

Livermore Heritage Guild

Saving Yesterday For Tomorrow



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Phone 925-449-9927

May/June 2011

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Carnegie Building Centennial Art & History Fair: May 14th

Please come join us in celebrating our Carnegie Building's 100th birthday this Saturday. Admission is free, so you can have a relaxed wander among work by local artists and exhibits describing Livermore's Carnegie Library as well as life in 1911. Feel free to accessorize in the style of 1911,

with hats for men and women, parasols and brooches for the women and men can tuck a kerchief in their suit breast pocket.

The Riata will be there serving their excellent barbeque and Donut Wheel will be there with sweets.



One of the lions around the top of the Carnegie building, sporting a fresh coat of paint, courtesy of LARPD's restoration work

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Bid for Treasure at the Annual Fund Raising Auction

Once more, members of the Livermore Heritage Guild are working at the Duarte Garage to prepare for the annual lasagna dinner and auction on **May 28**, Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. The Guild has received many wonderful donations over this past year and items are still coming in.

The number of lots at the auction will be limited this year to keep the energy up, and a garage sale will be held later in the spring or early summer to handle the items that did not make the cut. The auction has always been fast paced, thanks to our wonderful auctioneer, Lynn Owens, our runners, clerks and crew, and of course Lynn's wife Linda, our world-class "yipper". Limiting the number of lots will shorten the auction and add a new excitement to the evening.

Donations are accepted all year. Call Bill Junk at 447-4561 or Anna Siig at 447-5475. Volunteers are always needed to help with set up, prepping before the auction, serving the dinner, clean up and more. We have a great crew and new

members are always welcome!

We hope to see you at the auction - May 28, at the Duarte Garage/Lincoln Highway Museum on North L, Pine Street and Portola. Enter on the Pine Street side. 5:00 for preview, 6:00 for dinner (buy tickets ahead at the Carnegie History Center), 7:00 for the auction. Yes, you can attend the auction without having the dinner.

If you are unable to attend the auction, call Anna - number above - to arrange a preview and leave a bid. Someone will bid for you the evening of the auction.

And of course all this fun is in support of a great cause: raising funds to preserve historic photos, restore the Seagrave, open the Duarte Garage to the public, and all the many other things your Heritage Guild is doing to Save Yesterday for Tomorrow.

Hope to see you there! -Anna Siig

Items waiting for a lucky bidder at the auction



A Carnegie Library for Livermore

The application for a Carnegie Grant to request a library building for Livermore may have been drafted and sent in the spring of 1909 under Mrs. Dell C. Savage's supervision, but the narrative has its roots in the 1896 Ladies League of Progress' idea of a free library and a 1901 California Law.

In January of 1896, the League of Progress formed and brought prominent citizens, businessmen, and those interested in championing the upbuilding of the community of Livermore. The Progress League supported improved roads, promoted sewers, shade trees and street lighting for the town.

When the Ladies League of Progress adopted the object of a free public library for the citizens of Livermore in 1896, it was Mrs. Dell C. Savage who watched this idea take hold and would serve as president on the fledging Library Association Board. The 1896 Free Library incorporated itself in March 1896 with an initial stock offering of 1000 shares at \$1 share. But it was primarily through free will subscriptions, fraternal society donations, in-kind service donation, renting an annex of the building to a barber shop, and fund raising usually through "entertainments" like musical recitals, theatric performances, and lectures or debates that the organization was supported. The Ladies League hired a librarian, Mrs. Sarah J. Harp, at a monthly salary of \$15 and extended the selection of books in its offering by buying a library that was offered for sale by the Odd Fellows organization of Oakland for \$320. There were 3400 volumes in this collection of books and the shelves were included. The official opening for patronage of the Livermore Free Library was in October 1896.

In March of 1901, the state of California enacted a law that allowed for the establishment and maintenance of public libraries within municipalities. Six months later, Livermore was the first town to adopt the state law with Ordinance 42. A board of trustees for the library was appointed. Mr. Dell C. Savage would serve as president on this board from its inception in November 1901 through several terms till March 1911. The assets of the Ladies Progress League Free Library, was legally transferred to the town in December 1901. The 1901 State Library Act allowed the town to levy a tax of 10 cents on each \$100 of Property Value. It was estimated at the time to raise \$750 annually, providing ample income to meet the expenses of a librarian, building maintenance,

and \$200 annually for new books, according to an article in the "The Livermore Herald" dated 28 Sept 1901.

