



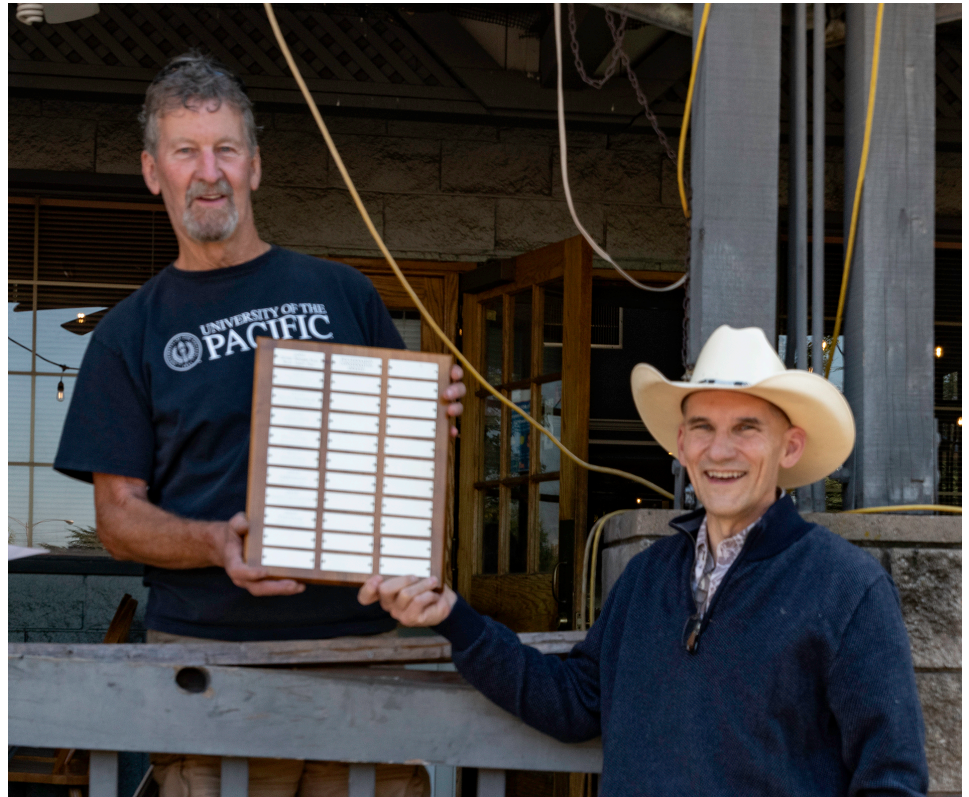
## Tim Sage Recipient of the 2020 Livermore Heritage Award

by Jeff Kaskey

Year after year, project after project, the Livermore Heritage Guild does amazing feats of saving yesterday for tomorrow. The hands of volunteers are what make these things happen, and no pair of hands has shaped more Guild projects than those at the end of the lanky arms of Tim Sage. Tim is such a ubiquitous part of the Guild that it took until last year to realize we had never stopped to honor his dedicated work. That's odd, since we never forget to call him when we need those hands to get things done. Certainly I've called Tim when the Guild needed nearly anything, from getting a piano to the Guild auction to dragging clogging roots out of the Duarte Garage sewer. Every once in a while it is OK to throw away something old.

Tim started at the Guild in the true early days of the late 1970s. After attending a few meetings, Anna Siig, one of our founders, called to invite Tim to join the board. Tim deflected with a slew of excuses, each ignored by Anna, until finally Tim admitted he was unfit because he was such a procrastinator. Anna sealed the deal with "you'll fit right in."

Tim spent many Guild hours supporting the Duarte Garage and Cottage in its early years, serving as the right hand to Jerry Bireley and curator Bill Junk. Today that seems delightful, but in the 1970s and 80s, the first years of the Guild inhabiting the Garage, it was not yet a visitor destination. Rather it was a dirty, cruft-filled building with a badly leaking roof. Work included keeping the one operational fire truck, the 1944 Mack, running, and taking on the major project of getting that leaking roof repaired. While the corrugated roof was being repaired, Bill, Tim and others set about thoroughly cleaning the place. Larry Mauch, Guild president for 15 years, told me they actually swept the



**Above:** Jeff Kaskey presents Tim Sage with the LHG Heritage Award. Photo by Richard Finn.

tops of each of the rafters with brooms on poles to knock down many decades of dust. The effort led Larry to develop Coccidioidomycosis, which you may recognize as "Valley Fever." With the roof back in place that building was for a brief moment and with Tim's help, nearly dust free.

When Barry Schrader and Tilli Calhoun created the HistoryMobile from a discarded, gutted hearing test van, Tim spent many hours keeping it road worthy as it traveled to Livermore grade schools and events. Our new HistoryMobile is a gem, but it descends from a slightly homely, smooth-running and very busy ancestor. As to other projects, if it was at the Garage and needed doing, good chance that Tim had a hand on it.

