

TOWER VIEWS



July 2018



From the Archives

Commercial Hotel

One of the first establishments in a new town like Galt in the 1800s was a hotel. This one, the Commercial Hotel, gave a visitor a room for the night and sometimes a meal in a downstairs dining room. Rooms usually had primitive furnishings at best and included an iron-framed bed with straw or goose down mattress, a wooden chair, a washstand with water pitcher and basin, a chamber pot, and hooks on the wall to hang your clothes. As a space-saving measure, accommodations were usually no bigger than 10ft x 10ft. The Commercial Hotel, later the Harvey Hotel, was moved from the town of Liberty in the 1870s and once stood on the northeast corner of 4th and C Streets. According to an old city map printed in 1888, another business replaced the hotel. A brick building with the C Street Deli and Then Again Antiques occupies the site now. Looking on the right side of the hotel, one can see the Phoenix Saloon looking east on C Street.

SIP & SNACK AT THE MAC

Tickets are still available for this year's Sip & Snack at the Mac. There will be hayrides around the ranch, live music by Phil & da Pinots as well as dancing. If you have not bought your tickets yet, do so soon.

Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door and can be purchased through PayPal on our website: www.galthistory.org. You can also purchase tickets at Barsetti Vineyards Tasting Room in Old Town Galt (400 Fourth Street, Suite 150), or by calling Janis Barsetti 209-747-3861 or Ida Denier 209-745-1477.

If you would like to volunteer to help setup on Thursday, July 26 and Friday, July 27, help during the event on July 28, or help tear down and put away on Sunday, July 29, please contact Ida Denier 209-745-1477.



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

There were a lot of small dance halls around the country. People love to dance. Victrola's were great! We cranked up the spring or whatever caused the record to turn and adjusted the speed.

Away we would whirl!

Louise has been feeling a little under the weather but would enjoy a visit with you at Golden Living in Galt.



A Message From The President

By the time you read my column, July 4th will have come and gone for this year. I want to take a few moments to reflect on Galt's 4th of July parade celebration held on June 30th. What a wonderful community event. I was privileged to have worked on and ridden on the Galt Area Historical Society's float (picture later in newsletter). I want to thank Shawn Farmer for loaning us his flatbed trailer and the bales of hay and his yard for storage of the trailer; to Harry Souder and his vintage tractor for pulling us through the parade, to Ida Denier, Marci Souder, Gloria Guthmiller, LaVonne Riddlespurger, Julie Clark Brownsfield, Camilla Brownsfield, and to Joia Parrish for finding us some great children to ride on the float. We are so fortunate to be, in what I like to call, "small town USA." A town where we have community pride, spirit, and a patriotic soul. Every float represented a business, an organization, a group of people, some campaigning for office, but importantly, just everyday people who wanted to decorate their cars or bicycles, their horses, and come out and be a part of this event. On a day when we celebrated not only as a community but to celebrate our independence, not so far away from Galt, others were protesting against the same things that are so dear to us. We are so lucky to have the opportunity and right to show our pride.

I reflect back to a book that one of our founders, Genie Olson, wrote for school children. There is a part of a story that was reported to be from an 8 year old boy, Tommy Brown, living near the town of Liberty in 1853:

"Most of the time when I'm not in school, I'm at the blacksmith shop, but today I'm going to be too busy to go there. It is the Fourth of July, 1853, and everyone is going to Dr. McIntyre's home for a big celebration. People from all over Sacramento County will be coming there. The ladies have been making a flag, using some red window curtains to make the stripes and a blue shawl to form the corner piece. Mr. Jewel is going to read the Declaration of Independence, just the way they do in Boston, Massachusetts, and Dr. Russell, Hiram Chase, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Mitchell, and Mrs. Slater have been practicing patriotic songs for weeks. They should sound mighty good after all that work. My dad says he's been talking to some of the other ranchers like Samuel Wristen. Peter Riley, and Andrew Whitaker, and they all agree that this is the first Fourth of July celebration in these parts.

