

Livermore Heritage Guild

"Help Save Yesterday For Tomorrow"



P.O. Box 961, Livermore, Ca. 94551

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Phone (925) 449-9927

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Foresters of America, Livermore Court #77

By Larry Mauch

In August of 1892, the "Independent Order of Foresters" and the "Ancient Order of Foresters of America" were both in Livermore soliciting members for their respective organizations. Both organizations attributed their roots to Robin Hood and the Ancient Order of Foresters in England. The Independent Order of Foresters, today known only as the "Foresters", was promoting insurance as a major benefit of membership in their organization; purchasing a policy was mandatory. The Ancient Order of Foresters of America, today known as the "Foresters of America", was promoting the traditions of the Foresters of England and their commitment to "Unity, Benevolence and Concord" and their pledge to "Promote virtue, increase knowledge and to inculcate upon the minds of those who enjoy the privileges and the duties required of them as Ancient Foresters." An optional plan, for those that chose to participate, used the monthly contributions of the participants to provide financial assistance in times of need as well as provide assistance with burial expenses.

Brief History of the Early Foresters

The early history of the Foresters in England is somewhat sketchy. Robin Hood is as much myth as truth. Best guess is he lived from 1160 to 1247. In November of

1745, a group was formed at Knarsborough Castle in England called the "Royal Foresters". They claimed their origins went back to Robin Hood. In 1834, a convention was held at Rochdale, England and the name was changed to "The Ancient Order of Foresters". At the time, Court #1 was formed in England. Sometime later, a court was formed in Philadelphia, Pa; the "Court of Good Speed, Court #201" which claimed its origins went back to the 1830's in the United States. Several other "Ancient Order of Foresters" courts are documented in the 1840's in the United States (New York and Boston). It appears most of the courts in the United States were abandoned by the time of the Civil War. In 1864, Court Brooklyn #4421 in New York and one other court existed. Court Brooklyn is credited as the foundation from which the "Ancient Order of Foresters of America" was built. By 1874 all United States Courts were still sanctioned from England. Alonzo Caldwell, a member of the New York Court, started a movement within the organization to become independent from England. Mr. Caldwell asked all interested parties to assemble at a meeting in New Jersey. In 1874, a new group was formed in New Jersey calling itself the "Independent Order of Foresters". They were completely independent from England and the remaining United States Courts, but still built upon the tradition and followed the organizational structure



Above: Upstairs lodge room before furniture was removed



Above: Main stairway looking upstairs



Right: Downstairs lobby with tile floor

of the Ancient Order of Foresters. This is the group that is known only as the “Foresters” today. The remaining “Ancient Order of Foresters” courts in the United States were still bound to the English courts. In 1889 these courts would also break away from England and rename themselves the “Ancient Order of Foresters of America”. Since 1889 there has been no affiliation with the English Ancient Order of Foresters except through a common heritage. However today, there are “Forester” organizations, (formerly Independent Order of Foresters) in England. Their steady growth is attributed primarily to the fact the “Foresters” has become a large business selling insurance, growing through acquisitions and mergers. To confuse things even more, today in the United States there are groups called the “Consulting Foresters of America” and the “Society of American Foresters”; which are organizations for professional Foresters concerned with the practice of Forestry. Now that you are totally confused lets get back to Livermore.

“Ancient Order of Foresters of America”

On August 10th 1892 The Ancient Order of Foresters of America, Court Livermore #77 was formed. Among the founding members were H.D. Mendenhall and D.A. Smith, future Town Marshall and Col. in Livermore’s Company I. The Independent Order of Foresters would wait another six years, until March 1898 to form a group in Livermore and it would only last until April of 1900.

Membership

In late 1880’s, the Ancient Order of Foresters in England dropped the term “White” from its membership requirements. At a meeting in Detroit it was voted to keep the term in the membership requirements in the United States; this was one of the reasons the last remaining Foresters in this country broke away from England. It would not be until the 1940’s that the term was finally dropped from membership requirements here. By the 1940’s the by-laws stated the intent of the organization is to “embrace the world within its jurisdiction, but more particularly that of the American Continent and to disseminate the cardinal principles of the order—Liberty, Unity, Benevolence and Concord: tolerance in religion, obedience to the laws, and loyalty

to the government under which we live.” The membership requirements were: males between 16 & 50 years of age with good moral character, sound in health and limb; must be a believer in the Supreme Being and reside in the state for at least three months. The purpose of the organization was the mutual protection and assistance of its members in sickness and distress, the burial of members, and the relief of relatives who were not provided for by the decease of a member.