When the Board of Library Trustees proceeded to complete the application for a grant from Andrew Carnegie in May of 1909, the town could easily be persuaded to provide a prerequisite pledge to annually support the new library building. The Town Trustees pledged \$1000 annually. The application was accepted in October of 1909. Livermore was to have a \$10,000 Carnegie Library building.

In learning of the grant, a building committee was formed comprising members of both the Board of Trustees of the Library and the Town. Another prerequisite when applying for a Carnegie Grant was the town owning a suitable site for the library. The Town of Livermore had purchased a 100' x 100' parcel at the northwest corner of 5th and K Streets for \$600. Opposition to this site had been raised as being too far from the main business district of town. George Beck offered to trade his 58' x 60' property on the south east corner of 3rd and J for the 100' x 100' lot in question.

The Building Committee met with a consultant from the State Library, Bertha Kumli. She presented examples, plans, and photographs of other libraries in the class proposed for Livermore. The Building Committee, though not committing to any one style, did have a preference for the Orange County, Classical Revival (Type B) model with basement meeting rooms. This Library would not physically fit on the Beck Property, and would

Continued on p. 5



Candlesticks Received

Last newsletter we asked for donations or loans of an old-fashioned "candlestick" telephone (antique or replica) for the 1911 exhibits. Like this woman

(from a 1911 Pacific Telephone and Telegraph advertisement), you heard us and responded wonderfully. We have two in hand and one on the way, and owe a great Thank You to Brenda Kusler and Casey Salas, Neal and Joan Pann, and Barbara Baird.

Welcome! Since this newsletter also serves as the program for our May 14 Carnegie Centennial Fair, some of you may not be familiar with the Guild. I could tell you about what we do, but no matter which way you turn in the next few months it will be hard to avoid a Guild event, so embrace the enthusiasm and join us for historic amounts of activity. For the Centennial Fair, Alicia Eltgroth has been bringing together people in and out of the Guild to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of our Carnegie Library and we are looking forward to a great day in the park. Our efforts have already been aided by LARPD, who gave the building a thorough make-over with paint, repaired woodwork and freshly varnished front doors for this auspicious birthday. Even if you have not had time to think about your 1911 costume, pop on a formal hat for the men, or something festive, frilly and wide-brimmed for the women and come on over. Alicia and I did a short interview about the Centennial on TV30s Conversations with Robin Fahr which screened during the first week of May. If you watched, did you catch the historic blunder I made in relating a historic event?

Wednesday after the Centennial, Carnegie park will be a great place to watch the Amgen bicycle racers head out on the Day 4 leg of this internationally televised race. Marie Abbott arranged to have the Mayor arrive at the race in the Guild's Model T Fire Car.

Memorial Day weekend, on May 28th, you will want to join us for the annual Heritage Guild Auction at the Duarte Garage. In the last newsletter I mentioned the clawfoot tub among the collected items, and the stock continues to grow. The Murray family piano from the 1880s has arrived and will be one of the showpieces up for bid, and I just saw a note about some Johnson Brothers china. We will also have some of the historic Livermore bricks up for bid. Tickets for the lasagna dinner at the auction are available at the Carnegie building History Center.

The World's Fastest Rodeo starts with the June 11 Rodeo Parade, and what would the Rodeo Parade be without the Heritage Guild's collection of Livermore Fire Engines? A few short years ago we featured the newly restored Model T, then last year we previewed the mostly disassembled 1920 Seagrave engine, and this year, if all goes well at the Duarte Garage, you could see the Seagrave drive in the parade under its own power. That's a crazy amount of progress in a few years, and I am happy to remind you that it only happens with your generous donations!

You will barely get the Rodeo dust off your boots and it will be time to come out again, Friday night June 17th, to the Vine Theater to see a new documentary about our bulb called A Century of Light, by Chris Leps. Its hard to beat a Zephyr dinner and glass of wine at your table in the Vine theater while you watch a movie. The very next day, June 18th, it is time to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the bulb with a proper birthday party. The light bulb committee always

throws a great one, so come sing Happy Birthday to Livermore's most famous dim bulb!



