



December 2019



From the Archives **Galt High School**

An early 1930s photo of Galt High School shows a still undeveloped campus as there was only so much money to build the basics when it was completed in 1927. This third version of the high school was built to replace the one that had burned to the ground in 1924. By this time, the Junior College of Aeronautical Engineering had come and gone, only lasting a year because of a lack of funds. The iconic domed roof gym would be built in 1943, and a few years later the Agriculture and Industrial Arts buildings would open. The final touches came in 1955 with the additions of the music building and the West Wing classrooms. What you see in the photo would meet the wrecking ball in 1973 because of earthquake safety concerns.

Christmas Party and Meeting

Our final general meeting of the year will be held Monday, December 16th at our hall starting at 6 pm. We will have a short meeting and before adjourning, our new Mayor Paul Sandhu will swear in the 2020 Executive Board. Once we adjourn, we will enjoy our usual bingo and prizes. If anyone wants to bring a wrapped gift, please contact Maria Spannuth. We also ask members to bring a dessert. We will provide coffee and hot chocolate.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We would like to welcome our new members to the Historical Society that joined recently: Robert & Janet Fawcett We look forward to meeting you in person!

We are now 100% paid for the 2019 year. But remember, dues are due once again in January 2020. We have a total of 295 Members. 230 Life Members and 66 Dues Members.

Remember to please contact us for any address, phone or email changes that you have. We need to have updated addresses or it costs us each time a newsletter is returned for incorrect address. But more important is we want to keep everyone updated and informed of all our events and activities! Contact Rhonda Smith with any concerns about membership. rhonda@galtsmiths.com.

2019 Historical Society Executive Board

Janis Barsetti Gray ~ President
Ida Denier ~ 1st Vice President
Ralph Cortez ~ 2nd Vice President
Liz Haglund ~ Recording Secretary
Louise Dowdell ~
Corresponding Secretary
Dan Tarnasky ~ Historian
Bobbi Lewis ~ Treasurer

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A Message From The President

The beautiful fall leaves have been whisked from the trees by the December winds and rain. I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. So quickly we look forward to Christmas and the New Year. Christmas for many is the excitement of shopping, buying presents and exchanging gifts, parties, and lots of festivities. For many, Christmas is more spiritual and a holy time.

Did you ever wonder how the founding settlers of Galt celebrated Christmas Day, especially in 1869? Going to church and worshipping was certainly a huge part of their day. Those who could afford it went to the local mercantile and bought gifts for the family. Those who could not afford this luxury, made the gifts they gave to family and friends. Those were the special gifts when a child received something handmade such as a piece of clothing, a handmade toy, or handmade doll. The day was spent eating foods that were only prepared on such a special day as Christmas. Perhaps neighbors visited each other on this day. How times have changed. It seems as though presents have to be big and expensive to be better. Gifts from the heart, whether handmade items or food, mean so much more because someone thought enough of you to make something

for you. Perhaps in 1869, the settlers were able to find a small and sparse tree and decorated it with homemade ornaments. I bet it was beautiful and meaningful.

How wonderful it would be to have an old fashioned Christmas where people actually greeted strangers and friends alike by saying "Merry Christmas." They did not worry about buying bunches of presents, but gave instead, words of wisdom, hope, encouragement, and told stories about their past and their families. What gifts that was for the next generation. If you visit both our Rae House Museum and the McFarland House for their open houses on Dec 8 and 15th, you will travel back to those days by seeing how beautiful the decorations are.

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and bright New Year. I hope your day is special and remember when you are around the dinner table, tell your stories, ask those who are older, questions, tell the next generation stories to remember: Stories they will, in turn, tell years later. That is how your family history will survive.

~ Merry Christmas
Janis Barsetti Gray

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Policy and Procedure Review

Archives Committee

I. Purpose:

The GAHS was established in 1985 with the purpose of preserving the history of the Galt area within the boundaries of the Galt Joint Union School district. Over the last thirty years, the Society has been fortunate enough to receive hundreds of archive worthy materials such as photographs, newspapers, diaries, and other historic documents. With the coming transition of these materials to a new facility, it has become important to establish a true archive for the Society.

II. Related Documentation:

Archives including photographs, newspapers, diaries, logs of donations, and other historical documents and artifacts.

