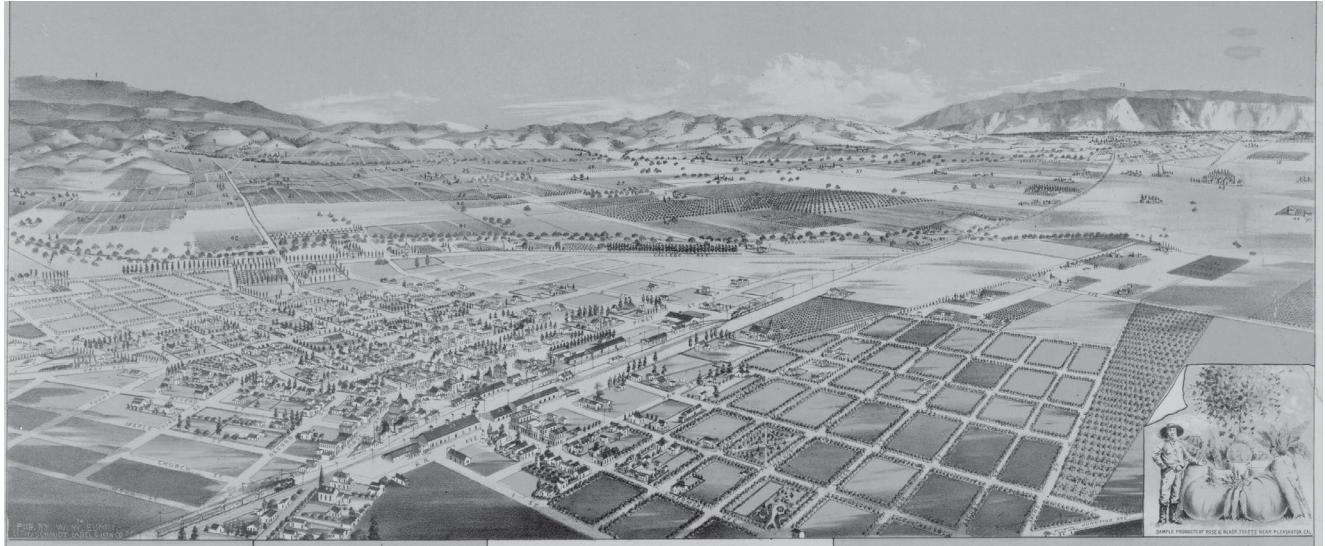


Livermore Heritage Guild

“Help Save Yesterday For Tomorrow”



P.O. Box 961, Livermore, Ca. 94551 www.livermorehistory.com

Phone (925) 449-9927

January/February 2007

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 2

Martin Luther King's historic visit to Tri-Valley 38 years ago

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., made a brief appearance in the Tri-Valley on Sunday morning, January 14, 1968, but few locals had the opportunity to see or hear him.

Rev. King had flown to California the day before and specifically made this trip to visit his friend Joan Baez who had been jailed at Santa Rita after her arrest during an anti-Vietnam War protest at the Induction Center in Oakland. Baez had been a supporter of the civil rights leader over the years and had marched with him in the past. It was not publicized in the press that he would be visiting the jail, yet some 200 people, mostly UC Berkeley students, stood in a cold drizzle outside the jail's gates waiting to get a glimpse of him, some with signs showing their support of his cause.

As editor of the Livermore Herald & News (later named Tri-Valley Herald) I had gotten word of his planned visit. Our associate editor John Oliver had good contacts with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department and heard about it the day before. Four of us from the Herald were there that morning. John was stationed inside the prison at the front desk; two reporters mingled with the crowd outside; and I positioned myself with tape recorder and camera next to his car just outside the gates.

After about an hour inside talking with Baez, her mother, and Ira Perlman, Dr. King and his entourage exited the jail, walking quickly past John and heading for their car. When he saw the large gathering out front the civil rights leader decided to deliver an impromptu speech while standing next to his car. Fortunately for me, I was about four feet from him with my cassette recorder and camera ready to go. He had such a captivating and clear voice that no PA system was needed for him to be heard by those gathered there that day. His booming voice even carried above the noise of the nearby traffic on Highway 50 (now I-580). He explained to the crowd the reason for his trip to the jail, praising Baez and the others incarcerated for standing up for their beliefs. He then reiterated his opposition to that “unjust war” in Vietnam and explained that even though he had been advised against taking a position on the war because it might damage his standing as a civil rights leader he had felt compelled to do so.

