



DAVIS HISTORY MATTERS
Newsletter of the Davis Historical Society
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Prepared by John Lofland, Stop-Gap Editor
758-5258, jlofland@dcn.org, www.davishistoricalsociety.org

1. MAY 18th DHS MEETING AT THE YOLO COUNTY MUSEUM

The next meeting of the Society will be on May 18th and held on the grounds of the Yolo County Museum, 512 Gibson Road, Woodland. It will begin at 3 pm .

The meeting will be a part of the day-long May Festival held by the Yolo County Museum.

Come early and enjoy the demonstrations, craft-booths, and other festivities.

2. PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE D STREET HOUSE-MOVING

Two sets of photographs of the wonderful D Street house-moving event are now on the DHS web site. Both sets are in the Files section of the site. (Click on the word "Files" at the bottom of the left column of the page.)

The first set of 11 pictures is by John Lofland and provides a narrative of the move.

The second set of 8 pictures is by Sharla Daly. These show interesting moments along the route of the move.

3. JANE WILLIAMSON LEWIS TO CHAIR THE MEMBER/PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

We are delighted to announce that Jane Williamson Lewis, Davis native and member of the history-minded Davis High School class of 1947, has agreed to serve as the Chair of our Membership and Publicity Committee. Among other projects, she is looking into means of having a DHS presence at Davis High School class reunions.

The Davis High School class of 1947 is history-minded because many of its members have had active interests in Davis history. These include Phyllis Haig, Joann Leach Larkey, Pat Schlages, and Marie Wong.

A panoramic picture of the class of 1947 (along with the entire senior and junior high school populations) appears on pages 82-83 of John Lofland and Phyllis Haig, *Davis, California, 1910s-40s*.

On page 4 of that same book, Jane Williamson Lewis' father is pictured as one of four Davis civic leaders. The photograph of the group was taken about 1920 and shows them standing by the Davis Arch.

4. NEW FLYER

The first DHS promotional flyer featured a reproduction of the *Davis Enterprise* story reporting the organizing meeting of the Society. It is rapidly getting out of date. So, in the absence of anyone else stepping forward to design a flyer, John Lofland has done.

In pdf, a copy of it is in the Files section of the web site. Anyone can download it, make as many copies as they want, and fold it into a flyer.

Anyone with suggestions for revisions and improvements or who would like to assume responsibility for editing and up-dating the flyer should be in touch in Lofland at jlofland@ucdavis.edu

5. WEB SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Work on improving the web site is continuous and never-ending.

In the last month, the Files section has been re-organized. In particular, overview descriptions of how the Files section is organized have been added.

6. EXPERIMENTAL NEW FEATURES: DAVIS 100 AND 50 YEARS AGO

This issue of *Davis History Matters* has an experimental feature. Your editor is a fan of newspaper columns consisting of stories published in the paper some years before. A century before and a half-century before are common such intervals.

In that spirit, items 7 and 8 of this issue are selected and abbreviated items from the *Davisville Enterprise* of April, 1903 and the *Davis Enterprise* of April, 1953.

It would be nice to have someone volunteer to go to the Shields or Davis Branch libraries to read other months for enlightening tidbits of Davis history.

7. APRIL 1903 IN DAVISVILLE

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[April 4 story by William H. Scott, editor:] LOOK OUT FOR FAKIRS

It is our duty to issue a note of warning . . . against . . . fakes. Wagons loaded with cured meat visit our town each year offering meat for less than market prices, in fact, at such prices per pound as would enable them to readily sell their meat to dealers and without the added expense of peddling meat from house to house.

One of the tricks is to sell shoulders telling the customer they are hams. Also is it not a safe plan to take the vendor's weight, etc. [An account of this activity in Stockton taken from a Stockton newspaper follows.]

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[Advertisement, April 4:]

A carload of buggies just received from the East; rubber tires and right-up-to-date, at wholesale prices. Call and inspect our goods in this line. The Diggs Hardware Co., Woodland.

