

# TOWER VIEWS



January 2019



## From the Archives Eloise Fox Hastings

There was once a famous rodeo star that had roots in Galt. Eloise Fox was born in Galt to Wesley and Susan Sawyer Fox in November of 1898. She dropped out of convent school at age 14 and married Paul "Mike" Hastings, a rodeo "steer wrestler" who taught Eloise the ropes. Dropping her first name, Eloise became Fox Hastings on the rodeo circuit. She made her debut as a "bulldogger" (steer wrestler) in 1924 and promptly became a national sensation. Fox Hastings was also noted for her saddle bronc riding and rodeo trick riding. After her marriage to Mike Hastings ended, Eloise married another rodeo performer, Charlie Wilson and the two of them settled on a ranch outside Winslow, Arizona. She was inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City in 1987.

## Curator's Corner

Happy New year from the Rae House Museum! We are taking a break in the month of January to prepare for the upcoming year. While we will still be having some special events in the upcoming year, we will be shifting our focus to educational events related to history. More details will be forthcoming.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers who have helped with our past events, and hope that you will continue to support our efforts in the future. Please consider joining us, either socially or in a volunteer capacity



# MEMBERSHIP

As a member of our Galt Area Historical Society you play an important role in protecting and preserving our historical records and also interpreting the past to the public, especially our younger Galtonians.

Each year that you renew your membership you join us in our mission of engaging and empowering each other to make history a meaningful part of our contemporary lives. Your membership helps preserve the legacy of our ancestors, commemorate local heroes and preserve our historic architecture. Our members in GAHS help answer the Who, What, Why, Where and When questions that make historical societies important. It puts those of us in the present in touch with the people of the past who shaped our landscape, named our landmarks, and made the decisions that ultimately affect us today.

A great big thank you to all annual members who have paid their 2018 dues. Our goal is to have 100% dues paid ASAP. A reminder that dues are due in January of each year. So, if you wait to renew too long it will seem like you have paid twice! You can submit your dues through the mail, PayPal on the GAHS Website or at our monthly meeting. Also, within our membership area, we encourage you to inform us when you have a change of address. Please email any concerns to Rhonda Smith, [guildstreetsmith@sbcglobal.net](mailto:guildstreetsmith@sbcglobal.net) or call, 209-745-4504.

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## 2019 Historical Society Executive Board

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Many of us look back on 2018 with fond memories, joy, and some sadness. With 2019, we look ahead to prosperity, new beginnings, new challenges, and new adventures. That must be what those before us felt in 1869. This is an exciting year for Galt. Our town becomes 150 years old. In April of 1869, our township was surveyed. The first passenger train arrived in May of 1869. The railroad began service between Sacramento to Stockton with a stop in Galt in August of 1869 with festivities that brought William Seward, Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln, to our town. Our first Post Office was opened August 16, 1869 in the Brewster's Building on Fourth St (was Front St). We received the first United States flag to be flown on the flagpole in what is now, a little park. The significance of where the flagpole was erected was that spot was the center of the Galt Township in 1869. The pole remained there until the city moved it a little north in the new promenade.

Those who lived in the area before the first settlers were the Miwoks. Many eventually worked on the various ranches. The Miwoks taught the settlers of their love for nature. Galt was part of the Chabolla Land Grant in 1844. The Liberty Township was founded in 1852. In 1869, Dr. Obed Harvey succeeded in getting Western Pacific Railroad to lay tracks near his property. There was no town there except Liberty a mile south of his property. Dr Harvey decided to build a town along the railroad right-of-way

near his property. In those days, all you had to do was get the land surveyed and sell lots to make a town. He got the railroad to donate land and do the surveying; and the town was laid out. One stipulations was that four churches had to be erected at each corner of the then town. In a "nutshell," this was our beginning.

