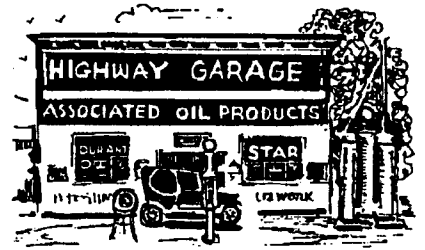


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# LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD



HIGHWAY GARAGE

PHONE : (510) 449-9927

" 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

October 1998

Vol. XXVIII

No. 1

## CALENDAR

Thursday, October 8 @ 7:00 p.m.

LHG Meeting, Carnegie Building

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Gary Drummond and Anna Siig held a successful book signing at the Carnegie Library for their new book *The Klondike News, The Adventures of Livermore Area Residents from 1897 to 1906 during the Alaska Gold Rush*. This 239 page book features letters and articles about Livermore residents who participated in the Alaska gold rush. It makes for very interesting reading about this period in Livermore's and Alaska's history. Copies are available at the Carnegie Library for \$12.95.

### WANTED: History Center Docents

Hours: Unlimited (Minimum: one 4 1/2 hour day a month)

Tasks: Varied

Salary: You gotta be kiddin'

Satisfaction: Can be huge

Inquire: The History Center or

Phone: 449-9927

### The Rains Came

by Barbara Bunshah

Floods have been a constant factor in this Valley for as long as records have been kept. Elmer Still in his "Highlights in History of Livermore" noted that in the winters of 1861-62 and 1889-90 heavy rains caused

the whole lower end of the valley to be covered with flood water, from a point midway between Livermore and Pleasanton clear to Dublin, a distance of about nine miles.

But the most interesting flood story was published in the *Grizzley Bear* (the magazine of the Native Sons) in the issue for March 1933. It said:

"Away back in March, 1783 Padre Anselmo predicted that a hundred years hence (1883) a flood of mammoth proportions would sweep through the Livermore Valley. Led by Bernard Alviso numerous Mexican families left their homes for quarters atop Cedar Mt. and other elevations and awaited the Flood That Never Came: a heavy storm came March 26 and dropped three to five inches of rain in the valleys and six feet of snow in the mts."

The *Herald* on January 18, 1965 in its report on this story goes on to say:

"The prediction proved true as far as heavy rain was concerned, the record showing 3.45 inches in March 1883, although this would not ordinarily be sufficient to cause floods.

"There were many Livermore residents in 1933 who had been here in 1883, and none had any recollection of a flood or persons leaving the valley for Cedar Mt. This included several persons who either resided close to the mountain or were on it herding sheep at the time.

There was one person who remembered Mexican families going into the hills near Sunol to escape a predicted flood, they said, and another remembers heavy purchasing by Mexican families at a grocery store where he worked, saying they were going to the hills, but would not give any reason."

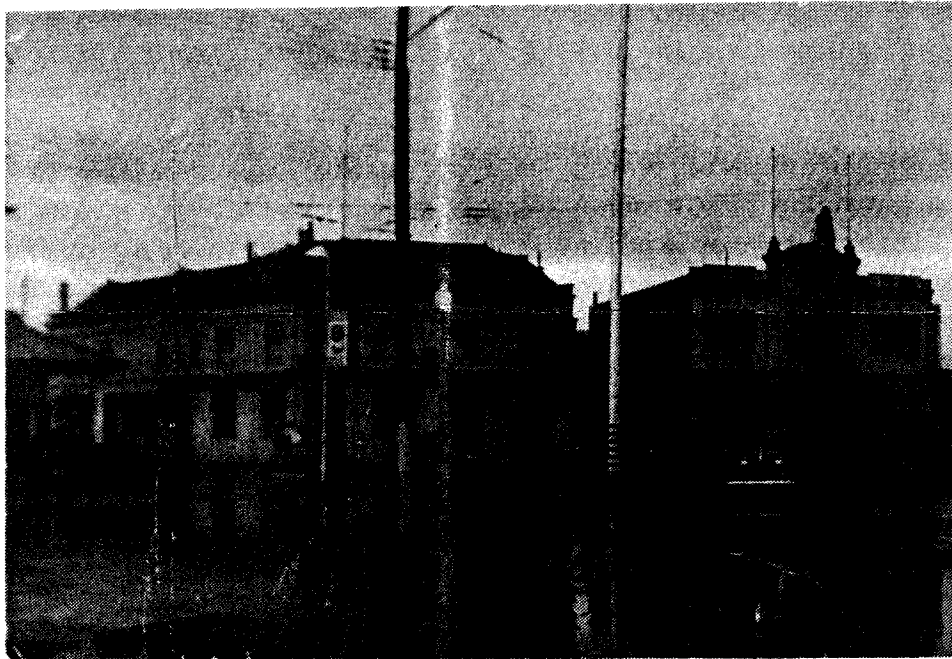
The floods of 1903:

"One of the heaviest floods in history occurred in March 1903, so much water running west on First St. that the drug store and First and K had water inside the store and its basement filled."

From the Herald again:

"The flagpole intersection... was always the heaviest sufferer from flood waters after the city was laid out.

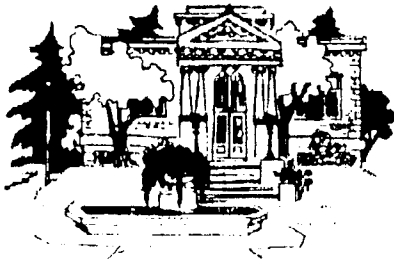
Overflow water came down First St. from the east and met the rush of water coming down S. Livermore Ave. which had picked up an additional supply at the East Ave. intersection and the combined volume created a rushing stream past the Bank of Italy building, "extending out into lakes along the side streets."



The flagpole intersection during heavy rain of 2/11/38 (1.35 inches in 24 hours)

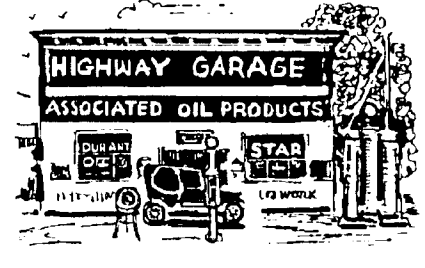
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November 1998

Vol. XXVIII

No. 2

## CALENDAR

Thursday, November 12 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Building

Sunday, December 6 11:30-4:00 p.m.

Livermore Art Association gallery invites the public to their Holiday Open House. Unique holiday gifts will be offered for sale. Free admission to the gallery in the Carnegie Bldg.

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

There are still copies available of Gary Drummond and Anna Siig's book The Klondike News at the Carnegie Bldg. for \$12.95. These would surely make a wonderful Christmas gift.

**News flash:** the 1999 LHG calendars will be available in December.



### Livermorean Served in Siberia during World War I by Gary Drummond

For most of America, November 11, 1918 marked the end of World War I. But for a few U.S. soldiers, the war really wasn't over until 1920. These few included three Livermore men, John J. Kelley, Melvin Allen and Chris Rasmussen, who served in Siberia.

The overthrow of the Russian Czar in 1917 and the signing of a Russian-German peace treaty permitted

the Kaiser to move his troops from the Eastern front to France and Belgium. The Allies had shipped a great quantity of supplies to far-northwestern Russia and to Vladivostok, Russian Siberia. And so that they might not fall into Bolshevik hands, American and other Allied troops were sent to guard the supplies and munitions until they could be removed.

