

Yolo County Historical Society



APRIL 2017

Prez Says

How quickly the month has come and gone....Lots of information has occurred regarding the Gibson Museum and the Yolo Arts Council. I will give you an overview..... The Gibson Board met on Tuesday April 18. Many of the interested parties were there. Unfortunately, the Arts Council did not show. We talked about what was happening and then a group of us met on Friday to write a proposal to the county. Apparently, Karen Lafferty, the President of the Gibson Board, was asked to meet with Patrick Blacklock, CEO of the county, Matt Rexroad and Jim Provenza , supervisors, Allison Flory, Arts Council and various other staff. She has asked to bring her board to the meeting. So we will wait and see. In the meantime, your letters have been much appreciated by both the Gibson Museum Board and the Yolo County Historical Society. Please continue to share what is happening with your friends and if you or they have not written letters in support of the Gibson Museum, please write, call, etc. We need to make a strong statement that History does Rule and is important to this county!

I have also been requested by the Yolo County Historical Society board to write a letter to the supervisors asking about a plan for the County Courthouse. I have included that letter in this newsletter. I have heard that there will be a plan presented, but we need to keep the pressure on. It is time to have a plan and work towards those goals.

Again, please let me reiterate... We are unfortunately placed in a situation where we have to choose between art and history. We

don't think that is a good choice. We want both!

Let's hope the county hears that loud and strong.

Remember, as always
History Rules,

Kathy Harryman
President, Yolo County Historical Society



The Celebration Begins

This year marks the 100 year celebration of the incorporation of the city of Davis. The city has been planning various activities to commemorate this historic event. But the big celebration will occur on July 4 at City Park. But if you study history, you know that Davisville was actually in existence since 1868 when the tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad were laid down and the name 'Davisville', named after a prominent local farmer, Jerome C. Davis, was officially used as the depot of the Vallejo Railroad on Putah Creek. Composed of farmers and construction workers and 2 saloons, the depot exported grain crops. With the advent of the refrigerated car, the station began exporting apples, peaches, and lettuce. The town grew and in 1891, the town's population reached 700 people. Saturday nights were now filled with all night dances and suppers. Community church picnics, school events and the Davis library Club, known as the Bachelor Girls Club, provided free books for the lending library.

The first newspaper arrived in 1897, The Davisville Enterprise. Later, when the town changed its name, the newspaper changed its name too.

The University Farm, later known as the University of California at Davis, originated in 1905-6.

On November 16, 1916, a huge fire destroyed the majority of the town's business district causing \$65,000 worth of damage. The city fathers knew something had to be done. They voted to incorporate and form a city. On March 28, 1917, the city of the Davis was official.

Our own Hattie Weber Museum features the following exhibits depicting the history and heritage of Davis and the surrounding area. Located at 445 C Street (northeast corner of Central Park), the admission is free.

- Native Americans in Yolo
- Jerome Davis Ranch
- History of the library and the Hatti Weber
- Coming of the railroad in 1868
- Coming of UC Davis in 1906
- Highlights of the Davis League of Women Voters
- Putah Creek Revisited
- Early Davis Schools
- The Yolo Bypass at 100 years

Congratulations Davis! As always, History Rules!!



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

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Dated Material

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