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October 2021

# From the Archives

# **Kitchen Kuties**

On a trip to Montana in 1966, Bert and Marie Olson attended a meeting of the Ladies Auxillary of the American Legion. They heard a performance of a "kitchen band" composed of ladies playing kazoos and kitchen utensils. She was so impressed that Marie put together a band of her own originally called the Fun Club when she got home but became better known as the Kitchen Kuties. The group was made up of women over 50 and mostly from the Galt Christian Church. Marie's idea was to give these women something to do and have fun doing it. The Kitchen Kuties

performed, over a 10-year period, all over the area, including the State Fair, Sacramento County Fair, Galt Festival, and the Lodi Grape Festival. Because of varying circumstances, the group slowly dwindled to just a handful of members and complete cessation of performances. Pictured in a 1969 photo are, back row left to right, Iva Baer, Oakie Martin, Ruth Lumsden, Grace Merritt, Mae Funston, Bessie Jones, and Ida Compton. Front row, left to right, are Myrtle Quashnick, Nora Brown, Margaret Gill, Mabel Neilon, and Sara Westrup.



# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We welcome new members Len & Kym ReidReynoso and Elane Douglas.

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. Or 209-745-4504.



### 2021 Historical Society Executive Board

Janis Barsetti Gray ~ President
Lyle Lagge ~ 1st Vice President
Gale Webber ~ 2nd Vice President
Liz Haglund ~ Recording Secretary
Toni Gerling ~ Correspondence Secretary
Bobbi Lewis ~ Treasurer
Dan Tarnasky ~ Historian



## Contact the Historian

- If you need or have Galt area historic information (includes Herald, Thornton, Liberty, Hicksville, Clay Station, Arno, Elliott, Colony, and Arno).
- If you have historic Galt area or family photos for us to scan and return.
- If you have area historical artifacts to display at the Rae House Museum.

Dan Tarnasky Historian/Archivist (916) 952-2368 blckrssn@hotmail.com

# CA Message From The

# President

Dear Members,

Fall Greetings to everyone. This is my favorite time of year: The time when we prepare for winter, leaves falling, the days start getting shorter, and nature begins its winter nap. When I was a child, I was not so fond of this time of year because, even though I was a good student, I did not like the end of summer and fun on the farm, to go back to school. It is interesting how our perspective on life changes as we age. Most important to me was that this time of year and the holidays ahead meant family time. Much like in early Galt, the farmers' crops were harvested and they prepared for a time of thankfulness for what they had and achieved in the past year. They also prepared for the next year ahead.

I digress to this past year of 2021 and also 2020. The Galt Area Historical Society had some tough times like all nonprofits and citizens in general. No one expected a virus to shut down our state and country in the way it has. We still have not recovered completely from this. Some members may have lost friends and family; some businesses may have had to close their doors. We, too, had a disappointing situation when

we had to cancel Sip & Snack at the MAC. Sip & Snack was a victim of the shutdown. Many businesses had not recovered enough to help us with food. Even though we offered to buy some of the food, they did not have staff to prepare extra food or were unable to donate. Thus, we had to make a decision to cancel until next year. However, we were very fortunate that our annual car show did so well, it helped even with this loss. something to be thankful for. In 2022, this event will be back in great fashion. We cannot look back and mourn the loss of this event: We look forward and plan for next year. This is much like what a farmer or merchant in early Galt. There were many setbacks: weather, loss of crops, loss of animals, fires, etc. However, if they did not keep going, we might not be here today as a viable town and community.

I am looking forward to getting together with many of you at our Charter Night Dinner. Not only will it be the election of our new Executive Board, but it will give us some social time together. I hope many of you come and meet your friends and fellow members. Have a great month.

