Galt Area Historical Society, Inc. Arno · Clay · Colony · Elliott · Galt · Herald · Hicksville · Liberty · Thornton





From the Archives Hot Stove Baseball League

During the 196Os off seasons, baseball players would tour around the country and talk baseball with fans at dinners and luncheons called "hot stove leagues." The term refers to a time in small town America when, during the winter, citizens gathered at the local general store around a potbellied stove and talk about several subjects including baseball. The Golden Acorn Restaurant hosted a number of these "hot stove" luncheons and invited some of the Bay Area baseball stars to talk about the coming season. In the photo is former San Francisco Giant and Hall of Famer Juan Marichal. On his right is long time KXTV sportscaster and host of the event, Creighton Sanders. The term is still used today to describe the discussions, speculation and predictions by baseball fans, baseball columnists, and baseball writers filling the time between the end of the season and the start of spring training.

Events Cancelled

With regrets, the Executive Board has cancelled our Ice Cream Social on August 2, "Drive Down Memory Lane" Car Show and Antique Faire August 29th, and Sip & Snack at the MAC on September 26th due to COVID-19. These events fall under Phase 4 because of large gatherings. At this time we have no idea when that will happen or what would be allowed. We want to thank everyone who was working on these events. They are large fundraisers for us and will be missed this year. Refunds have been sent to those who sent in car show entrance fees. All vendors have been advised also. We will keep the Rae House Museum closed until further notice because it is such a small area and would be difficult to monitor the 6 foot social distancing. We will not cancel the Yard Sale in October yet, as we may be able to hold most of it outside and with the help of volunteers, inside and outside, keep people distancing and safe.

P.O. Box 782 · Galt, California 95632 · (209) 730-3127 · www.galthistory.org · galthistoricalsociety@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As a member of our Galt Area Historical Society you play an important role in protecting and preserving our historical records and also interpret the past to the public, especially our younger Galtonian. Each year that you renew your membership you join us in our mission of engaging and empowering each other to make history a meaningful part of our contemporary lives. Your membership helps preserve the legacy of our ancestors, commemorate local heroes and preserve our historic architecture. Our members in GAHS help answer the Who, What, Why, Where and When questions that make historical societies important. It puts those of us in the present in touch with the people of the past who shaped our landscape, named our landmarks, and made the decisions that ultimately affect us today.

A great big thank you to all annual members who have paid their 2020 dues. We are 100%, which is the first time since I have been chairperson. Also, within our membership area, 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 an incorrect address. But more important is we want to keep everyone updated and informed of all our events and activities!

Please email any concerns to Rhonda Smith, rhonda@galtsmiths.com or call, 209-745-4504.

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2020 Historical Society Executive Board

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

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A Message From The President

We have made it to July and have had only two General meetings; and most Board meetings have been only by WebEx on the computer so that we can keep with the social distancing. This has been a difficult year for all of us. We have had to cancel our fundraisers and meetings; and importantly, we miss the comradery of getting together with our members. Projects that we have been working on have come to a standstill for the most part. I have tried to give our members as much information in the newsletters as possible to make up for the missed meetings and keep you up to date with the limited happenings. What we are experiencing with the COVID-19 is beyond any of our wildest imaginations. All we can do is follow the quidelines laid out by the state and our county; and be responsible in our daily activities. I see some are not practicing this and that is why we cannot overcome the virus and get back to our lives before COVID-19. Be safe and follow these mandates so you, your family and your fellow citizens can be safe. I may sound like a broken record these last several newsletters, but I feel as your President, if I do not give you this information, I am not doing my job in passing along the guidelines so you can make responsible decisions. As a business owner involved heavily with the public, I have had to make many changes to insure my customers and my employees are safe.

