



**OCTOBER DAVIS HISTORY MATTERS**  
**Newsletter of the Davis Historical Society**  
**Volume 1, Number 11, October, 2003**

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**1. HARRINGTON PLACE TOUR HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

The highlight of the DHS Annual Meeting, Sunday afternoon November 16, will be a tour of the newly completed Harrington Place in the 500 block of C Street.

Following the business meeting at the Hattie Weber Museum, which will run from 3 to 4 PM, attendees will walk one block to the Harrington Preservation/Construction project, which is mid-block on D Street between Fourth and Fifth.

At that location, Davis City Council Member and Attorney Mike Harrington has been rehabilitating and preserving three cottages on two adjacent lots as well as constructing a modern office building behind them.

It is a unique melding of the old and the new that teaches much about well-done adaptive reuse and densification.

Several of the parties involved in designing and building the project will be on hand to explain various features of the complex.

The *Davis Enterprise* of September 18<sup>th</sup> printed this description of the project: "The newest professional office complex downtown, set for occupancy in October, offers a staffed reception/waiting area, telephone answering service and a spacious, equipped conference room. This energy-efficient building . . . uses hydronic (water piped) heating and cooling and has beautiful views from the upper level."

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Be sure to mark 4 to 5 PM, Sunday, November 16 on your calendar. This is a unique opportunity to see history-in-the-making. And, attend the also exciting DHS Second Annual Meeting at the Hattie Weber the hour before the tour.

### **2. LINCOLN HIGHWAY SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> EVENT AN UPBEAT SUCCESS**

Monday, September 1, the coast-to-coast automobile caravan celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Lincoln Highway stopped in Davis' Central Park and received a proclamation of Welcome from Davis Mayor Susie Boyd.

A Ceremony of Celebration and Commemoration was held at the Lincoln Highway marker at the southeast corner of Fifth and B Streets. Starting at 10 PM, Hattie Weber Curator Phyllis Haig presided and the Proclamation was received by Lincoln Highway tour leaders Robert Lichty and Rosemary Rubin.

More than 150 people attended the event, including many Boy Scouts. The Hattie Weber Museum was open with refreshments and an exhibit on the Highway.

A festive, celebratory and upbeat atmosphere prevailed.

A collage of twelve photographs of the event is in the Files section of the DHS web site at [www.davishistoricalsociety.org](http://www.davishistoricalsociety.org). In separate files following the photographs, there is the text of Mayor's Boyd's Proclamation and of DHS President John Lofland's report on the Boy Scouts' setting of the Lincoln Highway Markers in the Davis area

### **3. THANKS TO THE MAKERS OF THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY EVENT**

Events do not just happen. They have to be invented and planned, tasks must be enumerated and coordinated, people to do things must be recruited, and so forth.

Such was also most definitely the case for the Lincoln Highway event. Quite a number of people did all the mundane things that had to be done in order for it to take place in the smooth and upbeat fashion that it did. The DHS expresses deeply-felt thanks to these people:

- Phyllis Haig made the Hattie Weber available for the event, organized the set-up, moderated the ceremony at the Marker, set up a Lincoln Highway exhibit in the Museum, provided museum supplies that gave the food and drink an elegant cast, and led the clean-up.
- Susie Boyd made gracious welcoming remarks and presented the Proclamation with dignity befitting Davis.
- Tansey Thomas brought two large boxes of donuts and a large number of compact-size bottled water that was a particular hit as a "going on the road" gift for each member of the caravan.
- Mary Ann and Al Harrison brought multiple cartons and bottles of juice and other drinks and Mary Ann assisted with the set-up and servicing of the refreshments table.
- Merrily and Mark DuPree brought two platesful of muffins and Mark took pictures, which are part of the web site collage. Merrily also helped set up and service refreshments.
- Lyn Lofland coordinated the refreshments at the Hattie Weber, loaned a large coffee pot, donated goods and food, helped with clean-up, and assisted in marking a block as reserved parking, among other things.

- Dennis Dingemans visited with the tour in Auburn and provided advanced information on their numbers and arrival and took photographs of the event.
- John Chiles directed traffic and helped with the heavy lifting.
- Esther Polito, City cultural and historical matters, oversaw the processes of the City proclamation and arranged for a loudspeaker.
- Bob Cordrey, City parks, made certain the public facilities were cleaned-up from the previous weekend.
- Bob Bowen, City special promotions, arranged for extra a-frame street barriers and gave the DHS some tape to mark reserved parking
- Sgt. Scott Smith, City police, cooperated in reserving a block for caravan parking.
- John Lofland conceived the event, wrote and distributed the press materials and performed other tasks.

#### **4. AGENDA OF THE NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> SECOND ANNUAL MEETING**

Sunday, November 16 at 3 PM, the membership of the DHS will assemble to celebrate Davis history, to hear reports on the state of the Society, and to elect three of the seven member board.

The DHS bylaws set forth the following as the general format for the Annual Meeting:

There shall be an Annual Meeting at which:

- there shall be elections for the open seats on the Board;
- the Officers and committee Chairs shall provide written and oral reports on the state of the Society from the viewpoint of their office or committee and overall;
- policy, program, and bylaws matters may be discussed and voted on;
- and,
- other activities determined by the Board or the Society may occur.

Two action items have been identified at this time. These are:

1. The bylaws provide that the offices of Vice-President, Secretary, and one At-Large member of the Board be put up for election this year. (The other four positions will be up for election next year.)

The bylaws also specify that the Board will appoint a three-person election committee to develop a slate of nominees and conduct the election. At its August meeting, the Board developed a list of DHS members who the President was authorized to recruit for this committee.