Janis Barsetti Gray



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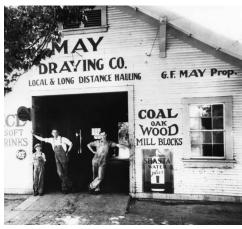
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# **Businesses From The Past**

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# Calendar of Events

Oct 3.....Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm

Oct 11 ..... Executive Board Meeting - 4pm

Oct 25.....General Meeting / Charter Night - 6pm

Nov 7.....Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm

Nov 8.....Executive Board Meeting - 4pm

Nov 22.....General Meeting - 6pm

Dec 5 ......Rae Museum Christmas Open House - 1-4pm

Dec 5 ......MAC Christmas Open House - 12-3pm

Dec 13 ..... Executive Board Meeting - 4pm

Dec 20.....General Meeting and Christmas - 6pm

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# Election Night is October 25th

Elections will be held during our Charter Meeting on October 25th. At the September meeting, our Election Committee Chairperson, Shaun Farrell, announced who submitted a nomination form.

#### 2022 GAHS Executive Board Candidates:

President – Janis Barsetti-Gray

1st Vice President – Daniel Denier and Lyle Lagge

2nd Vice President – Gale Webber

Recording Secretary – Elizabeth Haglund

Correspondence Secretary – Toni Gerling

Treasurer – Kathleen S Amos and Len ReidReynoso

Historian – Dan Tarnasky

At the October meeting, each candidate will be allowed five minutes for a speech. At the end of the speeches, ballots will be passed out to those members in attendance and voting will be held. Ballots will be counted and winners announced at the end of the meeting.

Please plan to attend to have a say in the GAHS board for 2022.



## Sip & Snack Cancelled

It was a difficult decision to cancel our annual wine, beer, and food event, Sip & Snack at the MAC this year. We had wineries and breweries in place early in the year, but we were unable to secure enough food establishments. Most were short-staffed and unable to send workers. Even though we offered our volunteers to serve, they did not have staff to make extra food. It has been a rough year for many businesses. Also due to the COVID shutdowns, many organizations and private events held off until the fall to have their events. Many were events going on the same week. We are looking forward to next year. We have some plans to help create a bigger and better evening. More to come in 2022.

## Barn/Event Center Update

Sacramento County has our plans to upgrade the red barn into an event facility. They are trying to fast-track this procedure so that we can start getting bids from contractors to start on the job. Plans have to go to many different departments and also to the fire department. It is a long process, but once this facility is complete, we will be able to offer a place for events year-round.

# **Liberty School House**

As reported at Monday's General Meeting, we are beginning to look for contractors to help work on this project. We had hoped to have the schoolhouse renovated by year's end, but that may not happen. Some of the work we can do ourselves, but it will be a faster process to hire out under our direction.

## **Book Exchange**

At Monday's meeting, member Charlotte Cameron came with a great idea. She is an avid reader, but now has lots of books she wants to share. We are working on an idea for book sharing. If you have books you have read and no longer want, you can bring them in and exchange them for more books that we will have. This is still in the planning stage but if anyone has an idea where we could stage this book exchange, please let me know.

## Charter Night Dinner, Election, and Meeting

On Monday, October 25th, we will have our annual Charter Night dinner and election of the 2022 Executive Board. Within this newsletter is a form to fill out and send your money for dinner. You can also come to Barsetti Vineyards or L'Chayim and buy your tickets for dinner, or go online to Eventbrite.com and buy them. The cost is \$12 per person. No tickets will be sold at the door. Joan Werblun and Gale Webber are planning an Octoberfest Dinner of Lockeford Sausage, homemade German potato salad, macaroni salad, sauerkraut, and dessert. We will be holding this dinner meeting in the red barn at the McFarland Ranch. Social time starts at 5:30 pm and dinner promptly at 6 pm. The start of the meeting, election speeches, and voting will begin about 6:45 pm or sooner.

## **Docents Needed**

We need someone who wants to be the Lead Docent at the McFarland House for events. We also need a group of people who would be available to help docent at events. Please contact me if interested.

## Halloween Night

Our Cemetery Chairman, Eric Schneider has members of the Clampers providing security for us at both the Liberty and Elliott Cemeteries on Halloween Night. The Clampers do this free of charge. At the Rae House Museum, Kathleen Amos has volunteered to watch the museum that night. Speaking of Halloween, on Saturday, October 30th, the businesses on 4th St are hosting a Trick or Treat for the kids. It was a huge hit last year. From Brewsters Restaurant to L'Chayim, treats will be handed out to the kids. Also, other businesses and organizations who want to come and put up a canopy or have treats from their trucks between C and D Sts should contact Gale Webber.

