



The Second 25 Years

by Jeff Kaskey

Being the Heritage Guild's 50th year, and with the first 25 years outlined in the last issue, our intrepid editor asked me to summarize the second 25 years or so of the Guild's existence. But then she told me that the newsletter is "only" 16 pages long, so we are going to do some skipping along. Hang tight.

The Guild's second quarter-century kicked off with us partying like it was 1999. We were worried about Y2K (spoiler: the world did not end) and struggled with what to call those newfangled years of the two thousands.

As the Guild moved past its mid twenties, it was evolving from a team of dedicated local history enthusiasts (a "Guild") into a well-organized and multi-faceted museum, community resource, research, advocacy, and archive facility. The Guild had collected some amazing items from its earliest

days. The collection included a trove of historic photographs from Maitland and Art Henry, photo donations from other primary sources and local families, archeological digs, ledgers and journals, bottles and bricks, studies of wineries and development, and of course Barbara Bunshah's amazing index to the first 100 years of local newspapers. But they were not yet treated in a museum standard of care, neither through their documentation nor through their conditions of storage. The Carnegie basement was a clutter of stuff, and if you wanted to find something, you could either dig for days or ask Barbara Bunshah. As the decade, century, and millennium turned, the Guild began to get serious about the work of being a local research museum. High quality shelving was installed in the "Harp Room", the Guild's collection storage named for early Carnegie librarian

Myrtle Harp. Items began to get rehoused from acidic folders and boxes to their archival equivalents. Photographs by the thousands were slid into archival mylar sleeves. And all of this began to be recorded in a real museum database, called PastPerfect.

Not to work out too much, but the difference that PastPerfect (PP) made in the operation of the Heritage Guild was earth shaking. Like moving from horses to tractors or quill pens to laser printers. PP is a tool specifically made for museums to manage many aspects of their work. Cataloging is standardized, easily comprehensible, and consistent between institutions. Photographs, library books, and physical items each have their own recorded properties, but also each fit neatly into a single museum database and can be identified with a

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Happy August!

Find yourself a shady spot, a comfy chair, a cool drink, and prepare to enjoy the unusually large LHG August newsletter. It's jam-packed with everything you want to know about wooden fuel dipsticks, a certain birthday party at Mally's, what will happen when mice visit cats, and details about more fun events coming up soon. But ... wait!...first, look at the envelope this newsletter came in. Check the mailing label. If there is a date highlighted it means your membership has expired or is about to expire. If your membership expires you will have to pay non-member prices for events; you will not be able to participate in the annual election of officers; and you will not receive an invitation to the LHG 50th Anniversary Gala dinner. So renew your membership today by visiting the History Center (check www.lhg.org for current hours), or downloading the online membership application, filling it out and mailing it with your check to LHG, P.O.Box 961, Livermore CA 94551.

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The Garden, the Orchard, and New Landscape Plantings

by Loretta Kaskey, Karen Jefferson, and Sandra Lormand

In the Heritage Garden, we harvested the onions in May and are currently harvesting nearly all that we planted in the spring, including tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumber, and the greens

(kale). We'll wait a little longer on the melons and ground cherries.

We promised more news from the orchard, so do see the photos that

showcase this wondrous addition to the landscape.

Speaking of landscaping, there are new plantings in most reworked beds. Come visit us in the months ahead!



Clockwise from top right: July view of the orchard looking northeast. There are eighteen (18) fruit trees featuring heirloom varieties of apples, apricots, cherries, fig, lemon, mandarin, peaches, and plums. Photo by Loretta Kaskey; Hagemann's newly planted orchard's first fruit on the "Winter Banana" apple variety. Photo by Sandra Lormand;

Harvested onions drying in the washhouse. Photo by Loretta Kaskey; Hyacinth Beans (*lablab purpureus*) growing on the wisteria trellis next to the house. The beans were grown by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello in the early 1800s and are also nicknamed the Jefferson Bean. Photo by Sandra Lormand.

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physical storage location. Suddenly we could find things even if Barbara was out, as she ultimately, permanently, was. PP also has tools for tracking memberships. If you are reading this, there is a good chance your membership information and status are tracked in PP. Membership Vice President Donna

Stevens would have a much more complicated task if she had to manually track each person's membership history, payments, donations, and interests. And we can tie these sections together, so if a member makes a donation of a collection item, that connection is preserved in more than the memory of the person accepting the donation. Your humble scribe hopes that this fawning over the introduction of a simple bit of software has not put dear reader into a trance, but it is really the combination of

a space, good storage in the space, archival housing in the storage, and good record keeping of the housing, that have made the Guild into a respected and effective local history organization. All of this came to be as the Guild grew in its second quarter century.

With the insides humming smoothly, the Guild was able to substantially improve its public face as well. Heritage Guild members were perennial members of the

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President's Message: Memories of Mally's

by Will Bolton



A major part of the Livermore Heritage Guild's mission is collecting and preserving the history of Livermore and the surrounding area and making it available for current and future generations. This role is embodied in the LHG motto, "Saving Yesterday for Tomorrow." That history is often in the form of historic buildings, artifacts, books, photographs, maps, and other physical records. Less tangible – but no less important – are the lived stories of long-term residents of the Livermore community. We are currently interested in reinvigorating our "Oral History" program to interview individuals to record their memories and experiences. These contain much factual information about the history of Livermore and also convey a sense of the type of community it has been over the years. Oral histories can provide a glimpse into the lives of some of the interesting characters who have been a part of Livermore's history.

Recently, Anna Siig, a founding member of LHG, recorded a short video of some of her memories of a Livermore institution: Mally's Restaurant. Anna is rather modest about her credentials as a source of Livermore history. She states that, even though she has lived in Livermore for over 60 years, she still considers herself a "new comer." In spite of that modesty, Anna has a wealth of knowledge and stories about Livermore. In her recent video, Anna touches on the reputed tunnels between buildings in downtown and some suspected shenanigans during prohibition. However, here I wanted to highlight the central topic in her video: a surprise birthday party Anna arranged for Gary Drummond at Mally's Restaurant. Many of you will recognize Gary Drummond as another major figure both in LHG and in the preservation of Livermore history.