The Foresters Masque Ball

In May 1893, the Livermore Court #77 held an Old Clothes Ball at the Farmers Union Hotel. By 1895 the ball had transformed itself into a New Years Eve Masque Ball. The Foresters Masque New Years Eve Ball was a huge event in Livermore. On Dec 31, 1900 the electric street lights in town were lit all night in celebration of the Foresters Masque Ball. The highlight of the 1901 masque ball was the showing of short moving pictures before the festivities began, the first ever shown in Livermore. The 1930 masque ball had 600 people attend. Considering the population of Livermore in 1930 was about 3500 people, that would be comparable to a turnout of 15,000 people if such an event were held in town today. The ball would be held annually until 1941 and the outbreak of WWII.

Membership Grows

In 1895 the Ancient Order of Foresters of America (A.O.F. of A.) became the Foresters of America (F. of A.). In 1899 there was talk of building a lodge hall with a theater, but it didn’t materialize. In 1901 there were a total of 110 members. That same year in Livermore, the “Companions of the Forest” was formed, a separate women’s group. By 1902 Pleasanton’s Foresters Court Alisal #108 had formed and they were looking into acquiring trees from Sherwood Forest in England to plant in Pleasanton. In February 1902, the Livermore Foresters traveled to Pleasanton to help plant trees from Sherwood Forest in McKinley Park. The membership in Livermore was continually growing. In 1910 Maitland Henry, editor of the local paper, joined the Foresters and in 1913 George Tubbs, a future Mayor of Livermore, became a member. In January 1912 the Livermore Foresters paid \$.56 tax per head on

254 members to the Foresters of America, Grand Court of California, located in San Francisco.

Foresters Hall

In February 1914 the Livermore Foresters announced they were going to build a two story meeting hall on land they acquired on J Street. A building committee was formed by Livermore's Chief Ranger Jean Valponi consisting of Wm Reese, M.G. Callaghan, J.J. Callaghan, F. C. Lassen, George Beck and A.M. Bowles. Later it was announced Henry H. Meyers would be the architect and C.H. Rasmussen would be the contractor. Both were well known in Livermore and had successful careers. Henry Meyers, formerly of Livermore, had a successful architectural business in San Francisco and Mr. Rasmussen had already built 73 structures in town, although this was to be his largest to date. The cost for construction was estimated at \$15,300.

On December 19, 1914 the local paper announced the dedication to be held that day and included a description of the building.

“The Foresters building to be dedicated today is a two story structure covering a lot 50 x 100 at the Northwest corner of Second and J Streets, and is constructed of reinforced concrete walls with the interior floor and roof constructed of wood timbers. The two street frontages are cemented and finished in a light cream tone with half timber work cornice in dark brown with red tile roof. The general external architecture is California Mission in character but sufficiently modified to conform with the requirements of the building. The Ground floor is divided into two stores besides a liberal entrance lobby and club room for the Foresters use. The store on the corner, 50 x 60 is now being occupied by Geo. Beck & Sons as a general merchandise business, while the Northerly corner, 24 x 50 is used by Jacob Rees & Son in the harness and saddlery business. The entrance lobby is liberal in size, is finished with a tile floor and high wood wainscot, with plaster beam ceiling. The stairs leading to the second floor is a straight, unobstructed flight of liberal width arranged to avoid congestion in case of crowds. In the second story at the North end of the building, immediately

connecting to the public lobby space, the Foresters will have their lodge room, ante-room and locker room, while at the south end of the building and at the front, connecting conveniently with the public lobby space, will be a ball room, with a cloak room, ladies parlor, lavatories and a kitchen. The lodge room and ball room are finished with high wainscoting of elm panels and with plaster cove ceiling and beams, with a maple floor in the ball room. The lighting fixtures have been carefully selected and are of the semi-indirect type, so that there is no unpleasant glow from the lamps. The building has been very well constructed and should prove a satisfactory home for Court Livermore.”

At 1:30pm that day the cornerstone was set with a time capsule. The metal case contained copies of the Livermore Herald, Livermore Echo, San Francisco Chronicle and the Forester's Review. Also included was a list of charter members of the court, copies of the constitution and bylaws, a list of present officers of the court, a copy of the resolution authorizing the appointment of the building committee and authorization to proceed with the building and a list of committee members. Later that day two separate dances were held, the last ending at midnight.

