

FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER VOLUME 37 -- JULY, 1996

QUARTERLY POTLUCK - GENERAL MEETING

JULY 23, 1996 -- 6:00pm

Program Speaker : JACK STEED

Subject: "William Johnson Ranch Discovery"

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

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

per June Melvin: Mr. Jack Steed, President of the Sacramento County Historical Society, will present a program on his 1985 discovery of the William Johnson 2-bedroom adobe-built house and site near Wheatland. This site received national attention when, through documentation, it was determined that it was the "jumping off place" for four relief parties that rescued the Donner Party. Mr. Steed will also display many artifacts found in the Johnson house as well as a few antique firearms.

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RESIDENT'S MESSAGE : IVA LANGNESS

I hope to see all of you attending our July meeting. I understand that our speaker, Mr. Jack Steed, will have many exciting things to talk about and to show us.

I will be happy to submit for your approval at the meeting, the life membership of Norman and MerrieLou Hangola. That will bring our total Life Memberships to 14. For your information, our total membership, including husbands and wives, honorary and individual members is 139. We continue to grow. Let's keep up the good work.

You might be interested to note: Mary Otis reports that the 15th Annual Antique Quilts Show will be held at the Folsom Historical Museum, July 31 through August 31, 1996. The Museum (823 Sutter St, Folsom) is open from 11:00am to 4:00pm, Wednesdays through Sundays. If you have any questions, please call 985-2707.



REASURER'S REPORT : STEVE ABBOTT

Balance as of 4/23/96.....\$7670.87

Income:	Membership	\$ 96.00	
	Publications	317.50	
	Raffle	133.00	
	Wine	40.00	
	Misc. entry in bk	<u>52.00</u>	
	Total	\$638.50	\$8309.37

Expenses:	Newsletter	\$ 53.01	
	Refreshments	17.10	
	New checks(2/16/96)	<u>12.55</u>	
	Total	\$ 82.66	\$8226.71

6/18/96 Balance as reconciled with bank statement.....\$8226.71



PARLIAMENTARIAN'S COMMITTEE REPORT : JUNE MELVIN

1. Guest speaker, Jack Steed, will also present his same program at the Sesquicentennial Observance at Do Lake Museum, August 16, 1996.....In addition, he plans to exhibit his artifacts at the convention of the California Trails Association, Elko, Nevada.
2. Twilight Tour of Old City Cemetery: August 21, 1996. Sails, Rails, and Wagon Trails. Call 448-0811 for further information.



DECEMBER'S REPORT : LOIS FRAZIER (967-2967)

Please fill in the blanks and call me.

- January 14 : Lois Frazier and Bonnie Drago
- February 11 : Meg and Larry Smart
- March 10 : Lois Frazier and Elva Reed
- April 14 : Darlene and Mike Aylward
- May 12 : Ed Eubanks
- June 9 : Leigh Landis and June Melvin
- July 14 : Meg and Larry Smart
- August 11 : Marilyn and Chuck Kendrick
- September 8 :
- October 13 :
- November 10 :
- December 8 :



EDITOR'S COMMENTS : NANCY SHERMAN

Please,

start sending me your favorite tried-and-true potluck dinner recipes to share with the crowd.....care of P O Box 247, Fair Oaks, Ca 95628. Thank you. See if you can top these delicious delectable dishes:

Lemon-Lime Jello by Bonnie Drago

- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 pkg teeny marshmallows
- 18 oz can crushed pineapple
- 1/2 pkg cream cheese
- 1 small carton whipped cream
- 1 pkg lemon jello
- 1 pkg lime jello
- 9" x 13" glass pyrex dish

- 1) Bring 2 cups water to boil, add lemon jello and when dissolved, add marshmallows to melt.
- 2) Drain crushed pineapple and add to above. Add cream cheese in small quantities and let melt, cool.
- 3) Fold in whipped cream. Pour into pyrex dish and refrigerate 4-5 hours.
- 4) Melt lime jello in 1 cup boiling water and add 6 ice cubes until melted. Pour over top of refrigerated mixture and let set.

