

THE 60's

As the 60's started, America hadn't a doubt in the world! It walked buoyantly. President Kennedy was elected with his promise of a New Commitment and Camelot. Then things began to crack. Came the Bay of Pigs fiasco and the Cuban Missile scare. All this came to an end in Dallas on November 22, 1963 with his violent, useless assassination.

Came the Love Children - or Flower Children - as they were called. They flocked to the Haight-Ashbury in San Francisco and elected to live in poverty, though most came from fairly prosperous backgrounds. They were renegades from the solid middle class who appeared outwardly, at least, to be more dedicated to squalor, irresponsibility, and drugs.

Farms or communes became the New Utopia.

Psychedelia became the rage.

The Drug Cult flourished and became Big Business.

Mod styles and mini skirts were the "in thing." In 1965, we saw the Courreges outfit with white "go-go" boots and the mini skirt that were to characterize the late 60's. The Hippies also brought in the Funky Fad—grotesque, bizarre styles.

The Black Image appeared on the scene. Blacks were no longer satisfied with leftovers at the back door. They now demanded a full serving at the family dinner table. A time of social ferment began, climaxed and pursued more actively with the slaying of Martin Luther King. Vietnam deepened, inflation widened. Robert Kennedy was assassinated, Lyndon Johnson abdicated, riots hit the 1968 Democratic Convention. There were Kent State, Jackson State, demonstration at U.C. and other colleges, civil disobedience, racial riots, invasion of Cambodia, marches on Washington.

McGovern tripped on his vice-presidential choice and only 56% bothered to vote in the so-called Nixon landslide.

Meanwhile in the Sick Sixties, John Gardner set up his Common Cause that provided a vehicle for popular discontent. Ralph Nader's organization came into being, too.

A new morality sprang up. In the late 60's whole new singles subculture had emerged--singles only apartment houses, resorts, publications, cruises, bars.

Computer courtship became popular.

People flocked to see "Hello Dolly." Can't you hear Louis Armstrong singing the theme song? Popular records were "Moody River" with Pat Boone; "I Got You, Babe" - Sonny and Cher; "What The World Needs Now

is Love, Sweet Love" - Bert Bacharach; "Moon River" - Henry Mancini and his orchestra. People were humming "'Red Roses For a Blue Lady" and Stevie Wonder's "For Once In My Life."

Science forged ahead. Came the laser beam, the computer age, the astronauts floating in space and finally that climax--the Moon Walk.

That was the way it was in our country in the 1960's.

Fair Oaks was involved in many many history-making events at this time.

Here is Mary Nord to tell us about them.

FAIR OAKS during the 60's

Mary Nord

The sixties started out on a general up-beat in Fair Oaks. Most of the residents were quite pleased to live here. They were quite content with the changes that were creeping in on us. The last large parcels of land were being opened to the subdividers. Most, if not all, the butane tanks disappeared from the sides or backs of our houses. Some began to get their sewers in and the garbage collections were taken over by the county.

The census report at the start of the sixties was 9,033 and at the start of the seventies it reported 15,463, so you see we had a growth of about 64 hundred persons in that ten-year span.

Some people from Fair Oaks were in on the planning of the Rancho Seco Nuclear Power Plant. Bob Connally was Chief Engineer of SMUD and Project Manager and he and many other workers got construction started toward the end of the sixties.

The Division of Highways announced proposed Freeway routes that would cut right thru Fair Oaks in two places and the big Freeway fights started with many of our people playing a prominent role on both sides. The fight was not resolved until the next decade.

Aerojet is a large Rocket Company, both Liquid and Solid, that employs many that reside in Fair Oaks. In the sixties they were building engines for the Titan, the Poseidon and the Minute Man. They worked on the service module for the Apollo program and they furnished the second stage for the Gemini, the first orbital rocket. By the mid sixties there were slow lay-offs occurring and by 1968 when the Titan Orbital Lab contract was finished the lay-offs of whole departments at a time began, which affected a lot of our club members. Many families moved away, hopefully

to other jobs, and of those who retired or found other work here many wives were forced to go to work full time due entirely to the changes in their families lives.

Schools unified in the sixties. We were no longer an independent District with our own School Board. Average attendance when we unified was 28,383 until it peaked at the end of the sixties with 55,389 and then declined, but during that period we became the seventh largest school district in the State of California. Bella Vista High School was built in increments. For a short time Fair Oaks kids were bused, as freshmen, to Encina High School. When that class became sophomores, Bella Vista became a full four- year high school. Other schools built in the sixties were Del Campo High School, Will Rogers Intermediate School, Northridge Elementary and La Vista Continuation High School.

The local Rotary Club did many nice things for the town of Fair Oaks then that are still in use and appreciated. They installed several drinking fountains in the parks and built the shelter for the Bus Stop by the Plaza. They helped, along with the students from Bella Vista to landscape the grounds and they also put in the sprinkling system at Del Campo when both schools were new and sat on unimproved grounds.

Thursday Club in the Nineteen Sixties

PRESIDENTS

Mrs. William J. Nord (Mary)	1960-61
Mrs. Everette Nardinelli (Juanita)	61-62
Mrs. Carl Tropper (Ailene)	62-62
Mrs. William Pugh (Dorothy)	62-64
Mrs. Pete Codina (Mary)	64-65
Mrs. Norman Langness (Iva)	65-67
Mrs. William Melvin (June)	67-69
Mrs. Robert Elston (Helen)	69-69
Mrs. Robert Postal (Irene)	69-70

In Thursday Club we began the sixties by raising our dues from \$4.00 to \$5.00 a year. Our membership stood at 117 at the beginning of the sixties and we gained 23 new members that first year. We were continuing with the proven format of Membership Coffees, brunches, luncheons or teas depending on what year it was. The fashion shows were a continuing event, but in the sixties we enlarged them. They became a more fashionable event to which were invited local townspeople and the general public. We also

began having them at local restaurants and country clubs instead of our own clubhouse.