(Tim Sage, continued on page 8)

### **In this Issue:**

Heritage Garden	page 2
President's Message	page 3
Mystery at the Museum	page 3
Hagemann Happenings	page 4
Before Livermore Was	page 5
Historic First Street	page 7
Duarte Garage	page 9
Musings and Memories	page 10
Life Members	page 10
Meet a Board Member	page 11
Calendar	page 12



# Heritage Garden

by Loretta Kaskey

In the last report from the Heritage Garden, we were showcasing the summer bounty. But now we have moved forward to the winter garden and soil preparation. First pull out all the summer crops and request a manure delivery – not hard to come by, given we share the ranch with Del Arroyo’s 4-H horse and chicken program. Spread that

mixture among the beds, pull out the rototiller, fire it up, and mix it all in. Next lay out and check the irrigation lines and fix any leaks. And finally, some planting of the winter crops. Thankfully all these activities occurred in late October and early November - before the next wave of staying at home as we all do our part to prevent the

spread of the coronavirus. Soraya Rawlings and I really appreciated the help of the Granada Green Team. We agreed to play it safe by not meeting to work together since early November, but before then they helped with the soil prep and winter garden plantings. This season we have planted wheat, barley, red oats, fava beans and sugar pea pods.



**Clockwise from top left:** Planted on November 8, 2020, pictured are rows of fava beans with the irrigation lines that will be so necessary if this winter stays dry; Audrey Fenner and Natsuki Romero (both of the Granada Green Team) pull out tomato plants and LHG volunteer Soraya Rawlings collects the last of the peppers in late October 2020; Rows of barley (on the left) and red oats (on the right) look to be off to a good start in January of 2021; Jeff Kaskey delivers aged horse manure to the Heritage Garden and has fun driving the little tractor. If you are interested in some and have a way to get it home, contact Jeff. He’ll fix you up!; (center photo) Tara Martin and Caylie Natsch supervise while Granada Green Team President Audrey Fenner is hands-on, rototilling one of the garden beds. All photos by Loretta Kaskey.



## A Message from the President

by Will Bolton

The Covid pandemic continues to dominate our world, but things are still happening in the Livermore Heritage Guild – just a little differently. For example, the 2020 Livermore Downtown Christmas Parade had a reversal of roles. Instead of the observers being stationary along the route and the displays moving past in a parade, the observers got in their individual vehicles and paraded past displays, which were stationary at various locations around Livermore. The LHG display was at the Hagemann Ranch along Olivina Avenue. An ingenious group of LHG volunteers decorated farm equipment with lights, made a tractor driver, and included the Grinch's faithful companion Max the Dog. Even the board wall shielding the recycling and trash containers was decorated with a great lighted LHG logo and theater marquee sign.

In accordance with public health guidelines, LHG in-person public events and open houses have been temporarily suspended. However, the quarterly LHG History talks provide another example of how we are adapting to our current conditions. In recent years, these talks have been presented in a meeting room at the Livermore Library. In response to the restrictions on public gatherings, LHG Vice-President Andrea Loyd worked with Blanche Angelo at the Livermore Library to transition the talks to a virtual Zoom format. The inaugural virtual event was an excellent talk

provided by City Historian and LHG member, Richard Finn, showing photos and describing historic houses in the area south of downtown Livermore. Recordings of the talks will be available on the LHG YouTube channel and the Library recently expanded the number of virtual attendees possible, making the virtual talks available to more people. If you haven't already checked out the LHG YouTube channel, please do. There is an ever expanding list of videos related to LHG activities.

Routine work and small projects continue. Examples of small projects include installation of a tempered glass window in the red barn at Hagemann Ranch. This new glass replaces a curious succession of recycled windows and plastic sheets with a more permanent solution that provides more weather protection, more light, and doesn't alter the pre-existing opening in the barn. At the Duarte Garage, the project to refurbish the Champion spark plug cleaner/tester is finally complete. At the History Center, many improvements to the LHG website have been completed. There are also a couple of more substantial projects that you will be hearing about soon. Don Keech has made arrangements for the proper equipment - at an affordable price - to install the new, large sign on the south side of the Duarte Garage. A significant project at the Hagemann Ranch that is about to become more obvious is converting the electrical service from the



Above: Photo courtesy of Kathy Lee.

alarming overhead wires behind the Hagemann house to underground service. This will return the appearance of the area behind the house closer to what it looked like in its early decades. Removing these wires and a couple of power poles will also facilitate a long-discussed project for repairs to the backyard windmill.

As you can see, in spite of the difficult times LHG is continuing to move forward with due consideration for distancing, masks, and no group gatherings to stay as safe as we can in the time of Covid.

## Mystery at the Museum

Text and photos by Jeff Kaskey



We didn't receive any answers to our "What Is It?" mystery last issue. We sure would like to figure out what this presumably handle gadget is since it has recently been donated to our collection.