Anna explained how Peter Lum became the owner of Mally's Restaurant and how the Mally's name and the restaurant migrated north across First Street when the old, wood-framed, two-story Mally's Hotel located on the south side of the street was torn down. Mally's Restaurant was a fixture in Livermore, a local hangout, and generous when someone needed help with a meal, but I think it would be fair to say that it was never considered the pinnacle of fine dining in town. However, Mally's had its moment when Anna approached Peter Lum about holding a surprise birthday party for Gary Drummond there. He arranged the tables to form a long banquet table down the middle of the restaurant. He rented white tablecloths and cloth napkins. He even brought in a special cook to prepare the meal. Anna arranged for candles to run the length of the table. Peter really liked Gary and went all out to provide a memorable event. Anna said that she found out later that Gary didn't like surprises. Although he was a perfect gentleman during the meal, later he told her, "You ever do that again and I'll get you."

At the Duarte Garage, we have a plastic "Mally's" sign, donated by Anna Siig, that once hung over the restaurant. Most visitors to the Garage have no idea of the significance of the sign. However, a few visitors see the sign and say, "I remember Mally's. There was the time at Mally's when..." I hope that after viewing Anna's video, more visitors will have an appreciation for the history and character of – and some of the interesting characters in – old downtown Livermore that Mally's represented.

There will be a link to Anna's video on the LHG homepage. If you have some stories of Livermore history, like those Anna has shared or would like to get involved in capturing those stories as part of the LHG Oral History Committee, please get in touch with the docents at the History Center or one of the contacts listed on the LHG homepage and let us know.

Above: The Mally's sign at the Duarte Garage. Photo by Will Bolton; **Below:** Mally's Hotel. Photo courtesy of LHG archives.



City Historian Report: The Story of the Little Light Bulb That Could

by Richard Finn



What is **122 years old** and still going strong after nearly **1.1 million hours** of service? The answer of course is the famous Livermore Fire Station light bulb. In 1901, Dennis Bernal (and more about him later) donated items from the Livermore Power and Light Company which he had just sold. Included in that gift was a Shelby light bulb.

The bulb we know of was first installed in the fire department's hose cart house on L Street. Not long after, it was moved to the main firehouse on Second Street where the Wells Fargo bank parking lot is now. In 1906 the bulb was moved again, this time to the brand-new fire house near the corner of First and McLeod streets. The bulb originally was left on 24 hours a day so volunteers would not trip over things in the dark.

The bulb stayed at that fire house for 70 years until 1976 when it was moved, with police and fire department escort, to the new Fire Station 6 on East Ave. where it can be seen happy and alive today. The bulb has shined nonstop all these years except when it was moved, about a week in 1937 when there was a WPA renovation of the fire station, and a 9 ½ hour power outage in 2013.

Top: Home of the Light Bulb, 1906-1976. Photo courtesy of LHG archives.

As you can guess there have been a number of people who doubted the bulb was really that old and if so how could it last over a million hours when the average incandescent bulb today lasts about 1,000 hours. Halogen bulbs last about 2,000 hours and LED bulbs last from 10,000 to 50,000 hours. It is thought the Livermore Shelby bulb started life at around 30 or 60 watts. There is some disagreement. The amazing long life is even more remarkable when we learn that in the old days each fireman would swat the bulb for good luck each time they went to a fire.

Our light bulb is famous. The Guinness Book of World Records has named it the oldest known working light bulb in the world. Ripley's Believe-It-or-Not has done the same. It has been featured nationally on ABC, NBC, CBS, PBS, Fox, the Travel Channel, and CNN, internationally on German, French, and Australian TV. It has been featured in newspapers and magazines all over the world as well as Bay Area TV stations and newspapers. The bulb has a couple of children's books written about it as well as a movie (all available at the Heritage Guild in the Carnegie Building). Retired Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Bramell wrote a fact filled book about our bulb titled *A Million Hours of Service*.

Our bulb is a real party animal. It had a big party including a barbecue in 2001 with old fire trucks and cars coming from all over Northern California. More than 600 people attended. We even sang Happy Birthday to the bulb after a lot of speeches and proclamations. In June 2011 there was another big party with cake, ice cream, live music, and a balloon drop and a movie about the bulb titled *Century of Light* was premiered. In June 2015 there was yet another big party when the bulb had turned over one million hours of service. Over 500 people attended this party, many dressed in period costumes. Again, lots of speeches, cake, and ice cream. And we sang Happy Birthday again. A party was planned for 2021 but Covid did that in. In 2026 there will be a big party when the bulb turns 125.

Now a little about Dennis Filbert Bernal. He was born in Pleasanton in 1856. His parents and grandparents were born in California. His great-grandparents came from Mexico in 1776 as part of the de Anza Expedition. After he graduated from Heald's Business College in 1879, he bought 205 acres of Robert Livermore's Rancho Las Positas. He also inherited 541 acres of Rancho El Valle de San José. He became a rancher, farmer, real estate developer, merchant, owner of the city power, light, and water company, and owner of the Livermore Brewery – claimed to be home of the purest beer in the United States. Bernal was also at times a volunteer fireman, town marshal, town treasurer, and interpreter for the courts. His lovely restored home is at 755 South L Street. Bernal died in Livermore in 1932. He was buried at the Chapel of the Chimes in Oakland.

The public is welcome to visit the bulb at Fire Station 6 at 4550 East Ave. Visiting hours are 10-11:30am and 3-5pm seven days a week. You might want to call ahead of a visit to make sure the station will be open at the time you want to visit: 925-454-2361.

Live on little light bulb!

