



When You Wish Upon a Star

by Will Bolton

For a time in the 1920s, the Duarte Garage was a dealership for Durant/Star automobiles. A photograph of the north end of the Garage from 1926 shows the names "Durant" and "Star" painted in large letters on the two windows. When the Livermore Heritage Guild restored the exterior of the Garage in 1983, the Durant and Star names were again painted on the windows. Knowing the history of Star cars at the Duarte Garage, for many years we talked about how great it would be to have a Star at the Garage. When we looked at the availability and cost of buying one, we found that it was beyond our resources. Having a Star at the Garage remained hope, dream, and a wish. A year or so ago, the "Star" painted on the north window played a small, but critical, role in a Star returning to the Garage after an absence of many decades.

That wish came true through the very generous donation to the Garage this year of the Alves family's 1925 Star Four Touring Car, purchased by Jim Alves's father in 1957. Jim's father worked for, and subsequently owned and operated, Hardcastle Autobody and Paint. Jim owns and operates the company, now named Rose Garden Auto Care in San Jose, California. Jim and his brother rode in the back seat of the Star on many family outings around the Bay Area as he was growing up. When going to an antique car get-together or picnic, Jim's father knew that they would encounter Ford Model T cars in need of assistance. When they encountered a stuck T, the boys would grab the tow rope kept under the back seat, jump out to hook up the car in distress to the Star, and tow it to where they needed to go. After several years of owning the car, Jim's father was offered an attractive amount of money to sell the car. When he told the family that he was considering selling the car, the boys sobbed and cried out, "Don't sell the Star!" The Star remained a member of the family.



After Jim's father passed away, the Star was eventually placed in storage, where it remained for many years. In recent years, Jim had been considering the best future for the family Star. Many individuals and organizations had expressed interest, but Jim had a fairly good idea of how he wanted the car to be preserved and displayed. In preparation for a wedding, Jim Alves and his family were in Livermore arranging for a wedding cake. While driving along Portola Avenue, Jim noticed "Star" painted on the Garage window. That indication of an association with Star cars stirred Jim's interest in learning more about the Duarte Garage. We had a phone discussion, which led to a visit to the Garage by Jim and Robyn Alves in February 2022. They saw the Garage/Museum and the fire engines we maintain. They learned about our philosophy of continuing to return the original north portion of the Garage to its

appearance in the 1920s. This was consistent with the environment Jim wanted for his family Star. We concluded the donation process and Jay Morris and I went to San Jose to pick up the Star on April 13; fortunately, it was a Wednesday and the trip was uneventful.

(Star, continued on page 4)

Above: Exterior of the "new" Duarte Star. Photo by Will Bolton.

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Where Did the Little Hardware Stores Go?

by Richard Finn



A while back I was asked if the Dutcher hardware store, on First Street, was the first hardware store in Livermore. I really didn't know but did not think so. The following is the short version of what I have found so far about hardware sellers in Livermore:

The first hardware store in the valley seems to be that of Monroe Barnes which opened in 1868 in what was Laddsville (area around Old First Street and Junction Ave.). Unfortunately, Mr. Barnes died the next year. Anspacher Bros. (on the old Groth Bros. site at 1st and L) started selling hardware in January 1873. Charles Whitmore was selling goods in his store at the southwest corner of First and K in 1874 – now the Yin-Yin and one of the very oldest surviving buildings in Livermore. Norris Dewitt Dutcher worked for Whitmore before he opened his own hardware store. Andrew Jackson McLeod and George Converse Stanley were selling general merchandise, including hardware, in the McLeod Building at the northeast corner of First and Lizzie (where the Bank of Italy/Independent Building is now). In October 1876, McLeod and Stanley closed their business, and George William Comegys bought the hardware and crockery. Farmers Exchange, which opened in 1874, perhaps sold hardware. G. W. Comegys's new store opened in July 1875 and was in the Esdon Building

on Railroad Ave. That building is one of two of the oldest surviving brick buildings in Livermore and is now home to the Range Life Restaurant.

Norris Dewitt Dutcher started Dutcher Hardware in 1877. The first Dutcher store was on Lizzie St. where he sold tinning, plumbing, and hardware. I am not sure when Dutcher moved his store to First Street in the building which we see in the photograph on page 11, but it was before February 1893. We do know that whatever store he occupied in 1893 was painted bright yellow! In 1908, the business became Dutcher and Son. In January 1932, Norris Dewitt Dutcher retired after over 50 years in the hardware business. The Dutcher store finally closed in February 1940.

In 1894, Frederick A. Anthony had his "hardware emporium" at the southwest corner of First and Lizzie. His wife, Mary Sophia Newell Anthony, was very active in the business. It is interesting to see M S Antho in large brass letters embedded in the sidewalk in front of what was their hardware store. In June 1910, the Anthonys sold their store to J. R. Bennett and James G. Nissen. In June 1898, C. H. Christensen sold his store in Berkeley to sell plumbing and hardware in Livermore. He was out of business by April 1899. In January 1906, F. Strang opened his plumbing and hardware shop with Ben Carroll.

