

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank the many of you who returned the survey which was in the November newsletter. As a rule surveys, if one is lucky, will have a 10% return. We have a little over 20% as I write this newsletter. The results are being tabulated electronically and should give good direction to the joint committee of the Society and the Yolo County Art Council who are doing the feasibility study as to the establishment of a Yolo County Cultural, History and Art Center. Focus groups were arranged by members of the Board of Supervisors in each of their districts and to date, there have been meetings in Davis, Winters, Esparto and Woodland. Response has been very helpful and enthusiastic. A group will meet in West Sacramento after the first of the year. Joint meetings have also been held with the County Administrator and staff members along with the City Manager and the Community Development Director of Woodland. The study is to be completed by May 31st of 2008. There is much work to do before our findings can be submitted to the California Cultural Endowment Committee. The committee is on target with the timeline originally submitted to the Endowment.

Our first meeting of the new year will be of special interest to people owning older homes which have, or might have had, gas lighting originally. I encourage you to invite non-members who might have an interest to attend this program. Our programs are always open to the public.

I wish you peace and good tidings at the beginning of this New Year,

BJ Ford, President

HISTORY ON THE GO YOUR ROADMAP TO THE PAST

Board member, Kathy Harryman has been working on the soon to be available History on the Go brochure which will provide a road map to the location of historic site plaques placed by the Society over the years. We thank Kathy for her efforts. It was to be an easy project but as projects go she has spent many hours and the end may be in sight.

RESPONSE TO LETTER

If you read last month's newsletter, you will remember that a letter was written to Mark Deven, Woodland City Manager and members of the City Council expressing concern that the treatment of the Keene House and the house at the corner of Cleveland and Lincoln was not appropriate for a historic structure. There was an immediate response that the Keene House would soon be on a permanent foundation and that negotiations with the owner of the house on Cleveland and Lincoln should be completed in a couple of weeks and work should begin on it soon. As of this writing, there does not appear to be any action at either location. The Society board will discuss at their next meeting whether a follow-up letter is in order.

SACRAMENTO AREA MUSEUMS

We have concluded the series on the Chinese in Woodland and the "Look Back in the Society's History."

Now for a new series of columns; we hope that by listing some of our area's many Museums you can plan to visit those that interest you. Some will be very familiar while others may have missed your notice. We have discovered 26 Museums, some small and some large. Here are five which you might consider. More next month.

Aerospace Museum of California

5934 Price Avenue. (916) 643-3192
www.aerospacemuseumofcalifornia.org

West off Watt Avenue onto Freedom Park Drive to museum on left. Formerly known as McClellan Aviation Museum, the Museum has over 30 military and civilian aircraft and a state-of-the-art Aviation Learning Center. Gift shop with aviation theme items. Hours: Tues-Fri 9am-4pm; Sat 10am-4pm. Admission fee

California Foundry History Museum

5301 Price Avenue, McClellan Park
916-929-8001, 916-933-3062
www.foundryhistory.com

Enter at Peacekeeper Way off Watt Avenue. Located at the Technikon facility. Foundries melt metal to make fire hydrants, water pipes, car engines... so come ring a trolley bell, work a water valve, see fascinating castings as well as film and photographs from the Gold Rush to the present.
Hours: Mon-Fri 11:00am-3:00pm. Free admission

California State Indian Museum

2618 K Street, Old. Sacramento (916) 324-0971, www.parks.ca.gov

Located adjacent to Sutter's Fort. Self-guided tours provide an opportunity to celebrate the proud heritage of California Indian culture from the traditions of ancestors to contemporary Native artist. Special events include Ishi Day, Acorn Day and Gathering of Honored Elders.
Hrs: Daily 10am-5pm Small Admission fee.

