

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The cold foggy days of winter are still with us but we're looking forward to a sunny spring with activities galore for history-minded people.

Make sure you note on your calendar the General Membership meetings which are scheduled for the 4th Sunday of each month through April 23rd. If you have trouble getting to these meetings, give a member of your Board of Directors a call. They would be happy to pick you up and drive you to the meeting. Names and phone numbers are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Behind the scenes your Board of Directors has been exploring the possibility of the establishment of a Yolo County Cultural, Historic and Art Center in Woodland, our County seat.

We are applying for a planning grant through the California Cultural and Historical Endowment which will enable us to further investigate the possibility of becoming a cultural and historic art center. Joining with us in this endeavor is the Yolo County Arts Council. This, if it comes to fruition, will be a major major project. The feedback from the community has been more than positive. We will keep you informed of our progress. Anyone having expertise which they would like to offer is more than welcome to give me a call at (530) 662-0952. Individuals continue to be generous with their time in making this happen. Anyone having been involved in this kind of project knows that it crawls at a snails pace but the end result will benefit our entire Yolo County community.

Peace,

BJ Ford,
YCHS President

FUTURE PROGRAMS

February 26, 2006

Please **note** corrected date. All Yolo County Historical Society General Meetings are held on the 4th **Sunday** of the month. The February meeting will be held Sunday, February 26th in West Sacramento.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WEST SACRAMENTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM EXHIBITION AND RECEPTION

You are invited to the Opening Reception of the Northern Electric Railroad exhibition at the West Sacramento Historical Society Museum and Visitors Center, 325 Third Street, on Saturday, February 11, 2006, 12 noon to 4 p.m., in Broderick. Guest speaker at the reception will be Paul Trimble author of Arcadia Publications. This exhibition will review the first public transportation, the Northern Electric Railroad, Sacramento Northern Railroad and others that traversed through West Sacramento from the early 1900s.

ARBOR DAY

The Gibson Museum Master Gardeners, the City of Woodland, the Sunrise Rotary Club, and the Woodland Tree Foundation join together to celebrate Arbor Day on Saturday, March 11th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be entertainment,

information booths, tree planting, garden tours, kid's games, food and fun.

MARK AULMAN SHARES A FAMILY TREASURE

Part II

When Grace Davidson, Mark's grandmother, traveled from the Valley of the Santa Ynez to Santa Barbara to take the oral and written tests that would qualify her for a teaching credential, she faced a very impressive list of subjects that would be included.

She needed to be prepared for questions in geometry, algebra, botany, civil government, physics, zoology, bookkeeping, reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, grammar, history, and geography.

When she successfully passed the test with a score of at least 85% she was granted a California teaching credential that certified that she was proficient in square root, cube root, could figure compound interest, and knew fractions. In the field of geography she could name all the states in the United States, list their capitols and largest cities, as well as the boundaries of each state. She also knew the chief rivers, mountain ranges, and lakes of each continent.

As for history, the teaching certificate attested to the fact that she could name all the presidents of the United States in order, give their terms of office, and tell the main events of their presidencies. She was also well acquainted with our country's wars and could list all the major battles, won and lost, and the names of the generals in charge.

Not to leave out any major area of knowledge, she could remember the bones of the human body; draw a chart of the circulation of blood; and parse, diagram, and analyze sentences. As well, it certified that she had a knowledge of word analysis, algebra, plane geometry, and

botany.

With all that knowledge proven and stored away, Mark's grandmother was granted a teaching certificate that qualified her to go back to her valley and teach in a one-room schoolhouse. And that is what she did.

(MORE ABOUT THAT NEXT MONTH)

RHODA MAXWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In case you haven't read it in your local newspaper, the historic school property on Walnut Street, in Woodland, about which concern was voiced by Society members, has been given by the developer, Dan Dowling, to the Yolo County Sexual Assault Center. We applaud Mr. Dowling's generous gift. The school will need a lot of rehabilitation and restoration; however, it will remain an historic treasure in the City of Woodland.

WELCOME

The members of the Yolo County Historical Society wish to congratulate, and welcome, Rachel Orlins Bergman, recently appointed Executive Director of the Yolo County Historical Museum, the Gibson House. Ms. Bergman replaces Monika Stengert who retired after over 20 years with the Museum. As we all know so many Society members are Museum members and vice versa. And then there are also the Friends of the Archives which also "triplicates" some memberships. The entire historical community will benefit from this appointment. I'm sure Ms. Bergman would appreciate members stopping by the Museum to show their support of her in this new endeavor.