

# Yolo County Historical Society



## Prez Says

Just a few thoughts as we barrel into Spring and Summer – I was reading a book and found several poems I thought I would share with you. Hope you like them.

“What day is it?”

“It’s today,” squeaked Piglet.

“My favorite day,” said Pooh.

“It’s exciting to see things coming up again.  
Plants that you’ve had for twenty or thirty years.  
It’s like seeing an old friend.”

Tasha Tudor

“The earth laughs in flowers.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sometimes the simplest phrases express the greatest meaning. Who doesn’t like Winnie the Pooh?

Thanks to all of you who donated to the Big Day of Giving. We received pledges of \$4,500. That money will go to help with bus transportation so our third-grade students can attend our schoolhouse program.

See you on Monday, May 19 at 6:30 for our annual meeting.

As Always,  
History Rules!

Kathy Harryman



## Business Buddies

Please support these local businesses.  
They support the Yolo County Historical Society.

**Corner Drug**

Dahlin & Essex, Inc.

**Legislative Intent Service**

Marco Brando

**Pleasant Pheasant**

**Zamora Hills Ranch Vineyard Venue**

# ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 19

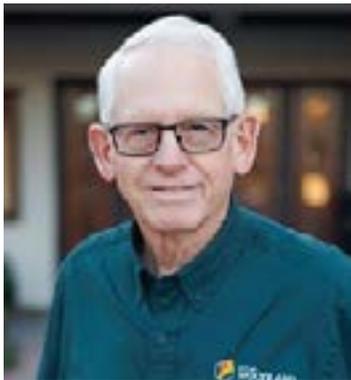
Come join us for our annual meeting on Monday evening, **May 19, at 6:30 p.m.** on the patio at the **Savory Café**, 722A Main Street, Woodland.

We will have a short meeting, with light refreshments, highlighting our accomplishments, honoring individuals who have gone above and beyond, electing officers for the coming year, and maybe, just maybe have a short sneak peek from one of our members who has written her first historical book.

After that, **Tom Stallard**, our evening’s speaker, will tell us about the renovation he has done in Woodland. History people are great people!

## About Tom Stallard

Tom Stallard, Mayor Pro Tempore, Woodland City Council, is a native Californian. He holds degrees in economics and law from UC Davis.



In addition to operating two businesses, *Legislative Intent Service* which researches the background of statutory and regulatory law, and *Rose Colored Glass Company* which rehabilitates historic commercial property, Tom has a rich history of public service. He is a former 8-year Yolo County Supervisor and currently in his fifth year on the Woodland City Council.

Tom has served on more than 20 non-profit boards and was the founding Secretary of the California State Library Foundation and the founding President of the California State Archives Foundation which launched The California Museum, located in Sacramento. His other board service has included, among many others, the following:

- American Leadership Forum
- Great Valley Center
- KVIE Public Television
- Valley Vision
- Cache Creek Conservancy

Tom helped found and was the first president of the Cache Creek Conservancy which has done creek restoration work while accommodating reasonable gravel mining. The Conservancy developed and operates a 135-acre creekside nature preserve that acts as an outdoor laboratory to teach children and others about the importance of understanding and protecting the natural world. For this work, Tom and Yolo County received the Governor’s Economic and Environmental Award.

Tom’s passion for environmental sustainability infuses his service on the Sacramento Area Council of Governments where he was a leader in the development of a 50 year land use strategy called “Blueprint” which encouraged smart growth development in the six county Sacramento Region.

Today, average vehicle miles traveled per resident is actually in decline due to policies put in place in that plan. This work resulted in the receipt of a second Governor’s Economic and Environmental Award, among over a dozen such recognitions including a citation from the Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Tom founded the Woodland Sustainability Committee and has helped stimulate a number of innovations that have made Woodland a quiet leader in best practices and conservation.

## from the Hattie Weber by Merrily Dupree

We'll soon have two new exhibits in place: Lulu Zhang's "Forgotten History of Chinese International Students" and Warren Westgate's enlargements of historic Davis photographs ("G Street 1890-1920") recently obtained from the Davis Genealogy Club.

Lulu's subject is the many Chinese nationals, both women and men, who came to the U.S. to study at academic institutions, beginning in the 1850's. Even when the Chinese Exclusion Act was in effect, students were welcome.

Chinese missionary societies sent the first students, but later wealthy Chinese parents encouraged their children to study here. Many of them were connected to powerful families, for example Soong Mei-ling, who married Chiang Kai-shek, and Soong Tse-vung, who became a prominent political figure in China.

Lulu has discovered that one such student, Jung-Pang Lo, received a degree from Berkeley and later taught Chinese history at UC Davis. He and his wife are buried in the Davis cemetery. Today the tradition continues, with several professors and many students from China at UC Davis.

