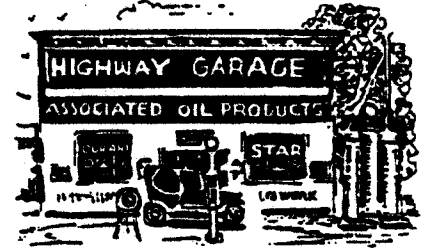


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LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD



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" HELP SAVE YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW "

NEWSLETTER

MEMBERSHIP OCT 1 TO SEPT 30: FAMILY \$10, INDIVIDUAL \$7, SENIOR \$3
JUNIOR \$3, LIFE \$150, PATRON \$100, SPONSOR \$25, LIBRARY \$5

November 1995

Vol. XXIV

No. 2

from the 1915 and 1923 Grizzly Bear (a magazine of the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West).

CALENDAR

Thursday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Sunday, November 12, 1-3 p.m.
Open House at the Carnegie Library
Exhibit of artifacts from the Maitland Henry collection. 1996 calendar "From the Editor's Desk" featuring photographs from the collection will be on sale. Also a new booklet, "Recollections of a Pioneer Mother", a life story of Mary Ann Harlan Smith, will be for sale. The Art Gallery will have new works of fine art and fine handcrafts for sale as well. The Gallery will be open from 11:30-4:00 (normal hours). Refreshments will be served from 1-3 p.m.

Mary Ann Harlan Smith was born in Wayne County, Indiana on October 8, 1826. When she was nineteen, she and her family came across the Great Plains to settle in California. This booklet, with some additions and illustrations, tells her story in her own words.

These are the reminiscences of one pioneer woman, and Mrs. Smith's experiences are truly extraordinary because she participated in events that occurred at an exciting time in California history. Everyday life, the California gold rush, prominent people, politics, the early Spanish, trade with the native Americans, the battle of Santa Clara, modes of travel, Virginia City, Nevada - all these and more are part of Mary Ann (Harlan) Smith's story.

Editor's Note: Mary Ann Smith ultimately resided in Livermore.



The article promised last month from the Farmer's Union will instead be in the December newsletter. This month in conjunction with our Open House featuring the Maitland Henry collection, we are presenting this brief story about Maitland and his father, Arthur Henry, and their association with the Livermore Herald.

Maitland Henry

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS
REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR LHG MEMBERSHIP. YOUR DUES HELP US OPERATE THE HISTORY CENTER AND MAINTAIN OUR EXHIBITS AND PUBLICATIONS. IF THERE IS A DATE ON YOUR LABEL AND IT IS OTHER THAN 96 OR LATER, THEN YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS DUE FOR RENEWAL.

The Livermore Heritage Guild is offering a new publication for sale, "Recollections of a Pioneer Mother", the life story of Mary Ann Harlan Smith transcribed by Anna T. Siig and G. B. Drummond. This 34 page booklet contains articles originally

This year the 1996 Livermore Heritage Guild calendar features photographs from the Maitland R. Henry collection. The Henry family

has a long association with Livermore and its history. In 1899 Arthur L. Henry, Maitland's father, purchased the Livermore Herald from W.H. Ellis and Shermon Wright. At that time the Herald was a local publication that was printed weekly. Started in 1877 by W.P. Bartlett the Livermore Herald was the second paper to be printed in the valley. The first, the Livermore Enterprise founded in 1874, lasted only two years.

Born in Sacramento in 1868, Arthur L. Henry later lived in Oakland for a short time before finally moving to Dixon, Ca. It was at this time he entered into an apprenticeship with the Dixon Tribune. Mr. Henry would eventually become editor and finally publisher of that paper before coming to Livermore.

The Livermore Herald grew and matured under Arthur Henry's management, which is probably why it outlasted its rival the Livermore Echo (1887-1918). Mr. Henry was influential in many organizations in town and well respected by all the people in Livermore who knew him. He was instrumental in the founding of the Livermore Rodeo Association and active in the Boy Scouts Council. He served several years as Town Clerk for the Board of Trustees of the town (Livermore did not become a city until 1930).

In 1921, upon his father's death, Maitland Henry became the editor-publisher of the Livermore Herald. His column "Reflections" with the byline "He Who Lacks Vision Perishes" covered a wide variety of topics. It was a popular column, showing his wit and love for this valley. Maitland, like his father, was an active member in the community. He held numerous offices including those with the

Livermore Lions, Rotary, Stockman's Rodeo Association, Chamber of Commerce and a trustee on the Livermore High School Board. Maitland Henry's influence extended outside the valley as well. In 1934 he was elected president of the California Newspaper Publishers Association. In 1965 Mr. Henry retired selling the paper to Floyd Sparks. The name was later changed to the Tri-Valley Herald. In 1976, Maitland Henry passed away.

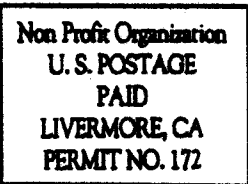
In these times with television and computers it's easy to forget that the newspapers were the primary way people kept in touch with their community and the rest of the world. Getting the local paper to press was a lot of hard work with a small staff. The paper was an essential part of everyone's life. Newspapers were a primary influence on both the political and social climate of a city. The Livermore Herald played an important part in this city's development.

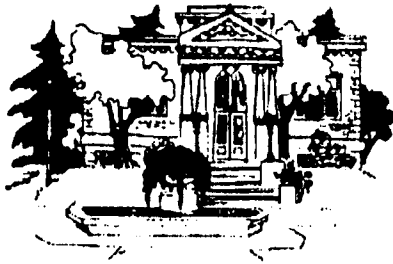
Maitland Henry was also an avid historian and collector of information on Livermore and its history. He maintained extensive files in his home in Livermore. He was a longtime advocate for a local historical society. He was also an early supporter in the planning of the Livermore Centennial in 1976. Unfortunately he did not live to see the celebration.

Several years ago Arthur Henry, Maitland's son, graciously donated much of his fathers collection to the Livermore Heritage Guild. On Nov 12th there will be an Open House with a small portion of Maitland Henry's collection on display. Also the 1996 Livermore Heritage Guild calendar "From The Editor's Desk" featuring photographs from the collection will be on sale.



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December 1995

Vol. XXV

No. 3

CALENDAR

Thursday, January 11, 7:30 p.m.

LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

The Livermore Heritage Guild wants to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope 1996 brings good fortune and good health to all.

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR LHG MEMBERSHIP. YOUR DUES HELP US OPERATE THE HISTORY CENTER AND MAINTAIN OUR EXHIBITS AND PUBLICATIONS.

Nearly a hundred years ago there was talk of a rail line between Oakland and Livermore. Perhaps our BART extension will be open for the 100th anniversary of this article!

