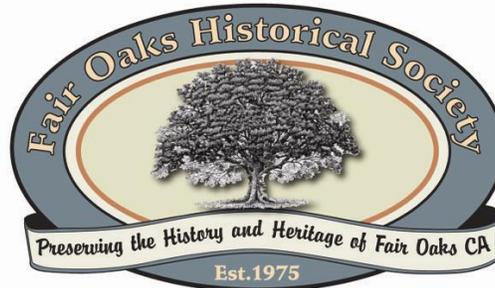


# *Fair Oaks Historical Society*

*Newsletter – April 2016*

Issue Number 117



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

## **QUARTERLY POTLUCK & GENERAL MEETING**

**6 p.m., Tuesday, April 26, 2016**

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

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

## **The Slocum House, Past, Present and Future**

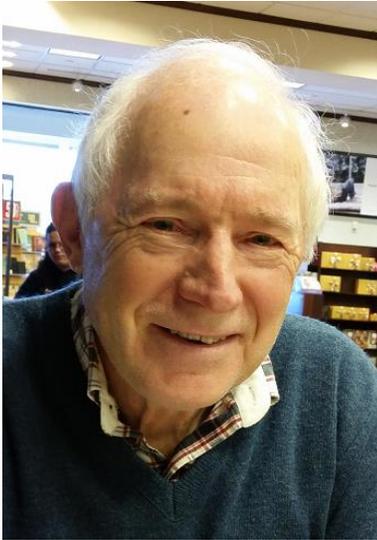
Jim Pearce, Craig LeMar, Peter Parker, Ron Lingren

**The Slocum Family – House to Restaurant Development – Future Plans**



**SLOCUM FAMILY** The original residents of the Slocum House were the members of the Slocum family shown above. Beginning from the right, they are Charles Slocum and his wife, Sara, and their children, Walter, Jenny, Don, Hazel and Nath.





## **President's Message** **Frank Wolfe**

I am ever impressed with the members, officers and committees of the Society who maintain the smooth-running organization that it is my delight to lead. This is attributable, not to the president, but rather to the ongoing work done by so many dedicated members.

My message to you this month is simple: Come to the quarterly meeting on Tuesday, April 26, bring a favorite dish to share, enjoy the program and old and new friendships, and if you haven't already done so – pay your dues.

Also, be sure to sign up ahead of time online [www.fairoaksparks.org](http://www.fairoaksparks.org) or in person with the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District for the Sunday, May 22, "It's My Park Day" at Miller Park. Our participation enables us to reduce our facilities rental costs. A free thank-you barbecue is included in this event.

I want to thank Lois Frazier and Jim Pearce for their work on the historical art/monument project of the Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts. This improvement is planned for the triangle at the north end of Fair Oaks Village. It will include a stylized sculptural rendition of an oak tree, an interpretive display, and numerous brass medallions depicting things of local interest for making wax rubbings.

And, thanks to Ralph Carhart, our newsletter editor, who with the assistance of Jim Pearce, produces and distributes this newsletter.



## **Our January meeting:**





2016 Historical Society officers were installed at the January meeting by Sacramento County Office of Education, Board President Eleanor Brown.

## **What's happening...**

### **Jim Pearce**

*At the membership committee*– We've cleaned up the roster and eliminated individuals who are three years or more delinquent on their dues. After the April meeting we'll make a final attempt at contacting the two-year delinquent members to see if they still want to continue. If you're not sure of your status, see the membership table at the April meeting or contact Jim Pearce at [jpearce4104@gmail.com](mailto:jpearce4104@gmail.com) or 916-961-8415.

We are a pretty stable organization of about 175 memberships. Including family memberships, that's about 275 actual members. We gain and lose about 20 to 30 members each year.

*New on the website*– Every so often, while looking through the boxes and shelves at the History Center, I find an interesting historical item. This time it was the minutes of the first meeting of the Historical Society on September 24, 1975, along with a list of the charter members. I've put a copy on the website. We failed to have a birthday party at the last October meeting, so a slightly belated happy 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary recognition for the Fair Oaks Historical Society!



## **Tenth Annual Soup Night Preparation**

**Claudia Thorn, Chair**

**Friday, November 4, 2016** — a date to put on your calendar for this year's soup night — our tenth annual major fundraiser to support the History Center and Society activities.

Tickets will be sold at the July quarterly meeting. They are \$30 each, and they will go on sale at 5:30 pm. They will be sold individually or by table. While tickets are marked non-refundable, the committee will assist you in reselling your tickets to folks on the inevitable waiting list.

Please begin asking around for donations for the raffle and the live auction. We need 3 or 4, even 5, big-ticket live-auction items. Things like a resort time-share or bed-and-breakfast weekend would be awesome. Remember that Soup Night is the fundraiser that keeps our History Center open and staffed. Your assistance is essential and much appreciated.



## **Board Meeting Highlights\*, March 23, 2016**

**Vicki Walter, Board Secretary**

Newly-elected officers and appointed committee chairs will be announced at the next general meeting.

Membership Roster - Jim Pearce has eliminated people from the roster that have been in arrears for 2+ years. Jim distributed a list of members in arrears that board members can give a friendly reminder to pay their dues. A committee was formed to send out delinquent letters after the April meeting.

