



August 2020



## From the Archives Partners in Crime

In small towns across America, it isn't unusual for everyone to know just about everyone else in town. The same goes for the local high school. In a graduating class that only totals thirty, you knew every one of your classmates and made some hard and fast friendships that lasted for years. Such is the case of Harry Aschwanden and John Enjalran. The two became friends by participating in some school organizations including Student Council, Future Farmers of America, Band, and the baseball team. The friendship lasted for years after graduation, and their lives mirrored some of their school activities. Harry became a successful rancher and John served on the Galt City Council.

## Postponement of Annual Election

Members,

We are all aware that we are in unprecedented times because of the Covid-19 virus. As the Galt Area Historical Society (GAHS) Chairman of the Election Committee, it was my recommendation to the Galt Area Historical Society Board to cancel the GAHS

elections for 2020 and to hold the elections in the regularly scheduled time in 2021.

Because of the fact that we are not able to meet as a group, potential candidates could not properly conduct their speeches in front of the membership nor cast their ballot. Yes, the candidates could place their speeches

on 'YouTube' or the Society could hold a Zoom meeting, but many of our members do not have internet access nor a computer. There were simply too many logistical challenges to hold a fair election for this year so that is why I made the recommendation to the Board.

Attached is the Resolution that the Board's President and Secretary have signed officially postponing this year's elections. I ask for your support regarding this decision and continue to Be Safe in our efforts to combat the Covid-19 virus.

Shaun L. Farrell  
Chairman  
GAHS Election  
Committee

### RESOLUTION 2020-01

#### RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GALT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY DECLARING A POSTPONEMENT OF THE ANNUAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors for the Galt Area Historical Society previously ordered an election to elect the Executive Board; and

WHEREAS, in March the Governor of California issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of emergency for all counties; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has since issued orders related to the virus and imposing restrictions on business activity to protect the health and safety of the public and slow the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors for the Galt Area Historical Society has reviewed each of the referenced proclamations and orders regarding gatherings and the difficulty of holding an election including speeches and secret ballot voting; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the current state of emergency, the Board of Directors of the Galt Area Historical Society desires to exercise its authority to postpone the conduct of the September, 2020, Board of Directors election.

NOW THEREFORE; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GALT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY that the 2020 election to elect the Board of Directors shall be postponed until the next uniform election date, occurring in October, 2021. This resolution is effective upon adoption by the Board of Directors for the Galt Area Historical Society and shall be signed by the President of the Board of Directors

#### GALT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By: Janis Barsetti-Gray

Janis Barsetti-Gray  
President, Galt Area Historical Society

ATTEST:

By: Elizabeth Haglund  
Elizabeth Haglund,  
Secretary, Galt Area Historical Society

Adopted: July 30, 2020

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We welcome our new members: Joanie Corona Family, Jeanette Dean, Janet Horn Family, Aderian Hutson Family, David LaRoe Family, Lisa Marangi and Debbie Martinez Family. We look forward to meeting you all in person and sharing our goals of the Historical Society!

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.

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 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](mailto:rhonda@galtsmiths.com) or call, 209-745-4504.

## 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

The Tower Views is printed by  
Express Type & Graphics  
740 Spaans Drive #2  
Galt, CA 95632  
209 . 745 . 2334

## A Message From The President

It has been a very difficult time for many of our members and residents of our town, as well as the entire world. I hope that you, your family, and your friends have remained safe. It is very important to follow the guidelines given to us by the state and the health department, regardless of our personal opinions. Since we do not know if anyone around us has been with someone with COVID-19 or even has it, we have to protect ourselves so we do not affect our loved ones or others we come in contact with. Please be safe. I wish I knew when this would end; or if it will entirely change how we live. As an organization, we may have to reassess how we hold fundraisers, events and meetings; how we handle wedding and event rentals, Pioneer Days, Open Houses, and Pumpkin Patch Days. Whatever we have to do, we will follow all the correct protocol to keep everyone safe.

There is much positive in our lives also. With that said, we are so blessed and honored to be celebrating another birthday with one of Charter Members and first President of the Galt Area Historical Society, Louise Loll Dowdell. Louise was born in the Galt area August 15, 1918. For those of you who follow history, that means that Louise lived through our first world pandemic, The Spanish Flu, in 1918; and now she sees another world changing pandemic, COVID-19.

Louise served as President for 6 terms, she was responsible for our organization having a museum, and she began our first Newsletter, Tower Views. It was always an honor to serve on the Board with Louise. She has such a remarkable recall of the Galt history. No one could put anything passed her because she remembered everything. If we needed to know something, it was always, "ask Louise, she will know." She did! Louise went to school with my father and my aunts; and my first recollection of Louise was when I would

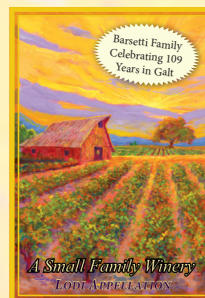
see her at the Post Office on C St, where she worked for many years. We are very fortunate when we meet an individual who cares about family and community and history as much as Louise does. She has been a mentor to many of us and instilled the love for Galt's history. Louise is truly the Keeper of the Key to Galt's history. Louise, for that, I thank you very much.

