

TOWER VIEWS



May 2021



From the Archives

Butch Huelet

A playful Butch Huelet lays down on the railroad tracks for a photo taken around 1935. The tracks are a section of the Ione Branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad extending from Galt to Ione. Sometimes called the Amador Line, SP completed the line in 1876 to service the Mother Lode gold mines and the timber industry and included passenger service. The Great Depression closed the gold mines, and the rail line stopped transporting passengers in 1932. With the streamlining of the trucking industry, the Amador Line became unprofitable, but the line is still in operation to service the SGI Plant in Ione. The photographer took this photo around the Herald/Clay Station area and, looking at the cattle guards he's laying on, suggests it is next to one of the many roads that crossed the rail line.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We welcome new members Andrei Pischalnikoff, Holly Heine, and Jean Biles.

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.



2021 Historical Society Executive Board

Janis Barsetti Gray ~ President
Lyle Lagge ~ 1st Vice President
Gale Webber ~ 2nd Vice President
Liz Haglund ~ Recording Secretary
Toni Gerling ~ Corresponding Secretary
Bobbi Lewis ~ Treasurer
Dan Tarnasky ~ Historian



Contact the Historian

- If you need or have Galt area historic information (includes Herald, Thornton, Liberty, Hicksville, Clay Station, Arno, Elliott, Colony, and Arno).
- If you have historic Galt area or family photos for us to scan and return.
- If you have area historical artifacts to display at the Rae House Museum.

Dan Tarnasky
Historian/Archivist
(916) 952-2368
blckrssn@hotmail.com

A Message From The **President**



Greetings Members,

I hope you are enjoying spring: The new awakening of flowers blooming, new leaves on the trees, and birds singing. It is a special time of year.

I recently traveled to Sacramento. On my drive, I realized that I have not been in that direction since November. I have only been to Elk Grove a couple of times; same to Stockton, and a few more times to Lodi. Maybe to some this is not unusual, but I am usually on the move all the time. I have spent most of my time this last year at home in Galt. I did not miss out on anything. I realized that all I needed was in my home town. Can you imagine in 1869 someone jumping in the horse drawn wagon and deciding to go to Sacramento to shop? It would have to be a very important situation for that to happen. Pretty much all we need is here. We know there are some items that are not found in stores here, but for the most part, we can certainly survive. If COVID taught us anything, it is that we do not have to leave for far places to get by in our everyday lives. For the most part, we can live, shop, and support our local businesses

and nonprofits right here. I think we appreciated what we had more when we found ourselves in a situation of being "locked down." I found I had more time to catch up on chores, spend more time with by business, take more time for phone chats or emails to friends and family, and just slow the pace down. Out of a bad situation can always bring positives like taking more time out for ourselves, taking a drive around town, enjoying what we have and enjoying our town. How many times have you rushed by places and never really noticed that old house or that historic site? I, for one, have accomplished a lot this last year. You just cannot sit around and feel sorry for yourself; make the best of it. Now that things appear to be returning to normal, I hope you do not jump back into the fast paced world prior to 2020. As they say, "stop and smell the roses." By the way, the roses at the Rae House Museum are absolutely beautiful right now. Take a drive over there and see for yourself. Happy Spring.

Janis Barsetti Gray

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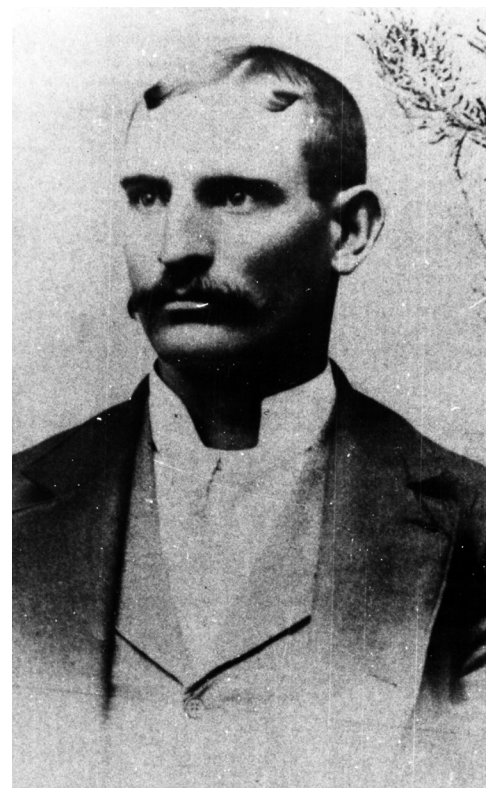
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www.barsettivineyards.com