I want to change gears and fall back to a column I did a couple of years ago about the celebration of July 4th at the Liberty Township. It would be so relaxing sitting under an old oak tree with family, friends and neighbors, having a picnic lunch, the American flag waving in the breeze, the kids playing games, the men talking about their crops and cows, the women changing recipes. That was life in the 1850's. Never could they foresee what those after them would be going through in 2020 in our little town of Galt. Fireworks and large gatherings: Not this year! But wait! They did not need fireworks or huge gatherings to celebrate our independence. They enjoyed the moment and what this day really meant to our country. They came to this part of the country to find a better life; they worked hard, they loved their country and their neighbors and friends. Life was difficult for them too. Some parts of our history are not admirable. But we learn from those mistakes just as we do as a person. We never want to repeat the mistakes of the past.

Hopefully, on July 4th you will celebrate our independence in small groups and reflect back to that picnic under the oak tree in Liberty and later Galt. Have a relaxing and thoughtful day. Happy July 4th.

Janis Barsetti Gray



Financials

Since we have not been able to meet, we are including the financials through the end of May for All Funds. You can see that we are behind in revenue from 2019, but have not spent much money in 2020 versus 2019. For full disclosure, we want all members to know where the money goes (or has not gone this year).

GALT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. GALT CALIFORNIA

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		Total Personnel Services	\$	8,900	\$	9,946	\$	7,620 \$	14,221	\$	1,848	
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000	3002	Vehicle / Fuels / Service / Insurance	\$	5,129	\$		\$	4,033 \$	3,591	\$	1,172	
000		Office Supplies	\$	128	\$		\$	- \$	223	\$	-	
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000	3005	Miscellaneous Expenses	\$	4,142	\$		\$	2,759 \$	2,402	\$	598	
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		Enuing runa balance	2	570,504	4	340,323	Y .	333,313 3	104,505	*	500,715	



CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE Rae House and McFarland Ranch

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING Monday | July 13 | 4pm

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE General Membership Meetings

Dates and times are subject to change

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Elliott Cemetery Arson Fire

A haystack near the Elliott Cemetery was set on fire the other night and the fire came through some of the cemetery. We have included some of the pictures taken by caretaker Eric Schneider. Some headstones were scorched, grass burned, the cypress tree that may be an original tree, received some burns but survived, some wood stumps were burned, our back fence needs to be replaced (hopefully the owner of the hay will take care of the fence), but the flag that was on Joseph Steeley's grave made it with minor burns. The winds from the fire apparently blew the flag away from the headstone and it was saved. A couple of days after the fire, there were still some hot spots. Eric poured about 600 gallons of water on those spots with the help of some good neighbors. Thankfully, Eric kept the grass low at Elliott, like the Liberty. Thanks for all you do, Eric.







Bits & Pieces

Liberty School House Update

I was contacted by Scott Heavy Movers and they plan to put the school house on its foundation either this week or the week of July 6th. I do not have an exact date yet, but will email all those with email once I hear. Once the house is secured, we will begin getting bids from contractors to renovate the school house. The City of Galt has extended our \$40000 grant so that we have until next year to use it.

McFarland Weddings and Private Events

Because weddings and private events are just like our events, they fall under Phase 4. This means unless Phase 4 is lifted, no large gatherings can be held. Many weddings have postposed or changed the dates to later in the fall. However, we may lose all the weddings we have booked because the COVID virus seems to be getting worse than better in our county and city. This will, again, we lost revenue for us in 2020.

General Meetings

At this time, we will cancel all general meetings until Phase 4 is opened up. If something develops before, what would be our Sept 28th meeting, I will inform everyone. The Executive Board meetings either by Webex or in a place we can social distance.

Face Masks

As everyone has been told, we should be wearing face masks when entering public places of business or when you are near other people. We ask that if you are working on projects for the GAHS and are in contact with others, that you wear a face mask and social distance. COVID-19 has greatly increased in our area particularly since Memorial Day. We all have to do our part to not spread the virus, or be careful to not go in situations where the guidelines are not followed. We all must be responsible citizens.

Big Day of Giving

Thanks to Dan Tarnasky for spearheading the Big Day of Giving, where many people donated money online toward the Galt Historical Society. We received \$1810.98 in donations. Thank you to everyone who gave.