In 1908, Allen Hardware Co. purchased the hardware stock of Anspacher. The store was near the northwest corner of First and L (the old Groth Bros. site). In 1911, Allen Hardware was the lowest bidder for supplying water pipe and garden valves for the new Carnegie Library Park - \$40.00 – but Livermore Hardware Co. was awarded the contract to plumb the fountain. Livermore Hardware was also awarded the contract to do the plumbing at the Sisters Academy at Saint Michaels. In 1914, it looks like Livermore Hardware moved into the Forester's Building where George Beck had a store. By 1918, Livermore Hardware was going out of business. In November 1919, Carl Clarke and Leslie McVicar bought Livermore Hardware and renamed it Valley Hardware Co. In July 1929, Livermore Commercial bought Valley Hardware. Valley Hardware was at 2190 First St., where the Nick the Greek restaurant is now.

In later years, there was Del Valle Hardware (Louis Gardella, proprietor, 1924-1956) in the Foresters' Building and Roy Jensen Hardware. In April 1948, Chester Nelson bought Jensen's Hardware (at 56 S. Livermore Ave. where the Stockmen's Club is now). In 1947, Commercial Co. changed its name to Valley Hardware and was at 67 S. Livermore Ave. (near northwest corner of First and Livermore Ave. where Lizzie Fountain is). Levi Emerson was the owner. By the end of the year, Emerson sold the company to Bud Bentley and his father-in-law, Elmer Tucker. Much later (in the 1960s), there was Granada Hardware and a hardware store on Pacific Ave.

For a long time, we had Orchard Supply Hardware. Now of course we have Lowe's, Home Depot, and the new Ace Hardware. You can even purchase hardware items at Walmart and Target.

(Hardware, continued on page 11)

Above: Dutcher's Tin Shop in 1876. This is the old location on Livermore Ave. north of 1st Street (just north of the site currently occupied by the Bank of Italy building. Photo courtesy of the Livermore Heritage Guild.

President's Message: New View from the Garage

by Will Bolton

Intriguing historic details sometimes emerge from unexpected sources. A recent example was provided by a series of donations made to the Duarte Garage by Doug Wilson. Doug grew up in a house about a block south of the Garage on North L Street. Doug's father was in charge of the West Coast Capping Division of Alcoa Aluminum. He contacted Fran Duarte about doing machine work and repair for capping machines at wineries and other facilities in the area. Through this contact, Doug, his father, and his brother got to know Fran well. They spent a lot of time at the Garage while Doug was growing from a very young boy to college age. When the Garage and Cottage were taken over by the City, Doug received many Garage items from Fran. Over the past few years, Doug has donated some terrific items back to the Garage, for example, the "No Tools Loaned" sign that hung over the machine shop door and Frank H. Duarte's storage case for precision machinist's measuring instruments. The story of the Wilson family's relationship with Fran Duarte and Doug's memories of the Garage during the 1950s and 1960s will be the subject of a future update.

Among the most recent set of donations from Doug were some 35mm color slides taken in October 1958 at the Garage. Loading two wine bottling machines on a truck was the occasion for taking the slides. These machines would fill wine bottles and install aluminum screw tops in a continuous process. Doug's father made the connection to the Gallo Winery in Modesto for Fran to repair wine bottling machines. A Gallo semi-trailer truck would bring two machines to the sliding door on the L Street side of the Garage. A local company with a crane truck would pick them up and place them on steel pipes, enabling a few people to roll the heavy machines into the Garage for inspection and repair. After the bottling machines were repaired, the Gallo truck would return to pick up the machines and transport them to Modesto. Well before the Gallo truck was scheduled to return to the Garage, Doug's dad would help Fran inspect the machines to make sure everything was working properly.



One of the slides that Doug donated shows Fran Duarte on the semi trailer helping to secure the machines (see page 4). Another slide, the one containing a new view of the Portola/North L Street intersection (see above), shows the Gallo truck parked on the north side of the Garage, evidently loaded and ready to head back to Modesto. The slide was taken looking to the northwest down Portola Avenue. In the foreground are the two visible gas pumps (the type with glass cylinders on top) installed on a low concrete platform. Doug mentioned that his dad used one of the pumps and Fran used the other, no doubt to keep track of how much gas each used. I won't speculate on the advantages of this arrangement, gas-tax wise. The only other photo of those gas pumps I've seen were black and white, but the color slide shows that they were light green. The design of the platform could have a role in the display of another recent donation: a pre-visible Wayne 278 gas pump that is almost the same model as the first gas pump at the Duarte Garage.