Excerpted from The Livermore Herald, October 21, 1899

Rapid Transit a Possibility

In another part of the paper we make mention of the probability of an early extension of the Haywards electric line to Niles and possibly into the Livermore Valley. Now comes a rumor of a line from Oakland through the hills by way of Dublin to Livermore, which will do a combination freight and passenger business, and reduce the time to San Francisco by a more direct route.

The Enquirer has the following to say of the rumor: "Does the Realty Syndicate contemplate

an extension to its proposed crosstown road along Fortieth Street which will skirt the foothills and finally tap the rich region in the Santa Clara Valley?" That is the question which is at present causing no little speculative talk among real estate agents and property owners who hold land along the line of the syndicate's proposed operations.

"It is probable that the talk of a still further extension through the county district eastward, across the county line and into Santa Clara Valley has resulted from these negotiations with the residents of Allendale, which is located on the Redwood Road about a mile from the termination of the Transit Company's line on Fruitvale Avenue (in Oakland).

"What lends color to the talk of such an extension is the fact that the Transit Company probably could if it desired, acquire the franchise granted E.P. Vandercook by the Board of Supervisors in August of 1895. This franchise gives Vandercook the right to construct a line of electric road from a point midway between Allendale and Fruitvale Avenue to Livermore by way of Dublin and Haywards. Although Vandercook has never done any work on the proposed road, the Board of Supervisors, as far as can be learned, have not revoked the franchise.

"From the point of view of a business proposition it has been held that such a road with an outlet at a trans-bay ferry terminal from Emeryville would be a paying investment. Freight as well as passengers could be picked up all along the route, and much of the business now handled by the Southern Pacific because it is the only carrier, diverted to a more convenient system of transportation.

The 1996 LHG Calendars are now available. This year's calendar features photographs from the Maitland Henry collection who was an avid historian and collector of information on Livermore and

its history as well as being Editor of the Livermore Herald. Price: \$6.00 plus tax. These calendars have become collectors items with many of our members.

LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD 1996 CALENDAR



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

 **LIVERMORE
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GUILD**
"Help Save Yesterday for Tomorrow"

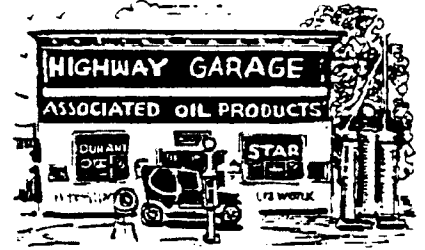
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January 1996 Vol. XXV No. 4

CALENDAR

Thursday, February 8, 7:30 p.m.
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Saturday, February 24, 12-2:00 p.m.
Annual General Meeting at El Lorito's
Speaker: Jamie Bennett, who will talk about the Carnegie Brick Works
Lunch will be served. Contact: Barbara Bunshah at 449-9927

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Don't forget to get your copy of the 1996 Heritgae Guild Calendar featuring photographs from the Maitland Henry Collection (Maitland Henry was editor of the Livermore Herald). This calendar, "From the Editor's Desk", may be purchased for \$6.00 plus tax at the Carnegie Library. If you would like the calendar mailed to someone, we will do that as well for an additional \$1.50. These calendars make great gifts.

The Heritage Guild fire truck is back in operation. Bill Junk has been painstakingly trying to find someone to repair the old water pump. After several attempts and several months, he was finally successful. So now our fire truck can participate in the parades again. Thanks Bill! Gary Drummong has ordered the last of the new windows needed for the Duarte Garage. In the next several months,

we will be installing these windows completing the project of replacing all the windows in the garage which started several years ago! Thanks Gary!

The Annual General Meeting will be held at El Lorito's and will feature Jamie Bennett, an archeologist with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, who has developed an excellent slide show and presentation on the Carnegie Brick Works. This presentation was recommended to us by several members of the Tracy Historical Group. A lunch will be served costing \$10 per person. Seating is limited for 35 people. This event is sure to be a sellout. **Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Carnegie Library (on Third St.) as they will not be available at the door. Please choose one entree below when your ticket is purchased.** For more information, call Barbara Bunshah at 449-9927.

Menu choices:

A. Tostada supreme: a crisp flour tortilla shell filled with your choice of beef or chicken topped with lettuce, cheese, sour cream and guacamole

B. Luis Salad, shrimp or crab: Que bonita, try it half & half with shrimp & crab.

C. Chicken enchilada suiza topped with guacamole and sour cream, served with rice & beans

All entries include beverage (soft drink, ice tea, milk or coffee)

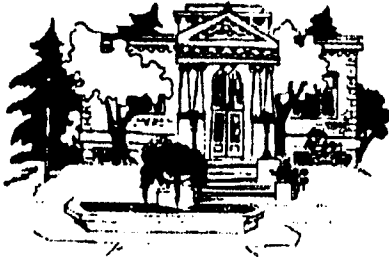


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February 1996 Vol. XXV No. 5

CALENDAR

Thursday, February 8, 7:30 p.m.
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Sunday, February 11, 11:30-4:00 p.m.
LAA Gallery & The History Center
Valentine's Party
Carnegie Park, 2155 Third St., Livermore
Enjoy refreshments, door prizes.
COME CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY!

Saturday, February 24, 12-2:00 p.m.
Annual General Meeting at El Lorito's
Speaker: Jamie Bennett, who will talk about the
Carnegie Brick Works
Lunch will be served. Contact: Barbara Bunshah
at 449-9927

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Don't forget to get your copy of the 1996 Heritage Guild Calendar featuring photographs from the Maitland Henry Collection (Maitland Henry was editor of the Livermore Herald). This calendar, "From the Editor's Desk", may be purchased for \$6.00 plus tax at the Carnegie Library. If you would like the calendar mailed to someone, we will do that as well for an additional \$1.50. These calendars make great gifts.

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February is the month for church celebrations in Livermore: The Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 125th year in our community the weekend of Feb. 10-11, and a women's group at St. Michael's Church will be 100 years old at the beginning of the month.

In honor of these anniversaries, the History Center will have an exhibit based on the relationship of the initial officers of the Presbyterian Church to this community. The exhibit will remain in place throughout the month of February, and we invite you to stop in and see it.

The following article takes note of the hundredth anniversary of:

THE YOUNG LADIES INSTITUTE

From the Livermore Echo of Jan. 16, 1896:

"A movement is on foot to organize a Council of the Young Ladies Institute in Livermore, and a meeting with that purpose in view will be held in St. Michael's Hall at 2 o'clock next Sunday afternoon."

