



FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 48 — APRIL, 1999

IF YOU HAVE A RED ADDRESS LABEL ON YOUR NEWSLETTER, THIS IS THE LAST ONE UNTIL DUES ARE PAID. Naida West 1999

QUARTERLY POTLUCK - GENERAL MEETING

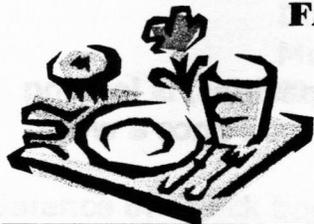
APRIL, 27, 1999 — 6:00 PM

SPEAKER: NAIDA WEST A.K.A. ELITHA DONNER

FAIR OAKS COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE

7997 CALIFORNIA AVENUE

Please bring a casserole, salad, or dessert to share with members and your recipe, if you are so inclined....



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: Steve Abbott Hope you are getting ready for our April 27 meeting. Our program will be one of our best. Naida West, an authority on the Gold rush period and a published author, will be our guest speaker...but you can read Pete's column for more details.

Get things first. **DUES ARE DUE.** Many remembered that our dues year is January to January. If you didn't remember, check the membership section of this newsletter for details or call Carol Baker, Membership Chairperson.

We've had a few budgetary emergencies this month. We didn't adequately plan for a Veteran's Memorial Monument, display and remembrance planned by the Cemetery District. The FOHS was asked to donate to this worthy cause, and we did along with several other groups and individuals. The problem is that we didn't budget for it. So a motion, recommended by your Executive Board, will be offered during our business meeting to cover the expenditure of \$200.00. Additionally, we have been asked to provide refreshments (cookies and punch) and to serve them. Lois Frazier is heading up this effort and needs several dozen home baked cookies and volunteer help. But more from Lois in her report.

Another unbudgeted matter arose when the Park District asked if we would like to buy an advertisement in its summer brochure. A quick call of elected members of the FOHS indicated that it would be a good idea to contact 16,000 Fair Oaks residents. So we did it. The Executive Board endorsed the idea and a motion will be placed before you for your approval or disapproval.

For some reason, we have not had an audit for some time. But we have had one now. Meg Smart offered to go over our books. She reports that all is well in our fiduciary department and has made some recommendations toward keeping more accurate records of your treasury. Thanks to Meg and our Treasurer RoseAnne for their efforts.

Fair Oaks Fiesta is heading our way on May 1 and 2. As some of you will remember, the FOHS has provided quite a display in the eastern end of the club house for the last two years, and we're doing it again. Volunteers are needed to help carry items to and from the History Center. We also need volunteers to help "man" the tables and talk to the public about Fair Oaks history and the FOHS. Not to mention the fact that the docents for the weekend need to eat and to have a chance to see some of the Fiesta festivities themselves. We don't need a lot, but we do need a faithful few. Contact Lois Frazier.

As we explained during our reasons for increasing dues, the Park District is now charging us \$25.00 per meeting for use of the club house and a one-time refundable deposit of \$200 fee for damage security.

The two rolls of microfilm for the Fair Oaks Progress (1918-1932) have arrived. Now we need to locate a microfilm reader. We have a microfiche reader for the Fair Oaks Post, but it won't work for the Fair Oaks Progress. Any ideas besides straight purchase?

Last, our Secretary Ralph Carhart, who has served the Society in many capacities, is looking for a replacement. If you can take and publish minutes and open the mail box once a week, Ralph would appreciate a break.

.....*Steve*

FROM THE VEEP.....On April 27, local author Naida West, Ph.D. will present the motional point of view of a Donner Party survivor in the Gold Rush, a living history enactment at the Fair Oaks Clubhouse starting at 6:00pm.

Speaking as Elitha Donner, eldest daughter of George Donner of the Donner Party, West will tell of her dramatic rescue from the mountains and how she became the 14-year-old bride of Perry McCoon. She will tell how McCoon squandered the rich gold discoveries he hade, and why she never told her story when she was alive.

Elitha resided in the Sacramento area for 77 years until she died in 1921. Her first California home was McCoon's ranch, Rancho Murieta today, the undeveloped remnant of which is the home of West and her husband.