In 1960 the American Field Service Program began at San Juan High School and we gave \$40.00 that year. The AFS student lived in my home that year, and some of the club members became a little more familiar with Italy and the Italians because of getting to know him. We also were doing two or three foreign luncheons each year, as well as a Tasting Luncheon where we had good attendance from the local business people. The Italian Luncheon in 1960 I particularly remember for two reasons. First, our AFS student was guest speaker and second, we had 90 people in this room at a sit down luncheon. For several years we continued to do the Home and Garden tours and the Men's nights were looked forward to by our husbands. They were always a dinner and dancing, or entertainment, or a very interesting speaker.

We invited many important guests over the years from District or State. We attended in growing numbers the District meetings and Conventions increasing our club's interest in these extensions of our own club to the point that Thursday Club has provided many fine chairmen and officers for District and State. At one State Convention in Sacramento, Mrs. Carl Tropper enlisted the help of Thursday Club people to aid her in planning a reception for Mrs. Earl Hazelton, then State President, at the Masonic Temple in Sacramento. There were 800 delegates at that Convention and I would believe that most of them came to the reception for her. In the sixties we had a very well-deserved reputation for hosting District meetings, providing entertainments, or planning and completing successfully many varied chores that District asked of us. We were known as a friendly club, with willing workers who provided excellent food and charming settings and one other thing I remember that helped our reputation so much at that time was we had the services of Ailene Tropper who had her own kiln and thought nothing of making hundreds of little ceramic pin trays, ash trays or small wall plaques, with Thursday Club's name and date on them. Many of us still have them proudly displayed in our homes, as do many others active in Federation in those years. These little mementos of the day were highly prized and had much to do with the excellent attendance when Fair Oaks was the Hostess Club.

In the name of Thursday Club thousands of hours of active work and many hundreds of gifts were donated to the De Witt State Hospital in Auburn and in the sixties they had a Volunteer Recognition Day and Thursday Club received an Appreciation Award for the years of service. Those years of service had begun when three of our members, Agnes

Farnham, Mary Hutchison, Mary Nord and one other woman went up there and volunteered to work with the patients. They went every Friday, rain or shine, leaving home at 8 a.m. and not getting home until about 6 p.m. They worked and the staff literally gave them the keys to the locked wards. It was a mental institution, you remember. Since they were from Thursday Club, for two years they were known fondly as the "Thursday Girls Who Come on Friday." Far into the sixties, we continued to send Christmas gifts to each patient in one or two wards and at one point a group from Club went up and did some decorating of one ward to make it more cheerful and homelike.

We had the bridge tournaments continuing. That differed from the sections because one did not have to be a member of the club to play in it. We also had an active Bridge Section, a Craft Section, an Art Section, the Garden Section and for a couple of years we had a small but very good Book Section where in-depth book reviews were given monthly. It fell by the wayside for the lack of a leader. It was a real loss.

On May 18, 1961, we had a Dedication Ceremony at our annual Last Day (as we called it then) luncheon. The high point was the laying of our Cornerstone at this building. The original Cornerstone was laid at the old building on May 24, 1913, It contained:

- a King James Bible
- an American Flag with 46 stars
- three copies of the Fair Oaks Citizen
- the Folsom Telegraph
- five copper pennies
- a fourteen page poem by Mrs. Watkins

Mrs. Wesley McCormick, president at the time we moved to this building, officiated at the dedication and we added to the box:

- the San Juan Record of May 4, 1961
- three Thursday Club Program books
- a current membership list
- Polaroid pictures of the Cornerstone laying preparations
- 2 copies of the Sacramento Bee (telling of the Russian Space Flight)

Of the fifteen Charter members, only Mrs. R. N. Bramhall was still living at that time.

Early in the sixties the Historical Cabinet at the Clubhouse was purchased and installed, as well as the one we donated to the Fair Oaks Library. This cabinet is still in use and will go to the new building when the Library moves.

Also in that decade the drapes were purchased and installed. The

ceiling was redone and we did some minor remodeling in the kitchen.

In 1962 we gave a Life Membership to Mrs. Horace Massey. In 1963 we landscaped the Triangle in town, and in 1964 we planted wildflower seeds on the cuts on Sunrise Blvd. We also planted the shrubbery at the Park Office. It was the Library at that time.

In 1965 at a District Convention in Colusa, our club put on a Fashion Show as the entertainment at the Awards Luncheon. We had our turn a couple of times in those years of being in charge of the decorations, and at two other Conventions during those years, we were in charge of putting on the entertainments. Both times they were revues...two different ones, of course, with our members devoting a lot of rehearsal and costume making time. In 1966 we took on the USO Project, providing food and friendship, playing games and dancing with our service men when they had free and often lonely hours in a town far from their own homes. In 1966 and 1967, we attended the ceremony to naturalize new citizens. We arranged for one of the speakers to greet the new citizens and then we had a reception for them.

In 1967 the Sewing Section came into being with Mrs. Ivan Leymaster as a new and eager leader.

In 1968 we gave a Life Membership to Mrs. Guy Camden. We ended the decade much as it began, striving to be friendly, interesting and interested, and to continue to be aware of our place in the community to do our share to better it.