



December 2021

*From the Archives*

## Fred and Clifford May

Fred L. "Buster" May (left) and his brother Clifford (right) were the sons of local railroad freight agent Frederick George May and his wife Hadra. The May boys went to school together at Galt Grammar School and Galt High School before making their mark in the community in different ways. Buster drove a milk truck, became a Sacramento County Sherriff's Deputy for 22 years, and then judge in the Elk Grove/Galt Judicial District from 1964 to 1975. Clifford served in the military during World War II, became the first Post Commander of the Galt Veterans of Foreign Wars, and served as Galt District Judge from 1946 to 1952. Fred and Clifford, who also had a sister named Hazel, were the grandsons of local drayer George May. Photo courtesy of Arlene "Ikey" May Alberg.



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We welcome new member Betty Oswald.

Please be aware that 2022 dues are due this month. If you are not a Life Member, annual dues are due on January 1 of each year. An email or mail reminder will be sent this month. Please send your dues in as soon as you can, so we do not have to keep spending money and time on reminders. A huge thank you to those who respond on our first request.

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](mailto: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

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](mailto:blckrssn@hotmail.com)

## A Message From The President



Season's Greetings GAHS Members

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. Fall is such a glorious time of year with spectacular colors. The only sadness of this time of year is the end of the life cycle with leaves falling and plants going dormant. However, in the spring, we see the rebirth of this all over again.

Now we move to the Christmas season. People are beginning their shopping and preparing for their Christmas feasts even though we are weeks away. I miss some of what I remember as a child seeing so many decorations in the town overhead in the streets. Many merchants in town have already started decorating, in preparation for Galt's Christmas Parade next Saturday. When one person gets the holiday spirit going, it seems that others follow.

As you know, and will read later in this newsletter, much preparation has gone into decorating the Rae House Museum and the McFarland House for their Christmas Open House on December 5th. Joan Werblun and her helpers are trying to replicate Christmas in the 1800s with the décor. I do hope many of you come to see their work. Please tell friends and family.

Since this is the last newsletter of 2021, I want to reflect on what we have accomplished during this year. When we started 2021, there was so much uncertainty that we did not know if we could have any events or weddings. However, since we are an organization of positive thinkers, we forged ahead with our

plans. In April we held the first event we had in a year: Kite Day. It was the usual success. For many children and adults, it was the first time they ventured out since COVID. In May, we held our Ladies' Tea at the Rae. It was a huge success and well attended. Weddings that had moved from 2020 started occurring and did so into November of this year. In August we held our annual Car Show. We had the largest showing of cars and attendance and netted more money than had ever made for this event. However, in September, we were forced to cancel our very popular Sip & Snack at the MAC. The reasons were for more than one. The wineries and breweries were in place, but the restaurants were still struggling with staff shortages and still reeling from the shutdowns. We were unable to secure enough food for the event. Also because so many events had been canceled in 2020, it seemed as though several other events had chosen the same weekend as we had. We felt if we could not have the successful event as the public expected in the past, we would forego this year and make 2022 bigger and better. Even though our income was decreased because of the shutdowns, our expenses were in check. We are now in a very good position going into 2022.

I want to thank each one of you for all the support you give to the Galt Area Historical Society. Support can be volunteering to work, monetary support, donating items to our archives, or attending our meetings. You are the backbone of our organization. I truly appreciate each of you. I wish you all the best in this holiday season and hope you have a Merry Christmas.

Janis Barsetti Gray

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# New Artifacts

Thanks to generous donations and loans, the Rae House Museum's historical displays are filling at a steady pace.



*Wayne Patterson's Jaycee Vest*



*Galt Pharmacy Penny Scale*



*Ray Arlin's Pharmacy Scale*



*Barney McEnerney's American Legion Cap*



*Sherry Erich's Roller Derby Skates*



*William Bottimore's Spyglass*



# Christmas in Galt

We are excited to have both our historic homes open for a Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 5th from 1p-4pm. Both houses have been beautifully decorated by Joan Werblun and her helpers. Even if you have visited both houses in the past, it is worth a revisit. Our Historian, Dan Tarnasky, has completely changed the inside of the Rae Museum. You can now learn the history of Galt while strolling through the house. Santa will be at both houses, along with cookies, hot chocolate, and hot apple cider.