The centennial history of St. Michael's: "People, Bricks and Timber" (1978) takes up the story:

[YLI] "spent the first 20 years getting firmly organized and helping with activities in the parish. They met twice a month in the old St. Michael's Hall. In 1916, when the large church was being built, the old hall had to be used again as a church, and the YLI moved to a new meeting place..." "From 1916 to 1949, YLI held its meetings at the Forester's Hall. These were turbulent years... The group stayed together through the flu epidemic, the great depression, and World Wars I and II..."

The Herald described the 50th anniversary dinner held by YLI in Feb. 1946 as follows:

"Special guest at the dinner held last Wednesday evening at the Country House which marked the completion of the golden jubilee celebration of Livermore Institute YLI,... was Mrs. Mary Murphy, only one of the four charter members present..."

"Livermore Institute (YLI) was organized February 2, 1896. Other charter members still living are Grand Past President Miss Mary Concannon of San Francisco, Mrs. Grace McKenney Owens of Oakland and Miss Angelita Augebere."

"Entertainment numbers included vocal solos by Miss Estelle Volponi and Mrs. C.G. Clarke, with Mrs. Wm., Foxworthy as accompanist."

"Another feature of the golden anniversary... was the visits of Grand President Miss Josephine V. Baratini of Modesto to the Institute on February 11th."

(The list of special visitors at the dinner included Institute officials from San Francisco, San Leandro and Niles).



The 50th Anniversary Dinner; (left to right: Mary Young Grass; Fr. Jas. J. O'Donnell; Mrs. Mary Murphy; Mrs. Gertrude Hock)



"Help Save Yesterday for Tomorrow"

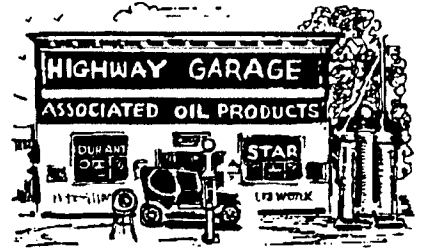
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March 1996 Vol. XXV No. 6

CALENDAR

Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Monday, March 25, 6-9:30 p.m.
Tri-Valley Sports Hall of Fame
Awards Banquet, Holiday Inn Pleasanton
Community Service Award: Maitland Henry
Pickup form at Carnegie Bldg.

Friends of the Livermore Library Book Sale
Friday, March 29 7-10 p.m. MEMBERS ONLY
(but you can join at the door)

Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday, March 31, noon to 4 p.m.

THE BARN, Pacific Ave., Livermore
ALL REGULAR PRICED BOOKS WILL BE
HALF PRICE ON SUNDAY

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Annual General Meeting: The presentation by Jamie Bennett on Corral Hollow and Carnegie was excellent. She has accumulated a number of interesting photos that many of us had never seen before. It was interesting to see how much industry was supported by Corral Hollow Canyon. She is planning to do her thesis on this subject and we hope to obtain a copy when completed. The canyon is rich with history and it's important that her efforts in documenting this are preserved.

Note the announcement regarding the Annual Auction. Clean out that garage or closet so you can make room for those things you're buying today that will end up in our future auctions! All kidding aside, your support in the past has been great. Once again we are asking for your donations.

.....

• 17TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AUCTION •
 • SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1996 •
 • Lincoln Highway Garage •
 • North L St. at Portola, Livermore •

• Your help is needed with donations of goods/ser- •
 • vices for the auction. All useable items (except •
 • books and clothing) will be accepted. Please call •
 • 447-4561 or 449-9927 to arrange for pickup. Your •
 • donations are tax deductible! •

• Don't forget this year we will again serve our fa- •
 • mous spaghetti dinner and the price will remain an •
 • affordable \$6.00. •

.....

At the beginning of this year's annual general meeting the following officers were elected for the 1996 term:

- Chairman: Tim Sage
- Vice Chairman: Gary Drummond
- Secretary: Barbara Bunshah
- Treasurer: Malvern Sweet
- Ways and Means: Larry Mauch
- Directors: Vonna Born, Duane Fuller, Susan Junk, Lorraine Raison, Karen Richardson, Henrietta Fankhauser, and Muriel Dean

Since it's tax time again, we thought you might enjoy this:

Excerpted from a Livermore newspaper
January 23, 1897

A HURRIED DEPARTURE
Experience of Two Revenue Collectors at the
Paris Vineyards

Two Internal Revenue collectors, G. Pendegrast and F. Henderson of San Francisco, visited Livermore Wednesday, and incidentally a number of wineries throughout the valley. At the Paris vineyards, Mr. Paris undertook to explain the use of dynamite that he kept in the wine building.

"See here, gentleman!" said the proprietor of the place, as he carelessly picked up some of the explosive, "I will explain the use of _____"

"Never mind, Mr. Paris" interjected one of the party, "we will take your word for it."

"But," continued Mr. Paris, "the stuff is safe enough in the hands of those who understand its use," and just for the fun of the thing, the vineyardist threw a stick of it against the walls of the building.

While the Revenue men were looking for an exit, Mr. Paris continued to demonstrate how really harmless the "stuff" was. Pendegrast and Henderson stared in holy horror when he calmly struck a match, but before it was applied the visitors had vanished. From a distance, Henderson shouted back: "Goodbye, Mr. Paris; I guess your winery is all right."

It was impossible to explode the sticks without the use of a cap.



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April 1996 Vol. XXV No. 7

CALENDAR

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Saturday, May 25, Lincoln Highway Museum
17th Annual Dinner and Auction Fundraiser for Lincoln Highway Museum. Open to the public.
Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. and Auction at 7:00 p.m.

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

.....
● **17TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AUCTION**
● **SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1996**
● **Lincoln Highway Garage**
● **North L St. at Portola, Livermore**
.....

● **Your help is needed with donations of goods/**
● **services for the auction. All useable items(except**
● **books and clothing) will be accepted. Please call**
● **447-4561 or 449-9927 to arrange for pickup.**
● **Your donations are tax deductible!**
.....

● **Don't forget this year we will again serve our**
● **famous spaghetti dinner and the price will re-**
● **main an affordable \$6.00.**
.....

The Vine Theatre on First Street has a long history with our community. We thought you would enjoy this 1956 article. Excerpted from Livermore Herald, 12/28/56

Livermore Theatre Has A Long, Colorful History

When the lights went on in the splendid new Vine Theatre Wednesday evening, it marked another eventful December date in the forty-eight year history of the popular show house.

The last week in December stands out three times in the theatre's long career, marking three opening events including as many changes of name.

The December 26th opening Wednesday, was almost exactly forty-three years actually less one day from the date it opened in the location at First Street between J and Livermore Avenue from which it has now moved.

OPENED IN 1908

History of the theatre started on August 22, 1908 when it was opened as the Bell Theatre in what was known as the Brewery Building on First Street, where Fisk's Apparel Shop is now located. Brass letters in the sidewalk mark the spot. It had been a brewery in its earlier career.