What is most exciting is that the Galt Area Historical Society and our volunteers will play a big part in the planning and activities for the 150th Celebration and festivities along with the City of Galt and the Galt Chamber of Commerce. I am forming a committee to do just this. If you want to help and be on this committee, please contact me at 209 747-3861 or email me at: [ricjan@barsettivineyards.com](mailto:ricjan@barsettivineyards.com). Also, if you have any information or memorabilia from this time, please contact our Historian, Dan Tarnasky at 916 952-2368.

This is an exciting time; but more importantly, a proud time in our history. We have an opportunity to tell our story and our history; and to celebrate all our settlers and ancestors. To me, it is a time to thank all those before us who helped create a community where we wanted to live and raise our families. Many of us still reside in Galt after generations. Galt truly is the Great American Little Town (GALT).

~ Janis Barsetti Gray



# Policy and Procedure Review

## Insurance Coverage

### Purpose:

The purpose of insurance coverage is to minimize the risk and protect the GAHS from losses due to events that may occur in the normal course of conducting the business of the Society.

### Policy:

1. The President and Bookkeeper and/or Business/Finance Committee will assure that the Society maintains adequate insurance coverage in regards to General Liability, Directors and Officers Liability, Workers Compensation, Property Insurance, Automobile Coverage, Umbrella Liability, and any other insurance to cover risk exposure for which the Society may need. The President and Bookkeeper and/or Business/Finance Committee will review the current insurance policies held by the Society on an annual basis with its insurance agent to determine if it is adequately covered.
2. All new members and volunteers are required to fill out a Release of Liability form which will be filed monthly with the Second Vice President.
3. If the Society holds an event on non-Society property, the Society Bookkeeper needs to be contacted to determine what additional coverage needs to be obtained by the Society and/or whether the Society needs to be named as "additionally insured" on any Certificate of Insurance.
4. All contracts entered into by the Society should require evidence of current coverage for general liability per a Certificate of Insurance and name the Society as additionally insured.

# Calendar

January 3 | 2pm  
Executive Board Meeting  
GAHS Hall, 550 C Street

January 28 | 7pm  
General Meeting  
GAHS Hall, 550 C Street

February 3 | 1-4pm  
Open House at the  
Rae House Museum

February 14 | 7pm  
General Meeting  
GAHS Hall, 550 C Street

The Rae House Museum will NOT have an open house in January. Closed for cleaning.

Dates and Times are Subject to Change

# Archival Materials

There is still a lot of Galt History out there that Galtonians or former Galtonians have stashed in boxes in closets, basements, and attics. Whether you donate items to us or let us "scan and return," please search through those boxes and collect the items listed below. You can drop them off (Barsetti Vineyards, 400 4th Street #150, Galt, Ca) or mail them to us. Many of you don't realize that what might be insignificant to you is very significant to us. The only requirement is it has to do with people and places in our Historic Area (Galt, Herald, Thornton, Liberty, Elliott, Hicksville, Arno, or Colony). Remember that Galt Area History is 1869 to 2018.

1. Photographs (People or Places)
2. Old Property Deeds
3. Diplomas
4. Awards
5. Newspaper or Magazine Clippings
6. Store Receipts
7. Programs from school or specials events
8. Church Programs
9. Wedding Announcements
10. Funeral Programs
11. Advertisements
12. Business Cards from any business
13. High School or any Elementary School Yearbook
14. School Report Cards from any school
15. Old Galt Herald or Galt Gazette Newspapers
16. Matchbooks
17. Calendars
18. Military Induction or Discharge Papers and Commendations
19. Tickets to any events in our Historic Area
20. Anything else printed that has to do with Galt, Thornton, Herald, Liberty, Elliott, Hicksville, Arno, or Colony.





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# Louise's Walk Down Memory Lane

#1

In 1928, -if memory serves me right, Galt High had an aeronautical college. Students came from as far away as Hawaii. Galt also had a poultry farmer about three blocks north of the school. The young man practiced dives -loop dives etc. and much of it took place over his hen house frightening the hens which resulted in them flying up with their wings beating frantically causing eggs to have bloody spots in them and the eggs were uneatable. He was very angry and complained furiously.

