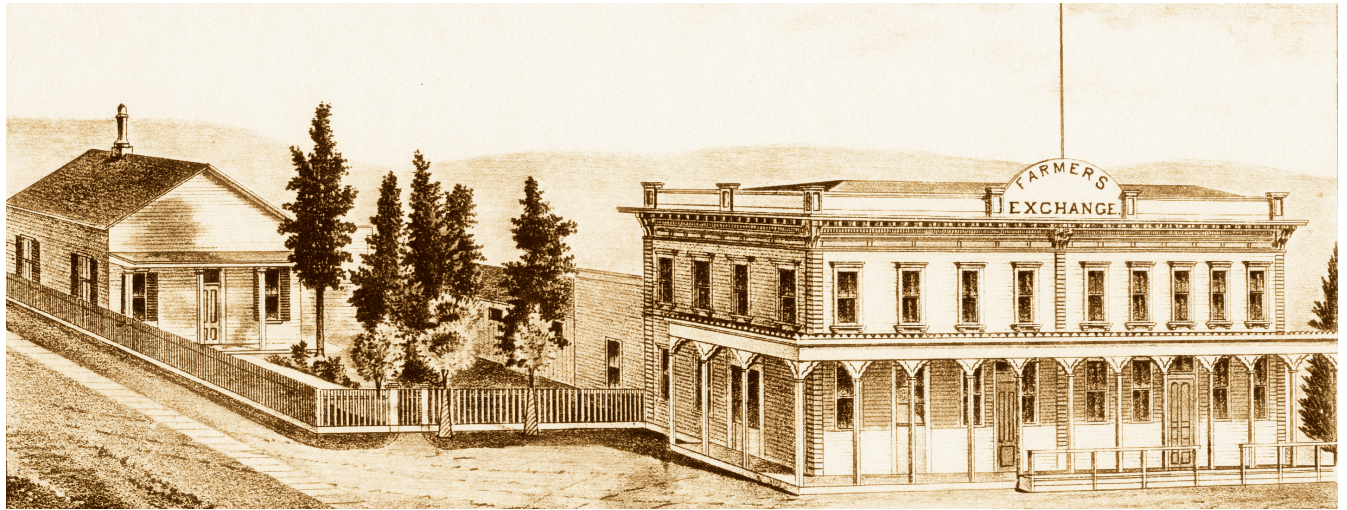


Livermore Heritage Guild

Saving Yesterday For Tomorrow



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January/February 2009

Vol. XL, No. 2

Alameda County Bifurcation and Consolidation Plan

A hundred years ago, noises were being made about breaking Alameda County off at San Leandro Creek and creating a new county. The Niles newspaper initiated the discussion in a published article pointing out that the three South County townships of Eden, Washington, and Murray were paying in taxes 20 percent of the total raised in Alameda County, but were not receiving commensurate services. The advantages of Bifurcation, proponents claimed, were that a new county could be composed of a territory of like interests, that there would be no rule by large city machine politics, that “water-front evils would be unusual” and, most importantly, that a lower tax rate would result.

Oakland, meantime, was making its own noise about creating a city/county government such as San Francisco had. The proposed consolidation would include the unincorporated settlements of Melrose, Fitchburg, Elmhurst, and Fruitvale (all to the northwest of Fruitvale Avenue), and would require that Alameda and Berkeley agree to be annexed. Arguments put forth included a lower tax rate, as citizens would not be required to support both county and city government. That alone would result in an estimated savings of \$400,000 a year.

Progress was slow; nothing had happened by 1906. To split Alameda County required action by the State Legislature. A primary condition was that no city within five miles of the boundary of a proposed county can become a county seat. San Leandro couldn't qualify. That left Hayward and Niles to fight it out, and since neither wanted the other to have it; Livermore was the next best candidate.

