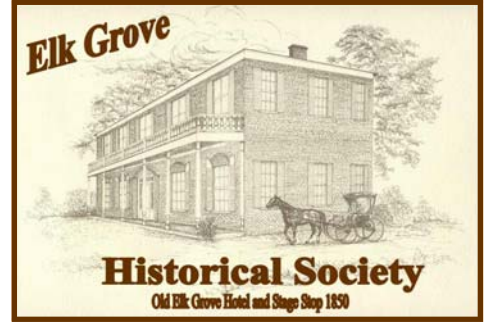


A PUBLICATION OF THE  
ELK GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REPRESENTING THE COMMUNITIES OF  
ELK GROVE  
WILTON  
SHELDON  
FRANKLIN  
BRUCEVILLE  
POINT PLEASANT  
SLOUGHHOUSE

# The Stage Stop Gazette



Volume 35 Issue 3-4

March—April 2014

## “All That Jazz”—Elk Grove Historical Society Spring Tea Luncheon—May 10

*The Elk Grove  
Historical Society  
Annual Spring Tea Luncheon*

**“All That Jazz”  
Saturday, May 10, 2014  
Seating at 11:00 AM**

*Elk Grove House &  
Stage Stop Museum  
9941 East Stockton Blvd.  
Elk Grove*

**Ticket  
# 1**



*Featuring Vocalist Maria Behm  
<http://www.musicwithmaria.com/>*

*Performing Hits from the  
“30s, 40s & 50s”*

*Enjoy Shopping at the Silent Auction  
Raffle Prizes, Door Prizes,  
Valet Parking  
A Great Mother’s Day Gift!!!*

*Tickets are Now Available!  
Call Annaclare Entrican at 686-8238*

*\$35 for Members & Guests*

*Check our web site: [www.elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com](http://www.elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com)*



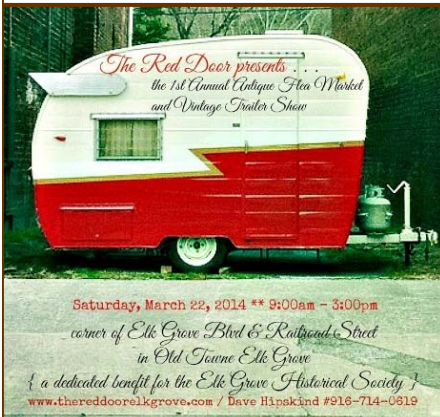
### Gift Baskets Needed for Spring Tea

If you can donate items for a basket, please contact Sally Bergen by April 1. Her phone number is 686-8653 or email her at [sallybergen@surewest.net](mailto:sallybergen@surewest.net).

*Silent Auction*



### Antique Flea Market and Vintage Trailer Show—March 22



If you like antiques and flea market items, then you'll want to put this event on your calendar. The Red Door is having its first

annual Antique Flea Market and Vintage Trailer Show on Saturday, March 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The location is the corner of Elk Grove Blvd. and Railroad Street in Old Towne Elk Grove. Admission is \$5. **This is a dedicated benefit for the Elk Grove Historical Society.** We will be helping the Red Door by staffing the admission gate in shifts. If you can volunteer some time on this day, please call Brookelea at 685-3368 or email her at [blutton2@surewest.net](mailto:blutton2@surewest.net). It's sure to be a fun and profitable day for us!



Web site: <http://thereddoorelkgrove.com/red-door-presents-1st-annual-antique-flea-market-vintage-trailer-show/>

**Calendar of Events for March—April**

- March 1, 2014: Open for Tours, Noon—4 PM
- March 10, 2014: Board Meeting, 4 PM, Museum
- March 17, 2014: General Meeting - 6:30 PM, CSD Board Room, 8820 Elk Grove Blvd., Speaker Tom Russell, “The History of Elk Grove”
- April 5, 2014: Open for Tours, Noon - 4 PM
- April 14, 2014: Board Meeting, 4 PM, Museum
- April 21, 2014: General Meeting - 6:30 PM, CSD Board Room, 8820 Elk Grove Blvd., check web site for details.