Elitha Donner's story is part of West's meticulously researched history novel, RIVER OF RED GOLD, which will be available for signing before and after the presentation. In addition to Elitha's story, the novel interweaves the lives of "Indian Mary", who was also married to McCoon, and Pedro Valdez, who want the ranch but became a despised foreigner in his own land.

.....**Pete**

Since our last meeting, we'd like to take this opportunity to offer our condolences to the families of Marge Dave, who passed away in March, 1999 at the age of 97. While this editor didn't know Marge very well and just through the FOBS, I am aware that she commanded a lot of respect from members of the Society. I do know that her priceless smile brought a lot of joy to many, including me....

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rose Anne Crandell

Checkbook Balance (12/31/98)			\$2704.69
Income:			
	Membership	\$ 678.00	
	Books	20.00	
	Wine and Raffle	136.00	
			<u>834.00</u>
			\$3538.69
Expenses:			
	Newsletter	84.43	
	Office	54.00	
	Kitchen	61.31	
	Insurance	230.00	
	Donation/Memorial plaque	200.00	
	Museum	166.68	
	Clubhouse usage fee	300.00	
			- \$1096.42
Balance of Check book (03/30/1999)			\$2452.16
	Investment in passbook		2035.04
	Investments in C.D.		<u>5118.19</u>
		Total balance	\$9905.39

DOCENTS' REPORT: Lois Frazier

"Did you know?"

....The book "THE STORY OF THE FIRST TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD" was written and published in Fair Oaks in 1906 by William Francis Bailey. His Grandson, David Bailey, Jr. still lives in Carmichael and was a visitor to our History Center last month....

The History Museum is in the Administration Building of the Fair Oaks Cemetery. The Museum hours are 1:00pm to 4:00pm every second Sunday of the month.

The Docent Schedule for this year include the following:

January: Steve Abbott and Lois Frazier
February: Meg and Larry Smart
March: Diana Lennon and Robert Barrett
April: Bonnie Drago and Lois Frazier
May: Steve Abbott
June: Ione Radonich and Mary Nord

July: Marilyn and Chuck Kendrick
August: June Melvin and Harry Voth
September: Iva Langness and Lois Frazier
October: Meg and Larry Smart
November: Marilyn and Chuck Kendrick
December: Christmas Open House

Naida West



A life-long poet and writer, Naida lived in Fair Oaks for 12 years (1971-1983). During those years she was appointed to the Fair Oaks Planning Advisory Council and elected to the San Juan School Board. She received a Ph.D in Sociology at U.C. Davis and taught part time at various colleges, including American River and U.C. Davis. Advancing her career would have meant leaving the Sacramento area, so she became research director for an advocacy firm specializing in land use and environment. For fun, she researched Fair Oaks history and taped Pop Wilson's recollections about the early days.

In 1983, having remarried, Naida moved to the remnant of an historic ranch in Rancho Murieta — originally Rancho Sacayak, whose history is connected with the origins of Sutter's Fort. Continuing to work downtown for another 8 years, Naida explored her new home, finding artifacts from two cultures in her garden and in the old rock wall around her house (built 1920s). This set her on a course of serious research to learn about those who walked the land before her. She collected oral histories of the descendants of the local pioneers and delved into historical and anthropological archives. After publishing more than a dozen historical articles, Naida realized the stories fit together in a fascinating, untold story of California.

In 1991, she quit her day job to write full time. The result is two "history novels": RIVER OF RED GOLD, now in 3rd printing, a northern California best seller. It intertwines the stories of real people from three cultures, all connected with her ranch. Her second novel in the series will be published this summer. EYE OF THE BEAR focuses on the native people and their conflict with Spanish-Mexican military forces. Presently, several major companies are considering her books for mass paperback rights and a TV mini-series.

Elitha Donner is a principal character in RIVER OF RED GOLD. She will tell you herself how she came to live on the ranch where Naida West lives today. Her dress is patterned after one she was photographed in 1853. The hat, circa 1830's, was worn by Naida's great great grandmother.

Submitted by Peter White

Would You Make the Grade?

