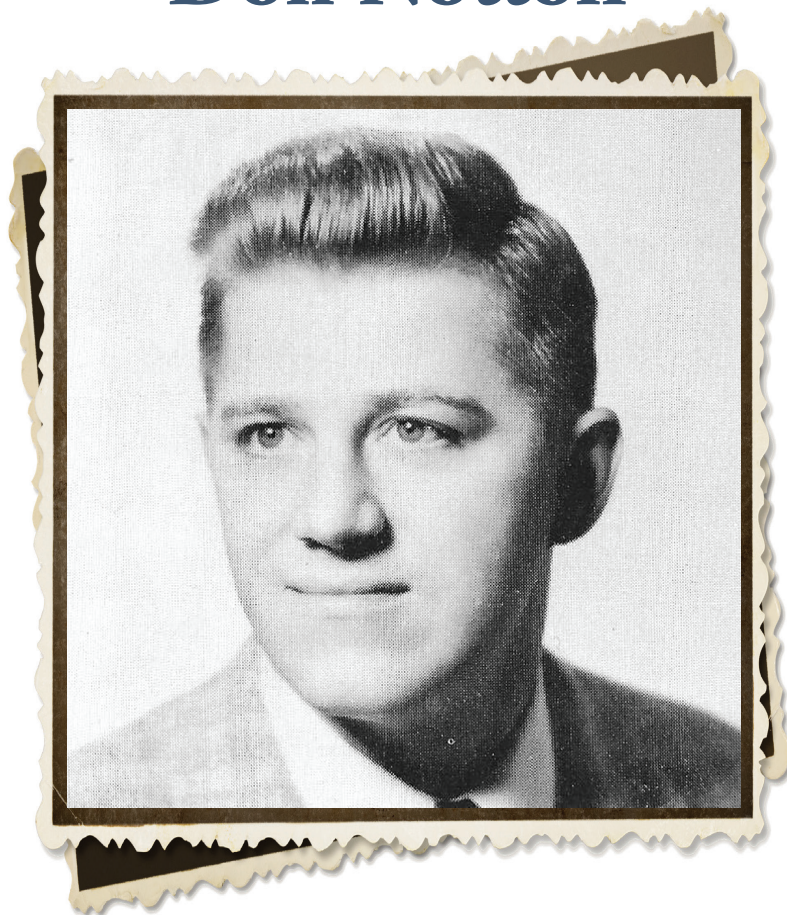


From the Archives
Don Nottoli



Donald F. Nottoli was one of the many distinguished teachers and coaches in the long history of Galt High School. Born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1927, Nottoli graduated from the College of the Pacific (University of the Pacific) in 1950 where he also played on the basketball team. He was hired by Galt High School Principal and District Superintendent Wendell Forney for the 1951-1952 school year, where he taught history and social studies and coached the junior varsity (B) basketball team. Nottoli began coaching the

varsity basketball team the following year, where he stayed for the next 39 years and over 900 games. Later he would coach the golf team after its establishment. Nottoli retired in 1991, and the high school gym was renamed the "Nottoli Dome" in 2002. Don Nottoli also served 40 years on the Galt Elementary School Board (1965-2005). His oldest son Don was a Sacramento County Supervisor. His other children, Andrea, Nick, and stepchildren Greg and Tami, live in the area.

August 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

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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

I hope you are all enjoying your summer. It is difficult to believe that just less than 8 months ago, we were experiencing strong winds, rain, flooding, and toppled trees. Let's hope we have an early Fall and ease into winter.

I know later in this newsletter, more will be written about our fireworks booth fundraiser. However, I want to personally thank everyone who volunteered their time to sell fireworks for us. We are not guaranteed that we will get to participate again next year. It depends on the city of Galt lottery process and whether no-profits ahead of us accept the opportunity to sell. Only four nonprofits are selected each year. I want to give a special thanks to Liz and Tom Haglund. I know on some days they worked 12 hour days when we were short staffed. Thanks to Chairman, Dan Tarnasky and to Gale Webber for all their help. Without everyone helping, we could not have done as well as we did. This is our largest fundraiser of the year. These funds help us with General Fund expenses throughout the year.