Donald F. Salvatori CA Pharmacy Museum

4030 Lennane Drive, Sacramento
(916) 779-1410 ext. 331

Inspired by California's rich history of pharmacy, the Donald F. Salvatori California Pharmacy Museum celebrates the role of the pharmacist in the promotion of health and well-being of Californians since the state's inception in 1850. A tour of the museum will take you through the late 1800s, through the 1940s, and the present. Tours available by appointment. Hours: Mon-Thurs 10am-4pm. Free admission

Governor's Mansion State Historic Park

1526 H Street, Sacramento
(916) 323-3047

The regal Victorian mansion, home to 13 of California's governors' from 1903 - 1967 is filled with historic furnishings, Fourteen-foot ceilings, Persian carpets, Italian marble fireplaces, chandeliers and French mirrors grace the mansion. Docent led tours on the hour. Hours: 10am-4pm. Small Admission Fee

HATTIE WEBER MUSEUM GETS IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Board member Jim Becket, who currently holds the title of "Museum Volunteer," made the Hattie Weber Museum the place to be on Saturday, December 22nd. In the spirit of Christmas past - specifically the one in 1898 - every youngster who stopped by the Museum received a goodie bag of fruit and nuts provided by museum volunteers. The bags were arranged under the Christmas tree which had been decorated by Jim and other volunteers.

While making all the arrangements for a bang-up Saturday before Christmas event, a new exhibit was produced about the history of the Library Club, the original organization to operate the museum for the city. The Bachelor Girls Club, the initial organization, was instrumental in developing the original Davis Library, including the purchase of the land and the construction of the building in 1911.

The Society is currently negotiating with the City of Davis to assume the operating of the Museum. It is the hope of the Board that Society members from Davis will volunteer to assume some of the docent responsibilities.

The Museum, located at 445 C Street, is currently open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Wednesdays. Admission is free. Stop by and visit with Jim, Roberta Stevenson or Virginia Isaacs the current staff of the Museum.

DEAD CAT ALLEY PROCLAMATION SIGNED

Some time ago the Board of Directors voted to support an effort by the Woodland Art Center to have Woodland's Dead Cat Alley declared an historic place in that in 1999 the Downtown Woodland Historic District, of which Dead Cat Alley passes through a portion, was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

On November 27th the Woodland City Council voted to acknowledge the Alley via a Proclamation which (after all the Whereases) stated:

"Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, We, the members of the Woodland City Council do hereby recognize Dead Cat Alley as an

interesting and colorful part of Woodland's past, as a significant historical and archaeological resource, and as a community point of interest, and through continuing public and private efforts that the alley be enhanced and improved, and should remain accessible as a continuous passage from Cleveland Street to Freeman Park, for future citizens, merchants, and tourists."

Vice President, Jeannette Molson, represented the Society at the signing of the "historic" document.

Driven Out: The Forgotten Wars Against Chinese Americans

With vivid detail, **DRIVEN OUT** recounts unforgettable incidents such as the torching of the Chinatown in Antioch CA, and a series of lynchings in Los Angeles bizarrely provoked by a Chinese wedding. From the port of Seattle to the mining towns in California's Siskiyou Mountains, the first Chinese Americans were hanged, purged, and banished. Chinatowns across the West were burned to the ground.

[Extracted from Press Release]

An 8 Course Chinese banquet and history lecture is planned:

When: Sunday, January 13, 2008

Where: Holiday Villa Seafood Restaurant,
7007 South Land Park Dr., Sacramento

Lecturer: Jean Pfaelzer, Professor of American Studies, University of Delaware

Cost: \$10 for Sacramento Chinese Culture Foundation members; \$15 for non-members

RSVP: Helen Yee (916) 392 – 1001 by **1/8**

VISION STATEMENT

The Yolo County Historical Society strives to preserve, protect, and acknowledge the diverse history of Yolo County through education, communication and advocacy.

January 2008

“HISTORY OF GAS LIGHTING IN AMERICA”

Paul Ivazes of Quality Lighting, is giving a lecture/slide show/historic examples presentation on the History of Gas Lighting in America. He will be sharing the unwritten history of gas lighting and how gas lighting changed our country and its architecture during the 19th century. Paul has recreated and restored gaslight fixtures dating from the 1840s to the 1900s.

The meeting will take place on January 27th 2 P. M. – 4 P. M. at the Yolo County Historical Museum (the Gibson House) located at 512 Gibson Road, Woodland. Parking is free. Refreshments will be available after the program.