



What a Difference a Year Makes!

by Loretta Kaskey



improving nutrients supplied to soil beds, more efficient watering, pruning for safety and tree health (predominantly for the various oaks), and remediation work on the towering eucalyptus trees.

Several nuisance and volunteer small trees have been removed, including the much hated and invasive Texas Privet, a pet peeve of Sandra's, while the scourge that is Italian Arum may have met its match in Karen's efforts against it. (For small invasions digging out is best, but all parts of the plant must be removed from the soil or an even worse infestation can occur.) Many of the existing trees, in particular those in the formal garden areas, have been trimmed and shaped up. The beds are much improved.

A propane tank was also removed from the side yard where over 50 buried bricks were uncovered underneath or near it and were also removed and saved. The bricks were replaced with compost and mulch to enrich the soil for future use.

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Above: Pictured left to right is LHG Hagemann Ranch Curator Jeff Kaskey, Karen Jefferson, Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club representative Lori Martin, benefactress Maudie Kuenning, and LHG President Will Bolton. Maudie was given a full tour of the ranch in a golf cart and had a wonderful visit on September 21. Maudie is pleased that most of the orchard trees will be purchased from Alden Lane. Photo by Juan Hensley.

At this time last year, LHG President Will Bolton introduced two new volunteers, both retired from Sandia National Labs, Karen Jefferson and Sandra Lormand. These two women started with the existing Hagemann Ranch Landscaping Plan and improved it through rewrites and additional research as they explored the plantings on the site.

As they are both currently serving on the City of Livermore's Beautification Committee, we had every confidence that the Landscape Plan was in expert and thoughtful stewardship with them. We know roses have characteristically been part of many gardens, including at Hagemann Ranch. Karen and Sandra have a special affinity for roses and we suspect roses will play a significant part in the plantings at Hagemann Ranch.

The Landscape Plan is our vision document for the heritage landscaping of

the site and relates landscaping decisions to our knowledge of site history across the range of historic significance from the 1870s through 1920s. It does not address the gardening being done by Sunflower Hill, nor the areas generally associated with the 4-H animals except for a few of the heritage trees in those areas.

Karen and Sandra brought in arborist Carol Randisi through Buena Vista Tree Service to provide a professional survey of the 50+ main trees on the site. Carol created an Arborist's Report which discusses existing conditions and remediation recommendations where needed.

They then combined the Landscaping Plan and the Arborist's Report to create an action plan so we can make meaningful and appropriate progress on the site. A landscaping remediation program has begun and includes

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Heritage Garden: Moving Into the Next Season

by Loretta Kaskey

“I grow plants for many reasons: to please my eye or to please my soul; to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience; for novelty or for nostalgia; but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow.” –David Hobson

It's nostalgia time in the garden. Often the plants in the beds are still quite vigorous and producing. Yet to ensure the next season can start strong, we must pull these out and start again. It pangs my heart and soul a little. We clear the beds thinking of the past harvest. We prep the soil and fix irrigation lines for the near future.

This gardener has been stricken with knee and mobility issues and is ever so grateful to co-gardener Soraya Rowlings for her abilities, strength, and good nature in carrying most of the load these past months. So when she requested we do more winter crops, and knowing she was not suggesting my favorites of wheat, barley, and red oats, I was more

than happy to oblige. Thankfully, long time gardening buddy Brenda Kusler of Fertile Groundworks was offering some winter veggie seed plugs of traditional red and green cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and Napa cabbage. As the offer did not align with us being ready to plant the “plugs” directly in the ground, we had to repot the seed plugs. The influx of multiple 90 degree days kept me guessing whether I could keep them alive. Thankfully, we did get them all in the ground. Check back with us in the next article to see how they grew.



Above: Soraya Rowlings rototilling the cleared summer beds on the southside of the Heritage Garden. **Left:** Repotting of the seed plugs to give time to clear the summer beds and prep the soil. Photos by Loretta Kaskey.

What a Difference

(continued from page 1)

Karen and Sandra are reimagining the irrigation needed to support both gardens and lawns as water is crucial to sustain the plan. Hagemann Ranch has a well to provide the water needed to support the programs on site. We want to wisely use that water source so that what is planted will thrive and grow for many years. They arranged a visit by Alameda County Resource Conservation District planners to seek information on better irrigation plans and possible future funding and technical support.

We know that orchards were popular at the turn of the century and appropriate to our area and Hagemann Ranch. Karen and Sandra started dreaming of planting an orchard. For this part of the landscape plan, Karen reached out to the Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club (LAVGC) which approved her grant request. To see the proposed Orchard layout, check out the schematic on page 11 of this newsletter.

Maudie Kuenning, a distinguished member of LAVGC, had recently

provided LAVGC with a sizable donation to further their mission to “Encourage interest in all phases of home gardening; Promote better horticultural practices; Promote civic beauty; Promote conservation of natural resources.” LAVGC representative Lori Martin and Maudie were invited to tour Hagemann Ranch and better understand the vision Karen and Sandra were offering for the landscape.

While on tour, Maudie was delighted with the concept of an orchard being created at Hagemann Ranch, and very happy that her donation allowed LAVGC to provide the funds for the project. Additionally, while on the tour, Maudie consistently urged Karen to ask LAVGC for more financial support! Karen will no doubt ask for additional LAVGC support, which may fund things such as interpretive signage for the wide range of plantings.

