

# Yolo County Historical Society



JUNE 2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is just getting started but your Society's Board of Directors will be looking to programs for the Fall i.e., day and overnight trips for next Spring, Fashion Shows courtesy of Cricket's Apparel in both Woodland and Davis, plus an expanded visit to Woodland's past notable resident's now resting at the Woodland City Cemetery. We will also be supporting the Hattie Weber Museum staff as they work with the City of Davis in preserving the WPA restrooms which sit adjacent to the Museum. We will be investigating expanding the Free Museum Day w held in April. We will continue to work with other historical groups in the County as we all want to not only preserve the history but we want residents to appreciate the past and look forward to the future.

Peace,

BJ Ford, President  
Yolo County Historical Society

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## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

**DEADLINE:** Articles for the newsletter will be accepted until the **20<sup>th</sup> of each month**. Please either email B J Ford at: [bjford@pacbell.net](mailto:bjford@pacbell.net) or mail to the YCHS at P.O. Box 1447 Woodland, CA 95776

## MAY FAIRE

The Gibson House May Faire was a huge success. The weather was gorgeous and the Faire goers came in large numbers. Part of the success was due to the over 70 vendors and public information booths. Talking to the various vendors during the day revealed that they were delighted over the organization and the sales at their variety of booths, from jam to jewelry and pottery and wood making to quilts and baby items to name just a few. The Yolo County Gibson House Board of Trustees wants to send a huge thanks to the Historical Society's bakery booth whose members were not only working the booth, but bringing in a steady stream of plates and boxes full of cookies, cakes and brownies to sell.

Discovery Row for children this year provided games, face painting, gold panning, a model railroad display and other early turn of the century activities including the guest blacksmith. The Woodland Food Closet received a barrel full of canned and packaged goods. The people who donated received a raffle ticket for every can given, so everyone one, won. In speaking to Ann Edmondson after the event, who is a dedicated volunteer Gibson gardener, their plant sales went very, very well. Every Tuesday morning during the year, they are busy tending their numerous plants and

trees. Contact Joanne Larkey at the museum Tuesday through Friday from ten to four if you would like to volunteer in a lovely setting for a few hours to visit, plant, water and prune plus enjoy the lovely grounds. If you have a green thumb, they can use the help. The number is 666-1045.

Another new addition was Novelist Corner. Five local authors set up shop to discuss, autograph and sell their current books. Christine Mietzner who has a writing workshop on the first Monday of the month in the Gibson catering kitchen was also on hand to talk about the types of writing done by existing participants and encouraging anyone else who is interested into joining the class. Besides the raffle of a BBQ and a gift certificate from Tazzini's, there was on the verandah, a silent auction consisting of many items donated for the activity. Food and drinks were cooked and served by Woodland Rotary members as well as ice cream. The entertainment was lively and donated by Crawford Perkes band, Folklorico Latino de Woodland and James Barrera performed his roping and whip cracking tricks. The museum was open for free tours from 1:00-4:00 pm. Over a hundred visitors strolled through and besides the existing Gibson and early settler's collection; the big draw was the Chinese exhibit of early Yolo County Chinese contributions. It was organized and arranged by your own member, Kathy Harryman, with the assistance of Stella Dinger. Kathy is a member of the Gibson House Board of Trustees and is a liaison between the Yolo County Historical Society and the Yolo County Gibson Museum Society. When you see her at a meeting make sure and

congratulate her on a job well done. The exhibit will run through October. Thank you again for helping to make the May Faire a success.

Karen Lafferty

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## RECOUNTING MEMORIES

Reading the story on the Hattie Weber display of dictaphone equipment and its play in historical events, I was jogged into a memory of meeting Jack Dempsey and his manager in the Congress building elevator in the summer of 1963. Two UCD college friends and I traveled by car all the way across the middle of the U.S. and up the East Coast to Quebec and back across the northern route of the U.S. There are many stories to tell. One was we were able to chat with President Harry S. Truman in his library in Independence, MO, on his anniversary to the love of his life, Bess. Mary Lee Mayfield's grandmother had gone to school with him and she was a true daughter of the Confederacy. We had lunch with Senator Knowland in the Senate dining room and then that afternoon we were to sit in the Gallery of the Senate chambers. Since it was in session, we watched two fairly new to us brothers from Massachusetts, Jack and Bobby Kennedy. For some reason, I got separated from Mary Lee and Sharon and so ended up taking the elevator up to the chamber on my own. As it opened, inside were only two older men, one very large, in loud sport jackets and hats of the era who gave me a wink and a smile. I quickly stepped in and turned to face the door. The shorter of the two suddenly said, "Hey, girlie, do you know who you are riding

with?" I, of course, turned around to look at them and said, "No." He then said, "Meet Jack Dempsey and I am his manager and we're here to testify about boxing." I quickly said, "My Dad saw some of your fights in Oakland, CA, and is a fan of yours." Jack still had a smoldering cigar at the corner of his mouth and he held out a large paw with many broken knuckles and shook my hand, saying, "Glad to meet you, honey, and tell your father Hello from Jack." His cigar smoke odor stayed with me for the rest of the day and the memory for the rest of my life.

Karen Lafferty

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**The Hattie Weber Museum**, located at 445 C Street, Davis, Ca. is open to the public on **Mon. & Wed.** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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**Society publications** available for sale at a variety of locations. For more information on book sales, contact Mary Aulman at 666-0743.

## **YOLO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President	B. J. Ford	662-0952
Vice Pres.	Jeannette Molson	666-7103
Secretary	Bob Sommer	756-7553
Treasurer	Reva Barzo	867-5800

### **Directors**

Mary Aulman	666-0743
Kathy Harryman	662-2189
Dianne Barsotti	661-1179
Roberta Stevenson	753-5791
Jim Becket	756-1418
Beth Wettergreen	207- 9403
Dennis Dingemans	753-5959

**Searching** for a past article from our newsletter? Go to Yolo County Historical Society web address: <http://ychs.org/>

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## **JUNE PICNIC Thursday, JUNE 21, 2012**

### **6:00 p.m. HAPPY HOUR**

Wine and Sparkling Water Served by the Friends of the Yolo County Archives

### **ENTERTAINMENT**

### **7:00 p.m. POTLUCK DINNER**

Bring your own silverware, plates, cups and lawn chairs, if desired.  
Also, bring one of the following (to serve 8) according to the initial of your last name:

A to G – Salad

H – O – Hors d'oeuvres

P to Z – Hot Dish

Bread, coffee, tea and dessert will be provided

### **7:45 p.m. PROGRAM**

**Master of Ceremonies: David Flory**  
**Review of the Past Year's Activities:**  
**Yolo County Historical Museum, Gibson House**  
**Mike Lerch**  
**Friends of the Yolo County Archives**  
**Ted Smith**  
**Yolo County Historical Society**  
**B. J. Ford**

### **TOUR OF THE MUSEUM**

**Yolo County Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 1447**  
**Woodland, CA 95776**

**Address Service Requested**

**Dated Material**

**INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN**

Membership in the Yolo County Historical Society is open to all who wish to join in supporting the research, preservation and designation of the county historical resources, maintaining the Springlake Schoolhouse Museum on the Fairgrounds, and publishing mini-histories of Yolo County communities. Please make check payable to Yolo County Historical Society.

Individual	\$20	NAME	_____
Family	\$25		
Senior 65+	\$15	ADDRESS	_____
Family 65+	\$20		
Business	\$50	CITY	_____ ZIP _____
Patron	\$100		
Life	\$300	TELEPHONE	_____
		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*