In my last report, I mentioned that the Davis Genealogy Club had invited us to visit them to look at their collection



of historic Davis photographs, which had been collected and enlarged by Davis photographer Warren Westgate.

Having received them from Mr. Westgate, the Club had kept them in storage for several years. When we saw them, we were extremely impressed with their quality and quickly agreed to take them.

Our new volunteer, Derek Hernandez, selected several of his favorites for an exhibit, to be titled "G Street 1890-1920," and they'll soon be ready for our visitors to enjoy.

The most powerful show people posed in front of buildings – saloons, a dry goods store, the *Davis Enterprise* office.

Their wonderful clarity has the effect of making viewers feel they've turned the corner onto G Street and stumbled upon a strange but also oddly familiar world.

We've heard recently from Alice Young, a daughter of Louis Young, one of Davis's first Chinese residents. She's putting together some family materials, including some recently discovered documents from Angel Island, to donate to us. We are thrilled.

The Historical Resources Management Commission has advised us that a new version of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) has been passed.

We will try to identify the tribal sources of our Native American artifacts and then follow a process to offer to return them if they appear to have come from graves or be patrimonial objects. Our plan is to take them to UC Davis and the Gorman Museum to discover their origins.

Visit the **Hattie Weber Museum** at 445 C Street in Davis.

Open **Saturdays** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



## Knights Landing Stories<sup>1</sup>

The first telephone in Knights Landing was installed in Frank A. Grime's Drug Store on First Street in the early 1890's. The drug store housed the post office, the doctor's office, the telephone office and later the bank.

Some of the farmers and businessmen thought telephoning was too expensive, so they built their own telephone line to Woodland on the opposite side of the streets and highway, requiring two telephones in each house.

Later, another group was not satisfied with the second line and built the third line to Woodland, and having no place for their line, they ran it down through the center of the town and through the fields, along fences in the country.

This set-up made it necessary for every businessman in Knights Landing and in Woodland to have three telephones. The situation prevailed for several years, until about the time of the First World War. As there was no one to keep the lines in repair, they fell in decay. They were little used and had no batteries.

After the war, the regular line, owned by Frank A. Grimes, soon came into general use. He sold out to W. T. Knox, who was a barber in town for years. Mr. and Mrs. Knox operated the drug store, post office and telephone, until failing health made it impossible for them to carry on. They sold out to J. V. Leithold of Woodland.

The telephone business then went through several owners until Mr. Oscar Ivey<sup>2</sup> moved to Knights Landing and bought a lot on Railroad and Third Streets where he constructed a modern telephone building. He installed a ***Stromberg Carlson XY dial telephone switching system*** which went into service on January 5, 1957 at 6:30 p.m. The company has been on its own ever since, doing business under the name "Enterprise Telephone Company".

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Ivey had three years of electrical engineering in Compton College.

### *And more*

*Woodman spare that Tree touch not a single bough. It sheltered me in my childhood, I will protect it now.*

There are three old valley oaks in the at the east end of Third Street. The county planned to remove them and sent a crew to take them out.



Mr. James S. Keith, who lived on Third Street, asked the men what they were going to do? They informed him they were going to remove the oaks. Mr. Keith said "Don't do that." The men said we have orders. He said "Well, you are getting new orders not to remove them. Your order as of now is to leave them alone."

The men said to him, "Your orders mean nothing to us." The men began to unload their tools. Mr. Keith went into the house and returned with a shotgun, seated himself in a chair, placed the gun across his lap and said nothing. The men stood around a while and then loaded their tools and drove away.

This little drama took place many years ago, and thanks to Mr. Keith, the oaks are still standing.

<sup>1</sup> Stories from the book compiled by Ralph Webb, mid-twentieth century.

