



June 2019

Liberty School House Donation

I have spoken with the City Planning Department regarding the move of the Liberty School House from Fourth Street to the Rae Museum. They have been very helpful and supportive, and they want this piece of our history to live on at the museum. They are working on the best route with the mover to get it to Oak Street. Hopefully, by the end of the month, it will be resting at its new home. However, we need some real help to take off the additions toward the north and east of the house that are not original, before the house moves. If any of you want to help with this part of the project and the cleanup or if you know a contractor who may donate some time to this historic site, please contact me. The picture of the schoolhouse shows on the left side of the addition that has to be removed going back 25 feet to the back side. The back side is about 19 feet that has to be removed also.



From the Archives High Above the Plant

This daring gentleman seems to be putting the finishing touches on two of the three smokestacks at the Sego Milk Plant probably around its opening in 1916. The smokestacks were for the boilers that processed the evaporated milk and other products that were shipped nationwide and for the war effort during World War II. At the bottom of the photo are the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks and on the other side is the Peerless Mill that sold livestock feed. On the wall of the "Mill" are advertisements for Bull Durham Tobacco and the Whitaker and Ray Store on Fourth Street. Judging by the condition of the smokestacks, painting was one of the final steps to completion. The plant closed in 1961 and was then consumed by fire in 1993. The photographer was probably standing on the water tower to the west which is the only thing left standing.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A big Thank You! to those who have renewed their current year membership: Jeff Jennings, Darlene Aguilar and Ray Scherer, Bobbi Lewis, David Hamilton, Norene Luis, George Need Jr., Alda Paine and Delores Gregorio. We would like to welcome our new members to the Historical Society that joined recently. Greg Marglin and Richard & Pam Lozano. We look forward to meeting you in person!

There are still many who have not renewed. Remember once several months have passed without payment, names will be dropped from our membership roster and you will no longer receive our newsletter. The month to remove names will be in June so please be kind and send in your renewal through our website or by mail ASAP. Individual dues are \$20, Family \$40, Business \$50, Student \$10, Individual Lifetime \$200 and Family Lifetime \$250. Dues are Tax Deductible!

Contact Rhonda Smith with any concerns about membership. rhonda@galtsmiths.com.



2019 Historical Society Executive Board

Janis Barsetti Gray ~ President
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Dan Tarnasky ~ Historian
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We are midway into 2019 and still have some very exciting events coming up in Galt that our organization is involved with. We start with our annual Wine, Beer and Food Event July 27th, Sip & Snack at the MAC, our Evening In Italy dinner August 3, Ice Cream Social at the Rae August 4, The Galt Chamber of Commerce's Hot Air Balloons at the MAC August 10 and 11, the visit from the Lincoln Highway Association Sept 13, the 150th Celebration of Galt's township, our annual car show September 28th, the Old Gas Engine show at the McFarland Oct 3,4,5, and finally Christmas open House at both the Rae Museum and the McFarland House December 8 and 15. "Grass does not grow under feet." We move from one project to another and from one event to another. As always, our purpose is to raise funds which will allow us to continue to maintain and preserve the history and sites in our area.

This year of 2019 is exciting, not only to our organization but to our entire town. Those of us who have lived here our entire lives, those whose family came later but have lived here for many years, those who have not been here that long, and those who have left but still have your roots in Galt, you should all be proud of living in a small town that has reach 150 years of existence. I am also very proud to serve on the 150th committee with some wonderful community organizations, such as the Galt Chamber of Commerce, businesses, some of our members, and members of our town. This committee is working very diligently to make this the best celebration our town as ever seen by bringing our town

back to the last 1800's in Old Town. Each person on the committee has a contribution to make or information to share. Our town will have two days of history starting on September 13th with the Lincoln Highway stop in Galt celebrating the 100th anniversary of Eisenhower's trip from the east coast to the west in a military convoy; and the next day, our town's celebration of 150 years.

To those who give up your time to volunteer, you are greatly appreciated. We could not succeed without your help. Many are not able to physically help, but your support means everything.

Without exception, times have changed; Galt has changed. But we are here to make sure that history does not get changed and it is saved. The thing about history is that it is never-ending. Yesterday is history, as they say. When we celebrate our 150th, it will be history the next day. Someday someone will write a book similar to our Historian, Dan Tarnasky, and there will be pictures and stories about Galt's 150th Celebration. Let's make that day count.

~ Janis Barsetti Gray

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Policy and Procedure Review

Contracts

I. Purpose:

In order to be clear about the intent of both the GAHS and other parties with whom the Society enters into relationships, written contracts are frequently necessary. Well-executed written contracts clarify and define the agreement between the parties and protect against unnecessary risks to the Society's resources and reputation. This policy provides guidance for the development and use of written contracts. It was taken mostly from GAHS Resolution 2010-1 dated April 8, 2010.