This thing (left) clamps to a table or bench, isn't decorative, and clearly it is built to withstand a lot of force. The mount at the top (right) is not generic but seems to be carefully sized to fit a, well, darn, we are not quite sure. There's a threaded hole for a set screw or tightening knob to hold the, ... thing.

Have you seen one these? Where did you see it? Any idea what goes in that mount?

Drop me a line at [jkaskey@yahoo.com](mailto:jkaskey@yahoo.com) if you have an idea.



# Hagemann Happenings

by Barbara Soules

In the midst of a statewide lockdown, Hagemann Ranch certainly is a busy place. Maintenance and restoration projects that have been dreamed about for years, some absolutely needed, are finally coming to fruition.

One very visible project was just pure fun: the holiday decorations. In an effort to provide some holiday cheer, we decorated the Olivina Avenue entrance area. On the east side of the gate was the hay wagon with a Christmas tree, a tractor, and “driver”. The antique farm implements were adorned with oodles of lights. On the west side was a huge lighted LHG sign along with the Guild logo created by the Kaskeys and Joe Bishop. This masterpiece is reusable and movable and will most assuredly be used in other places. It was an impressive display. Hopefully you had a chance to see it. The primary decorators were Kathy Lee, the Eberly family, Donna Stevens, the Kaskeys and Kathy Joseph Stockman. Thanks for your service!

By press time, the east third of the H Barn will have a new roof, just in time for the rains. The contractors, Rod and Wes Clark, are taking great care to ensure the new lumber and corrugated metal panels look old and blend in with the original wooden shingles that can be seen from the inside.

Our master volunteer contractors, Don Bartel and Phil Dean from the First Presbyterian Church, are working on returning the front porch of the house to its original state. The floor will be new/old oak and the corner columns will be replicas of the originals, basically three square posts at each of the front corners. Don and Phil are working from a historic photo.

The wiring on the ranch has always been an enigma. In the tool room, for example, there are three iterations of wiring, the first being the original knob and tube. In the backyard, the wiring is all above ground and includes a very precarious electrical pole. All of this will change in the near future with the skilled minds and strong backs of Tom Eberly, Will Bolton, Jeff Kaskey and Don Keech. They will underground the electrical service to the ranch and upgrade all metering and circuit breaker boxes. The house will get much needed additional circuits instead of the current two. This is the first step to the future renovation of the ranch house.

The chain-link fence surrounding the ranch has old brown wooden slats woven into its spaces. Replacing the slats will greatly improve the eye appeal of the site perimeter. Kathy Lee and her small team of volunteers have begun

removing slats along Olivina. The next area to tackle is the back lane. This is a labor intensive, long-term project and more volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

As the ranch has become more well-known in the community, many generous donors have come forward with items they deem period appropriate for a future house museum and various outbuildings. Original Hagemann family items make extra special donations. In order to recognize these donors in a prominent manner, we decided to create a donor board. Will Bolton and Kathy Lee set to work to repurpose a front window in the Red Barn behind which the board will be placed. First, they installed tempered glass in the space. The board itself was created by a local woodworker, Mike Vergino, who wrote the names on a Baltic birch board using a computer numerically controlled (CNC) router. His donated masterpiece was dedicated on January 14, 2021.

When we are finally able to open the ranch, you will be able to view the finished versions of all these very important projects.



**Above left:** The new donation board, presented by Mike Vergino (L), to (from left to right) Will Bolton, Kathy Lee, and Barbara Soules. Photo courtesy of Will Bolton. **Above right:** The Hagemann Ranch Holiday Decorations. Photos by Barbara Soules.



# Before Livermore Was, The Chinese Builders Came

by Victor K. Wong

Before the plat of Livermore was even drawn, the Chinese builders came and set up camp. Hundreds in August 1868, swelling later up to a thousand with over 100 horses, they settled in tent camps on either side of the windy, barren pass overlooking the valleys below. On the west was squatter Alphonso Ladd with his two-story hotel and Laddsville, a small settlement of fifty; and on the east, the San Joaquin River, meandering along its serpentine course.

It was a realization of the prescient William Speer editorial in the 1855 San Francisco Chinatown bilingual newsletter, *The Oriental*: “the boundless plateau of the Western half of this continent... will be scattered by busy lines of **Chinese builders** of iron roads, that shall link the two oceans, and add to the wealth and comforts of the dwellers upon either shores.”

President Lincoln green lighted the 1862 Pacific Railroad Act to provide federal support to build the first iron road to the Pacific coast. But who will build it?

## Chinese builders at Livermore Pass did wonders

After a previous contractor failed in its work, the new contractor, Turton, Knox & Ryan, sent their Chinese work gang to Livermore Pass (now Altamont Pass) in August 1868 to do what others had failed to do: carve and build out Livermore Pass by hand for the iron road.

