



TOWER VIEWS

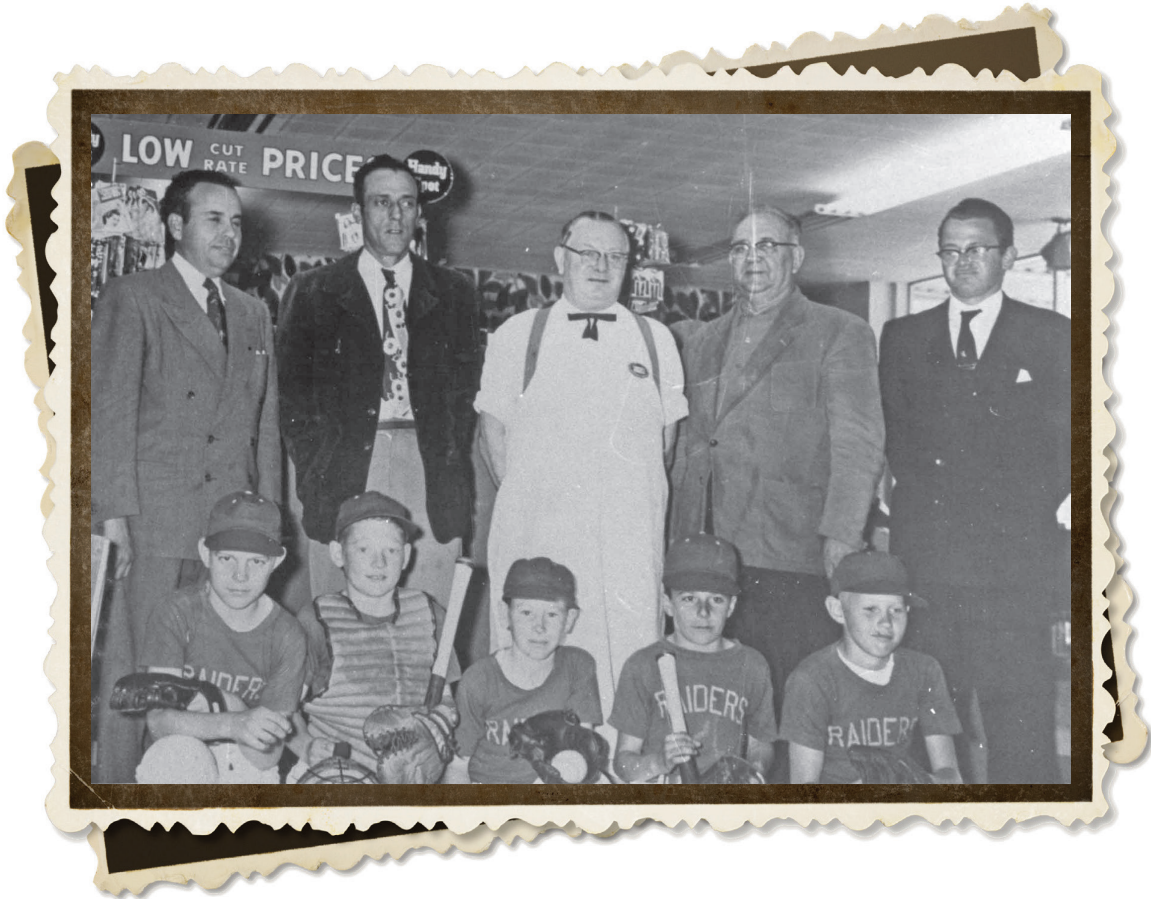
Galt Area Historical Society, Inc.

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December 2023

From the Archives

Early Little League Baseball in Galt



Little League Baseball started in Williamsport, Pennsylvania in 1939. By the time it came to Galt in 1954, there weren't quite enough players to have an inter-city league, so a team was formed to compete against other small communities in the area. Local merchants joined together to sponsor 10, 11, and 12-year-old boys to compete against the towns of Courtland, Walnut Grove, Isleton, Rio Vista, and Thornton and was called the River Little

League. The adult sponsors in the photograph are from left to right, Ed Ambrogio of Ambrogio Electric, Al Fernandez of A and B Cleaners, Mike Chulich of Steiner's Market, Ed Hall of Galt Motors, and team manager Bill Pedley. Representing the players are, bottom row left to right, Gary Williamson, Myron Wolff, James Long, Jessie Jaynes, and Ronald Williamson. According to articles in the Galt Herald, the Galt "Raiders" did quite well.