On Saturday, December 4th, the City of Galt will be holding the annual Christmas Parade starting at 6:30 pm. The parade leaves the Galt Market and travels west on C St., turning left onto 4th St; then another left onto E St traveling back to the market. There are many areas to watch the parade. It should be a fun evening for all.



## Calendar of Events

- Dec 5 • 1-4pm  
Rae Museum Christmas Open House
- Dec 5 • 12-3pm  
MAC Christmas Open House
- Dec 13 • 4pm  
Executive Board Meeting
- Dec 20 • 6pm  
General Meeting and Christmas

## FLORAL DESIGNS

Weddings • Quinceañeras  
Corporate Events

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# Bits & Pieces

## November Meeting Canceled

We regretted that we had to cancel our November members' meeting. Due to the closeness to Thanksgiving, we found out many people would be unable to attend anyway.

## December Member Meeting and Christmas Party

Our December meeting will be held on December 20th at the McFarland Barn. We will start at 5:30 p with social time; meeting beginning at 6 pm; then adjourn to potluck desserts and appetizers and some Christmas bingo. Please contact me with what you will bring so we do not have duplications of the same items. Coffee will be provided. We are still looking for someone to handle the bingo announcing and handing out the prizes. Unfortunately, Maria will be unable to attend this year. If anyone has prizes they want to donate, please let Maria or myself know. We ask that it be wrapped if possible.

## Change of Meeting Months

As you know, the member's meetings are held every month except July and August. The board will discuss bringing to the members a change. It might be better due to weather and darkness early to have meetings in July and August and take off January and February. We will discuss in Dec. The newsletter will continue to be sent out all 12 months.

## Liberty Signs

Thanks to Lyle Lagge and Amber Veselka for making two big signs that are now posted at the Liberty Cemetery. We have a huge problem of people dumping trash off at the main gate. So far it seems to be working. See the picture posted in newsletter.



## More Gravel Needed at the MAC

Sac County is helping us again with more road gravel for the McFarland road coming into the ranch, to the barn and around, back out to the second driveway, and north of the caretaker's home. This gravel will be brought in Wednesday and before any rain. We greatly appreciate this gravel.

## Event Barn Update

The plans our engineer sent to Sac County have made its way through all departments, with some changes required. These changes are not major and are being handled by our engineer now. Hopefully, we can go to bid by the first of the year.

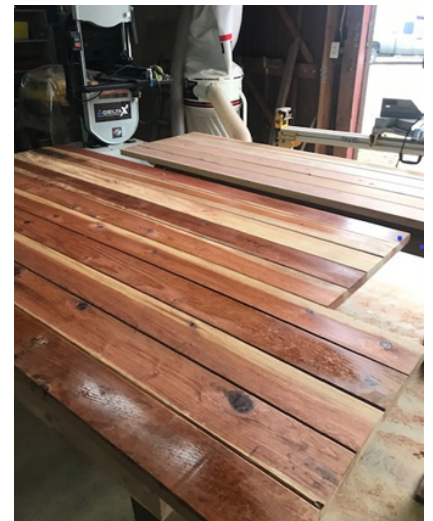
## 2022 GAHS Events

Here are our events that you can put on your calendars: April 9th will be Kite Day combined with Eggstravaganza. More information will be coming out soon of this revised event; May 7th will be our Ladies' Tea at the Rae, August 27th will be our annual Car Show, "A Drive Down Memory Lane," and September 24th will be Sip & Snack at the MAC. Besides our events, many of the weekends are already taken for weddings and outside events in 2022.

## News From McFarland Ranch

The first week of December we will be having another visit for Pioneer days. Pioneer days is when students come out to McFarland Ranch and learn how to build things, like a handy tool tote box, rope, candles to name a few. Last year the tables were in dire need of repair, and we have recently completed building new tables. The tables will be placed on the west side of the ranch house for the young students.

Lyle Lagge





# The Story of Lincoln Way

Lincoln Way was once a part of a crucial transcontinental highway that linked the east coast to the west. It was the creation of Carl Fisher, president of the Presto-O-Lite Company. He dreamed of creating a highway, and, since his idol was Abraham Lincoln, naming it The Lincoln Highway.

