



May 2019



From the Archives **George Stemler**

Private First-Class George W. Stemler served in Company "M" 363rd Infantry of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I. The 363rd was part of the bigger 91st Infantry Division nicknamed "the Wild West Division." Private Stemler got his basic training at Fort Lewis Washington and then was shipped to Europe to participate in the Battle of the Argonne Forest as part of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in the Fall of 1918. He received a "Wound Chevron" (the equivalent of a Purple Heart) as a result of a head wound during battle. After the war, George Stemler worked as a mechanic in his own shop and out at Slough House repairing hops harvesting equipment. He and his wife raised 4 children, Betty, Charles, Margaret, and Ray.

Liberty School House Furniture Needed

Here is a desk that was purchased recently that will go in the Liberty School House once it is renovated. If anyone has or knows of any of these desks, we will need about 10-12 of them to go in the Liberty School House.

We greatly appreciate any donation of the desks or if we can purchase at a reasonable price. Also looking for an older teachers desk and chair and an old style chalkboard, and a potbelly stove.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A big Thank You! to those who have renewed their current year membership: Jeff Jennings, Darlene Aguilar and Ray Scherer, Bobbi Lewis, David Hamilton, Norene Luis, George Need Jr., Alda Paine and Delores Gregorio. We would like to welcome our new members to the Historical Society that joined recently, Greg Marglin and Richard & Pam Lozano. We look forward to meeting you in person!

There are still many who have not renewed. Remember once several months have passed without payment, names will be dropped from our membership roster and you will no longer receive our newsletter. The month to remove names will be in June so please be kind and send in your renewal through our website or by mail ASAP. Individual dues are \$20, Family \$40, Business \$50, Student \$10, Individual Lifetime \$200 and Family Lifetime \$250. Dues are Tax Deductible!

Contact Rhonda Smith with any concerns about membership. rhonda@galtsmiths.com.



A Message From The President

The roses are in bloom at the Rae House Museum awaiting the Ladies' Tea this Saturday, May 11th. The Tea is the beginning of our major fundraising season. Along with the Ladies' Tea, there is Sip & Snack at the MAC on July 27th, An Evening in Italy Dinner August 3rd, and our annual car show, "A Drive Down Memory Lane," Sept 28th. Our members are very passionate all our events are successful. All the funds from our events are used for the continued preservation of Galt and our area's history. What becomes a challenge is to get some members of our community and businesses to feel the same passion about our town and area as we do. There are many nonprofits in our town who do wonderful work and are very worthwhile. At times, we are all competing for the same dollars from citizens and businesses. We are fortunate that many business return each year to participate in Sip & Snack at the MAC. Some years we get new businesses; and sometimes we are not able to get the help from others. As a business owner, I receive at least two requests a week for donations. Being in business, especially a small business, has many expenses. Many of us in business in Galt try our best

to support local charities. I, personally, only am able to help Galt nonprofits if their requests are for something that I support. My number one nonprofit, of course, is the Galt Area Historical Society. I believe in all the work we have done; and continue to do for our community. I wonder how people in our town assume our museum exists, how our history is preserved, how the McFarland Living History Ranch is so beautiful, and how Galt's history is documented. It does not just happen. Any information that government agencies have about Galt come from our preservation and archives of photos. At times I becomes dismayed when I feel we do not get the just support, whether financial, through volunteering, or by support of local businesses in participating in an event that not only helps us fundraise, but also gives that business advertising for themselves. I have to put things in perspective and know that everyone has their own priorities. At the end of the day, we all have to feel good about what we do and who we help. I know I do. I just wish I could do more.

~ Janis Barsetti Gray



2019 Historical Society Executive Board

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Policy and Procedure Review

Charitable Contributions

Purpose

The IRS imposes recordkeeping and substantiation rules on donors of charitable contributions and disclosure rules on charities that receive certain quid pro quo contributions. Donors must have a bank record or written communication from the Society for any monetary contribution before the donor can claim a charitable contribution on their federal income tax returns. Donors are responsible for obtaining a written acknowledgement from a charity for any single contribution of \$250 or more before the donors can claim a charitable contribution on their federal income tax returns. The Society is required to provide a written disclosure to a donor who receives goods or services in exchange for a single payment in excess of \$75. See IRS Publication 1771 for complete rules.