There will be a Soup Night meeting in April. Vicki Walter volunteered to help with a spreadsheet of donations to help generate thank you letters. Bobbi Salzman is doing setup. Jeanne Maloney is doing bowls. We will use the same centerpieces as last year and won't sell any. Dianda's will donate another soup. Will institute a "one scoop" policy so we don't run out before everyone has gone through the line. Bob Vogel suggested a second person to handle money and help with checks and balances. Will print "nonrefundable" on tickets.

Lynn Steen, Recreation and Parks District liaison, announced the upcoming "**It's My Park Day**". There is a new requirement that people need to sign up individually on the District's website: [www.fairoaksparks.org](http://www.fairoaksparks.org). (Editor's note: Originally scheduled for April 9, the event has been rescheduled for **Sunday, May 22, from 1 to 5 pm**, with the appreciation barbecue from 4-5 PM).

Joe Dobrowolsky announced that we have advertised in the Los Rios newsletter for History Center docents. The Board decided that the center will be open only Saturday and Sunday, with other times by appointment only. A sign will be mounted on the History Center by Fiesta Day.

Jim Pearce and Lois Frazier are on the Fair Oaks Historical Monument committee. Dedicated to the founding of Fair Oaks, the monument, including artwork, is proposed by the Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts to be constructed in the triangle to the north of the Village.

**Fair Oaks Fiesta Day** is Sunday only, May 1. We've decided not to have a table, just a sign directing people to the History Center.

**Memorial Day at Fair Oaks Cemetery** is Saturday, May 28. It will honor Pearl Harbor survivors (75<sup>th</sup> anniversary). Lois Frazier will circulate a sign-up sheet at the April meeting for people who will bring cookies to the event.

A bylaws committee has been created with the following members: Jim Pearce, Vicki Walter, Bob Vogel, and Ron Lingren. The committee may consider a dues increase.

\* Full Board minutes are available from the Secretary.

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Bob Vogel**

As of February 2016, our total bank account balance was \$37,762.62. That includes \$6,249.86 in checking, \$6,512.76 in savings and \$25,000 in a Certificate of Deposit.

A detailed Treasurer's Report and 2016 Budget are available.

## **Old Homes of Fair Oaks**

### **Sally Dunbar**

### **The Alvin L. Heim Home - 4940 Minnesota Ave**



The history of Fair Oaks is full of intertwining families, and so it is with this month's Old Home feature - the Alvin L. Heim Home at 4940 Minnesota Ave.

Alvin came to Fair Oaks from Indiana in 1909, buying 10 acres on Minnesota, tucked against what is now the North Ridge Golf Course. He married Vena Bishop in 1915, and had three children - Adolph, Alvin W., and daughter Thalia (born 1922).

By 1929, it appears Alvin Heim had built the two-story home which still stands on Minnesota — although it has been substantially added to.

Alvin developed quite an orchard of mixed pecan and almond trees, using the latest progressive methods. He was also quite civic minded, becoming the Assessor of the Fair Oaks Irrigation District, a Socialist Candidate for State Legislature, a candidate for State Superintendent of Education, and a Socialist nominee for Congress.

As we fast forward through time, we witness the home pass to four additional families. The Heim children subdivided the land in 1959, selling the home on 3/4 acre to Jeanette Whittlesey, who in turn sold to Bryant and Marlene Serrao in 1985. In 1996, the home passed to Eddie and Linda Riggs, who are the current owners.

Eddie recalls a day about ten years ago when a woman approached him, curious about the home. It was youngest daughter Thalia, then 88, who recounted her remembrances of the cabin they lived in “over by the golf course”, as her father built the home. She remembers coming up the driveway in a horse-drawn cart to view the progress. She pointed out to Eddie the trees that were planted in honor of each child - trees that are still there today (although storms have taken their toll recently).



But there is another family that is part of this home’s history, which many Historical Society members will remember. The Earl Ricketts family lived nearby on San Juan Avenue, and daughter Evelyn Ricketts married young Alvin W. (“Al”), becoming Evelyn Heim. Al, Evelyn and Thalia all went to San Juan High School together — with Evelyn and Thalia in the same class. Evelyn and Al later built their home on 2 acres on Kentucky Lane in Fair Oaks, in 1947.

Today, Eddie and Linda still tend to the pecan and almond trees Alvin planted. During various remodeling projects, they have uncovered old oil cans and bleached driftwood used as fire blocks. They have kept the old claw foot tub, and some original windows, and have stripped layers of paint off the original fir flooring and clear-heart redwood baseboards. A few rooms still have the original lath and plaster, as well. Of particular interest is the fireplace. We know from Evelyn Heim’s memoirs that Alvin was a bricklayer, proficient in building fireplaces. His original fireplace is still in use, with vents much like the modern Heat-O-Lator.

The Riggs still cook on the Chambers Pastel Yellow Gas Range. In 2005, The Riggs added a 2800 square-foot addition, which necessitated the removal of a 300-year-old oak tree which had blanketed the property, but was dying. As the rotted limbs came down, Eddie realized how lucky they were to take the tree down before its weight crushed what was underneath.



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

**TO:**

Dues are for the Calendar Year, January 1 to December 31.  
Dues are payable on January 1, and become delinquent February 1.  
Those joining after October 1 shall be considered paid for the following year.

Please check one:

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

DUES PAYMENT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Membership dues are:

Individual \$15

Family (2 Persons) \$20

Single Life Member \$150

Family Life Member \$225

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)