December 2023
Newsletter

GAHS Membership

Please contact us for any address, phone or email changes.

Contact

Liz Haglund

with any questions about membership.

aguire@hotmail.com

or (209) 327-1098

If you have received your annual dues invoice please remit payment. If not, let Liz know. She will gladly get you an invoice.

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2023 Historical Society Executive Board

Janis Barsetti Gray ~ President

Lyle Lagge ~ 1st Vice President

Gale Webber ~ 2nd Vice President

Liz Haglund ~ Recording Secretary

Tom Haglund ~ Treasurer

A Message From The

President

Dear GAHS Members,

It is almost impossible to think that 2023 is coming to an end. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. We now look forward to our Christmas season and a new year ahead.

I thought I would highlight a few things that our organization has done in 2023. Once the fierce January and February weather quieted down, we were able to size up any damage we experienced. Thankfully that damage was minimal with some downed trees at the Liberty Cemetery and just some cleanup at all properties we maintain. In April, we went on to have a very successful Kite Day/Eggstravaganza at the McFarland Ranch. We saw approximately 2000 children and adults enjoying the day. I am sure everyone was glad they could get out from the rain, wind and flooding.

We had a very successful year of weddings and events held at the McFarland Ranch. People attending an event at the Ranch is great advertising. People are discovering this hidden beauty. This year we saw the bunkhouse being upgraded and decorated for Pioneer Days and also a building that can sub as a groom's room for a wedding day.

Throughout the ranch we conducted roof replacements and electrical upgrades. Part of our long-term responsibility is to keep the McFarland in excellent, safe condition. All this effort is expensive and requires that we find ways to raise money. Whether funds come from rentals, events or donations, it all helps us with required maintenance projects. In May we had another successful Tea at the Rae. This annually sponsored event is a delightful day, seeing more people attend each year.

This past July we were fortunate to be awarded a fireworks booth again. The funds we made from fireworks sales helped us continue with our daily operational expenses. We are so thankful for all those who volunteered to work in the booth. Volunteers are the key to our success.

Our restoration of the Liberty Schoolhouse saw some delays, but we are on track to complete the project next year. The Rae House Museum and garage painting in November should be complete. In August we had another very successful car show, seeing about 100 cars on the ground at the McFarland Ranch. Each year we see more cars. Those who attend tell other car friends. They all enjoy the day in this beautiful setting.

Along with Lyle Lagge's crew working at McFarland Ranch on Mondays and Wednesday to keep the ranch looking good, are the self-proclaimed "MAC" girls that keep the house, bunkhouse, brides' room and the garden area looking great. They also handle the tours of the house keeping in period when John McFarland lived there.

Dan Tarnasky, our Historian and Curator of the Rae Museum has finished his upgrades of all displays at the Rae. But he continues to receive more items and information for our archives and for display.

Once 2024 arrives most of the above will be repeated again. Maintenance and preservation are a continual process. We are thankful for all our volunteers who give their time to help. We could not do all we do without you. As we move into the new year, we should all take pride in our accomplishments as an organization. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a bright and successful New Year.

- Janis Barsetti-Gray

Upcoming Dates

December 3:
Christmas Open House at the Rae Museum & McFarland House (refreshments & Santa Claus)
1:00pm to 4:00pm

December 3 & 4:
McFarland House Christmas Lights (refreshments)
6:00pm to 9:00pm

December 11:
Executive Board Meeting (possibly Zoom)
3:00pm

December 18:
General Members Meeting & Christmas Gathering at the Galt Police Department Community Room
6:00pm

January & February, 2024
No Open Houses Until March

January & February, 2024
No General Meetings Until March

January 8:
Executive Board Meeting (Zoom)
3:00pm

Trip Through the Cemetery

Last month's gravestone inscription was "Gardner Randolph".

John Gardner Randolph was born in Randolph County, North Carolina in 1796. This isn't the oldest gravesite, but he is the oldest resident. To put that into perspective, Randolph was born during George Washington's administration

and was eight years old when Lewis and Clark started their exploration of the Louisiana Purchase. What was his claim to fame in Galt area history? He was a veteran of the War of 1812. Gardner Randolph served under Captain John Jones in the 39th Regiment Army of the United States. He didn't see action against the British. Still, the Regiment fought with Andrew Jackson in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend against the Creek Tribe of Native Americans (the Native Americans were aligned with the British). After the war, Randolph married Elizabeth Stringfield in Morgan, Alabama in 1818 and moved to Illinois where they had 14 children. After moving to Riley, Kansas, for a few years and a stint as postmaster, the Randolph family moved to Hicksville, California, in 1865. John Gardner Randolph passed away the following year. One of the Randolph children, Matilda, was the subject of Jacquelyn Hanson's book *Matilda's Story: A Biographical Novel*.