A few more words on Maudie, as she does indeed have historic ties here in Livermore. Maudie was a night-shift nurse at the VA hospital until she retired. She was also VERY involved in the Symphony Guild Estate Sales. She loved

to have the booth (Maudie’s Boutique) at the LAVGC Plant Sale for garden related used items to sell. She rarely passed up a field trip that the garden club had planned. Maudie resides at Rosewood Gardens Assisted Living where she still loves roses and loves watching her two hummingbird feeders outside her window there.

Karen and Sandra knew they couldn’t act alone in creating the progress to date and enlisted the aid of other LHG members. Notable help came from Thomas Jefferson for irrigation expertise, Don Smith for tank removal tenacity, and John Slover for moving and shoveling compost and mulch.

The LHG typically uses the November LHG Newsletter to thank and showcase individuals who have contributed much of their time, talents, and resources making LHG projects even more special. I think you will agree that Karen and Sandra have laid the groundwork to fulfill the old proverb that “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow”. It will be amazing to see the progress made by this time next year.

President's Message: State of the Guild

by Will Bolton

The Livermore Heritage Guild Bylaws call on the President to present the State of the Guild at an Annual General Meeting of the membership. The 2022 AGM was held on Saturday, October 15, at the Duarte Garage. This was intended to be a little simpler event than last year to reduce the burden on the volunteers who make these events happen. A small tradition from the past returned, summed up by the suggestion (or was that an order?) on the AGM invitation: "Ladies, wear your pearls!" Dottie Eberly knew of a cost-effective source of pearlescent Mardi Gras throw beads, so a string of "pearls" was available at the door for all attendees. From time-to-time, Benny Goodman's orchestra played "A String of Pearls" on Bill Junk's CD player along with other big band music. This reminds me that I didn't get my string of pearls – which I fully intended to wear at the meeting. The main elements of the AGM were social time, lunch, the State of the Guild presentation, and a very enjoyable talk by Mark Tarte, filled with reminiscences of growing up in Livermore and family stories about his great-uncle Max Baer.

Because not all LHG members could attend the 2022 AGM, I wanted to touch on a few of the main points of the State of the Guild here. In summary, the state of the Guild is good. Financially, the Guild is probably on the most solid footing in its history. This financial position allows the Guild to stay on top of maintenance needs of the facilities LHG manages and equipment at those facilities. It also enables the Heritage Guild to take on more ambitious projects, for example, the Midway School relocation project.

LHG managed the worst of the COVID period in relatively good shape. Membership remained stable and we quickly adapted to changing conditions and official health guidance. We are now returning to more normal operations, with in-person meetings and a full slate of open houses at Hagemann Ranch, the Duarte Garage, and open hours at the History Center at the Carnegie Building. The quarterly "Then and Now" talks presented in partnership with the

Livermore Public Library have also returned to in-person meetings.

At the History Center, Don Smith successfully negotiated with the Homan family for reprinting "Historic Livermore, California" and is working with Prof. Wes Shaeffer (ret.) on a history of Hagemann booklet. Scholarship awards were made at Livermore High, Granada High, and Vineyard Alternative schools based on history papers written by seniors on a topic of their choosing.

The many accomplishments at Hagemann Ranch include completion of an Arborist's Report, a Landscaping Plan, and an Action Plan for landscaping, tree maintenance, and plantings at the Ranch. This activity includes the design of a small orchard north of the Hagemann house and a new irrigation system to support the orchard and plantings around the house.

At the Duarte Garage, the two big items were replacement of the more than 30-year old roof on the Duarte Cottage, and the donation of a 1925 Star Four Touring Car. The first was a necessity and the second was a pure delight. We had long dreamed of having a Star car to display in the Garage, which was a Star dealership in the 1920s.

As mentioned earlier, moving the Midway School to a park in Livermore (which we hope will be Hagemann Park adjacent to Hagemann Ranch) and restoration to its original configuration will serve as a resource for local grade school California curricula and as a point of interest and pride for Livermore residents. The Midway School committee is actively working with the City on suitable locations and on planning for fixtures for the school, curriculum materials, and other concerns.

A thread throughout the State of the Guild presentation was volunteerism. An important part of our plans for the future is continuous improvement of our processes. To that end, Donna Stevens activated her Membership Committee to develop proposals that would improve



membership and volunteer interactions. Those ideas include having personal contact with all new members by a Board member or committee chairperson. This person would answer any questions the new member might have and learn more about his or her interests. As a positive first step in improving volunteer contact, the position of Volunteer Coordinator was created to match those interested in volunteering with possible volunteer activities across all LHG activities and facilities. Coincidentally, the Volunteer Coordinator position is currently open. If you might be interested, please contact Donna Stevens or one of the other people whose contact information is available at the History Center, on the LHG website, or on the back page of this newsletter.

In summary, I think the 2022 AGM was a nice, informal event with time to chat with friends, make new friends, hear an entertaining and informative talk, and learn about the State of the Guild. As we look to next year, 2023 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the Heritage Guild. Discussions about the events to celebrate this milestone are already underway; if you'd like to take part in the planning, email newsletter@livermorehistory.com or stay tuned for more details.