The City of Sacramento always has a big celebration, but way out here in the farmland of Liberty, we've never had a celebration like this before. After all the speech-making and singing, we're going to have a big picnic on the grass at Dr. McIntyre's. My mom has been cooking and baking ever since sunup, and Dad and I have been grooming and feeding the horses and getting the buggy ready. It is hot in Liberty in July, but there are forests of giant oaks that give lots of shade and have nice big branches to climb. I can hardly wait to meet my friends and play games of tag, hide and seek, and blind man's bluff. Most of all I can hardly wait for taste all that good food that Mom is preparing for us."

Even though times were more difficult in those days compared to our lives today, those times were simple and true. The Fourth of July was an important day for people then and now. I have had people come to me who do not live in Galt telling me how lucky I am to be part of a community that takes such pride; and a community that comes together in patriotic spirit. Yes I am lucky. "Small town USA "is not so bad. We have so many organizations made up of people who really care about each other and the quality of life in our town. The Galt Area Historical Society is one of those organizations. There will never be a day when we have nothing to do. Happy Summer to everyone.

~ 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

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 consequence. 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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

Independence Day Celebration Parade 2018



Calendar

NO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN JULY

July 21 - 8 a.m.
Workday at McFarland Ranch

July 21 - 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Open House at the Rae

July 13 - 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Friday Night at the Rae Museum

July 28 - 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sip 'n Snack at McFarland Ranch

August 5 - 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Ice Cream Social at Rae House

August 11 - 8 a.m.
Workday at the Rae House Garden

September 1- 8 a.m.
Workday at Liberty Cemetery

September 2 - 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Open House at the Rae Museum

September 15 - 8 a.m.
Workday at McFarland Ranch

September 22
Car Show at McFarland Ranch

September 24 - 7 p.m.
General Meeting at the Hall

October 13 - 9 a.m.
Workday at Liberty Cemetery

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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Who Was Larrupin Jack?

One day while scanning through old copies of the Galt Gazette on microfilm, I kept coming across a name I've never heard before: John "Larrupin Jack" Taylor. Now mind you, across the Old West, there were "characters" who stood out because of their exploits and their names, like Arkansas Tom Jones, One-eyed Charley Parkhurst, and Curly Bill Brocius. None of their names would appear in the society pages or be renown for a significant discovery, but all were famous for getting their names in the local paper for committing deeds unbecoming a citizen of their town. In Galt, it was John "Larrupin Jack" Taylor.

Before we go any further, let's cover a couple of definitions. A character is an odd, eccentric, or unusual person. After reading of his exploits, Jack was unusual. The definition of "larrupin" is an "old-fashioned asswhuppin." Did he get one or did he deliver one?

We can find only one John Taylor in available records (1880 Census), and that was a single farmer in his thirties who was born in Michigan. Who named him "Larrupin Jack" is open to debate, but it was probably his fighting that earned him the moniker, and he must have gotten into some good brawls that would make Jack Johnson proud. The fact that he was single is unsurprising. According to the paper, local law enforcement arrested Jack for "rolling a drunk" in Elk Grove and then two weeks later doing it again in Lodi. The man

got around! Something caught my eye as I was reading further. He was arrested for arson in the burning of the Arcade Saloon and then a year later for burning the McKinstry and Angrave barn. Jack went through three trials but walked away free on the Arcade Saloon charges. There was no word on the McKinstry and Angrave barn.

I couldn't find anything more on John "Larrupin Jack" Taylor. Maybe he moved away, or it could be he was arrested in another town and never made it back to Galt. His exploits only lasted a couple of years, but he is now famous for being a local "character" of Galt's early years

Save THE Date

Mark your calendars for Friday, July 13th for "Friday Night at the Rae" from 6-9:30 pm. Julie has a family friendly evening of music and food for purchase planned for the Galt Community. It is the hope that we can encourage many local residents as well as members to come and join in. It is a great opportunity for the neighbors to come and see what the Rae Museum is about. Plans are being made and more will be out in our next newsletter and in the Galt Herald.

Gossip from the Galt Gazette July 1892

Mrs. A.M. Valensin is Postmistress of the new Arno Post Office. Her son, Pio Valensin, is Deputy Postmaster.



George Orr of Canada has been granted citizenship.



Galt had an open-air gymnastics performance. Hat was passed. Take, like the performance, was very light.



Wesley Long and Julia Smith married last Monday.