Other Courts in the Area Start to Lose Members

In 1929 F.C. Lassen, another future Mayor of Livermore, became the first Grand Chief Ranger from Livermore for the California State Court of Foresters of America. While other city's Foresters Courts were struggling, Livermore's thrived. The height of the Foresters membership in Livermore was in the 1930's. In 1932, Danville's 20 Foresters decided to join the Livermore Court. Pleasanton's members would soon follow. Tracy's Court folded during this period as well. Perhaps it was the fact Livermore had the Foresters Hall that gave it a strong foundation to continue, that and the fact many prominent Livermore citizens were members. In 1937 Foresters of America, Livermore Court #77 received an award from the California State Court for their membership drive. That same year W.J. (Bill) Armstrong from Livermore became Grand Chief Sub-Ranger for the California State Court. The following

year he became the Grand Chief Ranger for the entire California organization. David Bothwell would replace Armstrong locally as the Chief Ranger for the Livermore Court #77.

After World War II

In 1942 H.D. Mendenhall and D.A. Smith were given Life Memberships as founding members of the Livermore organization. On May 14, 1947 a celebration was held to burn the mortgage on Foresters Hall, Mendenhall, Smith and F.C. Lassen participated from Livermore. Photos were on the front page of the local paper. In 1948 David Bothwell became Grand Chief Ranger for the California State Foresters of America. Locally, in 1948 the Livermore Court built shelters for the school bus stops in town. Livermore honored seven 50 year members in 1951; they were H.D. Mendenhall, F.C. Lassen, T.W. Twohey, Dennis Nevin, Walter Block, T.J. Roderick and A.L. Young. The following year Dr. Paul Dolan from Livermore was honored for being the Court's physician from 1919 to 1947. In 1957, Livermore Foresters held a barbeque in town attended by 230 people. During the 1940's the Livermore Foresters contributed floats in several Rodeo Parades.

Taking Care of Their Own

In 1949 Mike Thamos wrote a letter from his home in Greece to the Livermore Foresters. Mike had been a member while living in Livermore in 1916. After enlisting and serving in the First World War, he returned to his home town in Greece to live. In World War II his home town was badly damaged; subsequently he was not able to find work so he could not feed and clothe his family. He asked his fellow Foresters, which he had not seen in 33 years, if they could send food and clothing. Shortly after receiving Mike's letter, packages of food and clothing were on their way to Greece.

The 1960's

In 1960, Wm. Dewhirst became the fourth person from the Livermore Foresters to head the California State Court. The local Foresters won several softball championships in the 1960's; sports had been a part of the organization since Livermore Court helped establish a league in 1913. In 1963, Livermore won four of six

awards for the California State Foresters. They had the most initiations, most percentage gain in membership, largest net gain in membership and the best athletic program for seniors. They would receive awards for membership in 1969 and 1970 as well.

1970 to Today

The 1970's started to see a drop off in membership in the larger cities in California. San Francisco's last offering for Grand Chief Ranger of the State of California served in 1975. It soon became the responsibility of three cities to keep the organization going: Livermore, Redwood City and Soledad. Livermore provided five Grand Chief Rangers to run the state organization in the 1980's and four in the 1990's. In 2001 there were 232 members of the California State Foresters of America representing 7 cities. Nationally the membership was declining quickly as well. Today there are less than 300 members of Foresters of America in the entire country. Today, in 2005 there are less than ten active members in Livermore. Of those, five have served as Grand Chief Rangers for the State: William Steiner in 1993, Bill Spurgin in 2000, Bill Brandi in 2003, Connie Frydendahl in 2004 and Pete Oaks in 2005. Lyle Keene serves today as the Foresters of America, Livermore Court #77 Chief Ranger.

The Last Man Standing

In 1892 a group of men from Livermore formed Foresters of America, Livermore Court #77. At one time the membership in Livermore was over 350. In 1892, when the group was formed, the membership nationally was over 100,000. Today their numbers have dwindled to a handful. All the old lodges, (Odd Fellows, Free Masons, Foresters of America and the many others) are suffering from a steady reduction in membership. Perhaps today, in our fast paced lives, the ceremonial aspects of the organizations have gone out of vogue, but they have all made countless contributions to their respective communities, long before there were government sponsored social programs. They took it upon themselves to make the places they lived a better place for themselves and the rest of the community. Today, tomorrow or maybe next year, because of declining membership, some will have a serious decision to



1948 Livermore Rodeo, Foresters Float

Above: 1948 Foresters entry into the Livermore Rodeo, notice the I.O.O.F. (Odd Fellows) building still has the wooden siding. Some Foresters were also members of the I.O.O.F.