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NEWS and PERSONAL Comings and Goings of Well Known People

Local Gossip of Interest to and About those who Dwell in or near Davisville

J. B. Anderson is having a big run on gent's shoes, twenty pair sold in two days. Over forty different styles. This indicates that the goods and prices are right.

The Wednesday Afternoon Whist club met Wednesday of this week at the home of W. D. Chiles.

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[April 11, 1903:] The Supervisors Meet

[item:] A petition was received from the citizens of Davisville stating that a public nuisance existed in that town in the form of a breeding stable and they asked that it be abated. Matter was referred to Supervisor Ormsby.

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[Small item on the front page, April 25]

Not only is the Spring and Summer catalogue . . . the handsomest one ever issued by Weinstock, Lubin and Co., the great mail order house of Sacramento, Cal., but it is full of great values in up-to-date merchandise. It is free to any address. If you haven't a copy, write for one today. [Dread revenue-loss is an old phenomenon?]

8. APRIL, 1953 IN DAVIS

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[April 2, 1953:] Annual Clean-up Week for Picnic Day

Clean up week for the City of Davis will begin Wednesday, April 8, 1953 and will run through Friday, April 17. During this period, the City of Davis will pick up all material placed in the street in order that our City may be clean and presentable on Picnic Day. . . .

T. W. Fletcher, City Administrator

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[Thursday, April 16, 1953:] City Council Has Busy Session Monday Evening.

[item:] In the communications read, the resignation of Miss Hattie Weber as City Librarian was included. The council accepted the request and instructed the City Clerk to write to Miss Weber and express the appreciation of the Council for the many years of service she has given the city.

[Item:] A letter was read from Richard McGee, of the State Department of Corrections, in answer to the protest launched by the Council at a previous meeting relative to locating a State Prison near Davis. Mr. McGee stated the Davis area would not be considered.

[Item:] Mrs. Katherine Johnson of 504 F Street was present with a delegation and ably presented a petition to the council objecting to the new route which the busses must take as a result of the change in depot locations. It was signed by fifty three residents along the route. The protestants [sic] object to the speed, noise, smell, and depreciation of land values because of the busses.

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[April 23, 1953:] News From the City Hall by T.W. Fletcher, City Administrator

Last week we completed the installation of 24 new stop signs in the City. The purpose of this installation was to carry out the Council's decision to make 2nd and 3rd Streets through streets from B Street to G Street and to make D Street through from 3rd to 8th Street.

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[April 30:] C of C Directors Seek Fitting Slogan for Davis

. . . . A contest of real interest has been proposed whereby prizes will be offered for a slogan and emblem drawn which would be descriptive of Davis. . . . \$25 will be given for the slogan and another \$25 for the emblem. . . . The winners will be announced at the 4th of July program in the City Park.

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9. OP-ED: DUNNING DISSES AGAIN

by John Lofland, President, Davis Historical Society

Those who have read *Davis Enterprise* columnist Bob Dunning over these many decades know that he is not friendly to historic preservation.

On March 13, he once again relieved himself of this animus with a flatly false claim followed by a contradiction of his false claim.

The false claim is that "there are those who believe any building over 10 years old in this town is 'historic' and deserving of protection. . . ."

I challenge Mr. Dunning to produce the name of even one person (Davis resident or not) who holds this belief. I certainly do not subscribe to it and I know of no one who does. It is irresponsible for Mr. Dunning to abuse his privileged access to the public in this way and to degrade standards of truth in civic speech.

But that is not all. He goes on to laud Mike Corbett for "proper land use" in tearing down an "old and dilapidated structure" at the northeast corner of Seventh and B streets and replacing it with a "classy and tasteful apartment building. . ."

The contradiction here is that Dunning fails to notice that while preservationists were well aware of the demolition in question, they, like him, believed that the building was beyond rehabilitation or preservation. They made NO effort to save it.

If Dunning's false claim were true, we should have seen "10 year" people mobilized. But we did not because there are no such people.

We should say to Dissing Dunning what the inimitable Joe Sherman says to the City Council almost every week: "Shame on you!"

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