



SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT

Fair Oaks Historical Society

January 2022 Newsletter

Issue No.: 139

Editor: Wendy Key

President's Message

Bob Sours

HAPPY NEW YEAR to members and friends!

I've shared most of my thoughts regarding the Society over the last year, so my message at this timing will be short, but hopefully meaningful.

Bar none other reason, the Pandemic has threatened the stress level for us all. Many of us have suffered greater losses including loss or illness of loved ones - yet too, financial setbacks due to job loss. Just when it seems we've won the battle, a new variant appears, and the fight goes on - with no fault of our own.

How is all this affecting our Society? Actually, we have weathered well under the circumstances. Other than communication, we have survived very well, and financially we have maintained stability - mainly from our sponsors jumping in where needed. However, I must congratulate our Board of Officers. All have volunteered more, helped others more where needed, and kept a positive attitude.

Fair Oaks Artist Spotlight

“Dating with Chaperones - Great Blue Heron Nest at Sailor Bar” submitted by Jody Reese.

Thank you, Jody!!

We'd love to feature YOUR work in our newsletter! Please submit only original artwork or photography via our Facebook page, by email to keywendy@gmail.com, or in person. Be sure to identify your submission with #NewsletterArt so that we know we've got your permission to publish.



Fair Oaks Air Crash

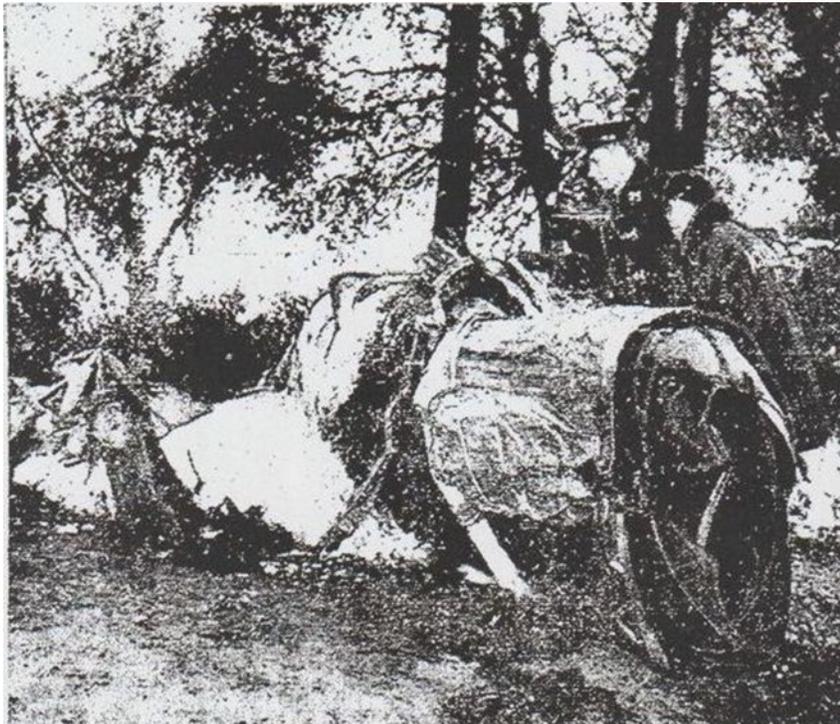
Jim Pearce

On October 24, 1956, 3:05 pm, Colonel William B. Bailey, Commander of the 83rd Fighter-Bomber Wing at Hamilton Field was practicing ground control, instrument landings at McClelland Field in Sacramento. His F86 Sabre Jet flamed out, crashed and burned at the north end of Pennsylvania Avenue after ripping limbs from a large oak tree in the yard of what we know as the Gore house at 4849 Pennsylvania Avenue. The plane plowed into the ground in the yard of Fair Oaks Fire Chief George Payne next door.

According to witnesses, the pilot ejected at 2000 feet and his parachute opened at 200 feet. He was not seriously injured.

“Ripping out four olive trees in Payne’s yard, the plane, a boiling mass of flame, disintegrated, throwing torn scraps of metal and parts over a wide area. The plane’s huge jet engine skipped like a hurtling boulder approximately 100 yards across a swale and dug into a hillside a few feet from the R. D. Simmons home at 4941 Pennsylvania Avenue.”

