

Yolo County Historical Society



MAY 2015

Pres Says:

There are so many things happening in the historical society now that it is difficult to know where to begin....I will start with a sincere apology for not mentioning that the photo of Mrs. Woolworth and her Accordion Band in the last newsletter was from the collection of Paul Hollingshead. We are so lucky to have his artistic photos created by an individual that depict daily life in our county. When creating the newsletters, all of us try to do our very best to make sure all the information that we give you is based on facts and that we make sure we give credit to whomever is responsible for the information. Historians are about facts and getting to the correct answers.

We have received a book of old postcards about Woodland from the estate of James Brundage-Neill. What a treasure! We have decided to put them on display at the Spring Lake School House during the fair. Come by and see the wonderful collection. And thank you to Mr. Brundage-Neill for thinking of us.

Update on the old courthouse.....We have met with all five of the supervisors. All were very interested in our proposal. As they continue to receive more information about the feasibility of the use of the entire building, we will be attending their committee meetings. If anyone would like to join us, we would love to have you.

Update on the Senior Center/Community Center Building.....Mardi Bagan has gathered all the pertinent information for each of the 22 photos hanging in the Community Center. She has given the information to Dallas, the individual in charge of the Senior Center. He will work with his team and hopefully we will see small descriptions next to each of the photos. Thanks so much Mardi.

Another note.....Bill Hollingshead's father, Paul, has a photo hanging on the wall showing beauty queens washing a fire truck. Bill is going to work with the Community Center to make sure the photo correctly exhibits his father's work.

Update on Hatti Weber/WPA buildingDennis and his wonderful team are continuing to fundraise for the WPA building. There will be more information later on in the newsletter.

Essay Contest ...Thanks to the ongoing generosity of Marilyn Kregel and Claire Childers we will once again offer an essay contest. This time the essay will be open to all students involved in agriculture in Yolo County. The theme will be "An Important Crop/or Livestock in Yolo County". The information will go out to the teachers and the 4 H leaders in the fall. The essay will be due in February. It is open to students in 4 H up through high school. If you know of anyone who might qualify, the essay will be printed in our newsletter in the fall and will be on our website.

Schoolhouse ...The pitter patter of little feet are once again echoing in the one room school house at the fairgrounds. Third graders are again visiting and experiencing what life was like in the 1890's. Everyone, including the teachers, walk away with smiles on their faces.

We have decided to cancel the presentation in May. We will hold the next lecture on Sunday, October 25 at the Pollock Ranch in Yolo. Our topic will focus on the Wells Fargo influence in the county.

Wow! We are doing a lot! I didn't realize how much until I sat down and began to write. We need a party!

And here it is.....our year end dinner will be held on Thursday, June 11 at 5:30 at the Gibson Museum.

There will be a short meeting – 15-20 min. Your historical board will provide the lasagna, bread and salad. We will also have ice tea and lemonade. If you would like some other libation, please bring your own. You can also pay your dues for the upcoming year. We have much to celebrate. Bring a friend.

Remember, History Rules!

Kathy Harryman

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:

L & S Printers, Main St.
The House Dresser, Main St.
The Gifted Penguin, Main St.
Corner Drug, Main St.
Dennis Dahlin
Zamora Hills Ranch
Richard Berteaux
Historic Woodland Downtown
Business Association
The Home Improvement Group
Chamberlain Farms

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



Thanks to the following for generously supporting the Society..... You too can be a Patron by donating \$100.00 to help us run our projects

2014-2015 Patrons

- Jeff & Starr Barrow
- Alice Wong & Ryan Baum
- Donald & Pat Campbell
- Michele Giguiere
- Bernard & Lynne Gough
- Betty Van Lew Haines
- John & Kathy Harryman
- Joan Hogan

- Jim & Donna Peoples
- Roger & Ann Romani
- Lon Springer
- Tom & Meg Stallard
- Valerie Vann
- Steve & Lydia Venables
- Marilyn Kregal
- Clair Childers
- Michael King
- Jeanie Sherwood
- Virginia Schwarzgruber
- Albert & Lynn Plocher
- Richard & Evelyne Rominger
- Robert & Judy Simas
- Richard & Joann Larkey
- Bobby Jo Ford
- Dennis Dingemans & Robin Datel
- Steve & Teri Laugenour\
- Johnathan & Barbara Durst
- Victor McCullough & Nancy Hatcher McCullough



Hattie Happenings

To summarize, we at the HWMD put several ads in the Davis Enterprise and Dale Heckman wrote us a letter in response to that appeal for money to help renovate and repurpose the WPA-funded Old 1937 Restroom. It was quite touching and advocated appreciation of things that the WPA did back in the stressful 1930s. I wrote an e-mail asking Heckman if he would permit us to use his letter in the YCHS newsletter and/or the Davis Enterprise. He agreed to both. His letter reads as follows:

The enclosed check comes in large part as my celebration of the WPA. My childhood years coincided with our WPA era, and I've had many occasions to see and value its work and crucial role during America's hard times.

At about the same time WPA workers built the restrooms for Davis' central park, my family moved to a brick duplex in Allentown, Penna. Just across a fallow field behind our house and a block downhill, there was a creek that westerners would easily rank as "river" – the "Little Lehigh." One

“General Trexler” had donated this river and miles of its hardwood drainage hills to the city as its protected source of freshwater. It was spring-fed along its course; I can testify to that as a kid swimmer who braved the cold. What made this a city parkway, however, were many stone retaining walls protecting the paved road and a riverside bridle path. All contributed by skilled WPA workers, who even created many rock barriers (not dams, but partial diversions) providing calm backwater for trout to flourish. All this made it a wonderful place for a boy to explore, swim, and track.

While in high school, I had one summer’s job helping an old Italian master mason whom WPA had saved financially. My job was simply to mix the “mud” and carry it to him. But this genial old master was VERY exact about the ratio of sand to cement I mixed, since this would determine the strength and durability of what we were building. Recently, I noticed that those old Little Lehigh Parkway walls still stood like new!

Decades later, my kids and I explored the garden in Land Park Sacramento, and I proudly pointed out to them all the stone curbing and rockwork still in the garden itself: “The WPA built that,” I announced, knowing that my little girls could never feel the pride I felt then.

Dennis, thanks for reading this far. I just have to “testify” to the value of FDR’s WPA and its meaning for federal policy in current time.

Appreciatively,

Dale M. Heckman



Looking for an old article published in the newsletter or upcoming events? Check it out on our website. www.yolo.net/ychs

IT’S TIME TO CELEBRATE A GREAT YEAR.....

Where: Gibson Museum
512 Gibson Road

When: Thursday, June 11

What time: 5:30

The board will provide lasagna, bread, salad, lemonade and iced tea (bring any other libation you wish)

There will be a short 15-20 minute meeting with the balance of time for socializing

***** Membership renewal is also in June. There will be membership envelopes available for those who wish to renew at the dinner.....