

TOWER VIEWS



May 2018



From the Archives

Lida Ward and Rae McCoy Bolton

In one of the earliest examples of “networking,” Lida Ward (left) and Rae McCoy Bolton (right) had the same job in two separate locations. Lida was the agent and switchboard operator for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph in Galt, while also holding down the job as the local Justice of the Peace. Rae was the agent and switchboard operator for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph in Clay, all the while helping run the local general store and post office. One can imagine the conversations these two ladies had keeping up with local events and gossip. Janet Bottimore Burrows remembers going with her grandmother, Rae Bolton, to visit Lida Ward in Galt. When the phone company got bigger, Lida Ward retired to pursue other interests, and when the general store and phone company office closed in Clay, Rae Bolton did the same. In the following years, they continued to visit with each other. Thanks to Janet Bottimore Burrows for the photo and information.

Annual Evening In Italy Dinner

Our annual Evening in Italy dinner was a success, with almost 200 people enjoying a wonderful dinner cooked by Bueno Italiano Café from Lodi. Those who attended enjoyed looking at all the displays of The Galt Historical Society's hard work. There were items for sale, such as Dan Tarnasky's book, “Images of America, Galt” and Charlotte Cameron's book on Thornton. There were many raffle prizes and many excited winners.

A replica of the Rae House Museum was on display. This house was built by Emil Stigelmeyer years ago upon the completion of the restoration of the Rae Museum. The Rae Museum is again in need of some major repairs including a new roof.

The Historical Society would like to thank everyone who attended and all those who donated toward the raffle, the Velvet Grill and Creamery, Barsetti Vineyards, and all the volunteers.

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.



A Message From The President

For those of you who were lucky enough to attend our last General Membership meeting, you heard our guest speaker and member, Durlynn Anema telling us about recording our memories. Durlynn writes a weekly column for the Lodi News Sentinel in the editorial section of the paper. She has always been very kind and supportive of the Galt Area Historical Society, and has given us some good "press" in her columns. What she told us the other night, which can also be found in her book, was how to start recording our memories on paper or whatever way you want to save them. As an organization that works diligently to preserve the history of Galt and our area, we know that if history is not recorded accurately by those who know it first hand, we run the risk of revisionists coming in later and rewriting the course of history by telling the story differently or with a different perspective.

I have to say, when I got home, I got very little sleep that night, thinking about how I would write my life's memories. Where would I start? I kept thinking about not just recording my memories, but about the many of my own memories from childhood and through the years. These memories seemed to be streaming back. Some I had not thought of in years. I had a wonderful childhood and I have had a pretty good life so far. Some of these memories made me laugh and some made me cry.

You wonder who would care about your personal memories. Those who have children, grandchildren, and nieces and nephews would be passing on to them,

not only the things that happened in your life during your time, but also the history of those days. It might be difficult to understand now, but 100 years from today what you have to say now will be important to those people trying to understand the past.

If you did not buy Durlynn's book that evening, you certainly should. Start telling your story. The most difficult part is to decide how and where to start. After that is resolved, your memories will flow out. Enjoy the memories as you tell your story. Laugh and cry; they are your memories, your story and your history; and perhaps your legacy.

If you want to buy Durlynn's book, please contact me and I will put you in touch with her.

