

Fair Oaks Historical Society

Newsletter – July 2012

Issue Number 101

QUARTERLY POTLUCK & GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, July 24, 6 PM

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

President's Message

Ralph Carhart

Please join us at the **July 24 General Meeting** for fun, great food and camaraderie as we discover the significance of **California's Spanish and Mexican land grant process**. (See the program information below.) Bring your friends along, too. We need to introduce more of our neighbors to the Society. Too many newcomers and young people don't even know we exist. So make it a point to bring at least one prospective member or family.

Also, bring some cash or your checkbook and be sure to secure your seat(s) at this fall's **Soup Night, Friday, November 2, 5:30 to 8 pm**. Soup Night is regularly sold out well in advance, and you don't want to miss out.

The Society is engaged these days in some pretty exciting endeavors, and we really need YOUR help. There are some great opportunities to keep your Society vital. Here are a couple of areas where you can step up and help:

- **Newsletter editor** (If you have a computer and can type and spell, this job is for you. Gather articles from officers and chairpersons, edit them a bit, type and send the file to Jim and Maria for distribution. If you want to get fancy, add some pictures.)
- **Publicity** (Help get the word out to media and organizations about our meetings, museums and other activities.)
- **History Center Docents and Gallery Hosts** (Call Lois Frazier to be a docent or volunteer to open up the History Gallery during special events or whenever you want to put up the open sign, hang out and greet visitors.)
- Be an **officer** (Although they're simple enough assignments, we've been your officers long enough. When the nominating committee knocks on your door, say YES! Four board meetings a year is not an overwhelming commitment.)

For those of you already participating as officers, chairpersons, docents, Gallery work crewmembers, Soup Night organizers and helpers, THANK YOU so much!

I encourage you to check out our website at www.fairoakshistory.org for the latest additions. Webmaster Jim Pearce continues to uncover forgotten maps and photos, ever increasing our easy access to Fair Oaks history.

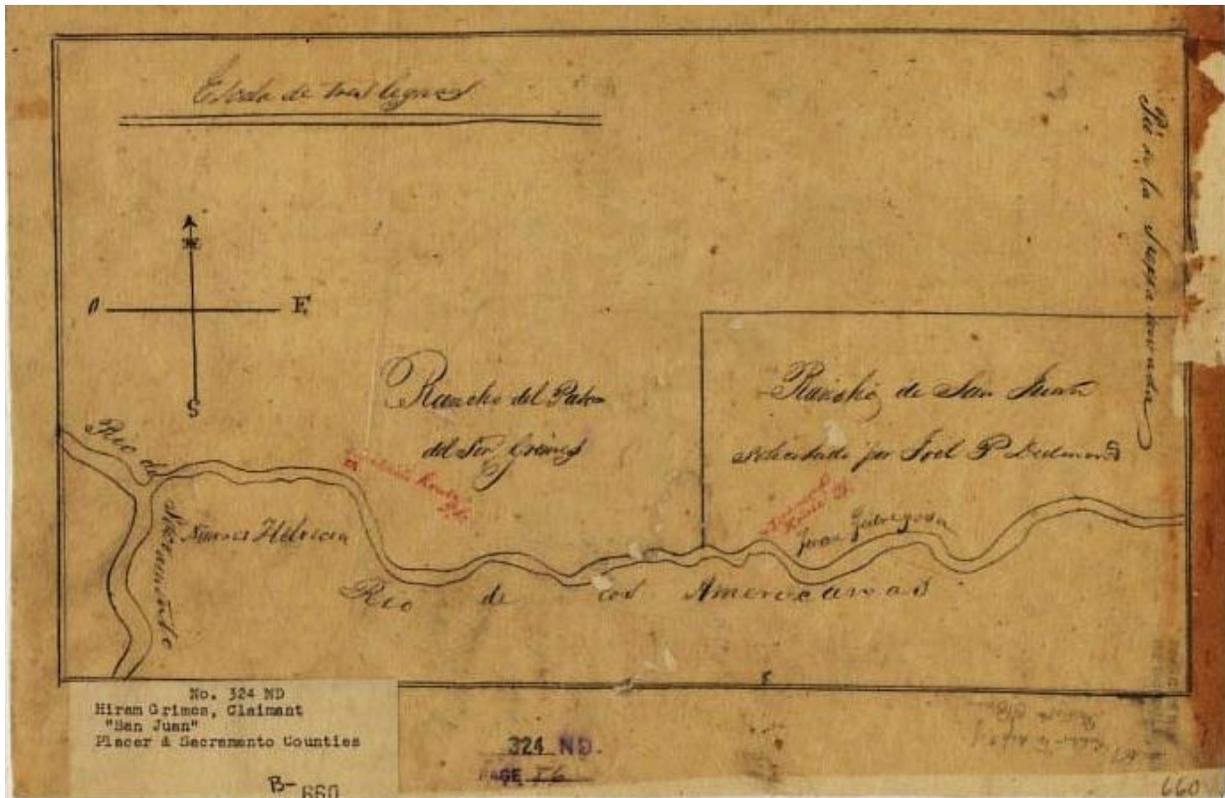
Program for July 24, 2012 General Meeting

Vice President & Program Chair, Trude Vasquez

During the early nineteenth century Spanish and Mexican governors of California distributed large tracts of land to private individuals as rewards for military service and political support and later as incentives for foreigners to settle in the remote province.

Our July speaker, Blaine Lamb, Chief of the Archaeology, History and Museums Division at California State Parks, will discuss the granting process which included the preparation of disenos or freehand sketch maps, along with other supporting documentation. These disenos furnish unique views of early California, including grant boundaries, structures, cultivated lands, roads, mills bridges, and other features of the natural and built environments.