We look forward to celebrating, while social distancing, your birthday a little early on Friday August 14th. We hope it will be a day to remember for you and for our town. Many people may not realize what a profound impact you have had on Galt. Galt is what it is because of people like you who made sure our history was preserved for generations. You have held the key to our past and made sure that no one revises the stories of Galt's history.

I want to thank Sharon Fernandes for starting the "ball rolling" on Louise's celebration and for the help she gave in bringing everything together.

Janis Barsetti Gray

## Barsetti Vineyards®



We are open for tastings, wine by the glass & bottles to enjoy only in our shaded patio area at this time. We are practicing social distancing and following all required guidelines.

Old Town Galt, 400 4th St. Suite 150  
209.744.6062

Open: Friday, Saturday, Sunday 12-5pm

[ricjan@barsettivineyards.com](mailto:ricjan@barsettivineyards.com) • [www.barsettivineyards.com](http://www.barsettivineyards.com)





# Whistleblower Power

## Purpose:

The Gait Area Historical Society officers, members and volunteers are required to observe high standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. It is the responsibility of officers, employees and volunteers to comply with and to report violations or suspected violations of the GAHS bylaws and policies, or federal and state laws in accordance with this policy. No officer, employee, volunteer or contractor who in good faith reports a violation shall suffer harassment, retaliation or adverse employment consequence. This Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable officers and others to raise serious concerns within the GAHS prior to seeking resolution outside the GAHS. This policy is highly recommended by the IRS.

## II. Policy:

1. Officers, employees, and volunteers should share their questions, concerns, suggestions or complaints with someone who can address them properly. In most cases, they should report to the President.
2. Any good faith report, concern or complaint is fully protected by this policy, even if after investigation it is not substantiated. Anyone filling out a complaint must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed indicates a violation of the GAHS bylaws and policies, or law.
3. Upon the request of the complainant, the GAHS will use its best effort to protect the confidentiality of the complainant for any good faith report. Violations or suspected violations may be submitted anonymously. Reports of violations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation.
4. All reports will be promptly investigated, and appropriate corrective action will be taken if warranted. The complainant will be informed that follow-up has or is occurring within thirty days. The Board shall be informed of all such complaints or reports.

# Bits & Pieces

## Updated Information

Recently, we tried to contact members by email, if we had an email address; and by phone to let everyone know about Louise Dowdall's 102nd Birthday Celebration. If you did not receive either an email message or a phone call, that is because we do not have good information for you. At times, information needs to be sent out to our members between newsletters; and if we do not have good contact information, you will be left out. Please contact Rhonda Smith at: rhonda@galtsmiths.com and give your email address, or call our voice line at 209 730-3127 and leave your name and phone number. You can also write to us at: GAHS PO Box 782; Galt, CA 95632.

## Events

We have now cancelled all our meetings, except Board meetings for 2020, cancelled the Rae House monthly open house, weddings and events at the McFarland, all our fundraisers, Pioneer Days, and our Christmas Open Houses at both the Rae and the McFarland. We are still holding out from cancelling our October Yard Sale, as we may be able to social distance by having most on the outside. We will keep you posted as we get closer. Should anything change from the state and county regarding the COVID shut downs, we will assess the situation at that time. Presently, it appears that nothing will change.

## Mannequins Needed

We are looking for a female mannequin to have once the Liberty School House is completed. It will be dressed in period clothing as the teacher. We do have some children. If you have any mannequins (full body form), please contact Dan Tarnasky at 916 952-2368. We are a ways off of decorating the inside of the school, but we are trying to accumulate what we need now.

## In Memory

In July, we lost two members of our society. Ty Coupe passed away. Ty and Dolores have been members of the Galt Historical Society for many years. Mike Payne passed away, as well. Mike was the husband of our member and former Mayor, Barbara Payne. The Galt Area Historical Society extends our sincere condolences to the Coupe and Payne families. You are in our thoughts.

## Louise's Birthday

You will read in several places in the newsletter about Louise Dowdell's 102 Birthday. It would be wonderful if as many people as possible sent her a birthday card or a note. Her actual birthday is August 15th. We will be celebrating on Friday August 14th. Her address is: Louise Dowdell; c/o Golden Living Center; 144 St.; Galt, CA 95632.



