

Yolo County Historical Society



Prez Says

This newsletter is devoted to four individuals who were avid supporters of the history of Yolo County. Their deaths remind us all how our lives have a finite amount of time on this planet. But their deaths give us all an opportunity to remember their lives filled with enthusiasm, dedication, and purpose. I have asked individuals who knew each of these 'history' people to write about them. I have also included a poem that reflects who these people were.

All Return Again

*It is the secret of the world
that all things subsist and do not die,
but only retire a little from sight
and afterwards return again.
Nothing is dead;
men feign themselves dead,
and endure mock funerals
and mournful obituaries,
and there they stand looking out of the window,
sound and well, in some new strange disguise.
Jesus is not dead;
he is very well alive;
nor John, nor Paul, nor Mahomet, nor Aristotle;
at times we believe we have seen them all,
and could easily tell the names under which they go.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

I've also included an update on the Museum at the Fairgrounds (see below). Take care, stay safe.

As Always, History Rules!

Kathy Harryman, President

Update on the Fairgrounds Museum

Dino Gay and I have been working on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the use of the old fairgrounds building and the surrounding area. We are in our third revision. The draft will now go to the Yolo County Historical Society board and the Woodland Parlor 30 Native Sons of the Golden West board for their approval.

After that approval, Dino will then present it to Bart Vannucci, CEO at the fairgrounds. We are getting close to having a Fairgrounds Museum become a reality. If you would like a copy of the MOU, please email me at khwoodland@aol.com and I will send it to you.

James Glica-Hernandez

by Jenny Lillge

On January 10, 2020, James Glica-Hernandez, the Yolo County Historical Museum's (Gibson House) final executive director, passed away from complications due to COVID-19.

James took over management of the Gibson House in July 2017 following the departure of long-time Executive Director Dave Flory, who had moved to Texas. He resigned from the position in late Summer 2018 after the Yolo County Board of Supervisors' devastating decision to evict the Yolo County Historical Museum from the Gibson House property.

James had a strong background in storytelling, cultural anthropology, genealogy and working with children and adults of all ages. He taught voice and music in public schools and as part of his private studio, Sacramento Vocal Music. He was principal music director at the

Woodland Opera House for more than twenty years. He was a nine-time nominated and four-time **Elly Award** winner for musical direction. He was nominated four times for a **Chesley Award**. Additionally, he was a composer, arranger, performer, recording artist, published author, poet, exhibited painter and photographer.

Glica-Hernandez was vice-chair of the Local Mental Health Board (LMHB) and the coordinator of the Connection Peer Support Group for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in Yolo County. He was the former managing director of the Sacramento Opera Association as well as previously serving on the Sacramento Area Executive Committees of the Leukemia Society of America and the National Mental Health Association.

James was beloved in the community by all who knew him. He brought an exciting energy to the Gibson House in addition to several new and dedicated volunteers. He had a passion for genealogy and gave an excellent presentation to the Yolo County Historical Society in April 2019.

In the days following his passing, remembrances were aired on local news stations as well as PBS, CNN and MSNBC. His legacy lives on in the lives of the many students, friends and fellow historians on whom he had an impact. Read his full obituary in **The Natomas Buzz**.

"If I've done my job well here on Earth, the music, laughter, love and faithful unity we've created together certainly will continue long after I'm gone."



James Glica-Hernandez

William Hollingshead

by Kathy Harryman

When you read about William Hollingshead's life, it is difficult to believe that one person accomplished so much while under the medical diagnosis of polio. The society was pleased to have Bill in our group. When I first met him, I quickly realized that I was meeting a dynamo who believed strongly in his father's photographic legacy in Yolo County. Through the efforts of Bill and his brother, his father, Paul W. Hollingshead, was acknowledged as a notable graduate from the well-known New York Institute of Photography. After he and his wife Vera moved to Woodland in 1932, Paul Hollingshead, became a prominent Yolo County photographer. Their first studio was on Second Street and then they moved their studio to 414 First Street. Many individuals in the county have his photographs.

Bill graduated from UC Davis and Berkeley in 1959 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Pre-Law, and Music. His activities included solo performances of the clarinet and the saxophone. He traveled the world and worked in various jobs: touring musician, magician, talent agent and amusement park entertainment director.

In Southern California, he ran a licensed and bonded Talent Agency. Among the most well-known artists that he represented were Frankie Avalon, The Jan and Dean Show, The Kingsmen and The Tokens.