*The San Leandro Gazette* reported: “along the route of this road, the most

*We are pleased to be able to feature the following contribution from guest author, Victor K. Wong. He writes in celebration of Lincoln's birthday and Chinese New Year on February 12th. Dr. Wong was born and raised in San Francisco's Chinatown and is an alumnus of UC Berkeley. He recently retired from the University of Michigan, where he served as a professor, dean, and provost. He has now returned to the Bay Area and is able to devote more time to his passion, the history of Chinese railroad builders.*



**Above:** The 1200' Livermore Tunnel: second longest on the entire Pacific Railroad, exceeded only by the 1659' Summit tunnel in the Sierras. Photo courtesy of the Robert N. Dennis collection of stereoscopic views, New York Public Library.

difficult portion [is] through Livermore Pass... In addition to the tunnel, there are numerous cuts of great length and depth to be made, and vast chasms and ravines to be filled, which... would seem insurmountable obstacles.”

About midway on the railroad route through the Pass was a hill 200 feet high above two ravines on each side of it. To get the iron road through, it was necessary to bore a tunnel, 22 feet by 24 feet in cross-section, through this obstacle. The sandstone carted out of the tunnel was used to fill up the ravines on each side. Work on the 1200 foot tunnel started November 1868 from both ends and continued around the clock for ten months.

About a mile east of the tunnel, the graders encountered another large obstacle, as difficult as the tunnel, called the “Deep Cut”: about 1400 feet long and

42 feet deep. The bottom roadbed was 18 feet wide, and with sides of the cut sloping at 30 degrees, the top of the cut exceeded 66 feet in width.

At maximum, 1600 laborers were employed at Livermore Pass and vicinity. About 1000 of these were Chinese, and the rest were white men of different nationalities, principally Irish. The white men were lodged and boarded in houses, whereas the Chinese were segregated in tent camps. There were also huge wage differences.

According to the July 1869 *Sacramento Bee*, for tunnel work at Livermore Pass, white men were paid \$45 per month with board, whereas the Chinese were paid \$37.50 per month and had to board themselves. Noting that the Chinese “do more work, man for man, than the white men”, the *Bee* editorial proclaimed the

(Before Livermore Was, continued on page 6)



## Before Livermore Was

(continued from page 5)



**Above:** The Deep Cut: Approximately 100,000 cubic yards were removed by hand with horse and cart. Photo courtesy of DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University.

injustice: *"The difference in price is, allowing \$5 a week for board, \$29.50 per month, and yet the men who receive the higher sum do less work than those who receive the lower!"*

In addition to lower wages for more work, the Chinese suffered abuse from white supervisors and workers. In her definitive *The Chinese and the Iron Road*, co-editor Shelley Fisher Fishkin wrote, immediately before she cited their specific achievements at Livermore Pass as prime examples: "despite the punishing physical hazards they faced on a daily basis and despite violence they met at the hands of white supervisors and white workers -- Chinese railroad workers... accomplished wonders."

### Racing to finish

During the construction of the iron road from Sacramento through Livermore Pass to San Francisco Bay, one of two major civil engineering projects was destined to be the controlling point of delay for the entire line: (a) the Livermore tunnel or (b) the Mossdale

bridge across the San Joaquin River. In the final months, which one seemed to be the laggard kept flip-flopping. At the end of May 1869 the tunnel was thought to be the laggard; in June the bridge; in July the tunnel; and in August the bridge. On August 18, the tunnel was timbered out; the tunnelers started to return to San Francisco, on crowded stage coaches and some on foot.

Track layers working eastward from Alameda Cañon reached Pleasanton by August 16 and two days later Laddsville (on the day the tunnel was timbered out). On August 24, the iron work for the drawbridge was completed at the company's Sacramento shops and began its journey to the San Joaquin River at Mossdale. By August 26, the eastward track reached the Livermore tunnel. Finally, on September 1, 1869, the first passenger train passed through the completed Livermore tunnel. The *Oakland News* proclaimed, *"the only delay... is the unfinished bridge over the San Joaquin river"*.



**Above:** Beginning in June of 1869, track layers worked eastward from just east of Farwell (circle, left) at approximately what is now the intersection of Niles Canyon and Palomares Roads. By August 16, they had reached Pleasanton, and two days later, Laddsville. By September 1, the first train passed through the completed Livermore tunnel (star, right). Map courtesy of Victor K. Wong.

With one more twist and two last-minute heroics by the Chinese RR gangs, the iron road through Livermore was inaugurated on September 6, 1869 by the first through train from Sacramento to Alameda Wharf (not Oakland).<sup>1</sup> Two months later, the first through train from Sacramento to Oakland was celebrated along with the motto: *"New York and Oakland are bound together by ties strapped with iron."* With this road of iron came the ascendancy of agriculture, of Livermore, and of California and these United States.

On November 4, 1869, when William Mendenhall registered the plat of a new town adjacent to the railroad, the one-thousand Chinese builders who endured a year at Livermore Pass were gone, leaving behind their iron legacy -- President Lincoln's green lighted Pacific Railroad -- and the town of Livermore was born.