Isadore Durand was the pioneer showman who started the venture. He was an enterprising young fellow, who later won fame as an early-day airplane pilot and power boat racer.

His popularity was demonstrated less than three months later when fire destroyed the building on November 6th. He was badly burned while warning the D.E. Bernal family, which owned the building and resided in a portion of it. A dance was given for him, \$96.00 being raised to help him personally and on November 21st friends again rallied and held another dance to raise a fund to help him get the theatre started again.

NEW BELL THEATRE

On January 9, 1909, the New Bell Theatre opened in old McVicar Hall, itself later destroyed by fire, at Second and J Streets, on the spot now occupied by the building housing Dorothy's Fashion Center and Bargmann's Market.

Durand was manager and projection machine operator and Harold Brown sang the illustrated songs which were a feature of the earlier motion pictures, a feature which still lingers in the fond memory of those who attended shows in those days, as the audience always had a part in the singing—"In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree," "On the Banks of the Wabash," "Wait Til the Sun Shines, Nellie" and other popular ballads.

It was a gala night in Livermore on December 27, 1913 when the Bell opened in the Schenone Building on First Street, which it has just left. The late A.M. Bowles was then manager. He went far in the motion picture business, going from Livermore to San Francisco, where he managed several playhouses and finally became general manager for all Fox-West Coast Theatres in that city.

UNEVENTFUL

Livermore always had good programs, but otherwise the career of the theatre proved uneventful for nearly twenty years, except for a change of name to California, until an explosion in the projection room caused a disastrous fire on the morning of August 23, 1931, soon after the show house had been completely renovated at a cost of \$10,000.00.

Jas. B. Lima was manager at that time and again the community rallied for its leading entertainment enterprise. High school trustees endeavored to get approval of the use of the auditorium for temporary quarters and attempt was made to secure the Veterans Memorial Building.

Legal technicalities blocked both efforts and Lima opened in the old Sweeney Opera House, which later became another fire victim. It was located at East First and McLeod Streets, a portion of the building having been rebuilt and is now occupied by Viale's Market.

INTERIOR REBUILT

The interior of the show house had to be completely rebuilt and refurnished and it was opened December 30, 1931 as the State Theatre at another big community event, the late Mayor F. C. Lassen officiating for the ceremony.

June 10, 1941 was an eventful date in the theatre's history, it being purchased by the West Side Theatres, the owners ever since. Under this management there has been continual progress featuring the Valley Drive-in, the new Vine and the Jiffyburger snack bar as an added attraction. Southern Alameda County Theatres, Inc. was formed to operate the new theatre and the Jiffyburger.

TWO THEATRES

On three occasions Livermore has been a two-theatre town, all for short periods. Only eight days after Durand originally opened the Bell, another show started, in Sweeney Opera House, operated by the Orpheum Motion Picture Company with M. Clamy and John C. Simon in charge.

When the Bell moved from the Second Street location, the late Max Berlin opened in the vacated building the Photo-Play, which operated for a short time.

Somewhat earlier, starting September 20, 1913, the late Louis and Joseph Sachau operated a show in Sweeney Opera House for a short time. Prices were still 10 cents and 5 cents but soon after doubled, with special features and added attractions sometimes boosting the admission charge to 25 cents.

Before the days of sound music was required for the illustrated songs, to fill in while reels were being changed and for special features. The Bell proudly advertised an electric organ and the Orpheum countered with a \$200 phonograph.

COWBOYS, INDIANS

Cowboys and Indians were the first choice of motion picture audiences from the very start of pictures, retaining their popularity through half a century to today. Opening feature of the Orpheum in 1908 was "The Cowboy Elope-ment". The Sachau show opened with "The Range Riders" and when the California reopened as the State on December 30, 1931, a special feature was "The Indians Are Coming", ran as a serial for Sunday afternoon matinees.

When the Bell originally opened it announced two changes of program a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays, with the Orpheum advertising three, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and two months later going to four changes each week.

In the earlier days the machine operator at the picture show was a man above men among the younger fellows, the position carrying great prestige and being eagerly sought. One attraction was the opportunity to see all the shows free. A number of Livermore men, now mature, remember when they held the envied position, in most instances the first regular job of their careers.



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JUNIOR \$3, LIFE \$150, PATRON \$100, SPONSOR \$25, LIBRARY \$5

May 1996 Vol. XXV No. 8

CALENDAR

Thursday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Sunday, May 19, Open House at Ravenswood
The Livermore Recreation and Park District will hold a special Open House at Ravenswood Historic Site on Arroyo Road. For more information: 373-5700

Saturday, May 25, Lincoln Highway Museum
17th Annual Dinner and Auction Fundraiser for Lincoln Highway Museum. Open to the public. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. and Auction at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Livermore Art Association Art in the Vineyard hosted by Wente Vineyards Estate Winery at 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore

Saturday, June 1, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Livermore Art Association Studio Tour
Preview art work ahead of time at LAA Gallery (2155 3rd St.) and pick up map. Fee: \$1.00

Saturday and Sunday, July 13 & 14
Livermore Art Association presents
Art Under the Oaks hosted by Alden Lane Nursery at 981 Alden Lane, Livermore
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

17TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AUCTION
SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1996
Lincoln Highway Garage
North L St. at Portola, Livermore

HELP-We could still use more stuff!
It's not too late to donate goods so please check around your house for items you could donate.
Please call 447-4561 or 449-9927 to arrange for pickup. Your donations are tax deductible!
Don't forget this year we will again serve our famous spaghetti dinner and the price will remain an affordable \$6.00.

EMERGENCY HOURS AT CARNEGIE BLDG.

Due to a sewer leak, the Carnegie Bldg. (Livermore Heritage Guild and Livermore Art Association) will be open only 1-4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday until further notice.



The following letter was received from James A. (Bud) Lima, Class of 42 LUHS

Ref: Vol. XXV. No. 7

It was with great interest that I read your story on the Livermore Vine California State etc. Theatre. In particular, the fire of August 23, 1931. My father, James B. Lima was owner-manager of the theatre at that time and my cousin, Vince Porazzo, was the projectionist. You may not know, but the only entrance to the projection booth at that time was a ladder through a trap door in the ceiling of the men's rest room. The morning of the fire, Vince was in the booth preparing the film for the night's showing when it caught fire. The nitrate based film of that time burned like gun powder and the fire prevented Vince from getting to the trap door and exiting the booth. He broke one of the projection porthole windows and squeezed through dropping ten or more feet into the loge section of the audito-

rium and escaped with a badly burned and bruised arm. He sounded the alarm for the volunteer fire department and then drove to our home at 6th and M Streets to tell my father about the fire. They both returned to the scene of the fire and could do very little.

