



January 2022

From the Archives

Associated Gas Station



After the Lincoln Highway came through Galt around 1913, businesses moved east from downtown to take advantage of travelers driving between Sacramento and Stockton. The older Galtonians called a section of that highway “Gasoline Alley” because of the number of gas stations occupying that area. One of those stations was the Associated Gas Station which also doubled as the Galt Auto Camp. These types of establishments were the

precursors to motels and motor lodges where you parked right outside your front door or, in this case, a garage next door. Galt had other auto camps such as Schock’s and the R and B Inn. At the time this photo was taken (around 1938), the Associated Gas Station and Galt Auto Camp was owned by Harry Van Every and included what is now called a “mini market.” Harry Van Every’s establishment has long since disappeared into memory.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please be aware that 2022 dues are due this month. If you are not a Life Member, annual dues are due on January 1 of each year. An email or mail reminder will be sent this month. Please send your dues in as soon as you can, so we do not have to keep spending money and time on reminders. A huge thank you to those who respond on our first request.

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.



2022 Historical Society Executive Board

Janis Barsetti Gray ~ President

Lyle Lagge ~ 1st Vice President

Gale Webber ~ 2nd Vice President

Liz Haglund ~ Recording Secretary

Len ReidReynoso ~ Treasurer

Dan Tarnasky ~ Historian



A Message From The **President**



I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends; and are looking forward to a bright and prosperous New Year. Let's hope we can put 2021 behind us and focus on all we can do for Galt and our history in 2022. Remember, our job is to preserve the irreplaceable.

Just for a quick moment, let's look to how we recovered in 2021. We started in April with our annual Kite Day. As I have said in the past, this was probably the first time for many, to venture out. All had a great time. Weddings from 2020 that had to be rebooked started occurring in May through November. This gave us a real boost of income. In May, we had our annual Ladies' Tea at the Rae. It was enjoyed by many; and as only she can, Chairperson Joan Werblun made this a success. Cannot wait to see what she has planned for 2022. We held our annual car show, "A Drive Down Memory Lane" in August. The show this year was in memory of Louise Dowdell. We had almost 100 cars and generated more for this event than we had in the past. This was another big boost, especially since we had to cancel our biggest fundraiser, Sip & Snack at the Mac. We finished the year with our Christmas Open Houses.

What does 2022 have in store for us? Weddings and events are booked for the McFarland Ranch. Most dates are already taken. Kite Day, April 9th will be combined with Eggstravaganza and will have Easter fun for the children. The Ladies' Tea at the Rae will occur in May, Car Show in August, and Sip & Snack at the MAC will be back in September. There will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer and help make all of these events great successes.

We got through the end of 2020 and into 2021 because we were fiscally sound. We never spent what we did not have. Everyone watched expenses. We knew our income was not going to be coming in, so the only way you could survive was to watch what you spent. We did this successfully.

I am so excited and positive about the new year. We have lots to do in 2022; and we need all the help we can get. The Liberty School House will be completed and the MAC barn will get its upgrade. Working together to preserve Galt's history and our area, is something we all can be proud of.

Happy New Year to All
Janis Barsetti Gray

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Homes from the Past



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Gage House on Palin Avenue and Simons Street



Hill House on 2nd Street



Larrick House on Oak Avenue



O'Shea House on Cornell Road

Bits & Pieces

December Meeting & Christmas Bingo

Those of you who attended the meeting at the MAC barn know how cold it was. However, the appetizers and desserts were so nicely presented and enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone who brought something. We had some great prizes for bingo. However, we played half way through the games and it was too cold. When everyone arrived, they had received a ticket for a drawing. We decided at that point just to draw tickets for the prizes. Everyone seemed to enjoy that.

Meeting Changes

With the cold weather upon us, it was decided that we would not have member's meetings in January and February; but we will have meetings in July and August. The weather may be better in March; and in the summer, we can meet outdoors at the MAC or the RAE. We will revisit this once the barn upgrade is completed.

Email Updates

You do not receive many emails from me or the board, but in the rare case, we need to make sure we have emails. I realize some of you do not email; but if everyone could just send me an email at: ricjan@barsettivineyards.com and just say updating email, then I can check and see if we have a correct email.