**New Members**



Lura Franzella

**Annual Yard Sale!**

As you clean your homes, garages and attics, please put unwanted items aside for our Annual Yard Sale to be held August 1-3. Drop off dates will be announced soon.



**Research Library**



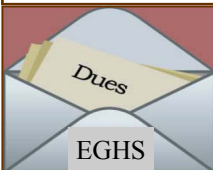
Open by appointment.  
Call Jeanette at 685-8115  
or e-mail her at  
msjlaw@comcast.net



A Big Thank You to all who have volunteered to adopt a room at the museum. Each person has agreed to decorate and keep their room clean. Also, thank you to the docents who worked the January &

February openings. We have many opportunities for members to help out as docents. If you'd like to be a docent, please contact our docent chairperson, Mary Bulford at 685-8120.

**Membership Dues Are Due**



Please use the renewal form on the last page of this newsletter. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

**Treasurer's Report: Jeanette Lawson**

Operating Accounts	1/1/14	2/1/2014
General Operating Fund	\$10,825.85	\$7,678.11
Wightman Memorial Fund	\$5,467.32	\$5,467.32
<b>Total Account Balance:</b>	<b>\$16,293.17</b>	<b>\$13,145.43</b>
Restoration Accounts		
General Restoration Fund	\$14,982.36	\$14,984.05
Time Capsule Fund	\$-369.35	\$-369.35
Foulks House Fund	\$34,655.02	\$34,655.02
Reese School Fund	\$500.28	\$500.28
<b>Total Account Balance:</b>	<b>\$49,768.31</b>	<b>\$49,770.00</b>
Museum Store Account	\$3,510.54	\$3,505.55
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$69,572.02</b>	<b>\$66,572.02</b>
Rhoads School Account:		
Operating Fund:	\$1,395.85	\$1,395.85
Scholarship Fund:	\$3,728.82	\$3,923.30
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$5,124.67</b>	<b>\$5,319.15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$74,696.69</b>	<b>\$71,740.13</b>

**Rhoads School Report  
Merry Leverton**



Rhoads School Established 1872

We had a wonderful break over the winter holiday. We are now we are in full swing as we begin hosting students nearly every day. The Living History Program is such a success that we have become a model for other programs in the area. In January we hosted representatives from the East Contra Costa Historical Society who have recently completed renovations on their own one room school. They are beginning to set up their program and came to observe. Thank you to docent Susan Hernandez for being willing to host these visitors and go over the program with them.

Welcome to Wally and Chris Stropp as new members of the Rhoads School Board. Wally and Chris have both recently retired from the Elk Grove Unified School District. Wally will serve as one of our fire starters. Chris will share her many talents and skills to help us with various projects.

In the upcoming months you will see some work being done on the picket fence around the school. Jim Entrican has met with a local Boy Scout who will be repairing the fence pickets and replacing the posts as his Eagle Scout Project. This is very much appreciated and will extend the life of the current fence long enough for us to explore and fund a more permanent fence.

Thank you for your continuing support of the school. We appreciate your contributions to the scholarship fund and the building fund. We would welcome your support as volunteers as well. We still need a substitute fire starter and teacher docent volunteers. Please contact Merry Leverton at [marvis10@juno.com](mailto:marvis10@juno.com) for more information.

## Just My Opinion —Tom Russell

As our population grows, we have a responsibility to protect that history which made our community, our town and eventually our city. As we lose our older generation, we lose the recollection, the stories and the first person knowledge of our past. Our local history is in jeopardy of being lost not only through personal recollection but through the lack of education about Elk Grove and our physical structures. Our historic structures seem to be thought of as just old buildings in need of being replaced by newer ones that meet the new generational needs.