Loss of Funds

As stated before, because of the cancellation of our major fundraisers and weddings, we will have very little money coming into our organization this year. Thanks to all who gave generously during our Annual Appeal Month and to Big Day of Giving. If any of you want to renew your 2021 membership now or would like to become a Life Time Member, we would greatly appreciate it. Many people are going through some hard times now. We appreciate all that has been donated. If you are someone who is able to donate more, we would certainly appreciate your help.

Evacuation Plans

Dan Tarnasky has completed the evacuation plan for the Rae House Museum: and Lyle Lagge is working on the McFarland House and McFarland outer buildings evacuation plan. These plans are important in case of any emergency to get people away from a danger area and into a safe area.

Policy and Procedure Review Marian Lawrence/ Marie Olson Children's Fund

I. Purpose:

The Marian Lawrence/Marie Olson Children's Fund was established by David and Eugenia Olson to offer financial assistance to the school field trip program at the McFarland Living History Ranch (MLHR).

Marie Olson created the first kindergarten for the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District, and her daughter, Marian Lawrence taught students in the Galt Joint Union Elementary School District, so it is a fitting tribute to these two wonderful ladies that financial donations be placed in a children's fund that is connected with education.

Therefore, the funds donated for the Marian Lawrence and Marie Olson Children's Fund at the McFarland Living History Ranch are to be used to provide equipment used for the school children's field trips to the ranch. (See letter from Eugenia Olson attached)

II. Procedure:

- In order to use funds from this account, a written request must be submitted to the GAHS Board designating the amount requested and the proposed use of the funds. As mentioned above, use of funds is limited to equipment used for the children's field trips to the MLHR. Three quotes for the equipment must be attached to the written request.
- 2. The GAHS Board shall review the request and can either deny it, suggest that it be modified and resubmitted, or move to submit it to David and Eugenia Olson (or designee) to approve or deny the request.
- 3. If a written request is submitted to the Olsons (or designee), they must respond to the Board in writing within thirty days whether it is approved or denied. If the request is denied, a reason should be stated in the written response.
- 4. If the request is approved, it should be funded within thirty days of the approval. If the request is denied, the President should explain to the person making the request why it was denied.

News from McFarland Ranch

• We have completed the rebuilding of the pioneer days area picnic tables. Another project we will be working on soon is the rebuilding of the work station tables for the pioneer days events.

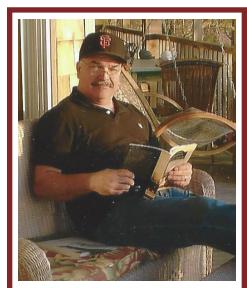
• We have refurbished the shed donated by Sean Farrell and placed it in the pioneer day area for storage of the equipment used by these events.

• We are continuing the refurbishing of the fence around the ranch house. The next step is to crib up the pergola and fortify the support posts. This process will take several days to complete.

• Blinds have been installed in the Bride's Room.







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.

Is lf you have area historical artifacts to display at the Rae House Museum.

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



JIM BASINGER Owner Jim@basingerconcrete.com

Can you help us identify these Galt area citizens?

We have several photos that are unidentified. If you know who one of these people are, contact:

> Dan Tarnasky - GAHS Historian Email: blckrssn@hotmail.com (916) 952-2368













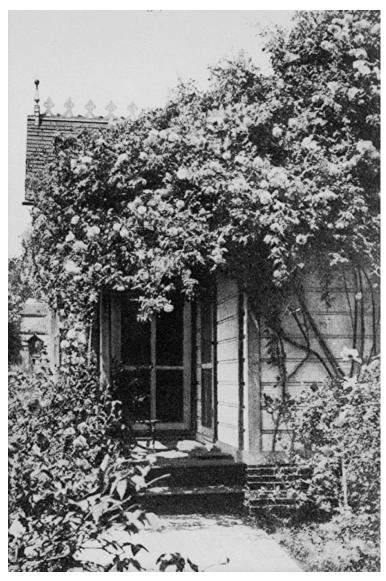
The Strange Case of the Rose Covered House