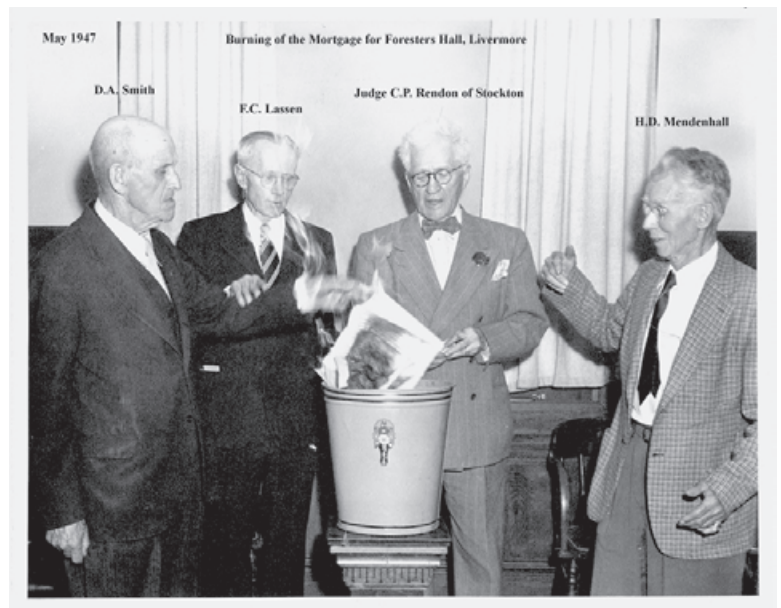


COURT LIVERMORE'S SHELTER

COURT LIVERMORE'S SHELTER

Left: School bus shelter built by the Livermore Foresters in 1948

Below: Burning the Foresters Hall mortgage in 1947



Mr Lassen to Mr Smith, "You can let go now!"

make. When the time comes, there is no shame or reason to apologize: there should only be pride in what they have accomplished and the undying efforts they made to preserve their heritage.

Foresters Hall in 2005

This year, because of the cost of maintenance, the Livermore Foresters decided to sell Foresters Hall. It was the last operating Foresters Hall of America in the United States. The hall has had some changes, mostly to the exterior, from when it was built in 1914. In 1932 a partition was removed from the banquet room upstairs in order to make the room bigger for the Livermore Eagles when they used the room for a time as their meeting place. The partial wall that was removed formed the original cloak room. A fire escape was added on the side of the building sometime later. An interesting note, in 1953 one of the two eagles on the front of the build suddenly fell through the awning of the Del Valle Mercantile, which operated downstairs, it was replaced. The upstairs rooms and downstairs lobby still have the wainscot paneling original to the building. I have included some pictures taken when the Livermore Heritage Guild toured the building several months ago.

The Heritage Guild is grateful for the donation by the Livermore Foresters of much of the archives that were held in the building as well as the furniture. We will use the items in displays to represent not only the Foresters, but all the Fraternal Organizations. Much of the information in this article was derived from those archives. We will be cataloging the materials for some time to come. We will display a small portion of the collection in November in the Carnegie Library; we hope you will stop by. The Foresters of America, Livermore Court #77 now meets monthly at their conference table located in the Carnegie Library on Third Street.

Reference documents: Souvenir Edition, The Foresters of America, a monthly paper, Aug 22, 1892. By-laws of Court Livermore #77 Foresters of America. History of the Independent Order of Foresters, by Oronhyatekha, M.D. published in 1895. Barbara Bunshah's index of Livermore papers. The Livermore

Echo, 1892 and the Livermore Herald, 1900 thru 1965. Misc. Livermore Forester's Court #77 documents housed in the Livermore Heritage Guild's archives in Livermore, California.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, Oct 5th @ 7:00 p.m.

LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Library, downstairs

Month of October, Carnegie Library

Display by LAGS, Livermore Amador Genealogical Society. October is genealogical month.

Wednesday, Nov 2nd, @ 7:00 p.m.

LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Library, downstairs

Month of November, Carnegie Library

All new displays, including a display on the Foresters of America, Livermore Court #77, watch for announcement in the next newsletter.

Saturday, Dec 3, 2005:

LAA reception at the Carnegie Library, do your Christmas shopping and buy from local artists offering a wide variety of gifts, something for everyone.

Agenda for LHG Sponsored History Talks: 7pm to 9pm, Community meeting room of the Livermore Civic Center Library.