One night some of the students kidnapped him—took him about eight miles east, removed his shoes, and then set him out to walk back barefooted. I never heard what happened to him.

#2

Galt had a man who bought herds of animals—cows, sheep, etc. and drove them to Galt to be herded into corrals near the railroad. He was dangerous, but no one knew it, possibly a little crazy. He must have kept lists. I was in the second grade. Elizabeth Gann was our school teacher. Her Dad was constable. One day he drove out from town and parked in front of the school. We were told not to go outside the school yard. We could go on top of a stile and could see him with a gun across his knees.

In those days if a person wanted to buy a new car, a car salesman drove the car to the interested person's home. It would have been a Saturday since my brother and I were home. A neighbor, my parents, grandparents, and salesman were all there. We were all near the new car.

We heard the sound of a car traveling slowly and turned to look. A big-black touring car and driver crept by. We didn't recognize him. He went a half mile or so then turned around and crept back by.

A day or so later my Dad had to go into town. Mr. Beeler owned a general store in the Brewster building.

He greeted my Dad with the words, " what are you doing in town" then proceeded to tell him Mr. Goings was on a killer rampage and Dad was on his list. Mr. Goings had killed the Nobles in Stockton, then 3 members of the Marengo Family in Galt.

Dad wanted a gun but Mr. Beeler assured him Goings had been chased into the hills and shot and killed by the posse. Goings was after the constable because he had re-claimed a horse for lack of payment to the Marengo's. I do not know why he killed the Nobles. My Dad was on the list because one day Goings was herding a large band of sheep past our home and Dad noticed the sheep weren't moving. He grabbed his rifle and hurried out. The sheep had been driven under the fence and were strung out in the lush green crop of grain, eagerly grazing. Dad caught up with him where he sat on his horse with sheep dog beside him.

"Get them out or I'll start shooting". Dad held his rifle partially aimed at Goings—there were a few tense moments as Goings was looking at Dad and then down at his own gun that lay across the saddle. Goings finally sent the dog to move the sheep out.



# Confessions of a Milk Truck Driver

Ever wonder what it was like to be a milk truck driver delivering to the Sego Milk Plant? This historian wanted to know and contacted one of the last living milk truck drivers that could tell the tale. John Melhaff said his dad raised him and his brothers to drive truck. He started driving when he was 15 and would take over for his brothers when they were away in the military. John would often pick up milk cans in the morning before school and then go to football or baseball practice before making the night run. Once his time as a GI in Korea was over (around 1955), He once again drove milk truck this time buying his own and the route to go with it. His first truck, a 1940 Dodge, didn't last long before he had to buy a newer 1956 Ford Cab Over.

Each driver was an independent contractor who had to supply their own truck and buy a route from another driver before being approved by the Milk Plant. John drove the 1300 Route which took him from Galt to lone and 30 dairies and 200 milk cans (each can had a number stamped

on it corresponding to a particular dairy). Full cans weighed about 120 lbs each. Since each truck had two levels, that meant lifting cans over his head. The job went for 365 days a year and two times a day April to October and once a day November to March. A driver had to pay a relief driver to take over his route if he wanted a day off. A typical day went as follows:

Breakfast at 6:30 am. Start your route at 7:00. Begin with the furthest dairies and work your way back to town. Get to the plant at 11:00 am and wait your turn in line. Once up the ramp to the "porch" you unloaded each can, knocked the lid off with a pipe, and set the can on a track. A plant employee emptied the can and sent the can and lid into a washer on another track. When the can came out the other end, it gets loaded back on the truck. Since the next run didn't start until 6:30 pm, you emptied your truck of cans and used your truck to haul other things like hay. Eat supper at 5:00 pm. Start the evening run at 6:30.

Sometimes there could be a little excitement on an otherwise uneventful day. On his way to lone on the morning run, John came across two escaped convicts who attempted to stop him. He swerved and missed them, continuing to the next dairy. When he got there, he called the sheriff. On his way back, he saw that the cons had been apprehended. Another day found John broken down on the side of the road after breaking an axle housing. After getting a ride back to town and getting another truck, John transferred his cans and finished his run. In between routes, he managed to repair his truck in time for the next run.

