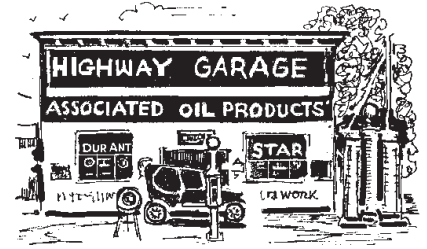


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# LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD



HIGHWAY GARAGE

PHONE : (925) 449-9927

" *HELP SAVE YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW* "

NEWSLETTER

WEBADDRESS:

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

October 2003

Vol. XXXIII

No. 1

## CALENDAR

Thursday, October 9 @ 7:00 p.m.

LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

Wednesday, October 15 7-9 p.m.

History Colloquium #7 for LHG, Duarte Garage

Speaker: Beverly Ales will educate us with her topic "What's in a name' - The story of Knife Rests"

All History Colloquium meetings are held at the Duarte Garage on the Third Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 P. M. rain or shine, hot or cold. Come learn and meet new friends. Donations and suggestions gladly accepted.

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

**Reminder: The Duarte Garage is open every 3rd Sunday of the month 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for viewing, working on projects, and just hanging around for a bit.**

For contemplated bibliography, the curator of LHG would like to borrow copies of programs from productions put on by Cask & Mask at Livermore High School, at the May School Theatre and later at Granada High School. For further information please call the History Center at 449-9927



Excerpted from Livermore Herald & News, April 16, 1965

### **Spectacular Fire Destroys Joesville Hotel and Store Two Firemen Injured; Other Bldgs. Saved**

Flames roared through the 40-year old Joesville Hotel, a North L Street landmark, last night and completely destroyed the building which housed a grocery, bar and upstairs sleeping rooms.

Nine residents of the hotel were aroused by one of the guests and all got out safely. Two firemen suffered minor injuries while fighting the blaze.

Firemen from four valley departments were able to keep the fire confined to the one building, even though flames shot so high that their red glare was visible throughout the city even through a heavy rain which poured during the height of the fire.

### SMELLED

The fire was apparently discovered by Paul Donoho, who told The Herald and News he smelled something in his room directly over the bar where the fire started at about 9:30 p.m. but didn't think much about it at first.

Then he remembered an earlier experience with a fire and left his room to investigate. Seeing smoke coming from under a door leading to the downstairs, Donoho immediately began pounding on doors to rouse other residents.

One guest told him later, "Man, the way you banged on my door and yelled, I knew you meant business."

Most hotel guests left only in night clothes, one one carried out a pet cat.

### NOT GREAT

Chief Baird said this morning that their loss apparently is not as great as expected, since many of the upstairs rooms were damaged only by heat and smoke and were not burned.

Firemen were called by one of the guests roused by Donoho, and a county fire truck arrived first, followed immediately by the city truck from Fire Station Two on Rincon Avenue.

When Fire Chief Jack Baird arrived, he immediately put the Twin Valley Mutual Aid plan into effect, which called for

help from Lawrence Radiation Laboratory and the City of Pleasanton.

#### INTENSE

Baird said that for some time he was not sure whether anyone was trapped in the building, but the heat was too intense for firemen to enter and the electricity had not yet been turned off by PG&E.

The chief praised his firemen from the Rincon Avenue station who immediately started laying fire hose to North L Street hydrants as soon as they saw the extent of the blaze, preparing for a major fire fighting effort.

The huge snorkel truck from Lawrence Radiation Laboratory was stationed across the front of the building and poured water down onto the fire from its towers.

Chief Baird said the snorkel was a great help in preventing spread of the fire to any other of the surrounding houses and cabins at Joesville.

Fireman Don Dillahunty received a deep cut on the little finger of his left hand which required stitching and fireman George Brown was injured slightly when a portable light unit rolled across a fire hose which burst and knocked him to the ground. He was treated at Valley Memorial Hospital and released.

Hundreds of spectators stood through the rain to watch the fire which was fought by a total of almost 50 firemen from the four departments. Police officers blocked off all streets leading to the North L Street and Junction Avenue scene of the fire.

Joseph Caratti, owner of the hotel, who built it himself back in 1926, expressed more concern about the safety of his tenants than he did his own personal loss.

He said his son closed the bar at 9 p.m. and went to their home nearby. About 9:40 a next door neighbor told him "Your bar is burning up." The first fire alarm was sounded at 9:43 p.m.

Supplies of ammunition inside the store exploded all during the fire. But firemen worked within five feet of the exploding shells. Chief Baird explained that he kept all firemen back from the area until more water could be laid into the store area before the firemen were allowed near the ammunition. He said most of the shells that exploded went skyward. Many sizes of small arms and rifle and shotgun shells were involved in the fire.

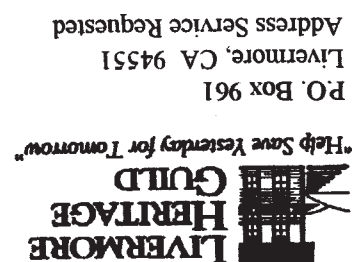
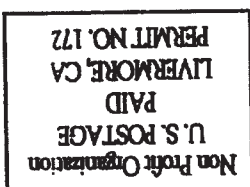
#### REMAINS

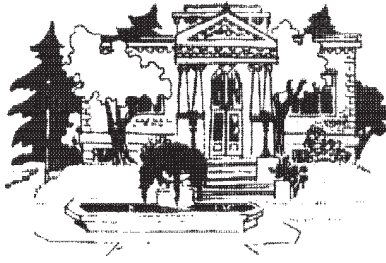
This morning all that remains at the hotel store and bar are piles of soggy pretzels, charred and spongy loaves of bread, thousands of damaged cans of good charred and rusted refrigeration cases and bowed and charred timers.

Miraculously the wine and beer and liquor loss was not as great as expected. One bystander speculated that perhaps there was enough coolness left in the refrigeration units to keep all the beer from exploding.

Sleepy-eyed neighbors, some of whom had no sleep all night, were on hand this morning to help Caratti and his son dig out from the rubble.

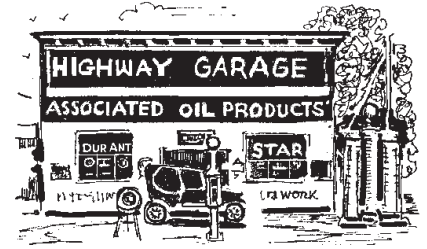
Please stop by the History Center to view the Joesville display.





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November 2003

Vol. XXXIII

No. 2

## CALENDAR

Thursday, November 13 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

Wednesday, November 19 @ 7-9 p.m.  
History Colloquium #8 for LHG,

**PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE FOR THIS MEETING ONLY**

Speaker: Senor Ernesto Nava, last son of "Pancho Villa"

**LOCATION: Asbury United Methodist Church**

**4743 East Avenue, Livermore, CA**

Open to the public

All History Colloquium meetings are held at the Duarte Garage on the Third Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 P. M. rain or shine, hot or cold. Come learn and meet new friends. Donations and suggestions gladly accepted.

Excerpted from the Livermore Echo, Sept. 2, 1899  
Died At The Age of 120 Years

**Tausino Sanchumi, Well Known Indian Passed Away Last Week**

One more of the old race of Indian blood that in the early days when this section of Alameda County was unknown and when the red skins held full sway, to roam about at will and hunt wild game, that at that time infested the hill, meadow and ravines, and whose ancestors had lived long and happy years in quiet solitude, has passed to the other side of the Silvery Stream where his old age and weary bones will no more be made a burden and care for his fellow beings who yet survive him, says the Bulletin.

This old world will no longer cause the worry and suffering to Tausino Sanchumi, the deceased in question, for on Friday night the 18th last, he passed away at his Indian hut between Pleasanton and Sunol at the age of 120 years.

Inquiry into his life time proves that beyond all doubt the deceased was still older in years than given at the time of his death.

He was born in immediate vicinity of San Francisco where he resided until about seventeen years of age when he came to this county and with the old Monks was one of the first to plant the cross at Mission San Jose before the construction at that place.

Years after when the first shovelful of dirt was turned for the construction of the Old Mission, the deceased was present and with a sturdy hand helped in the construction of that ancient and sacred Mission.

Later he with his family joined others of his tribe on the old Chabot place at the foot of the mountain near Dublin and as the country began to become more populated they moved about until at last they settled on the roadside between Pleasanton and Sunol where they have since resided.

Upon several occasions he gave old settlers here to understand that at the time of his joining his countrymen on the Chabot lands, that many who were then living had long before passed their one hundredth year and were then at the age of 140 years.

From many who knew him from early days, it is the earnest belief that he was close on to his 140th year. The remains were taken to Mission San Jose Monday and laid to rest.

## Your Version of History

by Anna Siig

For years, I have been encouraging people to write their "memoirs." Write them for fun, write them for their children and grandchildren, and write them for the history of the area. Why?

For me, there are many reasons. I have learned a lot about myself by writing down my memories. Sharing them with siblings brings out their version of the time, place or event. That's right, the memories aren't always the same. We each remember different things, interpret things differently and what is true for us is true for us. I once read, "if you are going to write history, find at least three sources and hope two of them agree." Seems like a good idea.

