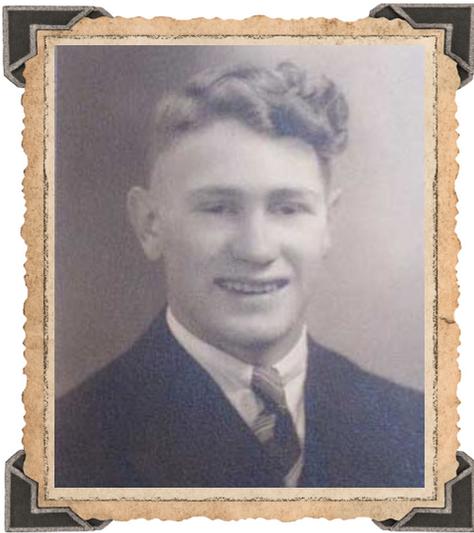




December 2018



From the Archives
Bill Richardson

Bill Richardson was born in Spokane, Washington but lived in Tacoma during much of his childhood. As a sixteen-year-old, Richardson moved with his family to Galt where he attended Galt High School. During his junior and senior years, Richardson, the curly redhead, lettered in varsity football and participated in drama. After he graduated in 1940, he attended the College of the Pacific (University of the Pacific) in Stockton and again participated in drama. By 1945, Richardson was a painter at Columbia Pictures when he received his first bit part. Within ten years, he was a Hollywood regular appearing in early TV series Mike Hammer and Riverboat. Richardson would become more famous for his role in the TV series Night Stalker and movies like A Christmas Story and the Natural. Somewhere in the 1950s, William Lyle Richardson changed his name to Darren McGavin.

Civil War Re-Enactment

As we have mentioned, we have signed a contract to rent the McFarland Living History Ranch to the National Civil War Association: Civil War Days next April 12 through 14th. This will be a wonderful piece of history and an excellent source of advertisement for the Ranch. They are beginning to work on flyers, brochures, tickets, etc. for the event. They are looking for sponsors to help defray the costs of this advertisement. If you or anyone you know are interested in helping, please contact Janis and she will put you in touch with the person in charge. This group is also planning to hold ceremonies the weeks prior to the reenactment, at both the Liberty and the Elliott Cemeteries where Civil War Soldiers are buried. This, too, will bring attention to our organization. All the more reason to work on both

cemeteries as weather permits throughout the winter and early spring.

I have also been contacted by another of their members who is in charge of Grave Registration. I have given him the information that we have from our member, Barbara Filbin, on who is buried at our cemeteries. He also has Barbara's contact info for further info. He must verify each grave or person buried to insure where they are and if, indeed, they were in the Civil War. He will try to get headstones for the Civil War soldiers. The sad part is that many graves, including some of these soldiers are unmarked, especially at the Liberty Cemetery. They may have to just get a plaque with the names on it. We will wait and see. This would be a wonderful tribute to these soldiers in our cemeteries.



MEMBERSHIP

As a member of our Galt Area Historical Society you play an important role in protecting and preserving our historical records and also interpreting the past to the public, especially our younger Galtonians.

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 2018 dues. Our goal is to have 100% dues paid ASAP. A reminder that dues are due in January of each year. So, if you wait to renew too long it will seem like you have paid twice! You can submit your dues through the mail, PayPal on the GAHS Website or at our monthly meeting. Also, within our membership area, we encourage you to inform us when you have a change of address. Please email any concerns to Rhonda Smith, guildstreetsmith@sbcglobal.net or call, 209-745-4504.

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



A Message From The President

December is a time to reflect and review all that we have accomplished as an organization; and to thank all those who volunteered tirelessly throughout the year without asking for anything in return. I say this because anyone who volunteers does it for thankless reasons. We do it because we feel good that we have helped. We do not need someone to pat us on the back or gush over what we have done: It is all about self-pride and a feeling we have helped by our little part in preserving Galt's history. Sadly, it is also a time when we have had to say goodbye to some members who are no longer with us.

Throughout the year, we have seen organized efforts to keep both our historic cemeteries maintained and cleaned under the leadership of Gary Berreth and Eric Schneider and Shawn Farmer. Many thanks to Ron Jacobson for his continued efforts at the McFarland Ranch, along with the help of Lyle Lagge, Earl Frey and others. Sue Dean did an exceptional job as Chairperson for the docents at both museums. She made sure each was staffed and maintained. Those individuals who volunteered their time to docent and to give tours, must know how special they made our guests feel. To Earl Arrants, who retired as our Curator at the Rae Museum this year, thank you for all your years of dedicated work; and we welcome our new Curator, Julie Clark Brownfield, who has continued in Earl's footsteps by bringing more awareness to the Rae Museum and creating more community events.

