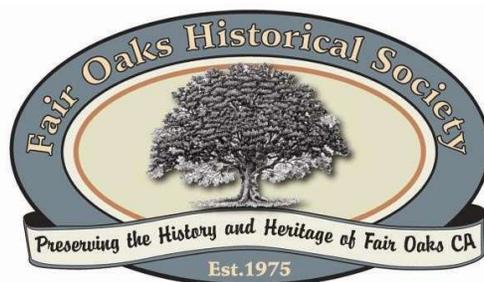


# *Fair Oaks Historical Society*

*July 2021 Newsletter*

Issue Number 137

Wendy Key, Editor



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

## President's Message

Bob Sours

HELLO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.

During the previous months leading up to now, the news has been filled with updates on the Pandemic, elections, disasters, and Global chaos. Restrictions are lifting, and as human beings, our tendency is to quickly jump into what we haven't done, goals we haven't fulfilled, people we haven't seen - hugs and shaking hands, living like a Pandemic never existed. Bottom line: The last 16 months or so has changed most everyone. It's hard to find anyone that hasn't suffered in some way from the chaos in our country, the Pandemic, and disasters. And to top all that off, we had an earthquake this month!

So, let's now go forward and talk more about SMILES, summertime, normalcy, and on and on with positive activities. A breather is needed by everyone. Taking a peek at the next 18 months or so, construction will be going on within our buildings and parks around Fair Oaks. In order to continue with progress and events, changing in venues and projects has become necessary. We look forward to resuming our quarterly potluck meetings starting in October and have been fortunate to secure a venue. More details to come!

Fair Oaks has weathered many setbacks in the past and survived. People live here in Fair Oaks not only for the quaintness, charm, and looks of the past, but mainly because of the people. IT'S A HAPPY BUNCH, friendly, and passionate about keeping Fair Oaks much "The way it was", but with a little bit of keeping up with the times so that we are not left behind.

IT IS SOMETIMES SAID THAT "IT TAKES A VILLAGE", AND IF I'M RIGHT, I THINK WE ARE A SHINNING EXAMPLE OF AN "ALL AMERICAN VILLAGE" IN THIS GREAT COUNTRY OF OURS.

## Remembering Lois

Jim Pearce

Our beloved Chief Docent Lois Frazier passed away on May 1<sup>st</sup> at age 99 years. She will be sorely missed. Not only did she serve the Historical Society for over 20 years as supervisor of the Museum-History Center in its locations at the Cemetery, Community Clubhouse and Buddies, she was a consultant on Fair Oaks History on various projects, most recently the Founders Monument and the Miller, Jr. old homes newsletter article (included herein). When I needed help with any Fair Oaks historical question, Lois was my go-to person. She had a remarkable memory on details of growing up in Fair Oaks.

Lois was born in Minnesota in 1921 and her family relocated to acreage just east of the Buffum property in Fair Oaks. She attended the old brick Fair Oaks Elementary School and San Juan High School. After high school, she left Fair Oaks with her husband, Wendell, and lived the military life traveling around the U.S. and Europe. Regretfully, she couldn't give me firsthand information about Fair Oaks in the 40s and 50s since she was traveling during those years. When Wendell retired in 1961, the family relocated to the Haverman property on Magnolia Street. Lois became involved in many community activities including the Historical Society and museum, and the Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts.

We have posted her obituary with more details from her family on our website. Lois will continue be present in the History Center in the future to tell all about life in Fair Oaks in the 1930's. She participated in two oral history projects, one in 1991 and another in 2006. Both were taped and are available at the History Center. Feel free to ask the docent to run them up on the big screen. Lois is buried next to her husband at the Fair Oaks Cemetery.



## Letter from the Editor

Wendy Key

I'd like to begin by acknowledging and thanking Ralph Carhart, the previous Newsletter Editor, for his many years of dedication to the Fair Oaks Historical Society's quarterly newsletters. THANK YOU, RALPH!!

I am humbled to be given this opportunity to take over the role as Newsletter Editor and know I've got big shoes to fill. I hope to do the newsletter and the Historical Society justice

and would welcome feedback from our membership on what types of stories you'd like to see more of, and perhaps, what you'd like to see less of.

In this newsletter, we'll be keeping with some of the usual materials, while also introducing a new article series: Fair Oaks' Women of Influence. As some of you may (or may not) know, March was Women's History Month and with it came a slew of stories by major publishers highlighting women who have made their marks on history across the globe. When Joe Maloney saw the series "Women of Impact" published by National Geographic, he had an idea - why don't we do something to highlight the women of impact in Fair Oaks? I was so excited when Bob Sours, FOHS President, reached out to me to see if I would write an article highlighting the women who made Fair Oaks the village it is today based on Joe's idea. I have so much admiration and respect for strong women and jumped on the opportunity to highlight these local ladies. My hope is to turn this into a regular installment in the Fair Oaks Historical Society newsletter. Each quarter, a new "Woman of Influence" in Fair Oaks will be highlighted and once a year I hope to highlight one of Fair Oaks' "Modern Women of Influence" - women who are making an impact in our community today. I hope you are as excited as I am to learn more about these incredible Fair Oaks women and look forward to sharing their stories with you!