Oct 19th, 2005:

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

Nov 16, 2005:

"Honoring Our Vets" Charlie Mabie of the Sons of the Union Veterans will discuss why this is important and give a history of Veterans Day.

Dec 21, 2005:

Don Meeker will share discoveries about Livermore Politics entitled "Livermore Has Gone to the Dogs" Don has been recording the early town records from 1876-1892.

\$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.

Court Livermore Initiates Twelve In Membership Drive

Approximately twenty candidates will be initiated by Court Livermore Foresters of America, at a big meeting here next Wednesday evening, April 25th. Special entertainment features are also planned and refreshments will be served. A large attendance is anticipated.

Past Chief Ranger F. C. Lassen and Grand Senior Beadle Wm. J. Armstrong represented Court Livermore at an Executive Council Meeting of California Foresters in San Francisco on Tuesday evening. Armstrong attended a big class initiation in that city recently.

FORESTERS PLAN FOR MOTHER'S DAY

LIVERMORE — Mother's Day will be observed by Court Livermore, Foresters of America, May 8th, with a program to be arranged by a committee named at Wednesday night's

this date. It may be aptly termed the Phenomena of Fraternal organizations. Founded in the United States of America after the Civil War, with patriotic inspirations, expressing and incorporating American ideals into its "Magnus Carta" the Order of Foresters of America was born, and soon spread throughout our great nation.

With Liberty, Unity, Benevolence and Concord as the watch word, it consecrated its endeavors to alleviate human suffering and uplift mankind to a higher level. The Foresters of America is a patriotic, benevolent and social organization, non-sectarian and non-political. Its democracy insures its growth, its quality makes its popularity and its benefits give a feeling of security. Its members are not for their possessions of worldly goods but what good they will do for the world. "We believe in the axiom," "what you speak builds that world," and have unhesitatingly endeavored to "provide what we preach." From a

F. C. Lassen and Grand Senior Beadle Wm. Armstrong will attend the convention, giving Court Livermore a total of six representatives.

Music by a cowboy orchestra and refreshments provided social features for the meeting.

A PROBLEM WE MUST MEET

By G. W. McKenzie

LIVERMORE — The life of every beneficial fraternal order, including the Foresters of America is at stake. If a bill now pending in the State Senate in Sacramento is passed, Senate Bill No. 454, will tend to destroy the present set up of fraternal beneficial societies in California unless organizational features harmful to such organizations are eliminated.

Legislation which will create a cumbersome double burden and duplication of financial burden upon our membership.

See Health Insurance Feature 49-

COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY GRAND CHIEF COMPANION EMMA A. PERERIA

Credentials and Returns —
Nellie O'Brien, P. G. C. C.;
Clara Bernol, Hamlet Circle No. 64.

Temple Down, Honda Circle No. 798

Distribution —
Lillian Powers, P. G. C. C.
Nellie Gray, P. G. C. C.
Kathryn Barron, Pride of the Fore-
44, No. 294

Lows —
Goldie Amier, P. G. C. C.
Ellie Wyatt, P. G. C. C.
Elizabeth Sheridan, P. G. C. C.

Kits and Decisions —
Hattie Gray, P. G. C. C.
Annie Kramer, P. G. C. C.
Elena Stovick, Stockton, No. 120

Apprais and Certificates —
Elna Kramer, P. G. C. C.
Caroline Van Wertum, P. G. C. C.
Lulu Smith, Esselene Circle, No. 2

Finance and Taxation —
Lulu Johnson, P. G. C. C.
Florence Wheeler, P. G. C. C.
Margaret Sauer, Hayward Circle No. 1222

State of the Order —
Lillian Smith, P. G. C. C.
Katherine Hastings, Concord Circle No. 314
Evelyn Zetich, Oakland Circle Circle No. 3

Press —
Lila Babson, P. G. C. C.
Claude Lawrence, P. G. C. C.
Annie Farnham, Astoria Circle No. 707

Immunities —
Elizabeth Aywood, P. G. C. C.
Edna H. Bishop, P. G. C. C.
Grace Crum, Verbano Circle No. 458

JERSEY CITY, N. J.

The Supreme Court, Convention of the Foresters of America, will meet in the Convention Hall of the Seaman Hotel, Red Bank, New York, on Monday, January 29th, 1934, at ten a. m. The Seaman Hotel will be the official Convention headquarters. Resolutions should be made direct to the Supreme Junior Beadle, Henry Hildebrand of No. 118, 115th Street, Red Bank, N. Y. Representation is based upon the membership as of December 31st, 1934. Plan to visit Red Bank this summer and take in the Supreme Court Convention of the Foresters of America.