Above: Will Bolton delivering the State of the Guild address at the 2022 AGM. Photo by Dottie Eberly.

Collections Corner: Hay There

by Jeff Kaskey



Establishing ranches, settlements, and eventually towns required many things. Top among them was fuel for the critically important mode of transportation. Hay for horses. As horses became stabled vehicles and farm engines and a single horse might eat 15-30 pounds of hay per day, it was necessary to cultivate, harvest, store and distribute large quantities of feed. Local red oat hay became known as a preferred fuel for racehorses and was widely enjoyed by the working horse as well. Similarly alfalfa, ryegrass, and others were raised on local ranches as feed.

The story of our collection item starts when that wagon loaded with a ton or more of hay comes in from the field's drying windrows. Through the 1800s and well into the twentieth century much of that hay would come in loose, though by 1880 a few ranches would hire a baling crew to work the field and hay would arrive in bales. In either case, once the hay came in from the field, it needed to be stored efficiently in as tall a pile as possible. That takes two things. The first is a way to grab a batch of hay, and the second is a system to get it up high and move it around so it can be stacked on the growing pile. Each of those two pieces seem simple, but as our collection item shows, they can be interesting and rather dangerous.

For ranches without enough space in a barn, the hay would be piled for storage

using a very long beam on a derrick. The beam and derrick gave enough reach to make piles over 20 feet high. A skilled hay derrick team could create a square, straight-sided pile of hay with a domed top to repel rain.

If the hay was headed to a barn, a pulley system was rigged to collect hay from the loaded wagon outside and slide it in just below the roof. This was done using a rail that spanned the whole internal length of the barn and also poked about 6 feet outside the barn. That outside part is where the hay is collected, and then it is pulled inside to be deposited on top of the growing pile along the barn's length.

Look to the interior top of many historic barns, including the two at our historic Hagemann Ranch, and you will see the remnants of mechanisms for getting the hay lifted high into the barn so it could be rolled inside and kept in huge piles. That mechanism is appropriately called a hay trolley. You will also see the rail that sticks out the front of the barn and runs inside just below the roof.

A hay trolley is delightfully complicated and that is why we have a ground-level demonstration of one at Hagemann Ranch. At your next visit, stop by the front of the H barn and ask to see how it works. If you brought along a horse, or a few children, we'll put them to work lifting and moving the hay. Both the hay derrick and the hay trolley serve the purpose of getting the hay high in the air.

But something has to grab the hay. There were various ghoulishly dangerous ways to grab hay, including the hay harpoon (used for baled hay), and the iron claw (we have one donated by Nancy Mueller) and the hay fork, both used for loose hay. Today's collection item is a donation from Owen Parker: a 'Jacksons Light Weight Fork' probably dating to around 1890 (patent date is 1878). "Light weight" is a relative term for a large construction of wood and iron. The hay fork looks predictably menacing, with four long sharp steel tines spaced over one foot apart sticking out from a wooden frame. A ring at the top of the frame allows lifting, so if the tines are holding a large batch of hay, you can lift

the whole thing and move it as needed. Jackson's Fork does not simply hold hay, it has a special release that drops the forks from pointing out and holding hay, to pointing down and releasing the load of hay.

On the hay derrick this was an exciting moment, because at the instant 200 lbs of hay were released from the fork at the end of a long flexing wooden beam, the fork would spring up high into the air. It was written that "an experienced hay handler knew where to jump to avoid the flying tines." I am guessing there were not many inexperienced hay handlers.

When used with a hay trolley such as ours, Jackson's fork drops the hay in relative calm. The rail in the barn roof is rigid so the fork does not bounce, but simply pivots and points down. In the next steps, however, things get interesting.

This is a good time to digress and talk more about the multifunction hay trolley. Various forms were invented in the late 1800s, and were manufactured well into the 20th century. Ours, by the F. E. Meyers and Bros. company, likely dates to around 1910. When attached to a load of hay, the trolley's job is to hoist the hay high off the wagon. The hay trolley's pulley system provides some mechanical leverage, so that lifting 200 lbs of hay requires only about 100 lbs of force, and this was easily accomplished by a horse pulling the long loading rope, usually somewhere well outside the barn.

When the hay gets to the top of its lift and meets the rail, the hay trolley mechanism catches the lifting pulley so that the hay stays aloft even if the rope is released. If the rope is still being pulled, the hay trolley also releases from its parked position on the long rail and gets pulled inside the barn to the appropriate hay drop site. So in one continuous motion, the hay moves all the way up, and then laterally into the barn. Very neat.

(Hay There, continued on page 7)

Above: Our Hay Fork holding a bit of hay outside our barn model, in front of the real barn. Photo by Jeff Kaskey.

Hagemann Happenings

by Barbara Soules

Each year, the Hagemann Ranch team meets to do visioning and strategic planning. This year, eight of us met on September 3rd to formulate plans for 2023. The results are unusually ambitious and exciting, and I would like to share them with our members. We welcome your involvement, networking skills, and suggestions because we will need more than the usual support to bring these plans to fruition. Keep in mind that our ultimate goal for 2026 is to have a fully functioning park with a house museum and Midway School situated in the park next door serving as a destination for third grade field trips in conjunction with the third-grade social studies curriculum. That is a lofty vision but with dedication and some hard work it can be done! The following are the projects that are the highest priority for this year.