Your picture of Sweeney's Opera House in last years calendar brought back memories of the theatre operating there while the State was being rebuilt.

James A. (Bud) Lima

I would like to thank Mr. Lima for responding to the article that mentioned his father. It's always nice to get feedback from any articles that we run. In the future, we will try to include any responses in the newsletter. Once again, thanks.
From the Editor, Larry Mauch



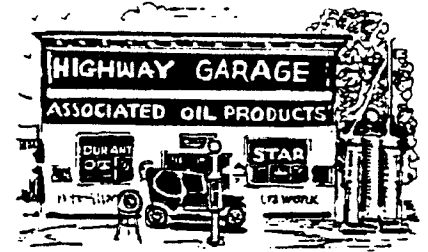
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" *HELP SAVE YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW* "

NEWSLETTER

MEMBERSHIP OCT 1 TO SEPT 30: FAMILY \$10, INDIVIDUAL \$7, SENIOR \$3
JUNIOR \$3, LIFE \$150, PATRON \$100, SPONSOR \$25, LIBRARY \$5

JUNE 1996

Vol. XXV

No. 9

CALENDAR

Thursday, June 13, 7:30 p.m.

LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Saturday and Sunday, July 13 & 14

Livermore Art Association presents

Art Under the Oaks hosted by Alden Lane Nursery
at 981 Alden Lane, Livermore

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, July 14

Open House at Ravenswood Historic Site,
Arroyo Road, Livermore

Costumed docents will tell the stories of the house
and its owners. Info: 373-5700

Sunday, August 11

Open House at Ravenswood Historic Site
Arroyo Road, Livermore
(see above for information)

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

We have returned to our normal hours at the Carnegie Bldg. The plumbing is fixed!

The Annual LHG Auction was once again a success. We served 83 dinners and raised over \$2,000 to support the Livermore Heritage Guild. Lynn Owens and Randy Griffith from the Livermore Fire Department were once again our auctioneers extraordinaire. We want to thank Lynn, Randy and all the other LHG staff for another great auction!

GIO'S TRATTORIA TO THE RESCUE!

Due to a mishap en route to the Auction at the Duarte Garage, about two-thirds of the meat sauce was lost (meatballs were under separate cover). Thanks to the generosity and prompt attention of Jeff Naleway at Gio's Trattoria (on First St.), an ample supply of his freshly-made pomodora sauce was donated to the Guild and dinner was served with barely a delay. The entire LHG staff wishes to thank Mr. Naleway for saving the day!



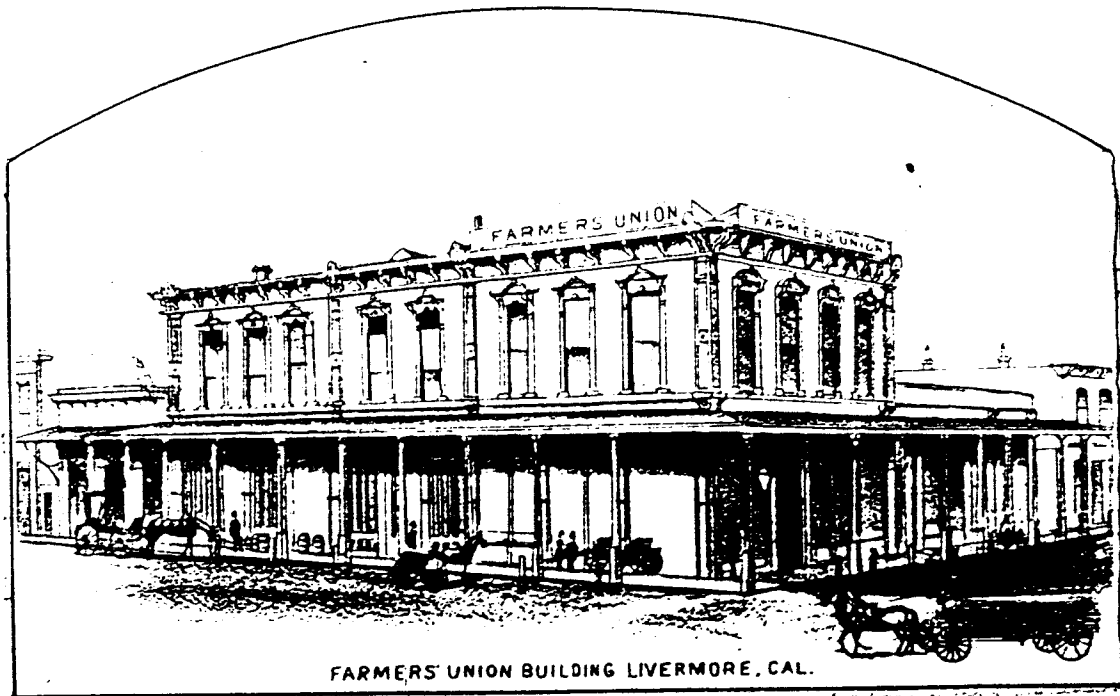
The Oldest Brick Building In Livermore

by Larry Mauch

and the Livermore Heritage Guild

In June 1875, G.W. Comegys opened his new cash store. Selling wagons, plows and other supplies the farmers might need, the store in later years would be known as the Farmers Union. The building, located at the corner of North Livermore Ave. and Railroad Ave., was torn down in 1939. The two story building was the first brick building in Livermore. In April 1876, the second brick building in town would be built next door on Railroad Ave. That building still stands today at 2160 Railroad Ave. making it the oldest brick building in Livermore

Jerome Vostrovsky had recently moved to Livermore when he opened his clothing store in May 1876 in the new brick building on Railroad Ave. An article in the Livermore Enterprise in September 1876, described the store as follows: "Mea-



Sketch from 1889 panoramic view of Livermore shows the brick building at 2160 Railroad Ave. on the far left side with the fancy awnings next to the Farmer's Union on the corner.

suring 60 X 26 feet the store was filled with city style, shelving and four counters. The store handled an extensive variety of dress materials, ladies requisites of every description, millinery and ready-made underclothing. They also handled house furnishing goods, carpets and bed furniture. Mr. Vostrovsky offered ready-made men's clothing with a superior stock of straw, linen and felt men's hats. The boot and shoe line, for both sexes of all sizes is no small branch of the business."

By January 1879, the store was operated by D. A. Mendenhall, the son of William Mendenhall, the founder of Livermore. In April 1880, Mr. Mendenhall held a meeting in the office of the store, formalizing the organization of the Livermore Baseball Club. D. A. Mendenhall was elected president, Norman McLeod, Secretary and Treasurer, W. Mendenhall, Captain. The local paper covered the event and announced the club would like to hear from similar organizations of neighboring towns. (The Livermore Baseball Club was assembled briefly in 1875; it apparently didn't last long). D. A. Mendenhall continued to operate

his store at the Railroad Ave. location until 1883. By June 1883, the store was relocated to the downstairs of the I.O.O.F building on First Street, the oldest wooden structure still standing downtown (built in 1874).