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A Message from the President

December 31, 2008

Dear members,

As you read this, the persimmons are ripe and the last tomatoes are barely clinging to the vine, sure signs we are starting a new year. Livermore Heritage Guild members are looking forward to 2009 as anxiously as everyone else. Viewed from this end of the year, all our resolutions are reasonable, our grand plans and aspirations are achievable. While we may find some difficulties along the way, I thought I would share some of the goals we have set for ourselves for 2009.

Of course the goals start with successfully conducting our popular events, including the Auction, Legacy Tour, History Mobile visits, monthly history lectures, Annual General Meeting, newsletters, history walks, and open house days at the Duarte Lincoln Highway Garage Museum. There are some other high-visibility projects planned as well, including fresh exhibits at the Garage and History Center and some building repairs and paint at the Garage.

There are many tasks we want to tackle that are not so visible, but are very important to the longevity of the Guild and our ability to fulfill our mission. Terry Berry, along with interns and volunteers, will continue rehousing many of our historic documents and artifacts in proper archival containers and cataloging them in our computer database for ease of public access. Self-confessed map-hound Terry Rossow is enjoying doing the same with our maps. We are looking at how to effectively digitize parts of the collection, so that fragile documents can be kept safe while the information is still available. At the Garage, ex-city councilman and Guild volunteer Neil Riley is researching, preserving, and cataloging the tool collection.

One of the goals we set for ourselves last year was to look at our membership rates and see if it was time for an upgrade. Membership dues are an important part of the total budget, covering about 20% of our costs. This is crucial for the materials and services that we need to achieve all the pieces of our mission. In a survey we conducted of local historical societies, LHG had the lowest rates across the board, in many cases less than half of what other organizations charged. Along with working to attract more new members and sponsors, we decided to nudge up our rates, with opportunities for additional sponsorship, while keeping membership within a range that should discourage no one. Our new rates are still modest, but will help us keep pace with rising costs.

I realize there are many requests for your charitable dollars, pleas ranging from food for the hungry to sponsoring our cultural arts. I like to think of it not as a competition, but rather a social buffet. Our quality of life, and the quality of the world around us, depends on us to support symphonies and soup kitchens, museums and mosquito nets. The Guild is blessed that you have chosen to include us in your buffet, and with your support we will continue preserving Livermore's heritage, Saving Yesterday for Tomorrow.

Happy Holidays, and best wishes for the New Year!

Jeff Kaskey
President

Bifurcation. *Continued from Page 1*

Back in Oakland, efforts to get Alameda and Berkeley to annex into the proposed city/county were getting nowhere. Neither wanted to lose its autonomy. An ingenious solution was devised: a very narrow strip of land running along the ridgetop from Berkeley to Lake Chabot and another equally narrow strip along the waterfront from Alameda to West San Leandro would provide a means for those two cities to be connected to the new county. "They will be like a couple of balloons on the end of a string." That idea was defeated in the fall of 1910 by voters in both cities.

Suddenly a bombshell dropped; a state senator from across the Bay proposed legislation in Sacramento by which Oakland would be consolidated with San Francisco. He thus connived to get control of Oakland's tax base and its waterfront system so that San Francisco could increase its bonding power. As a consequence, Oakland, Alameda, and Berkeley would pay for replacing San Francisco's earthquake-damaged public buildings. Oaklanders were in a quandary; how could they ask for a law that would force Alameda and Berkeley into Oakland's city/county government while denying San Francisco the right to add Oakland to San Francisco.

By 1912, the great vision of consolidation stood little chance of becoming a reality. And without consolidation, there was little chance of bifurcation. Livermore's opportunity to become a county seat appeared lost.