The Ranch House Restoration

The Ranch House will eventually be a museum representing ranch life in the period from 1890 to 1920. Reaching this goal will take several years, cooperation from the city, fundraising, and lots of volunteer time and effort. This year we will take the first step and hire a historical architect to create a proposal for restoring and preserving the house. It will need a foundation and creative, unique seismic retrofitting. This building, which has amazingly withstood several earthquakes, was built with huge redwood blocks at each corner. It has no foundation and no studs. The walls are vertical redwood slabs, some 18" wide, with horizontal drop wood siding outside. Once restored, we will use the many donated artifacts to furnish the house museum to make it feel and look like the Hagemanns kept it in the early 1900s.

Electrical Upgrade and Undergrounding

In the backyard, electric wires run overhead from the source at the street to a historical pole on the lane. As the first step to upgrading the house electrical system, we plan to dig a trench across the backyard and run the wires underground. In addition to being safer and more aesthetic, this improvement will free up the windmill so it can be

accessed and restored. An active committee is currently plotting the route for the trench and making arrangements with PG&E and electricians.

Gardens, Orchard and Irrigation

Three volunteers have been diligently working to restore the flower beds around the house for some time now. Their progress is very evident, beautiful, and appreciated. Irrigation is an important component of any garden. The current system is in need of major repairs. Plans are being drawn up for irrigation in the front yard beds as well as in the large area behind the garage north of the house. This area will soon become a heritage orchard. We know that the Hagemanns had orchards in various fields, so the proposed fruit trees will be ones that were popular during the time they lived on the ranch.

Community Outreach

Making the ranch a community gathering place has always been a goal of the Guild. The Sunday open houses have been the primary method of opening the ranch to the public so far. We have also had numerous tours, workdays, and visits by many different groups and individuals. For the past five years there have been ten Sunday at Hagemann events each year. The community response has been impressive, with people anticipating their monthly visit to the ranch. Another long-held goal has been to provide self-guided walking tours of the site. These tours will give visitors the freedom to walk around at their leisure and stay as long as they like. Two docents would be present to answer questions. The plan for next year is to combine the two types of community outreach by reducing the number of themed events to seven and have walking tours the other four months (add July) thus providing a totally new experience for the public. The brochure for the tours is being created and the first self-guided walking tour will be January 29, 2023.

In the past few months, three Eagle Scout candidates have completed their unique and impressive projects at the ranch. Be sure to check them out when you visit. The new "patio" next to the



Red Barn was created by Ayden Kelleher from Troop 939. We are using the space for displays and shows. In front of the H Barn is a demonstration Hay Trolley built by Aditya Satish, Troop 939. (See the article in this newsletter.) Max Young and Troop 924 built two large, moveable redwood display cases that will hold farm implements in the Red Barn. Well executed scout projects are an example of teamwork and, for the Eagle candidate, tremendous growth in leadership skills. We are so blessed to have so many scouts choose to work with the Guild.

The August *Schooldays of Old* open house focused on the Midway School project. In our simulated one-room school, classes were held using McGuffey Readers, slates for each child, and a true 1900s curriculum. Children followed the morning routine of a farm child of that era by doing their chores and getting dressed before walking to school. The kids even assumed old fashioned names for the afternoon activities.

(Hagemann, continued on page 8)

Above: The Midway School Display on the new Red Barn Patio with Rickie Friedli/Giono on duty. Photo by Barbara Soules.

In Search of Docents

by Donna Stevens

When I first joined the Livermore Heritage Guild and was asked if I was interested in becoming a docent at the History Center, my first thought was that I didn't know a thing about Livermore (we had just moved here), how could I possibly be a docent??? Despite my misgivings, I decided to challenge myself and agreed to split Thursdays with Barbara Soules, a long-time active LHG member. It has turned out to be one of my favorite activities.

I've learned so much about Livermore's fascinating history (for instance, did you know that Robert Livermore was born and raised in England?), provided answers to questions about Livermore's first sheriff, the history of several historic houses and the former winery building at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries Church, been an oral history editor, and made great friends. I must add that working with the Livermore Art Association artists (whose gallery is also at the Carnegie Building) has been an unexpected bonus.

I've certainly been asked questions I couldn't answer, but people are unfailingly patient and willing to wait until I either find the answer or someone else who can help, even if it takes a while.

To give you a taste of our activities, we support city institutions like the Vine Theater and First Street Alehouse with newspaper ads and articles showing what was happening at significant periods in their histories. Local companies come to us for photos, and we help local homeowners and organizations research their history.

One of the most enjoyable parts of being a docent is welcoming visitors. We meet not only Livermore residents who were born and raised here but also "newbies" who moved here from other states or countries, visitors to the Tri-Valley, students working on research papers and 3rd graders who visit as part of the Livermore history curriculum. We frequently hear wonderful stories about

past Livermore events and people come to donate old photos, family letters, maps and artifacts.