III. Procedure:

1. Move archival materials to a new secure facility
 - a. Private storage
 - b. Specialty built room at McFarland Living History Ranch
 - c. Upstairs at Rae House Museum
 - d. Storage containers
2. Inventory/audit materials
 - a. What types of materials are there?
 - b. Are there other materials at MLHR/Rae House Museum?
 - c. Other locations
3. Establish a budget
 - a. Monthly/yearly amount
 - b. Vendor accounts
 - c. Itemized reimbursement
4. Preservation of materials
 - a. Enamel painted metal racks
 - b. Acid free sleeves, folders and boxes
 - c. Climate controlled room
5. Digitize materials
 - a. Scan materials to computer
 - b. Setup software for ease of location and cross reference
 - c. Transfer digitized materials to backup software
6. Establish an oral history
 - a. Locate people with significant knowledge of Galt's past
 - b. Interviews with a set of specially selected questions
 - c. Digitize interviews
7. Establish loan/research policy
 - a. What is loaned and what isn't
 - b. Fee/donation for research of archived materials and use of photos
 - c. Construct forms for use of archived materials
8. Establish a donation policy
 - a. Request to the public for archive quality materials
 - b. Mass mailing vs. newspaper article
 - c. Donated material vs. loans for scanning
 - d. Forms for donations/loans
 - e. Forms for recognition of donations/loans
9. Develop "Best Practices" Guidelines on preservation of Archives
10. Create new archive displays
 - a. Rae House Museum
 - b. Equipment on side of Granary at McFarland Living History Ranch

Calendar

Sunday | December 15 | 12pm - 3pm
Christmas Open House
at Rae Museum

Sunday | December 15 | 1pm - 5pm
Christmas Open House
at McFarland Ranch

Monday | December 16 | 6pm
General Membership Meeting
550 C Street

Wednesday | December 25
Christmas

Thursday | January 9 | 2pm
Executive Board Meeting
550 C Street

Monday | January 27 | 6pm
General Membership Meeting
550 C Street

Dates and Times are Subject to Change

Gossip from the Galt Gazette

December 1902

Next Thursday will be
Christmas Day.



Measles are just now
very prevalent in Galt.

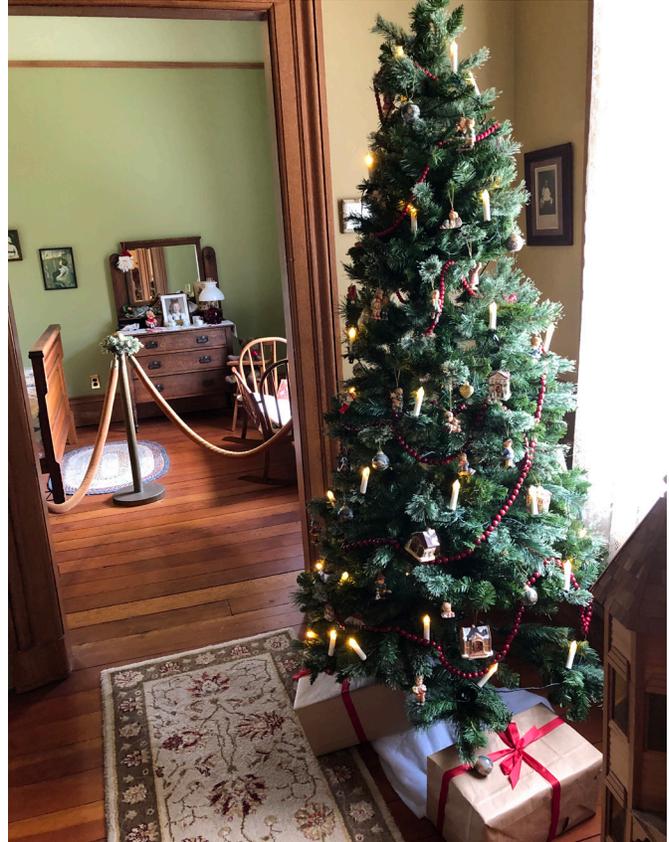


The Galt Creamery is booming and
the amount of milk separated is
steadily on the increase.



John Blair and Don Ray have
petitioned the Superior Court
for the probate of the will of the
late John McFarland.

Christmas at McFarland Ranch



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thank
You

Thanks to all the docents
who helped decorate the
McFarland House
and to
Joan Werblun and Vickie Larson
for decorating the Rae
for Christmas.

Joan has authorized us to sell
some of the arrangements
and wreaths at the Rae and
keep the money as a donation.

Thanks to everyone
for all the hard work.

The Story Behind Kost Road

There are numerous streets and roads that are named after local pioneers and distinguished citizens of Galt and the surrounding area. Most people are familiar with Marengo Road or Palin Avenue and who they are named after. On the southernmost boundary of the City of Galt, there is an east/west thoroughfare called Kost Road. No one can say how the road got its name or when, but there is a story, and it isn't just in Galt.

In the days post-Gold Rush, there were numerous immigrants that not only came to the US but to California, in particular, searching for a better life. Such was the tale of John Joseph Kost. The German-born newcomer settled in Sacramento around 1890. In 1891, he married another German immigrant, Rosa Bauman. Over the next decade, the Kosts had four children, Frank, John Jr., Margaret, and Edward. After working for several businesses, Kost opened a saloon on the corner of 17th and J Streets. Eventually, the saloon also doubled as a café and continued to do business even after John Sr.'s death in 1918. The oldest son, Frank, couldn't take over the saloon because he contracted tuberculosis in World War I and would eventually die in

1920. It was up to the next oldest son, John Kost Jr, to take over the family business and develop it into something more.

