

Let's Celebrate Together!

by Dottie Eberly

Fifty years ago this month, a permit had just been issued to demolish the Livermore Railroad Depot. After learning this, a group of townspeople started participating at City Council meetings to stop the demolition of the Depot. By April of 1973 they had organized to become the Livermore Heritage Guild with the intent of saving the Depot. They became a group dedicated to the LHG motto: Saving Yesterday for Tomorrow. Those of us who are active in the Guild today are grateful for their foresight. They left a legacy which today enables us to document stories of the residents who came before us and to continue saving many of Livermore's historic buildings. We're still Saving Yesterday for Tomorrow and will continue to do so.

It is our honor to usher in the next fifty years of the Livermore Heritage Guild by celebrating with the entire town. We hope to introduce the newer residents to treasures such as the Carnegie Library, Duarte Garage and Lincoln Highway Museum, Hagemann Ranch and the beloved HistoryMobile. We hope to remind our long-time residents that we are here and we truly have something of interest for each and every person. We hope every resident can attend several of our events this year, and consider joining the Heritage Guild. But we need your help to make the wide variety of activities offered this year a big success! Please see the ways in which we need help on page 10 of this newsletter. It's a great way to be a part of the celebration.

Speaking of celebrating, one fun, monthly event we don't publicize often enough in this newsletter is the regularly scheduled Duarte Garage and Lincoln Highway Museum Open Houses. Every third Sunday of the month the Garage is open from 10:00am-2:00pm. The displays in the Garage are constantly being updated with new artifacts or new ways of showing off the old. Aside from the museum displays, there is always a

featured car of the month arriving with its owner who is more than happy to share stories and answer questions. From the entire spectrum of interesting cars, Garage Curator Will Bolton showcases classics, muscle cars, survivors, vintage and hot rod trucks, sports cars, "replicars", and even race cars. Plan to be there on **February 19th** for the next open house.

After you visit the Garage, you might want to grab a bite to eat and then head for the Vine Cinema to attend the official kickoff of the Livermore Heritage Guild's 50th anniversary celebrations. Sunday, **February 19th**, Event Chairperson, Loretta Kaskey, has arranged a special showing at the Vine of "*Livermore, The Movie*". Doors will open at 6:30pm and the movie will begin at 7:00pm. We've rented the theater and plan to fill it with LHG families and friends. The cost of a ticket is just \$8.00 and can be purchased

online at livermorehistory.link/movie or in person the day of the movie if there are still seats available.

After the film we'll have guest panelists including the director, David Murray, and several locals who were in the film, discuss and answer any questions about the movie. The movie was described by PBS station KVIE as "part documentary, part fairytale, part

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Something New in the Heritage Garden: Onions!

by Loretta Kaskey



We were diligent and lucky farmers to have most of our beds planted before Thanksgiving (you can read about what was planted in past issues of the newsletter). But there was that one last bed that was delayed in planting due the arrival of the December storms. And didn't the rains come this year! So it was not until December 17, on a dry day, that we planted that final bed.

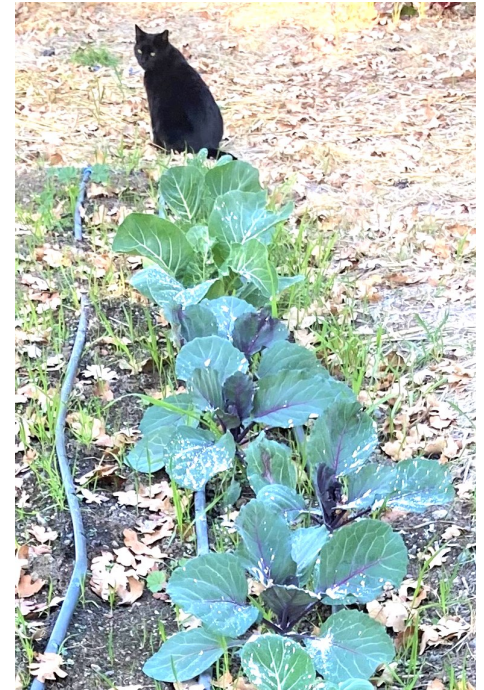
Keeping with the desire to branch out beyond wheat, red oats, and barley, we planted seedling onions. Onions are in

the species of the genus *Allium*. They can include typical globe "white" and "yellow", as well as red torpedo onion. Varieties can be divided amongst the long-day and short-day onions, referring to how much sunlight is needed for them to begin bulbing. Long-day onions need about 14 to 15 hours of daylight to bulb, while short-day onions need 10 hours of daylight. Based on day length, even our short-day onions will be waiting for late February to really start growing.

Looking forward to seeing the difference between the sweet Walla Wallas and the Red Torpedos (known as *Rossa di Tropea* in Italy).

Per sweetonion.org : "The Walla Walla Sweet Onion story began nearly a century ago on the Island of Corsica, off the west coast of Italy. It was there that a French soldier, Peter Pieri, found a sweet onion seed and brought it to Walla Walla (Washington) in the late 1800s."

Per specialtyproduce.com : The "Torpedo onions are native to the coast of Tropea, a town in Calabria, Italy, where they were first introduced by the Phoenicians and have been cultivated since ancient times."



