



April 2020



## *From the Archives* **Galt Fashion Shop**

In the history of Galt, there have been few women's clothing stores. As a rule, clothing was carried in general merchandise stores and only a few styles were carried for men, women, and children. Most people went to Sacramento or Lodi to do their shopping in specialty shops. One of the few women's clothing stores to open in Galt was the Galt Fashion Shop owned and operated by Erma Listini (left). Assisted by her sister-in-law Lydia Listini (right), the Shop opened around 1956, carried high end women's clothes, and was known for its quality service. Erma Listini retired in 1967 and Gerry Melhaff opened Gerry's Fashion Shop. That store switched from women's clothing to one that catered to teens. Lydia Listini continued to work for Gerry Melhaff for about a year. (Thanks to Luana Listini Whitford for the information)

## **Clampers at Liberty**

Thanks to the Clampers and our member, Eric Schneider for doing a cleanup day at the Liberty Cemetery. They cut some grass and limbs. With the rain, the grass is growing again, but it is much more under control than in past years. Thanks to Lyle Lagge for spraying the weed killer around the gravesites so it was much easier for the Clampers to cut the grass. One thing they did tell me is that some people are bringing boxes of food and setting it by some gravesites. This may be a ritual of some sort. However, the food does rot and must be discarded. Eric contact someone at SJ CO Public Works and they sent someone over to cover the holes in the road by the entrance to the cemetery. Thanks, Eric for handling this.

# 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.

We would like to welcome our new members to the Historical Society that joined recently: Mark King, Amber Veselka & Roger Watson. We look forward to meeting you in person!

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 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



## A Message From The President

We are experiencing trying times in our country, state, and community. I hope that you and all your family are safe and free from any health issues. Many of our members have never gone through such chaos with far reaching tentacles that embraces our health, our finances, and our country. I, personally, have never seen a time when our people were asked to stay at home. This can be frightening to us since we are used to exercising our freedom to come and go as we please. However, this order is very important to help stop the spread of the virus, COVID-19. Everyone must do our part and only go out when necessary. We are fortunate to live in a town where population is sparse; where we do not have the masses like the larger cities. Recently, we have heard of two people in Galt who have tested positive. No one or area is immune. That is why we all have to do our part. If you must go out, follow the guidelines of 6-10 feet away from people or social distancing, wash your hands, do not touch your face or eyes, be careful what you touch, and only go out for essentials. If you can order things for delivery or takeout, do so.

Not only has this national emergency affected us as individuals, but it has

affected the Galt Area Historical Society. We have had to cancel fundraising events, general meetings, we are working with booked weddings to change dates until later in the year, and are conducting our Executive Board meetings on conference calls from our homes. Not knowing how long this will last, makes it difficult to plan. We hope that those events in August and September will go as planned.

Fortunately, the GAHS remains fiscally sound and we are able to pay our bills. We do rely heavily on our fundraisers to help with our maintenance projects and to pay our monthly bills. We are so appreciative to all the members who donated generously during our February Donation Appeals. Little did we know at the time, just how important your help would be. It will be necessary to suspend any projects that would cost us funds until this emergency is over and we can resume our regular activities. We will not spend funds now on projects that can wait until later.

I hope you and yours remain safe. We look forward to the day we can resume our normal lives and enjoying each other, even if it is just at a meeting.

Janis Barsetti Gray



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# Policy and Procedure Review

## Handling Cash

### I. Purpose:

Proper handling of cash at fundraising events will help protect the Society from theft, fraud or embezzlement; protect volunteers from accusations of dishonesty or the temptation to commit fraud; and, assure donors that their donation and gifts are used for the purpose for which they were given.

### II. Related Documentation:

Cash Count Worksheet; Deposit Slips

### III. Procedure:

1. Utilize a log to document which volunteers were in charge of a cash box.
2. Keep a standard amount of start-up cash in each cash box.
3. Require the volunteer to sign the log indicating his/her agreement with the start-up amount when checking out the cash.
4. Do not allow co-mingling of personal money with donations.
5. Never utilize cash collections for last minute purchases the day of the event.
6. Refrain from making change unless a patron has made a purchase/donation.
7. Accept checks made out to the Society only. Immediately endorse the checks with a restrictive endorsement payable to the Society.
8. Always have at least two people present when counting cash. Each person should fill out a Cash Count Worksheet and all of the sheets should arrive at the same total. These sheets should each be signed by individuals counting the cash.
9. Always count money immediately after an event and deposit it in the bank or night deposit drop immediately. If security is an issue, have two people go to the bank together.
10. Utilize, if available, lockable bank bags to secure cash bag and collections.
11. If cash cannot be counted immediately, make arrangement with the Treasurer/ President in advance. Do not take money home if at all possible. Any money needed to be stored for counting the following day should be safeguarded in a safe or lock box.
12. If possible, separate the components of cash handling – collecting, depositing, and reconciling – so that one individual does not have responsibility for more than one component.

