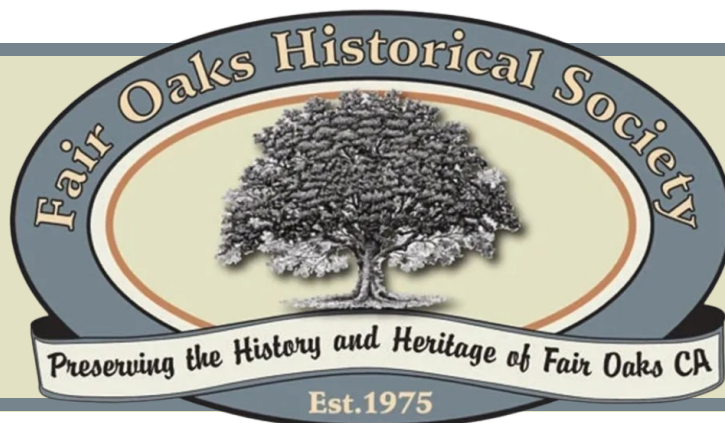


# Something to Crow About



Summer 2024

Issue 149

## QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

The July Quarterly meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>** at the Faith Lutheran Church (4000 San Juan Blvd) from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.



We will have our traditional potluck, so **bring a salad, main dish, or dessert to share.**

Our guest speaker will be **Bob Brugger**, descendent of early Folsom settlers and long time Fair Oaks resident who now lives in Shingle Springs. See page 3 for Bob's biography.

***See you there!***

**July 23, 2024 at 6:00 pm**  
Faith Lutheran Church  
4000 San Juan Ave, Fair Oaks

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## LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

By Claudia Thorne, President & Pete Schroeder, Vice President

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Some exciting things are happening at the Fair Oaks Historical Society!

This summer we will be bringing back our **Guided Walking Tours**. Our first event will be Saturday, July 6, at 10:00am, followed by an Ice Cream Social. We hope to conduct one in August as well.

Much thanks to **Pat Vogel** who serves as a member on the Fair Oaks Cemetery District Board. She helped us secure some fascinating documents, dating back to 1896, regarding past residents of our community. Pat tells me this is the first batch of many. **Chris Highsmith** has been diving into these documents, and working on archiving them for future research. *He's always looking for volunteers who are interested in this kind of research.* If interested, please call Chris at the History Center 916.844.7103.

Mark your calendars for our next **Quarterly Meeting** on July 23 where long time Fair Oaksian **Bob Brugger** will be our guest speaker. We hope to have the presentation recorded to be shared with future guests at the History Center. We are working with **Meraki High School** to do the recording and editing. Let us know if you have a passion for recording this type of presentation, as we would like to record future presentations.

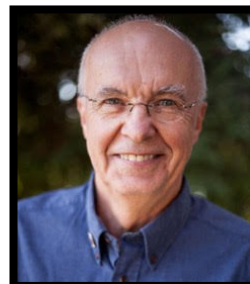
*love to have your input* at our next planning meeting. Chaired by **Pete Schroeder** and **Chris Highsmith**, it is on July 23 at 10:00am at the History Center.

A big thank you to **Sandra Navarro** whose creative energy and inspiration brought us the Saturday morning Welcome Hour. In creating beautiful displays around fun themes, Sandra has done much to raise the History Center's visibility. After two years, Sandra will be stepping back as she assumes the presidency of the **Women's Thursday Club**.

Lastly, our newsletter has been edited by **Jennifer Terry** for the past year. She has done an amazing job. Jennifer, thank you for all your hard work and dedication. You've taken our newsletter to the next level. This is her last newsletter but fortunately, **Sherry Clifton** has stepped forward to take over the position of editor. Much thanks and gratitude to both of you.

Looking forward to seeing you all around the neighborhood.

