



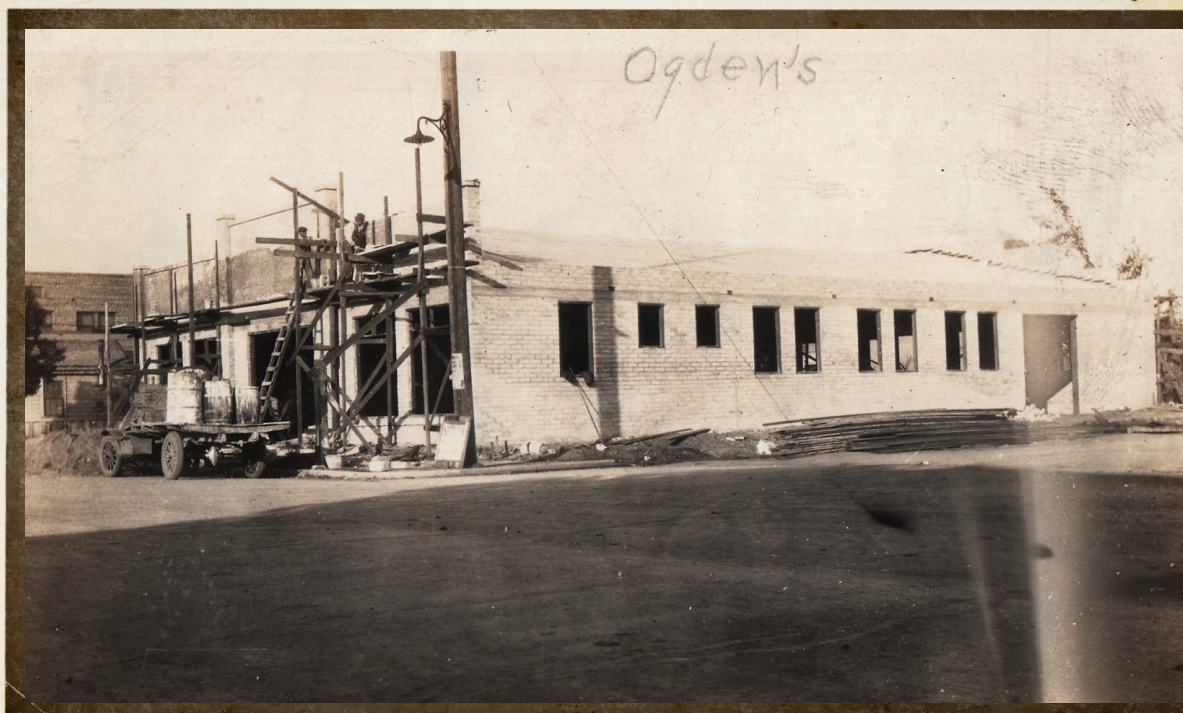
July 2021

*From the Archives*

## Quenell's Garage

A photo from 1920 shows the construction of a building familiar to most Galtonians. Originally called Ogden's Garage, local mechanic Raymond Baima purchased the structure in the mid-1920s. In 1927, the garage was sold again to another mechanic Angus "Red" Quenell who operated his garage there for the next 48 years. Red serviced automobiles, trucks & farm equipment as

well as selling gas, tires and automobile parts. He also serviced school district buses and local fire department equipment which he also stored. A rumor has it that former heavyweight champion Max Baer trained in the back of the garage for a while. Jim Spaans bought the property in 1975 and is now Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Information courtesy of Cathy Keskeys.



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

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,

Perhaps by the time you read this newsletter, the 4th Of July may have passed. However, this is the most important date of our history as a nation. Our independence from England was approved July 4, 1776. Actually it had been written and completed on July 2, 1776. John Adams wanted the official date to be July 4. I am sure the majority of American citizens today are as patriotic and love our country as those signers of the Declaration of Independence were. Our history as a nation began. Much like the beginning of a town like Galt, there were triumphs and setbacks; much hard work, bad times, sadness and happy times. But perseverance and the desire to be great, has kept our country and our town going.

nonprofits. We weathered through it and it has made us stronger. We found newer and better ways to get along. That is the American spirit: Nothing can stop us. We are somewhat like John Adams and company, in that we feel like we have worked toward and received our independence.

Have a wonderful time celebrating the 4th, not just for the fireworks and family/friend gatherings, but for its true meaning. Just like those who founded Galt in 1869, they enjoyed the day with those they cared about, reflecting on our country's history, what it was that brought them to this spot in California, and what it meant to be free to pursue their dreams.