When Gary and I were putting together the Mary Harlan Smith book, Gary found a "history book" version of an event and Mary Harlan Smith's version of the event as she saw it. A combination of the two seems more interesting and complete than either one alone.

From "California Conquered" by Neal Harlow: Page 197: "But revolt in the north was nearly over. There was one other local disturbance, the "battle of Santa Clara," in January, after Fremont's departure from San Juan. Perhaps a hundred Californians under Francisco Sanchez dramatized their resentment over the plundering of the ranchos, begun by Weber and Fremont's men, by capturing Alcalde Washington A. Bartlett of Yerba Buena (and the Portsmouth) and five or six Americans on a foraging expedition. With Captain Marston's marines and volunteers in pursuit, there was some rapid marching about by night and day and one brief skirmish on January 2 on the

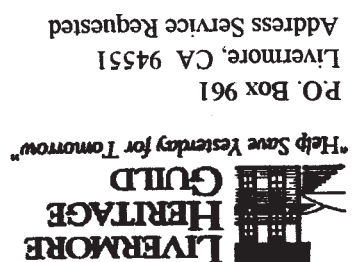
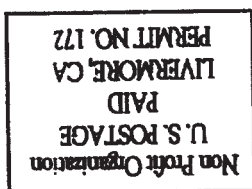
plain of Santa Clara. An armistice was then arranged, and American assurance given that property would not be taken without proper formalities. "Since that day," recuperated British Vice-Consul Forbes, a neutral (if never impartial) member of the negotiating party, "we have seen the commencement of a different treatment of these people," and he hoped it would produce a beneficial feeling in the Californians' favor."

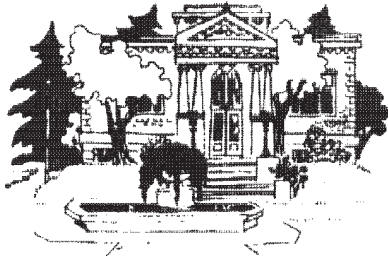
From "Recollections of a Pioneer Mother"

"The Life Story of Mary Ann (Harlan) Smith."

"Captain Weber of San Jose (who later laid out the City of Stockton) had a company of fifty cavalry. On learning that so many Spaniards were camped in the vicinity, he secured a cannon and a number of marines from the man-of-war and attacked them. A battle was fought in sight of the mission. The Spaniards were on horseback, and whenever the cannon was fired they would ride off, then ride back and shoot, and ride off again. It was not much of a battle, as battles are nowadays, but it seemed very real to us. One Indian was killed, so the casualties were not great. The Spaniards surrendered, and Napoleon Smith received their arms. While the battle was raging the mission bells tolled. The women and children, both American and Spanish, were very much excited and stood upon wagons and anything they could find to watch the battle."

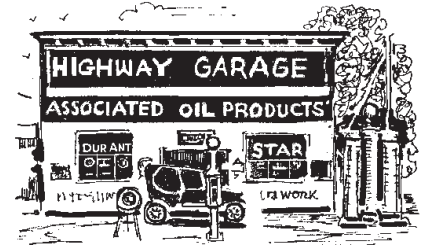
I hope reading the two versions of the same event will serve to encourage you to begin writing.....writing your memoirs or, at least, some of Livermore's history as you saw it. And I hope you will share your writing with others, including the Livermore Heritage Guild.





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December 2003

Vol. XXXIII

No. 3

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

### CALENDAR

**ALL MONTH:** The LAA Gallery and Livermore Heritage Guild welcome visitors to view changing displays of original art and Livermore History. December features Christmas cards, clothing, jewelry and paintings on display and for sale.

Saturday, December 6 Downtown Livermore  
Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting, First Street  
Free admission. Info: 373-1795

Sat. & Sunday, December 6 & 7, noon to 5 p.m. each day  
Holidays in the Vineyards  
Livermore Valley Winegrowers Assoc. Free admission  
Valley wineries hold open house. Info: 447-9463

Friday, December 12 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Drummond Home **NOTE PLACE AND DAY CHANGE**

Wednesday, December 17 @ 7-9 p.m.  
History Colloquium #9 for LHG, Duarte Garage 7-9 p.m.  
**Speaker: Tillie Calhoun "Danish Holiday Traditions". Audience participation in "A Favorite Holiday Memory" is encouraged.**  
Open to the public  
All History Colloquium meetings are normally held at the Duarte Garage on the Third Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 P. M. rain or shine, hot or cold. Check at the Carnegie Bldg. to confirm location. Come learn and meet new friends. Donations and suggestions gladly accepted.

### 2004 CALENDARS ARE HERE!

LHG 2004 calendars have arrived. Come down to the Carnegie Bldg. to get your copy now for Christmas gifts as they will go fast. Price: \$10 which includes tax.

November's History Colloquium with Ernesto Nava (last living son of Pancho Villa) was a standing room only crowd with over 250 people in attendance. David Abrahams gave a talk about Livermore's Company I involvement with the Mexican Revolution and Pancho Villa. As a thank you gift, Jolene Abrahams graciously gave her last copy of an out of print book on Pancho Villa (written by her aunt) to Ernesto Nava. Thanks to all who made this colloquium a success: David & Jolene Abrahams, Barbara Bunshah, Loretta Cordrey, Don & Diana Meeker, Barry Schrader and the Asbury Methodist Church.

### Agenda for Future History Colloquiums:

#### **January:**

Michelle McCumber, "Family Ranchers"

#### **February:**

John Shirley, "Personal Experiences in the 1950s"

#### **March:**

Barry Schrader, "Mudslinging and Muckraking Between Valley Newspapers"

#### **April:**

Charles Toliver, "Airship That Never Sailed"

Livermore Heritage Guild 2004 Calendar



*It's a Livermore Dandy!*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the members of the  
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January 2004

Vol. XXXIII

No. 4

## FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS IN LIVERMORE

By Gary Drummond

Do these acronyms make sense to you: IOGT; UPEC; IORM or OdHS ? They represent some of the fraternal organizations that have been popular in Livermore Valley since 1870. They stand for International Order of Good Templars, for Uniao Portuguesa do Estado da California, for Improved Order of Red Men, and for Order der Hermann's Sohnes.

Fraternal organizations in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century served several purposes. They united immigrant social groups like the Portuguese and the Germans; they assumed civic responsibilities (the International Order of Good Templars was a temperance movement), and they were, probably first and foremost, benevolent societies. In the days before sickness benefits and burial insurance were available, one's membership in a fraternal organization often provided funds for a family in case of emergency.

The earliest recognized fraternal group in Livermore Valley was the Free and Accepted Masons (F&AM), organized in July 1871. At the time there was no suitable facility in Livermore, and the organization's first meeting was held at the Pleasanton Hotel. A more permanent meeting place was soon found when the Pleasanton school district agreed to rent the lodge a room in the schoolhouse for \$6.25 a month – provided the brothers would lathe, plaster and paint the room. The Masons met here until November 1874 when they moved to Livermore, meeting in the IOOF

hall on First Street. In 1886, when one of the members, A. J. McLeod, erected a new 3-story building at the northeast corner of First and Livermore (then Lizzie Street). His design included a suitable lodge room on the third floor. On May 28, 1909, the corner stone was laid for a new Masonic Temple at the southwest corner of First and Livermore, where the Mosaic Lodge 218, F&AM, has maintained its hall since.

Livermore's Independent Order of Odd Fellows was organized in the spring of 1873. Within a year, they had started construction of a lodge hall on First Street. Designed and constructed by J. L. Weilbye, a young architect/builder in the community, at a cost of \$4500.00. One of the features requested by the Building Committee was a series of pegs in the anteroom so that the brothers who came from outside the town could hang up their knapsacks (as they usually stayed in local accommodations). The 125-year old IOOF hall is a First Street landmark.

Another local social/ civic group was the Improved Order of Red Men, which traced its origin to the secret patriotic societies founded before the American Revolution, and whose purpose was to promote liberty and to defy the tyranny of the British Crown (one of these secret societies was the Sons of Liberty, best known for hosting the Boston Tea Party in 1773.) The Red Men were formally recognized as a separate organization in 1813. The local lodge was established in Livermore in 1910 as Cotati Tribe #228 at a "council fire" conducted by Grand Sachem Henry Gesford.

The “council fire” was allowed to extinguish itself here in the 1960’s.

The Order der Hermann’s Sohnes was a nationalistic organization organized in Germany about 1848 and brought to America with German immigrants. Its name commemorates Arminius (Hermann in German), the only Germanic chieftain to defeat a Roman Legion. The local branch was

organized here in 1887. Although its local meeting place has not been identified, members of the fraternity are remembered in a fenced-in cemetery plot, marked with the initials OdHS, at Roselawn Cemetery on North Livermore Avenue.



Masonic Building (corner of First Street and S. Livermore Ave.) circa 1920



### PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE LIVERMORE DISTRICT by Gary Drummond

The rich farmlands of the Livermore Valley brought not only opportunity but families and a consequent need for schools. Although Livermore School District had been organized by the county supervisors in 1862, it was not until May, 1866, that a small one-room school, taught by Miss Esther Weeks, opened on what is now Portola Avenue with thirteen pupils - six of whom were from one family. It was a subscription school, as no provision had yet been made for taxation.