From my tape I copied his words: “Cowards will ask the question: ‘Is it safe?’ Expedience will ask: ‘Is it politic?’ Vanity asks the question: ‘Is it popular?’ But Conscience asks the question: ‘Is it right?’ There comes a time when one must take a position that is

Continued on Page 3



December 23, 2006

Dear Members,

By now you know the Livermore Heritage Guild is working to acquire the entire Carnegie Building for a Museum of Livermore. We presented our case to the LARPD on November 29. It was the decision of the LARPD Board to “deny the request at this time, by the Livermore Heritage Guild, of exclusive use of the Carnegie Building, until the Livermore Art Association’s gallery is voluntarily moved to appropriate space in the downtown area and a plan to replace the lost revenue from displaced rentals has been approved.” LARPD staff also stated they should not force out one non-profit (LAA) so another non-profit (LHG) could have more space, which is their recommendation to the Board.

The LHG Board will bring up this matter again and decide what avenue to take. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions or would like to discuss this matter, please call me at 447-9386. *The Independent* of December 7th has an article about the November 29th LARPD meeting and a most beautiful photo of the Carnegie Building.

Welcome new members - The Livermore Heritage Guild is very fortunate to have several new members who not only joined LHG but also have volunteered to give of their time, energy, and talents to LHG projects. Welcome and thank you.

Let me introduce you to several new LHG Board members. Matt Schellenberg joined our LHG family a few months ago wanting to "do something" right away. He soon found we needed someone to write applications for grants that might help us in our endeavors. Matt now has a committee consisting of Maxine Trost and Gloria Parra. All three are well qualified to write grants. Matt also works as a greeter at the Carnegie Building.

I'd also like to introduce Gloria Parra who joined us about the same time as Matt. Gloria volunteered for a very important job – LHG secretary, where she uses her writing skills to provide excellent Board minutes. Gloria also works as a greeter at the Carnegie Building.

Another person for you to meet is Bob Bronzan. Bob joined several months ago and like Matt and Gloria is enthusiasm about the opportunities the LHG offers. Bob redesigned the LHG website and has added many new links. Take the time to look at and admire the new site. The URL is <www.livermorehistory.com>.

Let me also introduce Neal Cavanaugh. Neal came into the Carnegie Building one day, filled out a membership application and said, “Now give me something to do.” So we did! Neal is now the Oral History Committee chair. He will make sure the history of our citizens is carefully recorded. If you know of someone Neal should interview please call him at 447-2912.

Jolene Abrahams
LHG President

neither safe nor politic, nor popular, but he must do it because Conscience tells him it is right!" The crowd responded enthusiastically with shouts, cheers and applause. Rev. King then allowed the handful of reporters gathered near him to ask a few questions, got back in the car and drove away through the cheering throng.

This was one day before his 39th birthday and his last trip to



California. Little did anyone imagine that less than three months later he would be gunned down by an assassin on a Memphis hotel balcony. He was the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Prize—at age 35—and was considered a world figure by many nations.

-Barry Schrader

Oral History needs you!

The Livermore Heritage Guild is reactivating its oral history project and needs volunteers to work on this program. No experience is needed. Oral history is the gathering of tape recorded interviews with people who have a story to tell. It could be something about old Livermore, about a building, program, business, location, or about a way of life. Usually talking to these people is fascinating as they want to share their stories, and learning more about a topic is always worthwhile.

The oral history project is looking for people with the following skills:

Interviewers. An oral historian works with the chair of the Oral History Committee to determine whom to interview and about what. Then he or she conducts research about the topic to get background information and prepares an outline of topics to investigate. Finally the oral historian interviews the subject.

Transcribers. After the interview has been conducted, the tape recording is given to a transcriber who makes a written transcript of the interview. This is the hard copy that makes the interview more accessible to the public and researchers. There are three levels of transcription: an index of the interview, usually done by the interviewer, a selective transcription where only the salient portions of the interview are transcribed, and the verbatim tran-

script where every word is transcribed.

Video tapers. We also need someone who would be willing to video tape some of the oral history interviews. The video taper needs to have his or her own video taping equipment, although the Guild will supply the tape, and have the knowledge and skill to tape an interview. We are moving in the direction of having the video taped interviews as part of the displays at the museum, so this element is important to the project.

If these descriptions sound daunting, please don't worry. We will train you and provide whatever you need. Any member of the Guild is invited to fill one or more of these categories. If you would be interested in working on the Oral History Committee, being part of this exciting endeavor, meeting new and interesting people, and learning more about our city, please e-mail me. I look forward to meeting you and working with you on this interesting project.