## Fair Oaks' Women of Influence - Madam Buffum

Wendy Key

As we kick off this series, I cannot think of a better inaugural "Woman of Influence" than Madam Buffam. Anna "Madam" Buffam arrived in Fair Oaks sometime between 1900 and 1902 with her husband, Dr. Joseph C. Buffum, a "wealthy Chicago extract manufacturer" who had a manufacturing plant in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Fair Oaks and San Juan Area Memories, 1960). Her son, Dr. Joseph H. Buffum (also a "Chicago capitalist") arrived in Fair Oaks a few years later. She and her family lived in the "Buffum Place" amongst the orange and olive groves in a colonial-type redwood mansion built on what is now Fair Oaks Boulevard between New York Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue (currently developed with the Parks Place at Fair Oaks apartment complex).

Madam Buffum was a prominent woman in the community at the time and was truly one of Fair Oaks' first women of influence. In fact, at a time when many married women were essentially absorbed into their husband's identities, historical records show she was still referred to as Mrs. A.M. Buffum or simply Madam Buffum, rather than Mrs. Joseph C. Buffum as many of her contemporaries would have been. After successful campaigning by Rebecca Murphy and Mrs. George P. Robinson (both women of influence in their own rights!), the Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks was established on March 1, 1902, with Madam Buffum elected as the first president. The Club was founded to provide the early women of Fair Oaks a social and service club to fill the lifestyle void they had left behind in Chicago when they moved out west. The Woman's Thursday Club and the women who were members of the club undoubtedly shaped much of the culture in Fair Oaks. Madam Buffum

and her fellow Women's Thursday Club members continue to influence Fair Oaks today through their legacies, the causes they supported, and the current membership.

One of the Fair Oaks legacies that can be attributed to Madam Buffum are Fair Oaks' signature palm trees. According to the stories, Madam Buffum wanted people to feel like they had entered paradise the moment they stepped off the Old Fair Oaks Bridge and came into the village by way of Bridge Street. As researched by Jim Pearce, "Madam Buffum enlisted the school children and the Fair Oaks Woman's Thursday Club to plant the Bridge Street palms and had her son, Joseph Buffum, use the hired help from the Robinson-Buffum building to plant the ones around Plaza Park" in or around 1908. In other words, many of the large palm trees remaining in Fair Oaks today can be linked directly Madam Buffum's efforts to make Fair Oaks a desirable place to live. Madam Buffum passed away in 1915 and is buried with her husband, Joseph Buffum, on the family plot in Pennsylvania.



Madam Buffum (the first woman in the upper right) and the Women's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks membership (1912).

*The Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks is a service club, dedicated to the cultural, educational and social well-being of the community. Working together for over 100 years, the membership has served its community and the nation by supporting different charities and community events and by providing services to the area residents. Further, the Women's Thursday Club continually raises funds for student scholarships to help our younger community members pay for college.*

## Old Homes of Fair Oaks

Jim Pearce

### 4109 Koya Lane

- Built 1943
- Stats - 4158 Sq. Ft. on ½ Acre
- Current Owners - Chris and Brittany Parkins
- Previous Owners - Cary Parkins, John Willow, Gerald Edmundson, Don Debellis, Dan Eichorn, George Miller, Jr.



We've had a number of inquiries on this home in the past several years, but couldn't determine when it was built so let it go for other priorities. Several months ago, the current owners, Chris and Brittany Parkins came into the History Center asking if we knew when the house was built. The real estate and county records say 1985, but the Parkins were sure it was older than that. We agreed to try and date it.

One problem in trying to locate records on the house is that it has had several different addresses. Before 1955 it was on Palm Street which was renamed Campoy Street when Fair Oaks Blvd. was rerouted. The current road used to be the driveway to the house until development created additional homes and the driveway was named Koya Lane.

It occurred to me that Lois Frazier lived only a few blocks away from the house and maybe she knew something of the history, so I called her up. She said, "sure I know. The house was built by George Miller, Jr. when he married Renee Price in 1943. Before that it was an almond orchard belonging to a man named Beecher. My sisters and I used to shuck almonds there for three cents a pound when we were teenagers. If there was a house there then, it didn't amount to much."

So, mystery solved. All of Lois's recollections checked out. George Miller Jr. was the son of George Miller, superintendent of the Horst Hop Farm, claimed to be the largest hop farm in the U.S. at 1450 acres located where Sac State and Campus Commons is now. He bought the King Ranch property in Fair Oaks in the 1920's on Kenneth Avenue and lived there for many years. In the 1950's he subdivided and donated the property where Earl Legette School and Miller Park are now located.

