

TOWER VIEWS

A circular inset image showing the Galt Water Tower, a tall metal structure with a cylindrical tank and a conical roof, set against a clear blue sky.

September 2018



From the Archives Galt Theatre

In July of 1948, local developers, Albert Schauer and Eric Speiss, built a state-of-the-art movies theatre for \$75,000. It was to replace the old theatre that had been in existence since the silent movie days and running out of what is now the Valley Oaks Grange Hall. Schauer and Speiss were also the duo responsible for the Galt Frostie (now Mariscos Guamuchil) and had their insurance/real estate office on the north side of the building. The theatre changed hands several times before closing sometime around 1990. The Galt Theatre was located on Lincoln Way between A and C Streets on the east side of the street and is now Sacramento Human Assistance, a county government office. The movie playing at the time was put on by Pacific Telephone and Telegraph (now AT&T) on the safe use of phones by children. It is hard to see but the man on the upper left side of the photo is Laurence Littleton, possibly volunteering as a high school chaperone.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

On Monday, September 24th at our monthly General Meeting, we will have a Volunteer Appreciation Night with complimentary dinner for all members. There will be no charge. Our meeting/dinner will be held on the Rae House Museum grounds. Your Executive Board wants to thank all the docents and all those who volunteer for our many events, building projects, and taking care of all our properties. The Executive Board will be providing the food and beverages for this night. If you are able to come, please RSVP by calling Janis at 209 747-3861 or Ida at 209 745-1477. We just need a headcount for the food. We hope that you will join us in celebrating all that you do for the Galt Area Historical Society.

MEMBERSHIP

As a member of our Galt Area Historical Society you play an important role in protecting and preserving our historical records and also interpreting the past to the public, especially our younger Galtonians.

Each year that you renew your membership you join us in our mission of engaging and empowering each other to make history a meaningful part of our contemporary lives. Your membership helps preserve the legacy of our ancestors, commemorate local heroes and preserve our historic architecture. Our members in GAHS help answer the Who, What, Why, Where and When questions that make historical societies important. It puts those of us in the present in touch with the people of the past who shaped our landscape, named our landmarks, and made the decisions that ultimately affect us today.

A great big thank you to all annual members who have paid their 2018 dues. Our goal is to have 100% dues paid ASAP. A reminder that dues are due in January of each year. So, if you wait to renew too long it will seem like you have paid twice! You can submit your dues through the mail, PayPal on the GAHS Website or at our monthly meeting. Also, within our membership area, we encourage you to inform us when you have a change of address. Please email any concerns to Rhonda Smith, guildstreetsmith@sbcglobal.net or call, 209-745-4504.

Louise's Walk Down Memory Lane

What a nice SURPRISE! I thought a 100 years came around to old people, but I'm still here and now residing at Golden Living in Galt. It may be only my second childhood that makes me think I can still be your Corresponding Secretary, but I'll give it a try if elected.

After all, we are a Historical Society so we do need a relic specious on the board. I do miss the fellowship!



A Message From The President

September is finally here; and fall is right around the corner. Looking back at 2018, our society has accomplished so much. We have engaged with other organizations such as Shop Local and the Galt Chamber of Commerce to meet common goals by not only preserving our history, but to allow others to see all that Galt has to offer as a community. We had the most successful Sip & Snack at the MAC ever this year. The funds we raised from the event are allowing us to paint the entire outside of the McFarland House. The funds we raised from An Evening in Italy dinner was used to pay for all the outside repairs of the McFarland House. It will be exciting to see the newly painted house within the next week or two.

Our members/volunteers worked so hard this year whether it was building and repairing, helping at the fundraising events and dinners, being a docent, helping at cleanup days at the Liberty and Elliott cemeteries, participating in meetings, helping at Kite Day and Pioneer Days, cooking and baking, helping at the Rae events, etc. I cannot thank all of you enough for your dedication and time you spent helping. We all get personal satisfaction from knowing that we are doing our small part in saving Galt's history for generations to come. As I was thinking about preserving for the future generations, I realized we have another obligation. That is to preserve the memory and history of all those who came before us. We are saving their legacies and their stories. We would not be here today if it were not for our early settlers and ancestors who came to the Galt area and called this their home. They worked hard to establish this town with its businesses and farms. They carved out their

livings here. We owe them not only a gratitude, but our promise to not let anyone forget what they did before us; or to change their stories. Next time you drive by a historic building, or go to the McFarland Living History Ranch, or the Rae House Museum, remember that real people lived there at one time. We should be thankful to them that we have our little town; and thankful that we have members and citizens who want to keep the memories alive in the stories and history of our founders. The good deeds of the Galt Area Historical Society do not go unnoticed. In 2019, Galt will be celebrating 150 years when we actually were called a town. In 1869, what is Brewster's became the first United States Post Office. The United States Flag flew high on a pole near where it does today. That was the center of town in 1869. We have come a long way since then. The thing about history is that today will be history tomorrow. See you at the September Dinner at the Rae.