- Neal F. Cavanaugh, Chair Oral History Committee, nealfcavanaugh@sbcglobal.net

Curators Corner

I went to a digital preservation conference in Tucson, Arizona, December 5 and 6. In short, digital collections need care just as physical collections do. There are evolving standards and best practices; nothing is cast in stone or “the ether is not in resonance.” I learned a lot.

. . . .
We are continuing our self-assessment, sponsored by the American Association of Museums (AAM). There are four modules in the Museum Assessment Program (MAP): Institutional, Collections, Public Relations, and Governance. We have completed the Institutional MAP and are now doing the Collections MAP. We have completed a self-assessment workbook, and the next step is a visit by an independent surveyor who will make comments on what we are doing well and recommendations for improvements. Our Collections surveyor will be visiting in the latter part of February.

. . . .
We have photographs and drawings of unknown persons and places. The image shown here may be a photo of a drawing that has been touched up. Does anyone know where this im-

age came from or who he is? Note the holster on his lap and the cap on his left knee.

. . . .
On July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was detonated in New Mexico, code named “Trinity.” I have recently had a request for photos of bomb shelters in Livermore from a fellow in New Mexico. A Livermore member has offered to donate a radiation detector from the late 1950s. I have two small booklets from the 1950s about radiation that I picked up at a garage sale. I think it’s time for a display of some sort about the early history of the cold war. I am looking for photographs of bomb shelters in or near Livermore, of course, and any other items that are from the cold war era, 1945-



1990. This would be from “Trinity” to the fall of the Berlin Wall in

1989. Anybody have a piece of the Wall to loan for a display? Then there are the movies such as *Dr Strange Love*, *Blast from the Past*, *The Atomic Cafe*, *Trinity and Beyond*, *The Day After Trinity*, *Nukes in Space*, and *On the Beach*. Don’t forget movies about ants getting giant. How about *Planet of the Apes*, first and second versions. Any others? Any one have posters, buttons, other ephemera? How about the Cuban Missile Crisis or the MacCarthy era? Email ideas to docent@lhg.org or meekerdon@sbcglobal.net or call the History Center in the Carnegie Building at 449-9927. Perhaps a display in August.

That’s all for now.

-Don Meeker, Curator - Livermore History Center

Looking for speakers

Do you have a story to tell about Livermore history or events or about Livermore’s citizens? Perhaps you know of someone who does? Are you a member of an early Livermore family? Have you shared an interesting experience or job in Livermore? Would you like to tell your story at a LHG history talk?

If you have suggestions or would like to volunteer as a speaker, call Don or Marie at the Carnegie Building, 449-9927, or email docent@lhg.org. Leave your name and phone number so we can contact you.

Generous gift from the Questers

On November 19, the Questers presented a check for \$500 to the LHG to pay for painting the Guild's Model T fire truck.

The Questers is an international organization; the local chapter, Amador Questers, which made the



Quester President Judy Bates presents a check to Bill Junk, Duarte Garage curator, and Jolene Abrahams, LHG president



Quester members pose with the Guild's Model T fire truck, which their gift will help paint. From left, Diana McIntyre, Philomena Buonsante, Judy Bates, Quester president, Bill Junk, Duarte Garage curator, Jolene Abrahams, LHG president, Caroly Allen, and Alice Dolan.

gift, was organized in January 1984. The purpose of the organization is to donate funds towards the preservation and restoration of existing memorials, historical buildings and landmarks. They also educate members through a presentation each month on an antique, a collectible, or something of historical importance.

The Guild is grateful to the Questers for their generous gift.



Chuck McFann cranks the Guild's Model T fire truck, which started with only a minimum of effort, to the delight of the many visitors who had come for the Quester's presentation or to enjoy the many automotive items on display in the Duarte Garage museum.

Some 700 students learned Livermore history in 2006

Making school children aware of Livermore's rich history is one of the Heritage Guild's most important community programs.

Under the auspices of LHG, Gary Drummond has, for several years, conducted downtown historical walking tours for third-graders. He and Patty Curcio have, this year, taken almost 700 children, teachers, and parents for a walk from the Carnegie building to the railroad depot and on to the flagpole at First and Livermore streets. The two talk about the significance of the depot in a time when there were no automobiles; they point out the location of Livermore's first library building; and they tell the children about the man who found \$2,000 in gold in the ashes after his building burned.