Claudia J. Thorn, President  
Pete Schroeder, Vice-President



Have you heard the news about our upcoming **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party** in 2025? We would

## *BOB BRUGGER, GUEST SPEAKER*

By Maria Brugger

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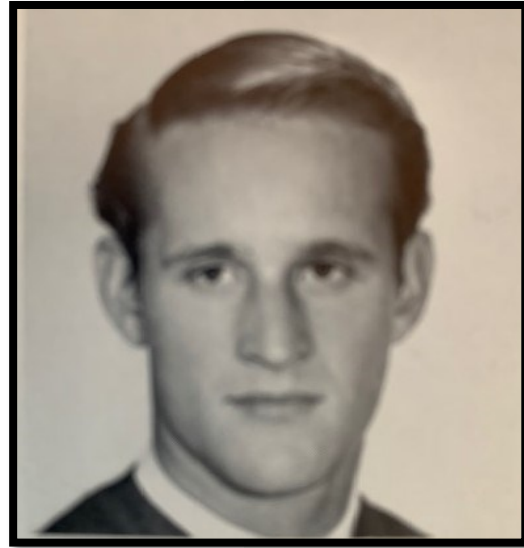
Robert “Bob” Brugger was born in Fair Oaks in June of 1943 to Frank and Katherine Brugger. His father, Frank, was manager of the Pacific Cement and Aggregate Plant across the river in Fair Oaks. It was one of the largest employers in Fair Oaks. The whole town woke up to the starting of the crushers.

Brugger graduated from Fair Oaks Grammar School in 1957. He played Little League in Fair Oaks for 4 years and then played baseball at San Juan High School, from which he graduated in 1961. He received the Trades and Industrial Arts Honor Award. He graduated from American River Junior College in 1963.

Like his father, Brugger worked for the Pacific Cement and Aggregate Plant/Lone Star Industries (now Cemex) for 37 years as a heavy-duty diesel mechanic. He was known in the industry for his expertise in diesel repair and often called upon for technical advice.

In 1964, he married his high school sweetheart Maria Ferris.

Brugger was drafted into the Army in 1965 and sent to Vietnam for a year where he received the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service. He returned to PCA when he was discharged.



He moved to what was left of his mother’s family homestead in Shingle Springs in 1979 where the family has lived for the last 45 years, but he has maintained his connection to Fair Oaks.

Bob and Maria have been married for 60 years. They have two sons and four grandchildren. The oldest is an architect/builder in Napa and the younger is a geneticist in Los Angeles. The oldest grandson is a public defense lawyer in Portland, Oregon, and the oldest granddaughter is in New York looking to get into musical theater. The two youngest, in Los Angeles, are in high school and grammar school.

The Brugger Family emigrated to Folsom in the late 1800s. His grandfather was a miner. Bob loves to hunt and fish, and is known for his knowledge of the area’s history.



## THE DOCENT CORNER

By Bob Sours, Retired Docent

Glory be, to realize *summer* is but a couple of weeks away. Your History Center staff folks have been moving at a running pace to keep the research materials updated for your visiting pleasure. A few things include the monthly change in historic displays; the many meetings with speakers held at the local church; and updating of our Memory Book of members that have passed away over the more recent years. Additional information has been added, which made the book user friendly for your reading pleasure.

The really big news that will get your attention as you visit on Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday are the new faces - new docents ready and anxious to meet and serve you. Please make it part of your travels to stop by and meet our new staff. Each docent has different experience levels and you will find it a joy to talk with them. The new docents are also looking forward to your experiences and stories about Fair Oaks as well.

Many of you have visited our memorial sites, but now with the Spring and Summer weather at our door, you would enjoy the walk again. A couple of our staff have worked on the Founders Memorial (offering a fresh look) and our Bluff Memorial has had an uplift in the signage over the past year. It's worth the walk around both memorials again as weather permits.



Last, but part of my joy, as it has been a part of where I've



lived in Fair Oaks over the years, is the *large number of older olive trees*, that will always bring you to the core of our village, along with the charm of the older commercial buildings. Maybe someone with authority in the village renovation will suggest adding one of the *old village olive trees* to a space in the *core* of the new project. *Why not?* Maybe someone will donate one.

In closing, a note about myself and a little more about Olives. I had the joy of living in two houses in the Fair Oaks village that both had olive orchards - about thirty 100-year-old or so trees. Well, now living just over the line from the village, and missing the olive trees, I've added a miniature desk model of an Olive Orchard. It's called "A Mini Little Ollie Bonsai Olive Orchard" (see picture above). Actually, that's what the professionals call this varietal. If you are getting senior like me, you might want to develop an orchard of your own - it brings a relaxed feeling.

