



DAVIS HISTORY MATTERS
Newsletter of the Davis Historical Society
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1. THE DHS AT THE MUSEUM MAY FAIRE, MAY 18

The Board and several members and visitors (a total of twelve people) met on the grounds of the Yolo County Museum during that organizations' May Faire on Sunday, May 18.

A number of important actions were taken that are reported below as separate items or as a part of committee reports.

In the crafts area of the Faire, the Society also had a booth with exhibits describing our work. This resulted in six new memberships, which bring our ranks to just over fifty.

2. NEXT DHS MEETING: AUGUST 17 AT 523 E STREET

The next DHS meeting will be Sunday, August 17, starting at 3 pm, at the home of Lyn and John Lofland, 523 E Street, Davis.

The meeting will feature a tour of John Lofland's collection of Davis history documents and artifacts.

3. DHS TO WHOLESALE LOFLAND'S BOOK DONATED TO THE DHS

John Lofland recently donated 300 copies of his just-printed book, *Demolishing a Historic Hotel*, to the DHS and the Board has accepted the donation.

At the May 18th meeting, the Board decided to accept the offer of Alzeda Knickerbocker, The Avid Reader Bookstore, to retail the book for \$25.00 and to pay the Society \$15.00 for each book sold. As part of this agreement, The Avid Reader will be the exclusive, for-profit retail outlet for the book. (The Hattie Weber Museum will also carry the book.)

There will be a book signing on Saturday, June 14th at 3 pm. Lofland will read from and talk about the book and be available to sign copies.

The book tells the story of the Terminal hotel building from its construction at Second and G streets in 1924 through its demolition and carting away in late 2000. Five Chapters focus on the almost 80 year history of the building. Another four chapters analyze four ways in which preservation failed with regard to the building. Additional chapters picture the demolition itself and the book ends with an analysis of why preservation failed in this case.

Printed in a large format and 380 pages long, the story is told with an abundance of photographs and reproductions of documents and news stories.

4. DHS STARTS A NEW PUBLICATION SERIES: *PAPERS ON DAVIS HISTORY*

Tanya Lieberman's article, *A Minimal Tradition House*, will be paper number 1 in what the Board hopes will be a series of article-length papers the DHS publishes on aspects of Davis history.

The series will be titled *Papers on Davis History* and, initially, will be published as a digital file on the DHS web site. In time, there may also be hard copy publication.

The report of the Publications Committee, item 7.3 below, contains more details on the Lieberman paper.

5. BOARD ESTABLISHES THE RESEARCHING *DAVIS HISTORY PROJECT*

Accepting the recommendation of the Publications Committee (Judy Fishette, Tansey Thomas and John Lofland), the Board has established the *Researching Davis History Project* as an official DHS program.

The purpose of the Project is to provide a comprehensive inventory of sources of information on the history of Davis, California. The inventory will be organized into five main categories of sources of information:

- I. Published articles and books
- II. Unpublished documents
- III. Publicly accessible archives and collections
- IV. Privately held collections
- V. Public display of Davis historical photographs and artifacts

The aim is to have at least one file on each of these topics on the DHS web site. For more information, see the file "Researching Davis History" in the Files section of www.davishistoricalsociety.org.

6. BOARD ENDORSES THE OLD NORTH DAVIS ASSOCIATION TRAFFIC CALMING PLAN FOR FIFTH STREET

Also at the May 18th meeting, the Board heard a presentation by Steve Tracy and Dan Szumski of the Old North Davis Neighborhood Association outlining a plan for calming traffic on Fifth Street between A and L streets. The plan would establish bike lanes, car turning lanes, and traffic islands in an effort calm automobile traffic and increase pedestrian and bike safety.

The Board adopted three motions with regard to the plan. First, it expressed the view that there were, indeed, major traffic problems with regard to Fifth Street and that these problems negatively impact the integrity of what was, historically, the entire town of Davis. Second, the City Council was urged to commission a serious study of options for change on Fifth Street, one of which should be the Old North Neighborhood Association plan. Third, the Board expressed its favorable reaction the Old North plan itself.

7. COMMITTEE NEWS

As announced in the last issue of *Davis History Matters*, beginning in this issue each committee will be given space each month to report what it has done in the last month.

7.1. EDUCATION NEWS (CHAIRS SHARLA DALY AND MARK DUPREE)

[This committee has not reported any news.]

7.2. RESEARCH NEWS (CHAIR JOHN LOFLAND)

Activities of this committee are reported in item 5, above.

