

From the Archives

1951 Sacramento County Fair Parade



As was the custom in Galt, there was a parade for the Sacramento County Fair, this one in 1951. The Galt Fire District volunteers entered one of their fire trucks, and the riders are from left to right, Walt Froelich, Jacob Jacobson, Cliff May, and someone unknown. This particular year, we

believe the parade staging area was at Galt High School. The Sacramento County Fair would be in Galt for another two years before it moved to Sacramento. It would be just a matter of time before local organizers continued the tradition of having a fair and called it the Galt Festival.

June 2022 Newsletter GAHS Membership Updates

We welcome new members Linda McEnerney, Ken Miller, Merle Maggy.

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!

Contact Rhonda Smith with any concerns about membership.

rhonda@galtsmiths.com

- or -

209-745-4504

2022 Historical Society Executive Board

Janis Barsetti Gray ~ President

Lyle Lagge ~ 1st Vice President

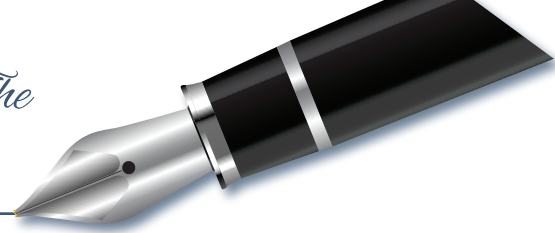
Gale Webber ~ 2nd Vice President

Liz Haglund ~ Recording Secretary

Len ReidReynoso ~ Treasurer

Dan Tarnasky ~ Historian

A Message From The President



Dear Members,

Spring is almost over and summer is clearly on the horizon. It is hard to believe we are at the half way point of 2022. Our volunteers have been working on many projects since the first of the year. There is always much maintenance at the McFarland Ranch and the Rae House Museum. At the McFarland, the upkeep for weddings is essential. We are so thankful for Lyle Lagge and his Monday and Wednesday crew of workers. Joan Werblun, Sammi Watson, Rita Martin, and Bernice Lee have done such a wonderful job on the bride's room and interior of the restrooms. These ladies pitch in anytime something is needed to get done. Thanks to Kathleen Amos for coordinating the docents at the McFarland House. She will be doing some docent training per our procedures in the near future. Contact her if you want to learn about the McFarland House and help give the tours. Lyle and the boys have been refurbishing old windows to be placed in the Liberty School House. If you want to be part of his crew, come out Monday or Wednesday at 9:30 am and they will put you to work.

Our volunteers are what make our organization special. We all take our mission seriously: To preserve and restore the history of Galt and our area. Some in our community may not really understand the importance of what we do. Who is going to preserve our

history and the stories from our past if not us? Spend some time at the Rae Museum and you will come out the museum with a better understanding about our history and the people who toiled and sacrificed so we would have the town we have today.

I want to finish with a tribute to Flag Day on June 14, 2022. Many of you who have been in Galt for many years either know this or have heard this, but there used to be a 90-foot flagpole in what is the grassy park area between the railroad tracks and the old Ambrogio's Electric store on Fourth St. At that time (1911), this flagpole was the center of town. The story in our archives states that in 1911 the flag became tattered and worn. Two ladies, Mary Pritchard and Grazzie Noble went to the city to get funds to buy a new flag. The city did not have the money and turned them away. Not to be defeated, they collect money from the townsfolk and were able to buy a flag that had all 48 stars. The flag was 22 feet by 18 feet. These two ladies and those who gathered had such pride when they unfurled the flag and saw it hanging in the breeze. On June 14th, fly your flag with the same pride these two ladies had. They knew it was a symbol of our freedom and liberty, and those who fought to give us that security at home. Best to all for a great summer.

Janis Barsetti Gray

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Upcoming Dates

June 5:

Open House

1pm to 4pm at

*McFarland House &
Rae Museum*

June 13:

Executive Board Meeting

4pm at Barsetti Tasting Room

June 27:

**General Meeting &
BBQ**

6pm at Rae Museum

in the Rose Garden

August 27:

Car Show

9am to 3pm

September 24:

Sip And Snack

6pm to 9pm at MAC

Garden Area Update

We have been working on the garden area, it has been disked, rototilled, fortified and rototilled again. We planning to start planting Wednesday 6/1/2022.

For everyone that has been to the Ranch you may have noticed that we have put down a lot of gravel. It is important to maintain the 10 mph to help reduce wear and tear on the road; the faster we drive on the road the faster it wears out.