One of Barbara Soules' favorite docenting stories is a recent visit from David Livermore and his wife. David is a direct descendent of Robert Livermore. He has never lived here, only passed through, and knows very little about our town or the history of his family. The couple was especially interested in the book *Las Positas: the Story of Robert and Josepha Livermore* and took pictures of it and other records. Barbara also shared one of the Heritage Guild's recent acquisitions - a wonderful leather suit that belonged to Robert Livermore. As you may imagine, they were thrilled.

We are also helping Livermore Boy Scout Troop 939, originally Troop #1, with preparations for their 100th anniversary celebration in 2023. The troop leader visited the History Center looking for photos, articles, and anything else we might have showing the history of the troop from its start through today. They will use it in a display at their 100th anniversary party next year. Among other things we scanned Livermore Journal articles from the 1920s and the 1926 Livermore Union HS yearbook which included pictures of Livermore's first two Eagle Scouts.

If you enjoy meeting and talking with people, love Livermore, and want to learn more about it, we would love to talk to you about joining us as a History Center docent. The History Center's hours are Wednesday-Saturday from 11:30-4:00 and Sundays 10:00-2:00. Docent hours are flexible from one day a month to splitting days with another docent as I do, or having a regular weekly or monthly schedule.

If you're interested or have any questions at all, we'd love to hear from you at volunteer@livermorehistory.com.

Left: Some of the intrepid History Center docents. From left to right, top row: Jeff Kaskey, Susan Junk, Terry McCune; front row: Loretta Kaskey, Donna Stevens, and Richard Finn. Photo courtesy of Donna Stevens.



What Is It? It's a Hat!

by Jeff Kaskey

Thank you for all of the great input on the "What Is It?" item from our last issue. The Guild's own Harry Briley chimed in with a lot of information that I think hits very close. While noting that he found none of this exact style in his research, he believes this to be a Native American hat. From its clean and careful but not flamboyant design, he thinks this was by natives for natives. Many native items were made for sale or trade during the 19th and 20th century as native items became prized artifacts, but typically items for sale were decorative. There are other examples of hats with some protrusion, but Harry had seen none like this and thought it closest to some of the northern native tribes' hats used by whalers. Those hats did have a top protrusion and were often constructed of cedar.

Then, as I was docenting at the History Center, I walked Matthew Hutchens. His heritage hobby is more usually police and fire memorabilia (and he has some fine Livermore PD badges) but he also happened to have some specific knowledge in the domain of native items including hats. He said the top protrusion and its hole were intended for cooling, with warm air escaping out the top hole. Indeed the whalers' hats that Harry mentioned also are open at the

top, presumably for cooling. In the case of whalers' hats, the protrusion is smaller, but still has the wide sloped brim and gives the impression of the tin man's hat done in straw. I imagine that whether this actually worked or not, the hat form came about because people thought it should be functional that way. Perhaps the design did not survive long because it may not have been terribly effective given the amount of extra work involved in creating it. In any case, Matthew's assertion was that these hats were somewhat typical of 19th century coastal natives.

It is also interesting to note the differences from historic European hats which generally have a distinct separation between the cap and the brim, as well as the similarity to Asian workers hats such as hokkeins, which were not only conical, wide brimmed and woven much like our hat, but also sometimes had a small protrusion at the top.

Further reading tells us of similar hats to ours, but we found no images that had all the same set of features as our hat. Like all native crafts, hats were individualistic and any one hat will not conform to a formula or catalog. It does seem that we have a true native hat, likely from late 18th century to very early 19th. We do not



know specifically where ours came from, but it seems that similar hats were found in coastal regions and could have been seen in our area. If you are so inclined, you might try making your own hat with a chimney and discovering if our modern headwear has been missing an effective cooling feature. Imagine the new look of a ball cap!

Above: The headwear in question, featured in last issue's What Is It? Photo by Jeff Kaskey.

Hay There

(continued from page 4)

Putting all the actions together, the hay trolley lifts and then transports the hay fork which is carrying a load of hay. As said above, once the hay is pulled into position, a quick jerk on the release line lets the hay fork tines swing down, dropping the hay load. With a single load finished, the hay trolley is pulled back along the rail to its initial position outside the barn. The hay trolley's mechanism senses the rail's end and releases the pulley holding Jackson's Light Weight hay fork. But it is actually not so light. So the hungry hay fork plunges with forks pointed down, into the hay-filled wagon bed, assuming the experienced hay handler knew to jump out of the way.



Above: A Hay Derrick builds a square stack of hay. Photo courtesy of morganclan.com.

Meet a Member: Susan Canfield

by Dottie Eberly



Susan was born during the end of WWII in Riverside, CA, while her father, Elliott Dopking, was serving in the Army Air Corps in the South Pacific. She was six months old before her father saw her for the first time and soon after that her parents settled in her father's hometown of Livermore. They lived on College Avenue within walking distance of downtown, schools, and the library. She describes her childhood as carefree and idyllic: roller skating, playing jacks, bicycle riding to the library to check out books, playing with friends, and taking dance lessons from Carol Jean took up most of her free time.

With a population of less than 5,000 residents, Fifth Street School served all Livermore's students as the K-6 school. Susan attended Junction Avenue for seventh and eighth grades and then went to Livermore High School. She was fortunate to work at Duarte's Drug Store on First Street and then the new Rexall Drug Store on Second Street while in high school.