Enchilada Casserole by Ione Radonich

- 1 1/2 lb hamburger
- 1 small diced onion
- 1 c. Enchilada sauce
- 1 small can chili peppers
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can cream of mushroom sauce
- 1 pkg tortillas (12)
- 1 to 2 c. Grated cheese

- 1) Brown hamburger and onions in about 3 tbs. oil. Do not season. Mix all ingredients except tortillas and cheese. Alternate mixture with tortillas in 9" x 13" casserole. Sprinkle with cheese. Cover with foil and bake in 350 oven for 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Uncover the last 10 minutes.

Ratatouille by Rose Francis, June Melvin's grandmother

- 2 t. cooking oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 3 zucchini, sliced
- 4 tomatoes peeled, chopped
- 1/2 tsp. Dried basil
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

- 1 c. chopped onion
- 1 lb. eggplant
- 1 green pepper
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. Dried thyme

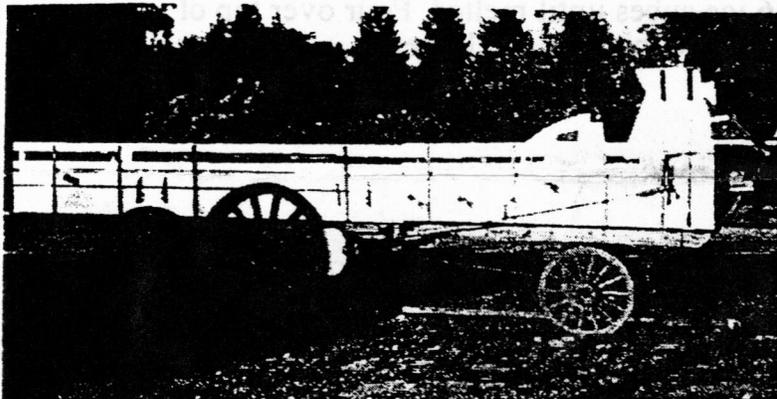
- 1) Saute onions and garlic in oil. Add remaining ingredients and cook over low heat, covered about 15 minutes. Uncover and continue to cook until vegetables are tender and juice is thick.

Check out these footsteps.....



Come join me on a pectoral walking tour of a special historically significant and magical land owned and operated by two fun people and their family.

On a journey east on Sunset Avenue, one cannot help miss the sign announcing the sight of *Farmer Bob's* and the home of Bob and Beryl Massey. Turning into the driveway, the MAGIC begins



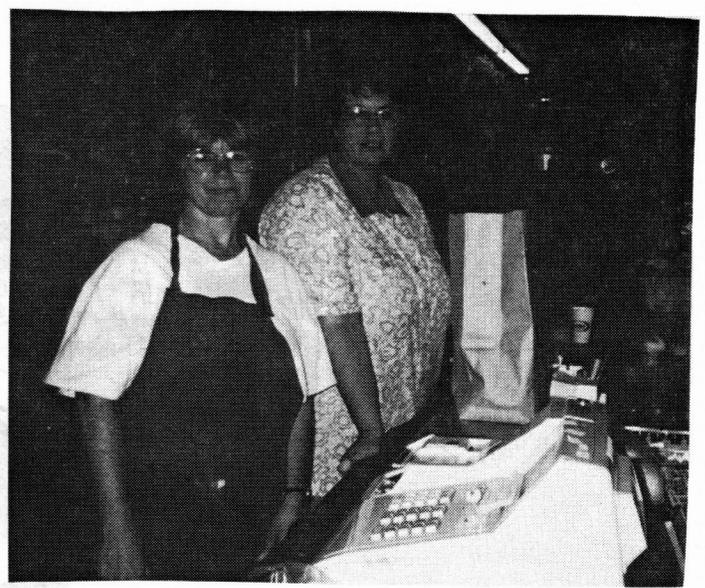
On your right -- and please take a second look and no, not at the dinosaur-- this handsome white wagon rests in the midst of a barren parking lot, just waiting for an anxious crowd to take on a hay ride in one of the local parades. Did you know that this magnificent Studebaker wagon with its iron axle was once owned by the City of San Francisco to haul refuse containers.

When the local government opted to go to motorized vehicles, the wagon moved on to the City of Sacramento serving the same purpose until Sacramento decided to go to motorized vehicles, as well. It was purchased 10 years ago from the Dewey family.....