**JIM BASINGER**  
Owner

Jim@basingerconcrete.com  
916.349.6817

Commercial & Residential  
Contractor License: 685231

# Calendar

**CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**  
Rae House and McFarland Ranch

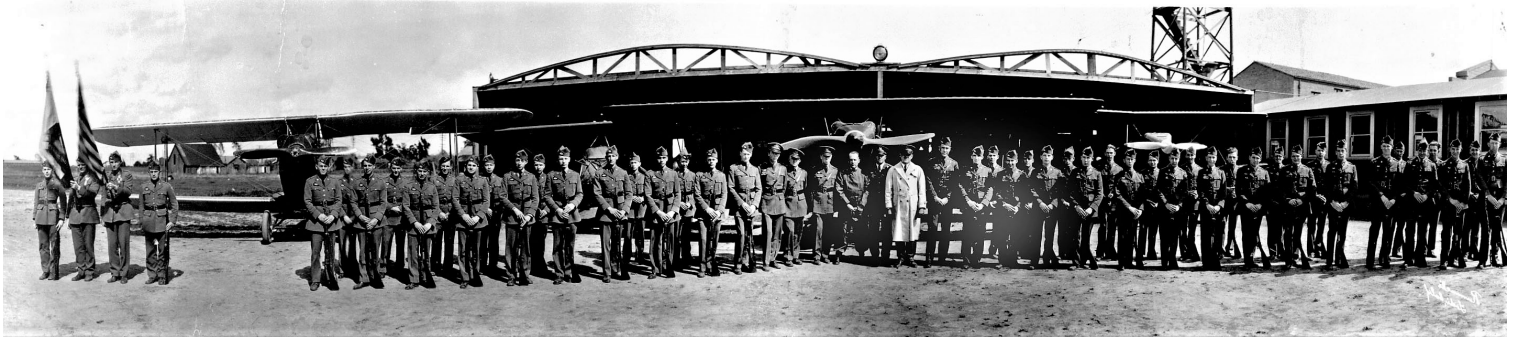
**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
Monday | August 10 | 4pm

**CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**  
General Membership Meetings

Dates and times are subject to change

# Galt Technical Junior College for Aeronautics

(Revisited)



One of the stories that makes Galt History unique is the one of the Galt Technical Junior College for Aeronautics. The school made it into hundreds of newspapers, four national magazines, and a Pathe Newsreel before its demise. There is a lot more to this story contained in the Society Archives but here is an abbreviated version.

After the 1926 resignation of Ernest Oertel as Principal of Galt High School, the Board of Trustees and local citizens interviewed twenty candidates and chose a man named William Rutherford. He had been Superintendent of Schools in Dayton, Oregon, before teaching at Sacramento's Part-Time High School. Rutherford brought with him an enthusiasm for aeronautics and was in the process of acquiring enough flight hours to become a licensed pilot.

In the fall of 1926, Rutherford instituted a couple of aviation courses, Principles of Flight and Physical Geography. Other courses would follow in the spring. It seemed that William Rutherford was gauging the interest of flying within the student body. The arrival of Charles Lindbergh for a speaking engagement in Sacramento encouraged Rutherford to have a meeting with the GHS Board of Trustees and the citizens of Galt. What followed was a complete four-year course in aeronautics.

Rutherford's talent as a motivational speaker proved to be beneficial to the program. Between letter writing and public speaking engagements, the publicity was overwhelming. In the coming months, Galt High School received donations of equipment from the US Navy worth an estimated \$150,000. The hardware included a new monoplane, two smaller two Navy training planes, airplane parts, 2 Wright Whirlwind motors (think Spirit of St. Louis), and scientific

equipment. The US Army donated a weather balloon. After a speaking engagement in Visalia, GHS received 100 gallons of aviation fuel. The War Department approved a \$15,000 annual donation to the program. Smaller contributions from the Board of Trustees, local businesses, and other interested groups provided enough money to maintain a viable aviation school better than most around the country.

By the time school started in the fall of 1927, Galt High School had two graded runways, an 8,000,000 candle power aviation light beacon and floodlights installed on a tower, a set of weather instruments for observation and forecasting, an airplane hangar for storage and mechanics instruction, and a four-year course of study in aviation. In the end, students would receive cadet flyer status in the US Navy or

Army Air Corps. Applications for the new school totaled 700, but only 75 were accepted, including future Galt businessman Edward Ambrogio.

It seemed that the Galt Technical Junior College for Aeronautics could do no wrong and was on its way to becoming a national phenomenon, but all good things must come to an end. In past accounts of the college, it was a lack of funds resulting from the Great Depression that caused Galt High School to drop the program, but it was financial mismanagement bringing it to an end. That story will be in the next newsletter.

Historian



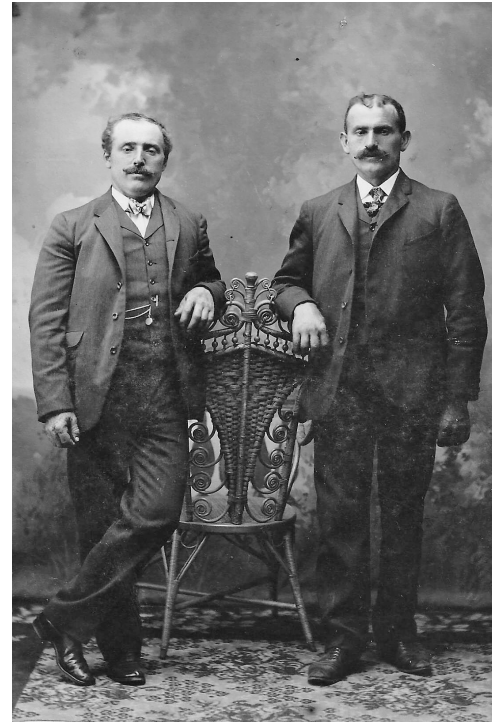


# Can you help us identify these Galt area citizens?

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](mailto:blckrssn@hotmail.com) | Phone: (916) 952-2368**



## LAW OFFICE OF LEN REIDREYNOSO

TRUSTS • WILLS • PROBATES  
CONTRACTS • BANKRUPTCY • BUSINESS  
WE ARE A DEBT RELIEF AGENCY

908 C STREET  
GALT, CA  
209-745-4411

IN GALT SINCE 2002



MEMBER OF  
GALT BUSINESS BUILDERS  
[WWW.GALTBUSINESSBUILDERS.COM](http://WWW.GALTBUSINESSBUILDERS.COM)



J & J Heating & Air provides high quality, professional customer service done right the first time to create comfortable, healthy, safe, and energy efficient places to live and work.