The Galt Area Historical Society had many successful fundraisers this past year such as Sip & Snack at the MAC, An Evening In Italy dinner, and our annual Car Show. The McFarland Living History Ranch weekends were on rent most of the time for weddings and events. When we speak of these such events and Pioneer Days for

the school children, the person who comes to mind is Ida Denier. She, personally, books all the events and weddings at the McFarland, and the Rae Museum, and most of the Pioneer Days. Ida, a former Galt Volunteer of the Year recipient, also interacts with more than 5,000 school children each year during Pioneer Days.

A very huge thank you goes to our Historian/Archivist, Dan Tarnasky for bringing the history of Galt and the area to our local community who might not ever see some of the old pictures that he posts and articles he writes for the Galt Herald. He has made the history of Galt something the younger generation has latched on to. His Snapshots of Galt History on Facebook has brought much attention to our organization. LaVonne Riddlespurger deserves much gratitude for her hard work in our annual yard and estate sale. This took weeks of planning and organizing; and was a huge fundraiser for us.

As President, I personally want to thank our Executive Board for their dedication and leadership. I could not have asked for a better team than we have; and I look forward to next year with you. There are so many to thank who made 2018 a prosperous year for the Galt Area Historical Society: All our chairpersons and their committees, all the volunteers, the Galt community, and most important, those who came before us. It is an honor to help preserve their legacies. If I have missed someone, I am sorry. You are all truly important.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May 2019 see more fellowship, positive actions, and accomplishments.

~ Janis Barsetti Gray

Policy and Procedure Review

Annual Appeal Letter

I. Purpose:

The Annual Appeal Letter was originally conceived to invite those who live too far away to attend fund raising events of the Galt Area Historical Society to take an active role in fund raising and offer local members a way to participate in raising funds for the Society even if they are unable to attend fund raising events.

II. Related Documentation:

Sample Annual Appeal Letter

III. Procedure:

1. In February of each year, the Corresponding Secretary drafts and mails out an Annual Appeal Letter to all current members of the Galt Area Historical Society. The letter mentions the purpose of the Annual Appeal Letter and how the funds will be used, a brief recap of the year's highlights, and a Donation Form that is attached to the annual appeal letter. Enclosed with the letter is a pre-addressed envelope for easy mailing.
2. The funds received as a result of the Annual Appeal Letter are deposited in the General Fund.

In Memoriam

On November 21st, we lost one of our most beloved members, Shirley Turner. Shirley was involved in an automobile accident. I am sure that most of you knew Shirley. She was always ready and willing to volunteer for whatever we needed. She not only was loved by all of us, but by our community and many school children. She was a volunteer with the Galt Police in the CAPS program and was a Grandma Cop. It was obvious by all those who attended her Celebration of Life last week, just how much impact she had in so many people's lives. The Galt Area Historical Society sends our sincere condolences to Shirley's sons Rod and Mark and all their families. We will miss Shirley very much.



Social Media Assistant Needed

How quickly this year flew by! I'm honored and proud of this year's GAHS event success. There will continue to be challenges and through leadership of our president we will meet them head on.

I'd like to ask our membership if they know anyone (especially a student) who can work with our Social Media group. As most of you know Steven Sharp laid the foundation for our new website but recently moved on to California Polytechnic State University. Since then Maria Spanuth & I have been doing our best keeping it current. We welcome any assistance with website and Facebook efforts for 2019. Please feel free to contact me with input/ideas or suggestions with social media outreach opportunities.

Please note: All social media posts and printed flyers must be approved by Ralph Cortez before being published.

~ Ralph Cortez
Social Media Chair

Calendar

Sunday, December 9 | 12pm-4pm
Christmas Open House
McFarland Ranch

Sunday, December 9 | 1pm-4pm
Christmas Open House
Rae House Museum

Monday, December 17 | 6pm
General Meeting / Christmas Party / Installation of Officers
GAHS Hall, 550 C Street

Dates and Times are Subject to Change

For the Benefit of All Members

1. The society recently received a letter signed by a Galt community member which stated that community members using our facilities were not being asked to provide the document proof of insurance or the proper security guards needed as per the contract.

The concerns were fully investigated and proved unfounded. All events had the proper required paperwork.

2. A letter from the State Environmental Management Department stating that they had received a complaint that an unpermitted food business was being operated. This too was investigated and proved unfounded. The society can serve food to members within certain guidelines.