This recruitment has resulted in an Elections Committee consisting of Robin Datel as Chair and Jim Frame and Tansey Thomas as members. If you are interested in being nominated for any of these three offices, contact Chair Robin Datel. At [datel@csus.edu](mailto:datel@csus.edu)

2. As announced in the September *Davis History Matters*, the Board has voted to change our dues systems from \$10.00 for one year to the possibility of multi-year payment. Specifically, one year would remain \$10, but one could alternatively join for two years for \$18.00 or three years for \$25.00. While the Board has the authority to make this change, in the interest of democratic

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decision-making, the membership attending the Annual Meeting will be asked to support or oppose this change.

Members who have items they would like to see placed on the agenda should contact John Lofland, DHS President, at [jlofland@dcn.org](mailto:jlofland@dcn.org) or 758-5258.

#### **5. ANDERSON BUILDING “DELISTING” COUNCIL HEARING OCTOBER 21**

The City of Davis Notice of Public Hearing sent to all DHS members some weeks ago announced that on Tuesday, October 21 the Davis City Council will consider “delisting” the Anderson Bank Building.

More specifically, the Council will, to quote the Notice, “conduct a public hearing to consider the HRM Commission’s recommendation [regarding RBM Investors request to “delist” the Anderson Bank Building] and take action to approve, approve in part, or deny the recommendation in its entirety . . . . Please contact the City Clerk for approximate times this item will be heard.”

Member of the Davis Historical Society Board have considered this matter and unanimously adopted the following resolution:

*The Members of the Board of the Davis Historical Society (DHS) unanimously support the actions taken by the City of Davis Historical Resources Commission (HRMC) at its September 10, 2003 hearing on the proposed de-listing of the Anderson Bank Building.*

*Specifically, the DHS Board supports these recommendations that the HRMC adopted on a 5-0 vote: "1) The Commission finds that the Anderson Bank building continues to qualify for designation on the Davis Historic Register; and 2) The Commission recommends to the City Council that the historic designation be retained" (statement quoted from the draft HRMC minutes of the September 10th meeting).*

DHS President John Lofland was instructed to communicate this Board action to the Davis City Council.

The matter will be heard by the Council at its October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. DHS members interested in the outcome may want to attend and to speak at this public hearing.

#### **6. DAVIS CEMETARY HISTORY ON LINE: PART II**

By Dennis Dingemans, DHS Treasurer

[Ed: Part I of this report on the Davis Cemetery appeared in the September issue of *Davis History Matters*.]

The other cemetery districts in Yolo County (Winters, Cottonwood, Capay, Knights Landing, St. Mary's--along with the City of Woodland's cemetery) lack such a complete web site. In fact, there was a July LAFCO report from Woodland's Elizabeth Kemper in which the Yolo County cemetery districts are discussed in detail (with findings that include the bankruptcy and poor condition in several of the local cemeteries). More work needs to be done to increase information about the historical resources (and recreational resource) represented by our city and county burial places.

Further availability of the Davis cemetery's historical records is under way. Reynolds reports that he has given a complete set of printed cemetery records to an individual who was to deposit them in the 14th Street library. Kate in the library, sadly, reports that they either haven't been received or haven't been put on their catalogue.

One piece of notoriety has been denied to the Davis Cemetery, despite its existence in some form or another since before 1860. John Reynolds hosted a team from the California Office of Historic Preservation who evaluated the oldest section of the cemetery for listing on the register of historic cemeteries. In part because our cemetery has done such a fine job of maintaining the grass lawn it was determined that the historical character of the cemetery landscaping wasn't authentic enough. Reynolds suggests that a visit to the Cottonwood Cemetery or the Capay Cemetery (just south of Madison and just west of Esparto) might give the visitor a look at older styles landscaping, lower levels of lawn maintenance, and a higher concentration of pioneer graves. Our Davis cemetery contains many stone markers that are as impressive as any others: check out the tall spire of the Chiles family stone or the solidity and dignity of the Pierce family and the Schmeiser family sites right here in Davis.

Our local cemetery manager reports on the ironic twist of his own personal biography as he moved from the San Joaquin valley northward and from the electronics industry to the burial business. John Reynolds graduated from the "Davis High School" in Modesto some 27 years ago.

**7. ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE BOARD, AUGUST 17, 2003**

By Mary Ann Harrison, Chair, Archives Committee

I. Committee Membership:

- a. Betty Racki, Davis City Clerk of Records, has joined the Archives committee.
- b. Betty Rivers, State archaeologist, has expressed an interest in the Archives Committee, but she does have limited time due to her work on the Allensworth project. Audrey Hastings will ask her to join.
- c. Julie Partansky, local activist, has dropped out of active membership in order to devote more time to protesting the Bio Lab being planned at UCD.

II. Resource Development:

- a. A local genealogist is doing research on the "residents" of the Davis Cemetery and their families. The Archives committee would like to support /assist her in the work she is doing, and Audrey will discuss this with her.
- b. Mary Ann Harrison will be meeting with a University Retirement Community resident who is a descendent of Andrew Marshall who came to Yolo County in 1865. The descendent has papers and memorabilia of historical interest. She is looking into the best way to preserve these items and make them available for others.

III. Computer: The City has purchased and installed a new computer at the Hattie Weber. City staff is in the process of transferring files.

IV. New Display: At the committee meeting on 7/29, tentative plans were developed for a new display at the Hattie Weber Museum. The subject will be overnight accommodations in early Davis. Archives Committee members will assist Phyllis Haig in researching, collecting and arranging the display.

V. The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, location to be announced.

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