**Air Conditioning • Heating • Plumbing  
Duct Cleaning • Blown-In Insulation**

*For Quality and Dependability Call*

**J & J Heating & Air, Inc.**

**209.744.8114**

[www.jjheat.com](http://www.jjheat.com)

## FLORAL DESIGNS

Weddings • Quinceañeras  
Corporate Events

**209.745.0726**

J.M. Enterprises

Joan Werblun  
Owner



# The Incident at Murphy's Corral or The Real Beginning of the Bear Flag Revolt

Terry Albritton was born in Sacramento (delivered by Dr. Vernon Greer). Her dad was Floyd Taylor, Galt High School principal from 1934-1950. Inspired by her dad, she has always been interested in California history and has done a lot of her own research. Terry says, "Imagine my surprise to learn that the Bear Flag Revolt actually began at Murphy's Corral—a fact that few people know and about which there is little information." The Spanish/Mexican heritage of California inspired her to study Spanish and become proficient in it. In researching the "Murphy's Corral" article, she was able to access the personal memoirs of Lt. Francisco Arce who played a prominent role in the beginning of the Bear Flag Revolt. His memoirs were dictated in Spanish, and the original version is at the Bancroft Library in Berkeley from which she graduated with degrees in Spanish and political science. After a long absence from Galt, she reconnected with Genie Olson in 2001. Her passion for preserving the history of Galt and the area inspired Terry to write her book, "The Last Real Hobo" and also to research and write this article, "The Incident at Murphy's Corral". This is the first in a series of 4 parts.



It may not measure up to that famous confrontation at the OK Corral, but the incident at Murphy's Corral can claim its share of drama. The scene there in June of 1846 might have precipitated the Mexican American War if that conflict had not already begun 25 days earlier. This fact was unknown to the players at Murphy's Corral, then called Rancho Ernesto. What occurred there, however, continues to inform the history and mythology of California.

Martin Murphy, Jr. was a 37-year-old Irish immigrant whose first view of the Great Central Valley came in the winter of 1844. He saw overflowing rivers, creeks, and streams lined by massive oak trees with diameters of eight to twelve feet and measuring to heights of 150 feet. Ducks, geese, and countless varieties of waterfowl gathered in such numbers that their wings made a deafening roar as they lifted en masse from their winter habitat at the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. The rivers and creeks were rife with salmon, trout, otter,



John Sutter

mussels, crayfish, and turtles. Murphy and members of his emigrant party had heard stories of abundant wildlife and leagues of unsettled land. Yet, they were astounded at the sheer magnitude of what they observed.

Their enthusiasm was dampened when they reached Sutter's Fort and learned of the factional discord among ruling Mexican authorities and others with vested interests in Alta California. John A. Sutter, a Swiss emigrant, owned a 200 square mile land grant on the Sacramento River and had become a naturalized Mexican citizen in order to purchase his vast holding called New Helvetia. Politically astute, Sutter supported whichever faction most aligned with his personal interests. In the winter of 1844, he sided with Governor Manuel Micheltorena appointed by the authorities in Mexico City. Micheltorena was unpopular in California, especially among some current and former officials. Martin Murphy, Jr. had no reason to become involved in controversies until Sutter informed him that "foreigners" like Murphy himself were no longer encouraged to settle in California. Sutter revealed that a movement to overthrow Micheltorena was afloat with former governor, Juan Batista Alvarado, and General Jose Castro as instigators.

Opportunist that he was, Sutter convinced Murphy and his fellow emigrants to join his personal army to defend Micheltorena and

to suppress the uprising. As a reward, Sutter guaranteed the emigrants that they would be permitted to remain in California and to purchase land. Murphy must have been conflicted because some of his family were with him at Sutter's Fort, while his wife and infant daughter had remained at a winter camp on the Yuba River. Severe winter storms had prevented them from entering the Valley with the others.

Sensing that they had no alternative, Murphy, Jr., his four brothers, and their 59-year-old father were sworn into Sutter's Army of the Sacramento. They joined a ragtag force of native Hawaiian Kanakas, assorted mountain men, a German captain, and others recruited by Sutter himself. Among the boldest and most brazen was a trapper and adventurer named Ezekiel Merritt. Known as "Stuttering Zeke", he later played an instrumental role in the incident at Murphy's Corral.

