



JUNE 2004

DAVIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE DAVIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2, JUNE 2004

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Edited by Jim Becket
756-1480, beckets@cal.net, www.davishistoricalsociety.org

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

One of the major items of business at the last meeting was a discussion about downsizing (see the President's Message below), which included a statement by President John that he was not going to be the editor of a monthly newsletter anymore. Some other things, yes, but the newsletter, no. Since it was my first meeting, and wanting to appear cooperative, I agreed to do at least one. I do one approximately every two weeks for the Kiwanis Club of Davis, so the process is not new; however, that also limits the time I am able to devote to it. We'll see.

I have copied John's format for this one, at least approximately. I use the software Publisher for other things like this and would prefer it. However, since this is (as I understand it) sent only by e-mail, only those with Publisher would be able to open it – which would not be very practical. Sending some by snail mail and some by e-mail would be a solution, but that increases expense and work. We'll have to discuss the possibilities.

If I do more than this one issue, I'll probably insert an opinion once in awhile, which may or may not be appropriate. However, I promise always to clearly identify opinions whenever they appear. And I will have opinions, as I have joined DHS because of a definite interest in how history is handled in Davis. We have only lived in Davis since 1964, but my family has been in Yolo County since the 1800s. Marge and I have both joined the Yolo County Historical Society and she has just taken on the role of membership chair. Marge, by the way, is my editor and takes care of the grammatical stuff and spelling that the computer doesn't find.

Much of the material for this newsletter was written by others, so it was easy. I have formatted what they wrote to save space, but did not change content.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JOHN LOFLAND - DHS DOWNSIZED

As Sharla Harrington reports in her minutes of our February meeting (included in this newsletter), "downsizing" the DHS was a major topic of discussion at that gathering. The fact we did not have a Board quorum provided further evidence of a need for steps in such a direction.

Accordingly, we will proceed to move to a more free-flowing and informal configuration. I propose this short and incomplete list of features of our new downsized form. ✓ The next Board meeting, which will also be our Third Annual Meeting, will be at the Hattie Weber Museum on Sunday, October 10 at 2 pm. ✓ I suggest we assume that people in office will continue to serve until they request replacement. ✓✓ When replacement is requested, a subcommittee will be appointed to recruit a new occupant of the open position. This means we will have elections/appointments at the Third Annual Meeting only with regard to positions that become open through resignation. ✓✓✓ Meetings of committees, program events, and other actions will occur as a function of members taking responsibility for them. There are, in fact, quite a few of these that are on-going. Here is a short and likely incomplete list. (1) The Publications Committee continues with the republication of Larkey. (2) This issue of the newsletter has been produced. And by new member Jim Becket, to whom we have a large debt. Thanks, Jim! (3) The web site is being maintained and updated. (4) The email lists are being maintained and updated. (5) DHS friend Alan Miller is keeping us up-to-date on Davis demolitions. (6) I am organizing a monthly series of meetings called Conversations on Davis History (story elsewhere in this issue).

So, while we are downsized, members are still active under the label Davis Historical Society, a label that provides focus and legitimacy for otherwise scattered and unsupported actions.

People who would like to discuss DHS matters are welcome to visit any Conversations on Davis History meeting. I plan to be at all of them and I am happy to chat about these or other Davis history-relevant topics. The next Conversations meeting is at the Hattie Weber, Saturday, June 26, 10 am to noon.

THE YOLO COUNTY ARCHIVES TOUR

Below is the text of a letter from President John to Mel Russell at the Yolo County Archives. Since your editor did not attend, it will serve as a summary of the event.

Dear Mel,

I write formally to thank you for the wonderful tour you and your two volunteers gave the members of the Davis Historical Society on Sunday, May 2.

In addition to the fascination of the walk-through of the archive itself, we were especially appreciative of the materials particular to Davis that you brought to the reading room for us to see and ponder.

It was particularly pleasing to me that four of the main archives-attuned people of Yolo County were present and were able to get to know one another better.

On behalf of the Davis Historical Society, I again thank you for your outstanding work and your extraordinary generosity in scheduling a tour on a Sunday!