On Monday 5/30/2022 we delivered the window frames for the Liberty school house onsite. We are planning to start installing the in the near future. The Schoolhouse has two walls that need to be secured before we install the window frames. Once the window frames are installed we will install Plexiglas. We decided to use Plexiglas because it is 100 times stronger than glass. After the Plexiglas is installed we will add the molding. We will be adding siding to finish the walls.

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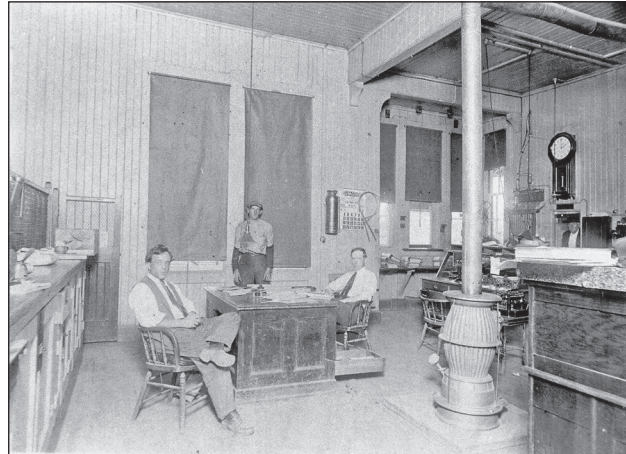
Galt Railroad Depot

The following excerpt comes from an essay that local author Michael Greer wrote 25 years ago...

The Galt depot was located on the southeast corner of the rail line and "C" Street. Typical of most depots, its location was at the base of the main street near shops, eateries, and other services. The building was a Southern Pacific Company design number 18, a standard blueprint modified for the use the station would receive in that geographic location. The structure was expanded in November 1925.

The north end of the bottom floor housed a waiting room, which ran the entire width of the building from east to west. In the middle was coal, and later, oil burning stove surrounded on each wall by solid oak high-back bench seats. A door opened into the station agent's office and gave access to restrooms. Public entry doors were on the west and east sides. Other items in this room are unknown but probably consisted of a timetable display of arrival and departure times, a clock, and other necessary items for passenger information. Lighting was by electricity. This room was closed before 1951.

South of the waiting room wall was the station agent's office. It was a reasonably roomy area with an oil-burning stove at the center of the north wall, close to the entry door into the waiting room. Initially, a pot-bellied coal burning stove sat in the center of the room and warmed many a cold railroad man. The wind-up clock hung on this wall. There was an extended bay window area on the northwest wall with glass on three sides from which the operator could view train movements. Western Union Telegraph Company equipment, including a "bug," or telegraph key, was located here, as was a crank telephone on a folding scissors mechanism; it had a separate head set and was connected to the Stockton dispatcher's desk. Also at this location was an old black manual Royal typewriter used to type telegraph messages for customers and train orders on yellow tissue or "flimsies." Train orders were quickly handed to the engineer and conductor,



by the station agent, on a long pole through which they placed their arm and caught the message "on the fly."

Near the west wall of the work the area was the station agent's heavy oak desk. Behind the desk were small square windowpanes with dark green roll-down window shades. There was another telephone, a Royal typewriter, and a reading light on the desk. Sealing wax, the metal seal, and special envelopes were kept on this desk. Wooden matches struck on a shoe, or the side of the oak desk melted the sweat smelling wax. Hot wax was used to seal packets of money collected for shipment of goods and was transported aboard passenger trains to headquarters.

The restroom and a room for general supplies were on the northeast wall. The south end of the room was

divided by a counter, part of which was enclosed with a black enameled wire mesh divider on either end; the middle was open for customer transactions. On the west side of the counter was a large selection of timetables of various lines used by the agent to create itineraries and tickets for passengers.

A small work area behind this counter was designated for Railway Express Agency transactions. Small cubbyholes contained shipping labels, water soluble white or creamy colored glue, and other items necessary to prepare boxes for shipping. Labels were applied by painting glue onto the box, affixing the label, and gluing again with an old paintbrush. Boxes were stacked on the rear wall counter and later transferred to the loading wagon.