-By Gary Drummond

Jerry Bireley

Livermore native, Jerry Bireley, passed away in October 2008. Jerry loved his family and was a good friend to many. A long time Guild member, he brought good ideas, wisdom, diverse skills, and good humor to the many things he did for the Guild. We miss his presence

Among his contributions to the Guild:

- ✦ Jerry and his sister put up the small display on the east wall of the Garage.
- ✦ Jerry arranged to have the Mack fire truck painted, labor free, and paid for the paint.
- ✦ Jerry was the first and only driver of the Mack in the Rodeo Parade for a number of years.
- ✦ Jerry donated auto and gas station related signs in the Garage.
- ✦ Jerry installed the old license plate display at the Garage.
- ✦ Jerry and sons moved the Carnegie bookcases and other large items for auctions, etc.
- ✦ Jerry donated many of the tools displayed around the Garage.
- ✦ Jerry arranged for the loan of some of the original Garage tools and signs.
- ✦ Jerry donated, cleaned, painted, and applied Flying A decals on some of the roll-around gas station equipment in the Garage.
- ✦ Jerry cleaned, painted, and set up two displays in the shop area.



"Vintage" Flying A station on Portola Avenue, Livermore, owned by Jerry Bireley and his family and restored by Jerry in 2007.

Meet New 2nd Vice-President and Membership Chair

Hi! My name is Janet Von Toussaint, and I am the newly appointed 2nd Vice President for Membership of the Livermore Heritage Guild.

I have been interested in getting involved with the Guild for some time. I respect the incredible work that has been done by members of the Guild, and I appreciate how important it is to preserve Livermore's history and heritage. I am excited about taking on the Membership Chair's responsibilities and encouraging more Livermore folks to get involved.

I was born and raised in Livermore, as was my mother, Phyllis Jorgensen Fachner, and her mother, Mabel Holm Jorgensen Rees. I'm proud to be a part of the fifth generation of the Holm family in Livermore. We are cousins of local artist, historian, and Guild member, Marilyn (Tilli) Holm Calhoun. We descend from the early Danish community that settled in Livermore, and I have many fond memories of parties held at the Dania Hall. I am a Livermore High School graduate, and it's wonderful to see so many of my classmates still around town. I recently retired from Sandia National Laboratories and now find that I have time to spend on volunteer work.



When I was a child, the Carnegie Building housed the only library in town. Spending a few hours there recently brought back memories of hours spent in the downstairs children's library. I always enjoy the Guild's Auction held over Memorial Weekend at the Duarte Garage. As membership chair, I look forward to getting more involved.

Janet Von Toussaint

New Membership Structure Roles Out in February

LHG is rolling out new membership rates as of the first of the year. The old and new rates are on the facing page.

New and renewal memberships received by February 15, 2009, can take advantage of the old rates for a one-year membership. Membership begins when dues are received and will be due one year from the month of sign-up.

We are excited to be able to extend some membership incentive gifts! **Sponsor** - set of History Center note cards; **Patron** - set of History Center note cards, PLUS two tickets to the annual auction and dinner; **Business** - four 8" by 10" matted historical prints for business display; **Premium Business** - acknowledgment in at least three LHG newsletters.

All memberships received before March 1 will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win one of the following: docent-led private tour of the History Center, dinner with the LHG President at a local restaurant, two tickets to the annual General Meeting Dinner in September or the Legacy Tour in May

We value your membership and look forward to seeing you at our 2009 activities.

Coast Manufacturing Buys a Fire Truck

In September 1920, Coast Manufacturing Company announced it had purchased a “fully equipped automobile chemical fire engine carrying two 35-gallon tanks for use at its plant east of town. The machine is of the American-LaFrance type mounted on a one-ton Ford truck chassis.

“The machine has two 35-gallon tanks which can operate separately, and one can be recharged while the other is discharging. Two extra acid containers and two additional soda charges are carried which gives the engine a capacity of 140 gallons. In addition there are three hand extinguishers of the Babcock type. The machine can also be attached to an ordinary fire hydrant and water used instead of the chemicals. It carries 200 feet of special rubber chemical hose, and 500 feet of 2 1/2 inch emergency linen hose. A 20-foot ladder, a siren, bell and a spotlight for night work complete the equipment of the engine.