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(Children under 12 free)

Rae House Facebook Page

In June, the Rae House Museum began its own Facebook page and Instagram account. The goal is to bring exposure to the upcoming activities at the Rae. While our page "likes" are not yet approaching those of the GAHS page, we have hopes of reaching new audiences and finding new fans in the surrounding communities.

July promises to be an exciting month for the Rae House. Our first "Night of the Rae" event will be held on Friday, July 13th. The event will include: live music, food, ice cream, activities for kids, and tours through the Rae House. As this is an inaugural event, we hope to see you all there. If you are unable to attend, please help us spread the word to family and friends.

We are currently working on reorganization of the museum. We hope to have some of the exhibits rearranged by the event on the 13th.

A reminder that the Rae House property is available to rent for parties and special events. Please contact Ida Denier for rental rates. We are looking for some assistance in getting our Organ in working condition. If you know of anyone with skills in that area, please contact Janis.

Next month we will be giving you a first glimpse of upcoming events at the Rae House. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please contact us via our Facebook page.

Herald Community Club

The Herald Community Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the Herald community through projects and community events, assisting youth and other local non-profit organizations while encouraging community pride and involvement.

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Hendrickson Hall, 12746 Ivie Road, Herald. Membership and Junior Membership (ages 14-18) is open to all residents of Herald, Wilton, Galt, Acampo, and Thornton for an annual fee of \$5 per member.

Herald Day is one of the major events sponsored by the Herald Community Club each year. This year's event will be held on Saturday, August 4th. A "Kick-Off Dinner and Dance" will be held on Friday, August 3rd beginning with drinks at 6:00 p.m. and dinner served at 7:00 p.m.

Events for Saturday begin at 8:00 a.m. with Mud Volleyball Sign Ups, a Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast in the Park, Parade

Registration, and Craft Booths. The Parade begins at 9:00 a.m. with awards being presented at 10:30 a.m. Registration for the Horseshoe Tournament begins at 10:00 a.m. as well as the Mud Volleyball Games. There will be a Live Auction at 11:00 a.m., Canning, Baking, and Produce Judging at 12:30 p.m. and "Music in the Park" from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

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.

Rae House Facebook Page

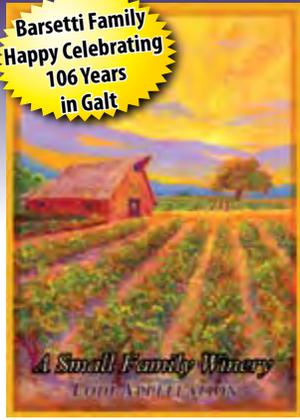
With the addition of the Rae House page we now have three Facebook pages. Just go to the search bar at the top of the page and type in Galt Area Historical Society, Snapshots of Galt History, or Rae House Museum. Stay in touch and enjoy your Galt Area Historical Society. Be sure to "Like" and "Follow"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



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Bits & Pieces

1. Bobbie Koger would like to thank everyone who donated baskets for our raffles at Sip & Snack at the MAC.

2. MAC Restrooms were inspected by Sacramento County and we have some items that need correction. Hopefully, they will all be resolved timely and the new restrooms and the brides' room can be used in the very near future.

3. The new compliant fire extinguishers have arrived and are at the McFarland Living History Ranch. Some will be mounted in the house along with reflective Exit signs. The rest of the extinguishers will be mounted in various outside buildings. If you see anything that appears unsafe or needs attention, please let one of the Board members know. Just because we are volunteers does not mean we do not follow guidelines of safe practices for all volunteers and renters.

4. We have selected J & J Painting to paint the McFarland House. The repairs to the house from woodpecker damage will be done at the same time. This project should take place in late August.

5. Thanks to Earl and Pat Frey and Shawn and Heather Farmer for securing the McFarland Ranch by staying at the MAC at night during Trevor's well deserved vacation. Not sure who really got the vacation. McFarland is a great place to be.

6. Thank you Earl Frey and Robert Scott for cleaning out the weeds and making the front entrance to the ranch look very beautiful. We appreciate your hard work in doing this job.