In May 1886, George True purchased the building on Railroad Ave. from Theodore Gorner and Joseph Wilkenson for \$1.00. (More than likely the building was used to settle a previous debt between the trio.) It is not clear what use, if any, Gorner and Wilkenson made of the building during their earlier ownership. (Wilkenson was in the furniture business with Gorner for many years on First Street). However, George True, a well known local vintner, was a shareholder in the Farmers Union Store located next door. When he purchased the building he more than likely leased the space back to the Farmers Union as storage. The 1888 Sanborn map shows the building as used for the storage of carriages(the Farmers Union did sell carriages). In 1889 the farmers Union was having financial difficulties and would soon close. George True leased his building next door in September of 1889 to the

New Store! New Goods!

This Space is Reserved For

J. VOSTROVSKY'

New Advertisement,
Dealer in

STAPLE and FANCY GOODS, CLOTHING,
GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS, BOOTS
and SHOES, WHITE GOODS, GLOVES,
HOSIERY, NOTIONS, MILLINERY
GOODS, LADIES AND MEN'S HATS,
ETC., ETC.

No Auction Goods

NEW GOODS, and I am bound to command
Purchasers by my LOW PRICES and close
margins. ONE PRICE TO ALL!

Store laden with fresh, new, stylish and
well assorted goods. Call and examine my
STOCK before making your purchases.

All goods warranted as represented.

J. VOSTROVSKY,
New Brick Store,
Livermore, Alameda Co., Cal.
my.20-ly.

Ad from 1876 Livermore Enterprise announcing the opening of Vostrovsky's store in his new brick building

Columbus Buggy Company. It appears the Columbus Buggy Company was formed to dispose of the carriages owned by the Farmers Union. A large ad in the Livermore Echo placed by the Columbus Buggy Company indicated the entire stock of carriages in the Farmers Union would be sold at auction on Sept 28, 1889. After the auction, the Columbus Buggy Company was mentioned no more.

The next known use of the building is in 1893 when it was used as a storage facility for grain. Sometime after that the building was vacated and remained that way until 1930. In 1926, A.W. Schmitt and H. Nichol森 purchased the building from Mrs. True's estate. In 1930 Mr. Schmitt opened a garage in the building, known as the Railroad Ave. Garage. The business continued until 1934.

Local legend has it that the pit located in the floor of the building is what's left of an early tunnel that ran to the jail nearby. More than likely the pit was added in the 1930's when the building was used as a garage in order to allow the mechanic to work under the cars.

Not much is known about the building between 1934 and 1963. In later years the building housed Jamison's Printing (1963-1977), Alpha Tile (1977-1989) and now Charlotte's Web (1989-Present).

If anyone can fill in any information regarding the use of the building at 2160 Railroad Ave. between the years of 1934 and 1963, please contact the Livermore Heritage Guild at 449-9927.

Editor's notes: The bricks used in constructing the building on Railroad Ave. probably came from Alexander Esden's brickworks. Esden was the original developer of the North side of town and established a brickworks in the immediate area. This would have been the first brickworks in Livermore. It appears it was only in business for a short time.

David Archer (D. A.) Mendenhall, born in 1857, was only 22 years old when he assumed operation of Vostrovsky's dry goods store. It is presumed his father, William Mendenhall, helped him get started. After relocating from Railroad Ave. in 1883, the store remained in operation on First Street until the late 1880's. After that time D. A. Mendenhall became a traveling salesman before finally relocating to Palo Alto where he operated a dry goods store there (Mendenhall & Company) for many years. David Archer Mendenhall, the fifth of William Mendenhall's ten children, and the last to pass away, died in 1942 in Palo Alto, Ca.

Next month we will feature the brick building still standing at 141 North Livermore Ave. It is around

the corner and next to the Farmers Union site. Built six months later, in September 1876, it was the third brick building built in Livermore. Together these three buildings were known as the Brick Block in Livermore. It would be over fifteen years before

any other brick buildings would be built in town. For more information about the Farmers Union see the January 1996 LHG newsletter. Copies can be obtained from our museum located in the old Carnegie Library on Third Street.

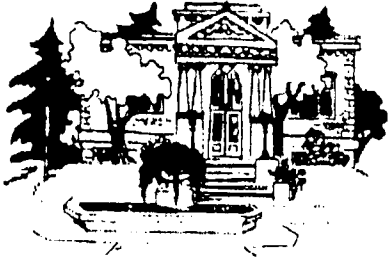


The oldest brick building in Livermore as it looks today located at 2160 Railroad Avenue. The building was built in April 1876. The fancy awnings shown in the 1889 panoramic view have long since disappeared.

 **LIVERMORE
HERITAGE
GUILD**
"Help Save Yesterday for Tomorrow"

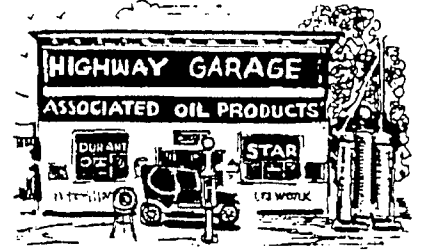
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JUNIOR \$3, LIFE \$150, PATRON \$100, SPONSOR \$25, LIBRARY \$5

July/August 1996 Vol. XXV No. 10

CALENDAR

Thursday, August 8, 7:30 p.m.
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Sunday, August 11
Open House at Ravenswood Historic Site
Arroyo Road, Livermore
Costumed docents will tell the stories of the house
and its owners (373-5700)

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

The mailing labels have a new look! If you notice any errors on your label, please notify us at the phone number above.

We now have an answering machine at the Carnegie building, so you can leave messages if we are not open at the time you call.



The Gardemeyer Building

by Larry Mauch

In 1875 Chris Gardemeyer gave up his life as a policeman in San Francisco to become proprietor of the Fashion Saloon in Livermore. However, it wasn't long before Chris decided to sell his interest in the Fashion Saloon and open a new saloon in the two story brick building recently built on the North side of town. Located on the corner of Railroad Avenue and North Livermore Avenue, this handsome building was the first brick building built in

Palace Sample

R-O-O-M-S.

PALACE HALL, LIVERMORE.

CHRIS. GARDAMEYER

HAS OPENED THE ABOVE FULL STOCKED
AND WELL FITTED

Sample Saloon,

[Under the Palace Hall,]

Where only the superior brands of

WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS

Will be supplied to patrons.

Give me a call and sample.

jy.29-3m.