<sup>1</sup> For more, see "A brief tale of three Chinese gangs (1865-1869)", Victor K. Wong, December 2020, available in pdf in the Historical Papers: General section of the Washington Township Museum of Local History website.



# Historic First Street

by Richard Finn

There are a great number of very interesting buildings on First Street. Two that I find most interesting are at 2062 First Street, which some call the Marx-Rosenthal building, and at 2086 First Street. Let's take a look at both of these buildings.

The Marx-Rosenthal building started life in 1887 when contractor Captain Andrew J. Palmer (1834-1919, Civil War veteran) built this building as a general store with residence above for Eli Fried (1862-1931 - married in 1886 to Lizzie Anspacher, 1869-1915). Fried also owned a hay warehouse nearby. Fried did not stay in the building long. In May 1900, he sold it to Mrs. Lena Marx (Lena Schoenfeld, 1864-1933). A company by the name of H. Marx & Company (Henri/Henry Marx, 1857-1927) was in business in the building until March 1904. In May of that year, a grandson of rancher and town namesake Robert Thomas Livermore, Charles E. Livermore (1869-1950), leased the building for part of his grocery business. In April 1911, Charles moved his grocery business to the new Masonic Building at First and Lizzie (now South Livermore Ave.) Streets. In December 1911, Benjamin F. Pruitt (1858-1913) opened his Washington Market in the Marx Building. In December 1913, Hugh C. Piles (1866-1931) or his son Harry Calvin Piles (1890-1965) planned to open his dry goods store, but we find that in January 1914, Calvin Frank Sutton (1878-1923) opened a sign painting business in the building instead. That did not last very long either because in May 1914, Louis Adam Leonhardt (1863-1916) leased the building for another dry goods store. We are not sure the store ever opened because that same year the building was the home for Brown's Variety Store. In August 1920, Samuel Rosenthal (1891-1951) opened his tailor shop and steam cleaning business in the Marx Building. Later in the 1920s he resided upstairs but ran his dry-cleaning business out of 2056 First Street. Some feel that Brown's Variety Store leased the main floor until 1927. In 1928, Safeway came to town and leased the Marx-Rosenthal Building until the



**Above:** The Marx-Rosenthal Building at 2062 First Street. Photo courtesy of Richard Finn.

1940s. In more recent years, it housed the innovative Cloud 9 Pizzeria and Cravings as well as a few other restaurants. Now it is the home of Plucked. Over the years the building suffered from attempts to make it look "modern", but a great deal of work has gone into restoring the facade to the "original" look.

The false front building at 2086 First Street seems to have been constructed about 1884 as a saloon. Like the Marx-Rosenthal Building, this building has been used for a number of unrelated enterprises over the years. In 1888, it was being used as a general store which

it seemed to have been off and on until 1917, when it is listed as a grocery and crockery store. Susan Ivy Graham (1847-1919), the first female licensed undertaker in California, used this building for her undertaking business. Around the end of World War I, the building was an auto painting shop. Starting sometime around 1930, Ernest Cigliuti (1890-1967) and Barnardo "Barney" Dalmozzo (1886-1977 - his ranch on Tesla Road is now the home of Steven Kent Winery) opened the Livermore Furniture Company in the building. In later years people will

(First Street, continued on page 10)



## Tim Sage

(continued from page 1)

When I reached out to Larry to pick his brain about Tim, Larry remembered Tim very fondly. He emphasized words like “friendly” and “positive” in describing Tim’s personality. He described Tim as a guy with no artifice, straightforward and honest, a pleasure to work or relax with.

The story though that Larry immediately remembered was about Tim and the perennial annual auction. Those of you who have been at the Guild’s auction anytime in the last many decades know that the Tim Sage extended family are some of the most bodacious, audacious, and generous bidders. They go home with some of the quirkiest, funkiest artifacts, and I think they sometimes buy things just to make other bidders look at them with admiration while thinking “I’ll bet he really has a plan for that, uh, thing.” But Larry recalled an auction setup day when Tim had been bicycling around town on trash day and had come across a beat-up, warped and completely unloved 1930s kitchen table kicked to the curb. Tim managed to grab the table, throw it on his back and bicycle to the garage. It was received with less than gushing enthusiasm, but in those days truly everything went into the auction so the table went on the block and, after a vigorous bidding war, brought in over \$200! Larry didn’t recall for sure, but I’m betting that it was purchased by a member of family Sage.

Eventually, starting in the late 1990s, Tim served as Guild President. With the turning of the millennium, Tim and the Guild took part in the effort to retrieve the City of Livermore’s time capsule. That simple civic feat turned into a televised mis-adventure including a lost capsule owing partly to a repaired totem pole. Tim kept good humor through it all, the capsule was found, a movie was



made, and a new capsule planted. Anyone recall where?