On the right side of this color photo, Portola Avenue recedes in the distance. It shows Portola as a two-lane street containing a few cars, a scattering of structures on either side, and a healthy collection of wood power poles. Behind the Gallo truck there is a white house on the left and another structure to the right, with two dormer windows visible in the attic of what is probably a two-story building on the west side of L Street facing Portola. This is the general area

where the "Joesville Hotel," part of the Caratti family's "Joesville" buildings, was located. Directly behind the Gallo truck, the "LIVERMORE" sign - which spanned North L Street - and its two support pillars are visible. The individual letters spelling out "LIVERMORE" were held by a cable at the top and bottom. In this image, the letters appear to have some thickness - not just flat letter cutouts. The brick colors and patterns in the two supporting pillars are similar to those in the Joesville/Rock House buildings on the north side of Portola Avenue and continued in the much newer shopping center behind the Rock House. Could the Caratti family have had some role in erecting the pillars and Livermore sign?

To me, the biggest surprise in the Gallo truck photo was the presence of a second "Livermore" sign on the pillar on the east side of North L Street. A substantial steel structure had been attached to the top of the pillar supporting an arrow, perhaps 15' long, pointing south down North L Street towards downtown Livermore. The arrow and letters appear to have been outlined with neon tubes for visibility at night. This Livermore "arrow" sign was not present in a 1926 photo of the North end of the Garage and looking down North L Street. And judging from another photo (not shown) taken from the inside of the Garage

(View, continued on page 4)

Above: Gallo truck parked north of the Duarte Garage, October 1958. Photo courtesy of Doug Wilson.

View

(continued from page 3)

office, probably in the late 1960s, both signs and pillars had been removed from the Portola/North L Street intersection. What happened to the Livermore signs after they were removed? I've heard reports that they were kept at the City yard near the ACE train station for some time, but are now gone.

The photo of the Gallo truck provided some interesting details of a spot in Livermore in the 1950s. It also suggests that if anyone out there has old photos taken around Livermore, they might reveal interesting information independent of the original purpose of the photo. For example, Steve Leeds has donated many wonderful items related to Associated Oil products to the Garage. Members of Steve's extended family ran the Associated bulk oil facility on East Avenue at Almond Avenue. However, no one – including members of Steve's family – seem to have any photos of the facility. Lots of people who have been around Livermore for many years remember seeing it but no photos have surfaced. If you have old photos, please consider letting us copy them. You never know what interesting details might lurk in the background.



Far Above: Fran Duarte on Gallo trailer with bottling machines, October 1958. Photo courtesy of Doug Wilson; **Immediately Above:** Mid 1920s photo of the Livermore Sign, but no Livermore Arrow sign yet. Photo courtesy of Will Bolton. **Top Right:** Interior of the Duarte Star. Photo by Will Bolton.



Star

(continued from page 1)

Based on the Star serial number, we established that Jim's Star was manufactured in the Durant Oakland, California plant. Part of the plant still stands at the corner of International Boulevard and Durant Avenue. Durant also had plants in Lansing and Flint, Michigan; Leaside, Ontario, Canada; and Elizabeth, New Jersey. William Durant founded Durant Motors, Inc. in 1921, after co-founding General Motors (and being twice forced out), co-founding Chevrolet with his friend Louis Chevrolet, and several other automobile ventures. His goal was to build a company to rival GM. However, that goal was never achieved and Durant Motors ceased production in 1931. I've been told that the south end of the Garage was built in 1923 as a showroom for new cars. Might this construction have been the result of being awarded a Durant dealership? We have a local newspaper advertisement for the new "Silent Four" Durant engine from 1927. This suggests that the Duarte Garage was a Star dealership for at least a significant portion of the Durant Motors existence.

The new Duarte Star has a Durant four-cylinder W-5 engine with 152 cubic inches producing 33 horsepower. Unlike the other Durant plants, Stars produced at the Oakland plant had aluminum pistons rather than cast iron. Another

difference between production plants is the brakes. Many cars of the era – and Durants produced at other plants – generally had brakes only on the rear wheels. However, Jim Alves told us that the San Francisco police department purchased a number of Stars for their use. Because of the hills in San Francisco, the police required better stopping power, so Jim's Star is one of those made in Oakland with four-wheel brakes.

In addition to the car itself, Jim Alves has donated many related items including a spare engine, transmission, clutch, and some non-standard parts: for example, an exhaust cutout and a Fulton Aermore "Big Four" Exhaust Whistle. Jim told us that he had the exhaust cutout and whistle mounted on the Star when he was driving it during high school. The cutout diverts the exhaust from the muffler to an open pipe (for more obnoxious noise) or to the exhaust whistle (for the very loud – but amusing – sound of a steam locomotive).

While we rearrange things for a more permanent location in the Garage, the Star is fittingly on display in the south (new car showroom) end of the Duarte Garage. We are honored that Jim has trusted this Alves family treasure to the Duarte Garage. We look forward to maintaining it in reliable running condition and sharing it with visitors for many years to come.

Hagemann Happenings

by Barbara Soules

A ranch is a perfect place to observe the circle of life. Six foot tall oat and wheat stalks, which two months ago stood proud and tall in the Heritage Garden, are now delectable treats for the horses. Animals are born and we watch some pass on. The same is true for us humans. Such has been our experience in the past couple months at Hagemann.