~ Janis Barsetti Gray



2018 Historical Society Executive Board

Janis Barsetti Gray ~ President

Ida Denier ~ Vice President

Ralph Cortez ~ 2nd Vice President

Liz Haglund ~ Recording Secretary

Louise Dowdell ~
Corresponding Secretary

Dan Tarnasky ~ Historian

Bobbi Lewis ~ Treasurer



Policy and Procedure Review

Whistleblower Policy

I. Purpose

The Galt Area Historical Society officers, members and volunteers are required to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. It is the responsibility of officers, employees, and volunteers to comply with and to report violations or suspected violations of the GAHS bylaws and policies, or federal and state laws in accordance with this policy. No officer, employee, volunteer or contractor who in good faith reports a violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation or adverse employment consequences. This Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable officers and others to raise serious concerns within the GAHS prior to seeking resolution outside the GAHS. This policy is highly recommended by the IRS.

II. Policy

1. Officers, employees, and volunteers should share their questions, concerns, suggestions or complaints with someone who can address them

properly. In most cases, they should report to the President.

2. Any good faith report, concern or complaint is fully protected by this policy, even if after investigation it is not substantiated. Anyone filling out a complaint must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates a violation of the GAHS bylaws and policies, or law.

3. Upon the request of the complainant, the GAHS will use its best effort to protect the confidentiality of the complainant for any good faith report. Violations or suspected violations may be submitted anonymously. Reports of violations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation.

4. All reports will be promptly investigated and appropriate corrective action will be taken if warranted. The complainant will be informed that follow-up has or is occurring within thirty days. The Board shall be informed of all such complaints or reports.

Docents Needed

Just a reminder of the car show on September 22 at the McFarland Ranch. I know I have called on a lot of you these past few weeks and I do appreciate all of you for all the help that you give. When it is closer to the car show date I will contact you with times. I do hope to have at least 6 docents. Put it on your calendar.

If there is anyone that has not signed up to docent, and would like to join us, you can contact me at sjdean36@gmail.com. We can always use more docents.

~ Sue Dean

Calendar

September 15

8 a.m.

Workday at McFarland Ranch

September 22

Car Show at McFarland Ranch

September 24

6 p.m.

General Meeting and
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
at the Rae House

October 13

9 a.m.

Workday at Liberty Cemetery

October 26

Halloween Spooktacular
at the Rae House

October 12 & 13

Yard Sale at the Hall

October 27

8 a.m.

Workday at Elliott Cemetery

November 10

8 a.m.

Workday at the Rae House Garden

November 17

9 a.m.