I watched a little internet clip on the loss of historic places to the wrecking ball. The original Walt Disney Studio where Donald Duck was born and 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' was created is no longer there. Nearly gone forever was the Freedmen's Cemetery where hundreds of newly freed African Americans were buried between 1864 and 1869, then forgotten, then paved over only to be discovered generations later. The Hancock Manor, home of John Hancock who was the Governor of Massachusetts and the first signor of the Declaration of Independence, has been torn down and is now just a lawn behind a fence. Gone is Ebbets Field, the home of the Brooklyn Dodgers where so much baseball history was made; it is now just a commercial corner scrawled with graffiti. The main theme of this clip being: is this how we are to remember and teach our children history? One impressive icon I will never forget in my lifetime was the historic Alhambra Theater and the needless destruction of this beautiful building torn down to make a parking lot for a grocery store.

When I first became interested in Elk Grove history, I was told that no matter how much we would like to preserve our historic structures, "you can't save everything". Although this may be very true, there is a breaking point where enough is enough! If we lose much more, we won't have anything to leave future generations. To make an impression and have a learning experience, one must be able to see, feel and touch in order to absorb the full importance of our history whether it be national or local.

The problem with saving our historic structures is: Who will do it? First, you must have an owner who has pride of ownership and is willing to invest in the restoration and upkeep of a historic building. In many cases, government regulations make it difficult to justify keeping and restoring a historical structure. It can be very difficult to see our historical structures succumb to the wrecking ball because they sit on property that is potentially a new source of taxation, a revenue source for new development or a liability for a quick land turnover. When I hear people speak about land and structures as a "product", I can't help but feel they have a total disconnect with the community they are in.

We teach our local children about our nation's history beginning with the Mayflower, the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the migration westward. I think this is where the teaching of history tends to start going downhill somewhat. Elk Grove had a great history and is worthy of having time spent on it in the Elk Grove school history classes, especially if we are to instill in students a pride of community. This area played a big part in the development of the Central Valley as a farming and ranching community. The teaching of our Elk Grove history, from the very beginnings through to our Cityhood may bring a better appreciation of what we have remaining here in our community. We have the Rhoads School and the Stage Stop Museum which gives us a peek into our historic past, but we need to turn the community attitude around in their understanding of the past and provide a better comprehension of why we should preserve our history and our heritage.

No, we can't save everything, but we can learn enough so we can know what we have lost. What many have forgotten is that they chose to come here so learn something about it; know where you live. As Dr. Carl Sagan said **"You have to know the past to understand the present."**



## Future of the Reese School

As you probably know, the 1884 Reese School sits in Heritage Park. It was moved onto the site in 2006 and awaits restoration funding, which isn't forthcoming anytime soon. Meanwhile, the historical building continues to deteriorate without a plan for its future. We welcome members to come forward and be part of the planning process. What do you see as the school's future in Elk Grove? If you can be part of a planning committee to determine the Reese School's fate, please contact Barbara Claire at 683-3604 or email her at [beclaire@surewest.net](mailto:beclaire@surewest.net). A tentative meeting is planned for April 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the museum.



## EGHS Board Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2014

### Call to Order: EGHS President Barbara Claire

- Minutes of January 13 were approved as submitted.
- SMUD bill approved for \$281.00; an additional \$471.13 approved for security system labor charges (total \$4,123.13). Treasurer's report approved as submitted.
- CSD Update--Rich Lozano expects that we will get some help with insurance costs and is waiting for an e-mail confirmation. The City plans for a sidewalk from the new sound wall to the gate. He thought it would be helpful if someone from the Society gave a presentation at one of their Board meetings. Barbara will work with him to make arrangements.

### Committee Reports:

- Annual Yard Sale--Carmel Silva's daughter has some items to donate. Mary Bulford suggested checking with Discovery Shop about taking more valuable items on consignment.
- Haunted Stage Stop--Jeanette shared ideas for next year and presented a proposed budget of \$5,000, which the Board approved. Jim said if we get some grant funds that will defray some of the costs.
- Programs for General Meeting--Barbara announced the details for the Governor's Mansion Tour on February 22. Diane Borden volunteered to arrange a speaker for our March meeting.
- Publishing-- Barbara has updated the Self-Guided Tour Booklet.
- Spring Tea Committee--Claudia Johnson presented a report in Sally's absence. Tickets are on sale now. Raffle and auction gifts and sponsorships are being solicited.