Left: Jeff Kaskey planting onion seedlings. Though Jeff often brings organic amendments to our garden beds, here is proof that he can also get down into the soil; **Above:** Eartha Kit standing watch over the cauliflower and cabbage. We try to use diatomaceous earth to discourage bugs. You can see the weeds have been encouraged by the recent rains. Photos by Loretta Kaskey

Celebrate

(continued from page 1)

mystery, and mostly comedy: a portrait of a formerly bucolic suburb threatened by rapid growth and change...". It was first produced in 2002 and we feel it's time to see it again if you've seen it before, and definitely time to see it if you have never seen it before!

The very next Sunday, **February 26th**, will be the first 2023 Hagemann Open House with a full schedule of events. The theme is Cars and Engines and, as always, will be free and family friendly. With lovingly restored older cars for mom and dad to enjoy and rocket launching for the kids, this one is guaranteed fun

The following month's Hagemann Open House, **March 26th**, will be Children's

Day. This is a favorite with many of our regular visitors to Hagemann. The stars of the show on this day are the Hagemann animal residents and a few of their friends who will visit with their caretakers.

Another popular event returning after a brief hiatus, the locally famous, quirky LHG Auction is coming back to the Duarte Garage at 3:30pm on **April 15th**! Treasures have been accumulating and it's time for them to be sent to loving homes. The committee is hard at work making plans. Be sure to get April 15th on your calendar and check www.lhg.org frequently for the final details.

The auction will be followed two weeks later by one of the most popular open houses at Hagemann Ranch, Mad Hatter Day from 2:00pm-5:00pm! We are planning to offer tea time reservations online this year so make sure to check

the website for more information about that, and make sure to put **April 30th** on your calendar. It's an event not to be missed.

We have more unique events coming up including an event at the Railroad Depot, a Progressive Dinner on **August 12th**, showcasing all of LHG's museums, and we plan to end our year of celebration with a Gala Dinner in October for LHG members. We'll get into more detail about those events in the next newsletter. As you read the newsletters this year, look for the articles with a starburst and our celebratory 50th anniversary logo. You'll be sure to find special nuggets of information and lots of ways to join in the fun.

In the meantime put the dates for the Spring Events on your calendar and Let's Celebrate Together!

President's Message: Get the Scoop on John Slover

by Will Bolton

You have heard this many times before: The force of nature that moves things forward in the Heritage Guild is the effort of members and volunteers. I'd like to give you the scoop (ahem) on one of the many dedicated LHG volunteers: John Slover. John can often be found with shovel and wheelbarrow in hand at Hagemann Ranch removing and transporting horse exhaust from the barn stalls to Mount Poopmore on the eastern end of the site. But before we get into his volunteer activities, let's learn a bit more about John.

John's dad was born in Paradise, Texas, and graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in Chemical Engineering. During WWII, rubber was a critical defense material. With the Japanese invasion in Southeast Asia, the US was cut off from about 90% of its supply of natural rubber. The US military needed vast quantities of rubber for tires, hoses, belts, fuel bladders, and many other uses. The development of synthetic rubber provided the US and allies with supplies of vital rubber products. The story of the development is a fascinating story but the part relevant here is that John's dad worked at a production plant of the United States Rubber Corporation Program operated by Sinclair Rubber in Houston Tx. Sinclair Rubber was producing feedstock chemicals vital for the rubber products produced in the US.

Following WWII, his parents moved to Borger, Texas, where John and his brother were born. Borger is adjacent to the Phillips Petroleum refinery. In 1967, John's dad took a position at the Phillips refinery in Martinez, CA. After high school, John got a position at the Monsanto sulfuric acid production facility in Martinez and attended Diablo Valley Junior College. After 5 years at Monsanto, John moved to Cordis-Dow, a medical device development facility in Martinez, where John tested medical devices being developed including key components of kidney dialysis machines. Through these experiences, John acquired skills and background in laboratory testing equipment and procedures.

In 1980, John saw a job posting for the Hexcel Research & Technology Center, which had recently moved its facility from Berkeley to Dublin, CA. Hexcel had a



significant role in light weight, high-performance materials in several major aerospace systems. He worked in mechanical testing during a 40-year career at Hexcel. One story from those years that stood out for me was when John performed the first durability tests on the enlarged 787 window and composite window frame for Boeing.

John left Hexcel in 2020 and soon started volunteering with Fertile Groundworks in Livermore. In May 2020, he joined LHG and added volunteering at Hagemann Ranch, initially working with the 4-H program – hence the scoop and wheelbarrow. John has since widened the scope of his volunteering. He usually helps with Hagemann open houses and comes to the Saturday work days before each open house. He cuts grass, trims weeds, trims trees, helps Sunflower Hill...pretty much anything that needs to be done. About six months ago, John started helping Sandra Lormand and Karen Jefferson with their improvements to the landscaping and plantings around the Hagemann house. More recently, he has been attending to and maintaining the enclosures to protect the chickens and ducks from Mr. & Mrs. Fox. John usually volunteers 15-20 hours each week with LHG.

When I asked John what he enjoys doing when he isn't volunteering, he mentioned fresh water fishing and going to county

fairs and festivals up and down California. He goes to 5 or 6 fairs each year for enjoyment, particularly in rural counties. However, he started going to fairs for a more serious purpose. His niece was seriously injured when a truck pulling a horse trailer crashed into her car. She was in a coma for 17 days, in the hospital for 3 months, and in rehab for a brain injury for 6 months. As her recovery progressed, she was trying to figure out a career path. After dressing up as a rodeo clown for a doctor's visit around Halloween, a family acquaintance mentioned that she had worked her way through college as a clown for parties. With that idea planted, John's niece attended a clown college in Reno and adopted the name "Dilly Dally." John helped get her career started by driving to fairs for work as a clown. For more information about the journey John's niece has been on, visit her website at: <https://www.dillydallytheclown.com/>

John's work at the Hagemann Ranch was recognized in 2022 with the award of "Volunteer of the Year" and the coveted "Hagemann Hero" T-shirt. Now that you have the scoop on John, visit a Hagemann Ranch open house, find John, and thank him for all the great support he provides for the Livermore Heritage Guild.