Presently, the schools participating in this program are Leo Croce Elementary, St Michael's Parochial, Sunset Elementary, Emma Smith Elementary, Portola Elementary, and Our Savior's Lutheran School.

Salvaging Bricks

In the past few years, Livermore Heritage Guild members have salvaged wood, cabinets, windows and other things from homes and buildings due to be demolished. This has included three cottages that were near Livermore High School and the Dutcher building on First Street. Guild members salvage whenever possible, generally before the demolition begins. The salvaged materials are sold to raise money for the Guild.

For the past year, the Guild has been informed when any house 50 years old or older is due to be demolished. Homes 50 years old or older must come before the Historic Preservation Commission for what is called a Certificate of Appropriateness if a developer or land owner wishes to demolish the building. The city liaisons work with the developers and the Heritage Guild regarding possible salvage.

On November 14, 2006, I salvaged bricks and some plants from Mario Pedrozzi's home at 217 North N Street. According to the tax records, the two-bedroom, one-bath home was built in 1950.

As the Guild's lead salvager for this house, I had good contact with the developer, and I enjoyed working with and around the demolition crew. They even helped me!

I salvaged old bricks, a few with names on them such as "Livermore," "Dickey Star," and "Carnegie." The ones with names were in a fountain and walkways. Dan Mosier, an expert on bricks, will soon visit to look at the old bricks. Dan will be able to tell the age of some of them and where they were made. There is even a brick that Dan hasn't heard of and wants to see. The name on that one is "Stickirb." It was salvaged by a member of the demolition crew and given to the Guild.

The mysteries of these bricks fascinate me, especially since many of them were themselves salvaged from earlier structures. Some time back, during a private project, I collected bricks from the garden of Lee and Bruno Canziani. It was clear that those bricks had come from elsewhere, just as it was at the Pedrozzi house.

Recycling was almost a given for many who lived through the Depression. All along, some people have done salvage work around the valley, even uncovering bricks at the former Carnegie brick works site. The results of their recycling saved interesting things from the landfills, saved them money, and often created handsome and even beautiful surroundings in their homes and gardens.

The more I worked with these bricks, the more curious I became. I wondered more about the life of Mario Pedrozzi and the origins of his bricks. So I decided to contact people who might help put together information about him. One such contact was Bill Vierra, a former Livermore resident, who now lives in Minnesota and who is often a source of information for the Guild. An email to him, requesting information about Mario Pedrozzi, brought an unexpected response.

In 1941, Bill's uncle, Manuel Duarte, purchased the Mont Rouge Winery site. This building used to stand at the base of Oak Knoll Cemetery on what is now Wall Street. At the time, all that remained of the winery were the bricks, as the winery had burned. Bill Vierra and Manuel Duarte moved salvaged bricks to Manuel's home on South M Street, for use in the garden. Once Manuel's garden was finally finished, he sold the remaining bricks to none other than Mario Pedrozzi!

As several types of bricks were salvaged at Pedrozzi's, we hope to visit the former Duarte home on South M Street to see if we can

find bricks matching some of those from North N Street. It will be interesting if we can figure out which ones came from Mont Rouge Winery. If we can make a "match" and if Dan Mosier can tell us where those bricks were made, we will add to our knowledge of Mont Rouge Winery.

It was fun to rediscover a bit of Livermore history as an unexpected result of salvaging old bricks!

- Anna Stig

Livermore Echo, April 9, 1903

Banquet at Ruby Hill

C. L. Crellin gave a bulls-head dinner to about 50 invited friends last Sunday afternoon at Ruby Hill Winery in honor of his famous brood mare, Bertha, now 24 years old, and her nineteenth colt, born last week. She is the dam of four horses that have gone better than 2:10. A feature of this stag party was the reading of a poem by D. E. Martin, composed by him and relating to the achievements of the 19 colts. The guests by request selected a name for the latest colt - Ruby Light. The banquet was a sumptuous one, and much enjoyed by all present.

Backyard mystery!

Summer of 2006 saw tenants moving from a rental home owned by a Guild member. A surprise in the back yard was a marble tomb stone.

The stone had carved into it Chinese characters. As the Chinese dig exhibit was soon going up in the History Center, the tenants were asked if the stone could be given to the Guild. When they said they would be glad to leave it, they were asked where it came from. "We don't know," was the answer.

In hopes of finding the stone's rightful place again, Helen Lin provided a translation of what is written on the stone. The translation is included here with the hope that someone can help find the proper home for the stone. We thank Helen Lin for providing the translation.