Hagemann Happenings

by Barbara Soules



Far from being a static museum, Hagemann is a vibrant, working ranch. On any given day you can find volunteers working in many corners of the site. Sunflower Hill always has volunteers in the garden and on many days, they have programs for classes of young adults. Every week, volunteers come to work in the Heritage Garden and in the front yard gardens and the orchard. The horses and other animals are fed twice a day and exercised and most evenings you will find riding lessons going on in the arena. Daily, a loyal volunteer and the 4-H members and leaders clean horse paddocks. There is always a random maintenance project to be done by handymen (and handywomen!) volunteers. Soon our master carpenters will resume work on the bundle wagon. Summer is a great time for Eagle Scout projects so the occasional scout will be seen on site making plans for his project. It is a busy, peaceful place with everyone exercising their personal skills to the maximum.

Behind the scenes several Heritage Guild committees have been steadily working to meet the goals that were identified as high priority in the August 2022 strategic plan that I wrote about in the November newsletter. Our progress has been significant and I highlight it here.

Ranch House Foundation

The bid from an historical architect has been accepted and LHG funds allocated

for drawings for architectural and structural engineering work on the ranch house, H Barn, and Red Barn. These drawings will be an important component of the proposal soon to be submitted to the City requesting additional funding for the total, quite expensive, project.

Gardens and Orchard

This project is nearly finished. The orchard is planted and fruit is already growing on several trees. The irrigation of the beds and orchard is in and functioning well. The plantings are all specific to the period of significance including hollyhocks, irises, and many roses. The big Valley Oaks and the eucalyptus trees were all trimmed to improve safety and the health of the trees.

Electrical Undergrounding

PG&E has been to the ranch several times and a plan of how to proceed with placing the wires underground is forthcoming.

Community Outreach

Walking tours began in January and continue all summer. The guests at the walking tours seem to be interested in the site and the historical significance and feel very comfortable wandering around to all spaces. The only activities in addition to tours that we offer on these days are the Blacksmith Shop and the Midway Display. Requests for

school field trips have begun and I suspect that soon we will need to establish a third-grade tours program.

Midway School

While not actually a part of the ranch, Midway is intimately related because our goal is to relocate the school to Hagemann Park next door. Since March 2020, a dedicated committee has been working to plan for this restoration and moving of the school. We have hired a historical architect who drew up plans that were included in a proposal we submitted to the City Planning Department. There have been several meetings with the City on the subject, all with positive responses. Consequently, we are cautiously optimistic and excited. The city will soon respond with details regarding ownership and management of both a small parcel of park land where the school will sit and the building itself.

Unlike the ranch house, the Guild will be responsible for all funding for the Midway project. Thankfully there has been a line item for Midway in the budget for a decade and funds have been added gradually. However, it will require a large-scale fund-raising campaign. Donations and volunteers are all welcome.

The Open House on Sunday, September 24 from 2pm-5pm is "Recess at the Ranch" where the Midway project will be featured. A model one-room school named Midway will give the visiting children a living history experience. Before sitting down at antique desks for lessons, the kids will do a couple of chores, dress in period clothes, and pump water so they can wash their hands in a wash basin. Lessons on slates, reading from McGuffey Readers, and singing will all be part of the experience. When school is over, students will go to recess and play old-fashioned games like hopscotch and jump rope. For the little kids, Mother Goose will hold Storytime. Joey T and Friends Band, the HistoryMobile, and a honey extraction demonstration will all be a part of the Open House.

Top: The Rodeo Queen and Sugar Bear Band at Rancho Day in May. Photo by Barbara Soules.

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City of Livermore's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). Having been involved in the original survey of historic properties (the Historic Resource Inventory, or HRI) done in 1988, they worked with the city as the HRI was updated in 2004 as part of the city's Downtown Specific Plan. Collection items and photographs, now that we can find them, are resources for books on local history and notable local anniversary events. The Guild also started conducting history lectures as yet another way of immersing Livermore residents in their local history.

Livermore had their first City Historian, one of our Guild founders, Gary Drummond. An avid LHG member, Gary had been giving classes on Livermore history, collected the history of local wineries, and served on the HPC. As interest in Livermore history grew, Gary was the obvious choice for the City's first officially recognized historian (before it had a Poet Laureate, by the way). As Historian, he frequently reported to the City Council about preservation needs and activities, lectures, and items of historical interest. Gary's tireless service as historian paved the way for future City Historians also from the ranks of LHG members: Anne Homan, Don Meeker, and Richard Finn. The City Historian role creates an effective pulpit for soliciting City support for historic projects and becomes an obvious invitee for notable City events that have some historic element.

It was during this era that the Southern Pacific Depot, whose 1973 preservation created the Guild, was again in transition. Decades earlier, the Depot's tracks had been removed to make way for a shopping center. As the City looked to again redevelop the central downtown block, it proposed a plan that would move the Depot to an unused small lot and allow possible rehabilitation as a salon or real estate office. There was no committed tenant, but this could have allowed the City to deal with the Depot while moving ahead with downtown development. Guild members instead proposed that the tracks with no Depot and the Depot with no tracks could be

reunited, so the Depot would once again serve our local rail (and bus) traffic. Nearly a decade in the planning, and after many months of restoration and relocation, the restored Depot now does just that.

Guild members organized various downtown and neighborhood walking tours and home tours through the years, and Gary Drummond's third grade walking tours became fixtures during the school year. Along with a much-improved new HistoryMobile, these led to the Guild collaborating with the

Livermore school district to create a formal third grade history curriculum for Livermore which continues in use today. Your humble scribe contends that the third grade local history curriculum is perfect for adults as well, so indeed the Guild has introduced many new residents to their local heritage using the simple stories and timeline developed for our nine year olds. That is, assuming the nine year olds haven't already educated their parents, as we often find they have.