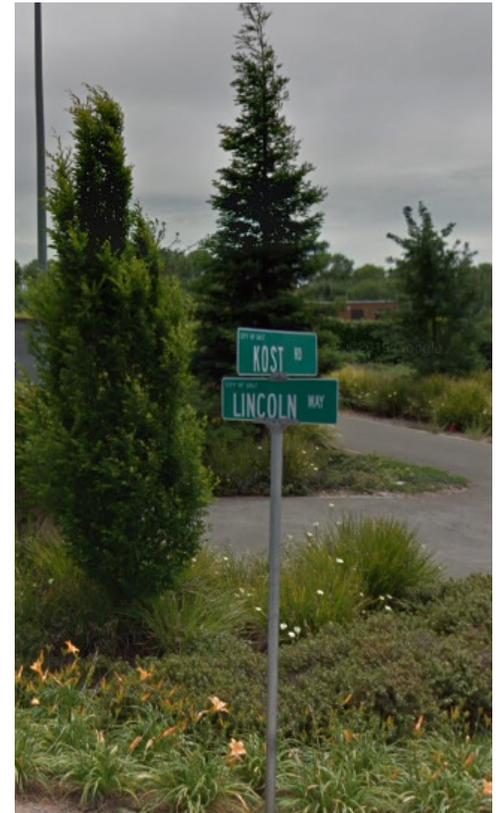
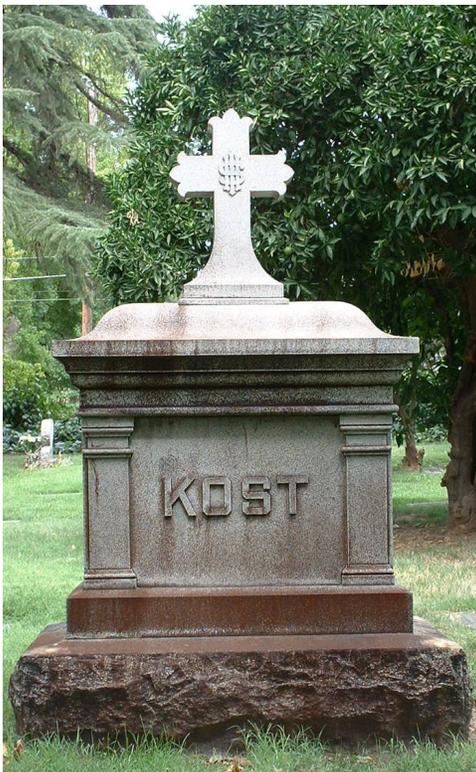
No one knows for sure when John Kost Sr. purchased the 230+ acre farm south of Galt, but it had to be between 1900 and 1918. John Jr. had the vision to turn the Galt property into an early "farm to fork" venture that would supply his café/saloon with fresh produce in addition to a fully operational top of the line dairy. Kost's only issue was the straightening of the Lincoln Highway that was to run right between the barn and the house. The \$2,000 settlement with the Board of Supervisors reduced the acreage down to 226, and of course Kost built another, better barn.

John Kost put his stepson Seymour in charge of the dairy, and it flourished for 15 years. Sacramento Bee newspaper articles reported the Kost Dairy had 100 head of Guernsey cattle that were some of the top producers in the county. In 1943, Sacramento County added the Kost Dairy to the national honor roll for butterfat production. Kost also added 100 head of Duroc Jersey hogs that were a large breed and provided great pork products. By 1945, John Kost had had enough and put the ranch up for auction. His stepson Seymour went to work for the University of California Agriculture Extension Service. Kost continued to operate the Kost Restaurant on the corner of 17th and

J Streets until 1951 when he retired. John Joseph Kost Jr. passed away in 1963. The Kost Building is still there.

But who named Kost Road and when? More research needs to be done. Was the road named as a concession to having the highway going through the Kost property, or was the road named after family success in the dairy business? Do any of the members know?

Historian



Christmas at the Rae House



Looking for Photos of Early Galt Citizens

While going through photos of some of Galt's early pioneers and citizens, I noticed there was several important people that were missing. Can you help us find them? Contact the Historian, blckrssn@hotmail.com, if you have a photo or know someone who does.

