

# Yolo County Historical Society



January 2016

## Prez Says:

Well, the holidays are here and gone...just like that! All the anticipation and joy and then .....back to routines...I feel like hanging onto Christmas and keep my Christmas decorations up until June...On second thought, I don't think that the live evergreen swag and the live Christmas centerpiece will hold out...Oh well.. out to the street for recycling...

We begin this year with an exciting presentation for the membership. Neal Peart has agreed to open up the Woodland Fire Museum on Court Street on Sunday, January 31 at 2:00 in the afternoon and talk to us about the Spring Lake and Woodland Fire Departments. This should be an interesting presentation and one that is new to many of our members. Again, all our presentations are open to the public, so bring along a friend.

We are once again sponsoring an essay contest, thanks to the donations from Marilyn Kregel and Claire Childers. The information was sent to the 4H students in the fall. The details of the contest are in this newsletter. If you have children, grandchildren, friends, etc., please give them a copy of the requirements so they can compete. It's always a good thing to have an award attached to your student applications to college, jobs, etc.

We are still waiting for word about the Courthouse.....and the program that we would like to sponsor.

Remember, as always....

History Rules!

Kathy Harryman,  
President

## Business Buddies

The following businesses in town have financially supported the Yolo County Historical Society. We would like you to support them and keep your money local:

**L & S Printers, Main St.**  
**The House Dresser, Main St.**  
**The Gifted Penguin, Main St.**  
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**Bernard & Lynn Gough**  
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**Tom & Meg Stallard**

If you know of any business that would like to join our support list, contact me. Businesses pay \$50.00 per year for advertising.



## The Debate Continues

By Kathy Harryman

I have been saving an article to use for a newsletter and now is the appropriate time....There is a lot of discussion today about gun control both pro and con...This topic has been around for years and the issues brought up were the same as they are today. I recently read an article written by Eltinge F. Warner, publisher of Field and Stream. Mr. Warner has impressive credentials. He graduated from Princeton in 1901 and 5 years later became the general manager of Field and Stream. In 1907 he bought the controlling interest in the magazine and was the owner and publisher for 45 years, shaping the magazine into one of the nations leading sporting journals. In 1926 he wrote an article for the magazine entitled "What Are You Going to Do

About It?" In his article he addresses the country's current concern to ban all handgun sales. I've included some of his verbiage....

All of the laws and all the propaganda have one alleged purpose; to stop crime by taking the revolver from the criminal. Our recent crime wave with its many robberies, murders and other acts of lawlessness has put the general public, throughout the nation, in a mood which demands action. And as the answer of the anti-pistol people to this problem is; Pass laws prohibiting the use of the revolver and pistol so that no one can own one in the United States and there will be a 98% decrease in crime. ....

He then goes on to question whether pistol prohibition will work...His questions are as follows...

1. How would it be possible to find and confiscate the hundreds of thousands of pistols in the possession of the criminals?
2. How could such laws prevent the smuggling in of foreign pistols to supply the demands made by the crook and the tough citizen?
3. What is to prevent the dishonest gunsmith or any mechanic from manufacturing pistols for the use of the criminal element?
4. How could any anti-pistol bill prevent a crook from buying a rifle or shotgun, sawing off the barrel, cutting the stock to the pistol grip and thereby making his own gun?
5. Where would the millions of dollars be raised by the state and federal governments to employ the thousands of officials necessary even to attempt adequate enforcement of this law? ....He then asks the key question WOULD SUCH LEGISLATION DISARM THE CROOK? And that answer is an emphatic "No!"

He then compares the automobile as a criminal asset. Here is that paragraph....

There is a close analogy between the automobile and pistol. The automobile and the motor truck are used to commit thousands of crimes each year. In addition to this, the automobile is the instrument by which one person is killed every forty minutes in the United States. To suggest that the automobile be legislated from existence would be silly and asinine; to demand that the revolver be forbidden to all our citizens is equally preposterous and absurd.

He goes on to write....It is a serious development of paternalism and added limitation of the individual's liberty when he is forbidden by law to carry a revolver with him on a hunting or fishing trip. Americans must fight this tendency. It means that their Constitutional rights are being taken from them, ..Even though a man never carried a pistol, he should have the right to do so, to avail himself of its protection, if he so desired.

He then goes on to encourage the American citizen to sign petitions addressed to Senators and Congressmen of their states. Does all this sound familiar? True we are not talking about just handguns now...and true there were not a lot of automobiles around in 1926 compared to today, but the concerns remain the same. Whether we agree with him or not, the issues are still the same ninety years later!



**Thanks to the following** for generously supporting the Society ..... You too can be a Patron by donating \$100.00 to help us run our projects

### **2015-2016 Patrons**

- Robert & Lynn Campbell
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## Stories from Dingle Elementary School History Club

### Life on Lincoln Avenue

By Jack Ramirez

My parents purchased our home on Lincoln Avenue in the month of August 2003, just a few months before I was born. I've lived in this house my entire life and yet never realized it was a historical home of Woodland until just a few years ago. We are currently remodeling our house because our fridge had a leak and ruined our floor while we were on vacation. The plan was we were just going to put in new flooring, but as we progressed, we decided we were going to paint, put in new wall trim, and even buy new furniture and appliances. We have quite a long way to go.