Workday at Liberty Cemetery

December 2

Christmas Open House

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Rae House

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - McFarland Ranch

December 9

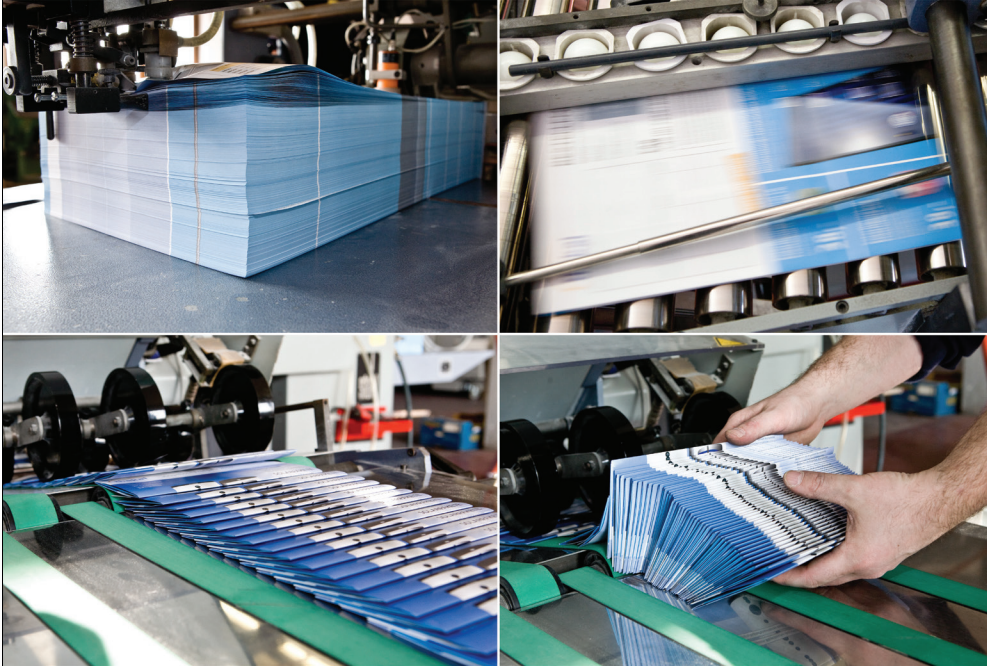
Christmas Open House

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Rae House

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - McFarland Ranch

Dates and Times are
Subject to Change

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Curator's Corner

Once again, August turned out to be a very busy month at the Rae House Museum. As we briefly mentioned last month, the Ice Cream Social was a great success. The proceeds will assist us in our mission to make improvements to the Rae House.

On August 24th, we hosted our second "Friday Night at the Rae" event. As one of our goals is to bring the children of Galt to the museum, we attempted to draw a younger crowd by offering craft activities during the event. We are happy to report the effort was a success. Many new families attended the event. We hope to continue widening our circle of interest, providing both educational and entertaining experiences to our visitors.

We are excited to welcome the members to the Rae House on September 24th, for the volunteer appreciation dinner to be held at the monthly meeting.

Although we are not planning a large event at the Rae in September, we are using the time to prepare for the activities in the upcoming month.

One very exciting event on the horizon is the "Friday Night Spooktacular at the Rae", to be held on Friday, October 26, 2018. We have fun plans for this event, including: a carved pumpkin contest, a Scarecrow contest, a dance party for the kids, crafts and games, and special Halloween treats and drinks for purchase. If you are interested in assisting with decorating the Rae for Halloween season, or would like to help with planning or staffing the event, please contact me at the Rae House Facebook page, or at my email address, juliecbrownfield@gmail.com.

Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who demonstrate their love and support for the Rae House through their service. We could not do anything without you. On the same note, we wouldn't have the museum if it weren't for countless volunteers who have provided their time and effort to the Rae House, over the past three decades. The Rae House is a community resource. We welcome you to come and join us, to celebrate with us, and to forge a stronger community comprised of both new and longtime members. If it's been a while since you've been to the Rae, come by and see us, we would love to see you!

~ Julie Clark Brownfield

Gossip from the Galt Gazette September 1884

P.H. Latourette had a peach on his tree that was 11½ inches in circumference and weighed 13 ounces.



D.K. Stringfield declares his candidacy for Justice of the peace.



Another brakeman was killed.



There is an epidemic of hog cholera.



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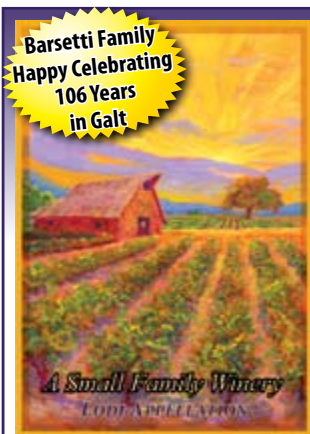
\$5.00 Per Person

(Children under 12 free)



Giant Orange

Were you aware there was a Giant Orange in Galt? The Giant Orange franchise was a series of drive-in orange juice stands located the length of California's Central Valley. The first was started in Tracy by Frank Pohl in 1926 and, at its peak, there were 16 orange juice stands. The Giant Orange successful at a time when cars had no air conditioning and highways were two lanes with easy off and on access. It was said that a typical stand could go through 6,000 oranges in a week. Giant Orange began to decline after the invention of car air conditioning and the construction of major freeways. According to someone who worked there, Louise Dowdell, the one in Galt opened in 1935 and could be found on the southwest corner of Lincoln Way and C Street. At the time, the main thoroughfare through Galt was the Lincoln Highway (Lincoln Way), and the stand did a booming business. The Giant Orange stand was moved to 99 and Simmerhorn Road to take advantage of the construction of State Highway 99. When the highway became four lanes, the stand became a memory. Pictured in this 1938 photo are Rella Dowdell, CHP Officer Dave Donaldson, Louise Dowdell, and Manager Eddie Jones.



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Rae House Facebook Page

With the addition of the Rae House page we now have three Facebook pages. Just go to the search bar at the top of the page and type in Galt Area Historical Society, Snapshots of Galt History, or Rae House Museum. Stay in touch and enjoy your Galt Area Historical Society. Be sure to "Like" and "Follow" all three pages to stay informed of Historical Society news.



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Bits & Pieces

1. Restroom update: Ron and his crew will be finishing the new restrooms and bride's room by Oct 1. It will be a wonderful addition to the McFarland Ranch for the weddings and events. It is a beautiful building and our volunteers worked very hard to complete this project.

