



March 2019



## From the Archives Pizza Palace

Mention the Pizza Palace to any long time Galtonian, and you'll get smiles and some reminiscing. Opened in the Fall of 1968, the Pizza Palace was the dream of Esther Robson, the one-time owner of the Pizza Bank on the corner of 4th and C Streets. Besides pizza, the Pizza Palace was known for Mary Brookin's clam chowder and "pee wees," small deep-fried calzones. A 16" pizza cost \$3.65, and the pee wee special (with a soda) cost \$1.25. Esther had the ovens installed in the front window, so passers-by could see her hand rolling the dough and then baking her pizzas. The first night was an adventure as it was Galt High's Football Homecoming, no liquor license, and a rush for 200 pizzas. Esther sold the Pizza Palace to Al Fink in 1971. Pictured is Esther's son Joe Farren and her husband, Norman.

## History for Kids at the Rae

We are excited to tell you that the first History for Kids event in February was a great success. We had a large group of children and parents in attendance. Our writing, letters, postcards and stamps event has been postponed until the first Sunday in April. In addition to quill writing, we have developed a fun craft activity for the kids using postage stamps.

We are grateful to once again have FFA students from Liberty Ranch High School, volunteer to come and assist with pruning and clean up at the Rae. Maintenance of the memorial roses is a major undertaking, and as the saying goes "many hands make light work". We will be having other work days throughout the coming months. We would love to have you come show your love for our town, by spending a few hours working to beautify our city's historic treasure.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, send email correspondence to [raehousemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:raehousemuseum@gmail.com)



# 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 2019 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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Ida Denier ~ 1st Vice President

Ralph Cortez ~ 2nd Vice President

Liz Haglund ~ Recording Secretary

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Corresponding Secretary

Dan Tarnasky ~ Historian

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It is hard to believe that Daylight Savings Time begins March 10th and the First Day of Spring is March 20th. The weather has put a lot of outside tasks on hold for all of us, but we definitely need the rain. The weather will change rapidly and we may wish for some of this in the heat of the summer. We cannot do anything about the weather, but we can always forge ahead with our mission to preserve the irreplaceable and the history of the Galt Area. What a great year 2019 is going to be for our town. The buzz is just starting for the 150th Celebration of the birth of our town. Citizens and businesses are buying banners to go up on the street poles all over town. People want to be a part of this celebration. It is starting to remind me of what I have read and heard about towns in the "old days," working together for a real old fashioned celebration. Think of the history we are making this year for those who will be celebrating Galt's 200th Birthday in the year 2069.

When we think of being patriotic, we think of those expressing their devotion to and support of our country vigorously. While I most definitely fall into that category as most of you do, I also feel patriotic or loyal to our town. Our local town seems more real to us than the big picture of the entire country because we can see things happening, we have the opportunity to see and meet our local leaders and tell them what we think, and we see what effects our town and our neighbors. We try to work together to keep Galt the Great American Little Town. We love to live here, raise our families, and we try to support the local businesses. These local businesses can, in turn, support local organizations like the Galt Area Historical Society. We also feel we make a difference locally.

So 2019 is a year for all Galtonians, whether you still live here or reside elsewhere, to feel this strong sense of loyalty and pride. You can reflect back all the years you spent here and the wonderful memories you have of Galt. Those memories are your history. We have made it to 150 years from the day the railroad came to Galt. Celebrate this wonderful accomplishment. I hope that many of you will participate in some way. If you have some history you want to share with us, please contact our Historian, Dan Tarnasky.

~ Janis Barsetti Gray

## Kite Day

Kite Day will be held at the McFarland Living History Ranch April 7 from 9am - 3 pm. If that day is rained out, the Rain-Out Kite Day will be April 28th. Ron Jacobson is the Chairman of the event. If you are interested in helping Ron with Kite Day, please contact him.

Let all your family and friends know. More will be in next month's newsletter from Ron.

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## Policy and Procedure Review

# Alcohol and Drug Free Policy

### I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety of all Gait Area Historical Society volunteers and visitors and to promote productivity.

### II. Policy:

- A. The Gait Area Historical Society prohibits the possession, sale, consumption, or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs by volunteers while volunteering or conducting GAHS business. Any volunteer found possessing, selling, consuming, or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages while performing services for the GAHS will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination of membership.
- B. Occasional exceptions to this policy against the consumption of alcoholic beverages may be made for small quantities of such beverages reasonable under the circumstances, usually wine or beer, which may be available at GAHS fundraising events. At such events, all volunteers are expected to exercise good judgment and moderation. In no event may any underage individual consume alcohol, and all volunteers are expected to comply fully with all laws (including laws prohibiting the operation of motor vehicles while under the influence of alcohol), and to take safety precautions including arranging for a designated sober driver.
- C. Any volunteer who is using prescription or over-the-counter drugs that may impair the volunteer's ability to safely perform the job, or affect the safety or well-being of others, must notify a Board Member of such use immediately before starting or resuming work while under the influence of such prescription or over-the-counter drugs.

