have shadows steeped in

# ♪ ♪ TRADITIONS ♪ ♪



**Bonnie Drago:** Christmas was our favorite holiday. It also was a very busy time for me as I would cook a big dinner on Christmas Day. My husband, George came up with a plan for Christmas Eve to ease the work. George arranged with our favorite restaurant to prepare our favorite meal -- steak, lobster tails, baked potatoes, and a pound of spaghetti (for our Saint Bernard, Misty, and the boys who helped her eat it, of course) -- to gooooo. The menu was the same year-after-year. George and our two boys would go pick up the meal. It was after the boys fell asleep, when came the task of putting together bikes, wagons, and anything else that needed to be assembled for Santa.....Our sons have continued this tradition with their children to this day.....

Every year, before our boys would go to bed, they would put a snack out for Santa, and carrots for his reindeer. (In New York, the weather was usually very cold with lots of snow covering the ground in December.) Christmas morn began very early, in this family -- when the clock struck 5:00am we could no longer contain George and Barry from running and tripping to see what Santa had left beneath the tree. To this day, my grandchildren, ages 19 down to 6 years, leave food for Santa and his reindeer and awaken everyone in each of the households at 5:00am to run to the tree. Nothing is wrapped, but each one knows which pile belongs to whom.

When we built our house, we planted a five-foot Christmas tree in the center of the front lawn. Every year, we would put lots of lights on it and leave them on until after New Years Day. After 16-years, it was so tall, we had to rent a cherry picker to put the lights on at the top.

**Norm Hongola:** It has been a Hongola family tradition to take walks down the American River during the Holidays to observe the Salmon runs. We live on Sierra Street with ready access to the old Fair Oaks Bridge. We walk upstream from the bridge and especially enjoy watching the spawning salmon in the narrow riffles across from Sailor Bar.

For thirty years this spectacle has continued to amaze us as we watch salmon- after- salmon with their red colors and faded white patches in their age-old struggle to spawn and die. Their driving-like force fills us with wonderment and awe and sadness.

And as their numbers dwindle from Thanksgiving to New Years, your melancholy is tempered when you realize this is not the end but the beginning of a new life cycle and as the wintry days become longer the next generation will begin its journey to the ocean.

**Marguerite Smart:** "have tablecloth -- will travel": Christmas for most families is a time to be together. After our children married and started families of their own, for all of us to be in one place during the holidays together was an impossible goal. Since it was easier for Larry and me to travel, we all agreed each child would have a turn to celebrate with the "old folks". We, therefore, rotate yearly Christmas visits with Kirk (Mobile, Alabama), Ross (Berkeley, California), and Laurie (Puyallup, Washington).

The fourth year, grandma and grandpa host all of the children, spouses, grandchildren, and great grandchild for 4 or 5 days in a neutral environment -- in order that everyone can share in the cooking, housekeeping, and entertainment.



**WAYS AND MEANS REPORT** : We will continue to accept donations for the raffle prizes. And as the President indicated, I encourage you to purchase Entertainment, 1996 Books. The cost is \$40.00. Please call Nancy Sherman, 967-1539 or Carol Crowther, 961-7096 if you are interested in buying this book or an Entertainment Book for another part of California.....**WARREN MC WILLIAMS**



**DOCENTS' REPORT:** My sincere thanks to the following people who have been docents at our History Center in 1995:

- January: **Marilyn and Chuck Kendrick**
- February: **(Lois Frazier) and Bonnie Drago**
- March: **Meg and Larry Smart**
- April: **Janet and Warren McWilliams**
- May: **Closed..**
- June: **June Melvin and Leigh Landis**
- July: **Adele Copeland and Ione Radonich**
- August: **Meg and Larry Smart**
- September: **(Lois Frazier) and Bonnie Drago**
- October: **Iva Langness and Wilma Rice.**

Docents are needed for November and December. The **History Center** is in the Administration Building at the Fair Oaks Cemetery District Office. We have the **History Center** open to the public every second Sunday of the month from 1:00 - 4:00p.m. If you would like to volunteer as a docent, please call Lois Frazier, 967-2967.

The Society will be hosting a **Christmas Season Open House** in conjunction at the History Center monthly Open House, **December 10, 1995**. Check with Janet and Warren McWilliams for further details. Again, this year, they will be accepting donations of children's books for the local school libraries.....**LOIS FRAZIER**



**EDITOR'S COMMENTS:**

For your information, starting in January our meetings will be held *u p s t a i r s* in the *Clubhouse* since our membership has grown, and the following will be the meeting schedule:

- Tuesday, January 23, 1996
- Tuesday, April 23, 1996
- Tuesday, July 23, 1996
- Tuesday, October 22, 1996

I repeat.... why can't we historians start a campaign to enlist the assistance of the Fair Oaks Community to gain the use of the old Park and Recreation Building and Office, Temescal St. and California Ave., for our historical artifacts and donations?????.....I heartily recommend that you visit the Cemetery District Office where Gayle Anita, curator, has your History Society displays nicely arranged. It appears to me that we are beginning to look as though we are "busting at the seams" and that there are many current artifacts collected that we have yet to see since there is no more space and no storage room.

