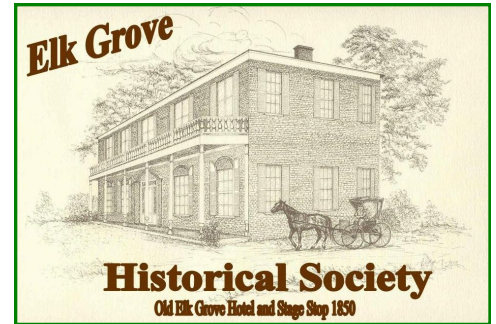


A PUBLICATION OF THE  
ELK GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

# The Stage Stop Gazette



Volume 36 Issue 1-2

## Jim Entrican Receives Mayor's Volunteer Award

At a City Council meeting in October Jim Entrican received the Mayor's Volunteer Award in Arts, Culture and Heritage.



Councilmembers: Steve Detrick, Robert Trigg, Mayor Gary Davis, Jim, Patrick Hume, Jim Cooper

Jim is a Past President of the Elk Grove Historical Society and is currently our Facilities Director where he's instrumental in moving our restoration projects along in Heritage Park as funds become available. He arranges for our community's Boy Scout troops to help us with projects so

Happy New Year  
**2015**

they can earn their Eagle Scout badges. He also does whatever is needed to keep the Rhoads School maintained and has long been one of the early morning fire starters during the school season.

Jim puts in countless hours on the museum grounds doing whatever is necessary to maintain the buildings and grounds. He is dedicated to the Elk Grove Historical Society and its mission and is the first person to volunteer wherever and whenever needed. Some of Jim's family, including wife Annaclare, as well as some of the Historical Society members were on hand to congratulate Jim on his award.



## Thanks to Everyone!!

As my time as President comes to an end, I want to thank the board and the membership for their support.

Past President  
Barbara Claire

January—February 2015

## Meet Your 2015 Officers

At the November 17 general meeting, the following officers were elected: Brookelea Lutton, President; Claudia Johnson, First Vice President; Carol On, Second Vice President; Jeanette Lawson, Treasurer; Sally Bergen, Corresponding Secretary; and Diane Borden, Recording Secretary.



Standing: Claudia Johnson, Sally Bergen, Brookelea Lutton. Seated: Carol On and Jeanette Lawson.  
Not pictured: Diane Borden

## Planning Meeting - January 8

On January 8 the Board of Directors will be meeting to plan the year ahead: Budget, projects, events, programs, etc. All are welcome to attend. If you have suggestions on what you'd like to see the Society accomplish, or what topics or speakers you'd like to have at our general meetings, suggestions for day trips, or anything else, we would be pleased to have your input. If you are unable to attend, you may call Brookelea at 685-3368 or email her at blutton2@surewest.net. Come join us at 2:00 p.m. at the Carlton Senior Living, 6915 Elk Grove Blvd. on January 8.

**Calendar of Events for Jan-Feb 2015**

- January 8: Planning Meeting, 2 PM, Carlton Senior Living, 6915 Elk Grove Blvd. (park at Nugget)
- January 12: Board Meeting - 4:00 PM, Museum
- January 19: General Meeting, 6:30 PM, Carlton Senior Living, 6915 Elk Grove Blvd. (park at Nugget), Speaker from Spease Bees.
- February 7: Open for Tours Noon - 4 PM
- February 9: Board Meeting—4:00 PM, Museum
- February 16: General Meeting, 6:30 PM, check web site for more details.

**Save the Date!**

The second annual **Old Town Elk Grove Vintage Trailer Show & Antique Flea Market** will be held on Saturday, March 21, so mark your calendars. This is presented by the Red Door Antique Store and a portion of the proceeds will be shared with the Elk Grove Historical Society. This event was such a huge success last year that we anticipate the same in 2015.

**Rhoads School Report  
Merry Leverton**

Rhoads School Established  
1872

On December 1 the School Board and Docents gathered at the Elk Grove House and Stage Stop Museum to recognize the years of service given to the Rhoads School by Elaine Wright, Board Member who recently retired and Meg Waegell who served many years as a docent and most recently as the Curator for the school. Both ladies have provided many hours of service and contributed their talents to help make the Living History Program successful. Many of the items on display at the school belong to Meg Waegell. We appreciate her and her family for allowing us to share these items from the past with visitors at the school.