After retiring and moving back to Northern California, he made giving back to UC Davis a top priority. In 2004, he joined the alumni band and a year later became a member of the UC Davis Concert Band. He mentored music students and has contributed to the Cal Aggie Band-uniform fund. Life members of the Cal Aggie Alumni Association, Hollingshead and his wife, Dianne '63, actively participated in Aggie Diner, Take an Aggie to Lunch, Pajamarino and the Golden Society Reunion.

In 2012 he received the *Outstanding Alumnus Award* for service to UC Davis, the Alumni Association, and for international service with Rotary International's Polio Eradication Campaign. The award also recognized his dedication to the Music Department as a clarinetist and the band's Community Promotion Coordinator.



Hollingshead gave guest lectures on topics ranging from the history of rock 'n' roll to post-polio syndrome. As a polio survivor and the PolioPlus Fund chairman for the Davis Rotary Club, he lectured for UC Davis Medical Center and for the Campus Rotaract Club. He gave time to the UC Davis Community Fair and recently displayed a historical photography collection in the Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center. He shared his enthusiasm for UC Davis and his love of life with every person he met. Bill Hollingshead was the definition of Aggie Service.

Bill always supported all the historical society's events. When we sponsored the World War I parade in Woodland, he and his wife dressed up in historical World War I uniforms. During the Stroll you would see them dressed to the 'nines'. Bill was always willing to share his father's photos. He will be missed.

Karen Lafferty

by David Flory, Kathy Harryman and Gil Walker

Karen was a native Californian born in Oakland and raised in Crockett where her father's family lived in her grandmother's former home. She often compared life in Woodland to her life growing up in Crockett.

After graduating from high school, she attended UC Davis where she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology with a minor in English. She was involved in various activities including the marching and concert band, choral groups, synchronized swimming, co-Picnic Day parade chair and a member of the newspaper and the yearbook staffs.

Karen traveled extensively prior to beginning a teaching career. In July of 1968, she applied for an opening in the U.S. Army Special Services. She was hired to work in South Korea coordinating activities at the Camp 3/81st Army Artillery Battalion. She served for one year and then returned home when her mother became ill. She met her husband Bob, a newspaper reporter. They married and moved to Sacramento where they raised two children, Brian and Allison.

Karen's husband died at a young age. After his death, she and the children relocated to Woodland where she had been hired as a teacher at Lee Junior High School. Karen worked in many school districts: Washington Unified School District, Concord School District and Woodland School District. Towards the end of her career, she became an adjunct English professor at Yuba Community College. She spent nearly 45 years as a teacher.

After retirement she became involved in history. She joined the Yolo County Historical Museum. She thought she was joining the Yolo County Historical Society. We talked about that often. She was a long-time "school marm" and loved working with the third graders at the Spring Lake School House. She was a dedicated volunteer who always was willing to teach.

Karen was president of the nine-member county board of the Yolo County Historical Museum on Gibson Road (fondly known as the Gibson House). She oversaw the preservation of the building and the property and worked with the county. She patterned the very popular third grade tours after her experience as a docent in Marilyn Kregel's school program at the schoolhouse. She was adamant about the preservation of the schoolhouse and the museum. She attended many county meetings trying to save the latter.

The following are some memories from David Flory who worked very closely with Karen throughout her tenure at the Gibson House.

Karen was always willing to step in and help with mailings, planning, fundraisers and keeping the office open. She did make it clear we had to schedule her around watching her grandsons. Karen was our board president and every week stopped by for an update on programs, expenses and revenue.

The Gibson House school tour programs were her number one priority. She always wanted to make sure that the volunteer docents had all our support to keep the program successful.



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Karen Lafferty - *continued*

She would be so pleased when young people who were children of her former students would come to book a wedding event. I visited Karen a few times at the Californian. It was always an enjoyable conversation hearing about her son, daughter and especially her two grandsons, and of course her life experiences.

Karen joined the California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA). She served as Yolo County Division 83 vice-president, president and legislative representative. She attended many CalRTA conferences and lobby days in Sacramento. Karen received the organization's *Martin M. Mathiesen Award* in 2019.

She died in December of 2020 surrounded by her children and grandchildren. Her memory as an educator and historian will never be forgotten. Her determination and perseverance to save the Gibson Museum were a testimony to her love of history and her love of education.

Request for Assistance

This is a letter from Carol Brisson who is looking for more information about Pamela Porter and the Porter family. She is willing to pay for your services. If you are interested, please email me at khwoodland@aol.com and I will give you Carol's address.