The plan was not to return to her hometown after college but the best laid plans... She began her career at Rincon

School in 1968 and finished at Rancho Las Positas teaching kindergarten, first, and/or second grades throughout her 37 years. After receiving a Master's Degree from University of San Francisco she also taught Early Childhood classes and Children's Literature at Las Positas College from 1978 until 2016. Somehow, in between all of this she married her high school sweetheart and had a family.

Susan notes that she and her husband have been married for 52 years and in all that time they have lived in only two houses, both in Livermore. Since 1985 they have lived on Trevarno Road in a home that is almost 110 years old. Their son and daughter, who like their parents probably thought they would never return to Livermore after college, are both living in Livermore raising their families and serving our community as a Livermore-Pleasanton fire captain and as a first grade teacher in the Livermore School District. Obviously they believe that although Livermore's population continues to grow, it has maintained a small-town atmosphere and is a great place to raise a family.

When asked how Susan became involved with the Guild she replied "During my first year of retirement, when Gary Drummond asked me if I would consider becoming a docent for the third grade walking tours, I jumped at the chance. I loved the history of Livermore, had memories and stories of the downtown as I was growing up, and wanted to encourage students to appreciate the historic legacy of Livermore.

"Having lived in Livermore all my life, I value the history of Livermore and I feel

that it is important to bring the history of our community to life. I have vivid memories of taking a downtown Livermore tour when I was in third grade, traveling in a yellow school bus, visiting historic landmarks, and hearing stories told by a retired school teacher named Agnes Dutcher Rees who had been my father's first grade teacher. As an eight-year-old, I was impressed that when she was talking about a downtown ice cream parlor, she included a story about the naughty behavior of my father, before he was in her class, when he pushed another little boy off one of the stools at the counter because it was where he wanted to sit. For me, that personal story brought the ice cream parlor to life. Hopefully, during the current walking tours, students will hang on to impressive facts that will bring Livermore downtown history to life."

Susan is now the chairperson of the third grade Gary Drummond Historic Livermore Downtown Walking Tours and says she enjoys the challenge of planning and scheduling the walking tours. She also took on an extra challenge this year and reconfigured the tour route making it easy to tell the story of Livermore's growth by starting at the train station. Although not all schools were able to participate this past spring, she and her team were thrilled to resume leading the walking tours for 30 third grade classes from seven schools and look forward to doing even more next spring. We are very fortunate and grateful to have Susan Canfield supporting this important piece of the third grade curriculum.

Above: Susan Canfield. Photo by Dottie Eberly.

Hageman

(continued from page 5)

In September we celebrated the harvest and featured the two bountiful gardens on site. The Plain Gold Band provided lovely music all afternoon while the 4-H Beekeepers Club with Bill Cervenka gave a honey extraction demonstration.

The next event, Holiday Celebrations, is scheduled for November 27th, from 1-4pm. Please note the time change. Come enjoy holiday celebrations including a piñata and perhaps a visit from a jolly old man.

Right: Bill Cervenka scraping off honeycomb in honey extraction demonstration. Photo by Barbara Soules.



Grenade Found in Duarte Garage

by Will Bolton



Right up front, I'm going to state that the title of this item was inspired by all those "click bait" titles found on internet search pages. Unlike those, I'm admitting that 1) the title is a little misleading to catch your interest and 2) I'm going to provide the actual story without requiring you to click through many pages of filler: the grenade is a Red Comet Fire Grenade. Rather than causing fires, as the name might suggest, it was actually a fire extinguisher. The "grenade" was a glass ball that contained a fire extinguishing liquid. The intent was that the user would throw the grenade at the base of a fire so that, when the glass ball broke, the liquid would splash on the fire. The grenade at the Duarte Garage has been drained of its liquid contents. It is an "automatic" heat activated, wall mounted extinguisher. The heat of a fire would release a spring loaded plunger to break the glass ball, releasing the fire extinguishing liquid. The glass ball could also be removed from the holder and thrown at the fire. While this sounds like a zany idea, I suppose in an era when virtually everyone smoked and almost all correspondence and business was conducted on paper, a cigarette thrown into a trash can could start a small fire. In those circumstances, being able to grab a Red Comet Fire Grenade, toss it into the trash can to quickly put out the fire could have been quite useful.

The Red Comet in the Duarte Garage was donated by Lorraine Magee. Her husband, Mike Magee, was Assistant Fire Chief at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Although Mike passed away in the last couple of years, he had a long association with fire departments starting when he was 16 years old in Pennsylvania. He had collected this unique artifact somewhere along the way. After Lorraine donated the Red Comet, the fragile item was carefully packed and stored at the Garage. I recently found it and decided it was time to make a stand and put it on display.