for next month's newsletter...
"Who was Jennie Wriston"



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Bits & Pieces

In Memory of Maria Spannuth

One of our dear members and friend, Maria Cabral Spannuth passed away on November 7, 2023. Maria was a kind and caring person that put her family and friends first always showing her commitment to others in how she treated people. Maria couldn't help but share her infectious smile and laugh. Maria volunteered regularly and previously served as the Society's Historian; Policy and Procedure Chairperson; and Raffle Chairperson. She worked so hard to make sure each raffle event was more successful than the last. Maria never complained or said an unkind word about anyone. Maria will be missed. Maria has two sons, Benjamin and Thomas, who were her world. The Society sends sincere condolences to Maria's entire family. Maria's family indicated that any donations can be made to St. Christopher's Catholic Church, PO Box 276, Galt, CA 95632.

Membership Drive

All members can now begin renewing their 2024 memberships prior to receiving an invoice. You also can gift a membership to family and friends. Doing so is a nice holiday gift. Also, if you are aware of a particular business in town that you personally know please invite them to join as a business member. The Society's annual business rate is \$75. Membership applications can be found at www.galthistory.com.

Christmas Open Houses

On Sunday, December 3, both the Rae House Museum and the McFarland Ranch House will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The McFarland Ranch House will then reopen that same day

from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. completely emblazoned with festive holiday lights inside and out. On Monday, December 4, the McFarland Ranch House will be on holiday display again from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Society volunteers have spent many hours getting both houses ready for the season, so be sure to invite family and friends to come visit the Ranch for a fun holiday season experience.

Volunteers of the Year

At our Charter Night dinner and elections, we celebrated our Volunteers of the Year: Bernice Lee and Samie Watson (pictured below). Thank you so much for all you do for the Galt Area Historical Society, especially at the McFarland Living History Ranch. You are greatly appreciated.



Donations

One of our members brought to our attention that if you are 70-½ years of age you can make donations to the Galt Area Historical Society directly from your IRA using the process called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). The QCD will count toward your required minimum distribution,

if applicable. To do so you can contact your IRA administrator and ask to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution by providing the GAHS address (PO Box 782; Galt, CA 95632) and our nonprofit tax ID number (68-0122155). This is an easy way to support the GAHS.

Newsletters in 2024

As was highlighted in last month's newsletter we are seeking to collect member emails as we consider the ways to communicate with the membership. As previously noted the Board will be considering various ways to produce and distribute a GAHS newsletter, including continuing the current paper printed and mailed format. Your ideas are welcome, please share them. In the meantime, we would like to gather emails as an added opportunity to communicate important information with members. Please email your ideas and email address to the Society at GAHS@galthistory.com.

Update on Halloween Night

Lisa Haug and Darlene Alden decorated the Rae House fence and yard for Halloween. With their husbands, Mike Haug and Rex Alden they then greeted over 100 children with treats.



At the Elliott Cemetery, Eric Schneider took care of security and the Clampers watched over the Liberty Cemetery. Eric reports no security issues. Thanks to all of you for keeping our properties safe.

Bits & Pieces

Maintenance and Upgrades

Work has begun on the Liberty School House and will continue weather permitting. Inside work can be done even during rainy weather. The Rae House Museum and garage will have been painted in November, weather permitting, along with needed glazing around the windows. Maintenance work to repair dry rot on the caretakers house at McFarland has been completed followed by new paint, weather permitting. Outside security lighting at the Rae will be completed before the end of the year. Next year, one large expense will be to reroof the McFarland Ranch House.

Rae House and McFarland

Maintenance Closures

There will be no open houses in the months of January and February at the Rae House Museum and McFarland Ranch. We will resume our regular open houses in March. We use these closures to perform deep cleaning and maintenance. If anyone wants to help, contact Janis Barsetti-Gray (209-747-3861).

Pioneer Days

Bill Beckett will be taking over for John Durand upon John's retirement. Bill has been securing more schools for our Pioneer Days and has plans to increase the schools and get us back to over 2,000 children visiting the ranch. Anyone who wants to volunteer to help on Pioneer Days, please contact Janis Barsetti-Gray at 209-747-3861. GAHS volunteers assist in preparing the learning stations and opening the house for tours. GAHS volunteers serve in a supporting role with no actual responsibilities to teach or oversee the schoolchildren. Teachers and

parents perform the instruction and run the programs. The Society trains GAHS volunteers, so we know what is expected of us.