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Self-Guided Walking Tours

Historic Hagemann Ranch

est. 1870

455 Olivina Ave., Livermore



**Visit Livermore's National Historic Site
at Your Own pace**

**Sundays, June 25, July 30 & August 27, 2023
2-5 pm**



LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD
www.lhg.org

Upcoming Events

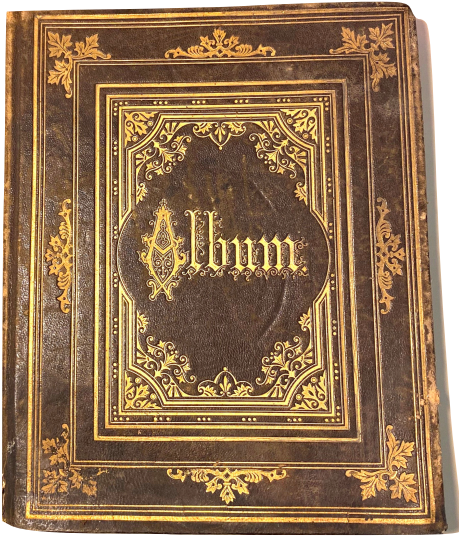
September 24—Recess at the Ranch

October 29—Halloween

November 26—Holiday Celebration

Collections Corner

by Jeff Kaskey



The collection item under our gaze for this article is from Martin Walker in Texas (ex- of Livermore, graduate of Granada HS). He sent a ledger he had recovered from a building being demolished at First and Livermore nearly six decades ago. The ledger says almost nothing about Livermore and tells us nearly nothing about the residents here. And yet.

The blank, unlined ledger was an 1876 gift to Nellie Scott of Wheatland, CA (north of Sacramento and on the overland Emigrant Trail), who City Historian and Guild researcher Richard Finn found was also Ella Augusta Courvosier (1858-1894). Ella's first husband was Matthew Alexander Scott. Ella's second husband was Frederick Mathiesen of Livermore, which gives one possible path to her presence, and that of the ledger, in our town.

The ledger contains a series of poems and bits of prose written to Nellie by people who appear to have been her students and are dated up through 1888. Most are from Wheatland, but there are entries from Livermore, including Anna Inman and Florence Livermore. Not content to simply offer a pen and blank page, she apparently directed her writers to pen something thoughtful and "original" as noted by a few writers. Most of the entries are wishes of good luck and fortune as one would pen in a yearbook or reunion album. They contain nothing that gives meaningful

context about their personal relationship, their station in life, or other details of the day. The entries seem written after the students were in Nellie's class, yet they still come across as an assignment rather than meaningful personal remembrances. As such, they are generally the sort of saccharin doggerel you might imagine when your teacher assigns a short bit of trivial verse. But a few rose above the occasion.

One that caught my eye as slightly snarkier than most was from Thomas E. Bevu in 1879:

*You ask me for something original
I do not know how to begin
For there is nothing original in me
Unless it is original sin.*

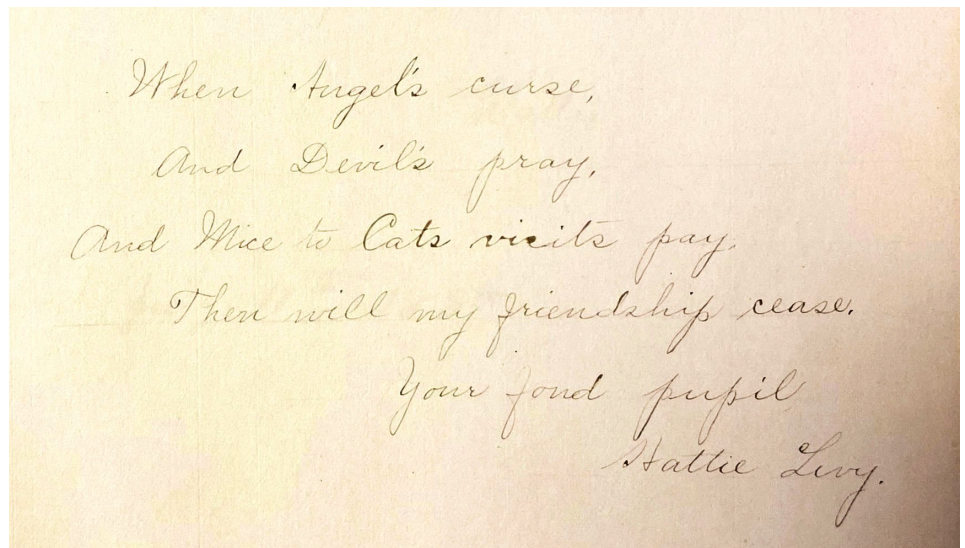
Somehow it just seemed too pat, so off to Google I went to see if this was a better known quote. I did not find a predecessor, but the Internet Archive revealed a passage in the interminably titled *The Making of a Township, [...] Fairmount Township, Grant County, Indiana 1829 to 1917, based upon data secured by personal interviews, from*

numerous communications and various other reliable sources [...]. Edited by Edgar M. Baldwin. In this collection of local letters, a Pastor Elliot writes in 1917 the exact same quote before telling stories of local characters. If any of you know the origin of the quote, we would be interested in hearing.

One more quote, which I hope was original, comes from Hattie Livy:

*When Angels curse
And Devils pray,
And Mice to Cats visits pay
Then will my friendship cease.*

As a collection item, we have a lot yet to learn. Ella passed away at the tender age of 36, quite young even then, already with her second husband. Her students seem appropriately fawning, either by intent or through direction, and we so far know nothing about her time in Livermore. But the adoration, real or encouraged, leads us to wonder more about the life of this early teacher. And that is another good reason for you to volunteer to help us with our collections!



Above: Hattie Livy's entry into the ledger. Photo courtesy of LHG archives.