I am including one of my favorite pictures of the Carnegie, taken shortly after completion. This is H. W. Anderson (later a Livermore Mayor in the 1940s) and his horse Dolly Gray, from the Guild's R. F. Anderson collection.

Jeff Kaskey

Library for Livermore (Cont. from pg 3)

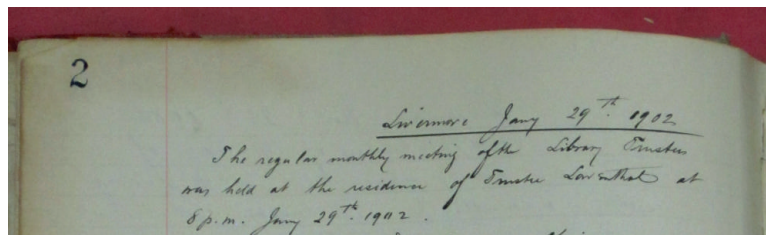
nearly completely fill the 5th and K Street site. As no doubt some of the examples of the libraries of Paso Robles and Richmond could attest, the Classical Revival (Type B) model would be quite fitting as a central feature in a park like setting. The Town of Livermore had long requested a park. Here could be a fortunate convergence of two civic goals. The President of the Town Trustees, Thomas E. Knox, secured an option to purchase the McKeany Block (block 31 in the original Mendenhall Plan) bounded by 3rd and 4th and J and K Streets. The McKeany Block contained a single house on the northwest corner and the rest was Peter McKeany's stock yard. The sale price for the entire block was \$9,000.

A \$10,000 bond was proposed for the purchase and improvement of the block. The Park Bond measure was put to vote two days after Christmas in 1909. The bond passed nearly unopposed. Of the 261 votes cast, 242 were in favor, 18 opposed and 1 vote was rejected as illegal.

William H. Weeks was employed as architect. By the time Livermore engaged him, he had already completed ten Carnegie Libraries and by the end of his career he would design a total of twenty-two, with 18 still standing today. These would include seven of the Classical Revival (Type B) model of which Lompoc and Gilroy are the most striking doppelgangers. Hoyt Brothers of Santa Rosa, won the bidding of the general contracting and construction of the building.

The Town Trustees insisted that where possible local labor and materials should be used. For the most part this was accomplished. The brick and terra-cotta came from the Carnegie Brick works southeast of town. The lumber and concrete for the building was supplied from Anspachers Bros., who were so pleased to win the contract that they handed out free postcards advertising themselves as material suppliers for the building.

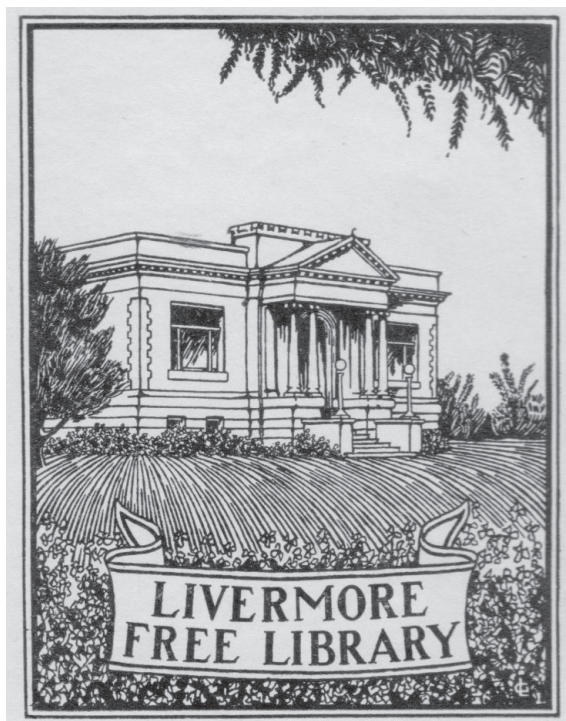
Local farmers with teams of horses and bucket scrapers pulled dirt from surrounding roads to create the dirt berms that surround the sides and accentuate the front of the building. Several local companies were included in the fountain and grounds improvements: Allen Hardware supplied water pipe and garden valves; P.C. Johnson provided cement work around fountain; the Livermore Hardware Co provided the fountain plumbing. When it came time to award the linoleum for the interior of the Library, a local company, Johnson & Emminger, had the



From 1902 Minutes of Livermore Free Library

exact same quote as a company from San Francisco – Johnson & Emminger got the job. The concrete sidewalks were poured and formed by T. M. Twohey. His cement marker can still be found on the southwest corner of the Carnegie's sidewalk.