Blaine's illustrated presentation will explore the creation and use of the disenos and the ways in which they add to our knowledge of the landscape of Spanish and Mexican California.



Diseno of Rancho de San Juan Mexican Land Grant
(Courtesy Bancroft Library)

History Center Report

Lois Frazier

The Fair Oaks Fiesta was May 5-6. Attendance at the History Center was 63.

On April 24, Susanne Hutton's first grade from Earl LeGette Elementary School visited the center

Memorial Day at the Fair Oaks Cemetery was celebrated on May 26. The ceremony honored Civil War veterans. Special thanks to Barbara Roper and Linda Blue for helping. A very special thank you to all those who donated cookies.

The following people have been docents or have helped in our activities this year: Jean Applegate, Lois Frazier, Larry and Meg Smart, Judy Blomquist, Bob Brugger, Annette Dansing, Jim Pearce, Warren and Janet McWilliams, Ralph Carhart and Fran Messinger. Many thanks!

History Gallery Report

Joe Dobrowolski

Work continues on the History Gallery. We received bids for constructing the new front patio and for replacing the front doors to make them compliant with ADA and fire codes. Brick planters will be repaired and planted with low shrubbery. We will be putting in an alarm system soon, and we are working on bids for interior and exhibit lighting.

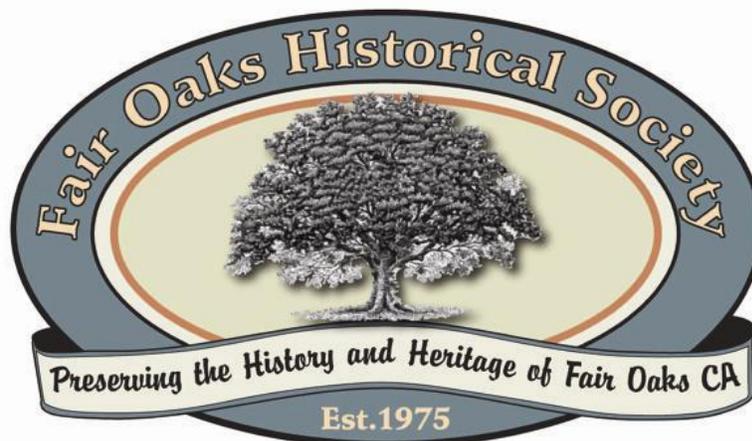
A work party is planned to clean up the front and back areas and to trim the plantings. Nine members have volunteered to do one month's care of the landscaping and outside cleanup. THANK YOU!

Ten of the twelve exhibit panels on Fair Oaks history are complete and are temporarily displayed on exhibit structures built by Bob Vogel and stain-finished by Warren Blomquist. THANKS AGAIN! Two more Fair Oaks panels are under development, as are the panels describing the role of water in Fair Oaks development. Artifacts are being selected for display, and exhibit cases will need to be constructed for those.

Volunteers Needed: We now need someone to volunteer to vacuum and dust the interior once a month. It's a pretty small area with light use, so this should be an easy task. Call Joe at 961-6561.

We are aiming for an August 2012 ribbon cutting, if all goes as planned. To ensure that essential expenditures continue on schedule we will be seeking membership approval for a \$5,000 budget augmentation at the General Meeting.

Once the Gallery is up and running we will be planning for more activities and special events to engage and educate the community, including a Chamber of Commerce mixer next spring.



Minutes of April 24, 2012 General Meeting, Secretary, Janet McWilliams

President Ralph Carhart thanked the Blomquists for setting up dinner, Jim Pearce for the newsletter, Maria Brugger and Trude Vasquez for the program, Tel Labelle for the membership badges, and Claudia Thorn for the raffle and wine sales. Ralph welcomed all, introduced the guests, and then announced the start of the dinner line. Following dinner, half of the raffle prizes were awarded.

Announcements

- Ralph inducted new life members, Ken and Lynn Steen and Charles Kanoff.
- We were reminded that dues for 2012 needed to be paid, or they would be dropped from the membership list.
- Ralph thanked Jim Pearce for his work on the newsletter, and announced that we need a new editor for the next edition.
- The History Center and the Gallery will be open for the Fair Oaks Fiesta.
- The Fair Oaks Donor Plaza will be dedicated on Sunday April 29 at 2 p.m. The public is invited.
- Eleanor Brown, Historical Society member, who is running for the Sacramento County Board of Education, was introduced. She shared with us a few words.

Program Trude Vasquez introduced Josh Staab, graduate of Bella Vista and CSUS, and editor of the Fair Oaks Patch, an online newspaper. The Patch online newspapers have 850 locations across the US. It is owned by AOL.com. He showed us how the website works. The subscription is free. It is updated 6-7 times a day. He stated that within the Patch is a very comprehensive business directory. There is also an event calendar. The Patch encourages community interaction. Our own Jim Pearce has authored many articles on Fair Oaks History in the Patch.

Business Meeting

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. Motion was made by Dorothy Huggett and seconded by Barry Brown. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Joe Dobrowolski reported that the Treasurer's report was published in the Newsletter.

Status of History Gallery: It was reported that the History Gallery would be open for the Fair Oaks Fiesta. The ADA paving was finished today, and bids are in for the concrete work at the front of the building.

History Center: Lois Frazier passed around a sign-up for cookies for the Memorial Day Celebration at the Cemetery on May 26th.

Soup Night: Claudia Thorn reported that Soup Night tickets will be on sale at the July meeting.

Meeting was adjourned, following the completion of the raffle.