“The narrowest escape was that of 4 year old Jimmy Blair, son of Mrs. LaVerne Blair, grandson of the Simmons. Jimmy was playing in the front yard of the Simmons home when the plane crashed. He was snatched from the path of the hurtling engine by his grandmother seconds before the flaming chunk of metal crossed the Simmons lawn.”



Fair Oaks' Women of Influence: Rebecca Murphy

Wendy Key

If you're familiar with Fair Oaks Village, you've probably heard of the Murphy Building which is located at the corner of Fair Oaks Boulevard and California Avenue. What's unusual about this building, is that it wasn't named after a "founding father", but instead a prominent woman in Fair Oaks' history: Rebecca (Johnston Fisher) Murphy.

In 1890, Rebecca was the president of the Council Bluffs Woman's Christian Temperance Union when she met and married 54-year old Francis Murphy. Francis was a prominent temperance speaker and was under contract with the National Christian Temperance League in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to preach temperance across the country. By the time Francis and Rebecca met, he was world-renowned and had established himself as a "Great Temperance Apostle". Prior to their marriage, Rebecca had established herself as an influential philanthropist and churchgoer in her town of Council Bluffs, Iowa. It was reported that her home was the center of social life and she had already proven her "executive ability in the management of her property and in the leadership of large church organizations". Further defining her character, she was described as "a lover of flowers, a musician, and an artist... in her love of color, she thought it worth while to express her good taste in the choice of attire, and the fact that she dressed with a thought for the harmonies was cause for apprehension on the part of the sort of reformers who make all forms of righteous effort more or less ugly a depressing."



Mr. and Mrs. Murphy
Just after their marriage in September, 1890

After getting married, Rebecca and Francis announced they were moving to a small temperance community outside of Sacramento, California - Fair Oaks. While Francis preached temperance throughout California, Rebecca established herself in Fair Oaks and built the Murphy Building in 1900. The Murphy building was a commercial building with businesses downstairs and a meeting hall upstairs (San Juan Hall). The Murphy Building was initially located about a quarter-mile from Main Street where most



businesses in Fair Oaks had been established, but after the Fair Oaks Bridge was constructed and the Fair Oaks Fruit Company was opened on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Winding Way, most businesses moved from Main Street to the “Murphy Block”. There’s no evidence that Francis was involved in any of Rebecca’s business dealings during this time as he was often out of town preaching and relocated to Los Angeles after moving to Fair Oaks.



Murphy Building

Rebecca was heavily involved in Fair Oaks affairs and in 1902, she and her friend Fannie Robinson, hopped in a buggy and went door to door inviting the other ladies of Fair Oaks to join them for a cup of tea and a chat.



The ladies of Fair Oaks met in Rebecca’s parlor and discussed the formation of the Fair Oaks Woman’s Thursday Club which was subsequently founded and lead by Madame Buffum. In 1903, Rebecca’s family moved from Illinois and into the Johnston House (now known as the California House) across the street from the Murphy Building. Shortly after her family’s arrival in Fair Oaks, Rebecca rejoined her husband in Los Angeles. Francis died in 1907 at age 71 and that same year, a book titled “Memories of Francis Murphy” was published by Rebecca. Rebecca stayed in the Los Angeles area and continued her husband’s temperance legacy until she passed away in 1914.



Fair Oaks Artist Spotlight:

“American River view from across Sailor Bar”, submitted by Karen Austin.

Media: Soft pastels on sandpaper.

Thank you, Karen!



Remembering the Laying of the Clubhouse Cornerstone

Sandra S. Navarro, Ph.D.



In April 1955, Mrs. J.E. Holst, Mrs. Horace Massey and Mrs. Robert Bramhall were photographed at a remembrance of the laying of the clubhouse cornerstone of The Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks.

The original Woman's Thursday Club clubhouse was built on the corner of Fair Oaks Boulevard and Bridge Street in 1913 and was used until the property was sold in 1955.