7. August 1, we will be hosting the Sacramento Consortium made up of Historical Societies for a meeting, tour of the McFarland House, and lunch at the McFarland Living History Ranch. We hope that after the meeting we can persuade them to travel to the Rae House Museum and take a tour too.

8. The Chamber of Commerce Lunch held recently and cooked by Ida Denier, made \$620 for use at the Rae House Museum. The group enjoyed a wonderful lunch and tours of the house.

9. Sip & Snack at the MAC participants update. Plans for our annual event are well under way and almost in final stages. The

following are the participants who have signed up to participate so far this year: Barsetti Vineyards, Cosumnes River Winery, E2 Family Winery, Fenestra Winery, Grace Vineyards, Klinker Brick Winery, LangeTwins Family Winery, McConnell Estates Winery, Michael David Winery, Watts Winery, Weibel Family Winery, Delta Sierra Beverages, River Rock Brewery, Bellindora Specialty Vinegars and Olive Oil, Roberts' Ferry Nut Co., Brewster's Bar & Grill, C St Deli, Galt Coffee Shop and Bakery, Papa Murphy's Pizza, Stratton's Pizza, Raley's, Velvet Grill & Creamery, Lockeford Meats and Sausage, Bueno Italian Café, Catering by Arturo, Streetzlan Restaurant. We also have several others who have not turned in their forms but indicated they want to come. It is shaping up to be our largest Sip & Snack. Of course the house will be open for tours, there will be hayrides around the ranch, and there will be live music by Phil & da Pinots as well as dancing. If you have not bought your tickets yet, do so soon. We have gotten quite a bit of media attention on this event. You can buy your tickets online on our website on PayPal: www.galthistory.org; or going to Barsetti Vineyards tasting room at 400 4th St Suite 150 Old Town Galt; or by calling Janis at 209 747-3861 or Ida at 209 745-1477. If you would like to volunteer to help setup on Thursday July 26 and Friday July 27, help during the event on July 28, or help tear down and put away on Sunday July 29, please contact Ida Denier.

10. Thanks to Jim Ritchie for donating various old tools and implements of his relatives, the Hickey's and Ritchie's. Many of Jim's family are buried in the Liberty Cemetery. The tools will find a home at the Rae House Museum. We are so glad to be able to preserve some of the Ritchie/Hickey family.

11. Tuesday August 7 is National Night Out. We need volunteers to man the tables. We need two people for Meadowview and two at the Community Park. It is our opportunity to show what the Galt Area Historical Society is about and all we do for the area. It is a great chance to sign up new members. Please let Janis or Ida know if you are able to help.

12. Ida Denier and Janis Barsetti Gray were present at the dedication of the Veterans Rose Garden in Thornton, along with several other members. It was a wonderful dedication to the Veterans of Thornton and the area. The rose gardens are very beautiful and took much volunteer hours and support of the Thornton community. Congratulations, Thornton.



AUGUST 11-12, 2018

5am - Noon

McFarland Living History Ranch

Balloons Launch at Sunrise
Tethered Rides Available

Admission \$5 Per Person

Children 5 and under free

Tickets at the gate: \$10 Per Person

Parking is by permit only.

A limited number of VIP parking passes will be available and must be purchased in advance.

Parking passes are \$10 per vehicle.

Parking passes will NOT be sold at the event.

Satellite parking with shuttle buses is available at the

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The Balloon Festival is a Weather Permitting Event
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GaltBalloonFestival.com

Galt Balloon Festival



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Herald Day 2018 Honorees

Ron and Judy Jacobson

Congratulations to Ron and Judy Jacobson who have been chosen as this year's Herald Day Honorees.

Judy's great-great grandparents were one of the first pioneer families to settle in the Herald area. They still own some of the family property including the Herald Store Building.

The Herald Store and the connecting house were built by Judy's great grandfather, Lack Quiggle, in 1920.

Ron's family moved to Clay Station in 1945 and he attended Herald Grammar School for a short time before moving to Galt.

Ron and Judy met at Galt High and were married on May 24, 1957.

Ron and Judy have been active members of the Galt Area Historical Society for over 29 years. Ron was the director of the McFarland Ranch

and was responsible for renovating the house and exterior buildings. Judy managed the decorating and furnishing of the interior of the ranch house.