The Rhoads School has been fairly quite during November and December but we are looking forward to a busy new year beginning with several classes in January then mid-February we have classes scheduled for most days through May. The docents and fire starters will all be kept busy serving our student visitors.

If you are interested in joining the Rhoads School Board or working as a docent, please contact Merry Leverton at [merryleverton@frontier.com](mailto:merryleverton@frontier.com) for more information.

**Treasurer's Report: Jeanette Lawson**

<b>Operating Accounts</b>	<b>Nov 1, 2014</b>	<b>Dec 5, 2014</b>
General Operating Fund	\$6,524.49	\$8,540.26
Wightman Memorial Fund	\$10,000.00	\$8,311.59
<b>Total Account Balance:</b>	<b>\$16,524.49</b>	<b>\$16,851.85</b>
<b>Restoration Accounts</b>		
General Restoration Fund	\$22,863.14	23,183.30
Foulks House Fund	\$44,039.01	\$44,089.01
Reese School Fund	\$500.28	\$500.28
<b>Total Account Balance:</b>	<b>\$67,402.43</b>	<b>\$67,772.59</b>
<b>Museum Store Account</b>	<b>\$1,389.66</b>	<b>\$1,021.99</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$85,316.58</b>	<b>\$85,646.43</b>
<b>Rhoads School Account:</b>		
Operating Fund:	\$852.87	\$706.24
Scholarship Fund:	\$2,096.49	\$2,224.07
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$2,944.36</b>	<b>\$2,930.31</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$88,260.94</b>	<b>\$88,576.74</b>

**New Members**

Christine Longrigg

**Spease Bees Talk in January**

A representative from Spease Bees will be our quest speaker at the General Meeting on January 19th.

Here's how their story began.

Quite by accident, some beekeepers stopped by one day and asked us if we'd be willing to let them winter their bees on our property. In exchange, the beekeepers offered 4 gallons of honey (that's a lot of honey for a single family). That Spring and Summer, the bees were transported off our property to orchards in the local area and returned late in Autumn. Again, in exchange, we received four gallons of honey. Now, we had a lot of honey! At dinner one evening someone said, "Let's sell the honey... We'll call the company, 'Spease Bees Honey Company.'" The name stuck, we developed a label and it took off from there.

**Local Honey for Local Good**

Bees work hard to benefit and protect their hive. Everything they do has some benefit to their hive - their community. Spease Bees Honey Company believes we should do the same. We want to make our community a better place to live by helping improve the literacy of local children. As a result, a portion of our profits are donated to the Laguna Sunrise Rotary Foundation where that money will be used to purchase dictionaries for 3rd graders, fund playwriting workshops for 4th graders and support the Reading Buddies program.

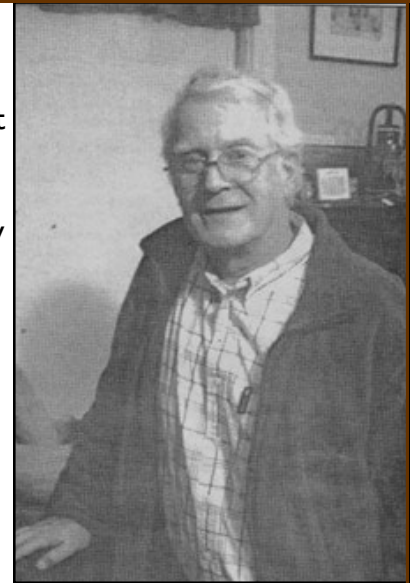




## A Tribute to Tom Russell

On November 29, 2014 the Elk Grove Historical Society lost a real gem. Tom Russell, along with his wife Sandi, joined the Society around 1994 and he served as its President in 2001-2003 and again in 2005. He was an intermittent contributor to the *Stage Stop Gazette* with his column "In My Opinion" where he wrote about his thoughts on preserving history. Most recently he was the Society's historian and archivist and knew almost anything you wanted to know about Elk Grove (or history in general). If he didn't have the answer, you can bet he'd do some research and get right back to you. During the last few months Tom left his last bits of historical research for us as he began emailing historical newspaper articles he'd found about the areas and people in and around Elk Grove.