“The machine is equipped with solid rubber rear tires, which it will enable it to go any place at any time without danger of loss of time from punctures. A new garage has been erected at the fuse works for the engine and a special device has been arranged to enable



Coast Manufacturing, in 1920, bought a fully equipped automobile chemical fire engine.

the driver to start the engine without loss of time. The rear wheels rest on a pair of motor-driven rollers, and when he wants to start, the driver will start the engine by revolving the rear wheels.

“A fire squad has been organized at the plant, and with the new engine it will complement a 225,000 gallon reinforced concrete reservoir located at sufficient height to give 50 pounds pressure. The machine will also be available to Livermore if ever necessary.”

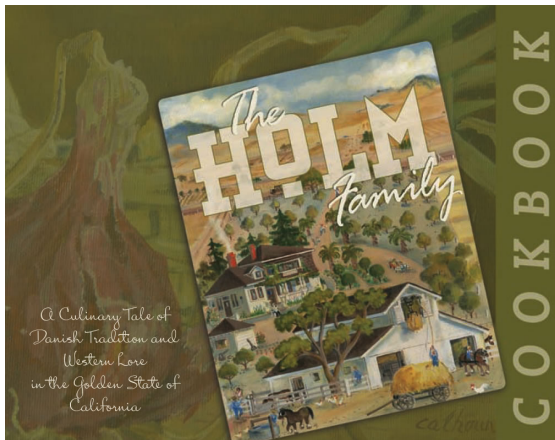
New Membership Rates Comparison Chart

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	OLD RATE	NEW RATE	NOTES	GIFT
Individual	\$15.00	\$25.00		
Family	\$20.00	\$35.00		
Senior	\$10.00	\$15.00		
Student	\$10.00	\$15.00		
Sponsor	\$50.00	\$75.00	Family	Notecards
Patron	\$100.00	\$150.00	Family	Notecards + 2 auction dinner tickets
Life	\$300.00	\$500.00	Individual	
Business	** NEW **	\$300.00		Four 8"x10" matted historic prints
Premium Business	** NEW **	\$400.00		Acknowledgment in three LHG newsletters

Holm Family Cookbook

The Holm Family Cookbook is more than a cookbook! It is also the story of a Danish pioneer family in the Livermore Valley through remembrances and recipes.

In 1880 Ida Jessen married Carl Holm, an adventurous immigrant from Denmark, and together they had nine children. Their descendants remain in the Livermore Valley, and have creatively captured their family history in this book through recipes, tales, photographs, and art.



A culinary tale of Danish tradition and western lore is a good summation of this book that will appeal to a large audience—even people who don't cook will find it an interesting read. Revealing the evolution of American meal preparation and progression of

home cooking, the recipes, stories, and photos in the book span five generations. The recipes run the gamut in ethnic influences, skills required, and ingredients used, some for everyday meals, some for holidays and special occasions. The simplicity of a white sauce taught in high school home economics classes in the 1930s contrasts with a more modern "Salmon Poached in Wine with Dill Sauce." Our present-day food trends of natural ingredients and fresh, local produce are right in tune with recipes from the Holm family vegetable gardens, ranches, and farms.

Written by Tilli Holm Calhoun and her daughters, *The Holm Family Cookbook* is available for purchase at the Carnegie Building (open Wednesday through Sunday, 11:30 am to 4pm at Third and J Streets). It is priced at \$29.95 plus tax.

Dr. Grace

Shortly before Dr. Grace Evans Devnich died, Ann Homan visited her to take a few photographs for a slide show. "I wanted to take a photograph of her with her father's black leather doctor bag," Ann



Photo of Dr. Grace Evans Devnich, by Ann Homan

explained. "While she was looking in it, and I snapped a few shots. Then she turned her face and glanced up at me with that little devil smile she had. I managed to capture that on film, and I will always cherish it. She was a model for the community in how to grow old gracefully." See the November/December 2008 issue of the Livermore Heritage Guild Newsletter for an article about Dr. Grace.