John Melhaff drove a milk truck for eleven years before selling his truck and route to another driver and going to work for Goehring Meat Company in Lodi. His memories of his days driving are still vivid, and everything he had to say couldn't be written in this piece because of space, but it is all saved for future generations.

Historian



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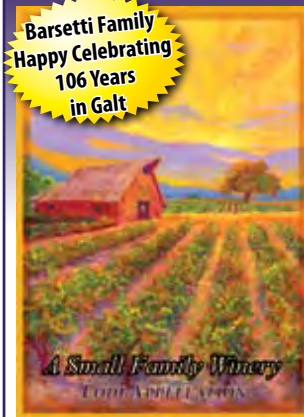
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# Bits & Pieces

## Christmas

Christmas at the McFarland House and the Rae Museum was a success. Those who attended enjoyed cookies and hot apple cider along with crafts for the children. We want to thank all our Santa's who brought joy to the little ones: Dennis Dean and John Martinez at the McFarland House and Frank Bitondo and Mike Haug at the Rae House Museum. You all did a wonderful job.

## Welcome Back

Ida is back on her feet after surgery. We really missed you. Thanks to Rita Martin for being available to show the venues for rent.

## Elliott Cemetery

We have to give another big thanks to Eric Schneider, who is the Chairman overseeing the Elliott Cemetery. Eric keeps the Elliott in excellent shape. He has removed a tree and fixed the fence. He also, recently, stopped at the Liberty and picked up a pickup load of trash that has been dumped by the front gate. Thanks again, Eric.

## Liberty Cemetery

Along with the Elliott, I regret to report that Gary Berreth will no longer be the Chairman of the Liberty Cemetery. Due to health reasons, he is passing the baton to Shawn Farmer. Gary, thank you for all the years you took care of this historic cemetery. We know you will help there when you can.

## Donation

We want to thank Shawn Farmer for his generous donation so that we can buy a cordless electric weed eater to help at the Liberty and Elliott

Cemeteries. This will greatly help keep up the cemeteries.

## Civil War Reenactment

As I reported in a previous newsletter, the Civil War Reenactment group will be holding a ceremony at the Liberty Cemetery a couple of weeks prior to their reenactment at the McFarland Living History Ranch in April. We have Civil War Soldiers buried in the Liberty so it is fitting that they be honored. It will also bring attention to their event and attention to all we do for the area. That is why it is important to keep up the cemetery when we can during the winter months.

## Celebrating 150 Years

Celebrating 150 Years as a town this year. We are putting together a committee to work closely with the City and the Galt Chamber of Commerce to make this a historic celebration. If anyone wants to be on this committee, please contact us. We are already working on plans with the Chamber; and soon with the City.

## Dinner Meetings

In the past, several times each year during our general meetings, we have had prepared dinners for a charge by Ida. Unfortunately, this will no longer be possible due to health codes. We found this out after someone anonymously turned us in. If we cater in food, each member will have to pay more for this food. Our bylaws do not allow us to buy food for members unless there is a charge. We can possibly do potlucks at those meetings if the members choose.

Gossip from the

# Galt Gazette

January 1884

Hicksville School will reopen Monday with Miss Blanche Huber as teacher.



There will be a social at the Arno Tavern next Tuesday, January 8.



At 8:00 pm yesterday, the Bijou Saloon of G. Thomas on C Street burned.



Liberty School is closing due to a lack of pupils.

## Social Media Assistant

On Dec 18th our GAHS Donate Button was fixed and back in business. We would Like to Thank Galt High Student Josh Belarmino for assisting us with getting this button working. Josh is also willing to lend website support and help with further site development. Were still looking for some help with website & our Social Media outlets. If anyone has ideas or suggestions please let us know.

~ Ralph Cortez  
Social Media Chair



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