Ah!!!! to the left we see an intriguing quaint red building -- this must be the proprietors' residence -- Whoa! No! This, in deed, houses all kinds of magical eye-catching treasures beyond the "Farmer Bob" entrance. Interesting to note: while this "vegetable stand" became a formidable affair in 1947 for Fair Oaks, the title "Farmer Bob's" became recognized in 1960. Customers have come from 30 miles more -- Yuba City, Lodi, Loomis, Newca Somerset, etc. to sell or purchase the products within. At this time, "90% of the food sold here is produced here" proudly boasts the proprietor..

Oh, looky here....I spot daughters, Sue O'Malley and Jan Mc Elhone busy stocking the shelves with fresh vegetables and fruits. One look around and oh my -- oh my -- an antique or two here and there and everywhere. Take a look -- realllly redddd tomatoes, mounds of savory onions, bountiful baskets of ripe plums.

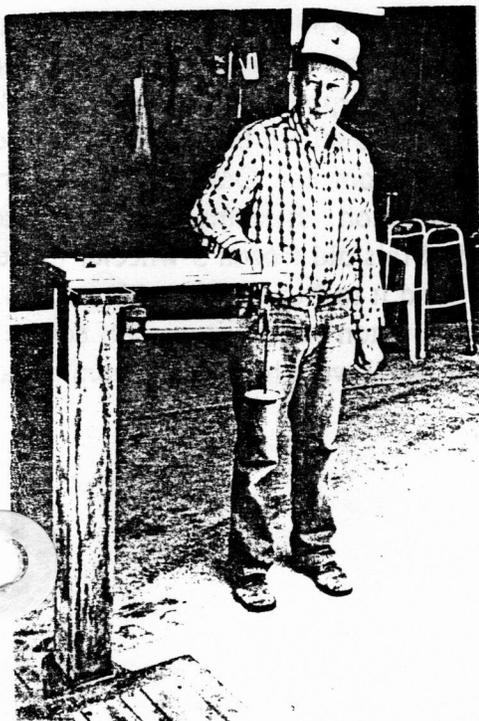


Check out the ambiance of this office..

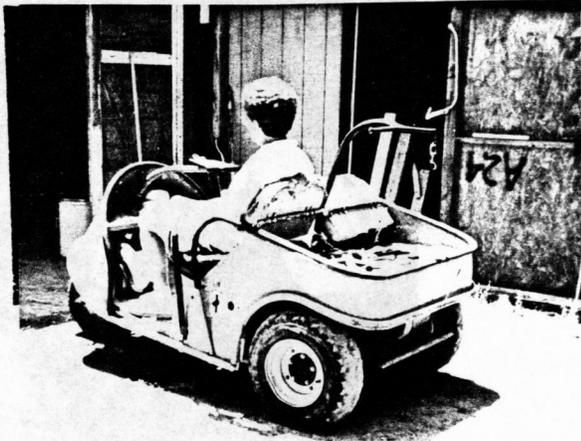
in residence in the covered porch area sits the master, Farmer Bob, himself,

orchestrating with his magical words of wisdom, tapping his wand/or his walker, as the case may be, pronouncing to all who come to pay their respects -- "this is what's good; this is what's not so good"!

Forgot not that the first words out of his mouth is that curious question of all time: "What's new? What's happening?" with an invitation to set a spell and take in the "down-home character" of the surroundings.

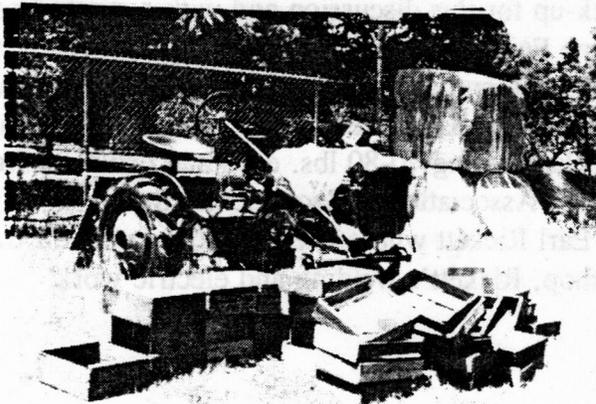


Providing back-up for this discussion and with a most pleasant smile stands long time Fair Oaks resident, Bud Ricketts, who loves to show off the early 1900's almond weigh scale. If one listens carefully, one will hear Bob and Bud discussing the fact that almonds were hulled, and poured into sacks yielding 70-80 lbs. each and driven down to the Almond Growers Association in Sacramento. So the story goes, it was Bud's father, Earl Rickett who owned the first catapillar tractor in Fair Oaks for his shop, Rickett's welding and electric work.