- Dr. W.L. McIntyre came to the area in 1849 and built the first frame house in the Dry Creek Township in 1851.
- Calvin Briggs had large herds of cattle that grazed both sides of Dry Creek and he built the second frame house in the Township around the same time as McIntyre.
- Thomas Armstrong was a widower with two daughters and a dairy in 1852. He was the first burial in Galt cemetery.
- Andrew Whitaker and Don Ray were well known business partners who owned the Whitaker and Ray Block. There are no known photos of these two men either together or separately.
- Early farmer and pioneer Hiram Chase
- Judge Harvey Emerson was a local Justice of the peace in the Dry Creek Township.
- Evan Evans was an early blacksmith and owner of Galt's first water plant.
- Early blacksmiths J.W. Iler and W.R. Cook
- Early undertaker Frank Randle.
- Hicksville founder William "Billy" Hicks
- Galt area farmer Kelsey Hobday Sr.
- Soloman Kreeger Family who farmed east of Galt.
- John McCauley owned a vast swath of land north of Galt and father of Alice Valensin.
- Early Galt area farmer George Need.
- Any of the early Prouty Family some of whom owned the Commercial Hotel.
- Rae House builder John Rae.
- World War I casualty Joseph Smith
- Galt Weekly Gazette and Galt Herald publisher William Botzbach.
- William Henry "Boss" Koontz first owner of the Club.

Bits & Pieces

Lost and Found

We continue to get newsletters returned to us because we have incorrect addresses due to the fact people move and do not notify us. Unfortunately, until we can get updated information on these people, we will discontinue mailing a newsletter to them. We need your help. We hope you may know their whereabouts or have a way to contact them. If you do, have them call us at 209 730 3127 or email us at: galthistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Here are the names: James O'Neill (Roseville), Dorothy Schmidt (Galt), Tom Walters (Galt), and Kimberly Graves (Magalia).

Membership Due

Rhonda Smith has already mentioned about dues, but here is my two cents. Unless you are a Life Member, which means you paid in advance (\$200 or \$250 for family life), your membership is due in January. The GAHS depends on membership dues. Please pay us timely and keep your membership active.

Liberty School House Move

Finally we have a date of December 19th for movers to take the Liberty school to the Rae House grounds. Perhaps by our general meeting on the 16th we will have a time frame so people can come and watch.

Grant Writer

We are continuing to compile all that is needed for the grant writer to present our information to find large grants for us. It takes time because we are asking for large funds to start and complete the Event Center. Most large donors in the United States want all the information they can get about us in order to know their funds will get the best use. We are hopeful this project will be in our near future.

Volunteer Hours

Please start calculating the volunteer hours you have put in this year and forward them to either myself or Liz Haglund.

MAC AND RAE Christmas Open House

Unfortunately, when you read this the first open houses on December 8th will have past. However, you can see some pictures here of the day. Santa will be there both days at both houses. We hear Mrs Claus will be at the McFarland on the 15th with Santa.

Lyle's Report

Lyle Lagge reports that the fence around the McFarland House yard has been repaired. All old fence has been removed and replaced. He also reports that he is getting more volunteers coming out on Monday helping. Thanks so much to Kirk, Earl, and Roger. Anyone who wants to help, just come to the ranch Mondays at 9 am and report to Lyle. They are now pruning trees and shrubs.

Cemetery Tours

Our Historian, Dan Tarnasky continues to work on the cemetery tours at the Galt Cemetery. This tour will bring people to historical graves. Dan is working on a guide that will eventually go on our website. This is another way for people to experience the history of Galt.

City Toy Drive

Thanks to everyone who donated toys at our last General Meeting. If you still want to donate, you can bring toys to the Galt PD before Dec 15.

Clampers At It Again

The Clampers had planned to clean up brush and cut dead limbs and trees at the Liberty Saturday Dec 7th, but the weather did not cooperate. They have plans to get in there as soon as the weather allows it.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Open Houses at McFarland (Noon-3) and Rae Museum (1-4) Sunday December 15th, Executive Board Meeting, Thursday Dec 12 at 2 pm at C St Hall, General Meeting and Christmas Party, Monday, Dec 16.

Honoring Louise

The Executive Board voted unanimously to appoint Louise Loll Dowdell as an honorary member of the executive board for her many years of serving on the board and helping preserve the history of Galt and our area. Louise's position will be a non-voting position. We miss seeing Louise at our meetings. She is still residing at Golden Living and would love a visit.

Rae Closed

The annual closure of the Rae House Museum will be Jan and Feb and will reopen in March. This is our maintenance time so we will be looking for volunteers to give a hand.

Corresponding Secretary

The Executive Board has chosen Toni Gerling to fill the position of Corresponding Secretary. This position was vacant as no one was nominated or ran. Welcome Toni.

Well Wishes

For those who do not know, Dolores Jacobson has been living at Golden Living. I am sure she would love a visit from her friends too. Dolores, we are thinking about you. Judy Jacobson is on the mend also. We wish you a speedy recovery. We miss seeing you at the meetings. Joan Werblun has been ill and we wish her a speedy recovery.



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