Ad from 1876 Livermore Enterprise

Livermore. The upstairs contained a large hall known as the Palace Hall, later renamed the Farmers Union Theater. A portion of the downstairs contained the Comegys Cash Store, later renamed the Farmers Union (See January 1996 newsletter). Alexander Esdon, the developer, was proclaiming his new building to be the beginning of his grand plan to develop the North side of Livermore. Mr. Gardemeyer leased a portion of the downstairs, originally outfitted for use as a bank. The new "Palace Sample Rooms" saloon was the only establishment of its type in town complete with its own vault. Apparently Mr. Gardemeyer was convinced of the opportunities on the North side of town because in September 1876 he announced plans to build his

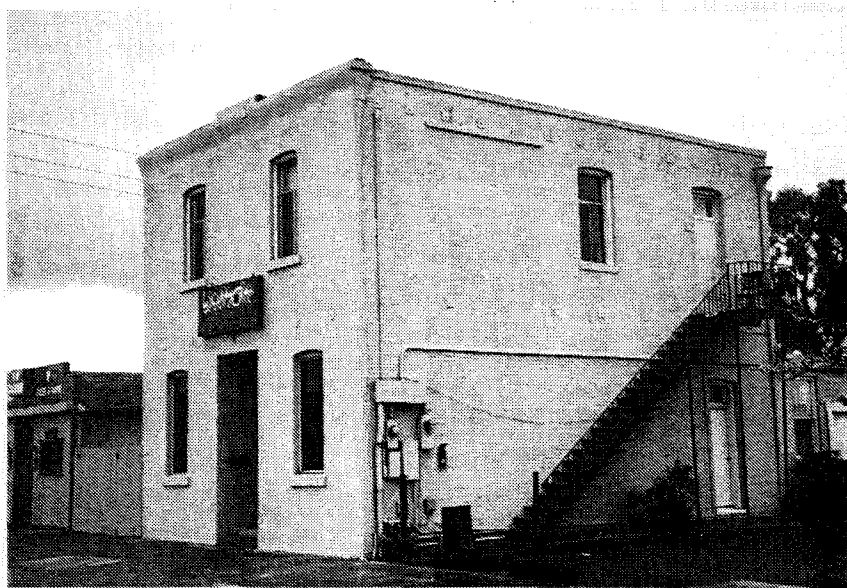
own two story brick building on the lot he purchased next door to be used as his residence. This would be the third brick building built in Livermore in eighteen months. The second, Vostrovsky's clothing store, was built six months earlier around the corner from the Palace Hall on Railroad Avenue (See June 1996 newsletter). Before long these three brick buildings, all next door to each other, would be known as the "Brick Block".

The Sept 1876 Livermore Enterprise ran the following: Foundation - Contractor Condy has the material on the ground and the foundation laid for C. Gardemeyer's fine two story brick building next North from the Palace Hall. From the plans we judge the building will add much to the appearance and value of property on the "other side of the railroad." In 1878 J. P. Moretti rented the downstairs of Gardemeyer's brick building and opened the Palace Harness shop. Chris Gardemeyer and his wife continued to live upstairs. In 1880 J. P. Moretti built his own two story wooden building next door on N. Livermore Ave. and relocated his harness shop there, living upstairs.

Chris Gardemeyer's younger brother Henry moved to Livermore in 1878. He had been the proprietor of the Danville Hotel for one year prior to that.

Chris and Henry decided to team up and purchased the Livermore Soda Works in 1879. The local paper announced their formal partnership in August 1880. The Livermore Soda Works was growing rapidly. The local paper reported they had one wagon running constantly and were serving all the small towns within 25 miles. They were also shipping soda water by rail. The company had 2000 dozen soda bottles in use that year. A wooden addition was built on the side of Chris Gardemeyer's two story brick building to house the soda works in 1880. In 1881 Chris and Henry purchased two more lots farther down the street on the corner of North Livermore Avenue and Oak Street. A new one story wooden soda works building was built to keep up with the growing business.

In 1882 Chris purchased three more lots on the corner of Livermore Avenue and Chestnut Street and would start building a one story wooden structure to be used exclusively as his new residence. The local paper described the building in May 1882 as follows: "Chris Gardemeyer's new residence, Livermore Avenue, is rapidly approaching completion, the painters being now engaged in giving the finishing touches to the interior. The edifice contains five rooms, all hard-finished, the walls being painted in soft and attractive tints. The woodwork



Two story brick building built by Chris Gardemeyer in September 1876 as it looks today

is finished in grain, in imitation of various woods, the hall being grained in panels. Plaster center-pieces adorn the ceilings of several of the rooms. The building is heavily and tastefully trimmed, two bay windows and an open portico giving to the front a very neat and stylish appearance. Robert Smith of this place, was the contractor for the building, and is willing to compare the work with any other building in our town."

As soon as that was completed, Chris and Henry started a second two story wooden building located on the corner of Oak and Livermore Avenue following the same basic design as his first brick building. This building was leased out to Peter Luyien, the upstairs serving as a lodging house and the lower floor as a restaurant. The Gardemeyer brothers were prospering and making their mark on the North side of town. Later, in July 1882, Dorothea Gardemeyer, Chris and Henry's mother, would move to Livermore from San Francisco and open a hair store in one of their buildings (probably in the wooden addition to the brick building which was no longer used by the soda works). An ad appeared in the August 1882 issue of the paper stating she was an importer and manufacturer of human and imitation hair work.

In 1885 Chris Gardemeyer at the age of 48 passed away. The cause of death is unknown. Henry was 35 years old at the time. The North Livermore Avenue two story brick building and the adjacent

MRS. D. GARDEMEYER,
 Importer and Manufacturer of
HUMAN AND IMITATION
HAIR WORK
 GARDEMEYER BLOCK,
 LIVERMORE AVENUE, LIVERMORE, CAL.

Combs made up in Every Style. Hair Dew-
 eiry and Flowere. ly. 27+inf.

Ad from August 1882 Livermore paper

wooden structure that Chris built as well as the family home on the corner of Chestnut remained with Chris's widow. The soda works business was sold and Henry retained possession of the one story wooden building and the two story wooden saloon building next door on the corner of Oak and Livermore Ave. Later that year Henry would open his own saloon, which remained in business until his death in 1909, in the two story wooden building. The family lived in the upstairs of the building. These two buildings would be illustrated on the 1889 panoramic map of Livermore.

After Henry Gardemeyer's death in 1909 his wife sold the saloon business and moved to San Francisco. She retained the buildings until 1921 when she finally sold everything. The buildings would be used as private dwellings until the 1930's. Later the two story wooden building would house the Blue Ribbon Café in the late 1930's followed by several saloons, Fred's Place, Pete's Place and later in 1947 until the late 1950's the Top Rail. The two buildings were torn down in the early 1960's and replaced by the Purity Cleaners which stands on the site today.