By 1869, it was necessary to move the building closer to the population centers of Laddsville and Livermore. After it was relocated on what is now Livermore High School

football field, a second building was needed to accommodate a burgeoning student body. Within a few years, both buildings were moved to land donated by William Mendenhall on Fifth Street where, in 1877, a new two story structure opened. The two original buildings were again moved, one to serve as a saloon on First Street, the other converted into a carpenter shop.

Meantime, other school districts were being formed to offer an up-to-eighth grade education. In the years 1869 to 1898, thirteen school districts, all rural, were organized and either lapsed or were annexed to adjoining districts when the average daily attendance dropped below the minimum required. The May District three miles north of Livermore, the Summit District in Altamont Pass, and the Townsend District east of Greenville Road on Tesla were all organized the same day, May 3, 1869. The Harris District served



children in the coal-mining community of Harrisburg. Organized in 1875, it lapsed in 1904 when the mines closed. The Mocho District, whose school was located at the junction of Mines Road and the road leading to Del Valle Recreation Area, opened and lapsed twice before being annexed to the Livermore District. The school building was moved to Tubbsville, a low income residential area on Railroad Avenue. When the Tesla District school closed in 1913, Father Patrick Power purchased the school furnishings and moved them to St. Michael's Catholic School which opened that year.

A high school education was available almost from the founding of the town. Livermore Collegiate Institute, a private school, was established in 1870 by Dr. W. B. Kingsbury on aptly-named College Avenue. When Kingsbury failed financially, James D. Smith purchased the business in 1875, and for almost twenty years averaged 50 students annually.

Assemblyman Frank R. Fassett of Livermore introduced legislation in Sacramento to provide for union high school districts. Livermore was designated Union High School District No. 1 in 1891, as the first in the state to be formed under the new law. This led to a new high school building in 1893, but it also meant the demise of Livermore Collegiate Institute.

Today, all the rural schools are closed and students in the outlying area attend schools in the Livermore Unified School District.



**HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS**

Gary Drummond will be offering his "Glimpses of Livermore Past" for the sixth time beginning March 1, 2004. Classes are held at the Ed Rundstrom Learning Center, 555 Sonoma Avenue from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. once a week. You may register at the Adult Education Office in the Center. Registration fee is \$20.00



If you would like to sign up for either a downtown or residential **walking tour**, you may now register by either calling the History Center at 449-9927 or by visiting the History Center and completing a preference card. When several people have signed up for one tour or the other, a Walk Tour Guide will contact you with a time and date to meet.

**2004 CALENDARS ARE HERE!**

LHG 2004 calendars have arrived. Come down to the Carnegie Bldg. to get your copy now as they will go fast. Price: \$10 which includes tax.



*We have a year round pickup for donations for the LHG AUCTION held each year on the Saturday of the Memorial Day weekend. 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) and computers or computer equipment. Time to clean out those garages and let us help you dispose of those items that need a new home. Phone for pickup: Bill Junk 447-4561, Anna Siig-Drummond 447-5475 or leave a message at the History Center with Barbara Bunshah 449-9927. This has been a fun event for everyone and we look forward to seeing you at the auction!*



**CALENDAR**

Thursday, January 8 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

Thursday, February 12 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

Thursday, March 11 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

**Agenda for Future History Colloquiums:**

**The next 3 history colloquium meetings will be held at the Bothwell Recreation Center, 8th and H Streets, Livermore at 7 p.m.**

**January 21, 2004:**  
Michelle McCumber, "Family Ranchers"

**February 18, 2004:**  
John Shirley, "Personal Experiences in the 1950s"

**March 17, 2004:**  
Barry Schrader, "Mudslinging and Muckraking Between Valley Newspapers"

## A Word From the Chair

This year will be a year of growth and change for the Livermore Heritage Guild. The Livermore Heritage Guild has been in existence for 38 years with the primary focus on archiving materials and research. The Board of directors will be seeking ways to expand our presence and involve the community.

Late last year the Board of Directors decided to apply for and was awarded a grant from the American Association of Museums to evaluate our methods and help us achieve best practices in museum management. The Heritage Guild's evaluation will take place over the next several months and will cover all aspects of our operation.

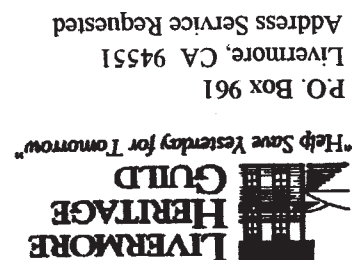
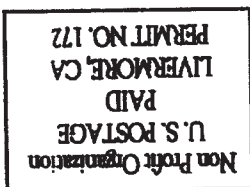
The history colloquium started by Vice Chairman Don Meeker last year has been a big success. The November presentation on Poncho Villa, thanks to a fantastic effort by David and Jolene Abrahams, Barry Schrader and many others, had nearly 200 attendees. We will be looking to refine the process and add additional presentations throughout this year. If you have any suggestions for a topic or know of a knowledgeable speaker you feel might be appropriate, please contact us via email at

[historytalk@lhg.org](mailto:historytalk@lhg.org), or you can always drop us a note at our post office box shown on the first page of this newsletter.

As you have already noticed, the newsletter format has been revised. The picture at the top of the newsletter will change with each edition. We recently purchased a new laser printer to improve the quality of the photographs in each edition. This edition's picture is of the railroad depot circa the early 1900's. In order to allow time to develop improved content, **beginning with this issue we will be publishing the expanded newsletter every other month.** The newsletter will change from a two page format to a four page format and contain more original articles written by local researchers containing more photographs. We will be refining and improving the content throughout this year; we hope you will like the changes. Drop us an email with your comments at [editor@lhg.org](mailto:editor@lhg.org) or drop us a note at the post office box.

We really would like to hear from you!

Larry Mauch



# Livermore Heritage Guild

*"Help Save Yesterday For Tomorrow"*



Livermore Avenue just beyond Railroad Avenue circa 1890s, showing snow covered hills of Mt. Diablo in the background

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March/April 2004

Vol. XXXIII

No. 5

## **The Western Pacific Railroad**

By Gary Drummond

Once a spot on the south side of the present railroad tracks between North L and K Streets marked the location of the Western Pacific depot from 1910 until 1956 when the depot was demolished. That space is now occupied by a small commercial center.

It was a great day on August 22, 1910 when Livermore greeted the first passenger train over the then new railroad. Livermore declared a half-day holiday for the arrival of the train. The depot had been decorated with flags and plants, bales of hay, casks of wine and cream cans. Small bottles of Livermore valley wine were presented to passengers on the train by a group of young girls. Attached to each bottle was a small card describing the "liquid sunshine" characteristic of the valley.

The rail line had been carrying freight for some eight months previous. The freight house which was located on the north side of the tracks, still exists, having been moved to the west side of Vasco Road below I580.

The first public use of the depot building was a far cry from railroading - on June 24, 1910, the Christian Endeavor

Society of the Livermore Presbyterian Church held an ice cream social there as a fund-raiser to send delegates to the State convention in San Jose.

Maitland Henry, long-time Livermore Herald editor and publisher, had first-hand experience with the railroad depot. The building had been furnished many months before it was actually used and insurance regulations required that it be occupied. Henry, as a boy of 18 years, was employed to sleep in the building at night. He related that "the job provided excitement aplenty. First," he said. "was summoning up the courage to go over to the building at night. Not only was it an isolated location in those days, but it had no lights or telephone; it had many visitors. These were primarily wanderers who had worked or were seeking work on construction crews. Much finishing work still remained to be done along the right-of-way through the valley. Carrying blanket rolls and looking for a place to spend the night they commonly tried a door and finding it locked were on their way, but others were more persistent, trying all the doors, endeavoring to break in. There was nothing to do but wait them out and then try to regain composure and go to sleep."

He continues his reminiscence: "One night, which started badly, turned out to be the most peaceful of all. Arriving at

the depot late, I found what was to be the passenger waiting room completely occupied by sleeping men. That posed a problem of what to do. A locomotive was parked nearby, with the engineer and firemen in the cab. They told me the men were a construction crew whose foreman had a key to all station buildings, and that night was one of peaceful sleep. It was pleasant relief to me when that particular method of 'working my way through school' came to an end."

He ended his narrative by recalling, "The year 1910 was an eventful one for Livermore. The new Masonic temple was dedicated, and the Livermore Carnegie Library was nearing completion. But the greatest excitement of all was the anticipation of Halley's comet. Livermore, with the rest of the world, approached the fateful May 18, 1910, when the world would go through the tail of the comet, in fearful anticipation of disaster, some even predicting the end of the world. Nothing whatever happened except to provide memory of an unusual event."

(In the mid 1970's both the Southern Pacific and Western Pacific rails through Livermore were consolidated so that the original Western Pacific track is the present railbed through the community.)

## COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

From Dona Fraser Blackmore, November 2003

This is the most interesting story but some years ago I had work done on my house by a husband and wife team who live 19 miles out Mines. We became very good friends. During a lunch break, one day we talked about a grave out on a ranch on Mines Road (rather large grave). Being me I passed it off (in one ear and out the other) but two weeks ago while having dinner with friends, the husband says "Dona do you know of a grave out on Mines Rd?" I said "yes I do".... He replies....it's my family!!!! Long story short, ranchers, friends, family of the woman in the grave all went Sat. to see the old oak tree, with grave. Come to find out, it is Mary Jane Adams, Stevens, Hearst. One family member that went on Sat. was 93 and she said she remembers a school called Vista. I told her I would try to find out more.



Information that I have regarding Mary Jane Adams, Stevens, Hearst:

- . *Mary Jane Adams (parents Margaret Ann Gill/John Adams of Saline, Missouri)*
- . *Mary Jane was born 2-3-1834 and died 1906 (day of San Francisco earthquake....I think?)*
- . *She married Valentine Livingston Stevens and then William Hearst. She had a daughter, Kate Elizabeth who married Lewis F. Randolph.*

As the ranchers tell it, she lived with a cowboy out in the hills on Mines. My friend (93 years old) did not want to talk about that. My friend remembers playing at the grave or visiting it and some of the family going to Vista School. Sincerely and with MUCH APPRECIATION.....Dona (defb@comcast.net)

**Dona, thank you for sharing your story. Here is some information about Vista School**

VISTA (school district and school)

Taken from an article in the Herald & News, Monday, July 4, 1966, "Livermore District Has Had 3 Different Names"

Vista was the last of the rural districts to be organized, forming January 30, 1882. It had the shortest existence, being annexed to Mocho March 1, 1897, when it had an average daily attendance of only five. The annexation was strongly protested by some residents of the district, who felt that a change in the location of the school house would increase the attendance, some children being unable to travel the five or six miles required of them.

The protestants claimed the population of the district was growing, but away from the school location. When the district was formed, its residents erected the first building, only 12x20 feet in size, and several years later put up a larger building. It was located on a point of a ridge on the east side of the canyon opposite Cedar Mountain, with a splendid view of the canyon, hence its name.

It was on land located by A.E. Crane, for whose family Crane Ridge, forming the west side of Mocho Canyon, was named. When the district lapsed he had moved to Sunol, and became greatly concerned about the title to the school sites, it having been specified that the land on which the building stood would revert to the owner if the district were ever discontinued. He had sold the property to Leopold Jaccard of Livermore, which caused complications, and contacted county officials as to the status of the school site.

Information is not available on the outcome. After the district lapsed the building was sold at auction in December, 1897. It was purchased by then Supervisor Thomas D. Wells, who said that he would donate it back to the district should it reopen. The nature of the Mocho Canyon area, with the deep canyon and high ridges and lack of roads made school attendance a problem because of travel difficulties. Vista was contiguous to Wilson district, at the mouth of Mocho Canyon, which had been organized before Vista, and also had lapsed and been annexed to Mocho. Vista was actually annexed to what had been Wilson.

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## **HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS**

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Contact Gary Drummond at [gadrum@comcast.net](mailto:gadrum@comcast.net) or call 447-5475 for details.

If you would like to sign up for either a downtown or residential **walking tour**, you may now register by either calling the History Center at 449-9927 or by visiting the History Center and completing a preference card. When several people have signed up for one tour or the other, a Walk Tour Guide will contact you with a time and date to meet.

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## **IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! AUCTION TIME**

*We have a year round pickup for donations for the LHG AUCTION held each year on the Saturday of the Memorial Day weekend. 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) and computers or computer equipment. Time to clean out those garages and let us help you dispose of those items that need a new home. Phone for pickup: Bill Junk 447-4561, Anna Siig-Drummond 447-5475 or leave a message at the History Center with Barbara Bunshah 449-9927. This has been a fun event for everyone and we look forward to seeing you at the auction!*

## CALENDAR

**Thursday, March 11 @ 7:00 p.m.**

LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

**Thursday, April 8 @ 7:00 p.m.**

LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

**Thursday, May 13 @ 7:00 p.m.**

LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

**Saturday, May 29, Livermore Heritage Guild Annual**

**Auction** and spaghetti dinner, Duarte Garage. Auction preview begins at 5 p.m., dinner starts at 6 p.m. and **auction starts at 7 p.m.** Tickets for the dinner can be purchased in advance at the Carnegie Bldg. after May 7 or at the door that evening. Price \$7.00 includes dinner, coffee and dessert.

## A Word From the Chair

I want to thank everybody who responded to the new format for the newsletter. All the responses were favorable. In an ongoing effort to improve the content, this month we have added a section "Comments from the Membership". Dona Fraser Blackmore sent an email to our website with a story about the Valley. Anna Siig Drummond researched the Vista school in Dona's story, which is included. We encourage you to either write us a letter or send an email to [newsletter@lhg.org](mailto:newsletter@lhg.org). The postal address is on the front page of this newsletter. Selected input will be included in future newsletters.

The Museum Assessment process we spoke about in the last newsletter is scheduled to begin in April. We will keep you informed of the progress. Also note the announcement about the Annual Auction in this newsletter. Because we are now a bi-monthly publication, there will not be another announcement until May, the month of the auction. Please take the time to scour through your garages and closets and contact us if you have any donations for this annual fundraiser.

Larry Mauch

## Agenda for Future History Colloquiums:

The next 3 history colloquium meetings will be held at the Bothwell Recreation Center, 8th and H Streets, Livermore at 7 p.m. (Wednesday)

**March 17, 2004:**

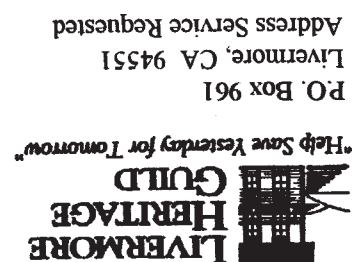
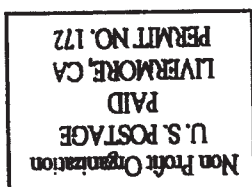
Barry Schrader, "Muckraking and Mudslinging Between Valley Newspapers"

**April 21, 2004:**

James "Tobin" Beard, "History of Scottish Games"

**May 19, 2004:**

Kathy Laughlin and Kim Bonde, "History of the Livermore Rodeo"



# Livermore Heritage Guild

*"Help Save Yesterday For Tomorrow"*



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

WWW.lhg.org

Phone (925) 449-9927

May/June 2004

Vol. XXXIII

No. 6

The Seven Sisters were a series of 7 small hills (large bumps!) in Greenville Road during the 1960s. (Please see [Comments from Membership](#) regarding a letter about Livermore's "Seven Sisters")

Excerpted from Livermore Herald, 9-14-51

## **Head-on Crash On Seven Sister Road**

Top of the sharpest ridge on the Seven Sisters road south of Livermore was the scene of an auto accident last Sunday evening which sent seven persons to St. Paul's Hospital and wrecked two cars.

Owners of the cars were Richard P. Yancey of Sunol and Ernest George of Modesto. Yancey suffered a fractured pelvis; his daughter, Miss Wanda Yancey, forehead laceration and shock; Mrs. Lola Yancey, his wife, shock, multiple bruises and concussion; Mrs. George, severe lacerations of the face, bruises of the left leg and concussion. George and two others passengers, were less seriously hurt, although treated at St. Paul's.

The road extends from East avenue to the Tesla road across a series of ridges, with very steep pitches up and down the sides of the intervening gulches. It is a favorite route for "thrill" rides. The two cars met head-on at the top of the steepest ridge, there being only a few feet of level road at the spot before it starts steeply down each side. The force of the collision pushed the motors of both cars back to the drivers' seats.

Excerpted from Livermore News, 3-9-60

## **Seven Sisters Crash Hurts 7**

Livermore's famous "Seven Sisters" took probably their biggest toll Sunday night when seven Tracy teenagers were

injured when their car went out of control as they sped over the hills on a "thrill ride".

The seven youngsters, two others in the car were not hurt, were taken to St. Paul's Hospital by Allen's Ambulance and were released to their parents after treatment for cuts and bruises. None were seriously injured.

They were: Louis Menke Jr., 16 and driver of the car; Charles Gamage, 15; John Paine, 14; Bonnie Rowecks, 16; Julie Vollbrecht, 15; Rebekah Howard, 16; and Patricia Stevens, 16.

Menke said he had been over the "Seven Sisters" part of the Greenville road a few days earlier and was giving the others a thrill ride after a church service. The car sailed through the air at high speed and landed in a field 75 feet from the road.

Excerpted from the Livermore Herald 6-3-60

## **Reflections by Maitland R. Henry**

If the Seven Sisters Road east of Livermore were not used by many people on business, the best move would be to tear up the surfacing and restore the conditions of the old days. Seldom did an autoist get in trouble when it was a plain dirt road. Since it was paved, there have been many accidents, most of them seriously injuring one or more people. At even ordinary speed the road is thrilling and the faster the speed the greater the thrill. Unfortunately, the danger increases proportionately with the speed, and a car does not have to be going very fast to easily go out of control. Another of those instances in which improved driving conditions create a hazard. Most, if not all, the persons who have been hurt were traveling the road, which

is an unusual one with its steep dips, purely for the thrills. Those who use it for business purposes, drive with care and do not get into trouble. Some means must be devised to control the thrill seekers.