Sutter's "army" joined forces with Governor Micheltorena, and they marched to Los Angeles in pursuit of General Castro and his men. Very soon, though, Murphy, Jr., his brothers, and their father suspected that the Mexican leaders were just playing war games without malicious intent, thus wasting Sutter's energy and resources. The Murphy men and others of the emigrant party approached Micheltorena with concerns about their families and friends isolated on the Yuba River. Respectfully, they asked for leave from the Army of the Sacramento to rescue the stranded group. The sympathetic Mexican governor granted their request, sending them on their way north to the Yuba by way of Sutter's Fort.

Sutter, however, was still engaged in making war while procuring a second large land grant from Micheltorena. Its proximity to New Helvetia doubled his fiefdom. Before finally returning to his fort, Sutter managed to be captured and held prisoner by Castro's forces. A new governor, Pio Pico, not only pardoned him, but also permitted him to retain his massive land holdings. The short-lived Army of the Sacramento disbanded, and Micheltorena's men were discharged. Eleven months later the United States would declare war on Mexico.

With Sutter back in New Helvetia and the emigrant party rescued, Murphy, Jr. set out



to homestead in the Valley. He bought two leagues of the Los Cazadores land grant known as Rancho Ernesto. The vendor was Ernest Rufus, the general who had marched with him and the others in the Army of the Sacramento. Located on the Cosumnes River between what is now Elk Grove and Galt, the land that became Murphy's Rancho was purchased for \$245.00 in May of 1845. The closest neighbor was John Sutter, 18 miles north of the Murphy property.

Having homesteaded twice before in Quebec and Missouri, Murphy knew that the first order of business was shelter for his family. For his previous houses, he had used wood, but he was advised by Sutter and other settlers that adobe was a more practical material to withstand the excessive summer heat and the unpredictable winter precipitation. Sutter offered the assistance of his Indian labor force. Although the Native American population in the Valley did not live in adobe dwellings, they were skilled in making the adobe bricks used for years in the mission buildings and the expansive Mexican hacienda structures.

The spring of 1845 in the Central Valley must have enthralled the Murphy family with its glorious mosaic of wildflowers: blue lupines, orange poppies, magenta red maids, yellow carpets, and lily white broadleaves. Sharing the vast expanses of the Valley floor were purple and nodding needlegrasses, one

sided bluegrass, and deer grass. Here native bees and beetles found an abundance of pollination opportunities, as did the buckeye, anise swallowtail, and orange sulfur butterflies alighting in the vast fields of clover. To the newly settling emigrants, it must have seemed that a master painter had spilled his palette over the fields, hills, and riparian woodlands.

In this lush environment, Martin Murphy, Jr. began constructing an adobe shelter with the help of native Miwoks "on loan" to him from Sutter. The Murphy sons, James—age 13, Martin—age 9, Patrick—age 7, and Barney—age 4 made friends with the Indian laborers. They and others from the Murphy-Stevens emigrant party had been exposed to Native Americans en route from Missouri to California. Chief Pa-reesh of the Patowatomi tribe had given them permission to camp on his land near Kaneshville (Council Bluffs, Iowa). Later in the journey, they traded successfully with the Sioux at Fort Laramie and had several peaceful encounters with the Crows. The greatest Indian friend of the party was a Piute chief whom the emigrants called Truckee. Using his instructions, the emigrants were guided to water and grazing lands before beginning the treacherous climb across the Sierra Nevada in 1844.

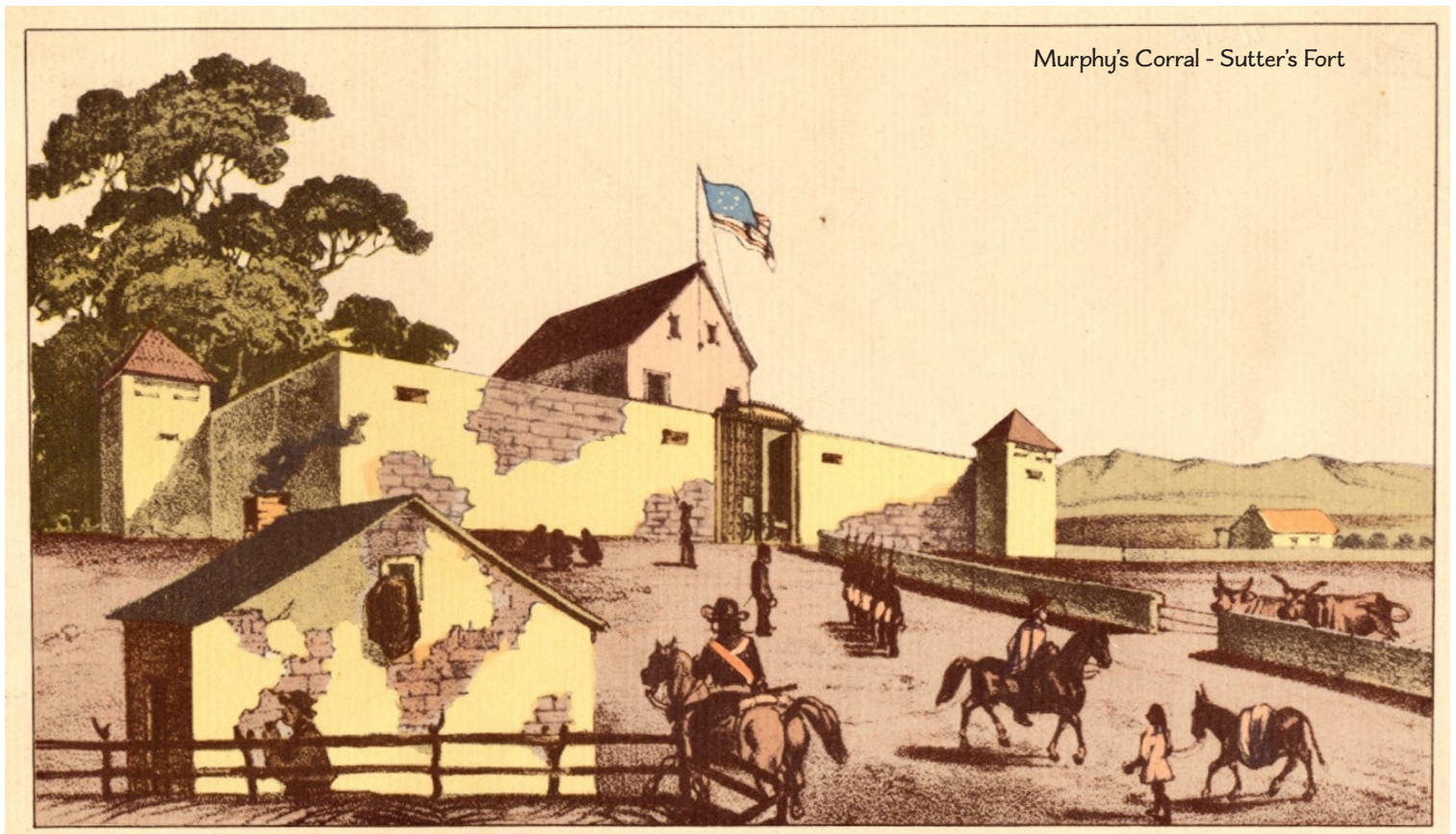
Having been thus exposed to Native Americans, the Murphy children had no fear of their new neighbors in California. The Plains Miwoks, led