7.3. PUBLICATIONS NEWS (CHAIR LYN LOFLAND), DATELINE MAY 18

The Committee met on March 9 and discussed how best to proceed with the initial two publication projects we had in mind. It was agreed that L. Lofland would be project manager for the Lieberman publication and Dennis Dingemans would serve in that role for the Larkey project. In late March, we sought and received Board approval to proceed with both.

Lieberman Project: "647 G Street, Davis: A Minimal Traditional House"

At this writing, an edited version of the Tanya Lieberman manuscript is being reviewed by the author and committee members with a return deadline of May 21. If all goes well, our first publication will be posted on the DHS web site by mid to late June. Negotiations by John Lofland with the web master for the Old North Davis Neighborhood Association site (which had, much to our surprise, posted an unedited version of the Lieberman ms.) led to an agreement that their current posting would be replaced with a "republication" of our publication (which is both edited and illustrated by photographs), giving full credit.

Larkey Project: "Portraits of the Past" Reprint

Following up on Dennis Dingemans' discussion with and agreement from Joann Larkey regarding our proposed project, we sent a letter on May 3 to Debbie Davis of the *Enterprise* requesting formal permission to reprint all 166 of Larkey's "Portraits of the Past" columns which were published weekly between December 4, 1969 and May 10, 1973. No response has yet been received and a follow-up letter was sent on May 16.

We think we would probably not post all the columns at one time, but would introduce them in batches--perhaps organized chronologically, perhaps in terms of themes. The somewhat

limited space we have for our web site would also likely prevent our ever being able to have all 166 columns in the same location at the same time; rather we would remove some to file storage (though still available for reading) as new ones were added.

While we wait for permission, Dennis (with the help of John Lofland) has begun the rather arduous task of scanning all 166 of the columns (collected and preserved by Phyllis Haig) into digital files. With Phyllis' cooperation, John Lofland installed a computer and scanner at the Hattie Weber Museum and the work is being done there.

DHS Publications Committee

Dennis Dingemans
Merrily Dupree
Suzanne Mikesell
Tansey Thomas
Lyn Lofland, Chair

7.4. PRESERVATION NEWS (CHAIR MERRILY DUPREE)

The Historical Preservation Committee has completed a count of surviving nineteenth-century buildings in Davis, using the 1933 tax assessment forms. We identified nineteenth-century houses existing in 1933, then checked each of these against the buildings currently at those addresses. I then compared our count with the last Cultural Resources Inventory. The result: 26 houses remaining, on Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, B,C,D, E, I J, K, and Los Robles Streets, and on Russell Boulevard. Esther Polito has forwarded our report to Carol Roland, the consultant who will soon be recommending additions to the Inventory.

A related preservation activity in which many members of the society participated was the celebration for the moving of the nineteenth-century house at 312 D Street to 516 D, on the morning of March 7. Sharla Daly and Mike Harrington graciously allowed us to set up a celebration table in front of their house, as well as providing coffee for a crowd. Other members brought pastries and other goodies. Nearby John Lofland set up his great display of Davis Enterprise articles related to the history of the house, built at the corner of Fourth and C in 1895. Many observers stopped by, making it a festive, very memorable occasion.

Society members had become concerned about the fate of the little white house when owner Albert Henle, whose grandfather had purchased it at auction in 1920, sold it to developer Dan Dowling. Mr. Dowling received permission to build townhouses on the site and could have demolished the old house if no one had wanted to move it to a new site. In the end, he offered \$20,000 to cover moving costs. Fortunately, Adrian and Ilene Weins wanted the house for their lot at 516 D, and so the house was saved! They plan to live in the house when restoration is completed. A number of us in the Society and the Historic Preservation Committee had spent much time on this project and were therefore in the mood to celebrate as 312 rode to its new location. We had wanted to preserve the house because it's one of the only 26 nineteenth-century houses left in Davis, it's typical of Davis houses of the turn of the century, and it has an interesting connection with the Davis Grammar School and the school fire of 1919.

7.5. ARCHIVES NEWS (CHAIR MARY ANN HARRISON)

[This committee did not report any news]

7.6. NEWSLETTER NEWS (NO CHAIR OR MEMBERS)

[This committee has no members, which may explain why it did not report any news.]

7.7. MEMBERSHIP/PUBLICITY NEWS (JANE WILLIAMSON LEWIS)

[This committee did not report any news.]

7.8. WEB SITE NEWS (FOUR MEMBERS, NO CHAIR)

[This committee did not report any news, possibly because none of its four members will agree to chair the committee.]

7.9. EMAIL NEWS (CHAIR MERRILY DUPREE)

[This committee did not report any news.]

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