"There are three vertical lines of Chinese characters in this piece of Gravestone. In Chinese they are read from right to left, so the first line is the one on the right side.

"The engraving of the right line says:
Kai Pin County ZuLaing Village TongAn Block (this is a very unique division of local government. I can not find an equivalent term in English.) The right line introduces the birthplace of the deceased.

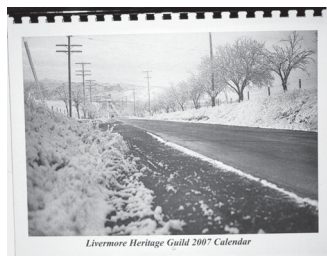
"The middle line says: Elder Hu Chi-Chin's Grave. This line tells the name of the deceased. The word "Elder" indicates the deceased did not die at a young age,

very likely in old age or after having children.

"The left line says: Died on December 24 of _____ (The name of the year, can not be read.)

LHG calendar now available

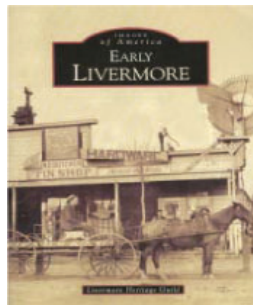
We now have our 2007 calendar available for sale in the History Center (Carnegie Building, 3rd and J Streets). As usual the old photos are beautiful and most interesting—another collector's item!



The calendars sell for \$10.85 (including tax) and is available in our new gift shop. Come and get 'em.

Early Livermore reordered

Early Livermore has been a very hot item over the holidays. So much so that we had to order more copies. Our gift shop is fully stocked again, price is \$21.74 (includes tax).



LHG book signing enjoyed by many

The LHG hosted a "Local Authors Book Signing" on November 11th and 18th. This was the first time we have presented this event and have been encouraged to do it again in 2007.

On November 18th Anne Homan, Gary Drummond, and Anna Siig were at the Carnegie Building to sign their books, *The Morning Side of Mount Diablo*, *The Chinese Experience*, *The Vintner's Tale* and *The Klondike News*.

On November 19th John Shirley and Jim Concannon signed their books, *I Remember* and *Concannon*. Many of our new *Early Livermore* books sold on both days. If you didn't get your copy of these great reads, we have more at the Carnegie Building.

Seeking auction items

It's not too early to think about the Annual LHG Auction coming up in May. Bill Junk, 447-4561, or Anna Siig, 447-5475, will pick up your contributions. We cannot take sofas, couches, or large pieces of furniture, unless antique or vintage. We do take many modern items and LOVE vintage, collectible, and antique items. So check your closets and garage for treasures that can be sold.

The money we raise at the yearly auction helps support LHG projects throughout the year. Hope to hear from you! Pass the word to neighbors and friends.

- Bill and Anna

Annual Membership Report

2006 has been a great year for membership in the Livermore Heritage Guild. During the past calendar year, we have had 36 supporters join the Guild. Many of these new members heard about us through the wonderful publicity we are getting – thanks to Marie Abbott, our publicity chair.

More than 120 members have renewed their memberships, and we thank all of you for doing so. Remember, half of your dues are being put into a special account that will be used for the moving and renovation of the Midway School.

If you have not renewed your membership in the Guild by the time you receive this newsletter, we urge you to do so. Please fill out the membership renewal form at the right, write a check, and send both to us right away! We have some great things coming this year, and you wouldn't want to miss any of them, would you?

-David Abrahams

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

New Renewal

- | | |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (62 & older) | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (under 18) | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life (individual) | \$300 |

Areas where I can help:

- History Center Greeter
- Annual Auction
- History mobile
- Duarte Garage
- Oral History
- Handyman/repair work
- Publicity

Annual membership is October 1 through September 30

Please make checks payable to LHG (Livermore Heritage Guild)

From the Collections Manager

During the past few months we have received some wonderful new material, including some very interesting memorabilia and photographs from the estate of the late Herb Hagemann. There is a lovely enlargement of August Hagemann as a child and another of "Grandma Hagemann". We also have several photo albums showing the Hagemann family and their relatives. Included in the material are 35mm slides showing places the Hagemann's visited, both in the United States and in Europe. The slides are dated but unidentified. I discovered a small diary with this material that may enable us to determine where and when the Hagemann's took some of their trip photos. Perhaps someone would like to volunteer to tackle this as a project.