New Board Sworn In

At the December meeting your new Board for 2022 was sworn in by Vice Mayor, Paul Sandhu.

Christmas Open House at Mac and Rae

Both homes were beautifully decorated thanks to Joan Werblun and her many helpers. Both homes saw more visitors and donations than we received in the past. It worked out good to have a one-day event and both houses open. The visitors were treated to hot apple cider, hot chocolate and cookies; and greeting by a great group of docents. Thanks to all for making this a special day for visitors.

Liberty School House

Dan Tarnasky and Lyle Lagge are working together to get the repairs and maintenance done so it will be ready for a June celebration. Again, if any of you are skilled in carpentry or contracting work, please contact either Dan or Lyle so we can complete this wonderful piece of Galt's history.

Orr Road Repair

We received word from Sacramento County that Orr Rd from the McFarland Driveway to New Hope Rd, will be repaired soon. I did email back asking them to review Orr Rd from Christensen Rd to the Ranch. That part of Orr is badly in need of repair. I am waiting to hear back.

Rae Closed for Maintenance

As most of you know, we close the Rae House Museum January and February of each year for maintenance. If any of you want to help with cleaning, minor repairs, and organizing, please contact Dan. I am sure Dan has a long list.

Volunteer Hours

Please forward to me your hours that you volunteered in 2021. Remember, going to meetings counts. We keep these on file in case a grant wants to know this information. Sometimes government grants will turn those hours into dollars. That is why they are important to us.

Donations

Our annual appeal letter for donations will be mailed out the first part of February. Our members have always been very generous to our organization. Dan is also working on the Big Day of Giving. He will have more information for you. If we do not preserve the history of Galt and our area, there is no other group who will.

In Memory

One of our members, John Melhaff, passed away recently. John's family was very well known to many and especially to those of us who had dairies. The Melhaff's hauled all our milk to Sego. John's daughter is our Membership Chairperson, Rhonda Smith. We want to express our sincere condolence to the family. You are in our thoughts. Funeral services will be held on January 5 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Christophers Catholic Church.



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News From McFarland Ranch

It has been a very interesting year. Our ranch volunteers: Earl Frey, Roger Watson, Eluid Marquez, Jim Reeve, Gary Bereth, Ron Jacobson, Francis Jacobson have provided over 3000 hours of support to help maintain the property. In addition; Rita Martin, Bernise Lee, Joan Werblum, Sue Dean, Lavonne Riddlespurger, Maria Spannath, Sammie Watson, to name a few have spent many hours to keep the inside and outside of the house in tip top condition.

Some things that as a team we have accomplished.

- We started with four workdays per year at the ranch. I implemented two workdays per week which has been very successful. Prior to the shelter in place, we were having as many as 14 volunteers regularly, today we are at 6. Our workdays are Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Helped build the new restroom. We dug the trenches for the footings and built the restrooms from the ground up including the cupola on the roof.
- Worked on the installation of the parking lot lighting. There is over 700 feet of trenches and wiring.
- Currently there is 640 feet of fencing around the ranch house. Due to termite damage dry rot, we replaced 35 sections and repaired 20 sections.
- The uprights for the pergola have been replaced which required cribbing the pergola and replacing one post at a time. We eliminated the termite issue using advanced termite bait stations. This was done by manufacturing the bait stations with onsite resources, installing them and monitoring.
- Prepared the liberty Schoolhouse for transport from 4th street to 204 oak avenue to the Rae house. To bring the schoolhouse to its original size, we had to remove an attached storage room, restroom, and bedroom. We separated the three rooms, collapsed them in place, cut them up and had it hauled away. We have purchased building supplies, paint, lumber, and fasteners. When we separated the schoolhouse some of the siding was damaged, however, we found like siding at the ranch. We will have to prep the siding, install it, and paint it. We did receive one quote for 7 windows to be built and will be working on more quotes.
- We received and distributed several tons of gravel onto the ranch grounds and driveways.
- We built new picnic tables. The legs were made onsite by our caretaker
- Received shed as a donation. We fixed the siding, doors, added shelves and painted.
- On the front lawn of the main house is a meter and electrical panel. We built a mini tank house. The material used is the same as the main house and the new restrooms.
- We have several old saws in the tractor shed. We pulled several of them out, cleaned them up, painted and had vinyl letter installed. Which we have used as signs on the woodshop, granary, carriage house, bunk house, and the tank house
- We painted and cleaned up the inside and around the ticket booth.
- Currently we are setting up 3 composting stations, 16 feet x 16 feet each.
- We updated the bulletin board by adding plexiglass doors and will be adding rain resistant roofing.
- Received several tons of mulch and ultimately distributed to several locations around the property.
- We had a successful collectibles and antique sale at the ranch.
- We provide limited support for Liberty cemetery, and the Rae house.
- We provide annual support for the garden and pumpkin patch.
- We replaced the worktables for the pioneer days area.