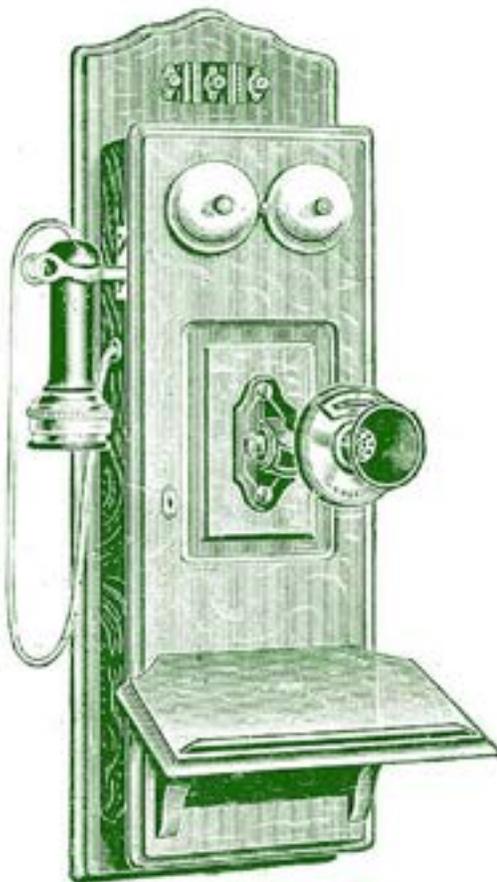
# EVERY FARMER NEEDS A GOOD TELEPHONE

A telephone on the farm is a "saver" in a great many ways. It increases the working force by decreasing the necessity for so many trips to town and to the neighbors. It adds security by providing means for quick communication in time of misfortune and distress. There is no question as to the telephone being a paying investment for the farmer.

**IT'S CHEAPER TO  
TALK THAN WALK**

The only question is, which telephone is the best for the farmer to buy?

## Stromberg-Carlson Telephones



are built better than the ordinary telephone, so that they are especially adapted to the farmer's use. Every piece and part that goes to make up a complete telephone are made by skilled specialists in our own plant—the largest independent telephone factory in the world—made with minute care and thoroughly tested before leaving our hands; that's why they give the best service; that's why there are more of them in use than of all others combined; that's why it is the telephone to buy. Many other good reasons are contained in our new book, "How the Telephone Helps the Farmer," which will interest you if you are going to buy one or a hundred telephones. Write today—ask for book No. 123—we send it free.

**Stromberg-Carlson Telephone Manufacturing Company**

Rochester, N. Y.

70-86 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

# BerryFest Time at the Fairgrounds

Look at what is on the front page of the BerryFest website! Yes, it is our Fair Museum. Aren't we proud?

Come join us. We will be there from 11-3 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. We are all ready for a "berry good time"!



*From the website:*

We're thrilled to announce the return of BerryFest," says John and his spouse Jade, organizers of the festival.

A Country-Themed Celebration with Classic Favorites. This year's BerryFest embraces a "Coming Back with Country" theme. Attendees can expect a lineup of country music acts, shows, and performances alongside the festival's signature offerings. Indulge in delectable strawberry treats, unique foods, and a variety of shopping options.

Popular returning attractions include the crowd-pleasing strawberry shortcake eating contest, plenty of shopping, a delicious strawberry pancake breakfast, a classic car show, and free Mother's Day arts and crafts for families.

Family Fun for Everyone. From a thrilling kids' carnival and a build-your-own shortcake buffet to a relaxing mom's retreat, a petting zoo with pony rides, and non-stop entertainment on the community stage and beer garden, there's something for everyone at BerryFest.

When: **Mother's Day Weekend**  
Gates Open: **9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
Location: **Yolo County Fairgrounds**

# Patrons 2024-25

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

You, also, can be a patron by **contributing** \$100 or more.

- Ryan Baum and Alice Wong
- Don and Pat Campbell
- Katherine Cobb
- Carol & Ed Conley
- Tom Crisp
- Paul Crist & Leila Stone
- Rob Coman
- Ginger & Bob Day
- Karen & David Dumars
- Mark & Merrily Dupree
- Barbara & John Durst
- Gerda Faye
- Tom & Marilyn Fields
- Alfred & Kay Graf
- Barbara Graham
- Suzu Hallen
- Daniel & Sarah Hrdy
- Richard Harrison
- Kathy Harryman Geraldine Hunter
- Susan Larkey
- Frank Lemus
- Joan Moses
- Jane Niehues
- Claudia & Chuck Owens
- Jane Proctor
- Marcia Reemts
- Carol Rose
- Joan and Charles Rowe
- Tom & Meg Stallard
- Roz Stone
- Mike Truitt
- Ramon & Karen Urbano
- David Wilkinson



# YCHS Newsletter

Yolo County Historical Society

P O Box 1447

Woodland, CA 95776

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.

We are a 5013c tax deductible organization

Tax id number: **23-7086043**

See our website at [ychs.org](http://ychs.org)

**Editor:** Kathy Harryman

[khwoodland@aol.com](mailto:khwoodland@aol.com)

**Production Editor:** Barbara A. Sommer

[basommer@ucdavis.edu](mailto:basommer@ucdavis.edu)

## Submitting letters and articles

Format articles in Word and send as email attachments to Kathy Harryman

[khwoodland@aol.com](mailto:khwoodland@aol.com)

## Change of Address

Please notify Kathy Harryman [khwoodland@aol.com](mailto: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).

Sign up for delivery as an email PDF attachment (see above email).