

VISION STATEMENT

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

**THE SOCIETY PAYS TRIBUTE
TO
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

Sunday, February 22, 2009

2 P.M. TO 4 P.M.

Hattie Weber Museum

445 C Street, Davis

Rich and Evelyn Rominger will be our guest speakers. Their families were there in “the beginning.” They have stories to tell and you are invited to hear their remembrances.

Refreshments will be served and Society publications will be available for purchase.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are again enclosing the "New Deal Project Information Form." Several members have responded with information on the location of projects in the Yolo County area. We will be taking pictures of the buildings and the plaques that adorn them. In some cases the plaques were hard to find but members persevered. Please, if you have information or if you think you have information, fill out the form and we will follow up.

With a suggestion from Ann Schuering, and the help of Frank Cooper and his wife Betty, we will be announcing in our next newsletter a trip up Colusa and Willows way. Turns out that Frank was the Superintendent of Schools in Colusa and knows well the historic courthouse and Anne has done research at the Willows Museum housed in the old Carnegie Library. Ann has offered to do a presentation about Hugh Glenn, the "Wheat King," as part of our excursion. No date yet confirmed.

Our March 22nd General Membership meeting will be a joint meeting with the West Sacramento Historical Society. We will meet at the Jazzyblues Cafe which is located in the heart of the historic Area of West Sacramento. West Sacramento Historical Society member, Jeri Wingfield, will provide a presentation about the history of West Sacramento. She will be joined by Roger Sornsen, longtime resident of Broderick, who has led the effort to restore the WSHS fire trucks on display nearby. And there is more BUT you have to wait for the March newsletter. Mark your calendar, March 22nd.

Peace,

BJ Ford, President
Yolo County Historical Society

STROLL THROUGH HISTORY

Another date to mark on your calendar is Woodland's annual Stroll Through History which will take place on Saturday, September 12th in the downtown area. There will be entertainment, vendors, food; docent led walking tours, children's activities, a display of antique cars and trucks, a fashion show of period clothing, and a special historic home tour. If you would like to participate in making this special event "happen" (volunteers are always welcome), contact Reva Barzo at (530) 668-0875 or rbarzo@yahoo.com.

HISTORY ON THE GO

Board member, Kathy Harryman, has completed a brochure entitled "History on the Go" which will be placed in various locations throughout the County. The brochure has pictures and details about Society placed historic markers and a map on how to find each one. We appreciate Kathy's work on this project. We will have the brochures for your perusal at the February meeting. Also, you can take one with you, or more, if you know people who would enjoy seeing and using this beautiful brochure.

YOLO COUNTY WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

This year's theme is "Women Taking the Lead to Save our Planet...then and now." The annual luncheon will be held at the Woodland Community and Senior Center on Thursday, March 5th, 11:45 A.M. to 1 P.M. Cost is

\$20.00. Nominations are being solicited for women who have shown leadership to insure the protection of the environment. For more information, or for a nomination form, please call BJ Ford at (530) 662-0952.

MUSINGS FROM THE MUSEUM DIXON HISTORY PROGRAM JANUARY, 2009

By Jim Becket, Director

During the last six months of 2008, we had 978 recorded visitors to the Museum. Most come on Saturday morning as part of their visit to the Davis Farmers Market, and most were local. Those who come at other times are usually visiting Davis either because, they or their spouse, are attending some type of a conference at UCD, or they are visiting their UCD daughter or son.

We always have a spike in attendance when we have an exhibit opening or some other advertised special event. Perhaps the most notable of these was our annual re-enactment of an 1898 Christmas in Davisville. Many young parents (or somewhat older grandparents) brought their “young’ns” by to see the display and receive an 1800s present of a “Goodie Bag,” containing an apple, an orange, nuts and hard candy. The “Portraits of the Past” article by Joan Leech Larkey, which describes the tree, the bags, and the events period, even specifies the weight of the bags, but we did not go that far – nor was our tree quite 20’ tall.

Our next major exhibit will be in honor of the Bachelor Girls/Library Club and will open on February 21st, one day short of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Bachelor Girls in Davisville on February 22, 1909. We will have a Tea from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM, followed by a Wine and Cheese Reception

from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Although specific invitations will be mailed to participants and dignitaries, all are invited.

More than 40 members attended the General Membership program on Sunday, January 25th. A power point presentation by Dixon Library Archivist, Shirley Parsons, led us through the early years and the development of Dixon - a community which now has a population of nearly 18,000.

Dixon’s history stretches back to the 1850s and a settlement called Silveyville, where Elijah Silvey guided in pony express riders and stagecoaches with a red lantern swung from the porch of his hotel. When the California Pacific Railroad bypassed their young town to build a depot on Thomas Dickson’s ranch, the cooperative citizens of Silveyville opted to move their buildings four miles to the station on log rollers, pulled by gangs of men and 40-mule teams. Legend has it that the first train schedules arrived with the name misspelled as “Dixon” but Thomas Dickson agreeably went along with the change.

Following the presentation, attendees were led on a tour of the downtown area by Nancy Schrott. The Dixon Public Library has a wonderful website. If you own a computer, look at www.dixonlibrary.