Above: John Slover receiving his LHG name tag from Will Bolton. Photo by Loretta Kaskey.

Ninety Five Year Old Thesis about Livermore Transformed

by Harry Briley



Linda Driver, our LHG Librarian, recently proposed discarding a poor second copy of a document for my follow-up confirmation. The clipped newspaper series came from a daily installment in 1974 of a double-spaced Master's Thesis published in 1927 at UC Berkeley regarding the development of the Livermore Valley through 1860. I had never seen this 1974 re-release because I had moved to Livermore only in 1976.

The author, Flora DeNier, in 1927 interviewed several people still alive who could speak nearly firsthand about Robert Livermore and the other Land Grant holders (Amador, Pacheco, Noriega, Bernal (both of them), Sunol, and John Strickland (the neighbor of Robert Livermore)). Of particular interest are a series of letters, which Robert retained from his younger brother William in

England (1851 through 1857). She even found a written memory from Joshua Neal who indeed had first-hand knowledge, having witnessed Robert Livermore's signature to his Will, weeks before his death in 1858. She uncovered an 1884 letter by Emery Munyan written to Valentine Alviso describing his memories of Robert. Now, we depend upon the few great-grandchildren stories heard from their grandparents. This Thesis is the closest documentation we have to the generation of those Mexican Rancho era settlers.

Janet Newton, with the author's permission, brought it to the attention of the Livermore Herald, which greatly compressed and rearranged the text to fit as 42 pages with the intent that the LHG could use the resulting press negatives for producing a book about the same. I computer-scanned those daily pages, which Foothill High School had carefully cut out of the newspaper and protected with heat-sealed plastic. The plastic had ripples, making it quite the challenge for my software to convert the scan into a Word document. After describing my finished progress, Linda told me that I should have used the superior copy in our reference library at the History Center, and almost as an aside mentioned that we had the original thesis (as a 1963 photocopy) in a bound volume within our archival storage. That revelation floored me.

Upon viewing that original, I discovered numerous flaws in the newspaper transcription (misspelled words, a horrid

compression of the bibliography, missing phrases, omission of the land grant maps, and missing an entire footnote section). Since Janet had secured permission, and the Herald printed with the express intention of our LHG publication later as a book, I cross checked it with renewed vigor, applying the vital corrections. In 1927, the "photostat" process was strictly black and white. I found the identical diseño (land grant) maps, which the Bancroft Library had allowed the author to use in her Thesis, but in 2022 as digital scans in color. These replaced the black and white versions. Ann Pfaff-Doss then located portraits of the various pioneers mentioned in the Thesis. The result thus becomes a time capsule for historical research of the Tri-Valley.

Janet bound an article she wrote in 1963, appended directly into the copy of the Thesis. This article acted as a footnote of her research in England showing that Robert Livermore was indeed born in October 1799 and born in Springfield (near Chelmsford, northeast of London) in Essex, England.

This finished scanned project (100 pages) is now more in keeping with the original thesis arrangement, illustrated, and available as a PDF document from our LHG website here: https://lhg.org/Documents/Geography/Livermore_Valley_1860.pdf

Above left: "Joshua Neal who witnessed Robert Livermore's signature on his Will" from the Museum on Main collection.



LHG Auction: We Need YOU!

We need YOU! Be sure to put April 15th on your calendar!

The famously unique LHG auction is set for April 15th at the Duarte Garage. We're getting excited about the items collected for the auction so far, among them, some historic bricks - a popular item, local wine, and an original painting by Nancy Roberts. Rides on an LHG fire truck in one of the Livermore parades will again be offered, as well as the opportunity to use Hagemann Ranch or the Duarte Garage as the venue for a special party. The auction is always a fun way to catch up with old friends, meet new friends, enjoy some delicious food,

and go home with that newfound treasure you never knew you needed!

We need YOU!

We are still collecting unique, auction-worthy items so be sure to keep us in mind. Please email event@livermorehistory.com if you find any nice treasures to donate.

We need YOU!

It's time to assemble an auction committee to plan the details - theme, food, decorations, publicity, auction lots, ticket sales, and more. Help is desperately needed! Please email event@livermorehistory.com and say you want a part in planning the fun!



Hagemann Happenings

by Barbara Soules



This picture above, sent by the Hagemann caretaker, Brian O'Dell, is the inspiration for two stories. The uprooted tree, the result of the recent deluge, is north of the Red Barn beside the new patio. While we lost this tree, the remainder of the ranch has fared amazingly well in this weather. Compressed gravel covers much of the lane and parking lot and over the years has also been added to each of the horse paddocks. Therefore, although parts of the paddocks are muddy, especially where the horses pace, a good portion of each paddock is dry. The horses have dry areas to roam when they choose. Each also has ample shelter from the rain in the barns and small enclosures. The goats, chickens, and ducks all have houses in which to stay dry. The gardens are going to need some time to dry out before they can be worked and our Saturday workday was very busy cleaning up all the debris. We are so very grateful that the eight giant eucalyptus trees were severely pruned before the rains resulting in only large bark pieces falling.