Today, the organization's clubhouse is located at 10625 Fair Oaks Boulevard.

The Woman's Thursday Club was organized in 1902 and affiliated with the state federation of women's clubs in 1903. The club continues to be engaged in community social and civic events.

The Woman's Thursday Club clubhouse at its current location; this photo was taken in 1957.



Updates and Announcements



Meet the new Fair Oaks Historical Society's Elected Board Members!

President: Bob Sours

Vice President: Terrie O'Donnell

Secretary: Carolyn Spotts

Treasurer: Jim Pierce

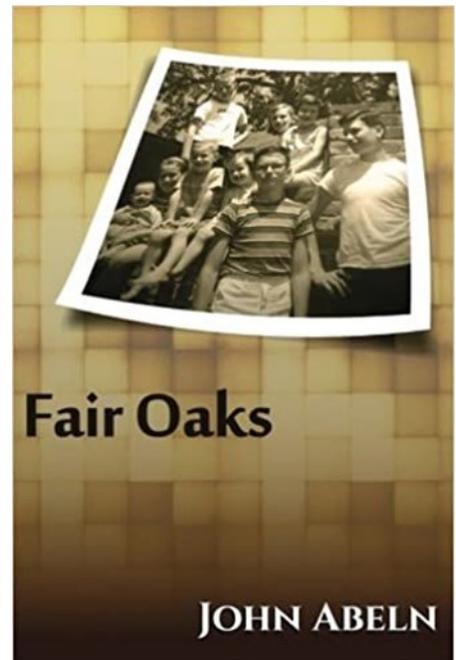
DO YOU WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED?

Maybe you enjoy searching for artifacts. Maybe setting up and refreshing displays is your thing. Love researching local historical topics and sharing what you've learned? Us too!! We're always excited to take on more volunteers. If you'd like to get more involved, please let us know. We could use more contributing writers and artists for the newsletter, researchers and scrapbookers for the History Center, members willing to document and share their memories or experiences living in or visiting Fair Oaks. If you see a niche you'd like to fill that you think is missing, let us know that too and we can create a space for you to do whatever it is you do best (so long as it fits in with the FOHS mission, of course).

History Center:

Given the long time on and off closures and restrictions at the History Center, staff have decided to create a check out library where members can take home any of our popular books for two weeks so they can be read in the comfort of your home. Popular titles are "Up Sunset Avenue", the Arcadia series on Fair Oaks and other local areas, the "Fair Oaks and San Juan Area Memories" book and others. A complete list of available books will be posted on our website.

A recent acquisition, "Fair Oaks" (Growing up in Fair Oaks in the 1960's) by John Abeln. John spent his early teens living in the Glafke house near Kenneth and Sunset with his nine siblings (and father and mother). He went to St. Mel's school and has lots of stories of growing up in Fair Oaks in the 1960's. A fun read and available for check out at the History Center.