## Calendar

**CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**  
Open House at Rae

**CANCELLED**  
Sunday | April 5 | Kite DaY

**CONFERENCE CALL**  
Monday | April 13 | 4pm  
Executive Board Meeting

**CANCELLED**  
Monday | April 27  
General Membership Meeting

Dates and times are subject to change



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# 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)**  
**(916) 952-2368**





# A Look Back at the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic

Most Historical Society members are reading this newsletter while shut-in at home in response to Governor Newsome's recommendation to "stay home and stay safe." Anyone who has studied American history is remembering another time when citizens had to do the same thing. The year was 1918 and, instead of COVID-19, it was the Spanish Flu. The similarities are uncanny. Did the authorities learn something the first time? Is history repeating itself?

No one had any idea what the Spanish Flu was in 1918. In the US, experts believe this flu strain started in Kansas at Camp Funston. World War I was in its 3rd year and America was prepping for its entrance in the spring. Camp Funston was one of 16 army training facilities established in response to upcoming American troop involvement in Europe. The first recorded case of the yet unnamed Flu was a cook who quickly spread the Flu to 522 other recruits. Once those men reached Europe, the Flu spread even more. Because of news blackouts on the war front, word about the flu strain in Europe was nonexistent. This new strain of Flu got its name from Spain, where they had no news blackout and reported stories of flu statistics.

Back home, the "Spanish flu" was spreading but

was no different than any other strain. Chills, fever, and fatigue were the norm. It was when American troops were coming home in the fall of 1918 that the "second wave" hit and became a more deadly strain. That version of the Flu produced a "bluing" of the skin and fluid in the lungs. Those who had the Flu in the first wave were immune to the second version.

Attempts to eradicate the Spanish Flu were like what's going on today. Schools, theatres, libraries, and churches closed. Galt schools closed in November, reopened for a short time, and then closed again in December when three teachers exhibited flu symptoms. Genevieve Harvey and the Red Cross in Galt sold surgical masks and shipped knitted garments to hospitals and quarantine stations. People were asked to stay indoors as much as possible.

Tylenol is the drug of choice for fighting COVID-19 today, but there were other "miracle" drugs back in 1918. Aspirin was prescribed and worked to a point until some doctors suggested doses of 30 grams, which they found out was toxic and was contributing to flu deaths. Tanlac was advertised and sold at Doc Osler's pharmacy as a "system purifier" to help void the body of the flu virus. It turns out that it contained 15% alcohol and didn't accomplish anything but give you a buzz.

How hard did the Spanish Flu hit Galt? Cemetery records show burials in 1916 and 1917 to number about 6 or 7. Burials spiked to 15 in 1918. Most people survived like James Davis, a conductor on the Amador Rail Line. The Bank of Galt closed while its cashier Ralph Post stayed home to combat the illness. Some Galt citizens were unlucky. Reverend Charles Verleger of the Episcopal Church died in October. Frank Warren, the husband of Maude Quiggle Warren, passed away in November from complications of pneumonia caused by the Flu. Mary Boggiano, a senior at Galt High School, and Elsie Bachelder, a sixth-grader at Galt Grammar School, both died in December. It could have been much worse. There were a few cases reported in January, but in a newspaper article published February 8th said that the Spanish Flu had ended because there hadn't been any new cases reported in the "past week."

So here we sit, trying to "wait it out." The television is on more often, our waistlines are getting bigger, but we're quarantined against something that could get worse before it gets better. It seems like history is repeating itself, and if we didn't learn anything from the past, we should have.

