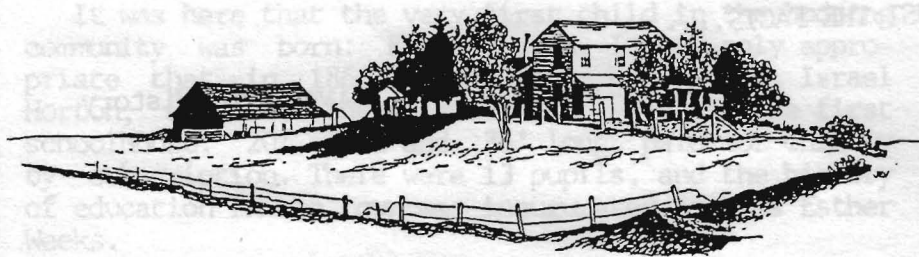


Just The Facts ...

HIGHLIGHTS of

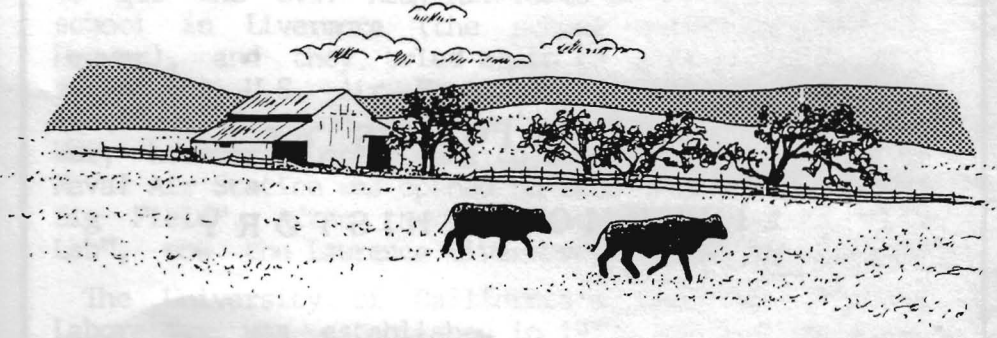
LIVERMORE HISTORY



Livermore Heritage Guild

Livermore, California 1988

The Valley's clear air...
an early and lasting interest...
A former resident of Livermore...
employ of the Wright Brothers in...
unofficial air fields in the...
the official...
to the...
to get the U.S. Army...
school in Livermore...



JUST THE FACTS....

Highlights of Livermore History

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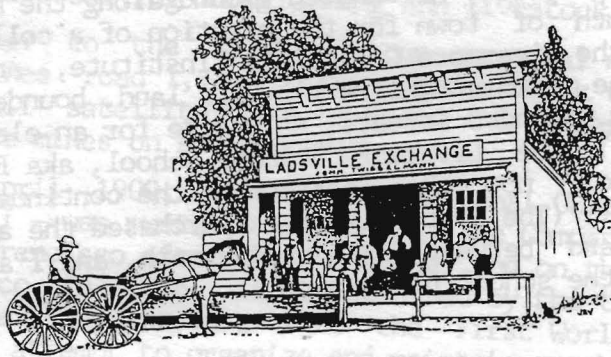
Over a hundred years ago a Quaker from Pennsylvania, who had made the long trek across country nearly a quarter of a century earlier, laid out a town of 400 acres in the heart of a vast Northern California valley where cattle from nearby Mission San Jose roamed.

He named it not for himself, but for another, an Englishman, who'd left his native land while still in his teens, to seek adventure at sea and had ended up as a prominent rancher in the area the Spanish once called El Valle de San Jose.

The founder was William Mendenhall. The man whose memory he honored was Robert Livermore.

Actually, the first organized community in the area was begun by Alphonso Ladd in 1864 when he bought 160 acres of land and built a hotel and dwelling where the Western Pacific tracks cross First Street. In that same year, a home, a blacksmith, a saloon, and, finally, a general store - where the first postoffice was established - followed, and the community became known as Laddsville.

It was here that the very first child in the budding community was born: Elsie Horton. It was only appropriate that in 1866 it should be her father, Israel Horton, who was instrumental in erecting the first schoolhouse: 20' wide and 36' long, paid for chiefly by subscription. There were 13 pupils, and the history of education in the town was inaugurated by Miss Esther Weeks.



Laddsville was destroyed by fire in 1871 but the competing community of Livermore had already become a reality; the businesses were transferred to the new city giving added impetus to its growth.

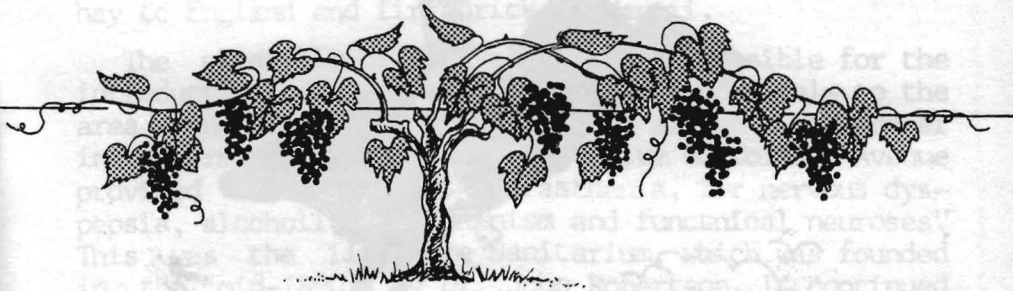
The City of Livermore was incorporated at the end of April, 1876. The county records describe the town as "950 acres, with a population of 830 persons, occupying 234 buildings, 143 of which are private houses and 91 are businesses". (The most of one type of business: the 13 saloons.)