Story number two is about the red lumber under the tree. Notice that to the left of the tree canopy there is a wagon wheel and the remains of an old farm wagon. Several years ago, Russ and Judy Bearrows brought three vintage wagons, all in various states of disrepair, along with three antique tractors to live

on the ranch. All had been stored and shown at either the Alameda Fairgrounds or Forest Home Farms. The wagons graced the open area north of the red barn for several years. Then in 2017 Andrew Divita chose to rebuild the drayage wagon for his Eagle Scout project. He took it down to the undercarriage and rebuilt the wagon with new wood. This masterpiece, pulled by one of Russ's tractors, can be seen as a Heritage Guild entry in many Livermore parades.

This fall Phil Dean and Don Bartel chose to rebuild the second wagon, the red one. Before the holidays they began the dismantling work, thus the red lumber under the tree. At this point all the wood parts are off, leaving only the undercarriage and wheels. This Bearrow's wagon from about 1910 is a bundle wagon. Such a wagon was used when harvesting wheat between the reaping and threshing. The wheat was cut and bound into bundles, or sheaves, by a horse drawn grain binder machine. The sheaves were then stacked in piles to dry in the field until threshing time. The farmers returned with bundle wagons to transport the bundles of wheat to the threshing machine. The bundle wagons are unique because the far side is higher than the near making it easier to load while the high side keeps the bundles from falling off the wagon. Don and Phil are known for expert, speedy work and their friend, Paul Johnson, is donating the needed wood for the wagon



body. Soon we will have two restored vintage wagons on site. The third?? Who knows!

The Holiday Celebration on Thanksgiving weekend was a great success. The lovely displays by the artists and crafters were frequented by many guests. Santa visited with long lines of children before those kids congregated in the backyard to break the piñatas and do their crafts. The Filipino-American group and a Diwali display completed the day's activities.

In January we begin a new program, self-guided walking tours, on open house Sundays. There will be four of these throughout the year. Visitors can explore the ranch at their own pace. Save February 26 for the annual car show. Vintage cars, our fire trucks and tractors will all be featured. A new (to us) band, Joey T and Friends, will provide the musical entertainment. Hopefully this will also be the grand opening of the Farm Machinery Eagle Scout project. We hope to see you all there!



Far Left: Downed tree at Hagemann. Photo by Brian O'Dell; **Top Left:** A bundle wagon pulled by a mule team. (Flicker stock picture); **Bottom Left:** The drayage wagon restored by Andrew Divita as an Eagle Scout project. Photo by Barbara Soules; **Above:** Bundle wagon in present state with downed tree in background. Photo by Barbara Soules.

Collections Corner: Restless Visitor

by Jeff Kaskey

Dead people do not usually walk in to the History Center, but there are exceptions.

Charles Fremont Smith (1854 – 1925) was not an immediately important name to me, but with the help of City Historian Richard Finn it became apparent that Charles was the son of Henry Clay Smith (1824 – 1875). Henry shows prominently in local history. As a California State Assemblyman representing part of Santa Clara county (New Haven, now called Alvarado, in Washington district, now part of Fremont) Henry presented a petition to create a new county to be called Alameda from parts of the counties of Santa Clara and Contra Costa. Through successful negotiation, Henry got Alameda ratified as a county in 1853. Henry was buried at Livermore's pioneer cemetery, Oak Knoll.

Henry's wife, Charles' mother, was Mary Harlan (1826-1922). Mary's father was George Harlan, leader of the last successful wagon train over the Sierras before the winter of 1846. Merely one week later, the next attempt was the Donner party with whom they had been traveling earlier.

The Harlan family is a story in their own right, having been among the original Quakers who came to the continent to join William Penn, crossing the pond to escape religious persecution. George and his family, having endured hostile natives, inclement weather and the devilish task of moving roughly 66 wagons across the rugged Sierras, initially settled in Santa Clara. But the westward migration took an enormous toll. Among the deaths were George's wife Elizabeth, and the husband of George's daughter Mary, both of whom died in 1846 of typhoid fever within weeks of arriving in California.

Mary then met Captain Henry Clay Smith of the US Army. In 1848 they successfully mined gold in Coloma (north east of Sacramento), and return

to the Bay Area, settling in Mission San José where Henry became Justice of the Peace. In 1850 another important Livermore figure appears, as early Livermore teacher Emma Caroline Smith is born. That same year George passes, and although they are in Mission San Jose, we show George being buried at Oak Knoll. The family moved to Alvarado where Charles is born in 1854. And finally, bringing the needed characters onto our local stage, the Smiths purchase a 160 acre farm in Livermore in 1868.

Still reaching to learn more about Charles, I found that his wife, Kentuckian Katherine (Kate) Grey Hogg (1875 – 1933), wrote a few children's books including *Hills of Gold*, a novel about the California gold rush and *Rolling Wheels*, a story of a family traveling from Indiana to California by wagon train. While each are described as fiction, it seems plausible that more than a little family history is to be found there. Also, she wrote *A Little Leaven*, a book described as a "Novel of a Kentucky mountain girl who falls short of her well-to-do husband's aristocratic family" (abebooks.com) written in 1922, after 27 years of marriage to Charles. Again, fiction, and yet.