Get A Member

Hoops up, and stand firm, better days are due in 1935.
Sincerely and Fraternally,
MARCUS E. DONNELLY,
Supreme Chief Ranger.



COURT LIVERMORE DRILL TEAM

meeting consisting of Francis Murray, Sylvain Barlow and H. L. Kamp. The affair will be open to Foresters and their friends.

LIVERMORE RODEO

Livermore again prepares to stage its world-famous Rodeo and invites you to participate in this great demonstration of the sturdy West.

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the settlement of the Livermore Valley, a Centennial parade will be held on the morning of June 9th.

Covered wagons, all stage-coaches, the wagons and all kinds of variety conveyances, with many other features including bands, drill teams and floats will be viewed by thousands of people and we invite you to assist in making the 1935 parade the greatest in the history of the Livermore Rodeo.

Whether you have been with us before or this is your first appearance, we will welcome any type of entry you prefer. Please make a real effort to present something outstanding that will definitely bring the attention of the huge crowd at your community or your organization.

By G. W. McKenzie

It is a matter of history that no great and unending object, movement, or idea has ever left an impression indelibly stamped in the hearts of the people, so met with success, unless such object or movement has had a firm foundation as well as a timely beginning.

small begins our Order has grown until it now numbers in the many thousands throughout our land and some thirty millions of dollars in assets. This is of vital importance to the man of the family, who seeks protection for his loved ones in case of adversity. The Foresters of America give that protection, and protect so, only guard its members happiness and that of their families.

We wish in the those things which the individual could not accomplish by himself, to spread the gospel of the Fatherhood of God, and the brotherhood of man. We believe the power to do good, if unexercised is a neglect to use those gifts given to man for the benefit of his fellow.

This application to human principles has placed the F. of A. in the front ranks of Fraternal Institutions. As a patriotic American Order, the Foresters of America are very mindful of the teachings of our Forefathers to spread our country with charity and kindness to every people, to solve situations as they find, and to guide American traditions and American principles.

COURT LIVERMORE NAMES FOUR DELEGATES

Members to represent Court Livermore, E. of A., at the Grand Court session at Santa Cruz, May 10th, 17th, and 18th, were elected at the meeting of the lodge Wednesday night.

Past W. Tostall, Francis Murray, David Greenstein and J. H. Bergmann were chosen as delegates with G. W. McKenzie, H. L. Kamp, D. A. Smith, and Sylvain Barlow as alternates. In addition Past Grand Chief Stropes

standing for passage in this Legislative session should contain clauses effectually exempting members of beneficial fraternal societies. This bill may come on the floor of the Senate at any time, and every member of a beneficial fraternal society should send a telegram of protest at once to the State Senate at Sacramento or to the Senator representing his district against the passage of this bill. If this bill, which is very detrimental to Fraternal Orders is passed it will mean the end of the Foresters of America in California and every other like institution in a very few years. Act immediately before it is too late.

G. W. McKENZIE
Agent for Theoretical Floral Co. of Oakland
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Physician for
Court Livermore, No. 77

AMERICAN FORESTER MONTHLY

OFFICIAL ORGAN DISTRICT NO. 7



ISSUED MONTHLY FOR THE COURTS OF ALAMEDA AND CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES

Vol. 1 FIFTY CENTS A YEAR NOVEMBER, 1934 FIVE CENTS A COPY No. 5

Court United States No. 38 Host to Dist. 7, Nov. 22nd.

The next district meeting will take place in the court room of Court United States No. 38, Danah Hall, 11th and Alice Street, Oakland, on Thursday evening, November 22nd.

This promises to be one of the best meetings held during this year, although it will have to be good to beat the one held last month in Court Hayward. Court United States is scheduled to receive an official visit from the Grand Chief Ranger on this night, which will add interest to the other events being planned for the district meeting.

The drill team of that Court will do the honors for the initiation expected to take place while Brother Al Coker, lecturer of District No. 7 has promised to have the boys of the Myrtle Knights of the White Elephant, induct the new members into the ranks of that Order.

A special committee has been appointed to see that this meeting will be one hour to be remembered by District No. 7. Members from all Courts present are still talking about the wonderful meeting held by the District in Court Hayward on October 18th. The hall was packed to overflowing, but the boys of Court Hayward were equal to the occasion taking care of everyone of the large crowd to everyone's satisfaction.