George Sr. and Jr. worked together at the Horst farm during 1940 to 1955 when Sr. retired and turned over the ranch operations to his son. George Jr.'s life at the Koya house was

positive until 1971 when his wife died of cancer and the Horst farm was sold to developers. George Jr. took a job with U.C. Davis as an agricultural engineer, remarried and moved to Vacaville where he lived until his death in 2015 at age 95.

Brittany and Chris Parkins have been working on the house for the past eight years and it's looking good.

## July 2021 Financial Report

Bob Vogel, Treasurer

2021 FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY TREASURERS REPORT - JULY 14									
INCOME	CAT.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	TOTALS
MEMBERSHIP DUES	1	\$328.12	\$330.00	\$50.00	\$85.00	\$30.00	\$24.12		\$847.24
MEETINGS -RAFFLE/WINE	2								\$0.00
DONATIONS/MEMORIALS	3	\$387.17	\$265.00	\$90.00	\$25.00	\$150.00	\$625.88		\$1,543.05
SALES	4	\$261.00				\$80.00	\$58.00		\$399.00
MISC./ROYALTIES	5				\$130.34				\$130.34
SOUP INCOME	5A	\$2,506.00	\$1,875.00						\$4,381.00
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$3,482.29</b>	<b>\$2,470.00</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>	<b>\$240.34</b>	<b>\$260.00</b>	<b>\$708.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$7,300.63</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>									
MEMBERSHIP	6								
ORGN.MEMBERSHIPS	7								\$0.00
SALES / INVENTORY	8		\$56.50						\$56.50
STORAGE LOCKER	9								\$0.00
WEBSITE	10		\$310.00						\$310.00
NEWSLETTER	11	\$609.53	\$44.00	\$43.10					\$696.63
PRINTING	12								\$0.00
POSTAL BOX/ STAMPS	13								
TAX PREP.	14								
MISC.	15		\$35.00						
<b>HISTORY CENTER</b>									
MAINTENANCE	16				\$75.00	\$75.00			\$150.00
DISPLAYS	17					\$723.29			\$723.29
INSURANCE	18	\$585.00							\$585.00
SUPPLIES	19	\$107.64					\$106.67		\$214.31
UTILITIES	20	\$33.56	\$108.94	\$37.23	\$112.30	\$37.73	\$109.36		\$439.12
SECURITY	21			\$45.00	\$135.00				\$180.00
MISC.	22								\$0.00
<b>MEETING EXPENSES</b>									
ROOM RENTAL	23								\$0.00
WINE/FOOD	24								\$0.00
SUPPLIES	25								\$0.00
MISC. /OTHER	26								\$0.00
SOUP NIIGHT	27	\$239.75	\$793.90						\$1,033.65
GENERAL STAFF. COST	28								\$0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$1,575.48</b>	<b>\$1,348.34</b>	<b>\$125.33</b>	<b>\$322.30</b>	<b>\$836.02</b>	<b>\$216.03</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,423.50</b>
<b>NET CHANGE</b>		<b>\$1,906.81</b>	<b>\$1,121.66</b>	<b>\$14.67</b>	<b>-\$81.96</b>	<b>-\$576.02</b>	<b>\$491.97</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,877.13</b>
NOTE: TRANSER \$10,000.00 TO SAVINGS ON 4/12/21									
CHECHING ENDIING BAL.		\$16,511.98	\$17,633.14	\$17,647.81	\$7,565.85	\$6,989.83	\$7,481.80		
ONE CD		\$26,072.56	\$26,072.56	\$26,072.55	\$26,123.41	\$26,123.41	\$26,123.41		
SAVINGS ENDING BAL.		\$9,456.91	\$9,456.91	\$9,457.14	\$19,457.14	\$19,457.14	\$19,457.59		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$52,041.45</b>	<b>\$53,162.61</b>	<b>\$53,177.50</b>	<b>\$53,146.40</b>	<b>\$52,570.38</b>	<b>\$53,062.80</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	

# 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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Mail a copy of this form with your check payable to:

FAIR OAKS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. BOX 2044

FAIR OAKS, CA 95628.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JIM PEARCE: 916- 961-8415 [jpearce4104@gmail.com](mailto:jpearce4104@gmail.com)

## Reminders & Announcements

If you haven't already paid your 2021 dues, please do so now and include a copy of the form provided at the end of the newsletter (or a note with the necessary information) with your check or donation. Mail that to P.O. Box 2044, Fair Oaks CA. 95628.

Remember we maintain a Memorial Book at the History Center, in which you can memorialize a special person, such as Lois. We will acknowledge the memorialization, but not the donation amount. Contact Jim Pearce for more information (916-961-8415).

Looking for ways to get more involved in the community? Consider volunteering with the Fair Oaks Historical Society or at the Fair Oaks Historical Center! There are many ways to volunteer, and we'd be happy to tell you more about them!

We will not have a General Meeting this month, however, we are still obligated to install a nominating committee for seeking out good candidates for our 2022 Board of Directors. Three people will be on the committee (one from the present elected officers). So, if any member is interested, please contact one of our Board members.