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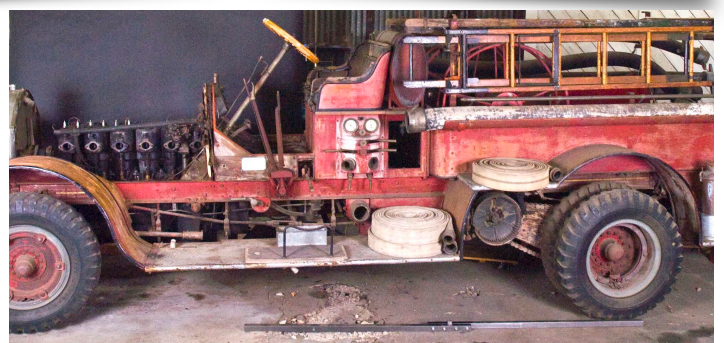
One of the biggest steps the Heritage Guild has taken in its second quarter has been to become operators, managers, and preservationists for the City's historic Hagemann Ranch. Anyone familiar with these pages has already read of the many events and activities there, but the serendipity of how we landed on the spot is worth a short telling. For over 100 years the site was owned by Hagemann descendants, but as costs mounted and family dispersed, the site was sold to developer Steve Bosch

in the early 2000s. The City, meanwhile, applied to list the site on the National Register of Historic Places. The challenges of developing a historic site along with a slow development market prompted Bosch to approach the City as a buyer. With the site in limbo, Bosch allowed Hoofprints on the Heart to conduct their therapeutic riding program on site. Hoofprints then worked with City staff to arrange purchase financing through community development block grants and a HUD-guaranteed loan, and (and this is where it gets so good you may shiver), one of the conditions of the loan is that Hagemann is to remain as a historic site. Hoofprints operated until 2014. When Hoofprints closed, the City

called the Guild and offered management of the ranch. Using the Duarte Garage as a model, and ignoring

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Below: Clockwise from top left - Don Keech pulling hay wagon with guests at a Hagemann Ranch Halloween open house; William and Mary Allen Mendenhall at Mendenhall Springs; Livermore Train Depot shortly after being relocated to the Transit Center in 2017; 1920 Seagrave Fire Engine at Duarte Garage before renovation; Seagrave Fire Engine after renovation; Lincoln Highway sign on Portola. All photos courtesy of Livermore Heritage Guild.



Another Duarte Garage Mystery

by Will Bolton

We seem to have no shortage of mysteries at the Duarte Garage and Lincoln Highway Museum. Some are of the “What is it?” type; for example, the mystery hole in the north wall of the Garage that was described and, I believe, solved in the May Newsletter. This time the mystery is of the “Who done it?” type: Who sold the 1925 Star Four Touring Car that is now displayed in the Duarte Garage? We know from the records that Jim Alves provided when he donated the car that it was produced at the Oakland Durant factory on East 14th Street (now International Blvd) and Durant Avenue. However, we haven’t yet found any records of which dealership sold the automobile. We know that the Duarte Garage was a Star dealership in the 1920s. Could the Star have been sold at the Duarte Garage?

A key piece of evidence is the Star fuel gauge. Unlike modern cars, in which the driver need only let their gaze drift from their cell phone to the dash to find the fuel quantity displayed on a gauge of some sort, which also might be capable of emitting some electronic “beeps and boops” or flashing lights to warn of low fuel. In a 1925 Star, discovering how much fuel was in the tank required stopping the car, finding the wooden fuel dipstick, walking around to the right rear corner of the car, removing the gas cap, and inserting the dipstick into the filler neck to the bottom of the tank. When withdrawn, the level of fuel could be seen by the wet end of the dipstick. The dipstick was stamped with diagonal lines, matching the angle of the filler neck, each marked with the number of gallons of fuel that line represented.

Similar dipsticks were used in a number of cars of that era. The Star dipstick was stamped with some interesting information in addition to the gallon lines. One side was the “corporate” side stamped with the Star emblem, a star within a circle, the word “GAUGE”, and the Star motto: “Tomorrow’s Car Today.” However, the other side of the dipstick is key to the Who Done It mystery.

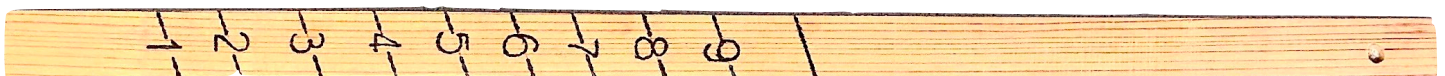
It appears that the Star dipsticks were of a standard design with the gauge and corporate motto on one side. The other side seems to have been customized for each Star dealership. We have two Star dipsticks at the Duarte Garage. One was found in the Garage collection and is stamped with information about the Duarte Highway Garage, including the phone number (165). The dipstick that came with the Alves Star automobile was stamped on the dealership side with “Field & Lee,” and the address of two stores in Oakland, one at 3545 East 14th Street and one at 2801 Broadway. The Field & Lee business seems to have been relatively short-lived, but both stores sold Star automobiles during the period from 1924 to 1926. Interestingly, both buildings still stand. The East 14th Street building still has a large vertical sign attached to the front that once had “Field & Lee” in lights and the mounting for a very large lighted star that I estimate was about 20 feet tall with “Field & Lee” superimposed.

Based on this circumstantial evidence of the Star automobile being in possession of a “Field & Lee” fuel dipstick, the evidence that dealers had fuel dipsticks



stamped with information specific to that dealership, and the likelihood that a dealer would provide a fuel dipstick with their dealership contact information with each car they sold, I conclude that the Alves Star was sold in Oakland by Field and Lee and not in Livermore by Duarte. However, rather than closing this case, I recommend moving it to the Cold Case File pending the emergence of new evidence.

Above: Don Keech demonstrates how to determine the fuel level, using a replica fuel gauge; **Below:** the replica fuel gauge (top) and the original fuel gauge of the 1925 Star Four Touring Car now housed at the Duarte Garage. The “corporate” side is the middle photo; the “dealership” side is the bottom photo. Photos by Will Bolton.