Three baby pygmy goats have joined the herd. The proud dad of all is Fred, who is now corralled with Ricky, in an expanded pen leaving the three moms with their offspring in the space around the goat house. Oreo, Stella, and as yet unnamed provide lots of entertainment.

Sadly there is a big empty space in the horse herd. Cha-Cha, one of the favorite Double Hearts lesson horses, died unexpectedly on July 8. She was active and peaceful just minutes before she was found. Cha-Cha was a 26 year old dun quarter horse who was Donna Costa's show horse before she started doing lessons. Cha-Cha was a perfect horse for kids: calm, gentle, and responsive. She is already greatly missed.

The Guild would also like to extend our respect and condolences to the Savoy family. Barbara Savoy, a big supporter of Hagemann, died after a short illness on June 30. She will be remembered as a knowledgeable, kind, giving person, a passionate animal lover and mother to many. For a long time she, her husband, Lee, and their daughter, Canon, fed the horses in the mornings and assisted with

additional horse tasks. Barbara raised cats and provided the majority of our black mousers. She was active in a multitude of community groups, including the Historic Preservation Commission. We will miss her supportive presence.

Regular maintenance and open houses have continued unabated. Four Boy Scouts are working on various Eagle Projects. One Saturday morning the Livermore Lions descended in force to paint the lane and backyard fences. What an improvement! The front yard fence has been wobbly and braced from falling for months. Ron Chaffee and his friend are in the process of building a new/old looking redwood fence. We are so grateful for all the help.

There were three guest organizations that helped make Rancho Day in June a special event. The Cavallo Cowgirls Drill Team performed three different routines. With flags flying, they demonstrated their high level of horsemanship skills and teamwork. A favorite returning group, Cactus Corners Square Dancers, added color and music and included some lively audience participation. Our Livermore Poet Laureate, Cynthia Patton, and Nate McKenna did three readings of often humorous cowboy poetry, perfect for our ranch setting. It was an enjoyable day.

July serves as a hiatus for the dedicated volunteers who work at these events. These knowledgeable, capable, and



responsible "regulars" are so appreciated. But we need more like them. The work is not hard and being at the events is fun and a great way to meet interesting people. Volunteers to help with set-up and tear down are *especially* needed.

Set-up begins at 10:30am the day of the event and takes only about 90 minutes. Tear down begins at 5:00pm as soon as the event ends and typically lasts about an hour. These are both great ways to get out, get some mild exercise, and do a lot of good in a short amount of time. Please call or email me (tbsoules@yahoo.com) if you would like to join our awesome crew!

Coming up on August 28th is Schooldays of Old, a new theme, which will promote the Midway School project. Kids will attend class in our simulated one-room schoolhouse after completing their morning chores and getting dressed for school. The HistoryMobile will be on site as well as a display of former Livermore Schools including an opportunity for guests to share their own school memories. Come join us for an educational and fun time!

Above: The three baby pygmy goats, exploring their surroundings. From the top: Stella, Still-as-Yet-Unnamed, and Oreo; **Left:** The Cavallo Cowgirls Drill Team at Rancho Day. Photos by Barbara Soules.



Musings and Memories: Max Baer

by Anna Siig and Mark Tarte

Upon hearing that a Hollywood film was shown in a history class at Livermore High School, I got in touch with one of the main character's relatives here in town. Yes, one of the main characters was from Livermore. He was world known. He was Max Baer. If you want to teach students how not to learn history, be sure to shown them a Hollywood film. Mark Tarte, Max's grandnephew, has the straight story. -Anna

Max Baer. It is the name of a park on the southwest side of town, but to us who knew him, that name brings to mind a very large man at least to us then little kids, who was fun and laughed a lot when he visited his older sister, Frances Santucci (née Baer), our grandmother.

Max Baer died in November of 1959 from a heart attack while in Los Angeles to film a TV commercial. Before that though, he was the "Livermore Larruper," former heavyweight boxing champion of the world, having defeated Primo Carnera in 1934. To us kids though, he was just Uncle Max. He always tried to make people laugh, especially us kids.

Family lore of the night he won the heavyweight championship is that most

of Livermore showed up at our grandparent's house to celebrate, the population was then about 3,100 people. According to the story, the partying lasted into the next night and only ended when Grandma turned off all the lights in the house and told everyone to go home!

There was a large pine tree in our grandparent's front yard on South G Street that was supposedly planted by a fan of Max's to commemorate his title. Sadly, it had to be taken down in the 1990s due to age and rot.

Uncle Max was a hero to us kids and was a big kid himself. My mother, Dorothy Tarte (née Santucci), said that when she, her sister Dora, and their older brother Louis Jr. were children, Max would give them each a silver dollar when he came to visit. They also knew he was in town well before his arrival, as it seemed he liked to honk and wave at everyone as he drove into town. Everyone would then come to the South G Street house to see him as well.