That's it Folks. Enjoy the Summer.





# *Volunteers Needed!*

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The **History Center** is looking for volunteers for the following positions.

## **Collection Cataloger**

**What:** Immerse yourself in Fair Oaks history by providing assistance with cataloging our collection of historical documents and artifacts.

**When:** Tuesdays or Thursdays  
for a couple of hours between 10am - 2 pm

## **Museum Docents**

**What:** Greet visitors and converse about Fair Oaks history

**When:** Saturdays  
Noon – 2:00pm

## **Videographer**

**What:** Document Fair Oaks history as it happens by recording events and possibly other projects

**When:** as needed

**For more information,** call Chris Highsmith at the History Center at (916) 844-7103 on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10am - 2:00pm, or send him an email at:

**[fair oakshistorycenter@gmail.com](mailto:fair oakshistorycenter@gmail.com)**



## *WELCOME HOUR AT THE HISTORY CENTER*

Since August 2022, the Fair Oaks History Center's themed **Welcome Hour** program has been held on the first Saturday of each month from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00pm. The brainchild of **Sandra S. Navarro**, who served as the Welcome Hour Program Director, the program has showcased members' vintage items while offering social opportunities for our community.

*Thank you, Sandra!*



### **Vintage Handbags à la Mode**

April 6, 2024



April's Welcome Hour featured the vintage handbags of FOHS member **Kathryn Beebe** (above, left) and Welcome Hour program director **Sandra Navarro** (below).







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## Midcentury Paper Dolls

May 4, 2024

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Karen Smith with her collection of Hallmark paper dolls.





Welcome Hour, continued





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# Cast Iron Kitchen Stoves

June 1, 2024

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## 50TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING

The year **2025** will bring **many reasons to celebrate** in Fair Oaks. Not only will the Historical Society be 50 years old but Fair Oaks itself will be **130!!!** It was founded in 1895.

The FOHS Board will celebrate the Society's milestone and **Chris Highsmith** is leading the event planning. We have many great ideas but would like to hear from you! If you would like to be a part of the planning committee, **please join us!** The next planning meeting is on **July 23 at 10:00am** at the History Center.

**For more information**, call Chris at the History Center at (916) 844-7103 on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10am - 2:00pm, or send him an email at **fairoakshistorycenter@gmail.com**

ANNIVERSARIES  
IN THE  
YEAR 2025

FAIR OAKS 130TH  
&  
FAIR OAKS  
HISTORY SOCIETY'S  
50TH

If you want to find out more  
or would like to volunteer  
with any of the events  
during our anniversary year.

Please email -  
fairoakshistorycenter@gmail.com

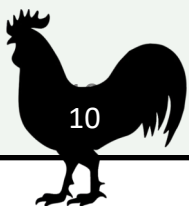
### COMMUNITY EVENT

The Village theater venue is under construction, but the theater group *still performs!* Support our local thespians as they perform at their temporary venue.

**Tickets available online at  
TIX.com & at the door**

\$25 Adults

\$10 Child (10 & under)



Fair Oaks Theatre Festival Presents

★ ★ ★  
**THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTMAN COUNTY  
SPELLING BEE** ★ ★ ★

June 28, 29 and July 26, 27 2024  
7:30 PM Show Time  
America River College Theatre  
4700 College Oaks Drive, Sacramento

Temporary location!

# *MEMBERSHIP NEWS*

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## **Welcome New/Returning Members**

Patricia Santillanes (Life)  
Karen Smith (Patron)

## **Renewals at the Patron Level (\$100 - \$149)**

Terry & Sherry Clifton  
Denis & Joanrae Deluchi  
Wayne & Laurie Donaldson  
Sandra & David Navarro  
Karen Smith

## **Renewals at the Supporting Level (\$50 - \$99)**

Bob's Cycle Center	Jane & Anne Taylor
Max Jones	Richard & Claudia Thorn
Ronnie & Sheila Mitchell	Village Ventures, LLC
John & Beth O'Farrell	Woman's Thursday Club
Howard Papworth	

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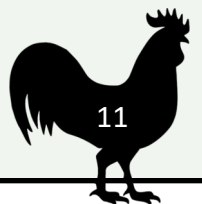
Fair Oaks Theatre Festival Presents:

## **The 25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee**

A heartfelt award winning musical follows a group of unique and impassioned adolescents as they compete for the spelling bee championship. These outsiders use competition to define themselves, apart from their crazy families, while their struggle to escape childhood is overseen by grown-ups who never completely succeeded in escaping it themselves.