## Calendar

March 14 | 2pm  
Executive Board Meeting  
GAHS Hall, 550 C Street

March 25 | 6pm  
General Meeting  
GAHS Hall, 550 C Street

March 30 | 9am - 12pm  
Liberty Cemetery Workday


April 7 | 9am - 3pm  
Kite Day  
McFarland Living History Ranch


April 7 | 1pm - 4pm  
History for Kids at Rae Museum


April 13 & 14  
Saturday 9am - 5pm  
Sunday 9am - 3pm  
Civil War Reenactment  
McFarland Living History Ranch


Dates and Times are Subject to Change


## Upcoming GAHS Events

 Our annual Kite Day will be held at the McFarland Living History Ranch on April 7th (if rained out, date will be April 28th). Please contact Ron Jacobson, the Chairman of this event, if you want to help set up, work the day of Kite Day, and tear down at the end of the day. If you would like to donate any food items or kites for the children, please let Ron know as soon as possible.

 Our annual Ladies Tea at the RAE will be held on May 11th. It will be chaired by Joan Werblun and Vickie Larson. Joan and Vickie were responsible for beautifully decorating the RAE at Christmas time. If you want to help decorate, setup, serve, and tear down, please contact Joan at 209 251-9199. This will be the day before Mother's Day. What a wonderful treat for mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt, etc. More information will be available next month.

 Our annual Wine, Beer, and Food event, Sip & Snack at the MAC will be held at the McFarland Living History Ranch on Saturday July 27th. Tickets and flyers will be printed soon. We already have many of last year's participants signed up again. If you are able to help us setup on July 26, help during the event, and help tear down on the 28th, please contact me.

 Our annual "An Evening in Italy" dinner will be held on August 3rd at the Littleton Community Center. The event will be catered by Bueno Italiano Café from Lodi again. Along with the wonderful Italian food, there will be great raffle prizes. Contact Ida Denier if you will be able to help setup, serve, and cleanup.

 Our final annual event will be our Car Show, "A Drive Down Memory Lane," to be held September 28th at the McFarland Living History Ranch. Our major sponsor, Elk Grove Tires, has already committed again this year. If you have any friends or family who have cars, trucks, camper trailers, motorcycles that are 1972 or older, have them register with Ida Denier at 209 745-1477.



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# Lincoln Highway 1919-2019 Trip

This is the year that the Lincoln Highway Association has planned for the reenactment trip made by Dwight Eisenhower in 1919 from the East Coast to the West Coast in a military convoy. I received a call the other day from a coordinator. The convoy of 50-70 military and support vehicles and about 120 people will be in Galt on Sept 13th and spend 2 hours here for lunch. They want to park the vehicles in Old Town Galt on 4th St so people can come and look and the vehicle and chat with them. How exciting. It could not be on a better day: The day before our 150th Celebration. We are working with the Chamber of Commerce and the City to make sure this will be a memorable 2 hour stay in Galt. As the date gets close, they will let us know what time they will be in Galt. We hope many of you get an opportunity to come out and see this part of our history. Yes, Lincoln Way and Lower Sacramento Road are the Lincoln Highway.



## Galt's 150th Celebration

Our town's 150th Birthday will be celebrated on September 14th in Old Town Galt. The next meeting of the Chamber, City, GAHS, and citizens planning this event will be March 13 at our hall on 550 C St. Please join us. Volunteers needed. We are still in the planning stages. However, many of you have probably already seen the banner program. You can purchase a double-sided banner that will hang from the big street poles around town. The banners are \$200 each or if you buy 5 or more, they will be \$175 each. Businesses, families, citizens, and organizations are purchasing these banners to be installed by the city starting April and remain on display until January 2020. Once they come down, they will be given to the purchaser. If you are interested in having this commemorative banner made, please contact Toni or Dan at Express Type at 209 745-2334. They are selling pretty fast.



Thanks to Jeff Roberts for donating this map to the Galt Area Historical Society. It is now at the Rae House Museum.

# Four Corners Argument

Going to many of the events that the Historical Society puts on, this Historian mingles with other members and chats about different subjects regarding Galt History. Several times the subject of the original four churches comes up and how they are supposed to be on the original four corners of Galt. Without fail someone will mention that the Methodist Church is misplaced and isn't even close to a corner. If you look at a map of Galt, none of the other three "original" churches are exactly in an "original" corner of town.

The subject of the Methodist Church not being on a corner of town is a simple one. The first Methodist Church was on the corner of 6th, and E Streets (or was it 6th and F Streets? That argument will be taken up later lest I go off on a tangent) which is much closer to an original corner of town. I'm guessing once the church was built per the original agreement, they could move it anywhere they wanted to, and the congregation did when it collapsed in a storm. It now sits at the corner of 6th and C Streets. What about the other churches?