Excerpted from Livermore Herald, 3-9-62

**Your Last Chance for a Thrill Ride**

Livermore's favorite spot for thrill auto driving is soon to go, the supervisors having authorized County Surveyor Jas. Vivrette to operate plans for improving the Seven Sisters portion of the Greenville road.

The road has become an important route from the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory to Site 300 and in its present condition is not satisfactory for auto and truck travel.

The hills will be lowered and depressions filled in to eliminate the roller coaster effect and provide a more level route.

The road is also to be lowered south of the East avenue junction for the crossing of the South Bay Aqueduct, soon to be extended to the southern part of the valley. Estimated cost of the work is \$200,000.



**THE HISTORY OF THE HISTORYMOBILE**

In 1989, Merilyn (Tilli) Calhoun was asked by Barry Schrader (then Chairman of the Livermore Heritage Guild) to outfit a motorhome to serve as a Historymobile to bring the rich history of Livermore to school children and the general public. Volunteers built several plastic case covered tables to protect artifacts. Calhoun gathered photos, maps, posters and other materials of local interest. In 1990 the mobile went on its "shakedown cruise" to Rancho Las Positas School. It proved to be a shakedown as the pins used to mount matboard displays popped out and had to be stuck back in. We also found the need for some material to hold artifacts in place. Fire Captain Lynn Owens was the first driver.

The Historymobile is a 1969 twenty-seven foot Pace Arrow with Dodge running gear, and came from the San Luis Obispo Education Dept. It was used as a hearing test facility that could be taken to different schools. Barry Schrader arranged for the purchase and secured donations from local business to convert it for our use. Don Scullion donated about 100 hours of his labor to paint the exterior and also provided the signs for the vehicle. Groth Brothers Oldsmobile donated the original smog check. Coldwell-Banker Real Estate donated two fire extinguishers. Dom's Surplus donated a large tarp for outdoor storage of the vehicle. Roadrunner Glass replaced a broken side window. Chet and Henri Fankhauser donated cash. Barry and a few volunteers refurbished the interior, put acoustical tile

on the walls and set up display areas. At a later date Firestone donated brake repairs.

The Historymobile's first public appearance was at a Red Flower Sunday in April of 1989. Since 1990, we have visited many schools and thousands of children have toured the mobile. Bill Junk maintains the mobile in running condition and drives the mobile to the schools. We have had several reliable docents: Bobbie Baird, Marianna Deadrich, Vanna Born and others have helped. The schools usually ask for May dates as they finish Livermore studies and prepare for the Rodeo. Muriel Dean helps prepare notices to the schools.

The mobile has been a part of the Harvest Tour of local wineries for over 10 years. We are stationed at Concannon Vineyard and offer some extra displays of wine history and grapes for tasting. Loyal docents have included Muriel and Phil Dean, Joan and Walter Detjens, Bobbie Baird and Vanna Born. Treva Mauch, Anna Siig, Joan Bezus, Barry and Kay Schrader and others have also helped. Bill and Susan Junk help set up and take down outdoor displays. Last year we set up our displays at the Ice-Cream Social at Ravenswood and at the Lincoln Highway meeting at the Duarte Garage. Many people have helped with this project through the years, but Tilli is there every year. It is estimated that close to 900 students hear the talk and view the displays each year, plus adults and families at the Harvest Festival and Ravenswood and other community events. Thanks to all volunteers who made the Historymobile possible.

The general theme is to show the way our valley looked and how the people lived when the Indians were here, the Spanish, the farmers, the scientists, and the changes each group made. The response to our visits have been gratifying over the years. We offer California Bay Laurel leaves to students and other visitors as an example of something used by the earliest residents of the valley and still used today. Many students have said they have seen their mothers use the leaves in cooking. Children enjoy picking up the cattle branding iron, the acorn grinding stone and the roller skates with the key, just like one similar to what their parents and grandparents used.

*We are always looking for helpers to staff the Historymobile. Call 449-9927 if you are interested.*



**HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS**

WANTED: Volunteers to lead local 3rd grade classes on weekday downtown walks, while you talk about Livermore history. Walks take approximately 1 hour. Will gladly train.

Contact Gary Drummond at [gadrum@comcast.net](mailto:gadrum@comcast.net) or call 447-5475 for details.



If you would like to sign up for either a downtown or residential **walking tour**, you may now register by either calling the History Center at 449-9927 or by visiting the History Center and completing a preference card. When several people have signed up for one tour or the other, a Walk Tour Guide will contact you with a time and date to meet.

.....  
**COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP**

From Chuck Trout:

I enjoyed your site. Brought back many fond memories—about the happiest 2 1/2 years of my childhood. I lived in Livermore from 1956 to 1958—6th through 8th grade at Junction Ave. Elementary School. Lived behind the school on Lee Ave. Delivered the SF Chronicle and Examiner papers to homes surrounding the school. Played Little League and Pony League baseball and ran in a relay race—Twin Valley Relays?? I remember when they opened the A&W Rootbeer stand across the RR tracks—rootbeer in frosted mugs on hot summer days. The flagpole in the middle of the street. My first girlfriend ever lived across the street from the 5th Street School—Cindy Marsh was her name. I used to ride my bike south of town past vineyards to a park with a stream. Unfortunately they closed Parks AFB and we move on—way too soon. Yes, only fond memories of a really neat place to grow up. *(The Heritage Guild responded to his guestbook entry. Mr. Trout sent the following in an email message)*

Thinking about those days also brings back some not-so-fond memories. When I first arrived my sixth grade teacher was a Mrs. Carr—very nice lady. Her husband, who was very popular with the students, taught the eighth grade at Junction. When I was in the eighth grade (not in his class) he had a heart attack and died while playing basketball on the playground during PE. His replacement was a young woman. On the last day of school she took me and a few friends that were in her class for a ride in her convertible (my first ride in one) to a place I recall was called the Three Sisters (not sure of the number—maybe six). It was a series of hills on a road outside of town—like a roller coaster. Kids use to joyride out there. A few years later I was attending Armijo HS in Fairfield CA. On the way to a baseball game I read a newspaper story about an automobile accident on those hills that took the lives of some Livermore HS students. Looking through the names I recognized two as friends of mine. Are those hills still there and do the kids still go joyriding there? [note: The road with the hills is Vasco Road, between Tesla Road and East Avenue. The section with the rolling hills was called the Seven Sisters. The road bed was cut into the hills, leveling

it out some, after the accident Mr. Trout mentioned.] If you wonder why I look back on those short two and a half years so fondly it's because that was the only time in my boyhood that I didn't live on an air force base.

.....  
*It's still not too late to make donations for this year's LHG AUCTION. Donations of goods and services are greatly appreciated. All usable items will be accepted except books, clothing and furniture (unless considered antique) and computers or computer equipment. Time to clean out those garages and let us help you dispose of those items that need a new home. Phone for pickup: Bill Junk 447-4561, Anna Siig 447-5475 or leave a message at the History Center 449-9927. This has been a fun event for everyone and we look forward to seeing you at the auction!*

.....  
**CALENDAR**

Thursday, May 13 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

Saturday, May 29, Livermore Heritage Guild Annual Auction and pasta dinner

Duarte Garage. Auction preview begins at 5 p.m., dinner starts at 6 p.m. and auctions starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8.00 for the dinner can be purchased in advance at the Carnegie Bldg. or at the door that evening. Price includes dinner, coffee and desert.

Thursday, June 10 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

Thursday, July 8 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

**Agenda for Future History Colloquiums:**  
**The next 2 history colloquium meetings will be held at the Bothwell Recreation Center, 8th and H Streets, Livermore at 7 p.m. Check with Carnegie Library for location of July 21 colloquium.**

**May 19, 2004:**  
Kathryn Laughlin and Kim Bonde, "History of the Livermore Rodeo"

**June 16, 2004:**  
Deacon Dave Rezendes Recalls Livermore

**July 21, 2004:**  
Lin Robertson Tobin, "Memories of Grandfather Robertson, Founder of The Livermore Sanitarium"

## A Word From the Chair

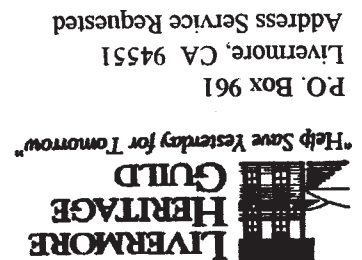
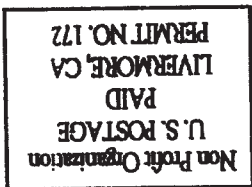
At the end of this month, the Livermore Heritage Guild will hold its 25th annual auction. We will serve pasta, salad, french bread (and dessert) dinner at 6:00 p.m. for \$8.00 donation. At 7:00 p.m. we begin the auction. There is no charge to attend the auction. The auction is run on the "One man's junk is another man's treasure" theory, so there is something for everyone. Lynn Owens, our auctioneer, always makes the auction a fun event. This is our major fundraiser each year so please come and support the Livermore Heritage Guild.

