

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our last general membership meeting of the Society year will be on April 27th (see front page) I hope that many of you will be able to attend. The (costumes) have been made by Sandy Beers of Woodland and they are beautiful. Sandy made a dress for me that I wore to last year's Stroll Through History. Did I feel like a princess!! The hats she designs are exquisite.

We will not be meeting again until October. It seems like a long time but it will not be idle time. Your Board of Directors will be meeting in the next few weeks to reflect on this past year and to determine what programs, trips, and activities would be of interest to our members. Remember, we are always looking for input. A list of Directors and contact information appears in this newsletter every month. Please do not hesitate to verbalize your thoughts to any of the Board members.

This year there will not be a May Festival so you will not be called to make an item for the Country Bakery. However, the Yolo County Historical Museum has planned an "Official Auction" to be held May 17th as a replacement. This event will be held only in election years, as it will feature elected officials donating items for auction and meeting and greeting the electorate during the 5 - 8pm event. Auction co-chairs are Meg Stallard (530) 666-0154 and Dotty Huber (530) 666-8230, for more information.

In June we will be having our joint picnic with the Friends of the Yolo County Museum and the Friends of the Yolo County Archives. More on this next month. July is usually a "laid back" month but come August we will be looking for volunteers to staff the School House and the Lemonade Stand at the Yolo County Fair. We did not need bakers for the May Festival but we will be calling for the Lemonade Stand's refreshments, i.e. cookies, cupcakes, and brownies.

Finally in September, we will again be participating in the Woodland Stroll through History with the re-enactments at the Woodland City Cemetery. This year the Stroll will be on two days. Saturday, September 6th will feature the Cemetery Tour and all docent led tours from the Downtown Plaza. Major historic buildings will be open to the public. Vendors and entertainment will be in abundance in the downtown area. The open home tour will take place on Sunday, September 7th. This being the 20th Anniversary of the Stroll open homes will represent each decade since the incorporation of Woodland in 1871.

Peace,

BJ Ford, President

TIME TO CLEAN THE SCHOOLHOUSE

Saturday, April 12th, 9 A.M. members of the Society will spend the morning getting the Spring Lake Schoolhouse, located on the Yolo County Fairgrounds, ready for the school children of Yolo County to begin their Spring visitation program. The cleaning of the School has become a Spring ritual. There is a need to brush off the dust, polish the desk tops, and wash the windows. This program, under the leadership of Marilyn Kregel, is fortunate to have many wonderful volunteers who look forward to their day to welcome these students to school as it was in 1890.

Musings From the Museum

The Hattie Weber Museum

By

Jim Becket, Interim Director

When the Davis Hattie Weber Museum re-opens after being closed for the re-surfacing of the floors, it will truly be the “beginning of a new era,” with “era” being used in Webster's #1 definition, “a period of time characterized by notable historical change.” Since that is sort of a catch phrase, it is easy to use for all sorts of re-openings or fresh starts - sort of like “Opening Under New Management.” In this case, however, we are talking about the fact that this will be the first time since Mrs. William H. Marden and Mrs. F. W. Crawford started lending books from the upper floor of the Marden House in 1872, that pioneer women, or a group of descendants of pioneer women, have not been in charge of operations. In the early days they had “book showers” to increase the number of books they had available for loan and did other fund raising activities. There was no “City” money involved - in fact there wasn't even a “City” in the beginning. The fund-raising reached its zenith when the ladies garnered sufficient funds to buy the lot and build the initial building. The Librarian for 35 years, even after it became a County facility, was Bachelor Girl Hattie Weber.

It is appropriate that the first exhibit developed solely by YCHS is of the history of the Library, the Bachelor Girls, and the Library Club; and that the first reception will honor the surviving members of the Library Club.

THE BEST SHOW ON TRACKS

People who appreciate California history, or agricultural history, will not want to miss this one-time, world-class gathering of antique tractors on 155 acres. It will be a very active show, not just a silent display of machines. At least 20 acres will be used for daily demonstrations of real tasks that tractors

did and do, from harvesting to road and dam building. There will be a daily parade of tractors featuring Antique BEST, Holt and Caterpillar Tractors.

When: June 20-22, 2008

Where: Dan Best Ranch, Woodland

Admission \$10/day or \$25/show plus access to Heidrick Tractor and Hays Truck Museums. Free parking Check out the website: **www.bestshowontracks.org**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

It is a little early to be bringing this up but just a reminder that the Society year runs from June 1st to May 31st. While it is not time yet to be thinking about writing a check, it is not too early to be thinking about inviting a friend to join the Society so that they too can enjoy the benefits: this newsletter, general membership meetings with interesting speakers, day and overnight tours with discounts to members, and discounts on history books at the time of publication by the Society. Isn't it time for you to ask that special friend to become a member of the Yolo County Historical Society.