One sunny morning in May 1926, local Galt poultry rancher Schiller Lovett went into town to run some errands. Mailman Harry Maiers said Lovett had a strange look in his eyes and was haggard and worn in appearance. He did not think more about it. A few days later, Aurelia Colledge went to the rose-covered Lovett house south of Galt to visit her friend Ila Lovett. She had been in ill health for some time. Not getting an answer to her knocking on the door, Colledge peered through the kitchen window to see Schiller Lovett slumped over in a chair. The story would play out like an article from the Police Gazette magazine.

Homer Schiller Lovett was born in San Luis Obispo but grew up on the family poultry ranch in Jamestown, Dakota Territory. The Lovett family moved to Galt around 1904 and operated another small poultry ranch on McFarland Street. Schiller Lovett worked on the family ranch into his mid-30s when he met and married McFarland Street neighbor Ila Belle Mitchel in 1916. The couple purchased a small piece of property south of Galt and started their poultry operation. For several years, the Lovetts became one of the more prosperous ranches in the area, but things soon began to take a turn for the worse.

Around 1923, the Lovett business profit margin began to shrink. An unknown illness overcame Ila and the medical bills mounted. It was hard for the Lovetts to make ends meet. Through it all, life still seemed to move forward. Ila had made a dress for her mother Alice Need and planned to deliver it to her in San Francisco on May 4th of 1926. The Lovetts never made it out of Galt.

Aurelia Colledge's visit to her friend Ila Lovett on May 13th set off a series of events that sent the local rumor mills going full speed. After knocking on the door to the Lovett home and getting no answer, Colledge went around to the kitchen window and peered in. She saw Schiller Lovett slumped in a chair with a



head wound. Colledge then went and found a neighbor, Martin Shellenbarger. Upon entering the house, they discovered that Lovett had a bullet wound to the head and a .38 caliber revolver in his hand.

Instead of calling the local Constable James Dimmick, Shellenbarger called the Sacramento County Sherriff's office. Further investigation inside the home, deputies found Ila Lovett lying in bed, facing the wall, and a single bullet wound to the back of her head. Dr. James Christian was summoned for an examination of the Lovetts. Because of the state of decomposition, he could not determine the time of death for Ila, but it had been at least a week. Schiller had been dead for a few days. The deputy Coroner and the Sacramento County Sherriff's department had separate investigations. Several of Lovett's friends the were interviewed, including Nellie and Hans Peterson, who stated that the Lovetts had been over to their house to play cards the night of May 2nd and seemed jovial and that Schiller was very loving to his wife. Schiller also agreed to do some plowing for the Petersons but never showed up. A neighbor across the road, Nellie McNamara, stated that Ila Lovett told her that they were going to San Francisco on May 4th. Schiller Lovett's sister Laura Peffer said that Schiller was very loving to his wife and took care of her during her illness. The last time William Botzbach saw Schiller, he seemed "morose."

Upon further investigation of the Lovett's rose-covered house, nothing seemed out of the ordinary. What they did find was a stack of unpaid bills on the kitchen table. Ila Lovett was found in a sleeping position, in a nightgown with her head resting on her hands. Schiller slept in another room after his wife's shooting. The mailbox was full of mail after May 3rd. Schiller loved to read the Sacramento Bee but did not purchase one after May

1st. No notes were left behind.

The jury at the Coroner's inquest could not determine whether it was a murder-suicide pact or a murder-suicide. The conclusions they did come to were that Schiller shot his wife on May 3rd, but he didn't commit suicide until May 9th. In between is when locals, including mailman Harry Maiers, saw him in town looking somewhat sad. He must have agonized for a few days whether to finish the deed. Their bodies were found May 13th.

French Nobel Laureate Albert Camus once said, "Should I kill myself, or have a cup of coffee?" That must have been on the mind of Schiller Lovett one May afternoon in 1926.



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