Tom was always willing to help out during our monthly open houses. Usually he'd be the "constable" and hold down the jail, but he'd also hold court inside the museum. It was during breaks in tourists that we got our history lessons. With Tom's passing, we lost a valuable historical resource. We will miss him.



From *Elk Grove Citizen* 2005

From Dennis Buscher:

I first met Tom when he and Sandi joined the EG Historical Society. Tom did not know much about the history of Elk Grove, but was very interested in hearing the speakers talk about Elk Grove, and began to video tape the talks so there would be a copy for future reference. This led to Tom's interviewing the senior residents and developing an extensive knowledge on the history of Elk Grove and the residents. This knowledge was immensely helpful in the Historical Society as well as for the Elk Grove Historical Preservation Committee. As treasurer of the Historical Society, the only disagreements Tom and I ever had was over spending money. While I consider myself to be a fiscal conservative, Tom was an ultraconservative. He seemed to think that once money is put in the bank, it should stay there. Sadly, Elk Grove has lost one of its devoted historians.

From Barbara Claire:

Did you know Tom would work for cookies? When I needed someone to work as a docent in the jail I would ask Tom if he wanted to be sheriff for a day. He, of course, would correct me, saying that he couldn't be the sheriff as that was Sacramento County, but he could and would be a constable and his payment had to be cookies. I asked him what his favorite cookie was and he said "the round ones". It was Girl Scout Cookie time and they have a cookie named "Thanks A Lot", which is what I gave to Tom. He enjoyed them! In 2012 the original Elk Grove Jail turned 100 and we thought it was fitting that we updated our little booklet on the jail. Tom introduced me to the California Digital Newspapers and helped resolve the question of when the prison ship that housed our jail cells really sank. It turned out that the information provided by Sacramento County was incorrect and we were able to find the actual newspaper article which wrote about the sinking ship. Because of this I continued, with Tom's help, to research the digital newspapers from the 1800s in hopes of putting together a booklet on the Elk Grove House.

From Elizabeth Pinkerton:

For several years, the South Carolina-based Arcadia Publishing Company's office in San Francisco had asked me to do a book for them about Elk Grove. I kept turning them down, but one day, I discussed their project with Tom Russell, and he thought it was great and that I should look into it. The West Coast editor came to Elk Grove and met with Tom and me at BT's in Old Town, and we thought that the way he described the project was good. The editor really liked Elk Grove and wanted to include our city as one of the Arcadia

## A Tribute to Tom Russell

cities. Tom offered to help me, and he did in many ways, and as a result the book, *Images of America - Elk Grove*, was published in 2007. I donated most of the royalties to the Elk Grove Historical Society because of Tom's help and the use of some Society pictures. It was an interesting project, and I learned a lot from it. If it had not been for Tom's encouragement I am quite certain that I would not have done the book. We will all miss Tom Russell's support for our history related projects.

From Lorraine Croup:

When I moved to Elk Grove in 2002 my sister, Lucille Christesen, invited me to a picnic with the Elk Grove Historical Society where I met Tom and Sandi. At that time they were very involved in the Society. I remember at every event the two of them were very much in evidence. Whenever anything went wrong, "call Tom", or if we couldn't find something inside or outside, "call Tom". In the past year Tom was very busy updating our computer records. This man will be sorely missed by all of us at the Society.

From Brookelea Lutton:

Tom was such a soft-spoken man that kept you enthralled as he told you about some aspect of Elk Grove's history. With that same enthralling nature, he told me all about some of his and Sandi's travels throughout Europe, this as my husband and I were planning our first European trip. Sometimes he was quiet as a mouse when he worked at the computer downstairs at the museum. There were several times that I crept downstairs only to be greeted with a friendly "hello," which startled me! Then there was a time while working on my family's history story that I needed some clarification about a time in history that I just wasn't understanding. "Tom will know!" So I sent an email asking him what he thought. Soon an email arrived and I got a most interesting perspective that helped in my understanding of my own family's story. No doubt, we will all miss Tom Russell: historian, "constable," archivist, friend.