The building of the library was run on a very tight budget and the interior furnishings (desks, chairs, lighting fixtures, book shelves, linoleum) and park improvements required additional funds to be raised. This was accomplished through public entertainments. The Hayseed Club donated all the proceeds from their annual ball, a public entertainment called "The Gypsy's Secret" was staged using local talent, and the Woman's improvement Club held a street carnival. These acts of civil support enacted the Livermore Progress League's exhortation of "all progressive citizens of Livermore to uphold our municipal government in this and all other movements for the upbuilding of our community." The building of the Livermore Carnegie library was an endeavor that came about through citizen and town government cooperation. - Loretta Kaskey



Bookplate in a book from the Livermore Free Library

How the Guild Found a Home in the Carnegie Library

Your Guild already had a lot on its plate in late 1973. The October newsletter describes negotiating with the city and Southern Pacific for possession and restoration of the SP Depot, and the city had already pledged \$2500 in matching funds that the Guild was working to match. "The Buckley house", occupied by the Youth Service Center, was getting some restoration and the Guild was calling for it to be saved and restored "for civic use." In the November newsletter they added their support to the preservation of the homes on Trevarno road, editorializing "we need to keep the old to provide relief from the monotony of the new".

By December it was the Buckley Estate, and the Guild planned a fund-raising open house there, selling golden spikes and prints of the 1889 Bartlett map of Livermore. The SP Depot was being considered for adaptive reuse as a restaurant, and the Guild was cautious and supportive. "The Guild favors making the building economically useful, provided there are safeguards that will preserve the authenticity of the appearance of Livermore's cherished landmark."

Also in December 1973 they reported that Adam Nordwall's Livermore Totem Pole would have a permanent home in Centennial Park. And in that same month, just before Janet Newton's story of "Christmas in the Livermore Valley", is mention that "The Guild has asked the city for a part of the soon-to-be-vacated Carnegie building for its use as the nucleus of a Livermore museum and teaching center..."

In January, after a successful event with three to four hundred people at the Buckley Estate, there was no new news on the Carnegie. By February, Mrs. Karl Wentz proposed applying for a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop an exhibit in the Carnegie. John Sarboraria, Manuel Duarte and Don Hill promised a collection of historic drug store artifacts for a Carnegie display.

March had the Guild waiting to hear from the city on a Guild proposal to establish a "City owned and operated History Center" in the Carnegie building and by April they had been offered "one corner of the upper floor" but were still pushing to create a Livermore History Center. June through August there was still discussion about Carnegie, and May School joined the list of causes that the Guild was pursuing for preservation. By September there was real progress. A grand opening of the Depot restaurant was scheduled, May school was

Carnegie Fair Facts Schedule for the Day

- 8:30 - Volunteers arrive on site
- 10:00 - Official opening of the Fair
- 12:00 - Speechiness on the front steps
- 3:30 - Drawing for Centennial Carnegie Quilt
- 4:00 - Close. See you at the Auction!

Artists at the Fair

Shauna Brynildson	William Hackett
Rhonda Chase	Angela Johal
Mary Dillon	Marguerite Kirkewoog
Michael Duncan	Arnold Kirkewoog
Donna Fleckner	Christine McCall
Jordan Fleckner	Jennie McGregor
Karen Fleschler	Maclyn M. Pons
Bob Gardner	Bonnie Rathjen
Sharon Gardner	Mike Robles
Bettie Goosman	Norma Webb
Julie Gordon	

VISIT THEM ALL!

(Very) Fair Donors & Partners

LARPD

Livermore Opera Guild

Noah's Bagels at 1412 First St. Livermore

Beta Printing at 2124 First St. Livermore

Look for others posted at the Fair!

Thanks to our Volunteers!

inspected for possible restoration, and regarding the Carnegie Building, the newsletter reported: "We now have the key to the main floor of the building and preparation of the initial phase of a first-class History Center has begun." In fact, a "Preview Reception" held by the Heritage Guild and the Livermore Art Association had over eleven hundred visitors.

