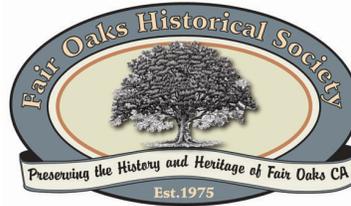


# *Fair Oaks Historical Society*

**Newsletter – April 2013**

Issue Number 104



## **QUARTERLY POTLUCK & GENERAL MEETING**

**6 p.m., Tuesday, April 23**

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

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

Check out the latest on our website at:

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

### **President's Message**

**Joe Dobrowolski**

The Society is in for a major change. We have scheduled a **Grand Opening of the new History Center for May 8**. This will be in conjunction with the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce Mixer.

Recently the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District voted to terminate the Society's use of the Fireside Room in the Clubhouse. This action requires that we remove our displays, photos, artifacts, boxes and furniture from the Fireside Room by May 1st.

The new History Center was designed for a more contemporary look, so only a few pieces of furniture will be brought over to house artifacts relevant to the current exhibits. Society members have packed up the artifacts and photos from the Fireside Room for relocation or storage. Items previously in the storage unit are being reviewed, consolidated, and in some cases, relinquished to make room for the additional storage. Also, some furniture will be offered back to the original donors or put up for sale. Lots of work to be done in a short time!

We plan to keep the History Center open five to six days a week for five to six hours a day. This will require paying docents to staff the Center. Members willing to do this would be our first choice. Otherwise, our intent is to hire community college students.

In reviewing stored materials we found some interesting items; for instance— two reels of movie film taken in the late 1950's. At our April meeting we'll show them. Come and see if you recognize anyone from a Halloween party at the Grange or participating in the Fair Oaks Fire District's Easter egg hunt.

We also found a photo from the Women's Thursday Club 1996 fashion show . . .

That's Meg Smart and Norine Johnson >>>

**Bring a guest to our  
General Meeting— April  
23**

**And, see you at our  
Grand Opening— May 8**



## **April 23rd Program— “Genealogy, Why Start Now” Program Chair, Trude Vasquez**

The Society will hold its second quarterly meeting and potluck dinner on Tuesday, April 23rd, at 6:00 p.m. at the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse, 7997 California Avenue, Fair Oaks. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30. The price of admission is a casserole, salad or dessert to share with others which makes this the best potluck in town!

The program for this meeting will be our own **Jim Pearce**, Fair Oaks historian and technology guru, who will talk about genealogy study— **“Why Start Now”**. Jim will demonstrate how easy it is to start researching your family history and discuss all of the new and easy ways to search historical records. We invite you to bring your family to this meeting— and then make genealogy study a family activity.

Society members, their friends and others interested in the activities of the Fair Oaks Historical Society are invited and welcome to attend the gathering. For a map and membership information, see our website: [www.fairoakshistory.org](http://www.fairoakshistory.org)

# Minutes of January 22, 2012 General Meeting

## Janet McWilliams

The meeting was called to order by President Ralph Carhart at 6:30 p.m. A delicious potluck followed.

President Ralph then thanked the Blomquists for setting up the meal and the lovely snowmen decorations on the tables. He also thanked Tel Labelle for taking care of the membership name tags.

Supplemental Nominating Committee Report: Warren McWilliams from the nominating committee reported that Bob Vogel will accept the position of Treasurer. The membership then voted to accept this nomination.

Installation: Member of the Sacramento County School Board, Eleanor Brown then installed the following officers for the year 2013: President, Joe Dobrowolski,; Vice-president, Trude Vasquez; Treasurer, Bob Vogel; and Secretary, Vicki Walter.

President's Report: President Joe then announced there will be an opening of the new Gallery in April or May. He would like it to be open 5 days a week during the summer. He also announced that he had a sign-up list for indoor and outdoor upkeep of the building. It was also announced that the Park District wants us to vacate the Fireside Room this spring. It will need to be decided what items will be moved to the Gallery and what will be placed in storage.

Life Memberships: Joe also announced that the owners of the Sunflower Drive-In have become Life members of the Society.

History Center: Lois Frazier reported that the Open House was held in December at the Gallery. Twelve people attended. She also reported that Linda Blue would handle the sign-up for cookies at the Memorial Day Celebration.

Gallery Update: Past President Ralph Carhart reported that the Water Exhibit, "Nourishing the Dream" was almost ready to be reproduced. Drafts were on display tonight.

Introduction of Guests & New Members: Dale & Laura Fowler and Natasha & Toby Owen were introduced as guests. Doris and Bob Adams were introduced as new members.

Program: Trude Vasquez introduced Bob Rohwer, retired from Xerox, and very active in all the local railroad organizations. The topic of his talk was "Southern Pacific's Placerville Branch & McKeen Cars." He then gave a very interesting talk about the railroad and trolley systems that were built in our area between 1890-1915. Many of these systems survived until World War II. There is one remaining McKeen Trolley car left at the Nevada State Railroad Museum.

### Business Meeting:

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. Motion to approve made by Pat Vogel and seconded by Barry Brown.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Dobrowolski discussed our expenditures for the upcoming year. The report was published in the newsletter. Also that the Soup Night in December made approximately \$8,000. The books will be ready for auditing in about two weeks. This audit will be done by Ralph Pettingell.

Announcements: Joe announced the passing of Alicia LaBelle

Next meeting will be Tuesday April 23. The Board Meeting will be March 26 at 1:00 p.m.

# *Old Homes of Fair Oaks*

*Jim Pearce*

## **Straith Home Update**

We last updated the Society on the Straith house in January 2011 just after it had been moved from its original location to a lot further back from the bluffs. Most of the rest of the year and much of 2012 was spent installing the infrastructure for all the lots in the parcel.



Beyond our best hopes, last year the home was purchased by a married couple— Tim Carmichael and Carmel Comstock— who have two young children and were scouting around for a place to raise their family. Carmel, a decorative designer who hails from five generations of Sacramentans, knew that Fair Oaks was a definite possibility. She wanted a place where her children could safely walk the streets, where neighbors would wave as she drove by, and where there was a sense of community among the residents. Doesn't that sound a lot like Fair Oaks?



Catherine, Carmel & Claudia

At the last Fair Oaks Woman's Thursday Club meeting Carmel and her design partner, Catherine Reon of CRCW studio, gave a great presentation about how Carmel found the house, convinced her husband that it was perfect for them (She initially described it to him as a bit of a fixer-upper.), and how they plan to keep the 1900 home true to its origins while modernizing it to fit their family's needs. They are all genuinely committed to the project and its heritage.

At the end of the presentation, Trude asked them if they would speak at the Fair Oaks Historical Society after they had settled in to their new home; they agreed. It looks like that will happen at the October 22 meeting.