The Red Comet company was started in Denver, Colorado, and later moved to Littleton, Colorado. They manufactured and sold a full range of fire extinguishers, including the glass bulb fire grenades. Early Red Comet Fire Grenades were filled with salt water. I estimate the volume of the Red Comet to be about 15.5 fluid ounces - slightly larger than a standard soda can. That much water wouldn't put out a very large fire. However, water was later replaced with a much more effective extinguishing agent: carbon tetrachloride. Carbon tetrachloride was widely used in the early- to mid-1900s as a dry cleaning agent and degreaser for cleaning machine parts. Its use as a fire extinguishing agent appears to have started in 1910. It evaporates easily, is non-flammable, and has no flash point. Carbon tetrachloride was effective as a fire extinguishing agent because when heated, its vapors spread and interfere with the combustion process. It was particularly effective against liquid and electrical fires. Unfortunately, it was later recognized that carbon tetrachloride was hazardous, associated with lung, kidney, liver, brain damage and is a possible carcinogen. Another not-so-fun-fact about carbon tetrachloride is that when heated in the presence of air (for example, when fighting a fire) it can produce phosgene, a poison gas used in World War I. Most uses of carbon tetrachloride were phased out in the U.S. by the mid-1960s and it was banned world-wide in 1987.

With its few positive attributes and many negative attributes, were the carbon

tetrachloride filled Red Comet Fire Grenades even effective? In my research, I found a U.S. Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards report titled, "Fire Tests of Bulb-Type Carbon-Tetrachloride Fire Extinguishers," issued May 8, 1951. This was a nice example of applying the scientific method to a potentially tricky problem. They designed a standard fire in a controlled environment, so each type of fire extinguisher - using the same agent (carbon tetrachloride) - would be tested under the same conditions. They tested the glass bulb grenade-type extinguisher and a more common canister extinguisher. The summary of test results from the document tells the tale concisely:

"In the first place, the capacity of the devices was, in general, too small to be practically effective and, in the second place, the manner in which the extinguishing liquid was applied made the devices less effective than the pump-gun extinguisher for the same volume of liquid used."

With its interesting vintage vaguely sinister appearance and its fascinating backstory, the Red Comet Fire Grenade makes a nice addition to our fire fighting-related displays. I encourage you to visit a Duarte Garage open house and see the "Grenade Found in the Garage".



Above left: The Red Comet Fire Grenade on its mounting bracket. **Above:** Detail of the Red Comet Fire Grenade's automatic release feature. Heat from a fire melts the solder on the retention plate, allowing the spring to drive the plunger into the glass bulb, breaking the bulb and releasing the carbon tetrachloride. Unfortunately, the Red Comet has to be mounted on the wall over the point where the fire will break out. Some careful planning is required. (If you know where the fire is going to break out, why not just prevent the fire?) Photos by Will Bolton.

Thank You Donors

In this season of Thanksgiving, we wish to acknowledge the many contributions of members and friends of LHG who have so generously supported the work of the Guild from October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022.

Contributors this year have included:

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In Memory of Arnie Kirkewood

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In Honor of Will Bolton

National Society Daughters of the
 American Revolution

In Honor of Jeff Kaskey

Questers, Amador Chapter

Pearls and Blowtorches

by Dottie Eberly

Once again, this year's Annual General Meeting was held at the Duarte Garage, though to the best of anyone's recollection, this was the first time it was held in the early afternoon. On Saturday, October 15th, an ad hoc committee led by Anna Siig, with assistance from Susan Junk, Sally Nunes, and Rickie Friedli/Giono, put together a fun and casual luncheon to begin the afternoon. Sandwiches and cookies were provided by Mr. Pickle's with chips, plentiful drinks, and a few more sweets were added to make sure no one went hungry.

After lunch and a little socializing, the State of the Guild address was delivered by President Will Bolton covering updates on a wide variety of LHG projects as well as a clear, concise summary of the LHG finances provided by Treasurer, Madelynne Farber. Election results were announced confirming that Will Bolton and Donna Stevens would continue on as LHG's President and Second Vice President respectively for another two-year term.

Following the election announcements Anna Siig introduced guest speaker, Mark Tarte, who took the guests for a trip down memory lane as he reminisced about growing up in Livermore in the 1950s and 1960s. The guests enjoyed some behind the scenes stories from Mark's years as a Livermore Police officer and a few of his favorite stories about his great uncle, Max Baer.

In keeping with the desire to keep the AGM luncheon simple, the tables decorated by Janet Von Toussaint and Kathy Joseph Stockman proudly showed off the Duarte Garage collection of antique liquid fueled blowtorches adorned with pearls. Simple though they were, the decorations were guaranteed conversation starters. These somewhat scary looking blowtorches likely would have been an ordinary tool used in such places as the Duarte Garage back in the early 1900s. Will Bolton tells a story of Barry Schrader receiving a blowtorch as

(Pearls, continued on page 11)

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed their time, talent, and finances to the work of the Guild this year. Your contributions are truly appreciated. We could not Save Yesterday For Tomorrow without you.



a parting gift when he left Livermore to return to family in Illinois. Will thought the gift odd and was puzzled at Barry's delight. It turned out that Barry's mother had worked at a plant that manufactured blowtorches and he was gifted with the brand of torch she had made. Will suspects at least one of the blowtorches in the Duarte collection is of that brand as well.

As for the pearls? Credit for the idea goes to a former Guild Board member, Marie Abbott. LHG folklore has it that she asked all women to wear pearls to an AGM at the Duarte Garage just for fun and to be a bit silly. When Anna was organizing the 2022 AGM she made sure to spread the word that all women should wear their pearls again this year. President Bolton, not wanting the men to be left out, made sure that strings of "pearls" were available for everyone, and Dottie Eberly continued the theme by providing "pearls" for the blowtorches as well.