Annual 2021 Financial Report

Bob Vogel, Treasurer

2021 FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY TREASURERS REPORT - DECEMBER 30 2021 - FINAL

INCOME	CAT.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTALS
MEMBERSHIP DUES	1	\$328.12	\$330.00	\$50.00	\$85.00	\$30.00	\$24.12	\$70.00	\$45.00	\$20.00	\$895.00	\$647.00	\$195.00	\$2,719.24
MEETINGS - RAFFLE/WINE	2										\$275.00			\$275.00
DONATIONS/MEMORIALS	3	\$387.17	\$265.00	\$90.00	\$25.00	\$150.00	\$625.88	\$226.00	\$2,981.43		\$800.00	\$1,594.00	\$6,100.00	\$13,244.48
SALES	4	\$261.00				\$80.00	\$58.00	\$24.00		\$31.00	\$148.00	\$324.00	\$60.00	\$986.00
MISC./ROYALTIES	5				\$130.34						\$67.23	\$52.00		\$249.57
SOUP INCOME	5A	\$2,506.00	\$1,875.00								\$1,000.00	\$500.00		\$5,881.00
TOTALS		\$3,482.29	\$2,470.00	\$140.00	\$240.34	\$260.00	\$708.00	\$320.00	\$3,026.43	\$51.00	\$3,144.23	\$3,117.00	\$6,355.00	\$23,355.29
EXPENSES														
MEMBERSHIP	6													\$0.00
ORGN.MEMBERSHIPS	7													\$595.44
SALES / INVENTORY	8		\$56.50								\$538.94			\$1,417.00
STORAGE LOCKER	9							\$1,417.00					\$150.00	\$481.17
WEBSITE	10		\$310.00						\$134.09					\$830.72
NEWSLETTER	11	\$609.53	\$44.00	\$43.10										\$0.00
PRINTING	12													\$0.00
POSTAL BOX/ STAMPS	13												\$146.00	\$146.00
TAX PREP.	14							\$192.00						\$192.00
MISC.	15		\$35.00								\$274.99	\$461.90		\$771.89
HISTORY CENTER														\$0.00
MAINTENANCE	16				\$75.00	\$75.00		\$225.00		\$588.45	\$513.00		\$365.00	\$1,841.45
DISPLAYS	17					\$723.29			\$237.00					\$960.29
INSURANCE	18	\$585.00							\$215.00				\$1,232.00	\$2,032.00
SUPPLIES	19	\$107.64					\$106.67		\$265.23	\$27.63		\$53.86		\$561.03
UTILITIES	20	\$33.56	\$108.94	\$37.23	\$112.30	\$37.73	\$109.36	\$38.42	\$124.26	\$51.55	\$133.39	\$45.73	\$125.27	\$957.74
SECURITY	21			\$45.00	\$135.00			\$135.00		\$135.00				\$450.00
MISC.	22													\$0.00
MEETING EXPENSES														\$0.00
ROOM RENTAL	23							\$325.00						\$325.00
WINE/FOOD	24													\$0.00
SUPPLIES	25													\$0.00
MISC./OTHER	26													\$0.00
SOUP NIIGHT														\$0.00
GENERAL STAFF. COST	27	\$239.75	\$793.90								\$500.00		\$108.94	\$1,642.59
TOTALS		\$1,575.48	\$1,348.34	\$125.33	\$322.30	\$836.02	\$216.03	\$2,332.42	\$975.58	\$802.63	\$1,981.49	\$561.49	\$2,127.21	\$13,204.32
NET CHANGE		\$1,906.81	\$1,121.66	\$14.67	-\$81.96	-\$576.02	\$491.97	-\$2,012.42	\$2,050.85	-\$751.63	\$1,162.74	\$2,555.51	\$4,227.79	\$10,150.97
CHECKING ENDING BAL.		\$16,511.98	\$17,633.14	\$17,647.81	\$7,565.85	\$6,989.83	\$7,481.80	\$5,469.38	\$7,530.23	\$6,778.60	\$7,911.34	\$10,496.85	\$14,859.64	
ONE CD		\$26,072.56	\$26,072.56	\$26,072.55	\$26,123.41	\$26,123.41	\$26,123.41	\$26,176.08	\$26,176.08	\$26,176.08	\$26,228.87	\$26,228.87	\$26,228.87	
SAVINGS ENDING BAL.		\$9,456.91	\$9,456.91	\$9,457.14	\$19,457.14	\$19,457.14	\$19,457.59	\$19,457.59	\$19,457.59	\$19,458.08	\$19,458.08	\$19,458.08	\$19,458.08	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$52,041.45	\$53,162.61	\$53,177.50	\$53,146.40	\$52,570.38	\$53,062.80	\$51,103.05	\$53,163.90	\$52,412.76	\$53,598.29	\$56,183.80	\$60,546.59	



NEW MEMBER APPLICATION AND MEMBER-RENEWAL FORM

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

Please check one: NEW MEMBER APPLICATION RENEWAL

Name(s) _____

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 FOR PRINTED NEWSLETTERS

(DELIVERED QUARTERLY BY US POSTAL SERVICE)

I AM INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING DONATION TO SUPPORT THE HISTORY CENTER:

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JIM PEARCE: 916-961-8415 jpearce4104@gmail.com

Mail a copy of this form with your check payable to the Fair Oaks Historical Society.

FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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