At funerals, Mom said that you could always count on Max to lighten the mood at the wake. People would gather at the home and if Max disappeared, you



heard him yell, the toilet flush, and he emerged with wet toilet paper all over him exclaiming he fell in! It always worked and people couldn't help but laugh at how ridiculous he looked.

My last memory of Max was just before he died. We were at Max's and Aunt Mary's house in Sacramento. We were saying our goodbyes in the car. Aunt Mary was talking to Mom and Grandma, and I was watching Max. He was watering flowers in the front yard, ignoring us, when Mary turned and told Max to come say goodbye. He turned and had the hose between his legs as if he was peeing on the flowers. Dad and Grandpa Santucci started to laugh, Mom gasped, and Grandma and Mary yelled at him. For a little boy, I found it uproarious! That was the Max my cousins and I remember. A big, funny guy who loved children and would do anything for a laugh.

Top: Max, in a promotional photo; **Left:** Bob Tarte, Max, and Dorothy Tarte. Photos courtesy of Mark Tarte.



Collections Corner: Pioneer News

by Jeff Kaskey

At the History Center, we often use the historic newspapers to research various challenging questions, so we thought we knew what papers were in our domain. We know the Echo, Enterprise, Journal, The Independent, Times, Herald, News, and Herald & News, and the specifically geographically named Southern Alameda County News. They are the bread and butter of our research, aided by our unique resource, the Bunshah Index of local papers. A new digital microfilm reader rounds out the tool set and lets us hunt through almost 150 years of local news.

So it was a surprise when digging through uncatalogued newspaper boxes that we found a Valley Pioneer newspaper. Then a Granada Pioneer and even a Livermore Pioneer. How had these Pioneers escaped our notice? (Yes, by the way, we still have parts of our collection that are not cataloged. Interested in digging into the mists of past time? Old photos, unread personal letters, property records. Stop by and volunteer to help document this amazing collection!). We knew of the Village Pioneer, but had no idea there was a whole Pioneer family.

Each Pioneer proudly declaimed its domain. The Granada Pioneer masthead says “THE ONLY NEWSPAPER SERVING GRANADA VILLAGE EXCLUSIVELY”. The granddaddy is the Valley Pioneer (Danville, Alamo, San Ramon, Diablo, \$3 per year) which started around 1942, though our sole issue is from 1962. The Valley was the pioneering Pioneer until 15 years later when joined by the Village Pioneer (THE ONLY NEWSPAPER SERVING THE DUBLIN AREA EXCLUSIVELY).

By the 1960s, Livermore was growing at a frantic rate. They describe 20,000 residents where the previous decade saw less than 5,000. In 1962, Livermore’s two existing papers combined to become the Livermore Herald & News, plausibly making way for a new second paper. In 1962 the Granada Pioneer arrived. Apparently however, Granada Village was too small a market, and after only four weeks, the Granada Pioneer expanded its range to become the



Livermore Pioneer (“GROWING WITH THE CITY OF LIVERMORE”). As the paper itself explained, they expanded partly because they claimed to have developed “fans” elsewhere in the city, but more significantly, “We wanted to offer advertisers a larger circulation.” We appreciate the honesty. Unfortunately, we have only six copies of the Granada/Livermore Pioneer family, all from 1962.

The Granada/Livermore Pioneer was a typical, if somewhat thin (6 pages to start), local sheet, with a combination of local political stories and features on fashion, arts, social organizations, and general goings-on, such as who was having a baby and who had just returned from Los Angeles. I was delighted to read that “Mrs. Roberts held a variety show in her garage on the 10th of September consisting of seven acts.” Audience members feasted on popcorn and Koolaid. The acts included Mickey Mouse’s Birthday Party, Pinocchio Puppets, Ellie the Elf, and Around the World Ballet. The final act was Sing Along, accompanied by Doug Barton on banjo. I can only imagine the merriment. The article included names I assume to be recruited neighborhood kids whom today would be retirees, names mercifully omitted here. I suspect Mrs. Roberts was well known in the area.

Each of the papers were published by R. Semmes Gordon, Jr. Editors included William Ketsdever and a Ben Harry who

jumped in with military experience as a communications officer and a Journalism degree from Northwestern University.

From today’s perspective, it is a little hard to see what unique value they brought to the community not already provided by the more substantial Herald & News. But one letter to the editor, gives some insight in colorfully praising the Pioneer images: “And the PICTURES!!! Can you know the interest, and surprise-scrapbook pleasure of opening a newspaper and finding oneself able to optically distinguish between the Prize-Bull and the Tea-Pouring Matron? [...] And how those darkly-dramatic, starkly-clear [sports] photographs will be treasured by the adenoidal-athlete [...] before they grow old, and paunchy, and sad?”

The editorial cartoonist had frequent trouble finding a target, but the cartoon shown here restored my appraisal. I assume, though found no supporting evidence in the paper, that there was some bus promptness issue in the community. However, the frame is saved by the dog.