Our home was built in 1926. You can tell that the lifestyle of people then is pretty different from now by all the modern changes to the house. While we were ripping up our old floor, we discovered the *original* 1926 flooring! It's pretty ugly, but still cool to look at original flooring of a historic house. The style of our house is craftsman. A style that is still popular today, just difficult for new construction to replicate this 1930's style. The style is found in older neighborhoods which, if you know your Woodland history, Woodland is a town that does much to preserve architecture from the 1800's on. There were still gravel roads when my dad was growing up in Woodland, a remnant of Woodland's past.

We are currently remodeling our home. It's fun to remodel because *you*, yes *you*, get to decide what you want, how you want it, and where you want it. It reminds me a lot about Lego's. But, it is very hard work. Every weekend my dad puts his heart and soul into remodeling our home. It inspires me. When my dad's teaching me something, he

always says that when I get older, I'll thank him for all the things he taught me. I already do.

Our most updated room in our house is the kitchen. Our appliances are updated and would not have been in a house built in 1926. The flooring is soon to be updated as currently there's no flooring there, the counter tops are updated as well as the electrical and plumbing. The oldest item in the kitchen is the stove. Even though it's not modern now, it didn't exist in 1926. It's a 1950's gas run stove. I think it's pretty cool to have, but my mom hates it and wants a new one. Kitchens will always be updated, even in historical homes because of all the new appliances that come out each year.

The least updated room is most likely the dining room, which is only used for formal occasions which isn't often because contemporary life is not as formal as life in the 1920's. The windows haven't been changed, it has all the same original built in cabinetry, and the flooring is original and has been carefully refinished.

So, in conclusion, it's a great home. It connects me to Woodland's past, but also my own childhood memories and I look forward to my future living there. It's not huge, but not a hobbit hole (*Lord of the Rings* reference). It has all the space for the items you need and lots of storage space. Remodeling definitely is a good challenge and in the end you get what *you* wanted. If you're not a hard physical worker, then it's not for you. But, in my opinion, remodeling is better than just buying a house because *you* get to make it the way *you* want and be a part of preserving Woodland's past.



## Historical Society Monthly Program

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31 at the Woodland Fire Museum 532 Court St. in Woodland. The lecture begins at 2:00. Neal Peart will be our host and will share with the group the history of the fire department as well as show us many of the restored fire engines. Below is a short history of the fire department taken from the City of Woodland's website. Our presentations are open to all. Bring a friend.

The origins of organized fire protection in Woodland can be traced to a series of fires in 1868-69, which focused the attention of the citizenry on the dangers of the "fiery element".

A group of interested citizens joined together to create "some kind of Fire Department". Their efforts resulted in the formation of the *Woodland Hook and Ladder Company* in August of 1870. Members of this group pulled their ladder wagon to fires and used buckets to apply water to the fire. This method was frequently ineffective in stopping the spread of flames, but the ladders allowed Ladder Company members to assist in removing contents from the homes before they were destroyed.

Citizens soon decided that they needed a fire engine to assist their efforts. In May of 1875, the Woodland Fire Department was re-organized to include the *Hook and Ladder Company* and the newly formed *Engine and Hose Company*, both to serve under one Chief.

The City ordered a new steam fire engine for the Engine Company, and in April of 1876 it arrived along with a hose cart and 500 feet of hose. With the addition of this equipment, the City had achieved a level of protection that would remain essentially unchanged until the 1920's.

The *Woodland Fire Department* entered the modern age of fire protection in 1924 when it took delivery of two brand new American LaFrance motorized engines. It was also during this time that firefighters were beginning to utilize more scientific methods in fire extinguishment, fire investigation, and fire prevention. As Woodland grew, so did the Fire

Department, in size, and in its ability to handle the growing fire problem.

In 1982 the Department merged with the *Springlake Fire Protection District*. We now protect an area in excess of 60 square miles. With modern equipment and training we are able to face challenges ranging from fires, medical emergencies, and vehicle accidents, to hazardous material spills and confined-space rescues.

<http://www.cityofwoodland.org/gov/depts/fire/history.asp>



Looking for an old article published in the newsletter or upcoming events? Check it out on our website. [www.yolo.net/ychs](http://www.yolo.net/ychs)



### Yolo County Historical Society Essay Contest 2015-2016

The Yolo County Historical Society would like to offer all students involved in agriculture in Yolo County an opportunity to write a researched essay. It is opened to all students in grades four through twelve. This essay will be judged by the Historical Society and will be awarded a prize. This year's theme will be "An Important Crop/ or Livestock in Yolo County." The essay can be either in the past or the present.

Please follow the directions below:

1. 2 page double spaced typed essay – 12 point font Times Roman or an equivalent or  
3 page double spaced hand written readable essay
2. A cover page with the title of the essay, the student's name, school attended, and date
3. A Bibliography page with at least 3 references.