by Chief Ole Secumnes, hunted the pronghorn antelope, deer, ducks, cranes, and geese, all of which were plentiful throughout the Central Valley. When river bottomlands overflowed with thousands of fish, they captured their food with little effort. These peaceful Native Americans welcomed the family and taught the older boys, James and Martin, how to hunt and fish, and how to gather acorns and wheat (penola).

The Miwok trusted and protected the Murphy family, inviting them to their celebrations and dances. In close proximity to the Rancho was a sweathouse or ceremonial roundhouse called a "Hun'ge". Built over an excavated pit, this structure was partially underground, supported by oak center posts, and thatched with cottonwood boughs, willow branches, and grass. Sealed with earth, the roundhouse resembled a big pile of dirt, inside which the Miwok performed their ritual dances while drums beat and women chanted.

In 1845 a tribal conflict led to the death of Chief Ole Secumnes, the Murphy's friend. His widow feared that hostilities might endanger the emigrant settlers. She and another Miwok stood guard at the front and rear entrances of the family adobe to ensure that Mary Murphy and her children would not be harmed.

To be continued.....



Murphy's Corral - Sutter's Fort



# Recollections

by Rita Nottoli

On August 15, 1918, a baby girl was born on the family ranch completing the family of Athos and Stella Loll. She joined her brother Carl. Doris Louise Loll was born in the middle of harvest season.

At a very young age she expressed a wish for a pony. Her Grandparents Marta and Hugo Loll arranged for her to have one. The little pony was called "Minnie" and was Louise's pet and companion for many years. Minnie lived well into the 1940's.

School days began at a little country school called the Brown School. Louise said her first grade teacher was Miss Daniels and second grade teacher was Miss Goff. In later grades her teacher was Mrs. Annabelle Hauschildt. This teacher later taught two of Aunt Louise's nieces at the Galt Grammar School.

After graduating from grammar school, she attended Galt High School. It was there that she met the love of her life, Earl Dowdell. After graduating they were married. Aunt Louise began to work in Earl's family owned and operated restaurant named, "The Midway Café". Prior to this she had worked at the Giant Orange. This was the juice bar of the time on Highway 99.

Along came World War II and Earl joined the Navy. Aunt Louise was working as a ticket taker at the Greyhound Bus Lines at Stockton at the time. At the close of the war they returned to Galt. For a period of time they helped care for and raise three nieces to help Louise's brother Carl. While they were there they were also building their first home in Galt.

Upon moving into their new home, Aunt Louise went to work for a Real Estate company in Galt. Her next job was the cook at the Galt High School. This was a challenging job because of a small budget and many hungry students to feed. Upon leaving this position after two years, she went to work for the U.S. Post Office. After 26 years, she retired from this position.

Aunt Louise and Uncle Earl hosted many family gatherings. As the years went by there were marriages and many

more nieces and nephews, the family get togethers became quite large.

Aunt Louise and Uncle Earl had inherited a big white house so there was plenty of space for all. The food was always delicious and everyone was made to feel welcome. Aunt Louise and Uncle Earl were always very generous and shared with all the family.

Aunt Louise belonged the Native Daughters of the Golden West. She is a charter member of the Galt Area Historical Society and it's first President. She became a member of the Galt Bible Church and was active in it for over 50 years.