John J. Kelly served at Vladivostok, Siberia from September 2, 1918 to December 22, 1919, with what was called the Allied Siberian Expeditionary Force. He had been inducted into the U.S. Army at Fort McDowell on May 1, 1918, and after three-months basic training at Camp Fremont, he was shipped overseas. His assignments in Siberia included guard duty at mines and on railroads, and on one occasion he made a 3,000 mile rail trip westward almost to the Ural Mountains accompanying a Red Cross Commission.

In an interview with a Herald reporter at Christmas, 1919, he described the chaotic conditions throughout Siberia, and especially Vladivostok, and how the Bolsheviks kept up a guerrilla warfare that resulted in a number of Americans being killed by snipers. By mid 1920, the Allied Siberian Expeditionary Force was disbanded.

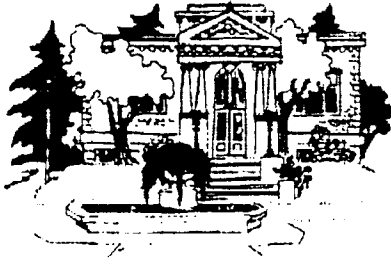
John Kelly returned to Livermore where he continued his employment as assistant cashier at the local Bank of America. When he retired, he had been with Bank of America for 49 years. Kelly died in 1972 at age 80.



John J. Kelly

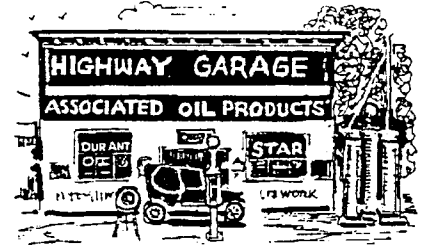
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December 1998

Vol. XXVIII

No. 3

How It All Began

## CALENDAR

Thursday, January 14 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Building

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

The Livermore Public Library has recently completed a compilation of Barbara Bunshah's indexes to the local papers from 1899 to 1929 on computer disk. This allows the searching of the indexes with any IBM or MacIntosh computer. A copy of this CD has been sent to the California State Library (who funded the project) for their archives. The Livermore Library is now seeking additional funding to complete the transfer of the remainder of Barbara Bunshah's indexes to CDs. This will preserve this valuable local historical reference resource for generations to come.

**The 1999 LHG calendars are here!!!! This year's calendar entitled "Getting There" is available at the Carnegie Library for \$9.50 which includes tax. For an additional \$1.75 we will mail a calendar for you to anywhere in the continental U.S. These calendars make great gift for the new year. For additional information call: 449-9927.**

Included in this newsletter is a copy of the resolution recently adopted creating the Livermore Heritage Guild Museum Fund. The Fund was established in celebration of our 25th birthday as a means of guaranteeing the existence of the LHG Museum and archives for future generations. If you would like information about how you may contribute to the Museum Fund phone: 449-9927.

In February 1973, a contract was let by the Southern Pacific Land Development Company to demolish the Southern Pacific train depot in Livermore. Built in 1892 but no longer used, the depot was in bad shape and Southern Pacific wanted to develop the land. The contractor, who was given the demolition rights, offered his services in exchange for the lumber, valued at \$500, which was going to be reused to build horse stalls.

On February 24<sup>th</sup> an article ran in the local paper stating the depot had been given a temporary reprieve because a group of citizens expressed a desire to save the old depot from destruction. This group consisted of members of the Amador Livermore Valley Historical Society, the only historical society in the valley at the time. As part of the reprieve, the group was supposed to file a report regarding possible uses for the depot. One of the conditions was that Southern Pacific Land Development Company wanted the depot removed from the site.

In March and April of that year, meetings were held to establish a plan for saving the depot. The consensus was that the depot definitely was in bad shape. It was estimated the cost to move the depot and place it on a new foundation would be about \$35,000. Additional monies would then be needed to restore the inside of the structure. The results of this meeting were published in the paper and the tone of the article was one of despair. It appeared that at this point the group was losing interest in the depot's future.

Another meeting was held in May to again discuss the depot's future. The papers reported that only four people were present for this meeting. The paper also reported that previous meetings had been attended by as many as twenty people. Again, this set the tone that the depot's future was in serious doubt. What wasn't reported was that three of the four people who attended that meeting were not part of the original group who had been working to save the depot. When she realized the initial group's interest was waning, Janet Newton, an original group member, had begun calling local citizens whom she thought would be interested in saving the old depot. This was the start of what is today the Livermore Heritage Guild.

The new group began forming its own plans to save the depot. Their plans were leaning towards refurbishing the depot where it stood and making it part of the redevelopment plans. They petitioned the City Council to present their preliminary proposal.

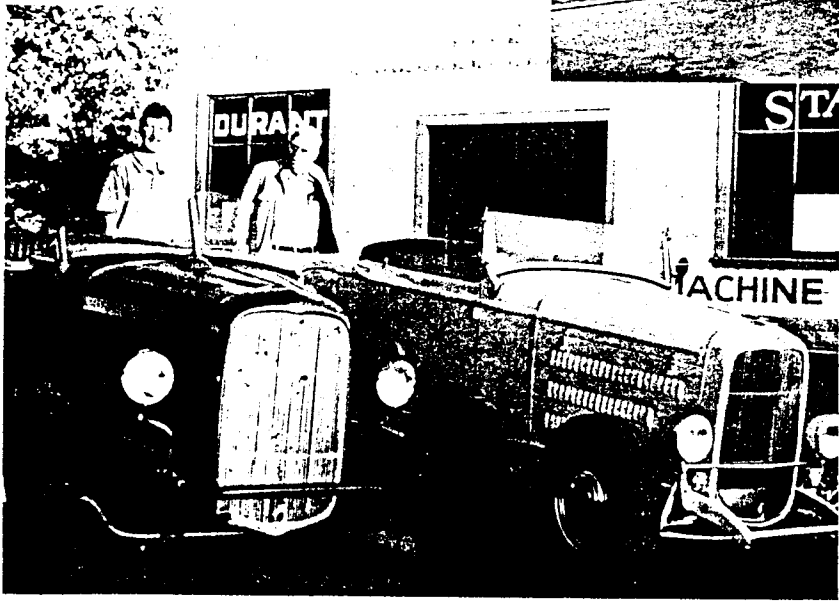
In late June, the group again appeared before the City Council. The City Council voted to a stay of the demolition permit based on the newly formed Livermore Heritage Committee's preliminary proposal. No one realized the demolition was already in process inside the depot. Southern Pacific Land Development Company had, that same day, sent the contractor in to begin dismantling the building, working from the inside out.

The second day of demolition a reporter passing the depot saw the workers tearing apart the inside of the building and notified the newly formed committee. Committee members, with haste and determination, were successful in shutting down the dismantling operation.

The following day the local paper reported that the only reason the depot was not totally destroyed was that the contractor's tractor had broken down, so he started dismantling the building by hand. When this article appeared in the paper it seemed to propel the local interest in saving the depot to new heights. The Livermore Heritage Committee gained more members and momentum. Soon after, the organization was incorporated and officially named the Livermore Heritage Guild. Eighteen months later, in 1974, the Southern Pacific depot in Livermore was fully restored and opened to the public as a restaurant on the same site it had occupied since 1892.