Happy 4th.

Janis Barsetti Gray

The last year and a half have made us realize the effects of lockdowns in our personal lives, our businesses, and for



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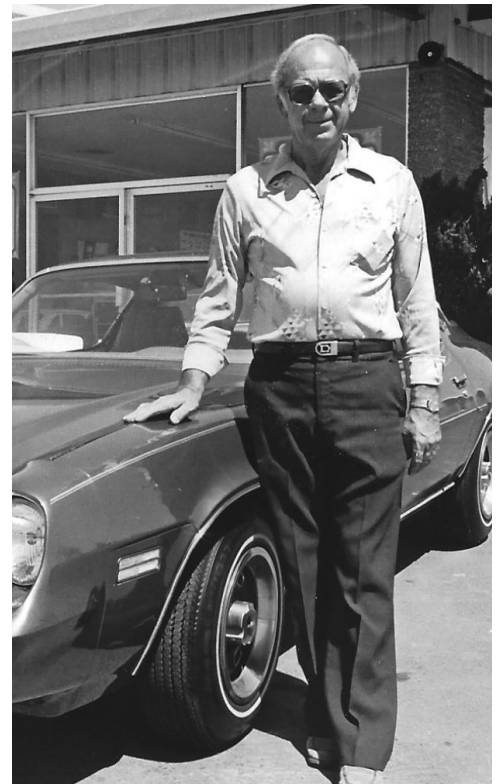
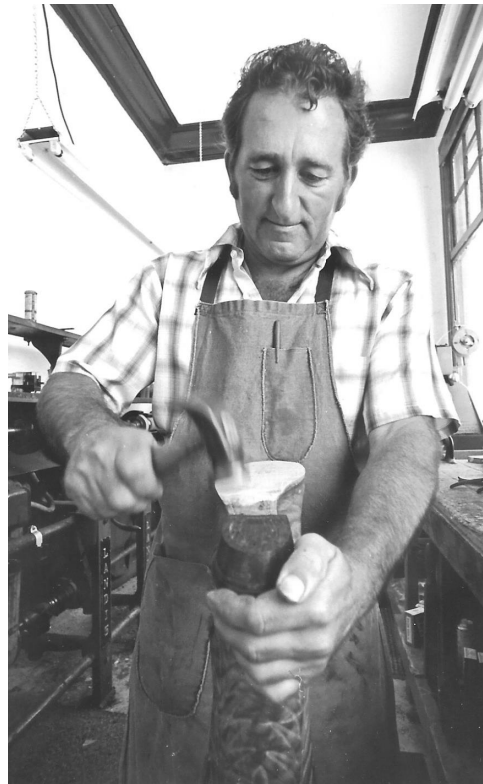
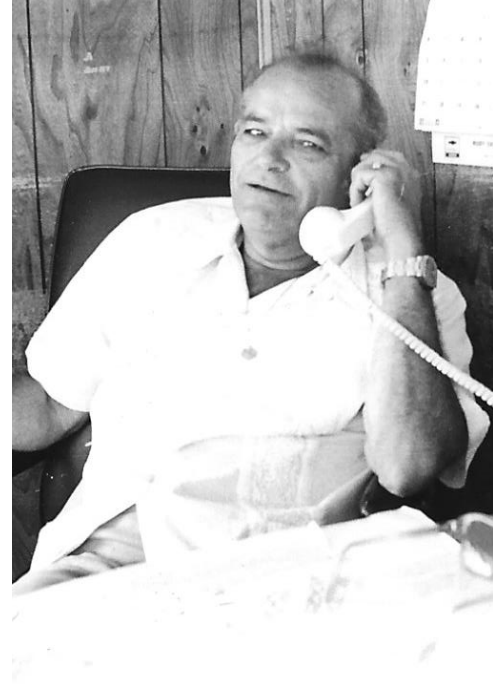
400 4th St, Suite # 150   **209.744.6062**  
[www.barsettivineyards.com](http://www.barsettivineyards.com)

# 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**

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



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# 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.