Yikes -- loooooook out! There's a Reno golf cart on the loose! Oops! ... That's Beryl making a quick trip the back room of the store to box cherries for her girls to sell.

And when she's not at home playing with her grand children and daughters, this is Beryl in her business suit "behind the scenes" at the dental office for Dr. Perry Kolander.

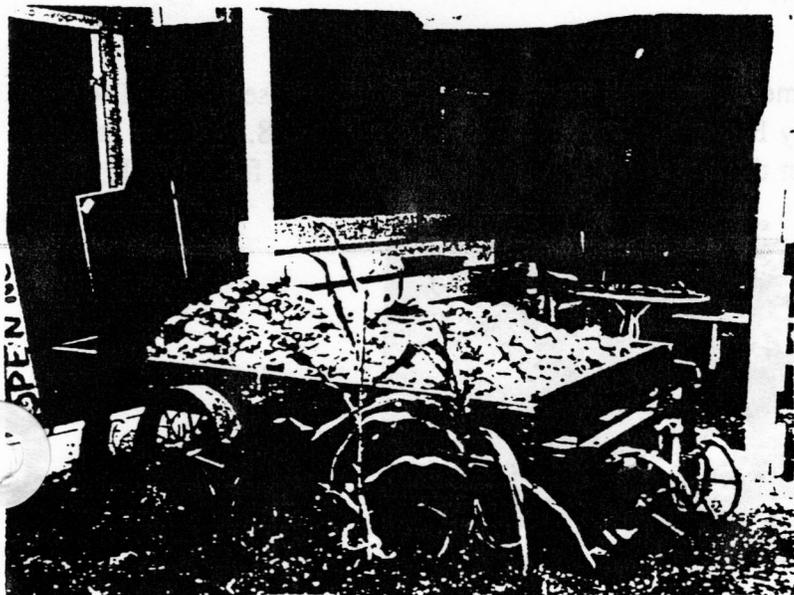
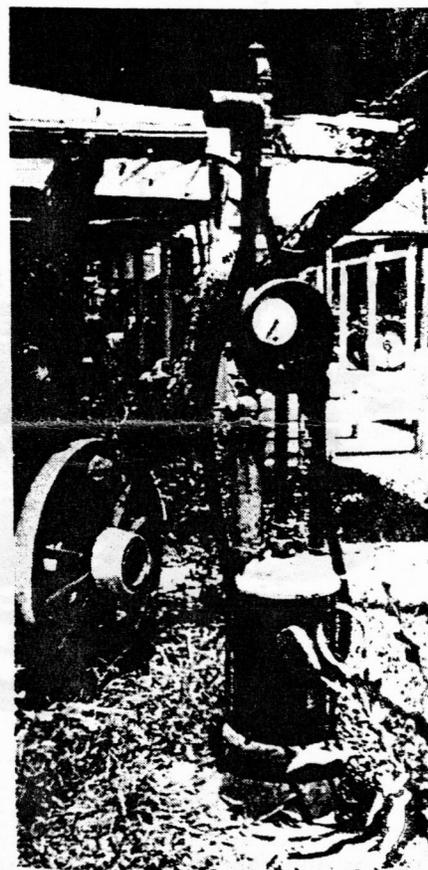


It's Beryl, who points out the rejuvenated red 1947 International Cub tractor and it's Bob who supplies the background. Bob had an old school buddy, Tom Beemer who moved from Fair Oaks to Leavenworth, Washington. It seems Tom wanted to get rid of this old frozen 3-wheeler jobber and offered it to Bob if he could come to Washington to pick it up. Of course, Bob and Beryl were happy to accommodate.