One of my favorite Tim memories is the work that he did with Chuck McFann restoring the Model T chemical fire car. As previously noted, Tim is universally known to be cheery, occasionally chatty, pretty much positive about life, and perhaps a bit tall. Chuck on the other hand, is famous for having his portrait featured in Webster’s opus next to the word ‘Curmudgeon’ and might be perhaps better suited to hobbit doorways. Actually a gentleman with an immense heart, Chuck’s taciturn persona kept many at bay, but not Tim. They bonded over a mutual love for anything over-engineered in ancient iron and set to work resurrecting the Model T from bent, partly primed sheet metal and buckets of spare parts. A non-adjustable front seat may have prompted sharp arguments about pedal height, but the two of them, as different and similar as possible, brought the Model T back to life as an iconic vehicle for the Heritage Guild in local parades. The next Rodeo Parade, I recall Tim in the pilot seat, delighted to have Christine Thompson in period costume glamorously riding shotgun, while Chuck perched on the tailgate, legs dangling, oblivious to the parade but delighted, or as delighted as he could get, to be rumbling smoothly through town on our 100 year-old relic.

Since those first chugs of the T, Tim has returned to it many times to keep it running, fix leaks, repair electricals and generally keep it road worthy. Further, he joined the team as they jumped into our most ambitious fire truck project, the 1920 Seagrave. Much more than a two-man effort, the Seagrave required a team of talent, and Tim’s skills as a team player were a crucial part of bringing that beast from rusting hulk to beautiful concourse-ready piece. As a part of the wildly talented and resourceful crew, Tim spun wrenches, hefted and pried, adjusted and coaxed and more quickly than we imagined, the Seagrave was reborn as a glittering Guild mascot.

Besides his expert mechanical acumen and MacGyver-like ability to make recalcitrant old mechanisms work, Tim also is a thoughtful member of the organization. He has not only served as its President, but I can personally vouch for the Sage advice he gave to me and



others on the Board to make the organization run smoothly through rough patches and headwinds. His honest, clear values are strong guideposts for the rest of us in keeping the Guild a respected, successful organization.

Today we live in interesting times. We are unable to gather in bars and churches, and the bad guy at the bank is the one without a mask. But something we really missed was a chance to gather friends and family to honor Tim and his contributions in person. Undaunted, our resourceful Guild planners conspired to have Tim’s old friend Joe Bishop join him for a permitted outdoor lunch at Emil Villa’s, and the Guild faithful caravanned over with the Mack fire truck in the lead to have a drive-in award ceremony. We parked in the middle of the lane and with a sound system, I enumerated Tim’s virtues to him, to the randomly parked Guild members, and to the unsuspecting Emil Villa guests who joined in the applause at the end anyway. Odds are they actually did know Tim – everyone does – and they knew they were sharing a moment with our very modest Guild hero.

Tim has given his heart and his head, shouldered a load and lent a hand, to nearly every project the Guild has taken on. His nameplate on the Guild Heritage Award plaque honors him as Jack-Of-All-Trades because we really spent quite a while unable to decide how best to describe him.

**Left:** Tim and Chuck McFann at the 2015 Rodeo Parade. Photo by Jeff Kaskey. **Above:** Tim and Jeff moving flagpole pieces. Photo by Loretta Kaskey.



# Duarte Garage

by Will Bolton

There have been two spark plug cleaners sitting just outside the machine shop in the Duarte Garage for decades. One was made by Champion and the other by AC. I don't know if there is any history of either of these spark plug cleaners being used at the Duarte Garage, although this type of equipment would have been common in facilities like the Duarte Garage starting in the 1920s. Our practice at the Garage has been: if there is a significant amount of the original finish on an artifact, like the spark plug machines, to conserve that finish and display the artifact with its age and history evident in its appearance. However, if the original finish is substantially missing or badly damaged, we will refinish the artifact to approximate its original appearance. The finish on the AC machine was weathered but intact, so it was conserved and is on display at the Garage. However, the Champion machine was a real ugly duckling. It was missing parts, dented and bent in a few places, and covered in a very thick coat of what appeared to be green tractor paint applied with a brush.

Doing anything with it was such a daunting task that it sat untouched for many years while we undertook more manageable projects. The public health restrictions in response to the novel corona virus pandemic in early 2020 restricted group activities but provided a window of opportunity for an individual to concentrate on a relatively small project. The Champion machine was such a project.

First impressions of the Champion weren't very encouraging. The front panel of the cleaner was missing along with several smaller parts. The thick coat of paint that was on the cleaner was clearly not the original color. Disassembling the Champion required removing the many layers of old paint. Using chemical paint stripper and a small brush, I found four layers of paint: the green top layer, red, brown primer, and a different color of red. Under all this paint, much of the machine was badly rusted. The most delicate part of the machine was the pressure gauge on the tester manifold. The steel case was

badly rusted inside but, fortunately, the bourdon tube and all the gears and levers in the mechanism were made of brass and, other than some surface discoloration, were unaffected by the water exposure. Enough of the original dial markings remained under the paint that, along with reference to photos of other Champion machines, I was able to reproduce the dial face.