If you have more information about this family of papers, or maybe even a copy hidden away somewhere, we would be interested to hear.

Above: An editorial cartoon from the Valley Pioneer. Courtesy of LHG.

Cemetery Treasures

by Harry Briley



One of the treats for people researching the history of any town are the cemeteries, especially one with tombstones dating back into the 1800s.

A personal motivation. This year, I became enthralled with FindAGrave.com for researching many missing links in my family tree. In October 2021, I traveled to meet for the first time my still-perky distant uncle in his early 90s to compare notes. We have since called and emailed tidbits for resolving gaps and errors. In April, he discovered a long-lost hand-written memoir written by his mother up through 1928. In it, she made an off-hand remark that Uncle Jim from Michigan died in Chicago in 1927 and his casket came by train to her Rochester family home. That fact was completely unknown to current family members. We had been coming up empty looking among the family plots in Michigan. Her casual remark put me in touch with a FindAGrave volunteer in Rochester who had just posted Jim's cemetery data in mid-May. It had been still unfindable in Rochester back in April, raising some

doubt about the memoir claim, but now laid to rest.

In the same April hunt, I discovered the hand-written family records in my paternal great grandmother's large Family Bible using her elegant 1850s cursive penmanship. My mother inherited this Bible as a college freshman in 1944 when her parents died. She stored it in a paper grocery bag at the bottom of a cardboard apple box for sixty years. I wrote a monograph discussing such Family Bibles in our LHG Archives (bit.ly/3zbBOm1) but never expected to see one in my family.

Local Lore. There are five nearby historical cemeteries worth wandering through. Names of early Valley settlers (Spanish, Mexican, and Gold Rush eras) jump off the tombstones. Some carry a line of doggerel verse that begs for more details about the family story. I recommend starting at the Mission San Jose historical churchyard (on Mission Blvd in Fremont) to find Robert Livermore's once-lost grave inside the church proper. In the Tri-Valley, visit the Dublin Pioneer Cemetery in Dolan Historical Park (in Dublin), Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery (on Sunol Blvd in Pleasanton), the pioneer section of Roselawn (in Livermore, off North Livermore Road), and the front half of St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery (in Livermore, on East Avenue). A large part of the Roselawn pioneer section came from the discontinued Oak Knoll Cemetery adjacent to Granada High School. Most, but not all tombstones, at these cemeteries have photos shown on FindAGrave. While you can visit on-line in comfort, I enjoy the quiet ambiance of an afternoon stroll through these places. There is just something about detective juices when stumbling in person across an unexpected historical name.

Poor Frederick. This June, to record three missing tombstones at St. Michael's cemetery for FindAGrave, I wandered through the pioneer section to find a remarkable claim. The tombstone for 19-year-old Frederick Fath (1867-1886) said he was the first person born in Laddsville, California. Laddsville (established in 1855 with Ladd's hotel) was once the center of activity in the not-yet-named city of Livermore prior to railroad arrival. Laddsville was situated north of First Street and east of Livermore Avenue. A September 1871 fire destroyed most of the town and it never recovered. I am sure a story exists about young Frederick, but the same is true about nearly every pioneer and settler, which we only know about as local parks or streets.

Place Names. For instance, Ladd Avenue is named after the Ladd family. Only a few other places claim local personages but include Concannon Blvd, Wentz Street, Hagemann Park, Hansen Road, Henry Maitland Park, Holdener Park, Max Baer Park, May Nissen Park, Patterson Pass, and Wagoner Drive. You can see other local names at bit.ly/3Pv12RR

You have to hunt for such family names because most of our tract homes used non-local street themes (aviators, birds, colleges, gems, girls, stars, stones, trees, etc.). Part of the fun of being in the LHG is discovering these few family-named places, which then leads to learning about their families, which then leads to the delight of finding their headstones in one of the five nearby historical cemeteries. Time for a field trip!

Above: Frederick Fath's tombstone in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery. Photo by Harry Briley.

Help Wanted!

Set Up/Take Down Crew for
Hagemann Ranch
Open Houses
10:30am-12pm and/or 5pm-6pm

last Sunday of each month
(except July and December)
Contact Barbara Soules at
tbsoules@yahoo.com

Bowser on a Long Winding Road

by Will Bolton

Bowser has been traveling on a long and winding road. This is not a dog named Bowser, or the Super Mario Brothers character Bowser, or even Bowser from Sha Na Na. This "Bowser" is an oil storage and dispensing tank that was donated to the Duarte Garage by the Holm family in 2021. The May 2021 issue of the LHG Newsletter provided an account of the donation of the Bowser and the start of the cleaning and restoration process. To briefly recap: The oil tank donated by the Holm family is a Bowser Model 52-B, introduced in 1908. It contains 65 gallons of oil (with a dipstick to measure the contents) and a hand-cranked pump that will dispense a measured ½ pint, pint, or quart of oil with each crank. Storage and dispensing equipment for fuel and oil would be an important part of the equipment on a mechanized farm from the early 1900s on. The earliest history of this particular Bowser seems to be lost to history. However, our part of the Bowser road starts with the tank in use at the Holm family farm, Fair View, on Stanley Boulevard in the vicinity of Murdell Lane on the west side of Livermore.