We know that Charles was a bit of a wanderer, having lived, besides Livermore, in Jameson, Point Richmond, Prune (said to be near Visalia), Morro Bay and Oakland, among others and may have even spent time in the Alaskan gold fields. So while I had some basic data about him, I did not feel very connected with him. At least until he decided to walk up the Carnegie steps to a new resting place in our Bunshah research room.

That so far is the only explanation I have for my discovery of his cremains-filled marker in a grocery bag on our collections table. The marker itself is heavy bronze, elegantly engraved at the top with simply *Charles F. Smith* above *1854-1925*. Upon first look I thought it was a solid block of metal, only on



closer inspection did I see that the base has a finely fitted matching bronze cap which can presumably be turned by engaging two small holes with an appropriate spanner, leading me to believe (though I did not check) that Charles himself is at hand. An accompanying 3x5 card note in the bold yet slightly unsteady hand of an older gentleman (Charles himself?) notes that the marker was "found at Boot Hill" and that he was moved to Oakland to "be with his sister, Emma C. Smith." We are obviously missing some story pieces, because if the bronze marker was found at Boot Hill (a local name for Oak Knoll cemetery) then clearly he was not moved to Oakland. Unless various round trips were involved, and given Charles' mobility, perhaps this can't be discounted. Richard Finn sent me a good genealogy for Charles, but no listed living relatives are nearby.

So while I'm not sure where Charles will next rest, for the moment you can swing by the History Center and say hi. As for a "final" resting spot, I wonder if Charles has miles yet to wander.

References:

<http://www.harlanfamily.org>
 Woods, History of Alameda County
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/26830945/charles-fremont-smith>

Above: Charles Fremont Smith, currently in residence at the History Center. Photo by Jeff Kaskey.



Membership Changes are Happening

by Donna Stevens

Members are a vital part of the Livermore Heritage Guild. Without your interest, enthusiasm, and help we would not be able to accomplish all that we do. As our 50th anniversary approached the Board felt it was time to make sure we properly acknowledge and reward members. With that in mind we formed a committee to, among other things, take a careful look at membership levels, fees, greetings for new members, and acknowledgements for current members. Results are highlighted below. Membership dues have not changed, but we have improved and enhanced our welcome for new members and approved new incentives to thank and celebrate those who have already joined us in “Saving Yesterday for Tomorrow”.

Membership Levels

- Individual - \$25
- Senior/Student - \$15
- Household - \$35
- Sponsor - \$75
- Patron - \$150
- Life - \$500

Welcoming New Members:

Each new member will be welcomed by a current member (preferably from the Board) via phone, email, text, or whatever is appropriate. The welcomer will let them know about upcoming

talks, current LHG projects and provide a contact phone number.

All new members, regardless of membership level, will receive a welcome packet. It will include a timeline of the history of Livermore, a downtown history walk pamphlet and/or a book such as *Early Days in the Livermore Valley* or *The Charm of Old Livermore* by Janet Newton. The packet will be given to new members by their “greeter”.

The welcome packet will also be available to current members upon renewal and to Life members. Renewing and Life members will receive a voucher that may be exchanged for the packet at the History Center or at the Hagemann Ranch open houses (depending on volunteer availability).

Basic member incentives (for all levels):

1. Subscription to our printed quarterly newsletter
2. 10% discount on all History Center purchases.
3. Free or discounted tickets for special programs.
4. All interested members in attendance at the annual auction and/or AGM will receive one ticket to a special drawing for: Use of the Duarte Garage for an

event OR a ride on a fire engine or hay wagon in a Livermore Parade.

The winner would select from the above options.

Member incentives by membership level:

1. Senior/Student/Individual – Basic member incentives
2. Household – Basic member incentives plus:
 - a. one extra ticket to the special drawing
3. Sponsor – Basic member incentives plus:
 - a. recognition at LHG events
 - b. one extra ticket to the special drawing per year
4. Patron – Basic member incentives plus:
 - a. recognition at LHG events
 - b. one extra ticket to the special drawing per year
 - c. an option of a personal tour for up to 10 people of the Ranch, the Duarte Garage or a downtown history walk
5. Life – Basic member incentives plus:
 - a. recognition at LHG events
 - b. one extra ticket to the special drawing per year
 - c. an option of up to two personal tours for up to 10 people of the Ranch, the Duarte Garage, or a downtown history walk.

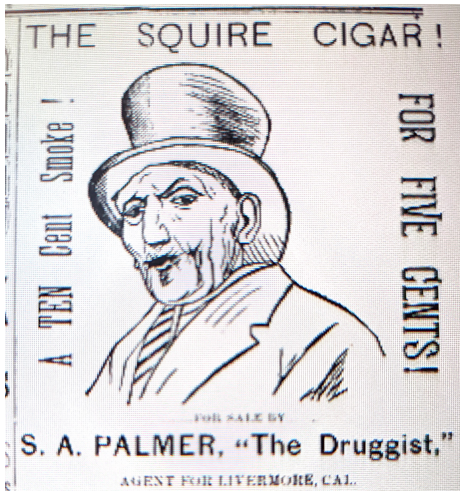
Life Members

We wish to acknowledge the loyal commitment of our Life Members. The trust and support these members have shown in the Heritage Guild by becoming Life Memberships is truly appreciated. If you wish to purchase a Life membership, please visit www.lhg.org and find the “Join” button or refer to information on the back page of this newsletter.