The monthly History Colloquium celebrated its one year birthday in April. Don Meeker, along with his wife, Diana had the inspiration for the event, and have been a major force behind the Colloquium since its beginning. We usually have 20-50 people attend each talk and it has been received very well. Check this month's newsletter for a flyer on upcoming subjects. Thanks Don and Diana for all your hard work in making this a reality.

The Guild would like to update and reorganize our web page. Originally it started as a four page website and has

grown over the last six years from there. We have been looking at sites that offer a virtual tour over the web and want to explore the possibilities of creating a virtual museum. If you know of a web based museum site you find interesting or know of someone who has experience in creating such a site, have them contact me, Larry Mauch at [larrym49@comcast.net](mailto:larrym49@comcast.net) or phone (925) 443-8596. We have had people from all over the world visit the site and leave comments saying it has been a pleasant way of visiting their old hometown from far away.

.....  
The author of Red Mountain (which is about mining in the Valley) passed away April 12, 2004. Robert W. P. Cutler was an expert in Parkinson's disease and also won a Kaiser Family Foundation Award for Outstanding and Innovative Contributions to Medical Education. After retirement, he lived on his ranch on a hill above Livermore. A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. on May 11 at Stanford Memorial Church. Donations may be made payable to Regional Parks Fund and sent to the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, c/o Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley, CA 94708-2396



# **HISTORY COLLOQUIUM**

**Bothwell Recreation Center**

**Corner of 8th and H St., Livermore**

**7 - 9 P.M. Third Wednesday of the Month**



**May 19, 2004**

**History of the Livermore Rodeo  
Kathryn Laughlin and Kim Bonde**



**June 16, 2004**

**Deacon Dave Rezendes  
Recalls Livermore**



**July 21, 2004**

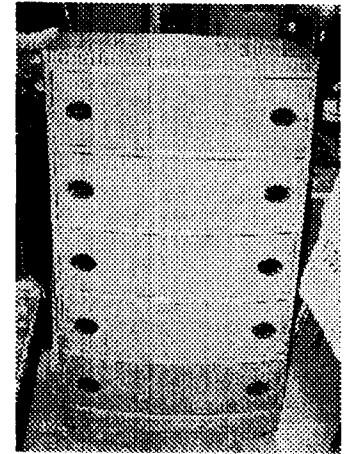
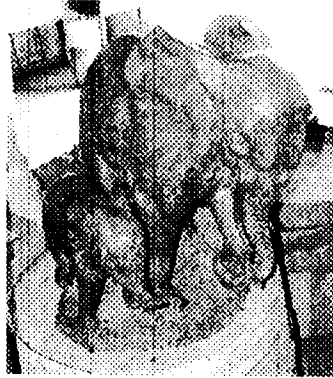
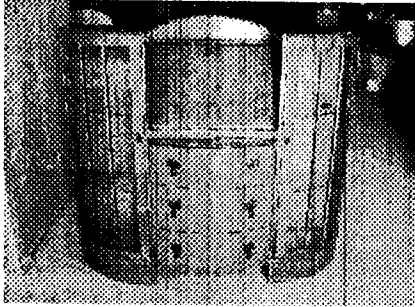
**Memories of Grandfather Robertson  
Founder of The Livermore Sanitarium  
Lin Robertson Tobin**

Presented by

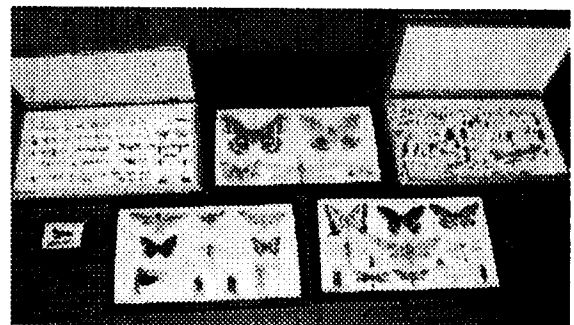
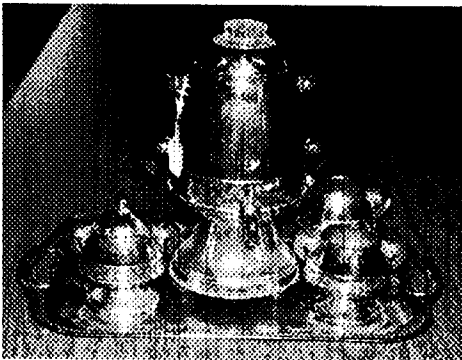
Livermore Heritage Guild

For further information please call (925) 449-9927

Livermore Heritage Guild Auction  
and Pasta Dinner  
Saturday, May 29, 2004  
Duarte Garage  
Portola and L Streets  
Livermore



Turn of the century oak secretary with beveled mirror, art deco secretary, early 1900 Jamestown style dresser and mirror, wine barrels, 1950s blonde 4 piece bedroom set, large 1800s primitive kitchen cabinet, Photograph of 44th Div. Co. L 123rd Inf. Reg. at Fort Lewis, WA, May 1953, Clark Bronson framed owl print #129/1000, Lake Geneva cast bronze mother and baby elephant statue, camping pots and pans including Coleman kerosene lamp and camp stove, black laquer made in Japan jewelry box with key, large collection of shoemaker's lasts, vintage and modern kitchen pieces, miscellaneous tables and chairs, WWII items, antique mirrors, two practice bombs, large format printer and a case of paper, cast iron teakettle, box lot of VCR tapes, copy of script for an original screenplay & video tape of same, Revere ware pans, art deco coffee service circa 1930s with bakelite handles and tray, cowboy hats, mounted butterfly and insect collection, 1940 era tricycle, and other items too numerous to mention



Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

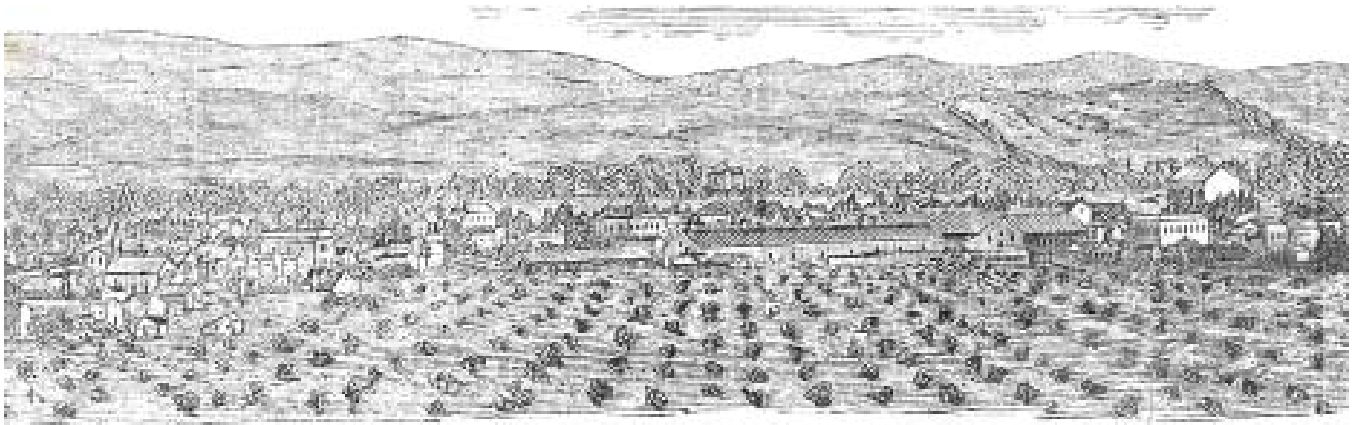
Pasta Dinner at 6:00 p.m. (\$8.00 per person, includes coffee and dessert)

Auction at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets for dinner can be purchased at the Carnegie Library or at the door

# Livermore Heritage Guild

*"Help Save Yesterday For Tomorrow"*



Masthead from 1888 Livermore Herald picturing Livermore Valley

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July/August 2004

Vol. XXXIII

No. 6

## Livermore's Wonderful Street Railway

By Gary Drummond

Local transportation systems have always attracted investors for one reason or another. But when the Livermore Board of Trustees, in September, 1887 granted a 50-year franchise to operate a street railway in the community, it's likely some local eyebrows were raised; a street railway in this town of about 1200 people??

A group of local citizens, G. W. Comegys, George C. Stanley, E. R. Lilienthal and A. L. Seligman, petitioned the Town Trustees for the right to construct and operate a railway on the principal streets of the community. It was a tremendously ambitious project. The company (for which no name is known) proposed to install the necessary single and double track, "with all necessary and convenient switches and turnouts" on all lines, some running east and west, others running north and south.

The east-west lines were on:

- First Street, from P Street "to Adam Fath's farm", at the eastern town border;
- Railroad Avenue, from the town's west boundary to the Catholic church;
- College Avenue, from the western town line to Lizzie Street (now South Livermore Avenue);

The north-south lines were on:

- L Street, from Pine to "the town limit near Jessie Bowles house", i.e., Arroyo Mocho;
- Livermore Avenue and Lizzie Street, from Pine Street to the southern town boundary;
- Junction Avenue, from Pine Street to First Street, at the old Laddsville site.