As stated above, both items are closed.

Archival Materials

There is still a lot of Galt History out there that Galtonians or former Galtonians have stashed in boxes in closets, basements, and attics. Whether you donate items to us or let us "scan and return," please search through those boxes and collect the items listed below. You can drop them off (Barsetti Vineyards, 400 4th Street #150, Galt, Ca) or mail them to us. Many of you don't realize that what might be insignificant to you is very significant to us. The only requirement is it has to do with people and places in our Historic Area (Galt, Herald, Thornton, Liberty, Elliott, Hicksville, Arno, or Colony). Remember that Galt Area History is 1869 to 2018.

1. Photographs (People or Places)
2. Old Property Deeds
3. Diplomas
4. Awards
5. Newspaper or Magazine Clippings
6. Store Receipts
7. Programs from school or specials events
8. Church Programs
9. Wedding Announcements
10. Funeral Programs
11. Advertisements
12. Business Cards from any business
13. High School or any Elementary School Yearbook
14. School Report Cards from any school
15. Old Galt Herald or Galt Gazette Newspapers
16. Matchbooks
17. Calendars
18. Military Induction or Discharge Papers and Commendations
19. Tickets to any events in our Historic Area
20. Anything else printed that has to do with Galt, Thornton, Herald, Liberty, Elliott, Hicksville, Arno, or Colony.



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Galt's First Kindergarten

Many years ago, one of the Galt Area Historical Society's founders, Genie Olson, wrote this piece on her mother-in-law, Marie Olson (standing in photo).

With so many new elementary schools being built in Galt, it is hard to imagine what it was like when Galt had one elementary school that took up the entire block of E and F Streets, from 5th to 6th. It was on that campus that Galt Elementary School District created the first Kindergarten.

In late summer of 1947, Principal Martin Cabalzar was interviewing a teacher candidate, Marie Olson. As he reviewed her resume, he learned that she had had experience teaching kindergarten classes. Mr. Cabalzar had long hoped to have a kindergarten in the Galt Elementary School system, so he asked if she would be interested in starting a kindergarten program at Galt Elementary School. He explained that they would install a small portable building and attach it to the existing structure and the kindergarten class would be set up there.

Delighted at the prospect of creating a new program for the District, Marie

agreed to the project and began the work of planning Galt's first kindergarten. What she soon learned was that the District did not have any extra funds, once they had purchased the classroom building. All the equipment would have to be created by the teacher or someone who would help her.

Marie was a resourceful person. She called upon the help of her husband and the parents of the kindergarten children. The toys were donated or made as she requested them, and in no time at all, a place for the children's learning was created.

Once again, with the great spirit of cooperation that existed in the Community, the new classroom was born and has been growing ever since. Marie Olson, the first kindergarten teacher in the Galt Elementary School District, eventually retired from teaching to become Galt's librarian and the founder of the Galt Seniors Club. She fought hard for meals for senior shut-ins and for transportation for those who didn't drive in our city. Marie Olson was truly a woman of leadership, determination, and with civic concern.



Louise's Walk Down Memory Lane

Oh Christmas Tree!

Oh Christmas Tree! Oh Christmas Tree! As a child I longed for one but had to be satisfied with a stocking hung near our big black kitchen stove. When I was in the Fifth Grade, our teacher's father set up a tree near a corner of our classroom. Miss Mullens (later Mrs. Clarence Hauschildt) prepared a program at Christmas for the last day of school when the 8th Graders graduated. In retrospect, I still see it: About 6 or 7 feet, a sparsely branched jack pine. The ornaments were equally sparse. For me, it was magnificent. The final touch was real candles! Eighth grader, Harry Parker, recited the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas." All pupils sang "Silent Night" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." Mrs. Kohnke always made her famous German Chocolate cake encrusted with fresh chopped pecans from her own trees. I can't remember anyone else owning pecan trees ... Sorry I digress.