Beverly Schell Ales	Gail Bryan	Karen Faraldo	Larry Mauch	Anna Siig
Anastasia Alexander	Alan Burnham	Alan Frank	Treva Mauch	Don Smith
Jim Alves	Susie Calhoun	Bruce Gach	Terry McCune	Ann Stephens
Margaret Andersen	Alice Calvert	Arthur Henry	Bertha Meamber	Irv Stowers
Baughman’s Western	Laina Carter	The Henry’s A’s	Don Meeker	Patty Stowers
Outfitters	Dorothy Clarkson,	Susan Junk	Nancy Mueller	Anthony Troha
Kathy Baird Baumgartner	Andy Lundberg	Loretta Kaskey	Ann Pfaff-Doss	Janet Von Toussaint
Thomas Beaudet	Erik Collier	Jeanette King	Robert Rich	Wendy Weathers
Judith Beery	Connolly Family	James and Carol Lathrop	Karen Richardson	Mrs. Karl L. Went
Will Bolton	Nancy Cooper	Steve Laughlin	Russ and Claudia Riley	Karl D. Went
Kim Bonde	Charles Crohare	Jean Lerche	Neil Riley	Jeffrey Williams
Sharon Bosque-Wiebe	Whitney Dahl	Richard Lerche	Mary Rizzo	Jim Winnick
Hoffman	Kathleen Duarte-Erickson	Marcus Libkind	Tim Sage	Beverly Wooster
Bob Bronzan	Ellen Eagan-McNeill	Daren Livermore	Joan Seppala	
Cathie Brown	Mary Evans	Len Matchniff	Lynn Seppala	

City Historian Report: Livermore Drug Stores

by Richard Finn



We have been asked about the early drug stores in Livermore. That led to some interesting research as to which was the earliest drug store, who owned it, and what interesting items did they sell.

The first drug store we found in the Livermore area was in Laddsville (which was an early settlement in the area of Junction Ave. and what is now Old First Street). A doctor by the name of O. C. Knight had a drug store there around 1870.

The earliest drug store we can find in Livermore town was that of Samuel Herenghi/Heringhi chemist and druggist, on First Street before May 1874 under the name Livermore Drug Store. In June of 1876 Herenghi was in trouble. By September of that year he was out of business and Dr. Mack had taken ownership.

In June of 1876, Drs. Lewis Hezekiah Cutler (1822-1894, buried at Roselawn Cemetery) and Pratt had moved their store to the corner of J and First streets. The quarters were reported to be "very tastily fitted up and are very attractive". Cutler was a Captain and surgeon during the Civil War. He was the inventor of Cutler's Condition Powders labeled as the "perfect horse medicine". He was also known as a great doctor to treat piles. In later years he became a druggist and the postmaster in Pleasanton. He is buried at Roselawn Cemetery,

Around 1880 Charles Coy Abbey (1864-1939, buried at San Jacinto Valley Cemetery) was a druggist in town but did not stay long. He moved a lot. In 1889 he was in Michigan, 1890 in Fort Worth,

1896 in San Bernardino Co., and before 1900 was back in Texas. He died in Santa Monica. It would be interesting to know why he moved so often.

Newton Gray (1855-1930, buried at Mt. View Cemetery) was running the Livermore Drug Store, at the corner of First and K streets starting sometime before August of 1887. In September Gray and W. F. Mitchell ended their partnership. Gray retained the business. In 1889 we find Gray was also manufacturing writing ink of various colors. Interesting side line.

Also in 1889 we find Chauncey Dwight Hall (1852-1911) had rented a building next to the Livermore Hotel (First and Lizzie Streets) where he was selling Radam's Microbe Killer which was "specific for rheumatism, cancers, and an endless variety of heretofore considered to be incurable diseases."

In February 1894, McKown & Mess opened for business. They had a busy store. By January 1925 they had filled 200,000 prescriptions. Joseph Oscar McKown (1863-1933, cremated) was a druggist in Livermore from the late 1880s to the 1920s when he got into the real estate and insurance business. Charles Fredrick Mess (1852-unk) retired in May 1925. James Mortimer (Mort) Beazell (1881-1951, buried at Memory Gardens) purchased McKown & Mess in July, 1925. The store was at the corner of First and J streets. The old McKown & Mess drug store building was torn down in January 1948.

In June of 1894 David Richard Rees (1869-1947, buried at Memory Gardens) purchased Newton Gray's drug store. In November, 1894, Rees graduated from the California College of Pharmacy. Gray had purchased a drug store in Elmhurst (Elmhurst was a settlement in the East Oakland area and became part of Oakland in 1909). By September 1896, Rees had the contract to furnish chemicals for use at Livermore High School. Besides drugs Rees sold things like Manila cigars.

Dr. Wallace Longfellow Meyers (1881-1941, buried at Memory Gardens) took his old position in the prescription department of the Beck Drug Co. in 1909. Beck Drug Co. was sold in January, 1917, to Edward Joseph Lawless (1874-1959,

buried at Mount Shasta Memorial Park) of Sisson (now called the town of Mount Shasta). William Garrett Beck (1850-1906, buried at Roselawn) and son George W. Beck (1877-1937, cremated) were the owners of Beck Drug Co. In 1923, Lawless was selling radios. Lawless sold his drug store to Warren Willard Davison (1907-1972, buried at Colusa Community Cemetery) in May, 1941. In 1940, Davison was working for the Robinsons Drug Company in Colusa.

Samuel Anson Palmer (1850-1919) was an early druggist in Livermore. In May of 1881 he married Sarah Swift Livermore, daughter of Oliver Shead Livermore (1827-1909), Livermore's first Justice of the Peace.