2. In April 2019, we have a proposal from the National Civil War Association to rent the McFarland Living History Ranch April 12-April 14, 2019 for a Civil War Reenactment. One day will be for school children; and two days will be open to the public. There will be reenactment battles.

3. Car Show coming up September 22. If you have a car, hot rod, custom, motorcycle, old camper trailer 1972 or older, or you have a friend with one, contact Ida for a participation form. Our goal is 100 cars this year.

4. Appreciation Dinner for members September 24 at the Rae Museum, starting at 6 pm. Meeting to follow at 7 pm. No cost to members.

5. Louise Dowdell's 100th Birthday on August 15 was a great day. Louise had quite a crowd on Sunday, August 12th, as well as on her actual birthday. She received a proclamation from her Great Nephew, Supervisor Don Nottoli, proclaiming Aug 15 as Louise Dowdell Day in Sacramento County. On her birthday she received a call from longtime friend and classmate, Lillian (Dit) Barsetti Jenks. They had a nice chat.

6. The Galt Chamber of Commerce's Hot Air Balloon event at the McFarland was a huge success. They have already rented the McFarland for next year's event on August 10, 11, 2019.

7. Kite Day will be April 7th 2019; the weekend before the Civil War Reenactment dates.

8. Lincoln Highway 2019. In September 2019, the Lincoln Highway Association will be having the reenactment of Eisenhower's trips from the east coast to the west on the Lincoln Highway. They are scheduled to make a stop in Galt about Sept 12. We are still trying to get them to camp the night at the McFarland. More to follow on this.

9. Ida reports that May and June 2019 are completely booked on the weekends. The McFarland Living History Ranch continues to get lots of media attention through events such as the Hot Air Balloon event and by word of mouth.

10. Event and Learning Center Update: Our engineer has sent out for bids to contractors. Since we do not have all the funds needed to complete the project, it will be done in phases. We are waiting to see the bids. To give you more information, this building will be located to the northeast of the McFarland yard (just south of the red barn). It will be constructed to look like a California A Frame Barn such as existed in early years and also today. It will be about 7600 sq ft. This building will house our extensive archives, be a place for Pioneer Days during inclement weather, and place for more children's activities about early California life, a place for fundraisers and events, and much more. As more develops, we will let you know.

11. We are still looking for grant writers to help us seek funds to complete the Event and Learning Center. If you know anyone who might be interested in helping with this, please have them contact Janis.

12. Thanks to Dave Olson, he has given us all the historical records and photographs that Genie had stored. This is huge for our archives. Dan will be so busy scanning and filing, we might not see him much. Thank you again Mr. Olson for taking good care of our history.

13. We still need sponsors for some of the Historical Markers. It is about \$250 per plaque. Those still needed are for The Herald Store, Hicksville Cemetery, and the Elliott Cemetery. If you want to donate the plaque, please contact Janis or James Guthmiller.

14. For those members who are also Galt High Alumni, the All Class Reunion is Saturday Oct 6th at the Littleton. If you need a form to sign up for dinner, contact Janis. Forms must be in by September 22. It is always a great event.

15. At the Night at the Rae August 24th dinner cooked by Ida Denier. We made \$425 plus \$17 donations in the house for a grand total of \$442.

We're Still Looking For Archival Materials



There is still a lot of Galt History out there that Galtonians or former Galtonians have stashed in boxes in closets, basements, and attics. Whether you donate items to us or let us "scan and return," please search through those boxes and collect the items listed below. You can drop them off (Barsetti Vineyards, 400 4th Street #150, Galt, Ca) or mail them to us. Many of you don't realize that what might be insignificant to you is very significant to us. The only requirement is it has to do with people and places in our Historic Area (Galt, Herald, Thornton, Liberty, Elliott, Hicksville, Arno, or Colony). Remember that Galt Area History is 1869 to 2018.

1. Photographs (People or Places)
2. Old Property Deeds
3. Diplomas
4. Awards
5. Newspaper or Magazine Clippings
6. Store Receipts
7. Programs from school or specials events
8. Church Programs
9. Wedding Announcements
10. Funeral Programs
11. Advertisements
12. Business Cards from any business
13. High School or any Elementary School Yearbook
14. School Report Cards from any school
15. Old Galt Herald or Galt Gazette Newspapers
16. Matchbooks
17. Calendars
18. Military Induction or Discharge Papers and Commendations
19. Tickets to any events in our Historic Area
20. Anything else printed that has to do with Galt, Thornton, Herald, Liberty, Elliott, Hicksville, Arno, or Colony.



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