From Jim Entrican:

Tom and I met at Camden neighborhood as we both lived there in the 1990s. He talked me into joining the Camden Neighborhood Association Board. Then he talked me into becoming president of the Camden Board. And then he talked to me about joining the Historical Society. The next thing I know I'm president of the Elk Grove Historical Society, but Tom was always by my side. He has been a major influence on my life. I do miss him every day.



Tom and Jim Entrican. Spring Tea 2011

## EGHS Board Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2014

### Call to Order: EGHS President Barbara Claire

#### Announcements:

- Barbara shared the sad news of the passing of Tom Russell, a past President and long-time member of the Society. (See Tribute on page 3.)
- Strauss Festival Board's Christmas Party will be held at the Museum on December 14.

**Minutes:** Minutes of November 10 were approved as submitted.

#### Treasurer's Report:

- It was approved to pay Santa \$200 for his services (he will purchase more presents with this money).
- Net profit from Black Tie & Santa event was \$ 2,365.50.
- Deanna Reeve, who cleans our bathrooms, would like to decorate them in a style more old fashioned similar to the period of the museum. Board approved a \$300 budget for her to work with.
- Board approved reprinting 1,000 copies of our brochures for a total of \$270.
- The Treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

#### Rhoads School:

- The Board had their Christmas party at the Museum and they honored Elaine Wright and Mig Waegell.
- There will be a "cakeless" bake sale to raise funds for scholarships.
- Twelve scholarships were given this year (\$160 for each school). Scholarship criteria: At least 75% of the students are receiving meals and it is not economically possible for the students to participate in the program.

#### CSD:

- Rich Lozano reported that CSD has been out in the community delivering toys in Elk Grove and Galt.
- Gil Albani will be President next year. Rich hopes he will be our representative again.

#### Committee Reports:

- Bylaws -The Board approved our revised bylaws as corrected.
- Old Fashioned Christmas –246 people came for the first weekend. The second weekend had an unprecedented 436 people come through!

#### New Business:

- Options were discussed for a ballroom display upstairs in the museum for 2015. It was also suggested to have a Miwok and/or a hops display.
- Also discussed was having wine and beer tasting in the spring.
- We will be pursuing nonprofit grant opportunities through the City of Elk Grove; we will also apply for all our events when the City provides details.
- Board approved purchase of a tablet for charge card purchases in the gift store. They are \$179 on Amazon.
- Dr. Bob has arranged for a stereo sound system to use in our ballroom at no charge. We could also use it as a PA system.
- Jim will move the electronic organ into the museum. Parts of it are stored in the Foulks House and jail.
- Jeanette Lawson thanked Barbara for doing such a great job as our President and complimented her on all her accomplishments in moving us forward on our goals.

**President Barbara Claire adjourned the meeting.**



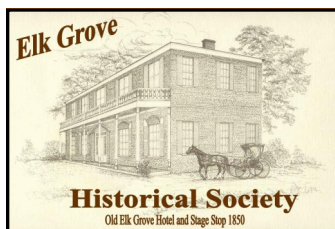
#### Research Library

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



A Very Big Thank You to all our members and volunteers who helped make the Old Fashioned Christmas a great success. If you'd like to help out, please contact us at 685-8115 or e-mail us at [eghs@elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com](mailto:eghs@elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com).

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



\*\*\*\*\*  
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Design & Layout: Barbara Claire  
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Museum Open the first Saturday of  
each month or by Appointment  
\*\*\*\*\*g\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

Adjacent to the West Entrance of Elk  
Grove Regional Park

#### New Member and Membership Renewal Form

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

☐ Call me to volunteer! Areas of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: EGHS is a California Non-Profit Corporation.

Dues may be deductible under IRS Code 501(c)3.

Make checks payable to the Elk Grove Historical Society