The franchise also specified optional means of locomotion: horses and mules, or wire ropes on cables running under the streets moved by a stationary steam engine, or compressed air, or electricity, or by locomotive. Any trenches or excavations were "to be filled in so as not to impair the use and enjoyment of such streets by the public." It also set a maximum speed at 8 miles per hour, and established the fare which was "not to exceed five cents each way for any distance over any of the lines of the railroad." Nothing in the franchise specifies where car barns were to be located.

Could this enterprise been an effort to pre-empt an 1889 proposal to build a railroad called the Livermore Valley Railroad Company (LVRR) by tying up local real estate? The route announced for the LVRR was intended come over the Hayward Pass and link Livermore with the San Joaquin Valley via Corral Hollow. It was to provide an alternative method of moving Livermore Coal Company product to market. But the coal mines failed before the railroad materialized.

However, some progress on a street railway system must have been made: in the fall of 1908, a town crew excavating for a sewer line on Lizzie Street near College unearthed several lengths of rail and some badly rotted cross ties; and again in November, 1913, a crew uncovered more track-age and timbers on Lizzie Street near Eighth Street. These had most likely been laid to show some good faith effort toward constructing what could have been Livermore's first transit system. It was only the old-timers in town that remembered the story of how the rails and ties got there in the first place.



### **The 2004 Auction was a Huge Success!**



The stuff was so good we had to bring in guards to control the crowd! No personality but they looked good.



**Auctioneer Lynn Owens and his able assistant and wife, Linda. Once again they made the whole event a lot of fun.**



**We had tons of good furniture!**



This year's auction was the best yet raising over \$6,000. The event was very well attended and we had to bring it to a close with plenty of stuff left over for a future garage sale (no pun intended). Thanks to the many volunteers who made the event a night to remember, but especially thanks to Anna Siig, Bill and Susan Junk and Treva Mauch for their super efforts. But most of all thanks to all of you who donated the many items we were fortunate enough to have so we could hold the best auction ever!

**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR AT THE AUCTION!**

**HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS**

*You saw 11 1/2 minutes in Livermore the Movie! You've heard about it in the news! You've read about it in the history books! Now see all 55 minutes in person! Olga Peiffer shares her landmark feature Livermore Centennial 1969. Bothwell Recreation Center, July 8 at 7 p.m.*

WANTED: Volunteers to lead local 3rd grade classes on weekday downtown walks, while you talk about Livermore history. Walks take approximately 1 hour. Will gladly train. Contact Gary Drummond at [gadrum@comcast.net](mailto:gadrum@comcast.net) or call 447-5475 for details. If you would like to sign up for either a downtown or residential **walking tour**, you may now register by either calling the History Center at 449-9927 or by visiting the History Center and completing a preference card. When several people have signed up for one tour or the other, a Walk Tour Guide will contact you with a time and date to meet.



**Feedback from Members:**

From Paul Thode: Nice to find this site. We moved to Livermore in late 49.. came in on a Sunday and the only place to eat was at O'Malleys. Nice to see a picture of the grammar school that I attended and also some nice pics of the VA hospital where my Dad worked.

We bought the first Jensen Tract Home built. We were so tired of living in a motel that we moved in before the cement walkways were built and got huge rains. So mud was a huge problem .. but still much better than living in a motel in Castro Valley, coming into Livermore early enough for my dad to go to work then dropping my sister off at LJUHS and then me to grammar school. Then my mom would hang around all day and pick us all up. This went on for about a month.. what a pain for her.

A brief note about Granada. I was a senior at LJUHS in 1959 when they were starting to work on the new high school. A few of us tried to get it named "Boot Hill High" (due to its location) and have as their mascot the "galloping Ghouls" (think of St Mary's college mascot). We obviously did not get far with the conservatives in town.

Livermore was a great place to grow up. We had the creek not far from our house and I had quite a collection of tadpoles, frogs, toads and snakes for my mom to deal with.

LJUHS provided a very good education too, when I went off to CAL, I had no problem competing with kids from much bigger, urban schools.

Paul Thode [paulthode@yahoo.com](mailto:paulthode@yahoo.com)



*We have a year round pickup for donations for the LHG AUCTION held each year on the Saturday of the Memorial Day weekend. 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) and computers or computer equipment. Time to clean out those garages and let us help you dispose of those items that need a new home. Phone for pickup: Bill Junk 447-4561, Anna Siig-Drummond 447-5475 or leave a message at the History Center with Barbara Bunshah 449-9927. This has been a fun event for everyone and we look forward to seeing you at the auction!*



**CALENDAR**

Thursday, July 8 @ 7:00 p.m., LHG Board Meeting  
Olga Peiffer talks about Livermore Movie (\$2 suggested donation) Info: 449-9927

**Last Board meeting at Bothwell Recreation Center**

Thursday, August 12 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, **New Library Community Room**  
(Coffee provided by Library Cafe, \$2 suggested donation)

Thursday, September 9 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, **New Library Community Room**  
(Coffee provided by Library Cafe, \$2 suggested donation)

**Agenda for Future History Colloquiums:**

**The next 3 history colloquium meetings will be held at the New Livermore Library Community Room at 7-9 p.m. Note: \$2 suggested donation. Coffee provided by Library Cafe**

**July 21, 2004:**

Lin Robertson Tobin, "Memories of Grandfather Robertson, Founder of the Livermore Sanitarium"

**August 18, 2004:**

TriValley Conservancy "Preserving the Land", Sharon Burnham CEO of TriValley Conservancy

**September 15, 2004:**

Forest Home Farms "Walnuts in San Ramon", Kim Guiliano

**A Word From the Chair**

The Livermore Heritage Guild held the annual auction and it was a great success. Lynn Owens and his wife, Linda, were superb and set the tone for the entire event. The number of active bidders and the quality of the merchandise brought in record sales. The funds will be put to very good use for several projects we have in the works.

The recent museum assessment that was performed on the Heritage Guild operations should be returned soon. The assessment was funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences. We are anxious to see the recommendations the survey will hold for the Board of Directors.

We are keeping an ear to the ground on the discussions regarding space that might be available from the City of Livermore and LARPD in the near future. It would be nice to have a larger area for displays so we can share more of the items from our collection with the community. We have had to be very selective in what items we accept as donations due to our limited appropriate storage space. We know we would be offered more interesting items from Livermore's past if we had a proper space to display them. We will see what develops.

We received inquiries about our interest in upgrading our web page. Exploring our options in that effort will begin soon. We are very pleased with the response we receive in our website guestbook each month; thank you for taking the time to write down your thoughts and keep it coming!

Hope you all had a great 4th of July.

Larry Mauch

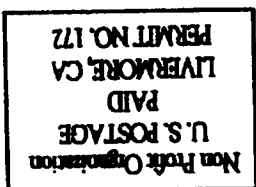
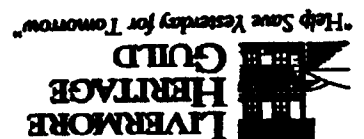


*Note: There are several bowls and utensils that were left at the Duarte Garage during the Auction/pasta feed. Please come to the Carnegie Bldg. to claim your items.*



Update from May/June 2004 newsletter: When driving on Greenville road between Tesla and East Ave., if you count the hills that have been cut through, you can easily see that these were the Seven Sisters we wrote about in the last newsletter. Just imagine what it was like going over these hills instead of through them!

P.O. Box 961  
Livermore, CA 94551  
Address Service Requested





# Livermore Heritage Guild

*"Help Save Yesterday For Tomorrow"*



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

WWW.lhg.org

Phone (925) 449-9927

September/October 2004

Vol. XXXIII

No. 8

## **BUILDING A LIBRARY**

By Gary Drummond

A library where one can borrow books and read periodicals is not a recent sign of culture in Livermore: the community has had benefit of a library since 1875. The citizens of the town at its founding in the early 1870's were both a socially and culturally diverse population. Socially it attracted those who supported four or five fraternal organizations, two fire companies and a town band. And culturally, it ranged from those who preferred a quiet escape into a Victorian novel to those who supported one of the town's 13 saloons.

In April 1875, the Livermore Library and Dramatic Association organized a library whose holdings were kept at Cross's Jewelry Store at First and Lizzie (now Livermore Avenue) Streets. A family membership cost \$3.00 annually, or for \$20.00 one could have a life membership. The local paper reported that there were 250 volumes available with another 75 on order. In December of that year, the library was moved across the street to George Freeman's furniture store in the IOOF building.

Three years later, in 1878, a successor organization known as the Livermore Public Library Association erected its own building (still standing at 2136 First Street). In 1881, the Association was in perilous state and issued an anxious call for new members. It even offered a "life membership

that would entitle the holder and family to all the privileges of the Association during the term of his or her natural life." But by 1887 public interest had diminished to such an extent that the Library closed, and the books stored in the local newspaper office. In its twelve years, the library had never acquired a permanent librarian.

In 1896, the women of the town organized themselves into a Ladies League of Progress of Livermore. Their first order of business was to re-open a public library. Within eight months, the group had formed a public corporation to finance library acquisitions and pay the bills, purchased the old library building and pulled the books out of storage, and selected a full-time librarian. On October 15, 1896, the Livermore Free Public Library opened its doors.