No one knows for sure because there is no documentation, but over the years the ongoing story says the original four churches, St. Christopher's, the Episcopal, the Christian, and the Methodist, were supposed to be on a corner of town when it was laid out by surveyors back in 1869. None of the churches sits on an original corner. It's a theory, but this Historian believes that what Obed Harvey and the Central Pacific Railroad meant was "four quarters" and not "four corners." With that thought, each church would have met the requirements to be in a "quarter" of town and not on a "corner" of town.

Now I can go to more events and discuss my theory with the other members. It will undoubtedly dash a few beliefs in Galt History, but no one knows for sure what the original intent was without documentation. It goes back to that game you played as a kid. You know the one where you sat in a circle and whispered something in someone's ear, and it goes around the circle until it comes back to you with a different twist.

Historian

# Looking for Photos

We're still looking for select photos from Galt's past. If you have any of these, contact Dan Tarnasky at [blckrssn@hotmail.com](mailto:blckrssn@hotmail.com) or (916) 952-2368.

1. Peerless Milling
2. A & W Root Beer Stand
3. Ed's Seaside Service Station
4. 417 Club
5. Patton's Pharmacy
6. Galt Safeway Market
7. Slacks Economy Market
8. Galt Produce Co.
9. Tip Top Café
10. Galt Ice and Storage
11. Erwin's Jewelry
12. Lillian's Café
13. Keller's and Hessler
14. Ferguson's Lumber
15. The inside of any business (except Brewster's)
16. Jerry's Market
17. Western Auto
18. Galt's first jail when it was still in operation
19. Galt's first City Hall
20. First Methodist Church

## Gossip from the Galt Gazette March 1885

Galt has doubled in size in the past five years.



George May has purchased the Galt House, will reopen soon.



Charlie Quiggle was thrown out of a cart yesterday, injured his head.



Mrs. Alice Valensin and Mrs. Caroline McCauley visited San Francisco.



Galt has a new millinery store.



Complaints of numerous burglaries.



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# Clampers Return

On February 23rd the Clampers returned to the Liberty Cemetery to cleanup, tree trim, weed eat, and work on the headstones. Fortunately the weather cooperated. You can see by the pictures, they worked very hard to help us keep us this historic cemetery. Thanks to all the Clampers and to Dan Huntley for organizing the crew.



# Bits & Pieces

## Amazon Smile

Remember when buying anything from Amazon online to register your login under Amazon Smile and show that you want a portion of your purchase price (.5%) to go to the Galt Area Historical Society. Please encourage friends and family to do the same. So far through February 2019, \$191.63 has been generated for the GAHS thru your purchases.

## Volunteers Wanted

The Elk Grove Historical Society has asked if any of our members would like to help volunteer for the Early California Days on Mar 22, 23, and 24 at the Elk Grove Park Pavilion, they would be grateful. If you want to help, call John Ross at 916 230-7198. If you do volunteer, remember to log those volunteer hours on our sheets.

## Late Membership Dues

There are still a few members who have not paid their dues in January. If you are not sure whether you paid or not, contact our membership chairperson, Rhonda Smith at her email: rhonda@galtsmiths.com. Once several months have passed without payment, names will be dropped from our membership roster. Your dues help support our society.

## Rae Museum Roses

The season is getting late for heavy pruning of roses at the Rae due the weather. The Liberty Ranch FFA will be helping with some pruning and cleanup at the RAE on March 16. If anyone can come that day to help, please contact Ralph Cortez. On another note about the rose beds at the RAE, if anyone is interested in taking over a section of the rose beds to care for that bed with pruning, fertilizing, weeding, etc., please contact me. If we have a group of people doing this, it will make caring for these roses much easier. You would "own" your piece of the rose garden at the RAE. We have the fertilizer at the RAE. You would

just have to have your own gloves and pruning shears.

## McFarland Ranch Events

The two large non GAHS events at the McFarland Living History Ranch will be the Civil War Reenactment April 12 (for school children), April 13 and 14 for the public. The week prior to this event, they will hold a ceremony at the Liberty Cemetery where there are some Civil War soldiers buried. The Galt Chamber of Commerce's Hot Air Balloon will be August 10 and 11. More information will follow.

## Donation Letter

I am sure by now that you have received our Annual Donation letter from our Corresponding Secretary, Louise Dowdell. This is the only time of year that we ask our members and friends of our society, to donate to our organization. Please be generous; but any amount is important.

## Memorial Donations

Did you know that you can make a donation to the GAHS as a Memorial in the name of a person who has passed away? You can also make an Honorary Donation to the GAHS in honor of a birthday, anniversary or any special day. We will begin posting the names of those in Memoria and the donor, as well as those honorary names and the donor. This is an excellent way to honor those who passed and those celebrating a milestone; and also supporting the GAHS.

## Online Newsletters

As a reminder, if you want to refer back to a newsletter that you might have misplaced, you can go to our website: www.galthistory.com and go to the top tab of archives. It will scroll down to newsletters. You can also go to the event tab and scroll to our calendar. All meetings and events are posted for your convenience.



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