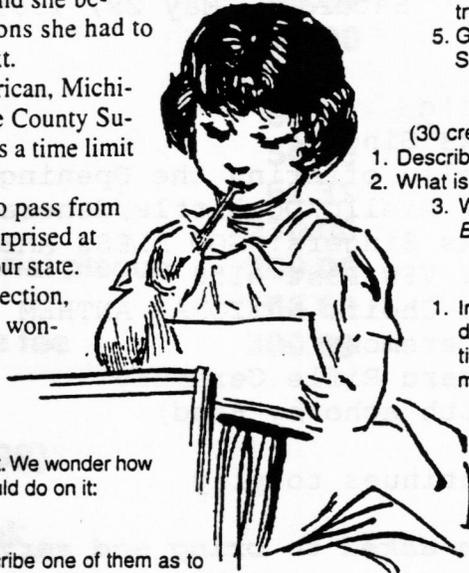
Moving up to the next level at a country school was no easy task.

MY GREAT-AUNT MARGE came back home for a family reunion a couple years ago. We started reminiscing about the old days, and she began to explain about the examinations she had to take to pass from one grade to the next.

She attended a rural school at Entrican, Michigan. The exams were prepared by the County Superintendent of Schools, and there was a time limit for each test.

I got a copy of the test she took to pass from eighth to ninth grade in 1923. I was surprised at what she was expected to know about our state. My favorite part was the agriculture section, because I was brought up in the city. I wonder if schools in rural areas today still have tests on agriculture.

By Tadd Pallick
Grand Rapids, Michigan



Here's a portion of the test that Tadd sent. We wonder how well today's students (and even adults) would do on it:

Agriculture

1. Name three dairy breeds of cattle. Describe one of them as to color, size, milk and butterfat production.
2. Describe the soil of the Saginaw Valley and tell of its origin.
3. Name three different kinds of soil and compare as to size of soil particles and color.
4. Name four leading farm crops of Michigan from the standpoint of value.
5. Tell how to determine the difference in time that it takes water to drain through different kinds of soil.
6. What kind of soil has the greatest moisture-holding capacity? Why?
7. Name two crops that may be used for silage. Name several for pasture purposes.
8. Tell how to prepare a seed bed for a garden.

Geography

1. What is a glacier? Locate one on a map.
2. Give three reasons why Chicago has grown to be a large city.
3. Name three leading agricultural crops of Michigan. Which of these lead in your county?
4. Name three rivers in Europe. Name one important city on each.
5. Name the countries of South America that border on the Atlantic Ocean. What are the chief products of each?

Physiology

1. How would you give first aid in case of nosebleed?
2. Why are athletes who are training for football, basketball or baseball not allowed to use tobacco?
3. Give three reasons why teeth decay. How should you care for our teeth?
4. Give three shapes of bones and illustrate the use of each shape in the body.
5. What are the benefits of fruits and vegetables in your diet? Why is a thorough chewing of our food necessary?

Civics

1. What are the qualifications required for voting at all general elections in this state? At a school election?
2. Why is government necessary? Name the branches of our government.

3. In what ways is the state government similar to the national government?
4. How may a foreigner become a citizen of this country?
5. Give the preamble to the Constitution of the United States.

Penmanship

(30 credits for questions; 70 credits for penmanship)

1. Describe the correct way to hold the pen when writing.
2. What is meant by good control in penmanship?
3. Write from memory at least 10 lines from *Snow-Bound* or some other poem.

Orthography

1. In the following words, indicate prefixes by one underline and suffixes by two underlines: pronunciation, immature, unrolling, representative, uncommonly.
2. Define and give examples of consonant, vowel, synonym, prefix, syllable.
3. Write the plurals of the following words: lily, valley, box, shoe, knife.