John Lofland, President



President John provided the above picture of the Yolo archivists. From the left, they are Phyllis Haig, Mel Russell, David Herbst, and Daryl Morrison (UCD Special Collections Head).

MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 15 MEETING (as provided by Sharla Harrington, Secretary):

Present: Phyllis Hague, Lyn Lofland, John Lofland, John Chiles, Jim Becket, Sharla Harrington

Meeting begins at 3:00 pm with determination that a quorum is not present.

1. Approval of the agenda – John Chiles moved to accept agenda amended to add item about “Walking Tour.”
2. Newsletter – John Lofland announced that though he has been producing the monthly newsletter, he would like to stop doing this. Suggested that this duty be collapsed into another committee or reduce it to a semi-annual report. After discussion, Jim Becket volunteered to produce the June newsletter.
3. Archives Visit – John Lofland reported that the visit to the Yolo County Archives was set for May 2, 2004 at 2:00 pm. It was anticipated that Daryl Morrison, Administrative Head for the Department of Special Collections, Shields Library, would be in attendance.
4. Guest speaker, David Herbst, “Yolo County” collection. Possible dates in August were discussed. Due to difficulty finding date in August with a possible conflict with the Yolo County Fair, John Lofland agreed to approach him on deferring to the Fall.
5. Gibson House May Faire, May 16. John Lofland reported.
6. Fall election – John Lofland is not seeking re-election as President, but is prepared to remain on the Board in a different position. John proposed to downsize the structure and functions of the DHS so that we focus our efforts. Lynn Lofland urges that we poll the board on this idea. Sharla Harrington adds that there should be a mandatory response.
7. Treasurer’s report – We have 60 members with 37 renewed. (This item was taken out of order on the agenda). Bank balance is \$1062. Newest member is Mr. Jim Becket.
8. Website – Presently Davis Community Network is supplying the location for the website, but it is not capable of supporting the Larkey article project. The DCN site is functioning, but has reached its maximum. Reid/McMahon has proposed a website, but it does not include instructions on its maintenance. It was proposed that the Davis Historical Commission sponsor the site. John Lofland voiced serious concerns about following that line of action. Lynn Lofland proposed that the Publications Committee take over investigating and creating the website. There was continued discussion about different available web programs.

9. Flyer – John Lofland introduced a tri-fold flyer promoting membership in the Davis Historical Society.
10. Further discussion of downsizing group – there was an additional period of open discussion about the format and purpose of the Davis Historical Society.
11. Minutes of November Meeting were accepted.
12. Downtown Davis Walking Tour – Sharla Harrington reported meeting with the Davis Downtown Business Association (DDBA) about their wish for a walking tour for the downtown area. She voiced concern that this was too large of a project to be taken up by the Education Committee alone. John Lofland suggested that we not pursue this project due to lack of resources. Lynn Lofland proposed that the first step that we should take is to get a commitment from all committee chairs to work on this project together via the listserv over the next 2-3 months or if another time would be more appropriate. This proposal was adopted by consensus by those present.

DAVIS HISTORY CONVERSATIONS

The Davis Historical Society (DHS) announces the first in a series of Davis History Conversations. Planned for one Saturday morning a month from 10 am to noon at the Hattie Weber Museum, the first one will be Saturday, June 26. The Museum is at Fifth and C streets, Davis.

Anyone who has questions about Davis history, who would like to share history stories, or who would like to show historical artifacts such as photographs, is invited to gather for conversation around the Museum's round table.

The conversation will be facilitated by a member of the DHS's Board of Directors. A second member of the Board will also be on hand as a resource person.

In announcing the series, DHS President John Lofland stresses that the format will be informal and free-flowing. People can arrive and join the conversation or leave any time in the two hour meeting.

The DHS Board states that the purposes of the series include: 1) fostering public interest in Davis history, 2) helping people find answers to questions they have about Davis history, 3) providing opportunities for people to share historical information on Davis.

More information on the series and on the DHS can be found at the Society's web site, www.davishistoricalsociety.org. Or call 758-5258.

Tentative Schedule of Davis History Conversations, the Hattie Weber Museum, 2004-05:

June 26, July 24, August 28, September 18, October 16, November 20, December 11, January 8

All meetings are Saturday, 10 am to noon.