P. G. C. R. Judge James G. Quinn was the guest of honor, as the representative of the Grand Chief Ranger, and delivered a very impressive talk on the aims and purposes of the Order, and the objects of the new Past Grand Chief Rangers Association formed since the meeting of the last Grand Court. The Judge was attentively listened to by the large attendance, and accorded generous applause.

Court Hayward brass band under the leadership of Fire Chief Manuel Riggs of Hayward, entertained the members throughout the evening by some excellent music, also assisting with music necessary for the drill team during military ceremonies.

Three drill teams were on hand to perform the degree work, Court Shell Mound doing the honors, assisted in part by members of Courts Livermore and United States.

Six new candidates were initiated, four for Court Hayward and two for Shell Mound No. 17. After an interesting business meeting, during which four Past Grand Chief Rangers, the Supreme Deputy, and three Grand Officers, all of Alameda County, spoke on subjects affecting the welfare of the Order in general and District No. 7 in particular, the meeting was adjourned and the balance of the evening given in charge of Court Hayward's social committee, who provided a very nice mid-night lunch and liquid refreshments for the members. Court Hayward is to be congratulated for the splendid manner in which they handled this large assemblage.



WILLIAM J. ARMSTRONG
Grand Senior Worthy

Oakland Circle Host to Grand Chief Companion

OAKLAND — Grand Chief Companion Emma Perera will be the honored guests of Oakland Circle No. 3, on Wednesday evening, Nov. 7th, in the Pacific Building, 18th and Jefferson Streets, Oakland.

A reception in her honor has been arranged by the Circle and all Grand Officers and members from other Circles have been invited to attend. The Grand Chief will be accompanied by other high ranking officers of the Order on this, her official visit. The drill team of Oakland Circle headed by Leslie Crisman, Della Cinnell, will act as escort to the distinguished guest.

Supreme Chief Trophy

Court Hayward No. 18, is in the lead for the Supreme Chief Ranger Trophy, with Court Shell Mound No. 17 in second place. Court Hayward having initiated four new members and Shell Mound two, at our last District Meeting.

Court United States No. 38 is in the midst of a membership drive, and claim they will take the lead over all Courts at the next district meeting. Following is the standing of all Courts in District No. 7, to date:

- Court Hayward — 4
- Court Shell Mound — 2
- Court Livermore —
- Court United States —
- Court Verbano —
- Court San Leandro —
- Court Alameda —
- Court Roma —
- Court Niles —
- Court Harmonie —

Grand Court of Calif. Instituted Nov. 20th, 1889

Forty-five years ago this November 20th, the Grand Court of California, was organized in the city of San Francisco, and was given its charter from what was then known as the Ancient Order of Foresters of America, subsequently changed to the Foresters of America.

We are indebted to our present Grand Financial Secretary Frank Zelnit, for a copy of the minutes of the first session of this interesting and historic event of early California Forestry recorded as follows:

"Assembly Hall Pioneer Building, San Francisco, Cal., November 20th, 1889. — Assembled on the above date and place, delegates from the Subordinate Courts of the Ancient Order of Foresters of America in California, for the purpose of organizing the Grand Court of California as provided in the General Laws of the Order.

The meeting was called to order at 8 p. m. by Fred Hensley, Deputy Supreme Chief Ranger, assisted by C. H. Bremer as Deputy Supreme Secretary. After stating the object of the meeting, the Deputy Supreme Chief Ranger, appointed T. W. Oates of Court No. 5931 and Geo. Kolb of Court No. 4842 as besides; P. Bertin of Court No. 7616, J. P. Leinhardt of Court No. 4840, and W. J. Hensley of Court No. 5621 as the Woodwards.

The following address was then delivered by Deputy Supreme Chief Ranger Hensley to the assembly.

"Brethren: On behalf of the Supreme Executive Council of the Ancient Order of Foresters of America, I greet you. We have assembled this evening for the consummation of a great undertaking, the formation of the Grand Court of the State of California. Let me admonish you to also judicious and harmonious legislation. The eyes of the fraternal world are upon us, and eagerly watching our every action, consequently it behooves us to be careful, let no act of ours cause any but favorable comment. Therefore, I respectfully ask your kind indulgence, assistance and cooperation in establishing this Grand Jurisdiction for the State of California.

Let me motive cause you to sever from the trust reposed in you, set aside all personal and party feeling or private prejudices, and let the best interests of our Order, and this Grand Jurisdiction, in particular, be your first and only consideration.