Fisher enlisted the assistance of various automobile manufacturers to design the plans and start construction. One enthusiastic leader was the president of the Packard Motor Company, who hired the builders of the Indianapolis Speedway to do the initial planning.

Work on the road was begun in June 1913. By 1915, the route had been carved to the Pan American Exposition in San Francisco. But the road was not completed then. Before it was done, it took several more years and a lot of then-new technology, like asphalt and cement paving.

The Lincoln Highway, at its completion, was 3,300 miles long and was in use for 12 years before the advent of the more-famous Route 66 (called the "Mother Road"), which is about 2,500 miles long. Route 66 extended from Chicago, Ill., to Santa Monica in Southern California. Although it was eclipsed by Route 66, The Lincoln Highway was the first coast-to-coast highway in the United States.

The Lincoln Highway eventually went from Times Square in New York to Lincoln Park in San Francisco, California. Following the general route of present-day U.S. Highway 30 and Interstate 80 from downtown Philadelphia, it crossed the tip of West Virginia and passed through the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California.

Once the highway entered California, it crossed the Sierras into Truckee, around Lake Tahoe, down to Strawberry, Riverton, Placerville, Rocklin, Roseville, Sacramento, Elk Grove, McConnell Station, Arno, Galt, Woodbridge, Stockton, Tracy, Oakland, and San Francisco.

In 1924, a guidebook was issued for transcontinental tourists. The guidebook stated a tourist could drive coast-to-coast in 20-30 days, traveling seven hours per day and averaging 18 miles per hour. The tourist was reminded to bring along "colored goggles" and was warned, "Don't stop to cool your motor at the top of a hill. Put the car out of gear and coast down to cool the motor."

The Official Guide to the Lincoln Highway listed every town through which the Lincoln Highway passed, with the county's name, the number of hotels, garages, and cabin camps. The last was a free campground offered by most chambers of commerce where tourists could camp for the night.

Of interest is that in the 1924 Guide, Elk Grove was listed as having a population of 500, an express company, telegraph, and no tourist accommodations. Arno was recorded with 100, with meals, a garage, gas available, one express company, one telegraph company, telephone, one general business place, and one public school. The same Guide lists Galt with a population of 985 with three hotels, two garages, large fruit orchards, and "The longest iron bridge in California, one mile south of Galt.

Galt was an essential part of the Lincoln Highway since the roadbed was cut through the town. Local historian Carl Loll remembers trucks from the Calaveras Cement Company brought cement to pour on the roadbed. Many

cement companies gave the cement free of charge to introduce the new paving material to the world of transportation. It was at Dry Creek Bridge that Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties had their line. When the Dry Creek Bridge was completed around 1922, it linked the rest of the Lincoln Highway as it flowed from the north, headed for the west coast. Dignitaries from the State, including the Governor, came to Galt for the opening celebration.

For Galt, the Lincoln Highway, known at that time as "The Main Street Across America," was to change the town's character forever. Instead of Fourth Street and the railroad depot being the heart of Galt's business, it was soon apparent that Galt's businesses would move to the east near the highway. Garages, cafes, and other tourist stops soon lined the Lincoln Highway as it passed through the town.

In the early 1930s, the federal government and the state funds created another state-wide route called Highway 99. The new highway skirted the town of Galt east of the Lincoln Highway. The old Lincoln Highway south of Dry Creek Bridge became known as "Lower Sacramento Road." That portion of the Lincoln Highway that ran through Galt was named "Lincoln Way" to remind the community that Galt had played a significant role in the history of transcontinental transportation.

Recently, when work was done to refinish Lincoln Way, some of the paving that was removed was the original paving of the Lincoln Highway.

*From the Archives*



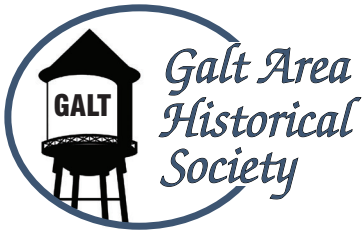


*Highway construction in Galt circla 1914*



*Lincoln Highway Dry Creek Bridge Dedication*





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