The entrances to the agent's office were by screened doors on the

Bits & Pieces



Open Houses at the Museums

Starting in June, the first Sunday of each month (except Jan and Feb), both the McFarland House and the Rae House Museum will be open for tours from 1-4 pm. Of course, if the McFarland has a wedding or event booked on that Sunday, the open house will not be held. It is a good opportunity to allow people to see both houses rather than only seeing the McFarland at an event. In order to accomplish this, we need more docents. While the open houses are not as busy as during events, we still need enough people to be able to answer questions and to watch over the displays. If you want to be a docent or help on these days, contact us.

Fireworks Booth

As we stated previously, we will be manning a fireworks booth this year. The more we sell the more we make. Tell your friends and family to come to the Galt Historical Society booth and buy their fireworks. They will be helping us make needed funds. The booth needs to be manned from June 28-July 4th. Here is the link to go to for signups. Must be 18 years or older to work or be in the booth: <https://signup.com/go/DzLSaxA/>. Or call Gale Webber 209 471-1525.

New Bylaws Approved

All members received a copy in the mail of the new bylaws. Those bylaws were voted

on and passed by the members present at the May 23rd meeting. These bylaws will be submitted to the California Attorney General as per procedure.

Photography at the McFarland and the Rae

To restate previous newsletters, any photographer who has clients that wish to have their pictures taken at the McFarland Ranch or the Rae House Museum, must contact us in advance and make a reservation and pay us \$40 per client prior to the date. No photography can be done on any weekend or day when another event is scheduled.

Farmers' Market

The Galt Farmers Market is scheduled for the first Saturday in June on June 4th. We will have our booth selling books and handing out brochures and flyers, and promoting our venues. Stop by and say hi to Bernice.

Chamber Mixer

As a reminder, we are hosting the Galt Chamber of Commerce mixer on Wednesday June 22 at the Rae House Museum starting at 5 pm. As members of the Chamber, we get the opportunity to host one of these each year. It helps us promote our museum to other local business people. Tours will be held along with refreshments and light appetizers. Our members are welcome.

Website

Gale Webber has been working on updating our website to be more efficient and informational. It should go live within the next couple of weeks.

Car Show

Our annual car show, "A Drive Down Memory Lane" will take place August 27th. See the enclosed participation form. Tell your friends and family to join us with their cars. A fun day with 80-90 cars, vendors, food trucks, and house tours.

City Fourth of July Parade

The City of Galt will have the Fourth of July Parade on Saturday, July 2nd. The parade leaves the market grounds at 9:30 am, traveling up C St to 4th St, turning left to E St; and back to the market. If anyone is interested in putting together a car, truck, or tractor float for the GAHS, please let me know.

June Member Meeting & BBQ

Our annual BBQ meeting will be June 27th at the Rae Museum grounds. The board will supply the hot dogs, buns and condiments, soda and water. This is a potluck, so please bring one of your specialties for the members to enjoy. We will be start the meeting at 6 pm sharp for a short meeting; then adjourn to our dinner.

Galt Rail Depot Continued...

west and east sides of the passenger ticketing area south of the counter. There were no seating arrangements for passengers. The agent exited to the outside by an opening on both sides of the counter.

The room was lighted by overhead hooded fixtures with two or three over

the passenger counter, hanging from the 10-12 foot ceiling. The walls were tongue and groove wood, painted with light green enamel paint. The floor covering was dark brown linoleum. Swivel desk chairs were of natural oak, as were the desk and countertop for ticket sales and communication

equipment. There were side windows on the west wall next to the main door with dark green roll-up shades. A large, free-standing, dark green safe stood against the east wall south of the restroom entrance. Except to use the restroom, passengers were not allowed in the agent's work area.

- For more local railroad history, purchase Michael Greer's book "Smoke, Soot, and Steam: Galt's Railroad History 1869-1960" from the Historical Society.

7th Annual Galt Drive Down Memory Lane

Car Show

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Release of Liability: I, the undersigned, entering the car show August 27, 2022, have my own car insurance and assumes the liability for, and shall indemnify and hold harmless Sacramento County Parks & Recreation, and Open Space (all its officers and participants) and the Galt Area Historical Society, Inc. (and all its officers and members) from and against judgements whatsoever arising, directly or indirectly out of or in connection with, participation in said event. I will personally read the rules and regulations and abide by them.

Signature _____ Date _____

REGISTRATION FEE \$20.00 - PAYABLE TO G.A.H.S., INC.

PLEASE MAIL ENTRY FORM TO G.A.H.S., P.O. BOX 782, GALT, CA 95632

For more information please contact Galt Historical Society at 209-730-3127

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