Performance at 7:30 pm  
Doors Open at 7:00 pm  
Box Office Opens 6:30 pm

For more information call (916) 966-3683 or email at  
[info@fairoakstheatrefestival.com](mailto:info@fairoakstheatrefestival.com)



## *FROM THE ARCHIVES*

By Chris Highsmith, History Center Operation Manager

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This is the first of a three-part series on Fair Oaks and projects by the Works Progress Administration, later called the Works Project Administration and referred to as the WPA.

Before the WPA, California had the State Emergency Relief Administration (SERA), started in 1933, and then the State Relief Administration (SRA) took its place in 1935.

On May 6, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the WPA a \$4,000,000 federal work program. The Depression-era program's goal was to provide employment to as many people as possible at their local prevailing wage. To ensure maximum employment in an area, employees were limited to 8 hours a day (or 40 hours a week) but were also guaranteed a minimum of 30 hours a week (or 120 hours per month). Some adjustments were made for music, art, and drama projects.

All persons who were employed on the WPA work program had to be: 1) registered for employment with the national reemployment of state employment office in his residence locality; 2) on relief as of May 31, 1935; 3) at least 16 years of age; 4) able-bodied; and 5) not currently serving a sentence in a penal of correctional insti-

tution. Rates of pay in Sacramento ranged from \$52 per month for unskilled labor to \$83 per month for professional and technical work.

One of the local WPA projects was a woman's sewing class where 15 or so women were employed five days a week. The class was held in the basement of the Fair Oaks Federated Church. During February 1936 the program produced 6586 garments in Sacramento County, which were given to 1110 county residents.

Another local project received \$8,000 from the WPA for continuation of the construction of road shoulders on both Minnesota Avenue and Fair Oaks Boulevard from Fair Oaks Grammar School (@Winding Way and Fair Oaks Blvd location) north to Greenback Lane. All the work was done on new grades only and not on maintenance work.

Another project at Fair Oaks Grammer School started as a SERA project then became a WPA project and received a WPA grant of \$18,000. The total project would cost \$20,000. The work started in April 1936 and finished in August 1936. More than 5,000 cubic yards of dirt was moved from the hill behind the school to make a level area for a new playground and athletic







The Fair Oaks Grammar School, late 1950s.

fields. They also eliminated rock terraces on the southeast corner of the property to make way for a tennis court and an outdoor stage (an idea of principal Edward P. Buchanan). Landscaping plans included a grove of trees that would act as a wind-break, as well as an outdoor fireplace constructed within the grove, and turf covering two-thirds of the new ground. The playground was constructed on a blacktop surface. A refinished roof and two additional classrooms rounded out the project.

People working on both the road and at the grammar school were paid regardless of the weather conditions. However, this meant that there was a possibility the money would run out before the job was

done. There was the possibility of using county equipment to expedite the work but only when funds were available from other sources to pay the cost of equipment operators, gas, and oil bills. I didn't find anything that said that the funds ran out.

In 1938 a roving WPA crew of 16 men was established in the Fair Oaks district. The men were transported from point to point in a county truck to clean up numerous odds and ends.

In February 1936, 215 people transferred from relief rolls to private employment. On December 4, 1942, the WPA was abolished by Presidential letter effective June 20, 1943, because full employment resulted during World War II.

(continued on page 14)

We always enjoy receiving photos and stories pertaining to the history of the Fair Oaks area. If you have something you would like to share, don't hesitate to contact the History Center.