This is a picture of the wagon that Lyle and his crew rebuilt and painted. The wagon is used for hay rides for the children during Pioneer Days. Thanks to Lyle and crew for all the work they do at the McFarland Ranch.

Christmas Meeting and Bingo

Our Christmas General meeting will be held Monday, December 18th at 6:00 p.m. at the Galt Police Department Community Room. This will be a potluck, so please bring an appetizer or dessert; and a wrapped gift for a bingo prize if you are going to participate. The 2024 Board will also be sworn in at this meeting.

General Meetings

The Society will be on winter break during January and February and therefore we will not have General Members Meetings in those months. General membership meetings will resume in March. The March meeting will be held at McFarland Ranch at 6:00 p.m., weather permitting.

Board Meetings

In 2024, Board meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month at 3:00pm via Zoom. Zoom is an online platform and GAHS members can participate by following the link that will be posted at www.galthistory.com 24 hours before each Board meeting.

Christmas at the Rae and McFarland

For anyone that is not able to see the Rae House and McFarland Ranch decorated for the holidays, pictures will be available in the January newsletter.

Membership Challenge

The Board of Directors would also like to challenge each member of the Society to invite a family member or friend to a meeting or an event. If everyone invited one person, we could have a very successful membership drive.



A History of the Galt Public Library

(Part 1)

The history of libraries began with the collecting of cuneiform tablets in Sumer in 2600 BC. Libraries of written books appeared in classical Greece in the 5th century BC. In the 6th century, Constantinople and Alexandria had world-renowned libraries. Galt has had a library since about 1880.

The history of Galt libraries is tied to the establishment of the Sacramento Library Association in October 1857 as a public subscription library. Some of the more prominent members were Edwin Crocker, Collis P. Huntington, and Leland Stanford. By 1879, the Library Association was facing financial difficulties. Paid members were hard to come by. The Association offered to transfer ownership to the City of Sacramento on the condition that it be made free. After a public vote, the Sacramento Free Public Library opened in June 1879 with a collection of 5,695 books.

The details are sketchy, but Galt opened a free library around 1880. After a couple of years, the library closed. In December of 1884, there was talk about opening a new library using the books from the old one. The following June, a group of ladies from the Congregational Church, calling themselves the Cheerful Workers, went about establishing a library and reading room in Galt. Several prominent Sacramento businessmen promised financial support, and the Galt Planing Mill donated wood shelving. A book drive was started to expand the collection that had been created years before. Temporarily, the library was housed in the home of Dr. Thurston Goodspeed, and his wife Annie became Galt's first librarian.

Donations of books continued to arrive over the following weeks. Sacramento Judge Beatty donated the twenty-volume Chamber's Encyclopedia of Universal Knowledge, C.S. Houghton donated ten volumes of George Eliot's complete works, and Weinstock and Lubin Department Store presented the complete works of Charles Dickens in



fifteen volumes. Meanwhile, the number of Cheerful Workers increased from fourteen to thirty-two. In 1897, the Cheerful Workers of the Congregational Church turned the book collection over to another group, the Free Silver Patriots Political Club of Galt. Where they kept the book collection is unknown, and once again, the library closed.

In 1906, another movement began to reestablish a library in Galt. The Sawyer Brothers offered a room in their mercantile housed in the Oddfellows Building (Brewster Building) with Walter B. Sawyer as librarian. In May 1907, the California State Library Association sent a representative to Galt to establish a library association. The Goodfellowship Club (later the Galt Free Library Club) was established.

In 1908, Sacramento Free Public Library Director Lauren W. Ripley agreed with the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors to become the first city library in California to extend free service to county residents. The library

established the first county library in Elk Grove on October 19, 1908, and by early 1909, it had libraries in Courtland, Fair Oaks, Folsom, Oak Park, Sutterville, and Galt. This meant more reading material was available as the Central Sacramento Library replenished the selections regularly. With this new designation, the Galt Library was moved to the Galt Christian Church on the corner of 7th and B Streets.

In November 1909, the Galt Library and the Library Club were moved to the Sparks Building on C Street, opposite the Botzbach Hotel. In January 1910, Sacramento County took over the operation of the Galt Library. The library hours were 7 to 9 pm every night except Sunday (later, they added 2 hours four afternoons a week). The Galt Free Library Club continued to operate as a nonprofit dedicated to raising funds for the library. By 1913, there were 500 books and 100 periodicals on the shelves.