Clarence Groth came in recently and inventoried many of the maps and drawings that are rolled up. He carefully opened each one and made notes describing them. Now these items will be put into archival containers, labeled, added to our inventory, and, when needed, made available to researchers.

Just to give you an idea of what these rolled up items are, they include a partial set of blueprints of one of the buildings at Coast Manufacturing and Supply. There is an assessment map of Murray Township, not dated, 14 Western Pacific Railroad maps, dated 1870, and many more great pieces. We hope to be able to display some of these items in the Carnegie Building in the future.

Livermore High School has given the Guild nine very long posters. Each of them depicts a decade of the school's history. These posters are far too long to exhibit in the Carnegie Building, so we'll have to find another venue if we want to display them.

I am always in need of members to come in and take a box off a shelf and spend an hour or two inventorying the contents. You don't have to use a computer – you can hand-write the information; someone else can convert your inventory to the computer database.

If you would like to help, please call me at 447-9386. I'm usually available, and will definitely work with you to make sure you are doing something that you will enjoy!

- David Abrahams, Collections Manager

Calendar

LHG Board Meeting, Wednesday, January 3, 7 pm. Carnegie Library, downstairs.

History Talk, Wednesday, January 10, 7:30 pm. "Jack London in Livermore." Marie Abbott will give a talk on Jack London's childhood days in Livermore and his successful writing career later in life. Livermore Civic Center Library. \$2 suggested donation. Light refreshments provided.

Duarte Garage Open, Sunday January 21, 10-2 pm. Corner of Portola and L Streets.

LHG Board Meeting, Wednesday, February 7, 7 pm. Carnegie Library, downstairs.

Duarte Garage Open, Sunday, February 18, 10-2 pm. Corner of Portola and L Streets.

History Talk, Wednesday, February 21, 7:30 pm. "Potomac - Floating White House," talk and slide show given by *Potomac* docents. The *Potomac*, berthed in Oakland was used by President Franklin Roosevelt in WW II. Livermore Civic Center Library. \$2 suggested donation. Light refreshments provided.

Newsletter Mailing, Saturday, February 24, 11:30am, Carnegie Building. Meet fellow LHG members while helping prepare the newsletter for mailing. Call Maxine at 447-4701 or just drop in.

LHG Board Meeting, Wednesday, March 7, 7 pm. Carnegie Library, downstairs.

Duarte Garage Open, Sunday, March 18, 10-2 pm. Corner of Portola and L Streets.

History Talk, Wednesday, March 21, 7:30 pm. Early Livermore Valley Families (1850-1900) presented by Dick Finn, Livermore Civic Center Library. \$2 suggested donation. Light refreshments provided.

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New Members

The LHG welcomes new members

Kathy Javdani
Bob Wilson
Margaret Fazio

ξ ξ ξ

New Gift Shop

LHG now has a gift shop. We have devoted a small display case in front of our desk for our great sales items. Many local people, including our members, did not realize how many things LHG has for sale. Besides the lovely note cards, we have beautiful cobalt blue mugs, post cards, T-shirts, and of course, many books. Come in and see us.

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In Memoriam

Long time LHG member Margaret "Peggy" Concannon passed away in November 2006. She was wife of Joseph Concannon, Jr., and in-law to Jim and Helen Concannon of Livermore. Peggy was known for her devotion to community service.

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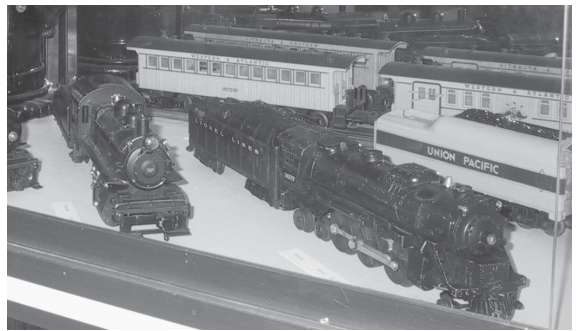
The Livermore Heritage Guild newsletter is published six times per year. Contact the newsletter editor with comments or suggestions for articles.

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Masthead photo: Poster of Livermore, looking southwest, drawn in 1889.

Don't miss model train exhibit

Diane and Stephen Rodrigues have installed a model train display all across the History Center exhibit area, just in time for the Holidays. One case holds models of equipment that either has or still does go through Livermore. Diane's lovely and accurate paintings of trains also grace the exhibit. Some copies of historical photos were added to bring Livermore of the past into view. The exhibit will be up through February! Thank you Diane and Stephen!



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