A year later, the Library Board reported that there were 3500 books on the shelves, and in cooperation of the local paper, it published a "wants" list of new books. The reading room was supplied with 36 newspapers from around the state, donated by their publishers. The local drugstore donated day-old copies of the San Francisco papers.

The Ladies League next lobbied the Town Trustees to consider a tax levy for library support. In September 1901, Livermore became the first town in California to take advantage of new legislation that permitted the establish-

ment of a free public library under municipal control and support.

Now, serious discussions were opened in 1908 with the Carnegie Foundation for a library building grant. A condition of a \$10,000 grant was that the beneficiary would provide the land on which the library would be built. After consideration of several sites, the Town Trustees proposed to acquire the block at Third and J streets for \$9,000 and, at the same time, mitigate a nuisance—the site was occupied by a slaughterhouse.

The grant request and the land acquisition were successful. Contracts were let to construct a library building, which officially opened in May 1911. That summer, the Livermore Women's Improvement Club helped finance the landscaping, plant trees, and finish and furnish the basement rooms. The Carnegie Library building was in use for over 50 years, until the new Civic Center Library was opened in 1966. The venerable old building now houses the Livermore Heritage Guild History Center and the Livermore Art Association.

### **About the picture used on the masthead for this newsletter**

This drawing is from the 1889 aerial view of Livermore; the original document was approximately 20" x 22" and printed in color. W.P Bartlett offered the print as a promotional item if you subscribed to the Livermore Herald. The McLeod Building was replaced in 1920 by the Bank of Italy building that still stands on First Street. The Farmers Union was torn down in 1939. Located on Railroad Avenue, the building was located between what is now the Charlotte's Web building and the Livermore Tattoo building, both of which are partially shown in the drawing. The Charlotte's Web building is the short building on the far left and the Livermore Tattoo building is the tall building on the far right. At the time of the picture, Charlotte's Web was a clothing store and The Livermore Tattoo building was a saloon. The First Presbyterian Church (the church in the bottom left hand corner of the small grouping of four buildings) still stands and is part of the current church on L Street. The building on the upper left was the first Livermore Fire house. It later was relocated across from the Carnegie Library on Third Street and used as a residence. The building was torn down in the 1970's and is now a vacant lot. The other two buildings on the right are churches that have since been replaced. Color reproductions of this aerial view are available at the history center located in the old Carnegie Library.



**HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS**

WANTED: Volunteers to lead local 3rd grade classes on weekday downtown walks, while you talk about Livermore history. Walks take approximately 1 hour. Will gladly train.

Contact Gary Drummond at [gadrum@comcast.net](mailto:gadrum@comcast.net) or call 447-5475 for details.

If you would like to sign up for either a downtown or residential **walking tour**, you may now register by either calling the History Center at 449-9927 or by visiting the History Center and completing a preference card. When several people have signed up for one tour or the other, a Walk Tour Guide will contact you with a time and date to meet.



**Speaker for the Annual General Meeting**

*Lisa Carrier, along with her mother, have been very active in promoting the Ohlone culture. Many weekends Lisa can be found at various events demonstrating and eagerly discussing her ancestor's history in the area. Lisa is also involved with recreating the Mutsan dialect, the dialect spoken by the Ohlone indians in the Santa Cruz area. So far, they have created a dictionary of over 2000 words. Lisa, a resident of Livermore, has studied the history of Brushy Peak and the Vasco Caves, a sacred area in the Ohlone culture. Lisa has agreed to give a presentation of approximately 1 1/2 hours on both Brushy Peak, Vasco Caves and her research in recreating her ancestor's native tongue.*



**30th Anniversary of LHG occupation of Carnegie Building**

Please join us for this celebration commemorating the start of the Livermore Heritage Guild in the Carnegie Building on Sunday, October 3, 1:00-3:00 p.m. According to the May 1974 Livermore Heritage Guild newsletter by Janet Newton, "The Guild has been given 552 sq. ft. of the northeast corner of the main floor of the building. A museum committee is being formed to formulate plans for the maximum use of this space. The committee will also decide on long-range plans for a first-class Livermore History Center, which will require much more than 552 sq. ft." The Guild took possession of the Carnegie Building in September 1974 and held a Preview Party that same month with over eleven hundred visitors.

Thanks to Tilli Calhoun, there is now a small display about the history of Ravenswood and a new display will soon be on display about libraries in Livermore.



Washing of the items from the Hexcel/Trevarno dig has begun and will soon go into full swing now that the Garage Garage Sale is over.

**CALENDAR**

Thursday, September 9 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

Thursday, September 30 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Annual General Meeting  
Bothwell Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore  
Speaker: Lisa Carrier

Sunday, October 3, 1-3 p.m.  
Carnegie Bldg., downstairs mtg. room  
**30th Anniversary of LHG in Carnegie Bldg.**  
Refreshments will be served

Thursday, October 14 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

Thursday, November 11 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

**Agenda for Future History Colloquiums:**

**All presentations are held 7 to 9 p.m. in the community meeting room of the Livermore Civic Center Library on South Livermore Avenue**

**September 15, 2004:**

Kim Giuliano will talk on the History of Forest Home Farms in San Ramon. It was a walnut ranch founded by Travis Boone, a relative of Daniel Boone

**October 20, 2004:**

Bill Owens, who wrote "Suburbia" a photo book of Livermore in the 1970s will discuss his project of doing another photo shoot in Livermore. He is currently working on a photo project for Hayward

**November 10, 2004:**

John Sarboraria is presenting a slide show of his collection of "Historic Photos of Livermore"

\$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 Word From the Chair

It is that time again: time to renew your membership. Enclosed is a flyer you can use to send back with your renewal. Note: the dues are being increased for the first time in many, many years. We compared our dues to other societies and felt the adjustment was necessary to cover mailing and printing costs for the newsletter. See the flyer for the new membership dues rates.

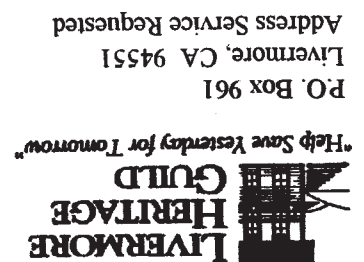
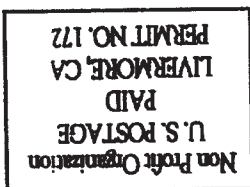
Monday, Sept 27<sup>th</sup> at the City Council meeting, the Livermore City Council will discuss possible uses for the recently vacated library building. The Livermore Heritage Guild has applied for use of part of the building to house an expanded museum. The current Carnegie Library building offers the Livermore Heritage Guild a total of 1,150 sq ft. of which 365 sq. ft. is suitable as display space. One half the recently vacated library building would provide a total of 7,000 sq ft of which 3000 sq. ft. could be used for displays. This would give us more room for displays and additional room for archival storage and working space to prepare displays. A copy of the request letter is included in this newsletter. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm, we hope to see you there.

Thursday, Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, we will hold the annual general meeting starting at 7:00pm at the Bothwell Recreation

Center located on Eighth Street. We will hold elections for officers and also vote on approval of new By-Laws. Those of you that are eligible to vote should have already received a package with the proposed officers and a marked up copy of the proposed By-Law changes. The primary change is the officers will be elected for two year terms and the board will consist of six officers and the appointed chairpersons from the various committees. The Chairpersons will replace the previous 10 elected at large board members. The intention is everyone on the board will have assigned responsibilities as a board officer or a committee chairperson. After the election and vote, we will have a presentation by Lisa Carrier, an Ohlone Indian descendent now living in Livermore who will talk about the significance of Brushy Peak and the Vasco Caves to the Ohlone Indian culture. Lisa has also been involved with resurrecting the Mutson language, the dialect spoken by the Ohlone Indians in the Santa Cruz area. To date they have recovered over 2000 words from their vocabulary; it should be a very interesting presentation.

Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> we hope to see you at the celebration at the Carnegie Library Museum. This marks our 30<sup>th</sup> year in that facility. A new display on the history of Livermore's libraries has been mounted for the occasion. See you there!

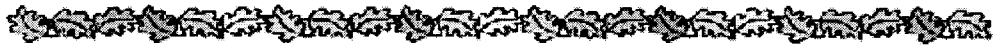
Larry Mauch



Livermore Heritage Guild Presents

# FALL COLLOQUIUM SCHEDULE

All presentations are held on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 PM in the  
Community Meeting Room  
Livermore Civic Center Library, South Livermore Avenue



**September 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Kim Giuliano**

Ms Giuliano will talk on the  
History of Forest Home Farms in San Ramon.  
The farm was originally a walnut ranch founded in the early 1900's by  
Travis Boone, a descendent of Daniel Boone.

**October 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Bill Owens**

Author/Photographer of "Suburbia" a photographic journey through  
Livermore in the 1970's. Mr. Owens will discuss his current project in  
Hayward, and his plans for doing another photo shoot in Livermore.

**November 10<sup>th</sup>**

**John Sarboraria**

"Historic Photos of Livermore"

A slide-show presentation of his collection of historic Livermore  
photographs.

\$2 suggested donation

Coffee, Tea and deserts provided by the

**Library Cafe**

The Library Cafe is open until 8:00 PM providing sandwiches and drinks.