July 12.....	Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
Aug 1.....	Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
Aug 9.....	Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
Aug 28.....	Car Show & Antique Faire at McFarland Ranch
Sept 5.....	Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
Sept 13.....	Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
Sept 25.....	Sip & Snack at the MAC
Sept 27.....	General Meeting - 6pm
Oct 3.....	Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
Oct 11.....	Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
Oct 25.....	General Meeting / Charter Night - 6pm
Nov 7.....	Rae Museum Open House - 1-4pm
Nov 8.....	Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
Nov 22.....	General Meeting - 6pm
Dec 5.....	Rae Museum Christmas Open House - 1-4pm
Dec 5.....	MAC Christmas Open House - 12-3pm
Dec 13.....	Executive Board Meeting - 4pm
Dec 20.....	General Meeting and Christmas - 6pm

*Thank you Bernice Lee and Doug Rhodes  
for representing the Galt Area Historical Society at the Farmers Market.*



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# Bits & Pieces

## June BBQ and Meeting

June BBQ and Meeting was a success. Thirty-five members attended the meeting at the McFarland Living History Ranch. We met in the front yard enjoying the beauty of the historic McFarland Home. Thanks to everyone who brought some food for our potluck. Thanks to Ralph Cortez for taking care of the BBQ chores. This is our last meeting of the summer until our September meeting. We will meet at the Rae House in the rose gardens at 6 pm September 27th.

## Event Updates

Our next event will be the annual Car Show: A Drive Down Memory Lane combined with a new event, an Antique and Collectible Show. If anyone has an old car, truck, motorcycle, pickup, camper/travel trailer that is 1972 or older, please contact me for a participation form. Cost is only \$20 to enter. You can also just show up and pay on the day: Saturday August 28th. Pre-registration makes the check-in go much faster, however. This year's car show is dedicated in memory of Louise Loll Dowdell, who was responsible for naming the car show and was our first President. The Antique Faire will be in another area of the McFarland. We are still looking for more antique and collectible sellers. If you want a table, contact Gale Webber. I will have all the phone numbers and emails for those who are chairing events in this newsletter. If you have antiques or collectibles and you want a table, the cost is \$25.

## Volunteers Needed

We are formulating lists of the jobs we have to fill for all our events. In next month's newsletter we will have those published. However, you do not have to wait to put yourself on the list. We need all the help we can get for these events.

## Liberty Schoolhouse

We are getting bids to finish renovating the schoolhouse. We hope this gem of our history will be completed by end of the year. We hope to have a city wide celebration of the Liberty and the Rae Museum.

## Sip & Snack at the MAC

Sip & Snack at the MAC will be held Saturday, September 25th. Although we have some wine and beer companies participating, we need food. If any of you have contact with local restaurants, caterers, stores please let me know their name and email and I will send them a participation form. Businesses have all had a rough year and a half, but this is a great time to advertise for themselves by giving bite size tastes away of their specialties.

## Ice Cream Social

This year we opted to not have the Ice Cream Social, but to wait until October and have a Members Appreciation Day at the Rae Museum. More info to come.

## McFarland Fully Booked

Heather Farmer reported at our meeting that the McFarland is fully booked for this year and next for weddings. The only dates available would be midweek and the dates our society has for our events. Great job Heather. It takes everyone working together. Heather has the support of Lyle and his crew at the MAC to make these days successful. Thanks to all of you.

## Rae Museum Trespassers

Young kids on skateboards have been seen and chased away by Galt PD. We have the house and the grounds on camera; as well as security system for the museum and garage. They are skating in the parking lot. If you drive by and see this, please call Galt PD.

## Movie Night

The first Movie Night at the McFarland, put on by Troop 119 was a success. Even though we did not pack the field, it was the first movie and it takes time to get the word out. Our society charged for parking. We netted \$170; and the Scouts sold food. May not seem like a lot, but any activity we can support that brings money in with little or no expense is profit. Next Movie Night is July 24; then August 21.

## Executive Board Election

Elections for the Executive Board will be held at our October meeting and Charter Night Dinner. The location TBA. The Chair Person of our Nominating Committee, Shaun Farrell, will have a nomination form in our August newsletter. It was voted on and decided that speeches by candidates, if necessary, would be done the same night as the election. Shaun noted that many times those attending the September meeting where speeches have been given, may not be those attending in October to vote.

## Important Contact Info

Car Show & Sip & Snack: Janis Barsetti Gray: 209 747-3861 or ricjan@barsettivineyards.com; Car Show: James Guthmiller: 209 663-0268; Antique Faire and signup for vendors: Gale Webber: 209 471-1525 or galesplay@yahoo.com.