Scholarship News

by Don Smith

June 6, 2023 saw the graduation ceremony for thirty-two high school students from Vineyard Alternative School in Livermore, CA. Tim Sbranti, President of the Board of Trustees of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, made the Keynote Speech. Mr. Sbranti reminded the graduates, families, friends, and community members in attendance of another June 6. On that date in 1944, the Allied forces of Great Britain, the United States, Australia, and Canada stormed the shores of Normandy, France. Many of the 156,000 soldiers were no older than the graduating class of Vineyard Alternative School. Mr. Sbranti told the graduating students of the duty and sacrifice made by those soldiers. He told the students about the 7080 ships, 195,000 naval personnel, and 11,590 airplanes that supported the landing. He talked about the hard work and dedication exhibited by the students graduating that day and

the support they received from their families, friends and teachers.

The Livermore Heritage Guild awarded a scholarship check to one graduating student: Ms. Brenna Powell for her historical paper on the Livermore Sanitorium and Sanitarium. Ms. Powell plans on attending Las Positas College for two years and then transferring to a four-year college or university to study English literature and business. Her parents and grandmother supported Brenna at the graduation ceremony.

The Livermore community witnessed thirty-two high school graduates join the community as bright, confident, and successful new members. They received their diplomas in the welcoming and nurturing educational environment provided by Vineyard Alternative School. They are a credit to their school and themselves.



Above: Brenna Powell at the Vineyard Alternative School graduation ceremony. Photo by Don Smith.



Volunteer Opportunity!

by Donna Stevens

Help wanted! Interested in meeting new people and learning about life in Livermore over the years? We have a great opportunity for you!

The recent LHG 50th Anniversary event at the Railroad Depot, **Staying on Track, Saving Yesterday for Tomorrow** included several Livermore natives who shared wonderful stories of growing up in Livermore. Each talk was fascinating and provided insights into our community. There are many more tales about life in Livermore in the early-to-mid 20th century waiting to be captured.

According to the Oral History Association:

Oral history is a technique for generating and preserving original, historically interesting information — primary source material—from personal recollections through planned recorded interviews. This method of interviewing is used to preserve the voices, memories and perspectives of people in history. ... Oral history stems from the tradition of passing information of importance to the family or tribe from one generation to the next.

Gathering oral histories is a wonderful way to meet and learn from long-time members of our community and contribute to LHG archives by recording these “voices, memories and perspectives” for future Livermore generations.

The Guild will provide interview guidance, protocols and an introduction to long-time “Livermorian” who have agreed to be interviewed.

Contact us at volunteer@livermorehistory.com for more information or, better yet, to sign up!

Annual Officer Elections

by Dottie Eberly

The Livermore Heritage Guild conducts annual officer elections by mail. Conducting this type of election gives all members in good standing the opportunity to participate in the nomination procedure as well as the ability to vote. This year's process will look much the same as it has in the previous three years. Any member whose membership is paid through September 30, 2023 (check your newsletter address label for your membership expiration date) is invited to submit candidate nominations now, including oneself, for the offices of First Vice President, Secretary, and/or Treasurer. The job descriptions for these offices are included below. Nominees must be members of the Livermore Heritage Guild and consent to the nomination. To make a nomination please send a short statement of nomination along with a candidate's statement written by the nominee to one of the following:

Email:

nominations@livermorehistory.com;
must be received by September 8th.

or

USPS:

LHG Nominations, P. O. Box 961,
Livermore, CA 94551;
must be postmarked by September 5th.

On September 13th the Board will consider all nominations and select a slate of candidates. Stamped, pre-addressed postcard ballots, along with all candidates' statements will be mailed to all members in good standing on or about September 22nd. Members will have the opportunity to elect three officers to the LHG Executive Board. Returned ballots must be postmarked by October 13th. Election results will be announced at the October 21st Annual General Meeting, on Facebook, [lhg.org](https://www.facebook.com/lhg.org), and in the November newsletter.

Please contact us at
nominations@livermorehistory.com if
there are any questions.

Job Descriptions


The **First Vice-President** shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President, or at the request of the President. The First Vice-President shall also oversee the Program, Publicity, Outreach and Hospitality Committees.

The **Secretary** shall keep the minutes and records of the Guild's Executive Board meetings, general membership meetings, and any special meetings. The Secretary will maintain and have available for reference at all meetings copies of the Guild's Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Rules of Order.

The **Treasurer** shall keep the fiscal records and make financial reports to the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall administer and maintain the Guild's financial accounts. The Board shall establish and the Treasurer shall monitor a budget for expenditures of the Guild's funds. A summary financial report shall be prepared and presented at the Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer shall be responsible for submitting all required Federal and State forms.


Free, Family-Friendly Activities

Sundays at Hagemann Ranch




Recess at the Ranch

September 24, 2023
2-5 pm




HistoryMobile
Midway School-You Can Help!
Joey T and Friends Band

One-Room School experience
Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society
Beekeeping Demo
Old Time Games



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



LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD
www.lhg.org

455 Olivina Ave., Livermore

Upcoming Events:
October 29—Halloween
November 26—Holiday Celebration

LIVERMORE
HERITAGE
GUILD



50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

DEPOT SPONSOR \$5,000

- Recognition on all publicity materials including:
 - Gala Dinner Program
 - Mailed Invitations
 - August and November LHG Newsletters
 - Gala Dinner Poster at event
 - Name and logo listed on the LHG website
- Eight complimentary meals at the Gala Dinner
- Premium table and recognition at the Gala Dinner
- Opportunity for brief remarks at the Gala Dinner

DUARTE SPONSOR \$2,500

- Recognition on all publicity materials including:
 - Gala Dinner Program
 - Mailed Invitations
 - August and November LHG Newsletters
 - Gala Dinner Poster at event
 - Name and logo listed on the LHG website
- Four complimentary meals at the Gala Dinner

CARNEGIE SPONSOR \$1,000

- Recognition on all publicity materials including:
 - Gala Dinner Program
 - August and November LHG Newsletters
 - Gala Dinner Poster at event
 - Name and logo listed on the LHG website
- Two complimentary meals at the Gala Dinner

HAGEMANN SPONSOR \$500

- Recognition on all publicity materials including:
 - Gala Dinner Program
 - August and November LHG Newsletters

See your name here! Become a Gala Dinner Sponsor today!