~ Janis Barsetti Gray

2018

Historical Society Executive Board

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Bits & Pieces

- 1.** Ida Denier, Dan Tarnasky and Janis Barsetti Gray attended the quarterly meeting of the Sacramento Regional Consortium. This is a group of historical societies and organizations within Sacramento, Placer, Yolo, San Joaquin, and the Delta counties working together to promote regional history and to be a source for inquiries about local history. It was a very interesting meeting with much dialogue from all the members about what we each are doing to promote historical preservation in our areas. It was also a learning experience and exchanging ideas. We learned about a library where local historians who have publications, can sell their books. There is someone who can help teach us how to catalogue items for our archives. Before adjourning, the members decided they wanted to hold their next meeting on August 1 at the McFarland Living History Ranch. We will be handling the lunch for the day.
- 2.** Update on Rae House Museum: Unfortunately, we need some major repairs at the Rae. It has been quite a few years since we acquired the Rae and completed the renovation by the GAHS. We must replace the roof on the house, repair all the windows due to rot and leakage, repair the front porch and steps, and paint the inside, especially the ceiling in the center dining room. We also will be installing some outside lighting on the north side of the garage where the graffiti occurred last month.
- 3.** At the McFarland Living History Ranch we should be breaking ground for our new event center this summer. More info will be coming in the next newsletter. This seems to be the year for major repairs. The McFarland Home desperately needs repairs from woodpecker damage and painting. We have been holding fundraisers to pay for this work. Bids are coming in now, but we are looking at close to \$30K for this work.
- 4.** A bright spot is the new restroom completion at the McFarland. Restrooms are ready now and will be available for Sip & Snack at the MAC.
- 5.** The Liberty and Elliott Cemeteries will be ready for Memorial Day. Thanks to our cemetery crew, Eric Schneider, Gary Berreth, and Trevor Currier for getting the weeds under control. Still some weeding at the Liberty to be done. Once this is complete at both historic cemeteries, we can start identifying the veterans and getting ready to put flags on the graves for Memorial Day.
- 6.** Words from our Docent Chair Person, Sue Dean. We are still in need of more docents. In order to have two docents each month at the Rae and for special events; and at the McFarland Home, we must have more volunteers interested in helping. There is training before you become a docent. We have printed some nice brochures that allow people to guide themselves if necessary through both homes. The guides are a very good learning tool for docents also. Sue also wants docents to know that they need to help in the cleaning and dusting prior to an event. She also wants to alert members that even though Christmas is a ways away, we need to start planning decorations for both houses. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Sue.

Calendar

- May 12 - 8 a.m.**
Workday at the Rae House Garden
- May 19 - 9 a.m.**
Workday at Liberty Cemetery
- May 26**
Tea
Rae House Garden
- July 21 - 8 a.m.**
Workday at McFarland Ranch
- July 28**
Sip 'n Snack at McFarland Ranch
- August 5**
Ice Cream Social at Rae House
- August 11 - 8 a.m.**
Workday at the Rae House Garden
- September 1- 8 a.m.**
Workday at Liberty Cemetery
- September 15 - 8 a.m.**
Workday at McFarland Ranch
- September 22**
Car Show at McFarland Ranch
- October 13 - 9 a.m.**
Workday at Liberty Cemetery
- October 12 & 13**
Yard Sale at the Hall
- October 27 - 8 a.m.**
Workday at Elliott Cemetery
- November 10 - 8 a.m.**
Workday at the Rae House Garden
- November 17 - 9 a.m.**
Workday at Liberty Cemetery
- December 2 - Christmas Open House**
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Rae House
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - McFarland Ranch
- December 9 - Christmas Open House**
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Rae House
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - McFarland Ranch
- Dates and Times are Subject to Change

SIP & SNACK AT THE MAC

Mark your calendars for our Annual Sip & Snack at the Mac on July 28! Tickets will be available for purchase through PayPal on our website: www.galthistory.org. You can also purchase tickets at Barsetti Vineyards Tasting Room in Old Town Galt (400 Fourth Street, Suite 150), or by calling Janis Barsetti 209-747-3861 or Ida Denier 209-745-1477.

We are currently looking for restaurants, caterers, food, wine and beer establishments that would like to participate in this year's event. We are also looking for raffle donations. If you know of any business, especially in Galt, that would like to participate in this fun event at the McFarland Living History Ranch please let Janis or Ida know.



Gossip from the *Galt Gazette*

Saturday, March 19, 1887

Charley Bottimore severely injured by the premature explosion of a loaded shell. Was striking the two together to see how much it would take to set them off. Wounded above the eye. Dr. Nestell treated him.



The railroad folks are having the depot painted at Galt and are making other improvements here.



Don't fail to hear Prof. McKanlass play two B-flat cornets at once, with separate mouthpieces, next Wednesday evening at Whitaker and Ray's Hall.

Special Events at the Ranch

The McFarland Living History Ranch is booked with weddings thru November 17, 2018 and many already booked into 2019.

Coming events will be Sip & Snack at the MAC on July 28th, the Chamber of Commerce Hot Air Balloon Festival on August 11-12th, and our annual Car Show on September 22nd.

Once our event and learning center is completed, weddings, events, and Pioneer Days can be held year round regardless of weather.

We're Still Looking for 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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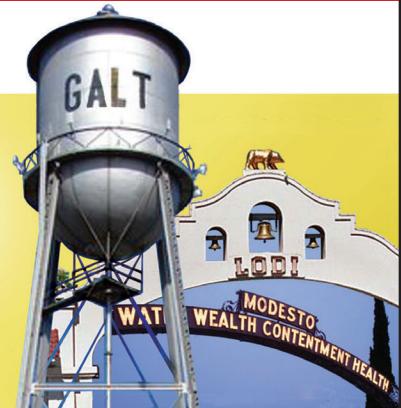
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