Seagrave Gets a Makeover

The Guild's Seagrave Fire Truck is stripped down to its chassis and running gear in preparation for steam cleaning, restoration, and painting. Body parts and equipment are strewn hither and yon around the Garage!

Calendar

LHG Board Meeting, Wednesday, January 7, 7 pm. Carnegie Building (Third and J streets), downstairs. All welcome.

Duarte Garage Open. Sunday, January 18, 10-2 p.m. On the Old Lincoln Highway at the corner of Portola and L Streets, Livermore.

History Talk. Wednesday, January 21, 7:30 pm. Own an older home? Jeff Kaskey will share information on restoring and remodeling older houses. Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Doors open at 7 pm. Light refreshments.

LHG Board Meeting, Wednesday, February 4, 7 pm. Carnegie Building (Third and J Streets), downstairs. All welcome.

Duarte Garage Open, Sunday, February 15, 10-2 p.m. on the Old Lincoln Highway at the corner of Portola and L Streets, Livermore.

History Talk, . Wednesday, February 18, 7:30 pm. Gary Kinst, newsletter editor for the California Chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association will talk about the Lincoln Highway through Tracy, Altamont, Summit Garage, and Livermore. Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Doors open at 7 pm. Light refreshments.

Newsletter Mailing, Saturday, February 28, 11:30 am. Carnegie Building, Third and J Streets. Help get the newsletter ready for mailing. Call Maxine at 925-447-7401 or just drop in.

LHG Board Meeting, Wednesday March 4, 7 pm. Carnegie Building (Third and J Streets), downstairs. All welcome.

LHG Auction, Saturday, May 24. Save the date.

News Notes

Auction Preview

Yes, I know, time goes by so fast. It is challenging to think of something happening at the end of May 2009 when it is only December.

AND, the Heritage Guild's auction crew works all year around. We pick up donations, sort, repack, and plan. Somehow the magic of the auction comes together every year, and it is great fun!

So, while looking at Christmas decorations and unpacking the gifts stashed away in the back of the closet, think about the auction. Call Bill Junk at 447-4561 or Anna Siig at 447-5475 for pick up or delivery of donations. We welcome that wedding gift you've had for 25 years and never used and the vintage and antique items that belonged to your great aunt and uncle. Maybe you have a mystery picture that will lead to an interesting story or become a treasured keep sake for someone else.

The Heritage Guild's auction crew welcomes volunteers who want to help with the auction. You can help sort, move things, or set up for the auction when the time comes. Contact Bill or Anna if you'd like to help. We also hope you save the date and attend the auction - the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend every year.

Anna Siig



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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: Drawing of the Farmers Exchange Hotel from the Thompson and West Alameda County Atlas in 1878. "Property of Meritz Hupers, Livermore, Alameda Co. Cal." (Hupers first name was actually Moritz.) L Street is in front of the hotel. Along the left is part of a wide area that at times had side tracks off the main SP railroad line. The main line would be more to the left (north).

Guild's 2009 Calendar Celebrates 35th Year

The Annual Guild Calendar for 2009 is now available at the History Center. The calendar, in full color again this year, features Guild activities during its 35th year.

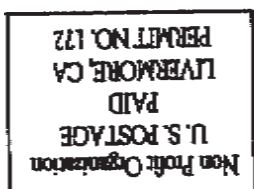
The cover photo is of the racecars at the Duarte Garage. Other photos include the Home Tour, fire trucks in the Rodeo Parade, moving the Gordon house at Concannon, moving the Dutro house, caricatures from the Dan Berry collection (representing the History Forums), the five fire trucks photo from the 1956 newspaper with a photo showing the Sea-



Images from the Guild's 2009 calendar. Antique Racecars at Duarte Garage, above, and Gordon House, left.

grave under restoration, the LHG Auction, the Annual General Meeting and Dinner, and more.

Calendars are on sale at the History Center for \$15 plus tax. Guild members get a 10% discount as always.



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