"We the Foresters of America in California have every reason to be proud of the purpose of this assembly, it means the death knell of foreign interferences. Let this night's work be commemorative of what our forefathers did over 113 years ago, and what our Sister Society, the I. O. O. F., did at still a later period. Brothers, has not our country survived, and has not the I. O. O. F. survived. In this enlightened age of modern science and industry the Order of Foresters of America will and shall live. It is an inspiration with which our Order is endorsed, and which will never die, hence it is im-

Wm. M. Klinger P. G. C. R. Passes

Wm. M. Klinger, Past Grand Chief Ranger, passed away suddenly from a heart attack in Sacramento on September 29th. Brother Klinger had fully recovered from an illness which for a time forced him to seek a rest from his large business activities, some months ago, and his death was a shock to his family and friends in the Foresters of America. Bro. Klinger was Grand Chief Ranger in 1914 and never ceased his activity as a leader of Forestry. His funeral was attended by the entire Executive Council and many Past and Grand Officers as well as members of other Courts. Every Forester in District No. 7 regrets his passing and adds their expression of sympathy to his bereaved family.

Turkey Whist Nov. 15th

EMERYVILLE — Court Shell Mound No. 17 will hold a Turkey Whist on Thursday evening, November 15th, in the Ystron Memorial Building, in Emeryville.

A ten pound turkey will be given for every three tables. This is an annual give Thanksgiving event and a large gathering is expected.

Tickets are now on sale at 50c each and can be purchased through the Secretary or members of the Court. This is a good opportunity to get your turkey for your thanksgiving given dinner, in addition to spending a pleasant evening.

Members from other Courts are invited to participate and bring as many of their friends as wish to accompany them.

Play will begin promptly at 8:30 p. m.

portant that we should, without delay, proceed to business, reaffirm of our motto: Liberty, Unity, Benevolence and Concord.

"A committee on credentials was appointed consisting of T. A. Eager of No. 6584, G. H. Gariboni of No. 5931, A. Budt of No. 7541, R. B. Hensley of No. 6454, and H. Schlick of No. 7547.

"The committee reported representatives of fifteen Courts as being present. The following were elected and installed as Grand Officers to serve until May, 1890: R. B. Harmon, Grand Chief Ranger; R. E. Jacobs, Grand Sub Chief Ranger; Fred C. Hensley, Grand Treasurer; C. H. Bremer, Grand Secretary; Lewis Thome, Grand Senior Woodward; Alfred Butt, Grand Junior Woodward; C. W. Duffie, Grand Senior Seaside; J. J. Cordy, Grand Junior Seaside.

"A resolution was then offered and adopted that Brother Fred C. Hensley be bestowed with the honor of Past Grand Chief Ranger for his services in instituting the Grand Court of California. Signed, W. C. Burroughs, No. 7629, Oakland, Cal. was selected as the next place of meeting in May 1890." Signed, C. H. BREMER, Gd. Sec'y. R. H. HARMON, G. C. R.

A Brief Word

Sorry for the delay with this newsletter, hopefully the product was worth the wait. It was fun poring over the materials we now have available to us and gathering the information about the Livermore Foresters of America, Court #77. The display in November should also be interesting. At the end of October the Civil War display and the display on Native Americans in the Livermore Valley will be removed from the Carnegie Library so if you haven't seen them yet be sure and stop by. New displays will be announced in the next newsletter.

2006 Auction: Some of you may have heard we were not taking donations for the next Heritage Guild auction in May. We are trying to maintain the Duarte Garage as a museum all year round, unfortunately the donations we receive for the auction fill up 50% of the garage by the years end. **WE HAVE ACQUIRED ALTERNATE SPACE!** We have acquired another space to store your donated items until next May so please contact Bill Junk at 447-4561 or Anna Siig at 447-5475 or you can also leave a message at the Carnegie Library at 449-9927. Give us a call and we will pick up! Sorry for any confusion this may have caused. **Note: We do not accept computers. We also do not accept furniture, books or clothing, unless they qualify as antiques.** The auction has been a great fund raiser and a lot of fun as well, hope to see you there!

Membership Renewals: It is that time again, time to renew your membership. Our year runs from October 1st to Sept 30th. Your membership entitles you to this newsletter six times a year and supports the Guild in our efforts to preserve Livermore's history, so please renew, we would miss you if you didn't! I must say the membership of the Livermore Heritage Guild has been a big inspiration for those of us that volunteer. Seeing you at our various functions really does make us want to improve and provide the best experience we can for you, on behalf of all the volunteers, Thanks!

Hope to see you soon, Larry