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

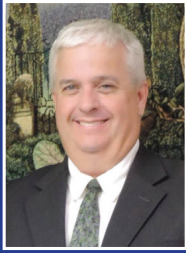
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Liberty Cemetery

A big thanks to Lyle Lagge and Earl Fry for weed eating and spraying grass around all the headstones at the Liberty Cemetery. We also want to thank our neighbors near the McFarland Ranch, Gallo Vineyards for coming in after Lyle and Earl were done, and they mowed the rest of the grass. The cemetery looks great. Lyle and Earl also replaced the flag. Thanks you so much.



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Bits & Pieces

Yard Sale A Success

Our annual yard sale was a huge success. We made close to \$2000. LaVonne Riddlepurger and Sue Dean want to give a big thanks to all who donated and who purchased at our sale. But most important to those who helped volunteer: Maria Spanuth, Kathleen Amos, Andrei Pischalnikoff, Linda Burge, Rita Martin, Jean Biles, Sammy Watson, Earl Fry, and the Galt Teen Center. LaVonne hopes she did not forget to mention anyone, but thanks again for all you have done.

Ladies Tea at the Rae

Joan Werblun is, again, chairing the Ladies Tea at the Rae Saturday, May 8th. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchase online or at Barsetti Vineyards. It was a great event last year. Many who attended last year are looking forward to returning. The Rae Museum will be open for the first time since COVID. Joan is also in need of volunteers to help her. If you can, call Joan at 209 251-9199.

Liberty School House

Lyle and Earl will begin working on the Liberty School house Wednesday May 5th. They will be taking out the old wood. Cal Waste has donated a dumpster for this job. Lyle is really in need of some help renovating this building back to how it looked 1854. If you want to help and join in helping preserve this very important part of Galt's history, call Lyle at 916 834-6321. The more help we have the quicker this project will be completed.

Graffiti

We were very disappointed in the graffiti that was found on the north side of the garage at the Rae House the first part of April. Thanks to the Galt PD, the Graffiti Abatement team came right over, got the graffiti off and repainted the garage. Thanks to Galt PD for the quick response.

Kite Day

Kite Day, April 11th was very successful. We did not have as many kite flyers but those who came had a great time. Thanks to Lyle, Earl, Gale Webber, Joan Werblun, Kathleen Amos, Andrei Pischalnikoff for help. A big thanks to Vickie Ashworth and the Boy Scouts for cooking the food for the event. It was one of the first fun things for kids to enjoy in a while.

Galt Teen Center

As many of you know, we have rented the hall on C St from Dr. Sanford for many years. We have had our meetings there and some dinners through the years. In the past few months we were approached by the Galt Teen Center looking for a place to have the teens gather 3-4 times per week. Our board met several times to figure out how to make this work for all of us. It was mutually agreed by Dr. Sanford, our board, and the Teen Center that the Teen Center would take over the rental of the hall and we would be allowed to use the hall for our two monthly meetings. The Teen Center has plans to do a lot of work on the building to improve it. They are also helping us with some of our events. Some of the teens helped at the Yard Sale; and others will be helping for the Ladies Tea. They will help with community service as much as they can. They will not only take over the rent, but utilities, yard maintenance, etc. We are very happy that we could play a part in giving these teens a place to gather with their adult supervisors. We look forward to a close relationship. Once the barn in completed, we will meet there. While the weather is good we can meet outdoors at the Rae or the MAC. Remember, we only have meetings through June; then we break until our September meeting. Next week we will begin moving our items out of the hall so they can clean, paint and fix up the building.

May Membership Meeting

We are hoping we can have our membership meeting in May and June at the Rae in the yard. We will be able to social distance. The meeting will be Monday May 24th and starts at 6 pm.