On a historical note, August is a very important month to our town. The first freight train to come to Galt was August 12, 1869. Galt was also established as a town this same year; and most activity began in August and after with the building of a new town and later, moving some of the buildings from the Liberty Township into Galt. We will be celebrating Galt's 154th year as a town. To think what our town looked like in 1869 to what it looks like today, is almost unbelievable. If Obed Harvey or John McFarland came back today, they would not recognize the little town they helped establish, though they could still find some familiar sights, buildings and homes. In 154 years there have been many families raised here. Some descendants of those families still live here. Farming and retail were the major occupations in

1869. Both are still important to our community today. However, the type of retail has changed. Once there may have been a general store that sold everything. Now there are various types of retail that specialize in certain categories of goods. Restaurants as we see today were nonexistent. While there may have been some crime, we experience much more today. Our sleepy little town has grown up. We hope that we still have the old town values and warm feelings for our neighbors, but we are not "Mayberry" anymore. Wouldn't it be great to go back for just a day to 1869 and see what life was like in Galt? Of course, we would miss all the amenities we are used to. Galt still has the small town feel. Perhaps because many people who live here have grown up here as have many of their family members. Perhaps people moved here to bring up their family in a small town setting. Whatever the reason, Galt is still the Great American Little Town (GALT). I like to think that the Galt Area Historical Society plays a big part in keeping our small town values through our preservation of Galt's history. It has allowed children and adults to get a glimpse of what Galt was like in yesteryear.

- Janis-Barsetti Gray

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Upcoming Dates

August 6:

Open House at the Rae
Museum & McFarland House
1:00pm to 4:00pm

August 14:

Executive Board Meeting
at Barsetti Tasting Room
4:00pm

August 26:

A Drive Down Memory Lane
Car Show at McFarland Living
History Ranch
9:00pm to 3:00pm

August 28:

General Members Meeting
at Barsetti Tasting Room
6:00pm

September 3:

Open House at the Rae
Museum & McFarland House
1:00pm to 4:00pm

September 11:

Executive Board Meeting
at Barsetti Tasting Room
4:00pm

Trip Through the Cemetery

Last month's gravestone inscription was "O W Wiles."

Oscar Watson Wiles was born in Missouri in 1871 but was raised in Des Moines, Iowa where his father, David, worked in a patent office. As a young man, Wiles made his way west, first stopping in Trinidad, Colorado, where he married May Butler in 1902. The following year, Oscar and May moved to Oakland, California, where he became a California State Board of Trade member, a precursor to the California Chamber of Commerce. As a member of the Board, Oscar made a trip to Galt in 1908 and helped establish the first Galt Chamber of Commerce. In 1910, the Wiles family moved to Galt, where Oscar became a real estate agent. He was involved in the Knights of Pythias, the Congregational Church, the Chamber of Commerce and helped establish the Galt Improvement Club. Oscar Wiles's life was cut short on a cold January afternoon in 1906. On a trip back from Lodi, the automobile he was riding in swerved to miss a horse-drawn wagon near Woodbridge and overturned, pinning Wiles underneath. He died the next day.



*for next month's
newsletter...*

*"Who was
August Wegat?"*



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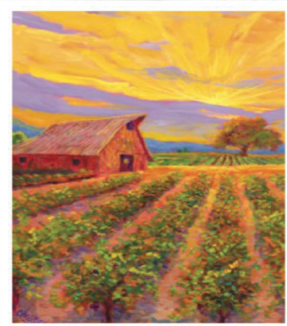
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Bits & Pieces

Future General Meetings

In the coming months we will be looking at modifications to our membership meeting format. One of the ideas we are exploring is making a historical based presentation the focus of our membership meetings. Beginning with the August meeting will feature a talk by our own Historian/Curator, Dan Tarnasky. Dan has not divulged his topic yet, but I am sure it will be one of interest to all of our members. The August meeting will be held at Barsetti's tasting room at 400 4th St Ste 150 due to the fact Dan needs a screen and an area where he can be heard. The weather will also be too warm to be at the MAC barn or the Rae gardens. Meeting begins at 6 pm sharp. You are welcome to bring a dessert. We will have water and soft drinks.

Social Media

For those of you on Facebook or Instagram, when you see a post by Dan or one of us concerning the Historical Society or history, please share to all your friends on Facebook and ask them to share. For example, we posted info about our upcoming car show. When I saw it on my Facebook page, I shared it. I also saw that many of my friends shared it. That is how we can get the word out to a much broader audience. This is just a small way that we can all help advance the work of the Society. I recently posted some wedding pictures from the McFarland Ranch taken by Paige Lampson. It was shared by many people. I saw some comments about checking the place out. Again, this helps us advertise. With that said, thanks so much to Paige for the photos and for all the photos she takes and posts for us.

Security at the Rae

Recently, Dan discovered another attempted break in of the basement doors at the Rae. He has made it more secure, but we are in need of more lighting. Dan has a plan to fix the dusk to dawn lighting at the Rae so the yards, house, basement

and garage will have ample lighting. Once the school house is completely renovated, we have another plan to secure that building also.