Today, twenty-five years later, the Livermore Heritage Guild, an all-volunteer organization, still works to preserve the history of our city. The "Guild", as it is known to many, has not only played a part in the preservation of the old depot, but also Ravenswood, the Duarte Garage and Trevarno. A Guild member assembled the first historic resource survey of the community which was adopted by the city's Historic Preservation Committee in 1977. In 1978, a Guild member was instrumental in getting the D.J. Murphy house at Third and McLeod Streets accepted on the National Register of Historic Places. Members of the organization also document the history of the community through articles in the Guild's newsletter and in books and pamphlets. The organization has supplied research information on many of this city's historic businesses, personalities and residences to organizations, the city and individual private citizens who share our love for the Valley's history. The Guild Officers and Board members want to thank all of you who have supported our efforts during these twenty-five years with your membership contributions and volunteer efforts. The Livermore Heritage Guild couldn't have done it without your support, **THANK YOU!**

GETTING  
THERE!



LIVERMORE  
HERITAGE  
GUILD  
1999  
CALENDAR

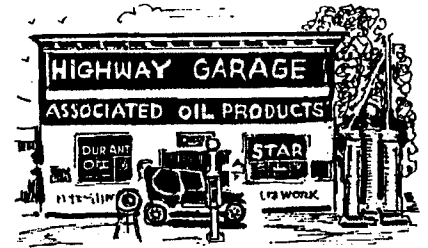
The calendars are here! They would make a great gift for the new year.

*Have a Happy New Year from the Livermore Heritage Guild*



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# LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD



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January 1999

Vol. XXIV No.4

**1999 Calanders are here!**

## CALENDAR

Thursday, January 14th @ 7:00pm  
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Building

Saturday, January 30th 9am-2pm  
**Pre-Ground Hog Day Garage Sale**  
Highway Garage, Portola Ave, Livermore

Don't forget to pick up your 1999 LHG Calander at the Carnegie Library. This years calander features pictures, both past and present, about getting around in Livermore. Once again the cover and back pages are done in color, making the calander very eye catching. Thanks to the ever charming Anna Siig Drummond for her efforts in producing another great calander!

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

**LHG WEB PAGE**  
@www.lhg.org

The **LHG Museum Fund** is off to a great start! Thanks to the generosity of our members we have already received donations totaling \$1700.00, including one anonymous donation of \$1,000.00. Others who have donated are Judy Eckart, Mr/Mrs H.P. Ferreira, George and Virginia Bing, Lyn and John Stein, Pedar Andersen and Tim Sage. We want to thank all of you for giving the fund such a positive start! And to our anonymous donor a special thank you as well.

We want to thank Dick Lerche for taking on the LHG web page responsibilities. Judging from the improvements Dick has already made, the page is going to become even more popular than it already has been. Dick has added more informative sections including one with copies of previous newsletters. One viewer of the page commented he spent an hour looking at the page and enjoyed every minute.

**Pre-Ground Hog Day Garage Sale!** The Guild will hold a garage sale the 30th of January, from 9am to 2pm, at the Duarte Garage. Items left over from the auction as well as some new additions will be available at bargain prices. With the exception of a few special pieces that are set aside for the next auction, the goal is to empty the place to make room for the next batch of auction treasures. If you get a chance, stop by and browse, you never know what you might find. Even if you don't find that special bargain stop by and say hello.

We've included some of the comments left on the page from viewers which we thought you might find interesting. It is interesting that many people who check our page are former Livermore residents that want to visit their old home town via our web site. We are glad we can offer a friendly site where they can reminisce. We especially appreciate their comments when they visit. Perhaps we can incorporate a few more pictures of the town as it is today to make the tour from far away places more complete.

If you would like to respond to some of the email requests



below left on our web page, I am sure they would enjoy hearing from you.

### From The Web Page Guestbook

Class of 1952 LHS. After all these years, I still call Livermore home! Mom, Frances Faria, worked at Cresta Blanca Winery for 26 yrs. Step-dad, Ernest Faria, retired at Lawrence Radiation. My father, Earl Hughes, worked at the VA Hospital, and was also a very good furniture repair man. After I graduated, I married a young soldier stationed at Camp Parks. 46 years later, we have 4 children & 12 grand children. I would enjoy hearing from anyone who remembers mom, dads or me. Sincerely, Sylvia Hughes [maiden name]

Sylvia Hughes <sylmar@mindspring.com>

I was very excited to find this info on Livermore, CA. I was born in Livermore in 1960 and graduated high school from LHS in 1979. My parents still live there and it is always a joy to come home and visit. Livermore is my home. I am proud to say I am from there. If anybody knows of the class of '79 reunion, please let me know. Loved visiting the site. More pictures please!

Steven R. Facer <rsvsf@aol.com>

Long Beach, CA USA -

We moved from the Bronx to Livermore in 1989 when I accepted a transfer within LSI Logic Corp. Somewhat of a cultural change! (In spite of its reputation, the Bronx is ripe with its own respectable history, which we explored while living there.) We and our five children really love it here, it's

a nice town for families. I spent time in the local library and heritage guild learning a bit about Livermore history. Another guestbook signer (from England) suggests "walk about" tours. I'd like to also suggest a road tour that could be printed out and used to drive around Livermore and the surrounding hills. The map could contain numbers on it corresponding to descriptions of sights and historical events. I would be glad to help construct such a guide. Email me from the guild if you need volunteers. (12/25/98)  
Fred Urrutia <fred@urrutia.com>  
Livermore, CA USA -

My Mom, Alma Hughes, graduated from Livermore H.S. around 1951. Milt and Helen Hughes were my grandparents and owned Hughes Draperies in the 60's and 70's. Would enjoy hearing from anyone who knew them.

Mike Klis <michael.klis@gte.net>

San Jose, Ca -

The more I travel the more I become convinced that Livermore is the best place on earth. Let's not take this treasure for granted! Thanks to the heritage (guild) for protecting the rich history of our area. I look forward to joining it and moving back home.

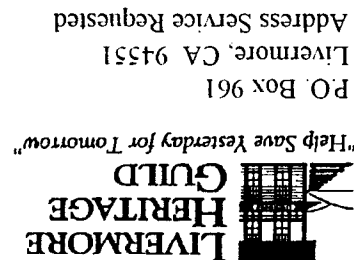
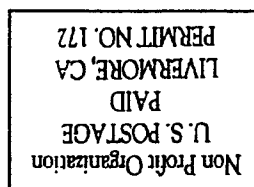
Marc Chapuis <chapuis@hotmail.com>

Culver City, CA -

Thank you very much for the work you put into this site. I am a graduate of LHS and it's nice to visit, if only via modem. Thanks again

Christopher Byrne <Byrne30@atc-enviro.com>

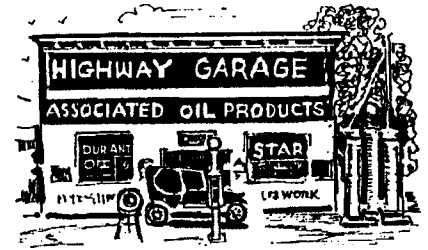
St. Louis, MO -





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February 1999

Vol. XXIV No.5

## CALENDAR

Thursday, March 11th @ 7:00pm  
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Building

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Museum Fund donors list: Roberta Hadley, Mrs. Dorothy Wallace, Gail Shearer, Jean & Dick Lerche, and Bill Junk

Also we owe an apology for careless editing: last month's list should have said Peder and Margaret Andersen, instead of misspelling one name and omitting the other.

Dan Mosier's new book History of Tesla - A California Coal Mining Town is available at the History Center for \$29.95 plus tax. Dan had been researching this book since 1978. This is the most complete work ever assembled on the history of Tesla, which was located on Tesla Road. Be sure to pick up your copy.

The announcement last Fall of a planned regional swimming meet to be held in Pleasanton this Spring stirred memories of earlier such meets in the Valley, specifically:

### The Livermore AquaRodeo and the Aquacowboys by Barbara Bunshah

A swimming pool had been among the desired but unpurchasable amenities for the "new" High School when it was built in the late 1920s. The Great Depression and the Second World War delayed that acquisition still longer. In

mid-November 1947: "Work Starts on Swimming Pool" and by mid-April 1948 it was in use. The original plans for the pool called for it to be run by the Park District but in 1948 other commitments of LARPD made that temporarily impossible. Not until late Spring 1949 was the local newspaper able to report that the Recreation & Park District was operating the high school pool. "Operating" included planning Lifesaving courses, Swim-To-Live sessions and being responsible for the summer (and in very warm years, early Autumn) public use of the facility.

One of the first big events was headlined in the Livermore News in June 1951: "Invitations to the LARPD's "AquaRodeo", July 21 and 22 in the High School pool this week had been sent to 120 districts and swimming clubs in California including those in the southern part of the state, and also were mailed to Nevada, Washington and Oregon. C.S. Shelly, superintendent, said yesterday "while the competition will be the big event on the area's summer program, attempts also were being made to push it into the foreground of Pacific meets." Contestants were asked in 5 age classes: 8, 10, 12, 14 & 16. "Because boys and girls compete in separate divisions, this will actually mean 10 classes."

"Attempts are being made to sign well-known swimmers for exhibition races and it is intended that among the features will be demonstrations by baby AquaCowboys—that is, the swimmers of really tender years" (Livermore News, *ibid.*)

The meet was such a success that a year later the News

reported "invitations have gone out for the Second AquaRodeo, and that the AAU age-group swimming championships of the Pacific Coast will be decided at the meet..." A week later the paper noted that the AquaRodeo had drawn interest from Canadian clubs.

At the close of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AquaRodeo the Herald's Maitland Henry had a comment in his "Reflections of MRH" column: "That Livermore is too close to the AquaRodeo to realize just how big an event it is was plainly evident when swimmers, coaches, officials and parents from Portland to Los Angeles spent last weekend here for the Pacific Coast championships. Not so much a lack of comprehension as to size, the entry list of 378 swimmers of 28 clubs being self-evident on that score, but as to the meet's importance among swimmers of the entire Pacific Coast. It wasn't until there was a chance to mingle and talk with swim enthusiasts from out-of-town who really know their sport that most Livermore people began to realize the high rating held by the meet." He went on to praise the parents and swimmers for their hard work and dedication, doing almost all the work alone "who have accomplished marvels in building up this meet."

Through the years the AquaRodeo grew and in the process records were set and were broken. With the January 1958 announcement of the confirmation of the dates for that

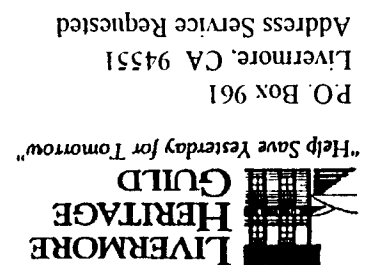
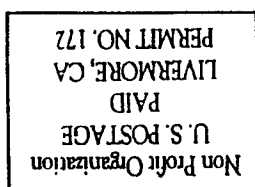
years meet the Herald comments: "It is famous throughout the nation as the largest, fastest and best organized meet in the country, with over 2200 entries participating last year." And in July the paper editorialized: "From a Day and a Half to Four Full Days—That's the AquaRodeo". (The News chortled that the meet again rewrote the record book).

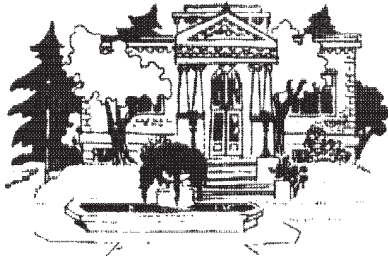
Then came a setback. February 1959 the paper announced: "AquaRodeo is canceled for this year: stringent new regulations of the AAU's Pacific Assoc. which would have kept almost all Livermore swimmers out of the AquaRodeo this year have forced LARPD to cancel the world famous meet". (The paper listed some of the regulations which would have given almost all the control of the meet to the AAU and its appointed officials). But it came back the following year "scaled down a bit from its earlier almost unmanageable size" (smaller?—it had nearly 2,000 individuals in 52 events that year).

By 1969 The Herald (7/18/69) could comment "for the second time in its 19 year history the nationally famed AquaRodeo swim meet will be held this year in a 50 meter Olympic distance pool... at Chabot Junior college..." (that was to meet the U.S. Olympic committee requirements).

The AquaRodeo continued until the mid 1970s, always growing.

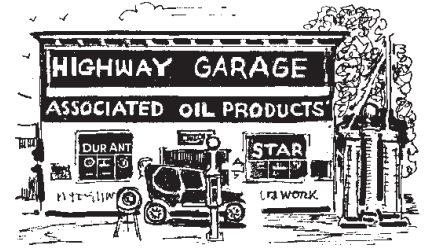
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TO ARRANGE FOR PICK-UP OF DONATIONS, PLEASE CALL THE HISTORY CENTER AT 449-9927  
(WED. THROUGH SUN. BETWEEN 11:30 A.M. & 4 P.M.)





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March 1999

Vol. XXIV

No.6

CHECK OUR WEB PAGE AT: <http://www.lhg.org>

## CALENDAR

Thursday, March 11 @ 7:00pm  
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Building

Thursday, April 8 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Building

Saturday & Sunday, April 24&25  
Livermore Art Association annual Spring Art Show at the  
Barn on Pacific Avenue. Reception Saturday evening.  
Meet the artists. Call 449-9927 for more information

Don't forget the annual Memorial Weekend LHG auction  
in May

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

**We are looking for donations for this year's LHG AUCTION. The auction will be upon us soon. Donations of goods and services are greatly appreciated. All usable items will be accepted except books, clothing and furniture (unless considered antique). Unfortunately, computer equipment not working or more than 4 years old also can not be accepted. Time to clean out those garages and let us help you dispose of those items that need a new home. Phone 449-9927 for pickup. This has been a fun event for everyone and we look forward to seeing you at the auction!**

Prior to the mid 1920's houses in Livermore were not numbered. You would refer to your residence by what street it was on and what it was next to or across from.

## **Excerpted from Herald & News, July 15, 1927**

### Trustees Plan for Numbering of Houses

Another informal discussion on house numbering was held by the town trustees at their meeting Monday evening with the result that plans were laid for an early consideration of the improvement as soon as the street signs are in place.

Town Engineer, L.E. Wright, will prepare a map showing the number designations for the various blocks and Town Attorney M.J. Clark, will begin work on a house numbering ordinance. Numbering is the logical step to follow the signs and the trustees will be ready for the step as soon as the signs are erected.

It is planned to make First Street the dividing line for the north and south streets, numbers running in both directions from this central intersection. Owing to the diagonal manner in which Livermore avenue (Lizzie Street) cuts through the southern portion of town a problem is presented, there being a larger number of blocks west of the street at the southerly town limits than at the intersection with First Street. It has been proposed that some high figure, such as 1000, be arbitrarily given the block at the intersection of the

two streets at the flagpole, permitting expansion to the east for ten blocks. Some of these are already laid out and the additional numbers would take care of possible growth.

These details are being given consideration and will have been definitely settled by the time the signs are in place.

Excerpted from Herald & News, February 8, 1929

Must Get Numbers

The town engineer was instructed to enforce the ordinance requiring house numbers. The council points out that tenants as well as owners are responsible for putting up the numbers. Persons who have not already secured the official number designated for their premises may do so by applying to Town Engineer L.E. Wright and Town Clerk Elmer G. Still at the town hall.

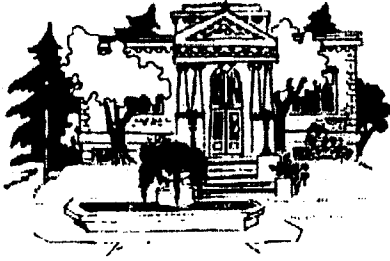
**Merchants Lunch**  
**60-Cents**  
**Chicken Dinner Sundays**  
**Club Breakfast**  
**30 to 60 Cents**  
**Mally's Grill**

1927 ad for original Mally's

SPECIAL NOTE: A former Guild board member has lent us a collection of old cookbooks and Depression-era kitchen gadgets. They are the start of an exhibit for Women's History Month on WOMEN'S WORK. There are modern non-traditional workers noted as well as the traditional home-bound women. It is an exhibit under construction, and will develop over the month to six weeks of its existence. Please stop at the History Center to see it and to add ideas for it.

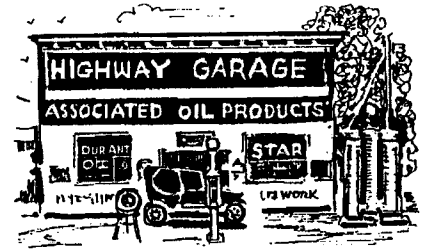
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NEWSLETTER

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

April 1999

Vol. XXIV No.7

## CALENDAR

Thursday, May 13 @ 7:00pm  
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Building

LHG Annual Auction held at the Duarte Garage  
Saturday, May 29

Doors open at 5 p.m. and dinner is served at 6 p.m.  
with an auction beginning at 7 p.m. This is always a fun  
event and we look forward to seeing you there.

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

**The auction will be upon us soon. We need your help. We are looking for donations for this year's auction at the end of May. It's a good time to do some spring cleaning and donate those unwanted items to a good cause. For free pickup call Barbara at 449-9927.**

Excerpted from Livermore Herald & News, May 1, 1963

### City Estimates Office Space Need for 2000

With the announcement that 36.5 acres of the 44.5 acre civic center site would tentatively be used for public buildings in the year 2000, the city staff released Monday a report on expected space needs at the center proposed for the rodeo grounds.

The statistical information in the 17 page booklet will be used by consultants in drafting a long-range plan for development of the civic center site.

The public buildings tentatively designed to occupy the larger part of the site include governmental building, local agency offices, and recreational facilities. Allowing that 37 years will bring many changes in governmental structure and architectural design, the result may be requirements for more or less land, the plan says.

### SINGLE STORY

Also, the estimate is based on single story development while multi-story buildings would reduce the site coverage by 50 per cent.

The report states that the desirability of city acquisition of all or a portion of the 4.5 acres located on the south side of the rodeo grounds, along South Livermore Avenue should not be overlooked. This land would provide more major street frontage and more flexibility in the civic center design.

If the staff's space allocation is found to be correct, more acres in the original site tract could be used for recreation facilities necessary for the creation of a major district park for the community.

### SAVINGS

The report states that a major consideration in the land allocation is whether the civic center shall be a one story or a two story "Generally the savings in cost of two story versus one story construction is not significant." Good design frequently dictates the provision of more space between two story buildings, however. And, land space saved could be used for off street parking, parks or landscaping.

Assuming onestory development, the city's office space needs range from 10,000 square feet of floor area on a one half acre site today, to a 53,000 square feet of floor area on a three and a half acre site by the year 2000. The plan adds that an additional acre will be required for a 30,000 square foot library building.

#### FOR PARK

According to the report, an agreement between the city and the park district, 9.32 acres must be reserved for development by the park district for park and recreation purposes.

The park district has submitted a park plan which generally conforms to past city thinking relative to the civic center design. This design would be integrated into the overall civic center design.

Going farther, the report says that in accordance with an agreement between the city and the rodeo association, approximately nine acres should be reserved to provide a site for a stadium having a 5000 seat capacity. The report adds that the Sunken Gardens is considered the best potential location for this stadium.

#### OTHER BUILDINGS

The area also will contain acreage for a community office building, an auditorium, and a museum and historical building. The Cooperative Day Nursery, Livermore Art Association and the Council of Social Welfare are three groups which have indicated interest in the utilization of such space.

An estimated two acres is set aside by the report to be used as the community office building off street parking with necessary open areas. Five acres would be allocated for the construction of the exhibition hall and a 1,000 and 2,000 seat auditorium, concludes the report.

#### SCHOOLS

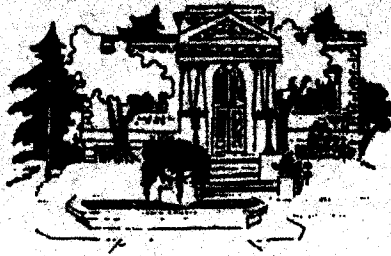
While neither the high school or elementary school boards have officially indicated interest in administration offices at the civic center, the report states that about two acres would be enough room in event the districts are unified and there are no adjoining warehouses.

The report was designed to act as a compilation of data relative to area and building space requirements for the potential occupants of the site.

Most of the data was received in response to a questionnaire submitted to city department heads and letters sent to public agencies and organizations.

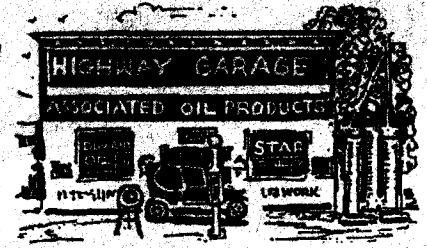
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**" HELP SAVE YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW "**

NEWSLETTER

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

December 1999 Vol. XXIX No. 3

## CALENDAR

### ALL MONTH IN DECEMBER

Livermore Art Association Holiday Expressions  
Carnegie Bldg. 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wed.-Sun.  
You will find handmade gift items and artwork including ornaments, handmade greeting cards, ceramics, basketry, paintings, hand woven and knitted items.

Sunday, December 12 @ noon to 5 p.m.  
Ravenswood Yuletide, an old fashioned Victorian-style Christmas party

A wide range of musical entertainment will include excerpts from the "Nutcracker", the Livermore-Granada High School Chamber Chorale, Scottish dancers and bag piper Fred Rutledge. Children will get a chance to make old fashioned Christmas crafts and talk to Santa himself.

Saturday, January 8, 2000  
Lincoln Highway Association meets at the Lincoln Highway Garage, Livermore  
(see below for more details)

Thursday, January 13 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

**LHG calendars will be available on December 15 at the Carnegie Library. Titled "Livermore-Past, Present and Future", cost is \$9.50 which includes tax. These**

calendars make great gifts for the new year. For the month of December if you would like your calendar mailed, we will waive the shipping costs. Starting in January shipping will be \$1.75. For additional information call: 449-9927

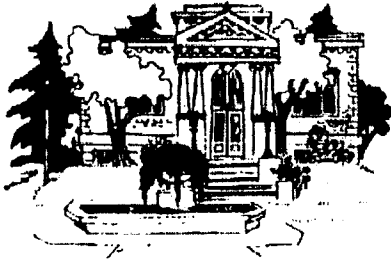
Also available at the Carnegie Library: Livermore 1883 maps (reproduction) at \$7.50 including tax, Livermore Heritage Guild mugs at \$9.00 including tax, Gary Drummond's new book "Klondike News" (story of Livermore residents in the Alaskan gold rush) for \$14.02 including tax, and "Tesla" by Dan Mosier at \$32.42 including tax.

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

On Saturday, January 8, 2000, at noon, the California Chapter of The Lincoln Highway Association will hold its quarterly meeting at the Heritage Guild's Lincoln Highway Garage. Gary Drummond will speak on the history of our Garage and the Altamont Garage which is also on the Lincoln Highway. The LHA hopes to have a speaker as well. Guild members are encouraged to attend and the public is invited also. If you have an old car, bring it along.

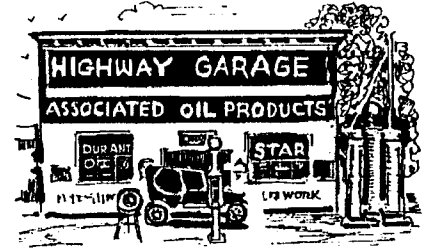
Starting Sunday, December 5 through January 8 the contents of the Millennium Time Capsule will be on display at Carnegie Bldg. It is scheduled to be buried in January 2000.





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May 1999

Vol. XXIV

No. 8

## CALENDAR

Thursday, May 13 @ 7:00pm  
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Building

Saturday, May 29 **Duarte Garage, Livermore Heritage Guild Annual Auction** and spaghetti dinner. Auction preview begins at 5:00 p.m., dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. and the **auction starts at 7:00 p.m.** Tickets for the dinner are \$6.00 and can be purchased in advance at the Carnegie Library Bldg. or at the door that night. This price includes spaghetti dinner, soft drink or coffee and dessert. The auction itself is free.

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

We are looking for donations for this year's LHG AUCTION. The auction will be upon us soon. Donations of goods and services are greatly appreciated. All usable items will be accepted except books, clothing and furniture (unless considered antique). Unfortunately, computer equipment not working or more than 4 years old also can not be accepted. Time to clean out those garages and let us help you dispose of those items that need a new home. Phone 449-9927 for pickup. This has been a fun event for everyone and we look forward to seeing you at the auction!

Laddsville

by Gary Drummond

In the spring of 1864 a wagon load of lumber appeared in the eastern end of the Livermore Val-

ley. It belonged to one Alphonso Ladd and was intended for a frame house. Ladd had pre-empted a 160 acre parcel of the Robert Livermore Rancho Las Positas - perhaps "squatted" is a more apt term since the boundaries of Livermore's property had not yet been quieted. It was Ladd's intention to start a small community to be known as Laddsville. Its location was at the junction of a wagon trail from Dublin with another that crossed the valley from the southwest. That wagon trail from Dublin is today known as Junction Avenue.

Ladd brought another load of lumber into the valley in the fall of 1864 for the construction of a hotel. Besides rooms to let at 50 cents a night, Ladd provided convivial spirits over a bar consisting of two planks laid over upright barrels.

Ladd's venture attracted others to his new community. A general mercantile store; a blacksmith shop, followed by a second one, offered services making and repairing equipment for surrounding farms; a druggist, a brewery and eating establishments were established in the business district. The need for a school became apparent by 1866 - it was established some distance west of the community, near the intersection of what is now Portola and Rincon Avenues, primarily to serve farm children. And by 1868, Laddsville had become a noticeable community, consisting of perhaps 50 people, not more than a half-dozen of whom were registered to vote.

The news coming out of Laddsville at this time was, in most instances, of a violent nature: knifings and

shootings. But there was more innocent amusement in the town. Until 1875 the townspeople enjoyed bull fights on Sundays and, on other occasions, a bear might be pitted against a bull, or a dog set upon a badger that was given refuge in a barrel. The bullring was said to have been 30 feet in diameter and seven feet high with several tiers of seats around the ring.

But Alphonso Ladd did not live to see his community in full bloom. He died on November 2, 1868, when he was only 40 years old.

Laddsville bustled with activity in the spring of 1869. The Central Pacific Railroad was being pushed through the valley which meant an economic benefit to the community. Railroad workers required boarding places, lodging, and other wants which residents were quick to supply.

Fire struck the business district of Laddsville in September, 1871. With no fire protection in place, the conflagration quickly spread throughout the village. The town was never rebuilt: most of the inhabitants moved to the new town of Livermore, just a half-mile down the road.



**See You At The Auction!**

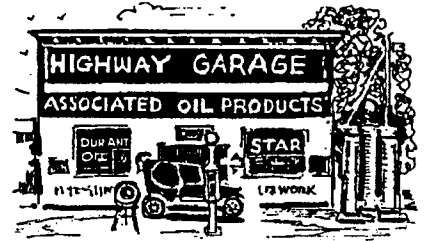
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June 1999

Vol. XXIV

No.9

## CALENDAR

Thursday, July 8 @ 7:00pm  
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Building

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

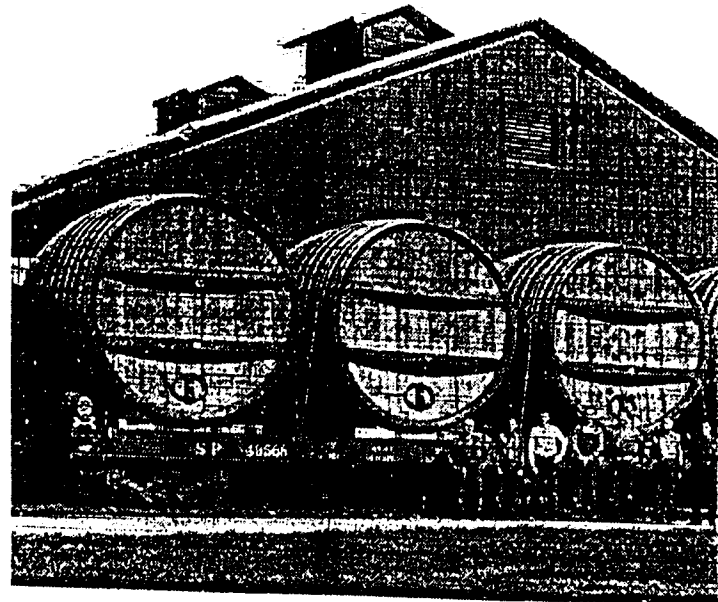
The Annual Fundraiser Auction was another big hit. We wish to give a special thanks to Lynn Owens and Randy Taylor for their time and efforts. We also want to thank all the LHG volunteers who made this auction happen. This year's auction brought in over \$2,500 for the LHG which will be applied to the repainting of the Duarte Garage as soon as all the bids are in.

The Historymobile has been making the rounds in the last two months of the local third grade classes. The demand for the Historymobile by the local schools has increased every year. Many volunteers have been working hard to make this happen. Look for a report on this years "Tour De Third Grade" in our next newsletter.

**Excerpted from Livermore Herald  
February 27, 1942**

### **Local Plant Busy Manufacturing Wine Casks**

First shipment of an order of twenty-five casks had been delivered this week to the Roma Wine Company, Fresno,



by the Livermore plant of the Canton Barrel and Bag Company.

The initial shipment was four oak casks, each having a capacity of 6,300 gallons. The total order will add more than 150,000 gallons of cooperage to the winery.

Paul F. Martia, superintendent at the local plant said the casks were among the first of that size to be constructed in California since resumption of wine making activities. Their capacity permits aging of wine in large quantities, obviating necessity for extensive blending to obtain uniform flavor.

(Continued from first page)

### Has Become Leader

Concentrating on the use of oak for building tanks, casks, and barrels the Livermore plant has become a leader in the California field since its establishment here a year ago. While redwood tanks are generally acceptable for some phases of winery operations, oak is recognized as the best medium for proper aging and development of high quality wines.

The local plant has filled orders for cooperage totaling in excess of 250,000 gallons for the Cresta Blanca Winery here, which is now completing a huge expansion program. Included were ten tanks of 6,500 gallons each and 45 casks ranging from 1,800 to 3,500 gallons, together with more than a hundred reconstruction jobs on smaller sizes.

Expansion of the local plant would be immediately in prospect, Martia declared, if experienced coopers could be obtained. Lack of skilled workmen makes it impossible to handle all of the greatly increased volume of business resulting from the expansion in the wine business after imports were halted by the war. Material and supplies

present no problem, he said, in view of the huge stocks of seasoned oak, maintained here and at the Ohio plant of the firm, at his disposal.

### Cresta Blanca Wine Storage Largest

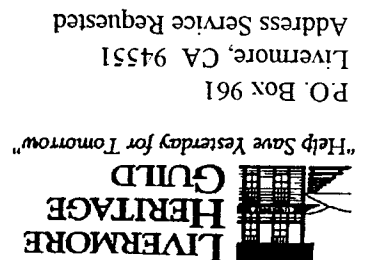
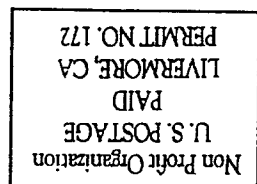
Livermore Valley Winery's capacity of 1,500,000 gallons leads entire country, increasing its facilities from 200,000 gallons to 1,500,000 gallons has given the Cresta Blanca Winery the largest oaken storage capacity in the entire United States, Max Bartholomew, plant manager, announced this week.

### Oak Essential

Purchase of oak casks and ovals with a capacity of 700,000 gallons has been made, oak being considered essential for storage purposes in aging fine wines, Bartholomew states. For racking, stabilizing and clarification of wines large redwood tanks have been installed. Oak and redwood cooperage at the winery is now about equal, Bartholomew said.

### Plant Enlarged

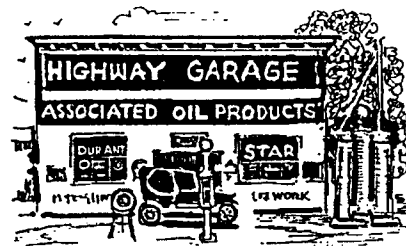
The plant winery has been remodeled and enlarged since it was acquired last year by Schenley distillers for large scale operation.





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July/Aug 1999

Vol. XXIV

No. 10

Excerpted from Livermore Herald, June 12, 1915

## CALENDAR

Thursday, Aug 12 @ 7:00pm  
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Building

Thursday, Sept 9 @ 7:00pm  
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Building

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Look for an announcement in the next newsletter regarding the celebration of Robert Livermore's 200th Birthday in October.

This year, for the year 2000 LHG Calendar, we will be listing one member's name on each day as recognition of **their support of the Guild through their membership.** We will be using the name that is shown on your mailing label. We will only be listing the names of members, not their address. If you wish not to be listed, please send us a note at the following address asking not to be listed on the calendar. LHG, P.O. Box 961, Livermore, Ca 94551. The calendar will go to the printer in the third week of September and be available for sale in early November.

## Did Marshall Discover Gold? (From Grizzly Bear for June)

Residing at Livermore, Alameda county is Mrs. Mary A. Smith, who with her husband, Henry Smith, came to California in 1846 at the same time as the Reed-Donner party. They were members of the Harlan party, which came by the regular trail, the Reed-Donner party taking a new "cut-off" route which proved so disastrous.

Mrs. Smith was related to Peter Wimmer, whose name has been prominently connected with the historic gold find in El Dorado county that caused thousands and thousands to flock to California.

Recently a committee from Las Positas Parlor of Native Sons had occasion to interview Mrs. Smith and obtained from her the following story in reference to the discovery of gold at Coloma in 1848. Although 88 years old, Mrs. Smith retains all her mental faculties and having had personal acquaintance with many of the early-day people and events is a most interesting person.

"Peter Wimmer was an uncle of mine by marriage, his wife

being a sister of my father. He had five children by an earlier marriage, and his wife had two; after their marriage three or four more children were born to them.

“When they came to California he left his family at Sutter’s Fort, while he went with Fremont as far as San Jose. When he returned he was employed by Marshall and Sutter to build a mill at Coloma, El Dorado county; it was here that gold was discovered on the 24th day of January, 1848.

“We heard of the discovery soon after and my cousin, Tom Smith, went to see if it was true. While he was gone Ira Van Gordon, who had come to Mission San Jose, told us that gold had really been found and said that he was going up to the mines the next day. Before 12 o’clock that evening we had decided to go to the mines also. Next day we started and went through Berkeley and the Martinez Hills, but there were so many people ahead of us that we had to wait our turn to be ferried across at Benicia.

“There was only one boat, and everyone who had heard about the gold discovery was making a rush to be on the ground first. Finally our turn came. A terrible wind was blowing and the tide was still running up, so that instead of drifting across we drifted up Suisun bay. There were ten horses on the boat belonging to a Mike Foley. They became excited and kept running from one side of the boat to the other, causing one side to sink. The horses had to be beaten so that they went into the water in order to right the boat. It was said that only one horse ever reached the shore.

“At about 3 o’clock in the morning we drifted back to the same shore from which we had made our start. We had been in the water most of the night but no one was drowned. The next day we had to ferry across again but reached the shore in safety this time. We were on Mormon Island on the 4th of July 1848, in the vicinity of what is now Folsom Island.

### The Gold Find

“From Mormon Island we went to Coloma. When we reached there my uncle, Peter Wimmer, told me how they had found the gold. They were going to have a millrace and turned the water on at night. In the morning they turned the water off and when it was dry enough to walk in they found the gold. Marshall and Peter Wimmer were walking along together when the gold was found. They took it to Jane Wimmer, who was making soap, and she put it in the kettle with the soap. When it was taken out it was very shiny, and Jane, who knew gold, told them what it was.

“They then took it to Sutter’s Fort where it was tested. Peter Wimmer was only working for Marshall, and as Marshall took the gold to the fort he claimed the discovery. But the nugget was in the possession of the Wimmers and was worn by Mrs. Wimmer on a chain until it was finally given by Peter to an Oakland lawyer for his services in writing up the history of the nugget. But Peter died broken-hearted because he was never given the credit of having really been the discoverer of the gold.

“The fact that Wimmer had the gold in his possession so many years and Marshall not having it at all gives the best foundation for my belief in my uncle, Peter Wimmer’s, story of the discovery. One reason that Marshall got all the praise for the discovery was that Wimmer was only his working man, and also the fact that it was he, Marshall, who took the gold to the fort to be tested, telling those there that it was his find.