There was a Rexall Drug Store in Livermore before November, 1916. Manuel Edward Duarte (1908-1989, buried at Saint Michaels Cemetery) and Jerry Kelly were running the store in 1960. Duarte bought the Rexall Drug Store, where he had been a long-time employee, from J. M. Beazell in 1947. In 1958, John Anthony Sarboraria (1933-2019, buried at Saint Michael's) bought part interest in the store from Duarte. In 1960 Duarte and Sarboraria opened a second drug store in Livermore, R-X Rexall Drugs on Second Street. In 1973, they closed the First Street store.

Some of us remember drug stores on Rincon, Pacific Ave. and the Granada Shopping Center. We now only seem to have large corporate drug stores like Rite Aid, CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Costco, Safeway, etc.



Top: Advertisement for S.A. Palmer from *The Livermore Herald*. Courtesy of the Livermore Library; **Above:** Beazell's, Formerly McKown & Mess, circa 1935. SE corner of 1st & J. Courtesy LHG archives.

A Switch in Time

by Will Bolton



In the “old days” (note that I’m not referring to them as the “Good Old Days” just yet) starting an automobile was performance art, involving some specific information, experience, a bit of physical strength, knowledge of a couple procedures, simultaneous management of a couple relatively simple systems, some superstition and luck, and some aspects of bull fighting. To get an internal combustion engine started, it needs fuel and air in the proper proportions, a source of ignition in the cylinders carefully timed to the position of the pistons and valves, and a means to rotate the engine fast enough to get compression in at least one cylinder. In those old days, the operator of the vehicle had to set the ignition timing to the right point with a hand lever on the steering column, set the choke if required depending on whether the engine had run recently and on the outside air temperature, maybe introduce liquid fuel into the intake manifold if it was really cold, turn on the ignition system, and grab the crank handle at the front of the engine to turn the engine over. With the proper incantations and exhortations and a quick yank on the crank, the engine would start.

In modern vehicles, a number of computers in the car handle all the details of starting – almost always doing a better job than a human could. The

driver only needs to push a button and sit back watching TikTok videos while the car’s systems integrate a bunch of sensor readings, consult a library of stored data, make a bunch of calculations, send commands to a bunch of actuators, and start the engine. However, if anything on a modern car fails, It’s very unlikely a casual owner/operator of the vehicle will be able to do anything other than get out their cell phone and credit card. The simplicity of the older vehicles is the one way in which those were the “Good Old Days.”

Hand cranking an engine isn’t without some element of danger. One of my uncles had his arm broken twice hand cranking various cars and tractors at the family farm. A big improvement in vehicle starting safety and convenience came with the introduction of electric starters for automobiles. Cadillac first introduced electric starters in 1912, with other manufacturers following in the next few years. The basic starter system consisted of a lead acid battery, an electric motor and gearing with a mechanical means to connect to the vehicle engine, and a switch to control current to the starter motor.

The 1925 Star Four Touring Car donated to the Duarte Garage in 2022, like many cars of the era, used a spring-loaded switch mounted on the floor that the driver would depress with their foot to engage the starter. This is a heavy duty switch that controls hundreds of amps of electricity when powering the starter. As we were learning about the Star, we went through each element of the starting and ignition systems to assess their condition. We found that the Star uses the same type of starter switch as used in the 1920 Seagrave fire engine at the Duarte Garage. During restoration of the Seagrave over 10 years ago, we found that the starter switch had failed. Where could we find a replacement switch for a 100 year old fire engine? The answer proved to be Monument Car Parts on First Street in Livermore.

While the Star starter switch was working, it was an original equipment type Autolite switch and actually may be the original starter switch installed when

the car was built in Oakland. We decided to store the original switch and buy a new replacement. The answer to “Where do we find a starter switch for an almost 100 year old Star?” is still Monument Car Parts on First Street in Livermore. I walked into the store, gave the counter guy the part number. He pulled it off the shelf and handed it to me. I stood there for a moment holding the box and pondering what had just happened. A car parts store in 2023 still has, sitting on their shelf, a part that looks like, fits like, and performs the same function as a part used on cars a century ago. Amazing.

That brings us to the quiz portion of this story. I thought about how unusual this replacement part situation is. I could only think of one other part that would have been (and in fact was) installed on a 1925 Star automobile that is still used on cars today. So, the question is: What part could you go to a store and buy today that would be a perfect fit on the 1925 Star? The answer is hidden elsewhere in this Newsletter. If you think of other examples that answer this question, please let me know.



Top left: The original 100 year-old starter switch from the Star Touring Car is shown at top. Below is the brand new switch, which looks, fits, and functions just like the original switch. This starter switch is still in use in vintage cars and a large number of tractors, trucks, and items of equipment. **Above:** The new starter switch is installed in the wooden floor boards of the Star automobile. The wooden post below and to the left of the switch is to reduce the chance of the driver accidentally engaging the starter while driving. The metal button protruding between two floor boards is the accelerator “pedal.” Photos by Will Bolton.



Help Needed with the LHG Anniversary Events!