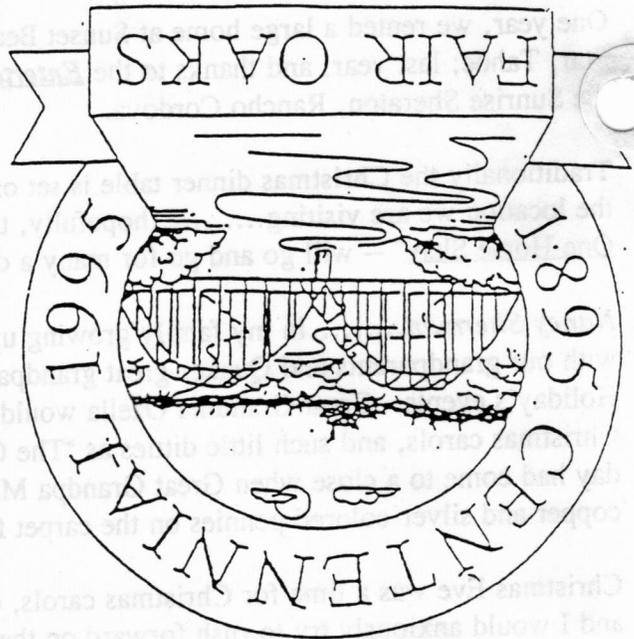
One year, we rented a large home at Sunset Beach, Monterey; another year, we rented condos at North Star, Tahoe; last year, and thanks to the Entertainment, 1994 Book, we rented bed and breakfast suites at the Sunrise Sheraton, Rancho Cordova.

Traditionally the Christmas dinner table is set on *red-and-green poinsettia tablecloth* which we transport to the location we are visiting.....hopefully, the tablecloth and these grandparents --like in the poem "The One Horse Shay" -- will go and go for many a day....

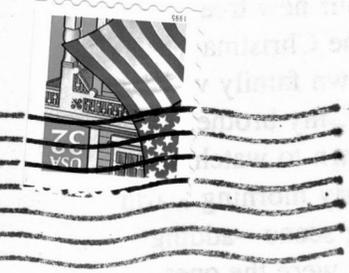
**Nancy Sherman**.....In my family growing up in Cleveland and San Diego, Thanksgiving Day was spent with our grandparents and Quaker great grandparents. I recall that our great grandparents reigned over the Holiday's events. Great Grandma Ozella would spend most of the day at the piano playing church hymns, Christmas carols, and such little ditties as "The Cat Came Back" or "In A Country Garden". We knew the day had come to a close when Great Grandpa Miles, with an ever so subtle motion, would start to scatter copper and silver-colored pennies on the carpet for us kids to chase and snatch up.

Christmas Eve was a time for Christmas carols, open house, and church services -- all of which my brother and I would anxiously try to rush forward on the clock so we could beat it home to find our new tree ornaments. Each year my parents and relatives would give us each a new ornament for the Christmas tree. The idea was to prepare us for the time when we would leave the household to start our own family with new traditions and new Christmas trees to decorate. Once the ornaments were on the tree, my brother and I were ushered off to bed. Curtains were tacked up in the hallways so we couldn't peek down to watch Santa. It was a real test of one sibling out-witting the other to be the first to sound the early morning alarm that Santa had come and gone and had transformed the Christmas Tree into a mesmerizing scene --adding lights, angel hair, tinsel and decorative packages. It was easy to tell kids packages -- they were the ones trapped in Sunday funnies of days gone by.

Christmas Day concluded with the Christmas Stocking Ceremony. That was the only time I remember receiving chocolate candy, which would be mixed in with nuts, pencils, and blackboard chalk. I will never forget the day when my Grandfather, La Jolla's leading dentist, managed to sneak our first pieces of **bubble gum** in amongst the candy. Now let me tell you, we were the first kids on the block to have such a precious gift. We blew bubbles after bubbles for all the neighborhood to see for weeks after -- UNTIL our show-and-tell was cut short when Mom discovered we were using the back of the bedstead to stash our used and reused globs.



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



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 of \$ enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ number of persons.

ANNUAL DUES – ALWAYS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, OF EACH YEAR:

INDIVIDUAL	\$ 8.00	MAIL TO: MARILYN PEARCE
FAMILY	12.00	4104 EARNSCLIFF AV
SUPPORTING— (organization or business)	25.00	FAIR OAKS CA 95628
LIFE	100.00	

THE FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P O 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 6:00PM 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.