

# TOWER VIEWS

GALT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

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Arno. Clay. Colony. Elliott . Galt. Herald . Hicksville . Liberty . Thornton

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*Our Goal - To preserve the irreplaceable in the Galt Area !*

## President's Clipboard!

I was privileged to give a talk at this year's Galt Heritage Festival opening ceremonies on September 9<sup>th</sup> on behalf of the Galt Historical Society.

October 5, 2017, the Galt Area Historical Society will be observing our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We were founded by four exceptional people: Margaret Greer, Beatrice Orr Smithson, Orvell Fletcher, and Eugenia Olson. These people loved Galt, our people, and our history; and saw the necessity to preserve not only our artifacts, archives, and history, but to preserve the stories of the many people and their heritages who settled in the Galt Area. Our original charter group started with 53 members; many who still live here and are current members; and have family in the Galt area. Today, we boast a membership of over 420 members and growing. While these founders were all important to Galt, I was asked to speak about one founder in particular at the festival, Eugenia Olson, who passed away earlier this year at age 89. I was fortunate to have had Mrs. Olson as a teacher at Galt High School; but very honored to become her friend in later years.

Genie was the granddaughter of Galt pioneer and farmer, Amadeo Lippi, an Italian who migrated to America in 1885; and to Galt in 1887. The summers that Genie would spend in Galt with her grandparents started her

love affair with Galt and its people. As one of the founders of the Galt Area Historical Society in 1987, Genie Olson's leadership has been pivotal in preserving the South Sacramento Valley's history. A rich agricultural area, it was a springboard to the Gold Rush towns, the Delta region, and original railroad commerce. Her vision was fundamental in creating, restoring and preserving 35 acres and seven buildings which comprise the McFarland Living History Ranch, and the interactive program to educate children and adults. The GAHS partnered with the Galt Elementary School District to create an educational visitation program for school children, which we call Pioneer Days. As a former teacher and administrator with 40 years of experience, Eugenia Olson led the GAHS to create a curriculum to help future generations learn and understand the living conditions and activities faced by early settlers in the area. Under Eugenia Olson's leadership, the Galt Area Historical Society identified and dedicated many historical landmarks, preserved two pioneer cemeteries, The Elliott Cemetery and the Liberty Cemetery, and helped save and led to the restoration of the Rae House Museum. A special rose will be planted in the Rose Garden at the Rae Museum later this year in honor of this wonderful lady and all that she has given to this community and to the different heritages of the Galt Area.

### **Drive Down Memory Lane Car Show!**

The Galt Area Historical Society's annual car show, "Drive Down Memory Lane" is almost upon us On September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you have, or know someone who has a 1972 or older car, motorcycle, travel trailer or camper, muscle car, hot rod, custom car or pickup, we would like to see your car on display at the car show. Cost is \$20 per car. There will be Ten Top Awards and all vehicles receive dash plaques and goodie bags. Sponsor of the show is Radial Tire of Elk Grove. Stop by their booth and register to win a set of tires (value up to \$500.) Gate charge for public is \$5 for adults and children 12 years and under free. Food and the Country Store, baked goods to buy, vendors, and live music by LaDeana. All proceeds for the historical preservation of the Rae House.

### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of GAHS Charter!**

Mark your calendars for a Charter Anniversary event on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the GAHS Charter. Weather permitting; we will be celebrating at the Rae House honoring Genie Olson with a rose planting. Appetizers and desserts will be served.

### **Yard Sale at the Hall!**

It's time for fall cleaning! Please donate your gently used toys, clothes, books, knickknacks, housewares, tools, holiday decorations, linens and furniture to the GAHS for a huge Yard Sale to be held at the Hall on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The community is invited! Great prices and all proceeds go to support the painting of the McFarland house. Contact LaVonne Riddlesperger at (209) 200-2203 or email [dill1041@comcast.net](mailto:dill1041@comcast.net) or contact Sue Dean to coordinate the drop-off of donated items.

### **Tower Views On-Line!**

Please email Rhonda Smith, our Membership Chair, at [Rhonda@galtsmiths.com](mailto:Rhonda@galtsmiths.com) with your email address if you think she doesn't have it.

#### **Alice's Attic**

Just a couple of notes regarding the Society Archives. There is a Facebook page titled, "Snapshots of Galt History." It's for all those Galtonians who can identify people in photos from our collection. Just "like" the page and you can get involved. The other item is Ralph Cortez will be working a table at the Galt High School Alumni Dinner on October 7. It will have information on donating items to the Society Archives. Participate in both opportunities if you can.

#### **COMING EVENTS & MEETINGS**

**September 23 – Drive Down Memory Lane Car Show from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**September 25 – General Meeting at Hall at 7:00 p.m.**

**October 8 – Charter Anniversary Celebration at the Rae House at 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**October 9 – Board Meeting at Hall at 5:30 p.m.**

**October 14 – Yard Sale at Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

### **Sip and Snack at the Mac a Huge Success!**

Thanks to all who made the 2017 Sip and Snack at the Mac a successful event for the Society! The evening started out blistering hot but that didn't stop people from coming out to support the Society. Attendees enjoyed wine, beer and food samples from local businesses as well as tours of the restored McFarland house, hayrides around the property, and dancing under the stars! There were more than forty raffle baskets to further raise funds for the preservation of the Ranch.

### **Holiday Shopping Using AmazonSmile!**

As the holiday shopping season draws near, we at the Galt Area Historical Society are hoping you shop at AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price (5%) to your favorite charitable organization, the Galt Area Historical Society. Type <https://smile.amazon.com/> into your browser, select Galt Area Historical Society, and shop til your hearts content.

### **Ladies Tea at the Old Engine Show – Sold Out Event!**

The Galt Area Historical Society will be sponsoring a Ladies Tea and Champagne Brunch at the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Show on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All sixty tickets to the event have been sold! Ladies attending are encouraged to dress for the occasion – hats are recommended!

### **Docents Needed!**

If you are interested in becoming a docent at the Rae House Museum, the Society needs your help! The Rae House Museum is open the first Sunday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and we would love to have a few more docents on our list. If you are interested, please call Ida Denier at 745-1477 to schedule a short training meeting.

### **From the Archives!**

For those of you who don't subscribe to the Galt Herald, the Galt Area Historical Society has a weekly column devoted to old photos of Galt. If you would like to see it every week, just go to [galtheraldonline.com](http://galtheraldonline.com). Look in the Lifestyle section.

### **In Memoriam**

In the past month we have lost two life members, Ellen Dambacher and Chuck Merkins. Ellen held a position on the Board from 2013-2015 and assisted with many Society events but her love was the McFarland Living History Ranch. She spent numerous hours volunteering over the years at the Ranch, most recently leading the docents and tending to the flower beds. Chuck Merkins was a wonderful volunteer who could always be counted on to help with fundraisers and events especially the Sip and Snack at the Mac and the annual car show. We will miss their encouragement and support of the Society. We extend our condolences to their families.