### **Online Basket Sale**

Maria Spannath, our raffle guru, made so many beautiful baskets for our Sip & Snack raffle. Unfortunately, we now have these baskets and no place to raffle them. We are looking into an online bidding auction and hoping this will generate some revenue lost from our canceled event. We will keep you posted.

# Garbage at Liberty Cemetery

Eric Schneider reports that the garbage left outside the fence, and sometimes inside, is getting very bad. He has asked Lyle to work on a sign that can be mounted discouraging people to not leave garbage at this historic site. We do not have the same problem at the Elliott Cemetery.

# Galt Christian Church

In 1855, the Christian Church was built in the tiny town of Liberty. It is said to be the first church in the area and the oldest church structure in the city of Galt.

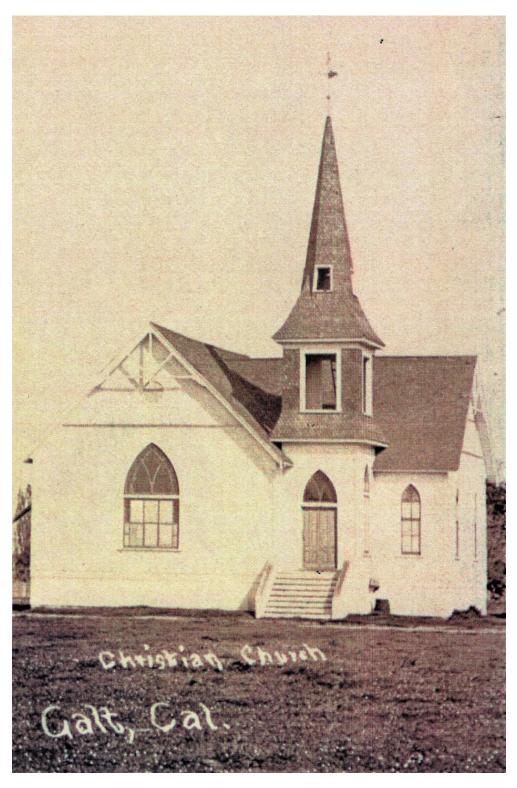
When Dr. Obed Harvey founded Galt, the little town of Liberty just south of Galt became obsolete. Citizens began moving their buildings into the new town. First, they moved hotels, saloons, and the school. In 1878, the Christian Church was moved and placed at the corner of the original grid, now 7th and B Streets. The church had a square Gothic bell tower. Its battlements were an unusual example of 1860 Greek Revival architecture. Its entry faced the broad stairway and landing to the south, and the windows were arched and clear.

As the church grew, its windows leaked, and woodpeckers found the bell tower an excellent place to nest. In 1925, a basement was added as a meeting hall for the congregation. The late William Hobday told how difficult it was to remove the dirt without damaging the church building during the construction of the basement.

In 1955, the church celebrated its centennial by doing some renovation. The bell tower spire was removed, and the front stairs were reconstructed and placed facing east with a new covered landing at the entry.

Because of the scarcity of building materials in California's early statehood, the first congregation built the original church with lumber that came round the Horn. That lumber is still within the main body of the church as it was when it was moved from Liberty.

Among the list of pioneer churchgoers, we can find the names of Chism Cooper Fugitt, founder of the town of Liberty, and John Coleman Fuqua, Joseph Still, Charles Wheelock Hunting, William Dabney Smithson, and William Allport.



The "first church" is currently Rosa De Saron, a Spanish language church for the Mexican population. A charter school rents the basement for high school credit.

The Galt Christian Church is one of the four churches that were a part of the original plans for the Town of Galt. St. Luke's and St.

Christopher's are still as they were originally. The Methodist Church has moved twice. They are recognized by the City of Galt, in the Master Plan, as landmarks of significant historical importance. The maintenance and preservation of these churches are essential to Galt's history.

Archives







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