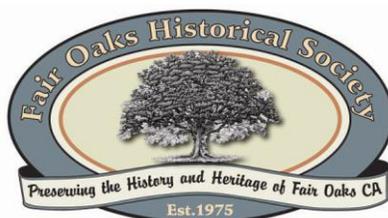


Fair Oaks Historical Society

Newsletter – July 2019

Issue Number 130

Ralph Carhart, Editor



www.fairoakshistory.org

QUARTERLY POTLUCK & GENERAL MEETING

6 p.m., Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

Please bring a main dish, casserole, salad, or dessert to share.

“What’s Happening in Fair Oaks Village”

Jim Pearce



President’s Message

Jim Pearce

Since we decided to liven up the Fair Oaks Historical Society’s Facebook page about a year ago with a weekly (mostly) quiz, we’ve posted over 50 articles about Fair Oaks history and/or photos.

Our Facebook page was created by Merina West in 2011, and current membership is 679 individuals. If you haven’t been there the URL is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/247133988638300/> and we have a link under “on-line apps” on the home page of our website. Pay us a visit.

We expect the July meeting to be very busy with bylaws revisions, nominating committee selection and Soup Night ticket sales, so we’re having a potpourri session on what’s going on in the Village, including Feingolds, Shangra-La and the Founder’s Monument.

Our April General Meeting

If you missed the April meeting, we had a great time. Darrell Corti of Corti Bros. Market, recognized expert on wine and olive oil, gave a presentation on olives and olive oil, complete with instructions on olive oil tasting. Bob Sours poured about 200 tasting cups with two varieties of olive oil (two cups per person) and Darrell coached the audience on how to properly evaluate the oils.



We tried to keep the event low-key thinking it might draw an overflow crowd if we advertised. It did fill the room and feedback was excellent.



What's New at the History Center... Jim Pearce

We've put in all the equipment and programs for the new Fair Oaks Rotary Theater (Thanks again Rotary!) and Bob has initiated it with two Saturday presentations for Presbyterian Church walking groups. He seated 20 for each presentation and all was successful.



We've been talking about a piece of furniture for the alcove below the big screen, and in comes Chris Gerard to ask if we'd be interested in having Earl Vincent's old desk. She's relocating and didn't have a place for it. It fit perfectly in the History Center – you can see it in the rear of the photo.

The air conditioner went out in the 100 degree weather and Joe called Buckley Heating and Air. Brian Buckley came out, inspected, and determined that someone had thrown the compressor switch, so we were back in business. And, he didn't charge us. We hope our members will show their support of Buckley's for their generosity.

June was a bonanza with the Citrus Heights Police Department offering a 500-pound cast iron sign from the Fair Oaks Bridge.

Also, we'd been looking for a picture of the Oasis Saloon for years and found it in a dentist's office a half block from the History Center. The history of the saloon is on our website, bottom of the home page.



Memorial Day Celebration at the Fair Oaks Cemetery

Lois Frazier

The Fair Oaks Cemetery District celebrated Fair Oaks' 21st Annual Memorial Day event on May 25, 2019. The theme this year honored the 100th anniversary of the American Legion.

The keynote speaker was Mark L. Rice, Senior Master Sargent, USAF (Ret.). He is an ordained chaplain for the American Legion Riders Chapter 3893, and is currently Chapter President.

The program consisted of musical selections, flag ceremony by Boy Scout Troop 380, guest speakers and greetings by Bob Clause, event chairman. Approximately 400 people attended. Following the program, refreshments were served by the Orangevale/Fair Oaks Grange and the Fair Oaks Historical Society. Many thanks to all those members who donated cookies.



Soup Night Friday, November 1, 2019

Claudia Thorn, Chair

TICKETS, TICKETS, TICKETS!

Tickets for Soup Night will go on sale at 5:30 P.M., ahead of our July General Meeting. Tickets are still \$30 per person or \$270 for a table. This year, in an effort to guarantee that all members have an opportunity to purchase tickets, we will be selling one table, rather than two, until all of our members have had an opportunity to purchase individual tickets. Once that process is complete, we will then allow members to purchase a second table. Only members of the Historical Society will be allowed to purchase tables.

VOLUNTEERS!

We are looking for volunteers to help with everything from soup preparation to assisting in the silent auction. This year we are looking for 4 to 6 adults who will be responsible for selling raffle tickets. If you are a gregarious, outgoing individual who will not take no for an answer, we want you! Last year raffle sales were down and the raffle needs to be a good revenue stream to provide us the support to keep the History Center open and growing.

As always, we can use help with set up as well as cleanup. We still need a volunteer to coordinate the desserts. Dessert chair is the easiest of our committee chairs, so please step up.

This year, Pause Coffee, on Madison Avenue, has agreed to be our specialty coffee vendor for the event. We'll have more news to follow on that topic.

SPONSORS!

If you are a business owner, or know someone who is a business owner, or do business with an enterprise, there is a sponsorship opportunity. For \$100 you can help sponsor Soup Night and we will print your business card, distribute it to all the guests, recognize you in the program, and have them available at the History Center.

DONATIONS!

Finally, we are asking you to bring us quality donations for the raffle. New items, gift baskets, gift cards, wine or gourmet baskets— things you yourself would really like to win. Your donations will make the difference for the success of our raffle. Bring them to the History Center any weekend, 10 AM to 4 PM.

Call me if you have questions or wish to volunteer: 916-747-1535.

Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Minutes of the April 2019 General Meeting and the Treasurer's report will be available for review at the General Meeting. Account balances as of the end of June were: Checking - \$5,552; Savings - \$1,477; CDs - \$33,854; Total - \$41,926.

Bylaws

Jim Pearce

The Bylaws Committee; Terrie O'Donnell, Vicki Walter, Bob Vogel and Jim Pearce met to review the bylaws, correct various editorial issues, and consider substantive issues requested by the officers. The revisions were approved by the Board and will be voted on by the membership at the July General Meeting.

The substantive revisions are to increase the scope of the Vice President's duties from just getting the speaker for the General Meeting to being responsible for coordinating all of the meeting activities. Also recommended are changing the schedule for closing and auditing the books from January to April since all of the checks aren't cashed by January. If you want to see all the recommended changes, they are available in the Bylaws section of the website, at the History Center and at the July meeting or you can request a printed copy.

Saga of the Fair Oaks Bridge

Jim Pearce

Unexpectedly, this message was left in the WebHost e-mail box:

*From: Andrea Barnett,
Crime Scene Investigator and Prop &
Evidence Specialist II,
Citrus Heights Police Department*

"We still have in our possession a large iron sign that is very heavy. Previously we had been in contact with someone who was supposed to come and pick it up no later than April 10th 2019. I have not heard from her since. Could someone please contact us and make arrangements to get it picked up. You will need a truck and at least 2 strong people to move it. We cannot keep it for much longer. Also it is rusty as well. Thank you."

Later she added:

"Mr. Pearce, The following is what I was given at the beginning of this case (from the person who had the sign).

'I purchase and sell antiques on Facebook. I went to a house to purchase a metal windmill. While I was there I noticed an old bronze plaque. I asked



the man if the plaque was for sale as well. He stated it was, for \$50.

'Sherry Wood from the Fair Oaks Historical Society confirmed the plaque had been stolen many years ago. She will provide me with a value once she talks with her board members.'

'Not sure if this helps you. However since the report says it belongs to Fair Oaks Historical society, if you can bring me something that show you are from there I can release it to you. You will need to bring a truck and someone to lift it and you will need to call and make an appointment to pick it up so I can make sure someone is here to release it.'

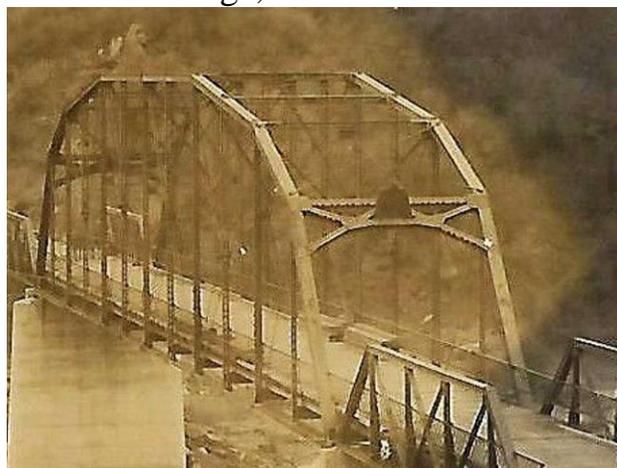
So, off we went, three old men, a pickup and a dolly to retrieve the sign. It was surprisingly heavy (later estimated at 500 lbs.), but we managed to get it into the pickup and unloaded it in the back garden of the History Center. We also checked the magnetism and it is not bronze but cast iron. Basically, not valuable for its metal.

Researching the “bridgefinder” website, we came up with an old photo of the Mormon Island Bridge (now at the bottom of Folsom Lake) and it indeed it shows a bridge with a sign on it roughly the same shape and size as what we now possess. We looked over all of our photos of the second Fair Oaks Bridge, built in 1908 after the first bridge washed out, and couldn't find any sign of a sign. Any sign would have been on the middle triangle of the first crossbar. (See it on the Mormon Island Bridge, below right)

Western Bridge Company built three bridges in 1908 under contract with Sacramento County. The third bridge, identical to the Mormon Island Bridge, was built over the Cosumnes River at what is now Rancho Murieta and it still exists. We've viewed that bridge, and there is no sign at either end.

So what do we have? It's probable that Western Bridge made three identical signs. There is no indication on our sign as to which bridge it came from.

Our guess – the signs had no material value as they were made of cast iron, not bronze. Any historical value would have ebbed as the Supervisors faded away and Western Bridge Company left the area.



So, the County may have decided that the signs (500 lbs. of ¾ inch cast iron plate) were of no importance and too hazardous and had them removed. There are probably some answers out there, so any old timer or enterprising researcher is welcome to contribute.

FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 2044
FAIR OAKS CA 95628

TO:

Dues are for the Calendar Year, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Dues are payable on Jan. 1, and become delinquent Feb. 1.
New members joining after Oct. 1 shall be considered paid for the following year.

Please check one: NEW MEMBER APPLICATION DUES PAYMENT

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Membership level requested:

Individual \$20 Family (2 Persons) \$25 Supporting (Business) \$50

Single Life Member \$150 Family Life Member \$225

I am adding \$5 and request a printed newsletter by USPS \$ _____

I am including the following donation to support the History Center:

Contributor \$100 Supporter \$250 Patron \$500

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Check number _____ Date of check ___/___/___

Please mail this form and check payable to:

“Fair Oaks Historical Society, Inc.” P.O. BOX 2044, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

For more information, please call Jim Pearce, 961-8415 (jpearce4104@gmail.com)