## In Memory

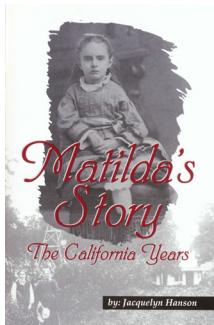
We are sad to report that our Lifetime Member, Virginia Ward, has passed away. Virginia (Ginger) and her late husband, Bill Ward, were important supporters of our society. Our sincere condolences to Colleen and Gary and your families in the loss of your mother.

## McFarland Ranch

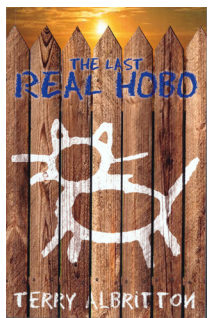
Maintenance at the McFarland Ranch is an ongoing project. Thanks to the many volunteers that provide support. The last couple of weeks we had more volunteers help with the maintenance. Many thanks to Earl Frey, Roger Watson, Sammie Watson, Gary Berreth, Ron Jacobson, Rita Martin, Francis Jacobson. The garden area has been prepped and the planting will begin any day now. We will have time to get pumpkins ready for Halloween.

# Local History Books

Books can be purchased at the following locations unless otherwise noted:  
 Barsetti's Tasting Room, 400 4th Street  
 GAHS Website: [www.galthistory.org](http://www.galthistory.org)

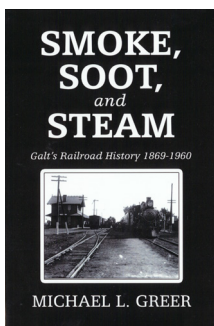


**Matilda's Story**  
 by Jacquelyn Hanson (Shellenbarger)  
 This story has been fictionalized, but clearly based on fact about Jacqueline's family coming to the Galt area and settling in Hicksville. It is about a farming community in south Sacramento County the last half of the 19th century.

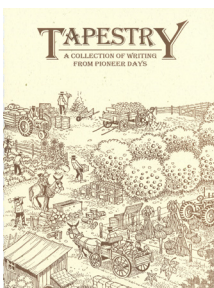


**The Last Real Hobo**  
 by Terry Albritton  
 This is a historical fiction, loosely related to the history of Galt. It tells about the life of a hobo coming into town by train. Terry says that some old timers in Galt may recognize the resemblance to some towns people.

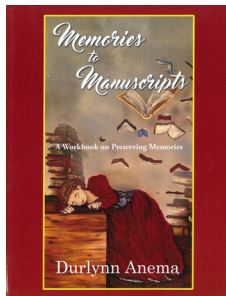
Available only through Amazon.



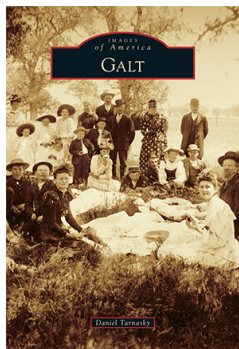
**Smoke, Soot, and Steam**  
 by Mike Greer  
 Use this vivid, well-documented book as a guide to walk down Main Street and experience the sensations of smoke, soot, and steam from 1869 to 1960 in a Central California community as it grew from a berg to an incorporated city and found its spot in the history of the golden state of California.



**Tapestry**  
 A Collection of Writings from Pioneer Days  
 Compiled by Eugenia Olson

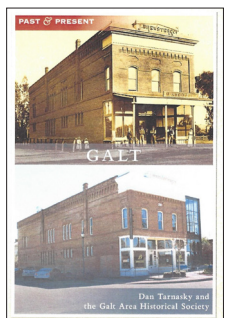


**Memories to Manuscripts**  
 By Durlynn Anema  
 Memories accumulate over a lifetime to be pleasantly recalled, especially when we are older. Your memories tell a great deal about a unique time and a unique you which needs to be preserved. This book evolved from a class Durlynn Anema taught called "Memories to Manuscripts." This book helps you go through the complete process from the simple act of writing to the final product. Learn writing techniques to turn your life into a book of memories.  
**Books are also available by contacting the author, Durlynn Anema at [durlynnca@gmail.com](mailto:durlynnca@gmail.com).**

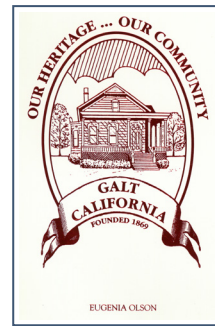


**Images of America: Galt**  
 By Daniel Tarnasky  
 Contains vintage photos of Galt's past and a little history to go with it. The timeframe is 1869 to 1969. The Galt Area Historical Society is the source for the photos and historical information. Other Galtonians shared their photos, information, and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