As Bob describes this, it is Charles Kanoff's gas pump -- because it came to him from Charles. It actually came from the "2 Little Shavers" place on Bridge St, Fair Oaks -- run by father and son, Kenny and Denny Cochran.

Then there is another intriguing gas pump with a hand crank. This was used around 1905 to pump gas from underground tanks.



Yeows! What is that fragrance ---Wagons, whoa! Bud can tell you all about this wagon sled as it was used on the Rickett's Ranch to haul almonds about. Today its the keeper for rounds of onions to tempt the curious shopper.

You ask about that windmill?--the one over there by the dinosaur?..Well, my friend, that windmill has plenty of history. One day while having lunch at Bob's favorite haunt, Coco's Restaurant, Mrs Schidler overheard Bob to say that he really wanted a windmill for his collection of trinkets. Well she caught up with Mr. Art Edzart (of South Dakota). Mr Edzart was very accommodating, too. He sent out all of the parts and pieces to Bob about 10 years ago --in 1986.



Too, Mr Edzart also shipped out this John Deere artifact soon after.

As picturesque as one can imagine -- this is the home of Bob and Beryl Massey, 1910 Sunset Ave.. The home was built for Bob's parents, Horace and Bess Massey by Bob Broadley and his brothers in 1928. Horace and Bess were able to build the house from earnings received from their great orange crop before the big freeze of 1932.



Both Bob and his sister, Vivian Massey (Mrs. Norton Archer) were raised in this home. Their father served as the mail carrier covering the area of Orangevale, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, White Rock, and Fair Oaks.

An ~~and~~ meet BerylAs Bob tells the story, there were two teenage girls walking down Sunset Ave.-- one wore tight-fitting pants while the other wore a tight-fitting sweater. Much to Beryl's modesty, he says he married the one in the tight-fitting sweater. Beryl had moved out to Fair Oaks as a teenager with her carpenter father and mothers and sisters, Bonnie (Drago), Beverly (Brown), and Beth (Broadley) and brother, John Huiting, coming to escape the dust bowl of Kansas in 1936.

Until he contracted polio in the 1950's, Bob worked in heavy construction -- notably taking part in building Hickam Field in Hawaii and Folsom Dam. He, then, turned to the Real Estate and Insurance fields and eventually in ended up in farming, primarily selling pumpkins and Christmas trees.

While Bob was busy outside, I'd say Beryl was quite busy inside -- She worked for Dr. Norton Archer for 22 years, for Dr. Robert Koch for 7 years, and is currently in her 13th year with Doctors Perry Kolander and Jeff Tveten.....That's 42 years in the dental profession. W o W S!

Reflecting back over the past years in Fair Oaks Bob says of those early days: "There was one out of a hundred that you did not know." He adds: "Now there is only one in one hundred that you might know!" Your school enrollment from start to finish would include about 300 people. Today, one high school alone -- Casa Robles counts about 500 students in this year's 1996 graduating class alone. The medical doctors in the area you could name on one hand: Doctors Kennedy, Severeign, Smith, Black, and Hart. Today, you take your own guess as to how many doctors are in the area now -- probably in the hundreds.

.A very special thank you to this family for their willingness to contribute this historical interlude. Missing a ~~quip~~ quips on special subjects like the weather or the roads or "politics" -- maybe next time -- or better yet, after we find out what happened to the 'two ladies who couldn't say "NO!'. I learned one of them might even live in Los Angeles yet.

ENTERTAINMENT, 1996 BOOK ORDERS -- we will be taking orders in August for this fund-raiser. For those interested, please check with Roseanne Crandell, 967-2102.NEEDED: one chairperson for this project . Please call Roseanne if interested.

BONNIE DRAGO, #155
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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.

I would like to be a docent at the History Center for this
month/months _____; no. of people with me will be _____.

ANNUAL DUES -- ALWAYS BEGINNING JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR

INDIVIDUAL	\$ 8.00	MAIL TO: Marilyn Pearce
FAMILY	12.00	4104 EARNSCLIFF AV
SUPPORTING --	25.00	FAIR OAKS CA 95628
(Organization/business)		
LIFE	100.00	
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