McFarland Work

Lyle has reported that his crew has worked to clean up the driveway into McFarland Ranch and have cleaned up most of the junk iron. He found someone to haul it away. As we receive more guests at the Ranch, it is important that the grounds reflect a place that people want to visit or get married at. Thanks to Lyle and his crew for all the work they do at the Ranch.

McFarland Ranch Repairs

As stated in a previous newsletter, after an inspection by our insurance company, we have been required to upgrade and repair some areas at the Ranch. All the required electrical work has been completed. This month the roofs that need repair will be completed. In the fall before winter, there will be some painting of some buildings. After that we will be in compliance with our insurance company's requirements; and the Ranch will look great.

Weddings at the MAC

Just a quick update regarding weddings. We have hosted a number of weddings since April and June was fully booked. October will be a busy month with both weekday and weekend bookings. This year it seems like many weddings are taking place in the Fall. When we were told that October is the number one month for weddings instead of June, it was hard to believe. The heat does play a part in this too. Thanks to Joan, Samie, Bernice, and Rita for all the work they do in making the McFarland Ranch a positive and beautiful experience for weddings. These events provide the income necessary to conserve and preserve the Ranch and its buildings.

Annual Car Show Updates

Our annual car show, "A Drive Down Memory Lane" will be held Saturday, August 26th from 9 am- 3 pm at McFarland Ranch. If you know anyone with a 1972 car or older, tell them to go to our website: www.galthistory.com and find the application. Cost to enter is \$25. We already have 40 cars signed up and expect to have 80-100 cars attend. Cost for public to attend is \$5 per car load. There will be food trucks, raffles, music, and tours of the McFarland House. We are still in need of volunteers to help at various places: Taking payment of cars at main gate, parking the cars in the show, helping at the table in front of the house passing out goodie bags, and helping at the raffle table selling tickets. We are still in need of more items for our raffle table. If you know a business or individual who wants to donate items or donate money for us to buy items, please have them contact Janis or Gale. We also need volunteers to help put baskets together. If you know a locate business who wants to get their name out and they have small items for our goodie bags, we are in need of those too. Such items needed are bags to put the items in, notepads, pens, magnets, hats, etc.

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NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS
For the GALT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2024 OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given of the opening of nominations for the following officers for the calendar year 2024:

Officers to be Nominated / Term

President	One-Year
First Vice President	One-Year
Second Vice-President	One-Year
Secretary	One-Year
Treasurer	One-Year

Eligibility Requirements

- Any Member whose dues are paid in full for the current year may be nominated for, and elected to, any office;

Nomination Process

- Everyone interested in running for office must send an *Acceptance of Nomination* form (see below), even if currently holding an existing officer position
- Nominations must be filed with the Nominating Committee Chair no later than **September 22, 2023**, on an *Acceptance of Nomination* form that has been dated and bears the signature of the qualified nominee. (A scanned signature will be acceptable).
- All nominees must be paid members of the Galt Area Historical Society at the time the *Acceptance of Nomination* form is filed.
- At the October general meeting, each nominee may provide a candidate statement presentation, up to five (5) minutes. Following the candidate's presentation statements, there will be a general question/answer period of the candidates collectively not to exceed a total of ten (10) minutes.
- Elections will be held at the October general meeting following the question/answer period.

Acceptance of Nomination

I, _____, a Member of the Galt Area Historical Society and whose dues are paid in full for the current year, declare that I will serve in the position of _____ if elected.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____ Nominated for _____

Mail/E-Mail to:
Shaun Farrell, Nominating Committee Chair
989 Elsworth Ct, Galt, CA 95632
farr2328@gmail.com

Galt Firsts *Part 2*

We are continuing with Galt firsts from the last newsletter. Some things were surprises; some things were not.

First Mayor

You would think a town would have a mayor, unofficial or otherwise, within the first few years. Shouldn't there be a "spokesperson" to act in the name of the city? Arthur Thornton was the mayor of New Hope (Thornton) in 1891. J. Samuel Phillips was Lodi's mayor in 1892. Galt's first mayor didn't appear until 1946. Fred Wing, the publisher of the Galt Herald, was elected mayor by the other city councilmen. Wing also served on the Galt High School Board of Trustees.

First Fire Chief

The citizens of Galt founded the first official fire department in 1921 and named Fred Rothenbush its first chief. He served in the Stockton Fire Department for 15 years, six as the foreman of an engine company. While serving as fire chief, Rothenbush ran the Midway Café on the Lincoln Highway. Fred Rothenbush served as fire chief for two years before moving to Stockton and opening the Golden West Soft Drink Parlor.