Working on the remainder of the Champion was relatively straightforward: remove the old layers of paint, remove the rust, stabilize the rusted metal, prime with etching primer, and paint with the original colors. Parts of the machine were originally plated steel and not painted. Some of the plating was destroyed by rust but, because there were stamped markings under the old paint, I polished the surfaces and left them unpainted.

The Champion machine includes a manifold to test the operation of spark plugs after being cleaned. The box that supplied the spark to the spark plug turned out to contain a 115vac-to-12vac step-down transformer and a wooden case Model T Ford spark coil. Some details of the Model T coil suggest that the Champion spark plug machine dates from the 1930s.

While it's hard to imagine much good coming from the Covid-19 pandemic, it did provide a pause in the normal pace of activities that allowed the Champion spark plug cleaner/tester to finally get the attention it deserved.



**Left:** The Champion spark plug cleaner before (in green) and after (in red). **Above:** The meticulously restored pressure gauge with its reproduced dial face. Photos by Will Bolton.





## Musings and Memories

by Anna Siig

Last time around, we wondered if there had been a quonset hut or not at the Camp Corregidor workers' housing in Concannon's Vineyard.

Some Livermore natives weighed in. One even called friends to ask them, "Quonset hut or no?" Another Guild member wrote in and added information about the quonset hut on South Livermore Avenue. Her response has triggered a couple more questions - research is being done on those questions. One member is translating letters between here and the Philippines. They will be donated to the Livermore Heritage Guild. Thank you all!

So far, the "vote" is that there was indeed a quonset hut at Camp Corregidor. More to come as memories come in.

An article in the East Bay Times quoted George Saunders, author who teaches at Syracuse University. He said, "So if I kick the bucket tomorrow, all that accumulated wisdom just goes."

How many times have you said, "I wish I had asked my folks about that?" How many times have we wondered about what really happened in our family or our community because too many stories were not written down, not shared?

For me, the stories, the first hand reporting, the biographies are what make history come alive. Having received first hand reports regarding some of the information about the quonset huts has been interesting and telling.

So, for this new year, I ask you all to write *your* story. So the children or grandchildren don't want to hear your stories now? They will, and hopefully they will say so before it is too late. Just in case, and for your own pleasure, start writing down your stories, your memories, and observations. You can keep them just for the family or you can share them with the Heritage Guild! Help make your own family history and Livermore's History richer and more interesting!

## Celebrating Life Members

We wish to acknowledge the loyal commitment of our life members. The trust and support these members have shown in the Heritage Guild by becoming Life Members is truly appreciated. If you wish to purchase a Life Membership, please visit [www.lhg.org](http://www.lhg.org) or refer to information on the back page of this newsletter.

Beverly Schell Ales  
Margaret Andersen  
Baughman's Western  
Outfitters  
Kathy Baird Baumgartner  
Thomas Beaudet  
Judith Beery  
Will Bolton  
Kim Bonde  
Bob Bronzan  
Cathie Brown  
Sally Brown  
Alan Burnham  
Susie Calhoun  
Alice Calvert  
Dorothy Clarkson,  
Andy Lundberg  
Nancy Cooper  
Manuel Costa  
Kathleen Duarte-Erickson  
Ellen Eagan-McNeill  
Mary Evans

Phyllis Fachner  
Karen Faraldo  
Bruce Gach  
Roberta Hadley  
The Henry's A's  
Leslie Jensen  
Susan Junk  
Loretta Kaskey  
Jeanette King  
James and Carol Lathrop  
Steve Laughlin  
Richard and Jean Lerche  
Daren Livermore  
Len Matchniff  
Larry and Treva Mauch  
Terry McCune  
Bertha Meamber  
Nancy Mueller  
William O'Neal  
Ann Pfaff-Doss  
Robert Rich  
Karen Richardson

Russ and Claudia Riley  
Neil Riley  
Mary Rizzo  
Tim Sage  
Joan and Lynn Seppala  
John Shirley  
Anna Siig  
Don Smith  
Ann Stephens  
Irv and Patty Stowers  
Anthony Troha  
Janet Von Toussaint  
Mr. and Mrs. Ken  
Tschritter  
Wendy Weathers  
Karl L. Wentz  
Karl D. Wentz  
Jeffrey Williams  
Jim Winnick  
Beverly Wooster

## First Street

(continued from page 7)



**Above:** The false front building at 2086 First Street. Photo courtesy of Richard Finn.

remember it as the home of the Double Barrel Wine Bar. You can see both of these buildings have had long, interesting and varied lives and they are not over yet.





## Meet a Board Member

by Dottie Eberly

You know that one person who stands out in a crowd? That's the Livermore Heritage Guild Secretary, Loretta Kaskey. If you have spent any time in Downtown Livermore it is probable you have spotted this woman. The funny thing is, you could see her again the next day and not recognize her from the day before. Compassionate, funny, generous, intelligent, energetic, unique, feisty, with a flair for the dramatic, all describe this woman of many faces and talents. And best of all? Loretta is willing to tackle any project that needs doing and we have yet to discover anything she can't do.