Help LHG celebrate! Help is needed, in a variety of ways, for the Anniversary Events being planned through the year. Will you help? Please let us know!
 Email volunteer@livermorehistory.com

- Set up for events: usually involves setting up tables, chairs, possibly a podium, etc.
- Greet and welcome guests: give name tags, any necessary instructions, etc.
- Prepare food at home: usually baked goods such as cookies, cakes, etc.
- Serve food at events: usually for buffet style dinners
- Serve beverages at events - usually overseeing a self serve bar, could involve pouring wine/beer
- Clean up, tear down after event
- Help staff a booth at various local events in which LHG participates
- Help prepare auction displays

Special Screening

Livermore, The Movie

19 FEBRUARY | SUNDAY | 7:00PM

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM

LIVERMORE RESIDENTS FEATURED IN THIS QUIRKY 2003 DOCUMENTARY
 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOLLOWING THE MOVIE WITH
 DIRECTOR DAVID MURRAY & STARS OF THE FILM

GET TICKETS AT LIVERMOREHISTORY.LINK/MOVIE

VINE CINEMA AND ALEHOUSE
 1722 FIRST STREET, LIVERMORE

TICKETS
\$8.00



Musings and Memories

by Anna Siig



What do you give an organization upon its 50th birthday? As one of the six people who went to the *meeting that wasn't** and later with others, formed the Livermore Heritage Guild, I offer some gift suggestions.

Above: Anna Siig and Susan Junk at a welcome table, a few years ago. LHG archives.

First - you! Yes, give your continued membership and support.

- Record or write your personal history in Livermore for the Guild archives.
- If you can, volunteer at the History Center, the Duarte Garage, or the Hagemann Ranch.
- There are once-a-year jobs, once-a-month jobs or once-a-week jobs. You can use your talents or happily develop new ones.
- Give a membership to a friend, or your dentist, or your neighbor.
- Read the newsletter and then share it with someone. There are so many interesting and entertaining articles and photos in the newsletter.

As an active member of the Heritage Guild, you may add jobs and skills to your résumé you have never thought about. You may work hard, or not. You will meet very interesting people and be one of the interesting people others will enjoy. You can learn to drive a vintage fire truck, help others learn about life here years and years ago, find out what a fire grenade is, see Robert Livermore's signature on a document, enjoy the collection of photos, and more. Help make the Heritage Guild's 50th Birthday year special and add to the next fifty years!

**The full story of the meeting that wasn't will be told at the Railroad Depot Open House in June. Look for more information soon!*

Free, Family-Friendly Activities

Sundays at Hagemann Ranch

Cars & Engines

February 26, 2023 1-4 pm

Vintage Cars & LHG Fire Trucks
 Joey T & Friends Band
 Rocket Launching
 New, Farm Equipment Exhibit

**455 Olivina Ave.,
Livermore**

*Ongoing activities:
Refreshments, Tours, Ranch Chores, Blacksmith Shop & Art Demonstrations*

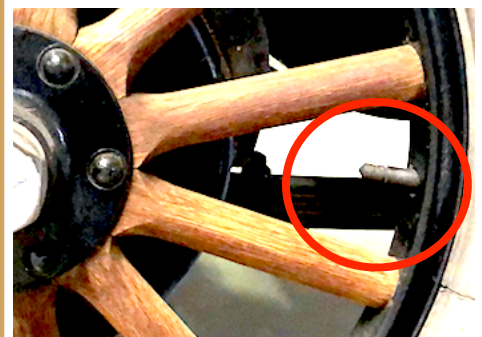
LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD
www.lhg.org

March 26—Children's Day
 April 30—Mad Hatter Tea Party
 May 28—Rancho Day
 June 25, July 30 & August 27—Walking Tours
 September 24—Recess at the Ranch
 October 29—Halloween
 November 26—Holiday Celebration

Garage Quiz Answer

(Find the question on page 9!)

An answer: Schrader valve for tires, including the Star until the present. It was patented in 1893, and known as the "American valve." It is in use in virtually every country in the world. (See below)



Another good answer:

Bayonet base incandescent light bulb, including Star headlights and tail light. Developed in the UK in the 1870s and still widely used.



(Photos by Will Bolton)

Welcome New and Renewing Members! October - December 2022

Individual	Sponsor	Household
Chris Aragon - NEW Suzanne Clark Kathleen Cox - NEW David Darlington	Harry Briley Linda Driver Cheree Hethershaw Terry Rossow Burlyne Wilson	Terrence & Diane Dugan - NEW Fred Gertler & Family - NEW Mr. and Mrs. William Mohler Doris & Richard Ryon
Senior		
Fred Deadrick Madelynne Farber Nancy Harrington		

In Appreciation Donations

Judy Bearrows Terry Rossow Richard & Doris Ryon	Nile Runge Barbara Soules for Hagemann Ranch projects
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LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Wednesday, February 8	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, February 18	9am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, February 19	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, February 19	6:30pm	Special Event: Livermore, The Movie	Vine Cinema & Alehouse
Sunday, February 26	1pm-4pm	Sundays at Hagemann: Cars & Engines	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, March 8	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, March 18	9am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, March 19	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, March 26	2pm-5pm*	Sundays at Hagemann: Children's Day	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, April 12	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, April 15	3:30pm	Special Event: Annual LHG Auction	Duarte Garage
Sunday, April 16	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Saturday, April 22	9am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, April 30	2pm-5pm*	Sundays at Hagemann: Mad Hatter Tea	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, May 10	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, May 20	9am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, May 21	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, May 28	2pm-5pm*	Sundays at Hagemann: Rancho Day	Hagemann Ranch

*Note new time for Sundays at Hagemann Events

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; Household \$35; Senior (age 62+) \$15; Student \$15; Sponsor \$75; Patron \$150;

Individual Life Membership \$500. Please make checks payable to "LHG."

Livermore Heritage Guild
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