Tilli (Holm) Calhoun made paintings of the Holm farm on Stanley. During one of our conversations, I asked where the Bowser had been located and someone mentioned that they could point it out on one of Tilli Calhoun's paintings. Her daughter, Nancy Mueller, provided photos of two of Tilli's paintings of the farm. Unfortunately, the location of the oil tank wasn't visible in either of those paintings. Nancy engaged two of her cousins, Dave and Bob Holm, to identify the location of the Bowser on the farm. Dave solved the riddle when he found a drawing that showed the location of the Bowser in a small shed that contained grease, oil, and gas storage. Bob commented, "I forgot about the little shed but NOT the smell." We'll return to

the smell a little farther down the Bowser road.

Somewhere around the late 1960s, the Bowser took a road trip to the Holm family property on Mines Road when the Fair View farm was sold. The Bowser served at the Mines Road ranch for some number of years, then migrated toward the tree row, as unused equipment tends to do on a ranch. We encountered the Bowser when Nancy Mueller coordinated the donation of many pieces of agricultural equipment to be displayed at the Hagemann Ranch. As we were finishing loading up on one of our visits to pick up donations, someone asked if we were interested in the oil tank, pointing at Mr. Bowser. I must admit that first impressions weren't favorable. He was laying on his back, a little rusty and covered with a layer of some sort of petroleum residue, hay, and dust. Something heavy had landed on the tank, bending some sheet metal parts. However, on second look, it appeared that all the parts were there and the roll top with metal slats was really interesting. This looked like a worthy challenge so we loaded Mr. Bowser into Mr. Truck. While the other pieces of

(Bowser, continued on page 10)



Top Right: The restored Bowser oil tank, on display at the Duarte. **Middle:** The Bowser as found at the Holm family property on Mines Road; **Bottom Right:** Drawing by Tilli Calhoun, as found by Dave Holm with the Bowser shed circled in red. Photos by Will Bolton.

Bowser

(continued from page 9)

equipment went to Hagemann, the Bowser's road led to the Duarte Garage.

Once at the Garage, we began the process of disassembling, cleaning, and inspecting the Bowser. We found that the exterior was rusty in some places but the majority of the tank was covered with some sort of tar-like material. This proved to be quite challenging to remove without damaging the galvanized steel underneath. It turned out the tank wasn't empty, as I initially thought, but contained a few gallons of a mixture of thick oil, hay, rodent exhaust (with maybe a few rodent corpses for seasoning), and a thick sludge layer on the bottom. The Legendary Smell was eye-watering and memorable. The interior was clearly Toxic Avenger territory. Cleaning and properly disposing of the contents was involved but successful. Once the tank was cleaned inside and out and the weather was warm and dry enough in the Garage to paint, finishing the tank proceeded fairly rapidly. For anyone wishing to take a journey back up Bowser Road to Olfactory Nostalgiville, I can recreate a whiff of the Legendary Smell with a turn or two of the pump crank. For anyone wishing to see the Bowser at the current point of its long winding road (and maybe get a quick sniff), the Bowser is on display in the south end of the Duarte Garage.

Free, Family-Friendly Activities

Sundays at Hagemann Ranch

Schooldays of Old

August 28, 2022, 2-5 pm
455 Olivina Ave., Livermore



One-room School Experience
 HistoryMobile
 Midway School Model
 Livermore School Memories
 Choose Love Livermore

Ongoing activities: Refreshments, Lassoing Lessons, Tours, Blacksmith Shop & Art Demonstrations



LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD
Presents
Historic
HAGEMANN RANCH
www.lhg.org

Upcoming Events:
 September 25—Harvest Festival
 October 30—Halloween
 November 27—Holiday Celebration

LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Wednesday, August 10	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, August 20	9am - 12pm	Workday at Hagemann	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, August 21	10am — 2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, August 28	2pm- 5pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Schooldays of Old	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, Sept. 14	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, Sept. 17	9am - 12pm	Workday at Hagemann	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, Sept. 18	10am — 2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, Sept. 25	2pm - 5pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Harvest Festival	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, Oct. 12	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, Oct. 22	9am - 12pm	Workday at Hagemann	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, Oct. 23	10am - 2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, Oct. 30	2pm - 5pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Halloween	Hagemann Ranch

Heritage Garden: Of Pigweed and a Little Hogweed

by Loretta Kaskey



“A weed is just an unloved flower.” At the Heritage Garden, we sometimes struggle as to whether we are or aren’t going to love that plant. We took a chance on three plants that we couldn’t remember if we planted or not; they had purple-red leaves and they sprouted among our kale, chard, and collard greens. With a little research, we found that these were from the amaranth family or more commonly known as Pigweed. Should it have a place in our garden? Well, it turns out that baby and smaller leaves of the Pigweed are popular in Middle Eastern recipes. It is said to have a slightly astringent-sweet

flavor with a semi-coarse texture and can be prepared in ways similar to spinach. Pigweed was also used for medicinal purposes by Native Americans to alleviate headache, fever, or nausea. See photo and caption for the final verdict.