Upon her retirement Louise began to paint and painted many pretty pictures. Next, she took a class in creative writing and consequently wrote many short

stories. The culmination of this endeavor was a book written by Louise which was a combination of fact and fiction. It was a depiction of her Mother's family on a wagon train. The book was named "Buttered Gold".

OUR "Auntie Weese" was there for her whole family, her friends, community and her church. She has filled 102 years to the brim and is still reaching out to family and friends via her phone with cheerful calls.

Her life is definitely a lesson in courage and fortitude.

Our Aunt Louise if a great example of "Pioneer Spirit"!

Written from loving memories by,  
Rita Nottoli, Niece



Louise Dowdell ~ 1937





# Louise Dowdell's 102nd Birthday Celebration

## Friday, August 14th

1. Those who want to participate in the drive-by parade, line up on 3rd Street starting at the old Catholic Church at 9 am. Police vehicle and fire truck will be first. In the parade next comes the old cars organized by Ron Jacobson and next some old tractors organized by Harry Souders and the Old Gas Engine group. Followed by family and friends.
2. Parade leaves for Golden Living just up street on F Street at 9:30 am.
3. DJ, Brian King will start playing some oldies music at about 9 am for residents.
4. Drive-by Parade can make several trips in and out of parking lot and stop at about 9:45 am for a short ceremony.
5. A cake, donated by Savemart, will already be at Golden Living for Louise to share with other residents.
6. Brian King will let us use his PA system for the ceremony from city and county, and anyone who wants to wish Louise a Happy Birthday from a distance. Also Good Day Sacramento will be filming and the Galt Herald will be in attendance.
7. Louise will have a cupcake brought to her; and at that time, the crowd can sing Happy Birthday. Unfortunately, due to COVID, the large cake cannot be brought outside.
8. We want to make sure that all those who come wear face masks and social distance from non-associate people.
9. If you are unable to join us, or even if you do, please send Louise a Birthday Card or a note to: Louise Dowdell, c/o Golden Living Center, 144 F Street, Galt, CA 95632. It would be great to flood Louise with cards and well wishes.
10. Also, there may be limited parking in the parking lot of Golden Living and on the street. We want to make sure we do not block any entrances



# Local History Books Available

## Images of America: Galt

Contains vintage photos of Galt's past and a little history to go with it. The timeframe is 1869 to 1969. The Galt Area Historical Society is the source for the photos and historical information. Other Galtonians shared their photos, information, and memories.

## Past and Present: Galt

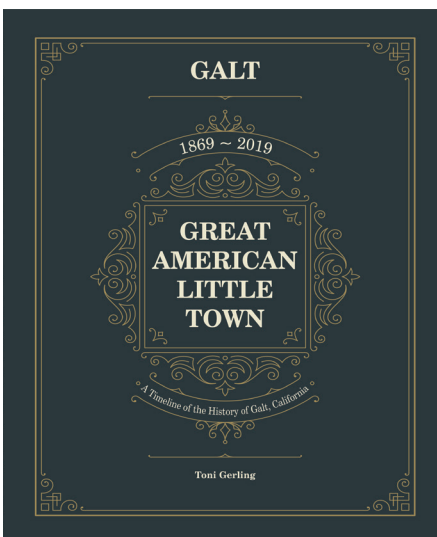
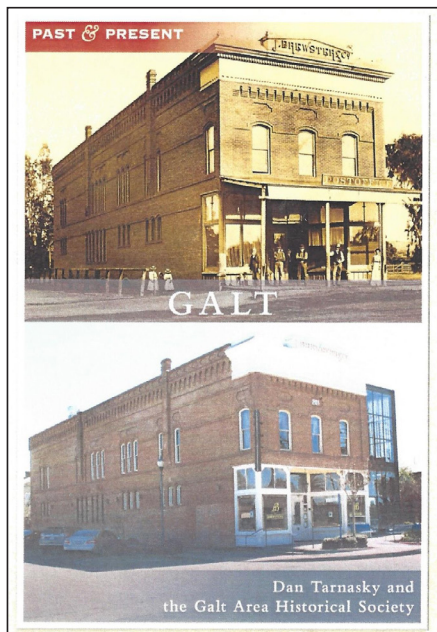
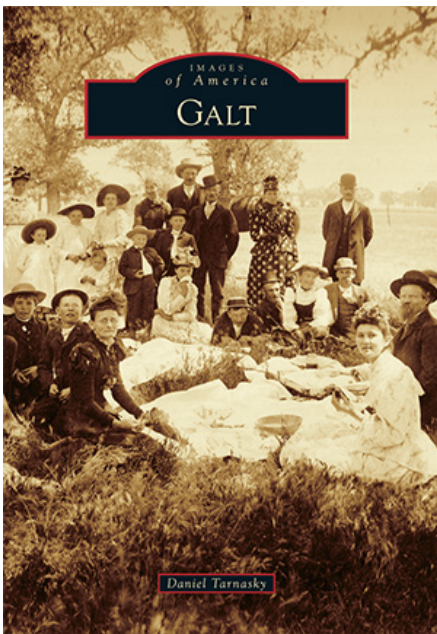
Contains vintage photos of buildings from Galt's past and what the building looks like now. Some places are unchanged while others have completely disappeared. All are still contained in the memories of those who grew up in their small town.