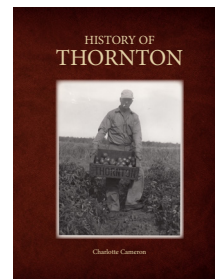
**Books are also available by contacting the author, Dan Tarnasky at [blckrssn@hotmail.com](mailto:blckrssn@hotmail.com).**



**Past and Present: Galt**  
 By Daniel Tarnasky  
 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 are also available by contacting the author, Dan Tarnasky at [blckrssn@hotmail.com](mailto:blckrssn@hotmail.com).**



**Our Heritage ... Our Community**  
 By Eugenia Olson  
 A history of Galt from the perspective of children who once lived in Galt.



**History of Thornton**  
 By Charlotte Cameron  
 A rich history of Thornton from 500 A.D. to 2009.  
**Books are also available by contacting the author, Charlotte Cameron at 209-794-2511.**



**Great American Little Town**  
 By Toni Gerling  
 Wrapping up a year of celebrations, the Galt District Chamber of Commerce has published a book commemorating Galt's sesquicentennial year. The book features a timeline of this area and includes photos and news clippings covering important milestones in local history from 1869-2019.

**Books can be purchased at the following locations:**

- Galt Chamber of Commerce  
604 N. Lincoln Way
- Express Type & Graphics  
740 Spaans Drive #2
- The Coffee Shop Bakery  
239 4th Street

# Clay Station's Eucalyptus Groves

While driving south on Clay Station Road one Sunday afternoon, I spotted a neatly planted grove of eucalyptus trees. That reminded me of the story of the Clay Station Eucalyptus groves as told by Jane Biello in the Galt Herald.



Have you heard the one about the Eucalyptus Grove located on Borden and Clay Station roads? Sometime between 1900 and 1908, eucalyptus and Mission and Tokay grapes were planted in the township of Clay Station by approximately 500 German and Irish workmen who the Sacramento Valley Improvement Company hired. The company subdivided the land into two- to 10-acre parcels and advertised the land in Eastern magazines and newspapers. The buyers came. They tried to use the eucalyptus wood for furniture and the leaves for medicine. The grapes were transported by railroad from Clay Station and Herald to various parts of the country. However, the plan did not exactly work the way it was initially planned. Because the eucalyptus twisted and split as it grew, it could not be used for furniture. Though the grapes were good, their yield per acre was low. Since the landowners could not make a living, they moved, and the Sacramento Valley Improvement Company dissolved. During the 1930s and 1940s, the vineyards were removed. Today, only the beautiful grove remains. Though the venture was financially unprofitable, our history indeed became richer.

There were several colorful figures whose descendants still live in this area and whose legacy will be remembered. One such figure was W.A. Brandenburg(er) from St. Louis, Mo. He was the local representative of the Sacramento Valley Improvement Company and the supervisor of the grove planting. He lived in an impressive two-story house on Clay Station Road, now owned by Judge Cruz Reynoso, his wife Jeanine, and their children. Rumor has it that Mrs.

Brandenburg, Brandenburg's mother, was quite a swimmer. Some old-timers in this area can remember Mrs. Brandenburg's Sunday afternoon swimming lessons at the Laguna Creek. Though the Laguna Creek has since been leveled into the Silva feedlot, old memories remain indelibly etched. Memories still drift to sunny Sundays around this tree-lined swim hole for picnics and baptisms.

Another figure in Eucalyptus Grove history was John B. Duffy, a tall well-respected man who sported a Stetson hat and mustache. The Sacramento Valley Improvement Company also hired him to supervise the grove planting. Duffy was also involved in the planning of the Clay Township and real estate deals in Galt. This horticultural expert and former Texas Ranger was also quite entertaining. He loved to detail accounts of his fabulous adventures. Since Duffy was a staunch believer in a day's pay for an honest day's work, he forbade drinking on the job. Thus, Duffy insisted that the Steele Store ban the sale of liquor during workmen's hours. John Duffy was married to Anna Brown. They had three

children, Ray, Ruby, and Don. His great-niece, Nina Hefflin, still lives on Clay Station Road.

*GAHS Archives*



*Clay Station Road near Borden Road*



*North Clay Station Road*



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