The following months saw regular hours and new exhibits at the Carnegie, tiffs and trysts with the City and LARPD, the Buckley Estate was renamed Ravenswood as Buckley had called it and became the restored site we know today, while May school succumbed to arson. But Andrew Carnegie's gift, the foresight of Livermore's early civic minded residents, plus a determined band of preservationists, have left us still enjoying our Temple in the Park. There are still things we are hoping to accomplish, but we are far luckier than some communities who lost their Carnegie buildings because there was no one to watch over their valuable heritage. -Jeff Kaskey

Movie and Party for The Bulb That Just Keeps Burning

Now at 110 years, the world's longest burning lightbulb continues to glow in Firestation No. 6. This calls for a celebration and the Lightbulb Committee knows how to make that happen. It starts

June 17th, 7:00pm at the Vine

with a showing of "A Century of Light", a new documentary about the lightbulb, done by Hollywood Stuntman Chris Leps. Previously Chris did the award winning documentary "Ed and Vern's Rock Store" which is about the famous motorcycle hangout on Mulholland drive frequented by Steve McQueen and Jay Leno, so we are looking forward to a great movie. Many Livermore locals will be featured in the new film.

The next day is the birthday party at Firestation No. 6. There will be three bands, including Magic Moments, who played at the bulb Centennial, as well as the Singing Winemaker and the band TNT. And because this is a birthday party there will be free ice cream and cake and balloons. Of course. Check out the poster for details and you can get more information while watching the bulb cam on www.centennialbulb.org.

LHG Calendar

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH

Carnegie Library Building Centennial Art & History Fair, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18TH Amgen tour of **California** starts in downtown Livermore for a parade lap through town with a send-off by the Mayor, riding in our restored Model T fire car.

SATURDAY, MAY 28TH, Annual **Livermore Heritage Guild Auction, Duarte Garage/Lincoln Highway Museum, 5:00 p.m. preview, 6:00 p.m. dinner, 7:00 p.m. auction time.** Tickets available at the History Center for the lasagna dinner. Wine and soft drinks will be available for purchase at the garage. To donate items call Bill Junk at 447-4561 or Anna Siig at 447-5475. You may also volunteer to help sort donations and help at the auction. Call Anna Siig – see phone number above.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH, Come watch the Heritage Guild's fire engines roll through the **Rodeo Parade**. Wouldn't that Seagrave look great with its gold leaf? Your donations make it happen!

FRIDAY, JUNE 17TH, the Lightbulb Committee has rented the **Vine** at 7:00pm to show "A Century of Light".

SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH Livermore Centennial **Light Bulb 110th birthday party**, LPFD Station No. Six, 4550 East Ave., noon to 4 p.m.

SATURDAY AUGUST 20TH, The Skeehans will share their knowledge about Carnegie Libraries. Watch for more info.

Volunteers: Thanks Again!

**LIVERMORE'S
CENTENNIAL LIGHT**

FREE

FREE

What: Centennial Light Bulb 110th year celebration

Where: LPFD Station 6, 4550 East Avenue, Livermore

When: Saturday, June 18 from Noon to 4:00 PM

Who: Open to the general public, free of charge.
Donations to offset expenses will be accepted.

Along with recognition of the Centennial Light Bulb, other activities will include book signings, displays of historic fire department equipment, heritage costumes, live music, children's activities and dessert of cake and ice cream.

Thanks to Lydia Carpenter for this perfect event poster

ART & HISTORY FAIR

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE LIVERMORE
CARNEGIE LIBRARY
 C E N T E N N I A L

1911 - 2011

SATURDAY, MAY 14th

10AM - 4PM in Carnegie Park
 Third St. between "J" and "K"

~ Presented by the Livermore Heritage Guild ~

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The Livermore Heritage Guild History Center is located in the historic 1911 Carnegie Library building at 2155 Third Street. History Center hours generally are Wednesday through Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Phone: (925) 449-9927. Free admission.

Annual membership dues are:
 Individual \$25.00, Family \$35.00,
 Senior (age 62+) \$15.00, Student
 \$15.00, Sponsor \$75.00 and Patron
 \$150.00. Life (Individual) \$500.00
 and Business \$300.00 memberships
 are also available. Please make
 checks payable to "LHG." Mail to
 P.O. Box 961, Livermore, CA 94551.

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