First Police Chief

For its first 77 years, Galt's law enforcement came from a series of constables. The man who had just been elected constable when the City of Galt was incorporated in 1946 became its first police chief. Athos Loll, a local farmer, was appointed police chief by the new city council. He served for only 17 months before resigning. Edgar McCarthy replaced him.

First Newspaper

Usually, a newspaper comes with a population boom of 500 to 1,000 people. Gold Rush towns sprang up quickly, but the population came slowly with farming towns like Galt. Having been founded in 1869, Galt's population didn't get to 500 people until 1880. Galt's first newspaper began publication in June of 1881. John Joseph Campbell and William Henry Meacham founded the Weekly Galt Gazette in a two-story commercial building on C Street. Their publication contained mostly stories and essays from other publications. The local news was reserved to a single column on page three. For the next twenty-five years,

Galt Gazette Building



Galt Firsts Fred and Anna Harvey in Their New Automobile 1901

the Gazette was the sole news source for the Town of Galt.

First Automobile

It would be interesting to find out who owned the first automobile in Galt. The Nicolaus Brothers of Sacramento visited Galt in August of 1900, creating a stir with their "horseless carriage." It was such a novelty that it was written about in the Galt Gazette. Eight months later, Fred Harvey drove his new automobile around Galt and became the first Galt citizen to own one of the latest inventions.

First Gas Station

In the early days of the automobile in Galt, gasoline was sold like kerosine had been out of an above-ground tank for years. The merchants who sold it had a main business like a general store. Later, the garages that repaired autos also sold gasoline, like the Galt Garage in 1913. The first gas station with a "modern" gasoline pump was built in 1923 by Harvey Hiles on the Lincoln Highway south of Galt on the "death curve." The new building had a garage and residence. We know it today as the Curve Service Station.

Curve Station 1936



First Movie Theater

The height of the Silent Movie Era was from 1910 to 1929. To take advantage of that, Galt opened its first movie theater on the corner of 5th and D Streets in 1914. The Aerdome Theater showed movies on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday nights. The name was changed to the Galt Picture Theater within a few years. The building still exists as the Grange Hall.

First Supermarket

What's the difference between a grocery store and a supermarket? Grocery stores specialize in food and drinks but sell a small selection of household products. Supermarkets sell food and beverages but devote more shelf space to other items than grocery stores. In October 1947, William O. "Bill" Kelley and Sam Schwartzman entered the grocery business and called it K and S Super Market. Two months later, Kelley left, and Schwartzman continued to run the store but reduced the name to just Super Market. Around 1960, Schwartzman sold out to Charles Liss and officially changed the name to Galt Supermarket around 1964.

8th Annual Galt Drive Down Memory Lane Car Show Saturday, August 26, 2023



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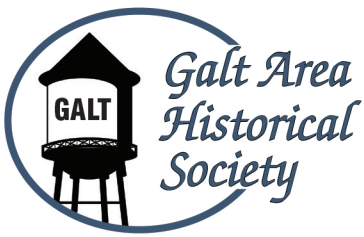
All entrants receive a Goodie Bag with T-Shirt & Certificate for Free Oil Change (up to \$35)

Society Finishes Successful Fireworks Sales Fundraiser

July 4th marked the final day of the seven day 2023 fireworks sales season. Each year the city of Galt holds a selection process for four (4) properly registered nonprofits to be able to sell safe and sane fireworks as a fundraiser. Each nonprofit works with TNT Fireworks to prepare for and sell fireworks for seven days between June 28 and July 4. TNT and the respective nonprofit share in the proceeds. For the Society this is an important fundraiser and is the primary fundraising effort for the General Fund. The General Fund supports expenses for the Rae House Museum, including the Liberty Schoolhouse restoration, as well as the conservation of historical artifacts and documents related to the communities of Arno, Clay, Colony, Elliott, Galt, Herald, Hicksville, Liberty and Thornton.

Historian Dan Tarnasky served as the 2023 Fireworks Fundraiser Chair and Board Secretary Liz Haglund headed up the volunteer signups for daily shifts. While it is not glamorous work the volunteers staffing the booth greet customers, sell fireworks and are certainly the point where the rubber meets the road for a successful fundraiser. This year the weather was particularly hot, but those volunteering found the strength to endure and push aside inhibitions to greet customers coming to the Fairway Drive parking lot where all four nonprofits vied for sales. The nonprofit that is most successful attracting the customer typically does better in making sales. This year the Society was particularly successful achieving net sales of approximately \$15,102.11. Fireworks is the single largest fundraiser for the General Fund this year and will help the Society in its effort to meet 2023 General Fund expenses of \$34,479.

Thank you to all the volunteers who braved the heat and rallied to create, through hard work, a successful 2023 fireworks fundraiser for the Society



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