Depot Sponsor
\$5,000

Lynn and Joan Seppala

Duarte Sponsor
\$2,500

Carnegie Sponsor
\$1,000

Campbell/Bearrows
Families
Don Smith
Ayn Wieskamp

Hagemann Sponsor
\$500

Lance Cavaleri
Jewelers
3 Calhoun Sisters'
Ranch



Gala Dinner: Save the Date!

by Sheri Ann Dante

To honor all the members who have sustained the Livermore Heritage Guild for the past 50 years, we are planning a 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner for October 8, 2023 at 5pm at Poppy Ridge Restaurant. Every Livermore Heritage Guild member/household will receive a formal invitation to the dinner.

This will be an exciting event in a beautiful venue, with good food and wine, and your friends around you to reminisce over the accomplishments of the Livermore Heritage Guild. In honor of our 50th, we have generous sponsors who are helping to lower the dinner price to only \$50 per person.

If you would also like to be a sponsor of our Gala dinner, or make a donation, please contact Nancy Mulligan or Sheri Ann Dante for more information. The various levels of sponsorship include recognition in a variety of publicity materials. In addition, Depot Sponsors receive eight complimentary meals at the Gala dinner, Duarte Sponsors receive four complimentary meals, and Carnegie Sponsors receive two complimentary meals.

To make this a truly special evening, we are asking LHG members to look for photos related to the Livermore Heritage Guild's volunteers, activities, and events. We will display these photos as a montage during the dinner so that we can all relive the various events from the last 50 years. Please look in your box of



LHG memorabilia to see if you have any photos that could be displayed during the dinner. It would be really wonderful if you could identify the people in the photos and/or the event where the photos were taken.

The LHG Gala Dinner Committee would like to invite past and present LHG board members to say a few words about a memorable LHG accomplishment, activity, or event. The committee also extends this invitation to other members who wish to share a

LHG story at the Gala dinner. Let's try to keep the stories to 3-5 minutes, so everyone has a chance to speak. Please contact Sheri Ann Dante at sheriann1@sbcglobal.net, or Nancy Mulligan at n.mulligan@comcast.net if you would like to be a Gala Sponsor or donor, have photos to share, or would like to share your story during the Gala dinner. See you there!

Above: L-R, Bill O'Neal, Mary O'Neal, Kay Schrader, Kitsy Junk, Susan Junk, Bill Junk. Photo by Barry Schrader, circa 1983, courtesy of LHG archives.

The Second 25

(continued from page 8)

all of our trepidation, we accepted the role, and the rest is, well, history.

Mention of the Duarte Garage prompts one more chapter before letting you go. The Duarte Garage had been preserved very shortly after the Depot was saved. Perhaps the City was a little sensitive about looking insensitive to the importance of local history. The building was leased to the Guild with little fanfare. In the early days of the Guild though there were not a lot of funds for restoration, so the Duarte continued as a funky place for auctions and meetings as

well as a storage area for the City's decaying early fire engines. But with the millennium's turn, Guild finances were improving and membership was growing. This resulted in the Garage becoming a hub of activity that included the restoration of both the Seagrave and Model T fire engines (the Mack had come together in 1981), restoration work to the interior spaces such as the office and machine shop, and the addition of many new exhibits. The goal is not to make it into a Plexiglas-isolated display; now a visitor walks into a space that gives contact with the days when the first transcontinental highway passed through Livermore.

A lot of milestones can occur within 25 years, many of which got short shrift in the above narrative. A certain bulb surpassed one million hours. The Guild hosted a Mendenhall family reunion and descendants of Robert Livermore have likewise swung by for a visit. The Guild helped preserve Dan Dutro's Bothwell-designed house from imminent demolition, and served as consultant to the City on dozens of local history questions and preservation efforts. It celebrated centennials for both the Carnegie Library and the Lincoln Highway. After such an eventful journey, we can't help but wonder: What will the next 25 years hold?

New Display at History Center

by Harry Briley

Using a display originally created by local historian, Loretta Kaskey, some years ago, I assembled a new main display in June at the History Center describing the Carnegie Library building and the events leading up to its construction. In the future we hope to have a new display theme every six months.

The new display has information about: the original 1875 hole-in-the-wall library on First Street; the steel magnate Andrew Carnegie with his matching \$10,000 offer to many hundreds of rural communities to build a library; Livermore city raising the matching balance; and choosing Peter McKeany's odiferous slaughterhouse property on Third Street. It also shows early library rules and interior images of the newly opened Livermore Library.

Former librarian Barbara Bunshah wrote (in summary), "In 1901, Livermore was the first to take advantage of a new state law allowing Sixth Class [rural] cities to organize tax-supported, municipal libraries. The Library Board sought a grant by steel magnate Andrew Carnegie. The project simmered until 1908 until Mrs. Dell Savage became President of the Library Board. She resolutely led the campaign and by spring 1909, a city lot at the corner of Fifth and K streets had been purchased and the Town Trustees agreed to

contribute \$1,000 a year for ten years. Approval of the grant came in October 1909 and a bond election occurred in December. There followed months of planning with architect William Weeks until approved by Carnegie. Opposition had developed to the Fifth & K site and the present site was selected. This McKeany Block [between Third and Fourth Streets] once was the site of a stockyard, slaughterhouse, barn, and house. Horses and cattle were kept. The barn burned and the site came available at a reasonable price. Work began in June 1910 and opened for use in May 1911."

This \$20,000 building on city owned property was a significant deal in 1910 Livermore. According to usnews.com, "a home in 1915 cost \$3,200 (\$25 monthly rent) and a [nearly all hand-made] car cost \$2005 using gas at 15 cents a gallon. The take-home pay was \$2.75 per 10 to 12 hour day (\$687 per year if a man, half that if a woman). One got lunch at a fast food eatery for 15 cents. Food at home cost as follows: bread at 7 cents a loaf, eggs at 34 cents per dozen, milk at 9 cents per quart [in glass jars delivered fresh to homes by local dairies], and steak at 26 cents a pound. A first class postage stamp cost 2 cents." The Stock market crash in 1929 made even these stunning low prices difficult to meet ... if one could get a paying job.

