



Fair Oaks Historical Society

Newsletter - July 15, 2015 # 114

MEETING, Tuesday April 28 6:00

At the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse 7997 California Avenue

POTLUCK MEETING Dinner line forms at 6:30

SOUP NIGHT: TICKETS for soup night will be on sale at 5:30 at the July 28th meeting for \$30 each or \$270 for a table. It is anticipated that we will sell out all of the 189 seats that night. There are no presales. So come to the meeting and get your tickets. You will need to pay for all the tickets you request that night. No exceptions. Cash or checks are acceptable.

Volunteers: We are still in need of a few volunteers. If you are willing to work for a portion of the evening please call Claudia Thorn at 962-8291 or on her cell 747-1535 or email her at cjthorn17@gmail.com.

Raffle Prices are needed. If you work with or visit a business often take the time to ask if they would be willing to donate a raffle prize. A donation letter explaining the use of the funds raised is available.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Joe Dobrowolski

APRIL PRESENTATION: At our April meeting we had a presentation on the history of the Folsom Power House, given by Tom Boyd, a docent at the Folsom Power House. There were interesting slides of the original dam and the construction of the Power House. Tom explained how Sacramento was one of the first cities west of the Mississippi to have electricity and powered street lights. The original intent of building the Power House was to provide power to a lumber mill that was to receive logs floated down the American River.

That proposition did not work out well so Sacramento was the beneficiary of the enterprise.

HISTORY CENTER: The History Center continues to be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Ashton Smith, our most capable attendant provides greetings and informational tours for all visitors.

WEBSITE

The website is a great place to find about the history of Fair Oaks. It also contains the newsletters and pictures. The recently added map showing the old homes is at.

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/view?mid=z1-sE1oFsIKU.kDj6y0TqFl60>

WHAT'S NEW AT THE HISTORY CENTER

Our history center has been staying open 3 days a week. Ashton Smith, our attendant, continues to act as historian, host and guide. We continue to get visitors and we are changing our displays. The outside of the center has looked great, thanks to those who have volunteered for one month to care for the Center.

The History Center graphic displays layout the 4 transformation of the area: from one of the largest vineyards; to a gold field mined by dredges; to being one of the largest rock plants in the US and to today's Gold River community.



The video provides an opportunity to view much of our pictorial and digital history.

The display of women's dresses, hats and shoes dating from the 1890's to the 1930s, prepared by Joanna Schwilk and Jeanne Maloney continue to draw acclaim from visitors

The aerial maps of Fair Oaks continue to draw interest. A great Historical reference

All of these items must be seen in person to be

appreciated.

Stop by at the History Center and enjoy the displays.

Work on the History Center: The beam team took down and replaced a number of 2 by 4s that were rotted. Two larger 4 by 6s also need to be replaced. That work is to be done soon. The front of the building needs a cleaning and painting. Estimates from painters are being requested. This work needs to be done before the sign goes up.



MEMORIAL DAY

CELEBRATION

By Lois Frazier

*The Memorial Day Celebration
on May 23 at the Fair Clakes
Cemetery was successful
and well attended.*

*Thank you to all who donated
cookies.*

Lois

PRESENTATIONS Trude Vasquez

This month we will have a presentation on the early settlement of California. The presenter is the lead docent at Sutters Fort. He has lots of photos, maps and his presentation is loaded with so many dates and facts your head will be spinning.

OLD FAIR OAKS HOMES By Sally Dunbar - July, 2015

Mayberry Home - 8050 Capitola Ave

We had another collective breath holding as the historic Mayberry Home on Capitola near Bridge St recently sold to a new owner. Would they demolish or restore it? It was in pretty rough shape, having been unoccupied for about 10 years. But once again, we needn't have worried. The perfect new owners now own a piece of our Fair Oaks history. Diana and Robert Mills are lovingly restoring and renovating their new home at 8050 Capitola Avenue, combining Robert's skills as a General Contractor and Diana's as a Landscape Designer.



It is hard to know when and by whom historic homes were built. In this case, it was like solving a jigsaw puzzle. Best guess, is the home was built by Sacramento Banker Albert L. Darrow around 1906 as a summer residence. USGS Survey Maps indicate no structure on the site in 1903, but shows a home there in 1910.



Additionally the Historic Society has a photo of Albert Fowler and Edna Marshall's wedding party beside the front porch of the Mayberry Home in May of 1908. To narrow the date further, we look to the owner of the property in 1910, which was A. L. Darrow. Public records show Darrow came to Sacramento from SF in 1905 to organize the Fort Sutter National Bank. He was President of the California Corporation, which was formed to invest in Fair Oaks. So our best sleuthing dates the home to 1906. But why did he build it? It was common for wealthy Sacramento residents to invest in the new Fair Oaks colony and build a getaway home, either renting it or hiring a housekeeper when not in use. The home is small, and permanent homes of the time tended to be larger. We are guessing that at the time of her marriage, Edna Marshall was either renting or housekeeping at the home, a common occupation for young ladies of the time. We know the Radke family and later, daughter Winnifred Codman, owned the home from 1913 to 1937, but did not live in it. Then in 1937 the property was purchased by Wade Mayberry, the Stationmaster of the Fair Oaks Train Depot just across the Fair Oaks Bridge.



He lived there until his death in 1968. Daughter Patsy Tice then inherited the property, later becoming a Pimental, the last owner of the property before the Mill's purchase in 2014.

Now that the Mills are owners, they are keeping the cottagey feel of the original home, adding to the original hardwood floors, softening the paint colors throughout, adding molding and archways, and straightening out the original staircase to the attic bedroom, recently painted for only the second time in a century!

They plan to add a big eyebrow window to the upstairs, and off the back, a master bedroom and bath using the home's original refurbished tub. Much of the original woodwork, door jambs and doors are present, as well as many of the original windows.