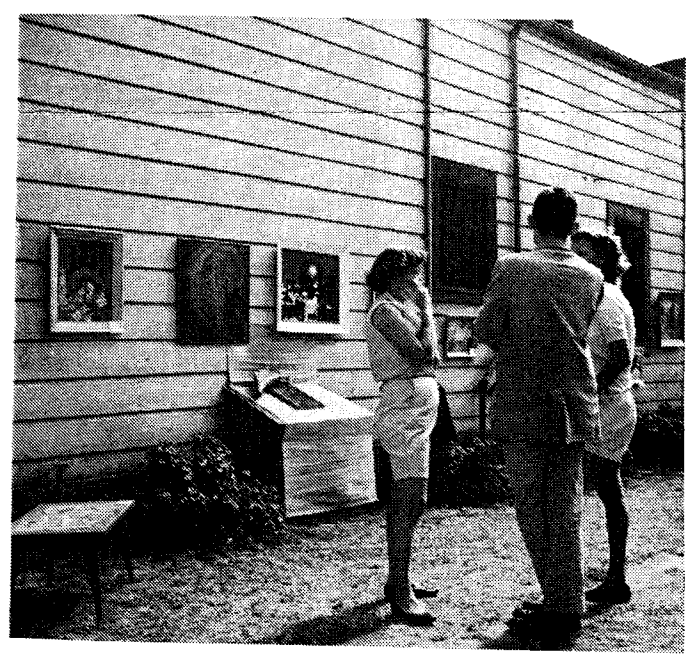
Chris Gardemeyer's widow sold the family home in 1890. The house, described earlier, located at 309 North Livermore Avenue, on the corner of Chestnut Street still stands today. Mrs. Gardemeyer moved back into the upstairs of the two story brick building down the street. She rented the down stairs to Andrew Jensen until 1899 and later Joe Duarte who both ran saloons in the building until WWI. After that the lower portion was rented out for lodging. Mrs. Chris Gardemeyer lived upstairs until her death in 1928. In more recent times the building has housed the Livermore Art Association from 1957 until 1959. Noe's RCA TV repair in the early 1960's, Guerin's Pizza in the late 1960's, Potter's Pizza in the early 1970's, Randy's Meat market from 1972 to 1984, the Chrystal Window Cleaning Company from 1986 to 1988 and finally in 1993 the Livermore Tattoo parlor. (The brick building is still standing at 142 North Livermore Avenue, the stucco finish was probably applied in the 1930's.)

Editor's notes: J. P. Moretti passed away in 1889, the two story wooden harness shop located on North Livermore Ave. in later years was known as the Crest Hotel. The building was torn down in the 1970's.


Joe Duarte who rented the downstairs of the brick building from Chris Gardemeyer's widow later owned and operated the Hub Saloon until the 1950's. The building was located on First Street, where Lizzie Fountain is today.



Crest Hotel, next door on N. Livermore Ave, circa 1970s



The 1958 Art Association show held at the Gardemeyer building. Note the wooden structure attached to the side of the brick building still existed at that time. The wooden portion of the building was torn down in the 1960s. Photos courtesy of Bob Myers.

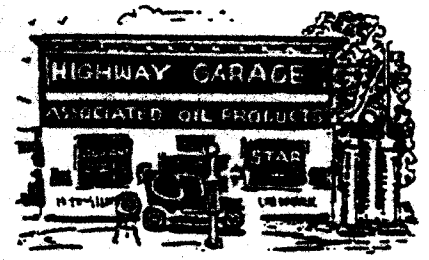
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SEPTEMBER 1996

Vol. XXV

No. 12

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

Thursday, September 12, 7:30 p.m.

LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Sunday, September 15, 4-7 p.m.

2nd Annual CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel (Bollinger Canyon exit off I-680). Tickets are \$20 and include wine, beverages and light hors d'oeuvres. For ticket information, phone the LAA Gallery at 449-9927, Wednesday through Sunday between 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Wednesday, September 18, 3-9 p.m.

Livermore Art Association will hold its annual 1st General Meeting of the Fall at the Ravenswood Historic Site, Arroyo Road, Livermore. Bring a picnic and your sketch book or camera and join us for a delightful meeting. As usual, the Banjo Band will lead a sing along at 7 p.m. For information: LAA Gallery, 449-9927 Wed. thru Sun, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, October 19 & 20

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (19th), 1-4 p.m. (20th)

Friends of the Library will hold a Semi-Annual Book Sale at the Barn, Pacific Ave., Livermore. This is part of the Livermore Public Library's Centennial Celebration.

MASONS CELEBRATE 125 YEARS IN LIVERMORE VALLEY

by Gary Drummond

The year 1871 was a signal year in Livermore's early history. In February, the First Presbyterian Church was organized; in July, the valley's earliest fraternal organization, the Masonic Lodge, held its first meeting; and in November, a major portion of the town of Laddsville burned, thus assuring Livermore's place as the commercial center of the valley.

This year commemorates the 125th anniversary of the founding of Mosaic Lodge No. 218, Free and Accepted Masons. On July 16, 1871, thirteen Freemasons met at the Pleasanton Hotel for the purpose of forming a lodge, naming it and electing officers. There was, at that time, no place in Livermore suitable for such a meeting. The organizers called it Pleasanton Lodge. Nine days later, members met again to hear a report from a committee selected to find a more permanent meeting place: they were told that the school trustees were willing to rent the Lodge a room in the schoolhouse for \$6.25 a month - provided the brothers would lathe, plaster and paint the room. Meantime, a petition was drawn up and sent to the Masonic Grand Lodge to authorize the organization. A dispensation was issued on August 15, and the Lodge held its first official meeting on August 26, 1871.

For two years, 1871 through 1873, the Lodge continued to meet in Pleasanton. These years were marked by growth in membership, the Lodge doubling in size. But many of the members, the majority of whom were Livermore residents, objected to meeting at some distance. So, in September, 1873, a resolution was introduced to move the meeting place to Livermore. But it was not until November, 1874, that approval was received. The organization held its first meeting in Livermore at the Odd Fellows Hall on November 18.

Some confusion arose because the Lodge, now officially located in Livermore, was still known

as the Pleasanton Lodge, F&AM. In September 1877, the Lodge petitioned to change its name to Livermore Lodge; then in January, 1878, it was called Golden State Lodge. It was not until March 1881, that members voted to change the name to Mosaic Lodge, and the change was recognized by the Grand Lodge in April of that year.

Later this fall, Mosaic Lodge No. 218, F&AM will dedicate plaques celebrating its 125th birthday and honoring the Temple as a local historic landmark. A reception will follow, to which the public is invited.



"Help Save Yesterday for Tomorrow"

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