Volunteers have been instrumental with all these accomplishments. Many Thanks to all that have supported McFarland Ranch.

Christmas at McFarland Ranch



Lyle Lagge



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Galt Theater Train

Next month, the weekend rail excursions over the Sierras to Reno, called the Reno Fun Train, will begin service. Once the travelers get to their destination, it's all about eating, drinking, and gambling. In 1911, there was a similar weekend excursion called the Galt Theater Train run by the Central California Traction Company. A Novel idea for that time.

The CCT Company was a type of interurban railway with streetcar-like electric self-propelled rail cars which ran within and between Stockton and Sacramento. There were overhead wires for use in town, while a third electrified rail was used in the country. The two-hour and ten-minute ride between Stockton and Sacramento cost \$1.35 (10 cents cheaper than Southern Pacific). Why did it take two-plus hours for a fifty-mile trip? There were fifteen stops between the two cities, including Herald.

The Central California Traction Company was in its infancy, having been in operation for five months. Local citizens continuously

used CCT rail cars within the two cities (there were no buses). It was the slow growth of long-distance passengers that was lagging behind expectations. Southern Pacific was still the primary mode of transportation between Stockton and Sacramento.

No one knows where it came from, but one of the executives at the CCT Company came up with the idea of a theater train. Sacramento had several theatres second only to San Francisco in Northern California. There was vaudeville, burlesque, and moving picture theaters. Some had house orchestras, and some didn't. There was the Pantages, the Clunie, and the Sequoia on K Street and the Grand Theater on 7th. Did you want to have dinner? You could visit Ancil Hoffman's Schlitz Café (named because they served Schlitz beer) or the Thomas Café, both on K Street.

Not in the mood for theater? A local PG&E streetcar could take you to Sacramento's Tenderloin District, where a gentleman could visit Cherry de Saint Maurice's

Cherry Club, Fanny Brown's Palace, or the Art Dance Hall. Saturday night boxing could be seen at the Sacramento Athletic Club, another establishment run by Ancil Hoffman. Want to do a little shopping? Weinstock and Lubin Department Store and the Hale Brothers were nearby.

A January 4, 1911, edition of the Sacramento Bee printed an article about the new service that was to begin on Saturday, January 7. No one knows why the rail excursion was called the Galt Theater Train. Riders had to catch the train in Herald. The Theater Train left the Herald Station at 5:36 pm and arrived at the CCT Co. Platform at 8th and J Streets at 6:40. Once there, you were on your own for an evening of entertainment (or bad judgment). Riders caught the return train at 11:30 for the 30-mile ride back to Herald.

The Galt Theater train failed to meet expectations. It lasted about eight weeks. No one knows why but there were several reasons for the lack of enthusiasm. Southern Pacific was a little more expensive but made fewer stops and arrived in Sacramento sooner. Automobiles were more plentiful. If you didn't have one, you knew someone who did. That made your schedule more flexible. The Galt Theater Train was an idea ahead of its time.

A little extra history:

Three of the stations along the CCT Company route were named after CCT officials. Peltier (Peltier Road) was named after Vice President George Peltier. Herald came from the first names of principle owner Herbert Fleishhacker and President Alden Anderson. Walmort (Walmort Road) came from the first names of former Secretary Walter Arnstein and principal owner Mortimer Fleishhacker.