To be continued...

- Historian

2024 Budget Report

At its December Board meeting the board of directors (“Board”) will consider adopting a budget for 2024. The proposed budget primarily focuses on preservation and operation of the Rae House Museum and McFarland Living History Ranch. The Board is responsible to develop a budget that is sufficient to ensure the long-term preservation of GAHS properties, historic documents and artifacts. This includes developing revenue streams that generate the income necessary to meet the expenses associated with our preservation responsibilities. The budget is comprised of the following primary categories: revenues, maintenance & operations expenses; and capital expenses.

In the General Fund, revenues are anticipated to come primarily from membership dues, donations and special events. In 2022 and 2023 the Society was selected to operate a fireworks booth by the city of Galt’s lottery process for selecting a local nonprofit for the fundraising activity. Whether the Society will be selected in 2024 is uncertain at this time and therefore a fireworks fundraising project is not included in the budget. The Society will also generate interest income from a CD investment. The McFarland Ranch fund generates revenue from outdoor venue reservations, and this serves as the single largest source of revenue for McFarland Ranch. Without this revenue it would not be possible to meet McFarland’s daily operational expenses.

The 2024 budget will continue to fund the Pioneer Days program for regional schoolchildren that meets California education code requirements

for curriculum; curation projects and programs for the Rae House Museum and the historic McFarland House; daily operational and maintenance costs of both properties; two fundraising events; and continued efforts to restore the Liberty Schoolhouse.

In 2024, the Society faces an overall expense increase of approximately 12.45% across all funds due to increases in the cost of services such as newsletter printing (50%), liability insurance (17%), property insurance (38%), supplies (6%), and utilities (73%). The large increase in property insurance premiums is due in large part to a hardening property insurance market in wild land areas such as unincorporated county where McFarland Ranch is located. The increase in utility costs is due to the conclusion of a two-year donation of refuse collection services (budgeted in the utility line item). In developing a budget for the new year, the Board has worked hard to ensure that operating revenues will be sufficient to meet operating expenses. In 2024, the General fund will contribute approximately \$3,461 to its reserve fund. The McFarland Ranch Fund is anticipated to have just enough in revenue to meet operating expenses without being able to contribute to capital expenses or the McFarland Ranch reserve fund.

An important part of the Society’s work on historic property preservation includes periodic capital expenditure projects to protect the property from damage in both the short and long term. In 2024, GAHS will reroof the McFarland Home at an estimated cost of \$25,000. The Board also budgeted \$1,500 for a few smaller capital improvements. McFarland Ranch 2024 revenues will not be sufficient to meet both the cost of daily operations discussed above and these necessary capital projects. The high cost of the 2024 capital improvements means that the Society will draw down approximately 45% of its McFarland Ranch reserve funds in order to complete the projects. Such drawdowns underscore the need for the Society to budget for the long term which means in years when we do not have large capital expenditures the Society should be committed to the disciplined development of budgets that will add funding to its reserves, so monies are available in later years to complete costly, but necessary preservation projects.

The Society is always searching for grant opportunities or matching funding programs that can enhance our efforts to preserve our historic properties. If you know of something feel free to let us know at gahs@galthistory.com.

GAHS		
2024 BUDGET-IN-BRIEF		
<u>Category</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>McFarland Ranch Fund</u>
Revenue	\$33,790	\$104,185
Personnel Expense	\$-	\$28,715
M&O Expense	\$27,829	\$75,470
Capital Expense	\$2,500	\$26,500
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$30,329	\$130,685
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$3,461	\$(26,500)

2024

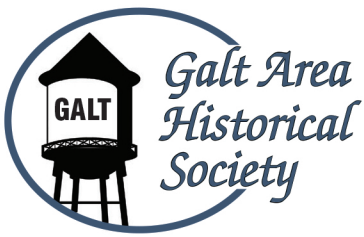
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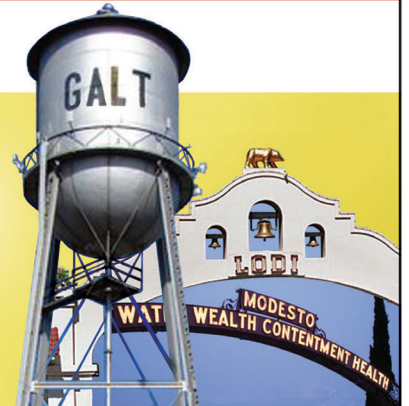


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