The Library used new bricks from the nearby Carnegie Brick and Pottery Company which was located southeast of Livermore, each brick proudly impressed with the word "Carnegie". After a devastating flood in 1911, the small town of Carnegie including the shuttered brick works was sold at public auction in Corral Hollow Canyon on 2/12/16. It was a bustling canyon of 2000 area people from 1895 to 1912. The *Tracy Press* (Sam Matthews 3/4/2016) wrote that 100 years ago, they had reported: "The only bid received was for \$25,000, made by Gladding, McBean. The sale involves the pottery plant and machinery, a number of cottages, boarding houses, and about 75 acres of land."

By the time of the flood, our local Library, now an historic structure in Carnegie Park, had begun its role as a key valley library from 1911 to 1966. The library holdings moved to a new facility (demolished in 2018) near the Civic Center on South Livermore Street. The Livermore Heritage Guild has shared the former Carnegie Library building with the Livermore Art Association Gallery since 1974. Please stop by and peruse the new display about this historic building now through December: Thursday through Saturday, 11:30am-4pm, and Sundays, 10am-2pm.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

AUGUST 12TH,
4:45PM - 8:30PM

See all of the Livermore Heritage Guild Museums in one evening while enjoying delicious food at each location!



LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD



Carnegie Building
Appetizers and Beverages



Hagemann Ranch
(and the HistoryMobile)
Tri-tip and sides



Duarte Garage
Dessert Selection

Non-Member: \$35
Member: \$30
Children 3-10: \$20
Children under 3: free



Buy your tickets now!

No ticket sales after August 5th.

Timetable and parking information will be given after ticket purchase

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Musings and Memories

by Anna Siig

It still surprises me that it was 50 years ago. 50+ years when the committee formed by the Amador Livermore Valley Historical Society canceled their last meeting and recommended to the City of Livermore that the Southern Pacific Railroad Depot be torn down. 50 years ago that the quickly revived committee came out of the woodwork after the Livermore City Council voted to keep the station. Alan Frank's book about the station will fill you in with the details.

Then the City of Livermore burned the Luderman house as a fire exercise. That loss brought more people to the Livermore Heritage Guild. The Guild was too young to catch that tragedy in time.

Tilli Holm Calhoun's grandparent's home on Stanley Blvd. had been burned by the City earlier. I asked Tilli why they had not fought that. She said they grew up being taught that the city fathers

would take care of them. Sadly, that care often ended in the loss of Livermore architectural treasures.

The Guild has done amazing things with mostly volunteer help. Come to some of the anniversary events, learn more about the Guild's work, join in and make the next 50 years full of saving historical treasures! It is often hard work, it is often fun, and it is rewarding!

LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Wednesday, August 9	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, August 12	4:45pm	Progressive Dinner	History Center, etc.
Saturday, August 19	9:30am-12pm	Workday at Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, August 20	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, August 27	2pm-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Self-Guided Tours	Hagemann Ranch
Tuesday, September 5	All Day	Postmark for LHG officer nominations due	----
Friday, September 8	All Day	Email for LHG officer nominations due	----
Wednesday, September 13	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, September 16	9:30am-12pm	Workday at Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, September 17	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, September 24	2pm-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann: Recess at the Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, October 8	5pm-9pm	Gala Dinner at Poppy Ridge	Poppy Ridge Grill
Wednesday, October 11	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Friday, October 13	All Day	Postmark for returning election ballots	----
Saturday, October 14	9:30am-12pm	Workday at Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, October 15	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Saturday, October 21	TBD	Annual General Meeting	Duarte Garage
Sunday, October 29	2pm-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann: Halloween	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, November 8	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, November 18	9:30am-12pm	Workday at Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, November 19	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, November 26	1pm-4pm*	Sundays at Hagemann: Holiday Celebration	Hagemann Ranch

*Note new winter month times for Sundays at Hagemann

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!

Welcome New and Renewing Members!

April - June 2023

Individual

Thomasin Dewhurst - NEW
 Trevor Gaspari - NEW
 Robert Hall - NEW
 Andrea Kellogg - NEW
 Rick Knowles
 J. Mills - NEW
 Barbara Reynolds - NEW
 Sapna Rap-Srigiri - NEW

Sponsor

Charles B. Sweet

Household

Ben Barrientos - NEW
 Judy Bearrows
 William & Helena Bireley
 Victoria Colgin - NEW
 Todd Corzett - NEW
 Brent Halford - NEW
 John Hart, Carol Wahrer
 Wes Nelson - NEW
 Carolyn Ramsey
 Jonathan Reekie
 Steve Ruley - NEW
 Carol Sampson

Patron

Livermore Lions Club - NEW
 Dennis Tungate

Senior

Ron Ard - NEW
 Dana Boyd - NEW
 Janice Cantua - NEW
 Mary Lou Craig - NEW
 Deborah Gomez - NEW
 Joanne Headley - NEW
 Charlene Hearn - NEW
 Wendy Howe
 Richard Jones - NEW
 Steve Leeds
 Kathy Martinez - NEW
 Conni Naylor - NEW
 Kelly O'Hair - NEW
 Robin Roth - NEW
 Steve Shirley - NEW
 Pat Smith - NEW
 Charlene Swierkowski - NEW
 John Taylor - NEW
 Greg Thompson - NEW
 Sue Vincent - NEW

Life

Jim Oliver

Contact Us

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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.

In Appreciation

Donations

Karen & Thomas Jefferson
 Richard Jones
 Jean & Richard Lerche
 Marcus Libkind
 Kelly O'Hair
 Barbara Soules
 Alan Burnham

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
 P.O. Box 961
 Livermore, CA 94551



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD

To be held at the Duarte Garage