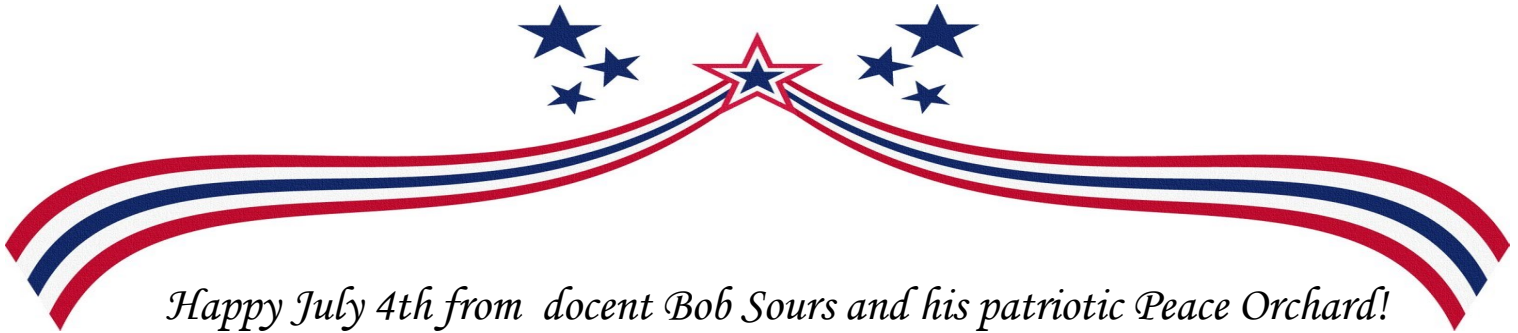
Attn: Chris Highsmith  
**Fair Oaks History Center**  
P.O. Box 2044  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Email – [fairoakshistorycenter@gmail.com](mailto:fairoakshistorycenter@gmail.com)  
Phone – (916) 844-7103



From the Archives, continued

The next two articles will be about how the WPA project transformed the old Fair Oaks school building into a community clubhouse. The sources that were used were the *Sacramento Bee*, *Sacramento Union*, *San Juan Record*, and *Tribune-Progress* newspapers.



## *THE HISTORY CENTER*

### ***In the Fair Oaks Village***

10340 Fair Oaks Blvd  
(next to the Sunflower Drive-in)

### **Regular Hours**

Tuesdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Thursdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Saturdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm





## Fair Oaks Historical Society Membership / Renewal / Volunteer Application

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Phone - Cell:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Phone - Home:</b>
<b>Email Address:</b>	
<b>Emergency Contact:</b>	<b>Phone – Home or Cell:</b>

Dues are collected on an annual basis in January. New members joining after October 1<sup>st</sup> shall be considered paid for the following year. Membership dues are: (circle one)

Individual \$20, Family (2 persons) \$25, Supporting \$50,  
Patron \$100, Benefactor \$150, Life Membership \$275  
Add \$10 to receive a printed copy of our newsletter.

By requesting membership, we encourage you to be an active participant to further the work of the Fair Oaks Historical Society. Please indicate your interest(s):

<input type="checkbox"/> History Center Docent <input type="checkbox"/> Research <input type="checkbox"/> Collection preservation <input type="checkbox"/> Inventory record management <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Programs <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews <input type="checkbox"/> Walking Tours <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events	<input type="checkbox"/> Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Liaison Representative <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity \ Advertising <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media \ Communications <input type="checkbox"/> Tech \ Media <input type="checkbox"/> Other
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<b>Signature:</b> X	<b>Date:</b>
------------------------	--------------

Send this application with your check to:

Fair Oaks Historical Society  
P.O. Box 2044  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628



You may also use the PayPal system:

<https://fairoakshistory.org/join/join.htm>

***Thank you for your support!***

Memberships at or above the Supporting level will be recognized in our quarterly Newsletter.  
For questions, please contact Terry Clifton at (916) 501-4045 or [FOHistory1@gmail.com](mailto:FOHistory1@gmail.com).

Membership Coordinator use only:

Amount paid: \$  
Check # or PayPal Date:  
Date received:



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## *2024 HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

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Guided Walking Tour	July 6
Ice Cream Social	July 6
Executive Board Meeting	July 16
50th Anniversary Planning Mtg	July 23
Quarterly General Meeting	July 23
Guided Walking Tour	August: TBD
Executive Board Meeting	August 20
Executive Board Meeting	September 17

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Fair Oaks Historical Society  
P.O. Box 2044  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

To: