

Livermore Heritage Guild

"Help Save Yesterday For Tomorrow"



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The Livermore Heritage Guild has been busy this year. We thought we would devote this issue of the newsletter to an update on what we've been doing. Below are highlights of our activities as well as recognition for some of our volunteers. Approximately 2500 volunteer hours are contributed each year in all the various activities the Guild sponsors. This year we also have had some notable donations of artifacts that make a great addition to our archives.

Recent Donations:

Because of a decline in membership, the Livermore Foresters recently sold the Forester's Hall. The group has donated all the furniture and their archives to the Livermore Heritage Guild. In total, over 27 boxes of records, ribbons, photographs and other archival materials along with the lodge furniture were donated. An 8ft oak table and nine chairs were also part of the collection. The table and chairs are now in the Carnegie Library for use by researchers. Over the next several months we will be cataloging the collection. The Sept/Oct newsletter will feature the history of the lodge as well as photographs of the collection. The Foresters Livermore lodge will continue to meet monthly in a new location. The Guild is very grateful for being given the materials.

William Vierra has donated negatives from postcards printed by Bezell's Drug store circa the late 1920's. Bill is the nephew of Manuel Duarte; Manuel purchased the

drug store from Mr. Bezell in 1944 and operated it until 1973. Many of the images are recognizable as being in our archives and we now know the source of the photos. It is interesting that the envelope the negatives came in had a note by Mr. Bezell to print 10 copies of each for postcards for resale. No wonder some Livermore postcards are so rare!

Olga Pfeiffer has donated materials that she and her husband, Ed, put together for the 1969 Centennial Celebration, including some newspaper clippings and a copy of their centennial movie on CD. Olga and Ed volunteered many hours of their time putting together the 1969 movie that was later featured in "Livermore, The Movie".

Carlo Vecchierelli, donated three beautiful lighted display cases, two are tall upright cases, from Dolls and Ducks in Pleasanton. They look great in the Carnegie Library.

Connie Duke donated two scrapbooks from Cask and Mask, an early Livermore theatrical group. Connie also donated issue #1 of the Granada Pioneer, the forerunner to today's Independent.

Doris Ferreira donated memorabilia from the Bordes family in the Valley.

Barry Schrader donated materials about the Anza expedition in the valley.

Other Heritage Guild Activities

History Mobile:

In April and May Marilyn (Tilli) Calhoun and Bill Junk offered school visits to third grade classes by the Livermore Heritage Guild History Mobile. In third grade, local history is part of the school curriculum. The History Mobile contains artifacts, maps and photos about early settlers, the Native Americans, the Spanish and Mexican settlers, the farmers and scientists who founded the laboratories and early local businesses. The children can touch a cowhide, lift a branding iron and see a grape knife and other tools. There are models of stage coaches and covered wagons. The History Mobile visited seven schools: Marylin, Smith, Rancho, Altamont Creek, Joe Mitchell, Arroyo Seco and Sunset—allowing hundreds of students to see and touch the past. Volunteer docents supporting Tilli were Marianna Deadrich, Sandy Harvey and Bobby Baird. Drivers along with Bill Junk included Phillip Dean and Wayne Calhoun. Several students wrote letters including one who said “My mother said learning can be fun and it was”.

Walking Tours:

Gary Drummond, assisted by Patty Curcio, hosted over 20 walking tours of downtown since February for 430 students and adults. These walking tours give the participants a closer tie to the downtown and its historical importance to our community. Gary gave out chocolate coins covered in gold foil to the children when he told the story of Dennis Bernal’s wife hiding gold coins in the Livermore Brewery fireplace mantle. Needless to say, they were a big hit and added something special to his story. Gary also hosted several classes on local history at the adult education center.

History Talks:

The monthly History Talks held at the new library have begun again (we took May and June off). These talks have been very successful averaging 40 to 50 people per talk. Don Meeker and his wife Diana have done a great job in spearheading the effort. Thank you to all the speakers for their efforts. See the calendar in this newsletter for the next scheduled talks.

Duarte Garage:

The Duarte Garage committee, Tim Sage, Jerry Bireley, David Abrahams and curator Bill Junk have been busy hosting several events at the garage. The garage was recently visited by over 200 motorcyclists commemorating the 1911 motorcycle race from Oakland to Livermore.

This time it was a poker run rather than a race. Each participant was given a playing card at each stop on the run. The highest hand at the end was declared the winner. Earlier this year a Lincoln Highway Association (Calif. Chapter) tour group visited the garage, another car club will be stopping for a visit in October. The garage will be visited by a group from the Alameda County Historical Society at the end of the month. Thanks to Bill and Susan Junk, the Mack Fire truck, housed at the garage, once again participated in the annual Rodeo Parade. Jerry Bireley has refurbished several artifacts that are displayed in the Garage and has organized the bookshelves for displays of smaller items.

Carnegie Library History and Research Center:

In June, we had 458 visitors because of the school classes that attended the walking tours and those that visited the History Center. Volunteer docents supporting Curator Don Meeker were Jean Lerche, Pat Hoenig, Loretta Cordrey, Maxine Trost, David and Jolene Abrahams, Ann Homan, Gary Drummond, Barbara Bunshah and Muriel Dean. We have a new student volunteer helping us with various tasks, Kit Thompson. Kit has been a big help with data entry and inventory of our publications just to name a few of her efforts. In July, several of us, including David and Jolene Abrahams, Bill Junk and Don Meeker, rearranged the History Center improving display space and adding the oak table and chairs already mentioned from the Foresters. This provides our research patrons with a more appropriate work space. We also have acquired a new computer, running recently acquired museum management software. This software will help catalog our archives. Bill Nale has been busy digitizing our photo collection so it can be made available on the new computer system. This last month we also took delivery of a Minolta MS6000 microfilm reader and printer. We can now print copies of articles located on our microfilm collection of Livermore newspapers. The nearly \$13,000 we spent on the computer hardware, software and microfilm equipment was 75% funded from proceeds from the last two year’s auctions. Thanks again to Lynn Owens, our auctioneer, and his wife Linda for making it happen!

New Displays at the History Center:

Civil War Veterans from Livermore:

We have installed several new displays including a display by Lynn Owens and Gary Drummond on Veterans of the Civil War that lived in the Valley. There are some fantastic

artifacts from Lynn's collection on display as well as photos and history of several Livermore participants. Lynn, along with participants from Alfred Pleasanton Camp #24, of the Sons of The Veterans of The Civil War, will be at the Carnegie Library from 12:00 to 3:00 on August 20th to answer any questions about the items in the display or any other questions you might have. Several of the members will be in uniform.

Native Americans in the Livermore Valley:

There is a display on Native Americans in the Livermore Valley. Artifacts that have been found in this valley are on display as well as representative samples for other areas (Similar artifacts have been uncovered here during archeological excavations). The Native Americans lived in this Valley for over 4500 years.

Art and History:

Anna Siig has arranged a display of artwork of local historic sites by local artists. Pictures from our archives supplement the artwork. The Carnegie Library, the Duarte Garage, the old Ruby Hill Winery, paintings of First Street and the Brownhill Ranch," the old Baughman house, are featured.

Robert Livermore's Cattle Brand Application:

Two original documents signed by Robert Livermore are on display (recently restored under the guidance of Maxine Trost). The most important is Livermore's cattle brand application from July 1845 signed by Livermore and Pio Pico, the last Mexican Governor of California. The document was recorded again and noted on the bottom in Contra Costa County in 1852 after California was part of the United States. This is Robert Livermore's personal copy.

Also an original receipt signed by Robert Livermore on March 10, 1851 for \$144 as final payment on a claim filed by Livermore against the estate of William Fisher. Fisher, also an Englishman, owned the Rancho Laguna Seca near San Jose. Livermore originally loaned Fisher \$1344; at the time of Fisher's death \$144 was still due on the note.

To The Right: New table and chairs from Foresters Hall and the new "Livermore Veterans of the Civil War" display by Lynn Owens and Gary Drummond in one of the new display cases donated by Carlo Vecchierelli.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, Aug 3rd @ 7:00 p.m.

LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Library, downstairs

Sunday, August 14th, Ravenwood, Ice Cream Social.
The History Mobile will be there!

Saturday, August 20th 12:00pm to 3:00pm

Lynn Owens and members of the Alfred Pleasanton Camp #24 will be at the Carnegie Library to answer questions about the artifacts in the display on the Civil War or other questions as well. **"Art in The Park" featuring 50 artists and entertainment will be hosted by the Art Association in Carnegie Park that day, so bring the family!**

Agenda for LHG Sponsored History Talks:

7pm to 9pm, Community meeting room of the Livermore Civic Center Library.

August 17, 2005:

David Kiehn from the Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum will present the history of silent film production in Niles.

Sept 21, 2005:

David Abrahams will give a photo show of the 1976 Bicentennial celebration in Livermore

Oct 19, 2005:

Tom Bramell will discuss the 100 year plus Livermore Light Bulb. the light with its own web cam.

\$2 suggested donation. Coffee, tea and sweet breads provided by the Library Cafe. The Library Cafe is open until 8:00 p.m. providing sandwiches and drinks.



A Brief Word

I want to say, on behalf of myself and the Board of Directors, THANK YOU to all the people who support the Livermore Heritage Guild, the volunteers who donate time and the members who support us through their dues, purchases at the auction and attendance at our functions and of course those that have donated items to the Guild: without you we could not do it.

Last year, in order to improve the organization, we went through an assessment program sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. It served as a spark that was a catalyst for many of us this year. We recently received a grant to fund a second survey and assessment of how we manage our archives, which will begin later this year. It already has inspired us to begin computerizing our archives. We will keep you informed as we proceed forward.

The History Mobile will be at the Ice Cream Social at Ravenswood on August 14th and at Concannon Vineyard during the September Harvest Trails event if you want to take a peek. Also stop by the History Center and see the new displays. The displays will be in place through September. The Livermore Forester's display and a display on Agriculture in the Valley will follow.

An item for our wishlist, the vintage 1969 motor home serving as the History Mobile has visited schools since 1989. Over the last 17 years, more than 6,000 third grade students, plus numerous adults, have visited the History Mobile and seen the displays. But alas the vehical is getting tired. The Guild would love to find a vintage 1990 or later motor home that could be converted into a new traveling museum. The body must be in good shape and it must be mechanically sound. The interior, other than the drivers area, would be removed to make room for displays so it can be rough. If anyone knows of such a vehicle, especially if they would like to donate it to a good cause, please call the History Center at 449-9927 and give the contact information to the docent or leave a message.

Hope to see you soon and THANKS!

Larry Mauch

