

# *Fair Oaks Historical Society*

## **Newsletter – January 2013**

Issue Number 103



### **QUARTERLY POTLUCK & GENERAL MEETING**

**6 p.m., Tuesday, January 22**

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

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

Newsletter distribution thanks to  
Jim Pearce and Maria Brugger

Check out the latest on our website at:

[www.fairoakshistory.org](http://www.fairoakshistory.org)

### **President's Message**

**Ralph Carhart**

As my presidency comes to a close I owe a gigantic THANK YOU! to the officers who have given their time and provided outstanding service to the Society— Vice-President and Program/Publicity Chair **Trude Vasquez**, Secretary **Janet McWilliams**, and Treasurer/Gallery-construction leader **Joe Dobrowolski**.

I extend the same deep appreciation to the rest of our Executive Board— Past-president **Ken Steen**, Amenities co-chairs **Judy and Warren Blomquist**, History Preservation Chair/Webmaster **Jim Pearce**, Membership Chair **Tel Labelle**, History Center Chair **Lois Frazier**, Ways and Means/Soup Night co-chair **Claudia Thorn**, and History Chair **Pete White**. Special thanks to Parliamentarian **Dick Easterbrook**, **Jim Pearce** and **Maria Bugger** for Newsletter and **Lynn Steen** for co-chairing Soup Night. And my thanks to **Barry Brown**, **Pete White** and **Richard Thorn** who have served as annual Auditors.

And to the members and friends that have assisted the Board and worked in so many ways to support our activities, develop and staff our facilities, disseminate our history, and raise donations—you have my sincere appreciation!

Our first quarterly meeting of 2013—can you believe that year?— is coming up Tuesday, January 22. Please bring your favorite pot-luck specialty to share. We are always a voracious crowd, and I have never been disappointed with the variety and quality of dishes that appear.

The business meeting will include induction of new officers—President Joe Dobrowolski, Vice-President Trude Vasquez, Secretary Vicki Walter, and Treasurer (??). The Nomination Committee has been working on the Treasurer vacancy and is expected to have a ~~victim~~ nominee for you to elect and install at this meeting.

We continue to need a Newsletter person, as well as volunteers to help with publicity, membership growth, ways and means, Gallery operations, and Soup Night. Please step forward and offer your help to your officers and chairpersons.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I note the loss of Alicia Labelle. I extend our loving condolences to Tel and family.

## **Program for January 22 General Meeting**

### **Railroads— Local and Nationwide**

#### **Vice President & Program Chair, Trude Vasquez**

Our speaker for the general meeting will be Bob Rohwer who will discuss railroads— local and nationwide. Bob has been a docent at the Sacramento Railroad Museum since 1999. He is a certified railroad conductor; he volunteers at the Sierra Northern Railroad in Yolo County, and he is also a member of the Model Railroad and Historical Society. Bob's topic promises to be entertaining and informative. Thanks to Dick Easterbrook for recommending this program.

## **History Center Report**

### **Lois Frazier**

The annual Christmas Open House was held December 9— for the first time at the History Gallery. Docents and a dozen visitors enjoyed cookies, hot cider and holiday conversation.

Due to limited attendance, the History Center in the Community Clubhouse will no longer be open on a monthly schedule. However, it will remain available to visitors by appointment. To schedule a visit, please call me at 916-967-2967.

Special thanks to docents and those who have helped at other functions in 2012— Jean Applegate, Lois Frazier, Larry and Meg Smart and daughter, Judy Blomquist, Bob Brugger, Annette Dansing, Jim Pearce, Warren and Janet McWilliams, Ralph Carhart, Fran Messinger, Barbara Roper, Linda Blue and Diana Lennon.

The American Theater Organ Society and the Recreation and Park District will have a **Silent Movie Night** on Friday, January 25, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the Community Clubhouse.

The Historical Society will open the History Center before the event and during intermission. This is a great opportunity to hear the live pipe organ which will accompany the short films: “Gertie the Dinosaur” (1919), “Angora Love” (1929-Laurel & Hardy), “Just Neighbors” (1919-Harold Lloyd) and “One Week” (1920-Buster Keaton).

Tickets for Silent Movie Night are \$5 presale from the Park District or \$7 at the door if space is available. The Fair Oaks Youth Advisory Board will be selling refreshments— last year they had fresh popcorn and retro bottled cokes.

## **History Gallery Report**

### **Ralph Carhart**

Many of the most important physical improvements have been completed at the History Gallery—the new front patio and benches, new front-entry doors, accessible parking, and carpeting. Still needed, though, are a “Fair Oaks Historical Society” sign, some exterior painting, an alarm system/phone connection and interior track lighting for the exhibits.

Work remains in completing the Gallery’s historical exhibits. Since last reported, I have been working with our consultants on the remaining panels that describe the development and use of water in Fair Oaks. Entitled “**Nourishing the Dream, Water and the Development of Fair Oaks,**” nine new panels are in near-final condition. Mock-ups (if not the panels themselves) will be displayed at the general meeting.

The exhibit panels describe the use of local water— first by native peoples, later by miners, land speculators, farmers and suburbanites. Special attention is paid to water-intensive mining techniques, water delivery systems, the critical importance of water, competition for today’s water, and water conservation.

To complete the exhibits we need to purchase or receive a donation of an i-Pad for the interactive portion of the water conservation panel, and we need a large electronic picture frame for one of our existing Fair Oaks history panels. If you can help, contact Ralph Carhart at 916-961-6301.