Growing among the late sown corn, we noticed a sprawling succulent-like weed

growing close to the ground with reddish stems and smooth green leaves. On hot days, tiny yellow five petaled flowers will bloom. That’s purslane, or as my grandmother would call it, Little Hogweed. With a small burst of salty and tart juice, its taste is then like watercress.

Above Left: Pigweed. The common name, pigweed, may have come from its use as fodder for pigs. Pigweed can produce 13,000 to 35,000 seeds per plant. We plan to remove it before it even thinks about producing seeds. **Above Right:** Little Hogweed, purslane, or most formally, *Portulaca oleracea*. Rich in omega-3 fatty acids and antioxidants, it is a perfect salad add-in or salad filler and we decided to continue “cultivating it”. It is considered invasive as one purslane plant can produce 240,000 seeds. Photos by Loretta Kaskey.

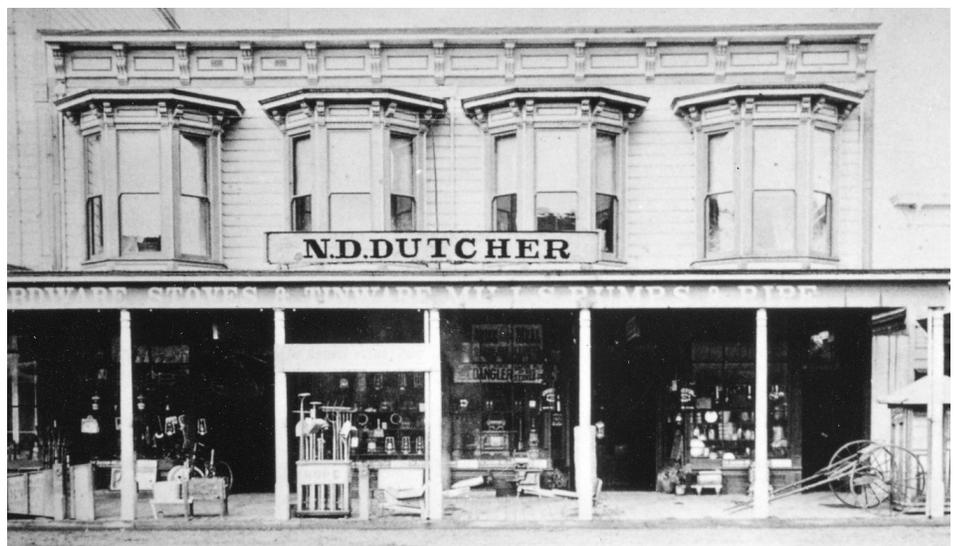
Hardware

(continued from page 2)

Can you think of any others with dates and locations when Livermore had more hardware stores?

The bottom line: there were a number of stores that sold hardware before Norris Dutcher, although most of them did not last very long. Now the locally owned stores are gone, replaced by large corporate owned stores.

Right: Dutcher’s Hardware, 1896. Photo courtesy of the Livermore Heritage Guild.



Welcome New and Renewing Members!

April - June 2022

Life

Jim Alves
Erik Collier
Connolly Family

Individual

Tammy Earls
Dona Fontes
Phyllis Minoggio
Frasier
Jay Morris
Nile Runge

Sponsor

Jennifer Dayrell
Alicia Eltgroth

Senior

Peggy Collins - NEW
Joel Eckels
Ann Giannini
Wendy Howe
Gale Hudson
Arthur Kobayashi
Steve Leeds
Dennis Uhlich
Beth Wilson

Family

Judy Bearrows
William and Helena Bireley
Ken Common
Jack and Anne Dini
David Livermore - NEW
Bailey and Nikki Pritchett

Patron

Thomas Cross
Richard Finn
Lana Shartle - NEW

In Appreciation

Donations

Alicia Eltgroth
Questers, Amador Chapter in appreciation of
Jeff Kaskey

In Memory Of

Carl Stubbins by Susie Calhoun

What Is It?

by Jeff Kaskey



This should be simple. It has been in our collection room for some time but has no identifying information. It is some sort of hat. Or maybe it is a basket. For storing funnels. Perhaps you need to keep the sun off of your plastic Hula doll? Clearly, I have no idea. But it does seem to be designed for a specific purpose; it is not simply a sun hat with a ventilation chimney. Or maybe it is. Can anyone tell me? I'm still wondering if this is summer vacation wear for the Tinman. Send a note to lhg@lhg.org and tell me what I am missing.

If you have not heard about our various events, then maybe we don't have your email. Please update us at 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.

Hours for the History Center are varied at this time. Please call ahead or check 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
memberships are also available.
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Livermore, CA 94551.