“Wimmer died at his sister’s home, somewhere in the mountains near San Luis Obispo. His wife, Jane died long before, her death being caused by a tumor. A son, John Wimmer, who it was also claimed by many, discovered the gold while playing in the millrace, joined the Southern army when the war broke out and never returned to the State. His wife was his stepmother’s sister.

“We left the mines in the latter part of October, going to San Francisco. From there we went to Mission San Jose. In 1867 we came to Livermore Valley, where my husband and brother had a store.

### Early Spanish Customs

“My husband, Henry C. Smith, was the first Alcalde or Justice of the Peace in Alameda county. He could talk Spanish very fluently, and the Spaniards came to him with all their difficulties. He went to the Legislature as a representative from Santa Clara county, and it was he who drafted the bill that divided the county to form Alameda county. John Bigler was then the Governor and the Legislature met at Benicia. Alvarado was then the county seat.

“Horace Carpentier offered my husband half of his interest in Oakland property that belonged to the Peralta Grant if he would allow the county seat to be moved to Oakland, but he refused because of his own great interests in Alvarado. However, it was afterward moved to San Leandro, then to Oakland, and although my husband spent an immense fortune trying to get it back to Alvarado it stayed at Oakland. There was a saying at that time that ‘Henry Smith said that the county seat should be at Alvarado, but God Almighty said that it should not.’

“My husband died at Livermore in 1875. He was still the Justice of the Peace when he became sick, and was the first Justice of the Peace in Alameda county. When we first came to Livermore there were very few houses here—really only one large house and that was situated at Laddsville, by which name the town was originally called.

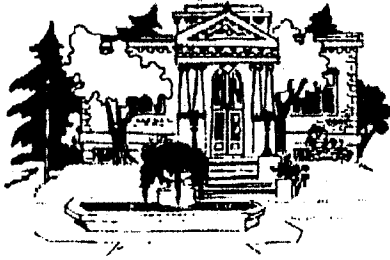
“In those days the Indians were slaves to the Spanish, who never worked. It was no uncommon thing to see the Spanish people being waited upon by a great number of Indian children, because when the Indians rebelled the Spaniards captured their children and made them work for them. The Indians were locked up at all times when they were not actually under the supervision of the Spaniards.

“When we kept a store at Mission San Jose, the Spaniards who came to trade with us rode their horses right into the store, although there were four or five doorsteps. There would sometimes be five or six horses in the store at one time. The Spaniards very seldom got off their horses unless it was really necessary.

“When one made the trip in those days from Oakland to San Jose one would see millions of cattle, and also quite a lot of wheat which was raised by the Indians.

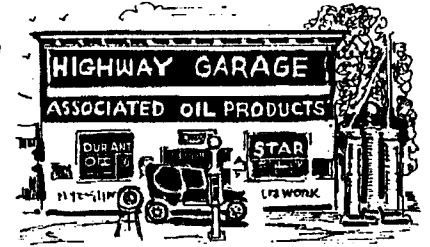
“When a Spanish child died the mother would carry the coffin upon her head, and the sister or nearest relative carried the cover upon her head to the place of burial. A great number of children marched, and they always had a great deal of music. All the children carried bright-colored handkerchiefs. They always had many candles in the death room, and also looking glasses on the tables near the wall.”

**If you would like to read more of Mary Ann Smith's story pick up a copy of "Recollections of A Pioneer Mother. The Life Story Of Mary Ann (Harlan) Smith" by Gary Drummond. Copies are available at the Carnegie Library.**



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September 1999

Vol. XXIV

No.12

## CALENDAR

Sunday and Monday, September 5 & 6  
Harvest Festival, various Livermore wineries  
Historymobile will be at Concannon Winery

Thursday, September 9 @ 7:00pm  
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Building

Thursday, September 16, 4-8 p.m.  
Farmer's Market, Third and L Streets, Livermore  
Historymobile will be there too!

Saturday, October 9 @ 5:00 p.m.  
Annual General Meeting  
Speaker: Gary Drummond  
"The Life and Times of Robert Livermore"

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Imagine celebrating the birthday anniversary of someone born two hundred years ago. That's what the Livermore Heritage Guild will be doing on Saturday evening, October 9, when it remembers Robert Livermore, born in Springfield, England in the fall of 1799, and is the person for whom this valley and our town is named.

Joining members of the Guild at its Annual General Meeting will be a number of descendants of Livermore and his wife Josefa Higuera Livermore.

The celebration will be held at the Veterans Memorial Building, 522 South L Street, in Livermore. A social hour beginning at 5:00 p.m. with a no-host bar will kick off the festivities, and dinner will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. Cost of the dinner is \$22.00 per person.

After a brief business meeting, the speaker for the evening is local historian, Gary Drummond, whose topic is "The Life and Times of Robert Livermore."

Tickets can be purchased at the Guild's History Center, 2150 Third Street (in the Carnegie Library building) which is open Wednesday through Sunday 11:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Please use the enclosed form to make your dinner choice and sign up for an interesting evening.

**Seating will be limited and tickets must be purchased in advance to plan dinner!**

The Historymobile is celebrating 10 years of keeping Livermore third graders informed about the history of Livermore. This month the Historymobile will be at the Harvest Festival, September 5&6 at Concannon Winery and September 16 at downtown Livermore at the Farmer's Market. Thanks to Tillie Calhoun and her helpers for keeping the Historymobile fun and informative.



**The following are accessions received by the Livermore Heritage Guild in recent months:**

A collection of 15 small photos of the Livermore airport in the 1930s and of the Graham family (Hugh Graham was in charge there during the late 30s). Gift of Evelyn Estrada of Modesto

A book on Victorian houses and a copy of the reprint of the Historical Atlas of Alameda County. Gift of Henri Fankhauser

A framed oil painting by Ben Aiken: a California history mural (6x9'). Gift of John F. Regan

Seven U.S. Dept. Ag. yearbooks, random years between 1904 & 1932 and school books (one identified as belonging to A. Jordensen, Livermore Class, 1905). Gift of Gwendolyn Beam

Two copies of "The Golden Gater" (publication of Livermore Naval Air Station, 1944-45) and 27 photographs (all identified), black & white, taken at the Air Station during WWII. Gift of R. Janie Tillbury of San Jose.

Oil painting of May School (donor says painting by Marie L. Mann, was done less than a week before the school was burned down by vandals). Gift of Dudley Cantua

Over 100 small photographs as well as two bowling trophies, half a dozen newspaper clippings, a lobby display board of "offices" and a booklet, all concerned with the Livermore Sanitarium in the early 1960s. Gift of Jan Ramsdell, a former Livermore resident now of Hayward

A copy of "Happy Memories" by Alice Anspacher Myers. Gift of Bruce Colton of Berkeley

A collection of over 30 books from the library of the late Ann Lewis; both Valley histories and general California histories. Gift of the Hon. J.A. Lewis

Nine political campaign buttons from the 1970s & early 80s. Gift of Mrs. James Foote

A tape transcription machine and a number of transcribed tapes. Gift of Kathy Stathis

Several small bottles, a glass measuring cup and a cardboard pill bottle, all drug store items, from an unknown donor

**The Guild wishes to thank all the people who have donated items to our collection, together, we will "Help Save Yesterday For Tomorrow"**