Procedure

1. The Treasurer will send a written acknowledgement to donors no later than January 31 of the year following the donation. The written statement should contain:
 - a. The name of the Society
 - b. The amount of cash contribution
 - c. A description (but not value) of non-cash contribution
 - d. A statement that no goods or services were provided by the Society in return for the contribution, if that is the case
 - e. A description and good faith estimate of the value of goods or services, if any, that the Society provided in return for the contribution
2. The Society must provide a written disclosure statement to a donor who makes a payment exceeding \$75 partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided by the organization. For example, a donor gives \$100 in exchange for a concert ticket with a fair market value of \$40. In this example, the donor's tax deduction may not exceed \$60. Because the payment exceeds \$75, a disclosure statement is required. The disclosure statement must:
 - a. Inform a donor that the amount of the contribution that is deductible for federal income tax purposes is limited to the excess of money over the value of goods or services received
 - b. Provide the donor with a good faith estimate of the fair market value of the goods or services
 - c. Written disclosure not required when goods or services given to donor are a token exception



**Clampers dedicating a plaque
at Elliott Cemetery**

Calendar

May 9 | 2pm - 3pm
Executive Board Meeting
500 C Street

May 11 | 1pm - 3:30pm
Ladies' Tea at the Rae

May 18 | 8:30am
Workday at Liberty Cemetery
to prepare for Memorial Day

May 27 | 6pm
General Membership Meeting
500 C Street

June 2 | 1pm - 4pm
Rae House Museum Open House

Dates and Times are Subject to Change

Condolences

We would like to express our condolence to LaVonne Riddlesperger in the passing of her husband, Dillard, recently. LaVonne, we are sincerely sorry for your loss. Your friends in our Society are there if you need any help.

Gossip from the Galt Gazette

May 1885

Married: George Orr to Miss Mary McFarland, niece of John McFarland.

★

D.K. Stringfield, Justice of the Peace, has a good crop of potatoes on his Palin Addition lot.

★

Dr. Patterson bought Dr. Montague's office and will occupy same in the future.

★

Typhoid fever in Galt.

★

Need Ranch considered a model farm.



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Sesquicentennial Challenge Coin



The Sesquicentennial Challenge Coins are in! Own a piece of Galt history with a commemorative coin. Only 150 numbered coins have been produced to commemorate Galt's 150th birthday. Coins are \$25 each and can be purchased at the Galt Chamber office, 604 N. Lincoln Way (inside the Galt Herald building).

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Louise's Walk Down Memory Lane

Most Galt Area Historical Society members know of Estrelita hall but how many know about the Spanish Ballroom?

In the 1920's there was a miniature golf course on 4th street just across from -Southern Pacific Park's south end. I think the empty lot is still there.

About 1928 it soon gave up and behind it was an empty space where Estrelita is. The dance hall built was facing "C" street and also west. The Spanish Ballroom had the finest spring maple floor. Big name bands toured then and crowds came from all over to enjoy their music. About 2 A.M. they packed up and drove away.

Lodi's Dr. Swanson's dad told him about the young men who would come to Galt to fight. They weren't mean -just rivalry like Galt High and always looked forward to taking on Elk Grove on the football field.

You must remember in the early 1900's young fellows were full of pep same as now only they didn't have sporting events. Baseball teams was about all they had. Prize fights in larger places.

Groups from Thornton, Woodbridge, or Lodi boys were ready to take on Galt's tough young men. Each side chose a side on "C" street. Constable Gann was safely tucked in his bed a block away. The highway patrol watched from near- by.

The battle began with Deputy Sheriff Peterson, tall and long armed, against the Steiner building took on his share. If anyone got too mean the highway men stepped in with Billy clubs. Galt had the Dusdale brothers. Patrol men dragged them away and placed them in the jail on 5th street.

How many know Galt had a champion? World Champion, I think. Max Baer grew up about a mile west of Galt and began his career here.

The Sego Plant Was Closed When?



Isn't it funny how people who have lived in Galt for decades remember Galt history differently? I went to a meeting recently and was approached by a new Galt citizen who asked me about the Sego (Pet) Milk Plant. He listened while I gave him a brief history, but I never knew the actual date of its closing. I asked a variety of Galt citizens, but no one could give me a definitive answer. The best I could tell this gentleman was that it had closed in 1960 or 1961. At that point, a lady came up to me and said that couldn't be right because someone who worked there said it was 1968. I thanked her with much skepticism and told her I needed to do some research. Being the Society's Historian and having this eternal desire to learn all I can on Galt History, I went on a mission to get the right answer.