Books can be purchased at Barsetti's Tasting Room, 400 4th Street, Galt, through the GAHS website ([www.galthistory.org](http://www.galthistory.org)), or by contacting the author, Dan Tarnasky at [blckrssn@hotmail.com](mailto:blckrssn@hotmail.com).

## Great American Little Town, A Timeline of the History of Galt, California

Wrapping up a year of celebrations, the Galt District Chamber of Commerce has published a book commemorating Galt's sesquicentennial year. Only offered through the chamber and select businesses throughout Galt, the 100-page book is the 'labor of love' of long-time resident Toni Gerling of Express Type & Graphics. The book features a timeline of this area and includes photos and news clippings covering important milestones in local history. The book can be purchased at the following locations for \$25, which includes a commemorative pin.

- Galt Chamber office, 604 N. Lincoln Way
- Express Type & Graphics, 740 Spaans Drive #2
- The Coffee Shop Bakery, 411 C Street







# Looking for Photos

If anyone has photos of these businesses or know someone who might, please contact the Historian at [blckrssn@hotmail.com](mailto:blckrssn@hotmail.com).

Patton's Pharmacy – Had a soda fountain; closed 1940.  
 The Club – Jim Bradford and C. Tufts Bar and Café  
 Bank of Galt – W.C. Anderson, President  
 The Hardware Store – 305 4th Street  
 Galt Auto Supply – Lassiter and Shields / Hwy 99  
 Lifman's Department Store – Ben Lifman  
 John Paavola Shoe Repair  
 Koontz Place – "Boss" Koontz / On the Hwy  
 Wegat's Place – Fred Wegat / Lunch Counter, Restaurant, and Bar on C Street  
 Galt Bakery – Albert Clary / 217 4th Street  
 Pelisse Tailor – L. Pelisse / 108 5th Street  
 A.F. Bettreund Jewelry Repair – On the Highway  
 The Curve Service Station (1935) – Les Mendes / South of Galt / Highway 99  
 Colonial Beauty Shop – 213 4th Street / Harms Building  
 Galt Safeway Market  
 Slacks Economy Market  
 Pacific Telephone and Telegraph – 314 5th Street  
 Galt Electric Appliance Store – August Lauchert / Stefan Building  
 Matt's Tavern – Matt Lavey / Highway 99 / Twin Cities Corner  
 Patton's Barber Shop – Dexter Patton  
 Quenell's Garage – Angus Quenell / NW Corner 5th and C Streets  
 Tip Top Café – Mrs. A. Tardiff / 4th Street / 3 doors south of bank  
 Original Standard Service Station – Ted May before 1936  
 Galt Produce Co. – Fred Pitts / North of VanEvery's Service Station  
 Clover Made Jersey Cream Farm – O.C. Mays / North of Galt  
 Thornton Canning Co.  
 Galt Café – 4th Street between C and D Streets



## News from McFarland Ranch

Work at the ranch continues. Rita and Bernice are working on the planters around the house, keeping things looking great.

We are working on the fence and pergola due to termite damage and rot. We have talented volunteers, Earl, Roger, Robert and Brian. We have a lot of work to do and we are making good progress.

If anyone would like to come out and do some painting it would be very much appreciated. We have fencing and a ticket booth to paint. We have a regular work day on Mondays 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. Hope to see you there.



P.O. Box 782  
Galt, California 95632

Non Profit PRST  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 17  
Galt, CA 95632



## BEN SALAS FUNERAL HOME

FD 1257

~ SINCE 1955 ~

**"OUR FAMILY SERVING YOURS"**

TRADITIONAL &  
PERSONALIZED FUNERALS

MEMORIAL &  
CREMATION SERVICES

CUSTOMIZED  
PRE-ARRANGEMENTS

HEADSTONES &  
CREMATION ACCESSORIES

149 4TH STREET  
GALT, CA 95632

**209-745-1191**

**JONNIE &  
HERMAN  
GROSSHANS**  
OWNERS  
#FD1317



**GALT**  
**SMOG**  
& REGISTRATION

515 N. Lincoln Way  
Galt, CA 95632

**209-745-5001**  
Se Habla Español

- Locally Owned & Operated
- Two smog machines for faster service
- We perform most smog tests
  - Biennial Smog
  - Diesel
  - Change of ownership
  - Out of state
- Vehicle Renewal/Registration  
Issue Plates and Stickers
- Title Transfer / Change of Ownership



**ANN ULLRICH**  
REALTOR®

DRE Lic. # 01706199

**PARKER REALTY**  
UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL

- 📞 209.481.5489
- ✉ Ann@ParkerRealtyGalt.com
- 🌐 www.ParkerRealtyGalt.com
- 🏠 545 Industrial Drive #105  
Galt, California 95632



# KEN GROSS

## WATER WELLS & PUMPS

CONT. LIC. NO. 530672

**(209) 745-2048**

Lodi (209) 368-0267 • Elk Grove (916) 682-2108

Fax (209) 745-8584