Historian



# Big Day of Giving

This year, for the first time, the Galt Area Historical Society is participating in the Big Day of Giving. This event is a 24-hour giving challenge that brings together the region's nonprofit community to help raise much needed unrestricted funds and shine a spotlight on the work nonprofits do to make the Sacramento region the place we call home. In 2019, over 600 organizations generated a record \$8.4 million in a single day. This community-wide effort fortified their collaborations with nonprofit colleagues, deepened their engagements with donors, and strengthened their impact in our community. Every profile on

GivingEdge conveniently comes with a donate button that's available for you to use year-round. Go to [www.bigdayofgiving.org](http://www.bigdayofgiving.org), type in Galt Area Historical Society, click the GAHS icon, and give what you like. All major credit cards are accepted (Mastercard, Visa, Discover, Amex), and the minimum donation allowed is \$15.

There is a 5.2% transaction fee on all donations made through the system. The donation form does offer the ability for you to cover this fee. If you do opt to include the fee, your donation will increase by 5.2%. As an example, if your donation is \$100 and you choose to cover

the fee when checking out, your donation will now total \$105.20. This year's Big Day of Giving is Thursday, May 7, 2020, but you can donate after April 20 for it to count in the total. For those of you who have donated already this year, thank you very much. You can give again or encourage others to participate in the event. For those who haven't donated this year, here is another opportunity to do so. This is also an opportunity to become a member and give at the same time. All our membership dues are listed in the donation amounts. Encourage as many friends and relatives as you can. Let's make a great showing!





# Bits & Pieces

## Cancelled Fundraisers

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 virus, we are cancelling our annual Kite Day, April 5th and the rainout Kite Day on April 19th. The Board has also cancelled our Ladies' Tea at the Rae on May 9th. Pioneer Days have been cancelled, as there is no school. Our general meetings have been cancelled until further notice. Our Executive Board meetings are conducted on conference or Web calls, where we are not in the same room.

## Updating Emails

We have most of your emails, but there are some of you who have not given us your email addresses. For the time being, that will be our only way to communicate with you other than our monthly newsletter. If you could email Rhonda Smith at: rhonda@galtsmiths.com so we have your info, which will allow you to get updated news from us.

## Fireworks Booth

The City of Galt offered the fireworks booth to us again, but the Board decided that we would pass again this year. It is difficult to find volunteers who want to work long hours in the heat and we are not certain about where we will be with the COVID-19 at that time.

## Liberty School House

The foundation has been completed with just a little more work to be ready to secure the school house to the foundation. Someone from the city will come soon to check the foundation. We will then get the house mover to place the house on the foundation. We will look forward to beginning the work on the school house when we can resume our regular activities after the emergency orders are lifted.

## Thank You

Regarding the Liberty School House, I want to bring your attention to the people who helped with generous donations. First off, Scott Movers from Roseville moved the

school house for thousands of dollars less than they normally charge. Without this donation, we would not have been able to take the school house. Secondly, member Darryl Clare donated the funds for the cement for the foundation. Darryl has always been generous with donations to the GAHS. We are glad you are moving back into the area. Finally, James Basinger Concrete donated all the work in putting in the foundation. He did not charge us for any of his work. We greatly appreciate all that has been donated by these individuals so that we were able to preserve a very important part of Galt's history. I am sure the businesses would appreciate you remembering them if you need work done.

## McFarland Ranch

Some information from Lyle Lagge  
We are aware of the issues regarding social distancing and at this time there are three of us volunteering our time.

We have material prepared to work on the fence around the main house. Material is painted and ready to assemble. We have started working on rebuilding the picnic tables and work tables from the Pioneer Days' location. We have another project to restore a donated shed. The shed will be painted and we are planning to add material to make it look like the woodshop.

## In Memory

Since our last newsletter, we have lost three of our members. First, one of our Charter Members and the husband of one of our Founders, the late Genie Olson, David Olson. Many of us knew him as a teacher at Galt High; many knew him as a dedicated friend of the GAHS. However you knew Dave, he touched your life.

We also lost member, Robert Matranga. Bob, a Galt High Alumni and member of the GAHS for years, will be missed. His family had been a part of Galt for many years.

Very recently, we lost LeeAnn McFaddin. LeeAnn was a community leader and member of the City Planning Commission. She was a supporter of our town and our organization.

We will miss them all and our sincere condolences go to all their families. The Olson Family has asked that if anyone wants to donate in his name, one of the nonprofits named was the GAHS, PO Box 782, Galt 95632. If you want to donate in the memory of any of our lost members, we will contact the family with your names as donors.



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