For those who are new to Galt or have forgotten, the Sego (Pet) Milk Plant opened in 1917 so local

dairymen would have a place to send their milk for processing. There were two types of milk at the time, Grade A and Grade B. Each dairy was graded, and those with Grade A milk had their milk processed at places like Crystal and Borden for products like bottled milk, cottage cheese, and other products in the dairy section of the local grocery store. Grade B milk went to the Sego Plant and condensed into canned milk, milk powder, and ice cream powder. During the War Years, powdered milk could be shipped overseas to servicemen and turned back into a liquid. The plant continued to operate for decades with about 30 employees.

After going through 250 to 300 newspapers, I found the answer to the question I had been researching. In the Sacramento Bee dated March 18, 1961, an article stated that the Pet Milk Plant would close on April 15, 1961. Manager Benny Benson

said the reason for the closing was the residential and industrial expansion of the Sacramento and Stockton areas increased demand for Grade A milk. Some of the dairies that were rated Grade B had now been changed to Grade A. There was now a shortage of Grade B milk for the plant.

While we're on the subject, let's add two more dates concerning the Milk Plant. On July 8, 1961, all the equipment and real estate was auctioned off by San Francisco auctioneers Terence Heavy Company, and on November 24, 1992, the Milk Plant was gutted by fire.

Historian

Civil War Re-enactment at McFarland Living History Ranch



Bits & Pieces

New Phone Number

GAHS Phone number change. Please change your records to show the following as the phone number to contact the Society: 209 730-3127. This number will be a message line and calls will be returned within 48 hours. If your call is urgent, please state that in your message.

Community Grant

Galt City Grant. We have put in our application for the Galt Community Grant of \$10K for help to renovate and repair the Liberty Schoolhouse that was donated to us by the Henke Trusts.

School House Update

Liberty School House Update. We have recently received the third and final bid to move the Liberty School House from its place on Fourth St to the parking lot of the Rae House Museum. Our executive board will be awarding this work at our next meeting. Once the school house is in place, there will be lots of work to restore it to a one room school house of 1854. It will be exciting. Anyone who wants to give us a hand, please let me know. We are also looking for other grants to help with this project.

MAC Updates

Work on MAC Bulletin Board. Thanks to Ron Jacobson and Lyle Lagge for working on updating our bulletin board at the McFarland Ranch and for improving the entrance gate from the parking lot.

Final Inspection

Final Inspection of Restrooms. We are almost there. The cement pad for the ADA parking in our lot should be laid and stripped this week. Once that is done, we will call for a final inspection of the restrooms.

PayPal Issues

Website and PayPal. There have been a few issues with PayPal when members have renewed memberships or have

bought new memberships through our website; or if they have made a purchase through our store. That is almost corrected. If you renewed or bought a membership since January, please email Rhonda Smith at rhonda@galtsmiths.com so she can make sure you are updated. If you have bought something and not received it, please contact me so we can research and take care of your order. All other parts of Pay Pal are working such as when buying tickets for our events.

Sesquicentennial News

Galt's 150th Celebration. Still much work has to be done but it is shaping up nicely. Bands are being hired and other vendors are being sought. Thanks to Carole Snow who has organized the old cars for the event. Tshirts and hats are for sale at the Galt Chamber of Commerce inside the Galt Herald office.

Help For Ida

Ida is looking for someone or several people who can assist her for Pioneer Days and for Event Coordination of the weddings and events at the McFarland and the Rae. We are getting more weddings and more children's Pioneer Days and more help is appreciated and needed. She needs to spend some time training new people. Please contact her at 209 745-1477.

Cemetery Tours

Cemetery Tours. Our Historian, Dan Tarnasky has been spending time with the Galt Cemetery staff to create a Cemetery Tour which will emphasize the historic burials at this cemetery, as well as some historic military burials. Dan will update us as more happens.

June Potluck

June Potluck. Our last general meeting of the summer will be Monday June 24th at 6 pm at the Rae Museum gardens. We will be having a potluck. We will provide the hotdogs and buns and condiments. We would like members to bring a dish to share. It

can be salads, chips, deviled eggs, desserts, etc. Let me know what you plan to bring.

Rae House Repairs

Rae Repairs. The repairs on the Rae Museum House will begin right after the Tea on May 11th. There is much needed repairs, but we only have so much from last year's Galt Community Grant. We have had to prioritize by need and hope that we can continue to repair as funds become available to us.

McFarland Nature Area

Nature Area at the McFarland. Ron Jacobson reports that he and Lyle Lagge are planning to clean up the nature area at the McFarland Living History Ranch. It is in need of maintenance. They will be working with students from Galt High and Liberty Ranch to help us with this project. It will be nice to get it back to what it was designed to be: A natural area and one where kids can come and fish in the pond. More updates as Ron and Lyle progress.



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