Her story began in Raleigh, North Carolina. Her dad was completing his Ph.D. in Economics at North Carolina State. By the time she was three, a younger brother and sister had joined the family and they headed back to her parents' home state of Ohio. They lived briefly in Fairborn and then settled in what was to become their permanent home in Beavercreek, Ohio, a small town not even incorporated until 1980. *(As we have noted in a previous article, our LHG Director, Barbara Soules, also lived in the small town of Beavercreek. We continue to wonder what the odds are of two women, each with enormous amounts of energy, both from Beavercreek, Ohio, individually ending up on the Board of the Livermore Heritage Guild?!)*

Loretta's mom took a job teaching Home Economics at Carroll High School in Dayton, Ohio, the same year Loretta became a freshman there. While for some, going to the same school at which a parent worked might have its pros and cons, Loretta made the best of it and enjoyed everything about high school. She was passionate about music, playing clarinet in the band and oboe in the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

Although she loved the experience of being a musician she says she figured out early on that she didn't want "to follow that path and starve" and ultimately chose to be a supporter of the arts rather than a struggling artist. At Ohio State she picked up a BS in Ceramic Engineering and took a summer job at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base where she learned quickly that her degree wasn't going to get her the jobs she wanted. She accepted a full scholarship to Rutgers University in New Jersey, sight unseen. Her description of full-on panic upon first seeing the New Jersey/New York metropolis from the airplane window is heart-wrenching. But in typical Loretta fashion, she made lemonade from the lemons when she realized how close she was to New York City. NYC! She settled in: she took early enrollment which helped acclimate her to the campus, she enjoyed all that NYC had to offer, and found herself a boyfriend. She graduated from Rutgers with an MS in Ceramic Engineering and Material Science, and a job offer in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. The boyfriend graduated and was offered a job at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. With the choice of Bartlesville or Livermore ...

Loretta arrived in Livermore in 1988 and soon bought her first house. When her aforementioned boyfriend - who had become her husband, passed away, she decided to buy a different home, and became the third owner of a 1937 house on South K Street. The previous owners had left some information about the house, but she wanted more. Meanwhile, she was doing volunteer work for the Cinequest Film Festival in San Jose which had accepted "Livermore, the Movie" as one of the submissions for the festival that year. At approximately the same time, she had taken a buyout from

her employer and was currently not working. The convergence of these three events convinced her it was time to take the suggestion of Joe Bishop, a friend and LHG member, to research her house at the Livermore Heritage Guild's History Center. It was then that she met Barbara Bunshah, who trained her for two years and eventually deemed her competent enough to become a History Center docent.

If Barbara saw Loretta today (assuming she recognized her in whatever costume had been donned for the day), we think she would be impressed with the talents of Loretta. Driving the HistoryMobile around town, growing gorgeous crops at her Hagemann Heritage Garden, portraying various historical persons, organizing events, cooking and baking for those events, serving as LHG secretary, creating floats for Livermore parades, working at LLNL, getting married to a guy who also got involved with the Guild, and still finding time to be a great LHG docent and researcher. There really doesn't seem to be anything she can't do and we're extremely fortunate that she happens to do it all for the Guild.



**Top and above:** The many facets of Loretta Kaskey in all her sparkling glory. Photos courtesy of the brilliant Loretta Kaskey.



## Welcome New and Renewing Members! October - December 2020

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Life</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kathleen Duarte-Erickson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Business</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Rock House (Gandolfo Family) Doris and Richard Ryon</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Family</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">William and Helena Bireley John Dill and Suzanne McCann Marcus Libkind</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Individual</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brenda Lang - NEW</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Senior</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Madeline Scullion Beth Wilson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sponsor</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Harry Briley Marilyn Cutting Linda Driver Karen Parkinson</p>
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## In Appreciation

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Donations</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alan Burnham Kim and James Fox John and Diane Gandolfo Kathy Joseph-Stockman Jeanette King Brenda Lang Jean and Richard Lerche Terry McCune William Plourde Don Smith Barbara Soules Jeffrey Williams</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>In Memory Of</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Elda Montgomery, by Shirley Anderson Mary Lee Bonetti Tunison, by Marie Timmer</p>
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## LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Wednesday, February 10	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting*
Wednesday, March 10	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting*
Wednesday, April 14	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting*

\* Information is subject to change pending Shelter in Place and other County/City health guidelines. Be sure to check the [lhg.org](http://lhg.org) website frequently for links to virtual events and other updated information.

**If you have not heard about our various events, then maybe we don't have your email. Please update us at [lhg@lhg.org](mailto:lhg@lhg.org) and we'll let you know about all the heritage happenings!**

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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 is currently closed. Please check [lhg.org](http://lhg.org) for updated information as it becomes available.

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.