



Kramer Park History

Rena Carlisle (Kramer) and Peter Kramer were neighbors growing up in Florin. After graduating from Florin Grammar School they both took the County Teachers' Examination.

At the age of 18 Rena began teaching in San Joaquin County, and Peter at Point Pleasant School at the age of 21. In 1910, Rena began teaching at the newly built Franklin Union Grammar School, which was a one room school house. Later Peter was hired as a principal/teacher and one year later Peter and Rena were married. The two teachers taught at Franklin Union Grammar School until their retirement in 1950.

The husband and wife team were very innovative in their teaching, incorporating field trips, recreation and hands-on experiences to enhance the children's learning. The Kramers organized an annual Halloween party with a costume parade and a bonfire, a Christmas production with costumes, props, music and singing, and field trips including picnics at Land Park, swimming at the river, and the World's Fair in San Francisco (the first trip of such a distance for many of the children). Students played sports, marched to piano music at lunchtime, took part in oratorical contests, learned how to dance and studied the cello or violin. A garden was kept at the school with the children tending it through the summer. Fruits and vegetables were canned to supplement school lunches during the winter.

The Kramers were instrumental in getting a hall/gymnasium built that also became a community center in Franklin for pot-luck dinners and community gatherings. The Kramers were an integral part of the East Franklin Community with many of the school events becoming community-wide activities.

The information within this document was created at the time of park dedication and may not be current.