A big thank you to the entire crew who put this fun event together: Anna Siig, Susan Junk, Sally Nunes, Rickie Friedli/Giono, Will Bolton, Janet Von Toussaint, Steve Drochek, Tim Sage, Terry McCune, Kathy Joseph-Stockman, and Don Smith. The luncheon was a big hit with the guests and a perfect way to spend a beautiful fall afternoon.

Above: Mark Tarte speaks at the AGM. Photo by Susan Junk.

Free, Family-Friendly Activities

Sundays at Hagemann Ranch

Holiday Celebration

November 27, 2022, 1-4 pm
455 Olivina Ave., Livermore



Artists and Crafts Bazaar

Piano music by Greg Pane

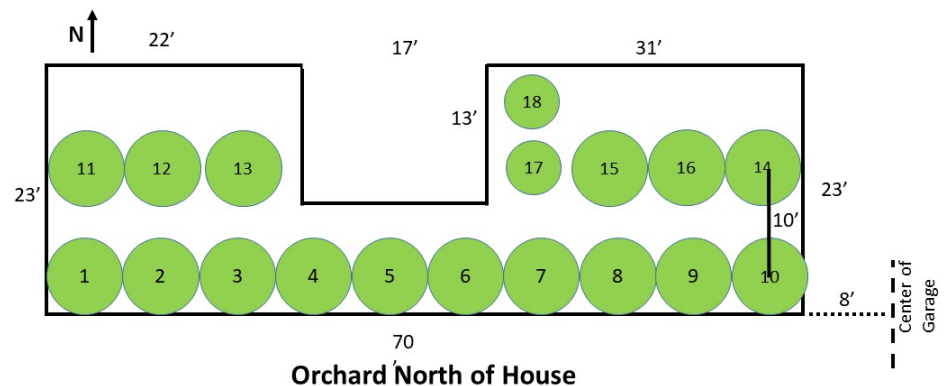
**Hispanic Heritage Center,
Piñata Celebration**

Holiday Crafts

Festival of Lights

Visits with Santa Claus

Ongoing activities: Refreshments, Tours, Blacksmith Shop and Art Demonstrations



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 Peach – Muir or J.H. Hale | 9. Apricot – Blenheim (A) |
| 2 Peach - Elberta (A) | 10. Apricot – Tilton or Moorpark(A) |
| 3 Apple – Yellow Newton Pippin(A) | 11. Plum – Green Gage (A) |
| 4 Apple – Arkansas Black (A) | 12. Plum – Santa Rosa (A) |
| 5 Apple – Jonathan(A) | 13. Plum – Satsuma (A) |
| 6 Apple – Wealthy? | 14. Plum – Wickson or Prune French Improved (A) |
| 7 Pear Bartlett (A)? | 15. Cherry – Black Tartarian (A) |
| 8 Pear Kieffer? | 16. Cherry – Lambert (A) |
| | 17. Fig – Brown Turkey (A) |
| | 18. Pomegranate – Wonderful (A) |

Scale 1/8" = 1'

Welcome New and Renewing Members! July - September 2022

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Jeff Kaskey
Cheryl Remillard
Barbara Soules

Sponsor

Mr. and Mrs. Donald
Gardner
Karen Parkinson

Senior

Shirley Anderson
Kathryn Braun
Terry Carson - NEW
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(Senior, continued)

Beverly Faure
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Richard Hanan - NEW
Kathy Joseph-Stockman
Brenda Lang
Opal Mendenhall
Nancy Mulligan
George Naval - NEW
Marilyn Russell
Sally Nunes
Wendy Roberts
Madeline Scullion
John Slover
Donna Stevens
Ken Underhill - NEW
Joanne Volponi

Family

Cindy Anderson and
Family - NEW
Richard and Susan Canfield
Tom and Dottie Eberly
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Eckart
Charles and Arlene Folkers
Karen and Thomas
Jefferson
Andrea Loyd
Daniel Mosier Family
Tom and Jude Rognlien
Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Sweet
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Teruya

Business

Rock House

In Appreciation

Donations

Charles and Arlene Folkers
Karen and Thomas Jefferson
Marcus Libkind
Barbara and Tom Soules

In Memory Of

Carl Stebbins by Susie Calhoun
Vanna Born by Richard and Jean Lerche
Arnold "Arnie" Kirkewood by Shirley Anderson
(Ed. Note: we apologize for the misspelling of Mr. Stebbins's name in the last issue)

LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Wednesday, Nov. 9	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, Nov. 19	9am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, Nov. 20	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, Nov. 27	1pm-4pm*	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Holiday Celebration	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, Dec. 14	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 11	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, Jan. 15	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Wednesday, Jan. 18	7pm	Then and Now: Hagemann Ranch	Main Library

*Note time change

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 newsletter is an official publication of the Livermore Heritage Guild. Contact the newsletter editor with comments or suggestions.

The Livermore Heritage Guild History Center is located in the historic 1911 Carnegie Library building at 2155 Third Street.
925-449-9927

Hours for the History Center are varied at this time. Please call ahead or check the website for updated information as it becomes available.

www.lhg.org

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.

Please make checks payable to "LHG."

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