We have been informed by the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District of its intention to rescind our use of the Fireside Room that currently houses the History Center. The District has expressed its need to include the Fireside Room with its general Clubhouse rentals (weddings, theater, etc.) An action to end our use, effective this spring, will be considered at the District's Board of Directors meeting on February 20, 2013. The meeting is in the Old Fair Oaks Library beginning at 6 p.m.

Pending District action we are considering what furnishings and artifacts from the History Center are appropriate to be transferred to the History Gallery and what may be stored for future exhibition.

The District has also discussed its desire to cooperate with the Society in producing and permanently displaying enlarged photographs from our collection throughout the upstairs Clubhouse and Fireside Room, effectively making the entire upstairs a venue for disseminating Fair Oaks history. The District is also developing plans for renovating the upstairs and downstairs kitchens for efficiency, health and safety. The District has assured us that this work will be scheduled so as not disrupt Soup Night.

## **Soup Night Report**

**Claudia Thorn, Soup Night Chair**

Donations, donations, donations! If you are planning to donate a gift or prize for the raffle or silent auction, please contact Trude Vasquez, 916-966-5499, by mid-October so arrangements can be made to pick up your donation. We're trying to have all the raffle items organized before I leave for England to visit my new grandson.

Our planning is coming along very nicely and I think you'll enjoy some of the improvements we're working on. Eleanor Brown has once again offered to organize the volunteers and to coordinate the students from Bella Vista High School. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Eleanor, 916-967-6528, to see where help is needed.

This year, the students will be serving the soups instead of the adults. Wine will be served by the glass and by the bottle, like last year. Bottled water will be sold as was requested. We'll also be serving a specialty coffee with biscotti for desert. We'll be asking for donations if you partake of these items. Our centerpieces will be hand made by Rosie Pearce, but you'll have to wait to see them.

We'll have some wonderful raffle items. Many of the Fair Oaks businesses have been extremely generous— Home to Roost, Dianda's, Bella Fiori, the Fair Oaks Deli, Fast Frame— just to name a few.

If you have any questions about tickets, please contact me at 916-961-8291. I have a waiting list at this time, but there maybe some tickets available once I receive all the seating charts.

## Oaks Hardware Becomes an Historical Business

Jim Pearce, History Preservation Chair

On December 5, 2012, Oak's Hardware closed down and began auctioning off all of its inventory.

The Oak's Hardware location was, for many years—about 1910 to 1945—the Highway Garage, operated by Sim Green. Until the 1940s it was one of only two gas stations in town, after which time it seemed there was a gas station on every corner in Fair Oaks.



Sometime around 1947, the current building was constructed and occupied by Killam's Hardware and Variety Store which moved from around the corner on California Avenue.



Don Lang bought the business in about 1951 and operated it as Oaks Hardware for several years before selling to Everett Nardinelli who renamed the business Nardinelli's Oak's Hardware. It remained under that name until Dick and Jeanne Hill purchased the business in 1983. Son Dave inherited the business when his parents died in 2000. Dave and Jennifer still operate the BBQ PRO store next door.



Many newcomers (and even some old timers) have called the business Fair Oaks Hardware. However, when Killem's moved into the Oak's Hardware location there was already a competing Fair Oak's Hardware over in the Murphy Building. That business was operated first by Ike Skidmore, later by Harry and Lulu (Mom and Pop) Ferguson, and finally by Ted Robles in 1945.

What's next for the location? We'll have to wait and see.

## **Minutes of October 23, 2012 General Meeting, Secretary, Janet McWilliams**

President Ralph Carhart called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and lined us up for a delicious Potluck dinner. Following dinner Ralph introduced guests Bob & Doris Adam, and Rich Scully. He thanked Warren and Judy Blomquist for setting up dinner and for the Halloween decorations. Ralph also thanked Jim Pearce and Maria Brugger

for sending out the Newsletter, and Tel LaBelle for taking care of member registration. It was also last call for buying raffle tickets.

Life Membership: President Ralph announced that the Board had approved the Life Membership of Don Troutman, a certificate will be sent to him.

Newsletter Editor & Publicity Chair: Ralph also announced that the Society still needs a Newsletter Editor and Publicity Chair.

Soup Night: Chair Claudia Thorn reported that plans were moving along for Soup Night. Tickets are sold out. There is a need for more raffle prizes; turn them into Trude Vasquez.

Status Update on New Building: Ralph reported that, thanks to Joe Dobrowolski, the building, patio and new front door are finished. The displays are in the final steps of being finished.

Nominating Committee: Ken Steen from the Nominating Committee reported the following recommendations: President, Joe Dobrowolski; Vice-president, Trude Vasquez; Secretary, Vicki Walter; and Treasurer, no nomination.

Program: Chair Trude Vasquez introduced Jerry Schroeder from the Folsom Historical Society. His interesting talk about Folsom History focused on how much the histories of Fair Oaks and Folsom have in common. Jerry also offered help to the Society in the development of our exhibits.

Election of Officers: Following the program, the officers announced by the Nominating Committee were elected, each with a motion, second and vote.

Minutes: The minutes of the July general meeting were approved as published in the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was published in the Newsletter. Due to the absence of the Treasurer there was no comment.

History Center: Lois Frazier announced that the Historical Society Library display would be in place during the month of November. Jim Pearce will help her with this. She also announced that the Christmas Open House will be December 9 at the History Gallery from 1 to 4 p.m.

There being no further business, the raffle was completed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet McWilliams, Secretary