Grammar

1. Rewrite the following sentences using correct punctuation marks and capital letters:
 - (a) am i my brothers keeper asked cain
 - (b) in milwaukee wisconsin i met a man whose home had been in lansing michigan
 - (c) emerson said hitch your wagon to a star
2. In the following sentences, choose the proper word:
 - (a) Speak _____ to him. (gentle, gently)
 - (b) My health is _____. (poor, poorly)
 - (c) The bird warbles _____. (sweet, sweetly)
3. Draw one line under each adjective and two lines under each noun in the following:

"All the little boys and girls,
With rosy cheeks and flaxen curls,
Tripping and skipping merrily after
The wonderful music with shouting and laughter."
4. Insert the proper pronoun in each blank:
 - (a) Who will go? _____ . (I, me)
 - (b) Wait for Helen and _____. (I, me)
 - (c) _____ boys are going swimming. (We, Us)
 - (d) He took a picture of _____ girls sitting in a boat. (we, us)
 - (e) You and _____ will go together. (I, me)
5. Give the part of speech of each word in italics:

Iron out the wrinkles.
Iron is a useful metal.
The lake is *round*.
The wheel turns *round*.
You can secure the *book* from any *book* dealer.
This is my first visit.
This coat is mine.

Reading

(Questions based on Whittier's *Snow-Bound*.)

1. Describe the scene that Whittier saw the second morning of the storm.
2. Who were the guests at the fireside? Describe one of them.
3. Why did the doctor come to the house? What does this show about the people of pioneer days?
4. Describe the making of the path to the barn.
5. Give two quotations from the poem.



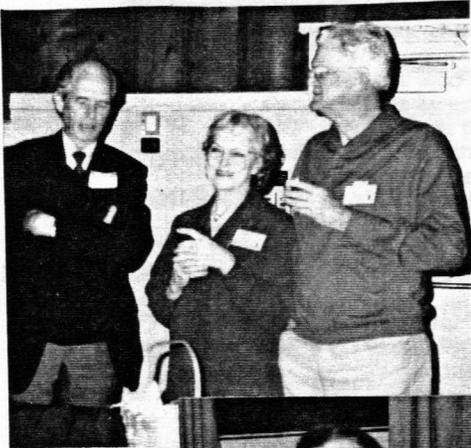
"AVENUE OF FLAGS"

Please join us in this **Memorial Day Celebration....**
Saturday, May 29, 1999

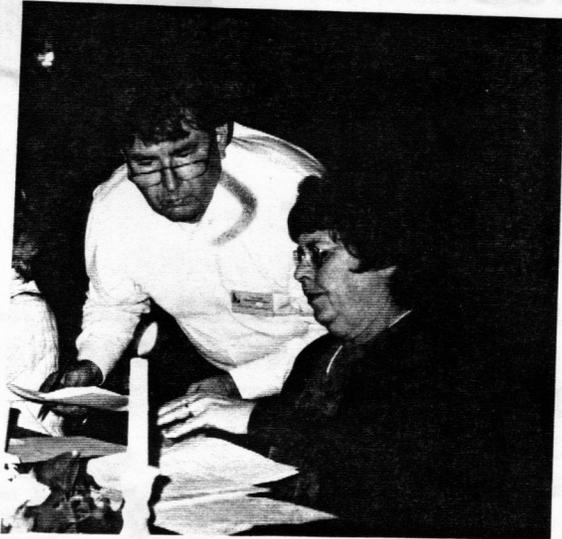
10:45am	Band Music
10:55am	Fair Oaks Singers
11:00am	VFW Chaplin offering the Opening Prayer
11:15am	Speaker: Niello/Doolittle/General Delk
11:30am	Fair Oaks Singers: GOD BLESS AMERICA
11:35am	Speaker: VFW Post 6158
11:45am	Band and Choir: NATIONAL ANTHEM
11:50am	Wreath Ceremony
11:55am	Honor Guard Rifle Ceremony
12:00 noon	TAPS (with echo by Band)
12:05pm	MC
12:10pm	Band continues to play



NOTE: The FOHS has been asked to bring and serve refreshments at this event so please assist if you are able....Thank you



**FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OFFICERS**



President : Steve Abbott-----961-7174
Vice President : Pete White-----967-2661
Secretary : Ralph Carhart -----961-6301
Treasurer/Budget : RoseAnne Crandell -----967-2102
Past President: Iva Langness ---967-5054
Parliamentarian : June Melvin --967-5605