II. Policy:

1. All contracts, work agreements, repair agreements, or any other type service agreement, and/or any project commitment for the Society, regardless of cost involved, must be presented to the Executive Officers for approval prior to any project or service(s) being implemented. The Society President must sign any and all such agreements after approval of the officers.
2. All such agreements shall be outlined in detail for services to be provided with separate listing of labor and materials.
3. As required by Internal Revenue Service regulations, all providers of services costing \$600 or more will be required to complete and submit Form W-9, Request for Taxpayer identification and Certification, prior to payment. No payment will be processed without this form.
4. All contracts with vendors or contractors that are hired to perform services must have a term requiring proof of Workers 'Compensation and General Liability Insurance. In addition, the GAHS should be named as an "additional insured" on the vendor or contractor's General Liability policy to protect the Society in the event the Society is named in a suit arising from the other party's negligence.
5. All contracts with vendors or contractors that are hired to perform services must have a term requiring proof of a Contractor's License.

Calendar

June 13 | 2pm
Executive Board Meeting
500 C Street

June 11 | 6pm
General Membership Meeting
Rae House Museum

July 7 | 1pm - 4pm
Rae House Museum Open House

Dates and Times are Subject to Change

Gossip from the Galt Gazette

June 1887

George Orr commencing to head his
barley this week.

★

Count Valensin has a number of
fine-looking thoroughbred colts.

★

Lack Quiggle and Dan McKenzie
have purchased a combine harvester.

Were hauling it home when it
overturned in front of
Whitaker and Ray.

Cost \$25 to \$30 to repair.

★

Mrs. SD Johnson of Hicksville brought
suit for divorce against her husband,
failure to provide, desertion, etc.
Her husband Dick will not contest it.

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Galt 150 Gear

For those of you who live "out of town", Sesquicentennial Memorabilia can now be ordered and shipped to you. To see a list of items available click on the website: Galt150.com and then click on Galt 150 Gear. There are still a few Challenge Coins available as well as tshirts, hats, garden flags, hot/cold drink cups, and enamel lapel pins. Proceeds from the sale of Sesquicentennial items will fund the community celebration on September 14, 2019 in Old Town Galt.

Louise's Walk Down Memory Lane

There are subjects people of Galt have no idea they existed and I seriously doubt no one besides myself knows these. On the corner of 5th and B streets was a livery stable. One could rest horses and carriages. It was a two story building. Since I do not know if there are any descendants still alive I will not mention names. The owner of the building was married to a very respectable lady school teacher. This building housed all the needs of a livery stable on the first level. On the 2nd level was a very active brothel. The owner was said to be its' best customer. Divorces were very rare. He wasn't very secretive. Brothels were common. Even in the 1930's ladies wouldn't walk down J street in Sacramento below 6th street. The "ladies" dressed well and walked down the streets to work. They didn't mingle with respectable society though. World War II seemed to put a stop to them. History has many subjects. There are many and not all are pleasant to remember.

School Bus Days 1932-1937

These were fun when Mr. Altnow drove. His route covered Schimmern Road east and south - when 99 highway was built the SCH - was dropped and Simmerhorn was the name they used. A sign was put up at the corner of 4th & C pointing towards Highway 99 SACTO. Boessow Road was Basso. People let the highway know about names and errors in spelling, but Simmerhorn was not corrected.

ADA Parking Project Completed



The new ADA parking pad has been completed at McFarland Living History Ranch.

Galt's Connection to Las Vegas



Do you know how conversations can evolve from one subject to another, and you look back on it and laugh at how you got there? That happens to me while researching different topics that I find interesting. While doing some filing in the Archives, I came across an 1882 newspaper clipping stating that the Galt Odd Fellows would be observing the 63rd anniversary of Odd Fellowship in America by having a picnic at Wiser Grove. Wiser Grove? I've never heard of it. We know that early Galt citizens picnicked at Harvey Grove a mile west of Galt and later White Bridges out on Twin Cities Road, but Wiser Grove was a new one. My curiosity got the best of me so naturally, I had to investigate.

After a little digging, the name Hiram Wiser popped up. He and his wife Delia had a brood of five children, Helen, Rachel, Asenath, Henry, and Flora. In the 1880s, the Wisers owned a ranch outside of Galt but lived in a two-story house in town (as a side note, the lumber for the house came "around the Horn"). Hiram was a member of the Odd Fellows which makes sense and Delia was on the Board of Directors of the Galt Water Company. What caught my eye was the Wiser's oldest daughter Helen. She is considered the "First Lady of Las Vegas, Nevada."

Helen married Stocktonian Archibald Stewart, and they moved to the Las Vegas Valley in Nevada.

Stewart had loaned someone money and acquired property through default on the loan. After Archibald Stewart's murder (that story is quite lengthy), Helen's father Hiram Wiser took over operation of the ranch while Helen went back to Galt to give birth to her last child. Helen and her father then switched places where Helen added to her holdings and eventually became the largest landowner in Lincoln County, Nevada (where Las Vegas now stands). Add first Las Vegas Postmaster to her resume, and you have one of Nevada's early pioneers. What about Wiser Grove? We're still trying to figure out where it was located.

Historian

Galt Pioneer Cemetery Tour



As most of you know, Galt is celebrating its Sesquicentennial (150th birthday) this year. The big bash is scheduled for September 14 and will be quite the party. I've been tasked with writing a cemetery tour of pioneer gravesites at the Galt Cemetery a whether you have a docent or use a self-guided tour, you'll have the opportunity to learn about Galt's early days differently. Sounds interesting, right? There's only one requirement with a Galt Cemetery Tour, the people listed must be buried in the Galt Cemetery! A few of them are not.