Historian
From the Archives



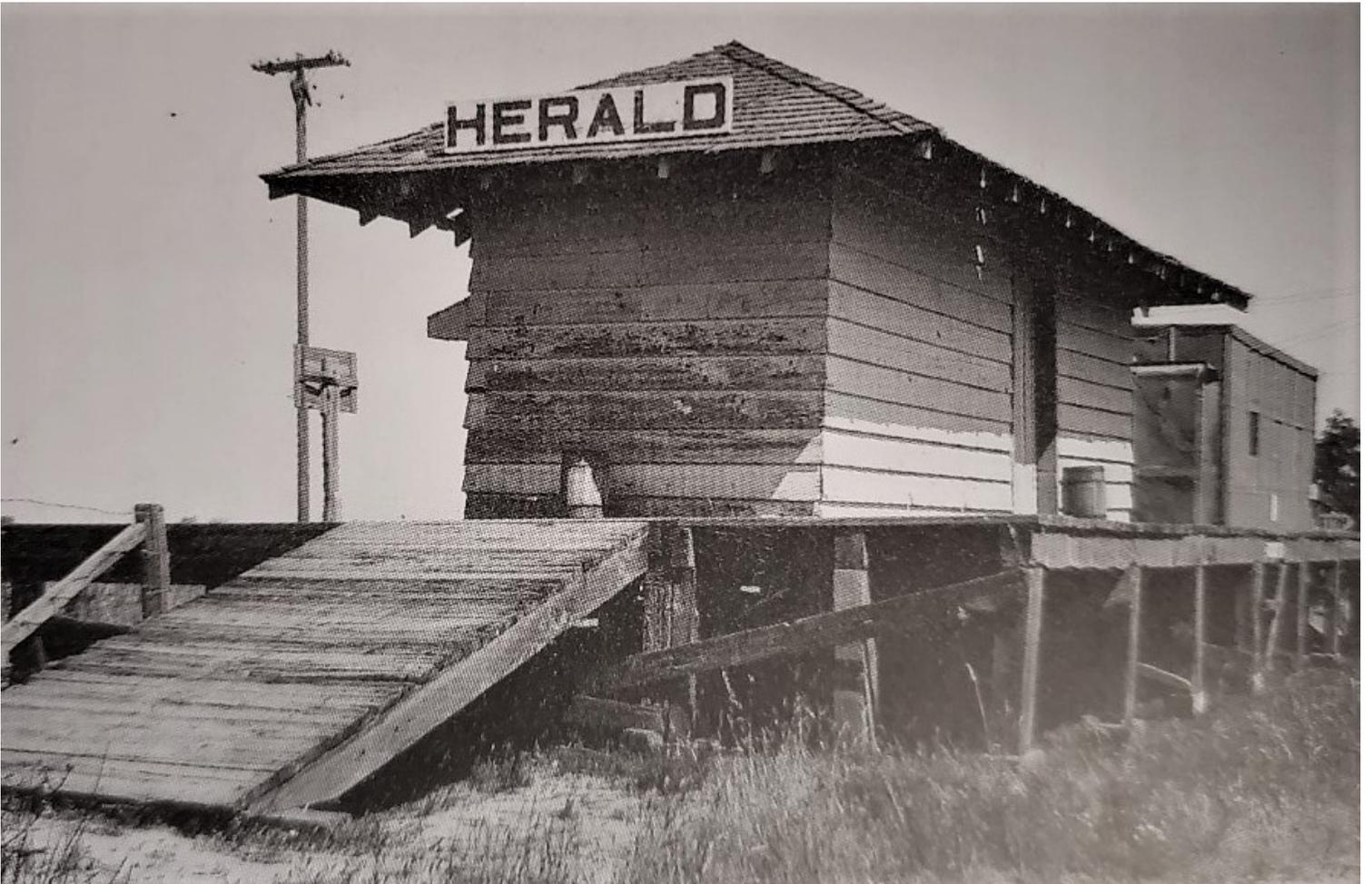
Clunie Theater



CCT Interurban Rail Car



CCT Tracks Showing Third Rail



Herald Station



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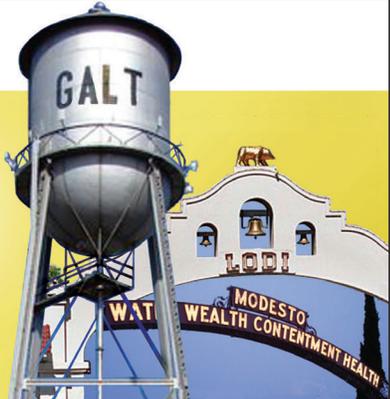



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