At last the candles were carefully lit with a bucket of water very close by. The program ended with parents pleased with their children's performances. The next day Miss Mullens asked ME if I would like that tree. I remember it crowded across the backseat of her car. We set it in a corner of my bedroom. My "Mom" found a bit of red ribbon and some silver foil. I have no remembrance of a stocking: The tree was enough. After 100 years, I have yet to experience a more wonderful Christmas

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Curator's Corner

Happy Holidays from the Rae House Museum! Our first Christmas Open House on December 2nd was a success. If you haven't yet come to see the amazing decorations inside the museum, you should do so this upcoming Sunday. We would like to extend our most sincere thanks to Joan Werblun, and Vickie Larsen, for creating the gorgeous floral arrangements and for the superb decorations. In addition to the lovely Christmas tree, every room is beautifully appointed with garlands, wreaths, floral bouquets, and poinsettias. Joan and Vickie really are very gifted, and we are so grateful for the time and resources they expended to make the Rae House a magical Christmas experience.

tin can lantern, paint a wooden ornament, decorate a snowy Christmas pine cone, sew a button and ribbon decoration, and create an orange pomander. The addition of activities to attract families and children is part of our ongoing effort to bring awareness and interest to the history of Galt and specifically the Rae House Museum. Plans for the upcoming year will be a continuation of this effort.

For many years, attendance at the once monthly open house at the museum has been very poor. Often times our dedicated docents sit and wait for visitors, and are rarely rewarded with more than one or two each month. The engagement

with the community these last six months is the first part of our plan to bring people to the Rae House. We are very pleased with the number of new people who have visited the museum during our past events. Plans are currently being developed to offer specialized tours to children and families during the monthly open house days. Anyone is welcome to attend these tours. Our topics will change from month to month and will cover various aspects of local and state history. There will be a hands-on component integrated into each tour. More details will be provided in the coming months. Thank you for your continued support of the Rae House Museum

The Rae House will again be open this Sunday December 9th. Once again, Santa will be there for photos, and we will have six different Christmas craft activities for kids, including: handcraft a

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Bits & Pieces

Volunteer Hours

Please make sure that you prepare and turn in your volunteer hours for 2018 to a Board member by the end of December. These hours are most important when we seek grants that require to see and match volunteer hours. Many grants will turn the hours into money and match that amount.

Christmas at the Rae and McFarland

Dec 2, Christmas at the Rae and McFarland were enjoyed by many. Please make sure you attend and tell friends and family for the final date of Dec 9th. The McFarland House open from 12-4; and the Rae Museum open from 1-4p. There will be hot apple cider and cookies, visits with Santa Claus, cookie decorating and crafts for the kids.

Thank You

Many thanks to local florist, Joan Werblun and Vickie Larson for decorating the Rae House Museum for Christmas. All decorating was donating by Joan. She also made displays and wreaths that are for sale and proceeds donated to the Galt Area Historical Society.

2019 Executive Board

The 2019 GAHS Executive Board will be sworn in at the general meeting on December 17th.

Christmas Party

The Galt Area Historical Society's annual Christmas Party will be held at our final General Meeting of the year, Monday December 17th at our hall on C St, starting at 6 pm. We will have a short meeting beginning at 6 pm, then move onto appetizers and desserts. Please bring your favorite appetizer

or dessert for the members to enjoy. There will be coffee and tea provided. Be prepared to have some fun with bingo and other games; and the chance to win some fun prizes. If you have anything you want to donate for prizes, please contact Maria Spannuth.

Recuperating at home

Ida Denier had surgery on her foot Tues 12/4. Even though she will be off her feet for several weeks, she will be working from home. Rita Martin will be helping Ida by showing the McFarland or Rae for events. We hope you have a speedy recovery Ida ... and stay off your feet. Enjoy your time off.

PayPal

Ralph Cortez and Maria Spannuth are working to correct Pay Pal so that donations can be made to the Galt Area Historical Society, along with membership fees and merchandise purchases. Since February is the month we appeal for donations, it will hopefully be ready by then. It should help increase donations, as many people like to use credit cards.

Membership Dues

All memberships, other than those who paid for Lifetime memberships, will be due January 1. Please send your dues in promptly to GAHS, PO Box 782, Galt 95632. Our membership Chairperson, Rhonda Smith, appreciates it. Many people think it is a one-time fee, but, again, unless you are a lifetime member, it is a yearly fee. No invoice is sent out. The fee schedule is the following: An individual is \$20; if you want a Family membership, \$40 (means anyone living in your household can vote); Students are \$10; Individual Lifetime is \$200; Family Lifetime is \$250; and Small Business is \$50. Lifetime is the best buy.

Gossip from the

Galt Gazette

December
1893

Young man from Galt, Hiram Fugitt, tried to get out of jury duty by claiming to be deaf. Had to serve anyway.



Horse and cart belonging to Bob Orr stolen from hitching post in front of Held's Barber Shop.



Charles Quiggle has opened hostilities against Simon Prouty for interest in the Commercial House.



Born, near Galt, to the wife of W.W. Bottimore, a son.



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