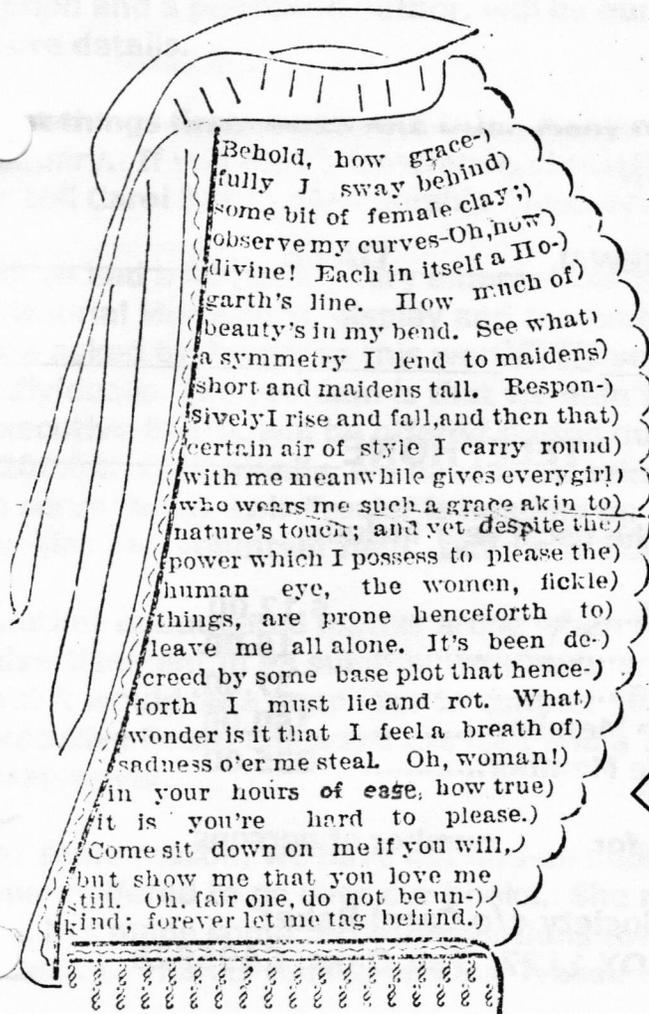
STANDING COMMITTEES:

Amenities : Ken/Lynn Steen: -----967-7135
Historical : Bob Massey -----967-6197
Membership/Registration : Carol Baker-----967-8650
Ways and Means : Elise Mattison-----863-0447

GENERAL COMMITTEES:

Auditor : Meg Smart-----967-6590
Docents/Museum Curator : Lois Frazier-----967-2967
News Editor : Nancy Sherman-----967-1539
Publicity : Bob Erbacher-----966-2524

WAIL OF THE BUSTLE.



**Editor's note: When my grandparents and great grandparents
 wanted to save news clipping memorabilia, they used their old
 text "primers". Reading from cover-to-cover, I came across this
 little "wail of a bustle" goodie.....**



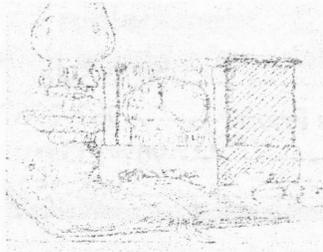
from

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



TO

RALPH/EILEEN CARHARTY98
5931 LONG ACRES CT
FAIR OAKS CA 95628



FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY APPLICATION

NAME _____ **NEW / RENEWAL** _____ **DATE** _____

ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____

STATE _____ **ZIPCODE** _____ **TELEPHONE** _____

Membership fees for the fiscal year include:

*DUES ARE PAYABLE
ON JANUARY 1 AND
SHALL BECOME
DELINQUENT
MAY 1 OF EACH
YEAR.*

Individual.....	\$ 12.00
Family.....	16.00
Supporting.....	37.00
Single Life Member.....	150.00
Family Life Member.....	225.00

Amount enclosed\$ _____ **for** _____ **number of persons.**

**Mail with check made out to Fair Oaks Historical Society c/o Carol Baker
P O BOX 1177, Fair Oaks, CA95628**

4/12/99