One would think that the person who had the idea and did most of the work to bring Galt into existence would find a place in the Galt Cemetery, but Dr. Obed Harvey has his burial site in the Sacramento City Cemetery. The first person to build a wood frame building in Dry Creek Township (before Galt's founding) was Dr. William McIntyre. His wife is buried in Galt, but he is buried in Ogden, Utah (there's another story here). John Brewster owned the Brewster

Building on 4th Street and built a house behind it on 5th Street, but we find him in the Liberty Cemetery. Who will be on the Galt Cemetery Tour of Early Pioneers?

Those selected will include John McCauley, one of the early large landowners in the Chabolla Land Grant and John McFarland, a wheat farmer, builder, and the man who named the town. Andrew Whitaker and Don Ray were early developers and merchants as were George May and Thomas Swift Ferguson. Immigrants and farmers Charles Ambrogio and Amadeo Lippi will be on the list as well as George Need and Samuel Wriston. Did I mention night watchman and former US Marshall Bee Mellon? We have quite a menu.

Historian

Bits & Pieces

Master Gardener Steve

Master Gardener Steve. We want to welcome our new member, Steve Matz. Steve is a Master Gardener who has been a big part of the Galt Community Garden on 3rd St. Steve is helping us get the roses at the Rae back in shape. They desperately are in need of loving care. If any of you would be interested in helping Steve or you would like to learn a little more about gardening and roses, let him know. You can email Steve at: qbeam@yahoo.com

Liberty Cemetery

As much as we try to keep the weeds under control and the burial sites cleaned up, we have people who continue to dump garbage outside the gates at the Liberty Cemetery (sometimes they throw bags inside too). Thanks to member, Eric Schneider, who takes care of the Elliott Cemetery, he picks up garbage when he can. Recently, a truck load of used asphalt was dumped outside the gate. The Clampers are planning on putting a mock camera and signage, but we are not sure this would help. If anyone has any ideas how we can put a stop to this, please contact me. I am going to see if San Joaquin Public Works has some sign about dumping that has an ordinance stating fines for dumping.

Rae Repairs

With the long rain season, many contractors got behind. That is the case for the repairs at the Rae. However, I was contacted by the contractor who bid the job, he will start this Monday, June 10th on the repairs. More needs to be done, but we only have so much funds available.

Tea at the Rae

Thanks to Joan Werblun and Vickie Larson and their helpers. The Ladies' Tea was a wonderful afternoon in the shade of the backyard at the Rae Museum, sipping tea and punch, eating scrumptious bites, listening to relaxing live music, an enjoyable fashion show of vintage dresses, and just enjoying friends.

Galt Community Benefit Grant

The Galt City Council awarded the Galt Area Historical Society \$4K of the \$10K grant. Two other nonprofits received the remainder. We asked for these funds to help us with the renovation of the Liberty School House.

Volunteers for Sip & Snack

We are beginning to signup volunteers to help set up on Thursday July 25 and tear down on Sunday July 28. Also we need volunteers to work the gate taking tickets and money, passing out glasses and plates, delivering ice to the tables, manning the vendor check-in table, docents, work at the GAHS table selling our items, and working at a food table passing out food from restaurants who send us food but cannot supply employees. The shifts are one hour each. Please contact me as soon as possible so you get the shift you want.

June Member Meeting and Dinner

Our last general meeting of the summer until September will be Monday, June 24 at the Rae Museum starting at 6 pm. The Board will provide the hot dogs, buns and condiments. We ask that those attending bring a favorite dish or dessert to share.

Independence Day Parade

The GAHS will have an entry in the parade again this year. Member, Harry Souder, has agreed to use his tractor to pull our trailer. We are looking for help decorating and riding on the trailer. Since this is Galt's 150th, we really need to decorate it up. Please contact me if you are interested in helping.

Donations

We have received 4 desks for the Liberty School House, a pot belly stove, a teacher's chair. We still need more desks from the 1800's era, a teacher's desk, old style chalkboard. Thanks to Donna Farren, LaVonne Riddlespurger, Ray and Darlene for the desks.

ADA Parking

The ADA parking has been completed at the McFarland. We are ready for our final inspection of the restrooms.

Goodbye, Terry

We are very sad to see our member and friend, Terry Albritton leaving Galt. She will be moving to San Diego to be near her family. Terry always volunteered when you needed her. She is a great historian of Galt and author. Her father had been a Galt High Principal in the 1930s-40's and her mother was a teacher there at about the same time. She has generously donated some of her writings and research notes to our archives; and will be donating some furniture that can be used in the Liberty School House. Terry, you will be missed by all you touched. Best of luck to you and your family. Please write when you can. Maybe we can get a guest column from you from time to time for the newsletter.

New Signs at Rae

Some new road signs showing when the Rae Museum is open have been donated. There is an A Frame sign for the front of the house and some lawn signs that go out in various places in town.





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