### New Business:

- Chamber Luncheon--Barbara and Brookelea attended and they provided copies of brochures and flyers about our events which will be given to new Chamber members. One of our cookbooks was given as a raffle prize.
- CDBG and Community Service Grant Funding Request for 2014-2015--Jim will meet with Barbara and Jeanette regarding grant requests. He would like to consider purchasing a new computer and printer; funds could be requested through a grant.
- Dedicated Benefit for the Elk Grove Historical Society--We will be participating with the Red Door in their first Annual Antique Flea Market and Vintage Trailer Show on March 22 from 9 AM to 3 PM in the Old Town Plaza. We are guaranteed \$3,000 from the Red Door for our help (6-8 people) in manning the door for people attending. Jim will contact docents to sign up.
- Lincoln Highway Association--Barbara was contacted by the Association for us to have the Museum available for them in July 2015 as we did last year.
- Plans for Reese School--Barbara would like to have us start discussing plans and ideas for the Reese School and suggested we have a committee formed to do so.
- Whitelock Interchange--Joan Freedman of Gardeners of the Grove will gather information and report to the club. We can get this information from her.

**President Barbara Claire adjourned the meeting.**

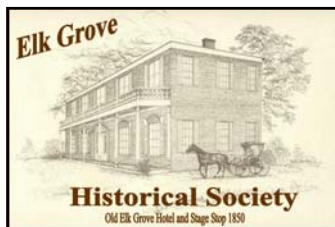
## The Railroad Through Elk Grove



At the January 20 general meeting representatives of the Pacific Coast Chapter of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society gave an informative presentation on the history of the railroad in California as well as Elk Grove, specifically. On display at the museum through September are pictures and memorabilia of California's railroad and cable car systems; and photos of the train wrecks that Southern Pacific would stage at the California State Fair between 1913 and 1917. Also on display are pictures of our local train station, the Freight Office screen door and the Schedule Board from the Elk Grove Station.

Pictured from left to right: Stan Kistler, Bill Lugg and his wife, Irene of the Pacific Coast Chapter of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society.

The Stage Stop Gazette  
Elk Grove Historical Society  
Post Office Box 562  
Elk Grove, CA 95759



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Design & Layout: Barbara Claire  
Printing: Jim Entrican, Jeanette Lawson  
and Barbara Claire

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We're on the web  
[www.elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com](http://www.elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com)

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**New Member and Membership Renewal Form**

Elk Grove Historical Society  
P.O. Box 562

Elk Grove, CA 95759

Phone: 916-685-8115

E-Mail:

[eghs@elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com](mailto:eghs@elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com)

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Museum Open the first Saturday of  
each month or by Appointment

\*\*\*\*\*

Research Library is now open by  
Appointment Only

To schedule an appointment ,

E-mail:

[eghs@elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com](mailto:eghs@elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com)

Or

[msjlaw@comcast.net](mailto:msjlaw@comcast.net)

Or

Call 916-685-8115

\*\*\*\*\*

Elk Grove House & Stage Stop Museum  
Is located at  
9941 East Stockton Blvd.

Adjacent to the West Entrance of Elk  
Grove Regional Park

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**If this is a business membership, please complete the following**

**Business Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Types of Membership and Fee Structure Check one:**

Individual Person .....\$20.00

Family Group.....\$30.00

Student (full time under 25).....\$15.00

Senior Citizen (65 and over) .....\$15.00

Business, Corporation, Association .... \$30.00

Lifetime (Member and Spouse) .....\$400.00

**Note: EGHS is a California Non-Profit Corporation.  
Dues may be deductible under IRS Code 501(c)3.**