Barn Update

The plans will be ready to submit to the county for the upgrading of the red ag barn at the McFarland Ranch within a week. Once the plans get approved and contractors are selected, it should be a relatively smooth process. We are excited to finally have an event center for events and our own meetings. We will keep you posted.

Calendar of Events

This calendar has not been approved by the board, but will be at our next meeting. Please look over the calendar and let any board member know if you see something that needs correction or added.

- May 2Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
- May 8Ladies' Tea at the Rae
- May 10Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- May 24General Meeting - 6pm - Tentative
- June 6Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
- June 14Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- June 28General Meeting - 6pm - Tentative
- July 3Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
- July 12Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- July 26General Meeting - 6pm
- Aug 1Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
- Aug 9Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- Aug 23General Meeting - 6pm
- Aug 28Car Show at McFarland Ranch
- Sept 5Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
- Sept 13Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- Sept 25Sip & Snack at the MAC
- Sept 27General Meeting - 6pm
- Oct 3Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
- Oct 11Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- Oct 25General Meeting - 6pm
- Nov 7Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
- Nov 8Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- Nov 22General Meeting - 6pm
- Dec 5Rae Museum Christmas Open House
1-4pm
- Dec 5MAC Christmas Open House
12-3pm
- Dec 13Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
- Dec 20General Meeting and Christmas
6pm

ROSES AT THE RAE

As I said earlier, the roses at the Rae are beautiful right now. We have some pictures posted in the newsletter. The Liberty Rose as seen in a picture, came from the Liberty Cemetery many years ago. I have not seen it bloom before. This year it is in bloom. If you go to the Ladies Tea on May 8 or come for a tour of the house, you can see all the rose gardens.



Liberty Rose



Galt Methodist Church

When Dr. Obed Harvey and the Central Pacific Railroad laid out the grid that would define the boundaries of the new town of Galt, they agreed to set aside land on all four corners of the grid to be donated to four churches. Between 1878 and 1885, the First Congregational Church of Galt (St. Luke's Episcopal Church), St. Christopher's Catholic Church, Galt Christian Church, and our story's topic, the Galt Methodist Church, found a home within the town's boundaries.

Before the founding of the Galt Methodist Church, members were served by a Methodist Circuit Rider who came through Galt on his route to bring the Word of God and to "marry and bury." On the weeks he was not present, the people held their own services and Sunday School. At the same time, the congregation of the Hicksville Church had gone through several pastors assigned by the Pacific Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1879, the pastor was F.M. Stanton. In 1880, he moved the Hicksville congregation to Galt to create a larger church.

Known then as the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the church's location was given as the Harvey Grove School House, located west of the Central Pacific Railroad tracks around C Street. Within a few months, movers relocated the building on the northeast corner of 6th and E Streets. It became the 3rd church to inaugurate its founding. Around 1894, the church became a casualty of a strong storm, and once again, the Galt Methodist Church was looking for a new home.

In 1895, the Isler Blacksmith Shop on the corner of 6th and C Streets burned to the ground. Rumor has it that the flames were so hot the windows in the Isler home across the street were cracked. Later that year, the trustees of the Methodist Church purchased the now-vacant lot at the corner of 6th and C Streets to build a church. By 1896, the new Galt Methodist Church was completed, built in the traditional rural style with peaked windows and a tall spire and belfry.

The Reverend John Heetebry took the reins of the church in 1924 and began a program to build a new sanctuary. Construction started in 1926 with the moving of the old church further back and facing 6th Street. The latest version of the Galt Methodist Church was dedicated in March 1927.

By the 1960s, age had taken its toll on the church, and a new sanctuary was needed. Preparations were made to replace it with a new one. In 1969, it was torn down to make way for building the present structure. In 1971, on Easter Sunday, the first services were held in the present two-story church. A memorial sanctuary was constructed and dedicated in 1979.



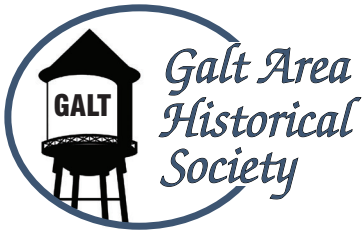
Methodist Church - 1927



Inside the Sanctuary - 1927



2nd Methodist Church



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