Prizes:

First Place \$100.00

Second Place \$75.00

Third Place \$25.00

Entries are to be sent to :

Yolo County Historical Society  
PO Box 1447  
Woodland, Ca. 95695



## **The YCHS Board Learns About Clarksburg** by Dennis Dingemans, YCHS Vice President

For three years now the YCHS Board has been been “circuit riding” around the County. It was Board President Kathy Harryman’s inspiration to hold most of our meetings in the smaller and outlying towns as well as in Woodland and Davis. This year's circuit has us meeting for the third time in Knights Landing, in Esparto, in Winters, in West Sacramento, in Yolo, and in Clarksburg. We hope to get more in touch with the look of the land in these six places and we hope to have educational encounters with residents who choose to join us for the typical 90 minute board meeting. The local library is the usual venue. The results have been very satisfying and this January’s was one of the best.

From 10 to noon this Thursday, January 7th, the YCHS Board gathered at the Clarksburg Library. Nothing was special in the routine of the agenda, the minutes, the treasurer's report, or the rest of the 17 business items that were discussed and dispensed or deferred. We spent no money and appointed no sub-committees. What was note-worthy was the rural venue in charming and thriving Clarksburg. The meeting highlight came from Ted Smith, a transplanted Midwesterner who has lived there since 1974 and has been active (to say the least) in Clarksburg affairs and a leader in county-wide affairs (chairing the Friends of the Archives in Woodland, to cite one very significant recent role). He had joined Kathy H, Bob S, Pat C, Dennis D, Dennis D (#2), and Roberta S. around the tables in the library’s spacious back room.

Just before we adjourned Chairwoman Kathy

Harryman asked Ted to tell us a bit about Clarksburg and what was happening there. He responded with a riveting 20 minute spontaneous talk. That I try to summarize some of his topics here.

Ted began by bringing up the observation that Clarksburg residents probably could be more active in the YCHS. But there is a geographical reason for that. Clarksburg has rival loyalties. It has strong ties to the Delta and many in Clarksburg are active in the River Delta Historical Society instead. The great distances and the history of conflicts between Clarksburg and Woodland help explain somewhat weak links between Central Yolo County and its southernmost settlement. This is no different that the sense of separation that might be expected between Capay Valley which is also inconveniently distant from the County Seat. Estrangement certainly was intensified by an environmental basis — the transportation barrier created by 10 foot high tule marshes separating the South County from the County Seat. Ted reminded us that, because of the "Tule Curtain" barrier, two dissimilar languages were spoken by Yolo County’s Native Americans — Patwin in most of the county and Miwok in the Delta. Political bases for a sense of separation exist as well in events. These include not-too-distant attempts from County government to close some Clarksburg schools and to approve by County Supervisors a controversial large housing development in the Clarksburg area. In Clarksburg it is often remarked that perhaps Solano or Sacramento County would provide a better home if those boundaries could be revised to reflect geographical facts or to settle old scores. Ted also noted that the Yolo County boundary was drawn in the 1850s to reflect a Mexican-era land grant that tied today’s Clarksburg with today’s West Sacramento. Including Clarksburg in Yolo County had seemed like a good idea at the time (1850).

Similarities and ties to the rest of Yolo have developed over time. The Northern Electric railroad in the 1920s linked, for just a few decades, the County’s core with Clarksburg. Two significant sugar beet mills were built in the 1930’s, stimulating the rural economy for 70 years near Clarksburg and near Woodland. Then both mills closed in what seemed to be bad economic news. But, a near miraculous economic recovery has

happened proximate to each, uniting north and south in a sense of similar good fortunes.

**Yolo County Historical Society**  
**P O Box 1447**  
**Woodland, CA 95776**

**Address Service Requested**

**Dated Material**

In Clarksburg's old mill a touristic and recreation - oriented cluster of a dozen winery operations is successful beyond dreams. It helps support Bogle Vineyards, a local enterprise ranked in the top 15 (in volume of wine) in the USA. In Woodland's old mill the Clark Pacific company is now among the largest employers in the county. United by success!

The charming architecture of Woodland's older neighborhoods and central area is justifiably famous. Clarksburg has the equivalent! Highlighted by some notable in-town buildings done by the Bay Area's Norman Yelland, a six square block area around Clarksburg's library features a half dozen large and craftsman-like residential and civic structures. They attract attention from an international audience of admirers. The visual centerpiece, Clarksburg Community Church, since 1937 consolidates multiple denominations. Community contributions help inspire and fund projects such as the recent library renovation -- as was done in 1924 when the Clarksburg High School was launched by local initiative. The attractive in-town and rural homes and landscapes have anchored bold, loyal, and innovative leadership to the community. Families that have the ability to reside in Marin County or the equivalent are known to stay and contribute to the leadership and sense of loyalty to the community.

A peace initiative of sorts told Clarksburg that the rest of its County loves it and wants it to stay. That is the wonderful 84 page book, "Clarksburg: Delta Community," published in 1988 by the Yolo County Historical Society and written by YCHS's Shipley Walters. Copies of this excellent, reliable, and interesting history are available in most of the County libraries and from the YCHS.

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