My grandfather was John Briggs Bray born in Winters on 13 Dec 1871 and died in Long Beach, Los Angeles County, CA on 14 Aug 1962. His middle name came from his favorite "uncle," John Ralls Briggs. He married my grandmother, Nettie Celinda Hubbard in Berkeley on 14 July 1902. She was born on 19 Sept. 1886 in Hungry Hollow (Capay?) and died on 16 Sept. 1948 in Pasadena, CA. Her father was Hanford Hiram Hubbard born in Ohio in 1840 and died in Capay 1907. Her mother was Amina R. Porter who was born in Racine, WI on 4 April 1847 and died in Woodland on 18 Aug. 1875. She was the sister of A.D. Porter who owned the Porter Building in town and was a successful banker and landowner.

My subject of research is the Porter family. I have printed out several copies of newspaper articles about A.D. Porter including his obit in the *Woodland Daily Democrat* of 1912. Besides Amina (my great-grandmother), he had a younger brother named Irwin (Irving) Porter whose obituary was also in the *Democrat*. All of them are buried in the Porter plot in the Woodland Cemetery. His mother was Pamela "Lockwood" Porter born in New York (Essex County?) in 1825 and died in Woodland (or Sacramento) in April 1864. She was originally married to John Porter in Racine, WI on 5 April 1844. He was born ca. 1812 in PA and died ca. 1856 in WI. Pamela Porter married a man named Sutherland in Sacramento about three years before she died. She was buried in the Porter family plot and her gravestone only says "Mother."

I have tried to find Pamela's family background for several years and cannot find anything. (She was not the same woman who married a Gustavus Jenks from MN). I cannot find John Porter either; however there have been a lot of Porters from PA in the Woodland area. I have researched each of them: A.D., Alex, John, Amina, and Irwin and I have come to a standstill. My main goal is to find out why the name "Lockwood" was in quotation marks on the Find-A-Grave entry for Pamela Porter. Also, I need to find out if the "R" middle name initial for Amina stands for the Rawson family or not.

Richard Rominger

by Woody Fridae, President, Historical Society of Winters

It is with deep sadness that the Historical Society of Winters shares the news that one of our board members, Richard Rominger, passed away earlier this year. While Mr. Rominger is well known as a leader in agriculture both in California and the nation, he worked with local committees every bit as committed to the concerns of Winters and Yolo County. He and his wife, Evelyne, were instrumental in helping us move from a committee that proposed "a museum without walls" to obtaining a building, establishing the Historical Society of Winters, opening the doors to the Winters History Museum and participating in recent presentations there.



Typical of Rich, he was involved in an act of kindness when he collapsed – arranging for food to be delivered to local folks in need. His participation in the affairs of the Historical Society of Winters was just one of many organizations for which he served. But the fact that he was part of six generations of history in Yolo County and farming make this loss especially poignant and regretful for us. He and Evelyne told first-hand stories and contributed artifacts that enrich our collections.

Last year, Rich, dressed up in his navy cap, told an audience, who came to the Veterans Day exhibition, of his experiences serving during the Second World War. Equally generous of his time, he addressed legions of fifth graders, portraying President Lincoln while they prepared for their living history experience as Union soldiers on an overnight trip to Angel Island. Rich dressed in a period costume, complete with top hat, as he sent the troops off.



Rich Rominger addresses troops as Abraham Lincoln while they prepare for a Living History field trip to Angel Island

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Richard Rominger - continued

Many of you know that Richard Rominger was the former Deputy Secretary of Agriculture under the Clinton Administration. He assumed all the duties of the secretary post as acting secretary for five years while Clinton wrestled with his nominations to be approved. He served as California Secretary of Agriculture under Jerry Brown during the latter's first term in the 70's and 80's. He served on the UC Davis Board of Regents, the board of the American Farmland Trust and the California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment – just to mention a few of his leadership positions. It has been the Winters community's good fortune to call Rich our own. His death is a significant loss.

Our hearts grieve along with Evelyne and the rest of the Rominger family as we say goodbye to this generous statesman, historian, farmer, and friend.



Patrons

Thanks so much to the following for supporting the *Yolo County Historical Society*. We could not run this organization without your additional help.

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
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Yolo County Historical Society

P O Box 1447

Woodland, CA 95776

Dated Material

Submitting letters and articles

Format articles in Word and send as email attachments to Kathy Harryman khwoodland@aol.com

Change of Address

Please notify Kathy Harryman khwoodland@aol.com of any address changes (it costs nearly \$1.00 to get your correct address from the Post Office and your newsletter mailing is delayed). Or sign up for delivery as an email PDF attachment (see above email).

Vision Statement

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

See our website at ychs.org

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