Among the early 91 businesses were at least 2 which still exist, albeit under changed names, and two banks which were absorbed by still operating banking firms. The companies were (and are): Victor & Harris (gents clothing), which became Victor & Baughman's and which is now Baughmans', and the Livermore Enterprise Newspaper which altered its name to The Livermore Herald and is now the Tri-Valley Herald. The paper, now a part of a large chain, is headquartered in Dublin. The banks were The Bank of Livermore, which changed its name to The Farmer's & Merchant's National Bank and was later absorbed by the Bank of Italy, now Bank of America; and The First National Bank of Livermore, which merged with American Trust of Oakland which in its turn was to become part of Wells Fargo Bank.

Livermore's founder, William Mendenhall, donated land to the railroad for a depot. The building on the site is currently used as a real estate office.

Additionally, Mendenhall made 2 gifts of land for educational purposes: he donated ground along the Mocho to the south of town for the erection of a college, known as the Livermore Collegiate Institute, and he gave to the town an entire block of land, bounded by Fifth, Sixth, I and J Streets, as a site for an elementary school: The Livermore Grammar School, aka Fifth Street School, now the location of the continuation high school. (The School Trustees purchased the added block of land between Sixth and Seventh, and I and J Streets for the school playground.)

The town's first high school was located in the Grammar School building until enrollment allowed for a separate building which was constructed on land at Eighth Street, on the site of the present "Rec Center". Livermore had the honor of being the first Union High School District in the state (a title it retained for many years). The author of the union districts enabling legislation was the Hon. F.R. Fassett, once a teacher in the Livermore Elementary School District.



On the southern outskirts of the town were farms and vineyards. Still in existence are two of those wineries from the early days of the community: Wente Bros. and Concannon. The buildings of a third old and famous Livermore winery, Cresta Blanca, formed the basis for the new Wente Sparkling Cellars. These three plus many more vineyards and wineries flourished in the Valley's gravelly soil until, as The Herald put it in a headline on Jan. 17, 1920: "Prohibition Ends A Great Industry: Wineries Dispose of Stock and Close Doors." Wente and Concannon survived as suppliers of sacramental wines, as sources of grapes for home use, and by diversifying into farming and livestock.

Further to the south of town were coal mines (on "the mines road"), a pottery and a brick works (at the small satellite towns of Tesla and Carnegie), and magnesite mines on Red Mountain.

In April 1900, Livermore's National Guard unit - Company I - was mustered into being. The Company served in San Francisco after the '06 quake, and on the border of Mexico in 1916. It was absorbed by the U.S. Army upon American entrance into the First World War in 1918. An attempt to organize and maintain another Guard company in the 1920's failed for lack of interest,

and the Company and a number of its local members moved to Santa Barbara. Other former Guardsmen joined local companies in other Bay Area cities.



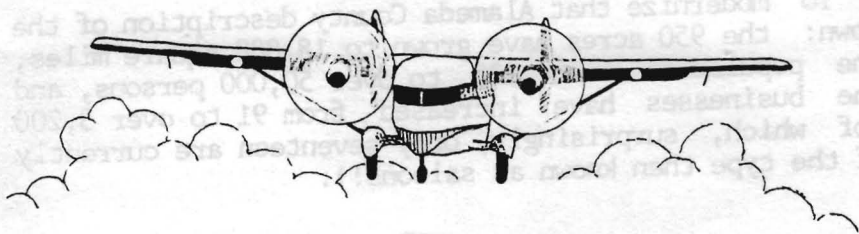
Livermore's "World's Fastest Rodeo" had its start in a 1918 fund-raiser for the Red Cross. The event was so successful that the Stockmen who had organized it decided to continue the show and it has been an annual event (with three exceptions) ever since. There was no rodeo in 1924 due to an outbreak of hoof and mouth disease in Northern California, and none in 1959 when the rodeo grounds grandstands were condemned, nor in 1961 when top quality acts were unavailable for the show.

The boosters of the community constantly sought new industries for Livermore. Among their more successful forays was the Coast Manufacturing & Supply Company, known locally as The Fuse Works and now as the Hexcel Corp. of Dublin. The Livermore Fire Brick Company (1910 to 1949) and Kaiser Paving Company, now part of Kaiser Sand & Gravel, were also successful additions to the community. Among the failures were The Oso Products Company, a soap factory which operated here for about

one year in the early 1920's, a cheese factory which eventually moved to Tracy (as "The Livermore Cheese Factory"), and a spineless cactus plantation.

As the commercial center for the Valley's ranchers and farmers, Livermore had many hay and grain warehouses as well as facilities for shipping agricultural and manufactured products. The work of this community went far afield; for example, wine went to Venezuela, hay to England and fire brick to Hawaii.

The clear air of the Valley was responsible for the introduction of several tuberculosis hospitals to the area - and for the city's long-used slogan: Live Longer in Livermore. A private sanitorium on College Avenue provided treatment for "neurasthenia, for nervous dyspepsia, alcoholism, morphinism and functional neuroses!" This was the Livermore Sanitarium, which was founded in the mid-1890's by Dr. John Robertson. It continued in operation until the early 1960's. In 1918 Alameda County opened its Arroyo Sanitarium as a TB hospital (the grounds of this now closed institution are slated to become a part of the East Bay Regional Park District in a convoluted three-way land swap with the U.S. Army and BART). Another tuberculosis hospital was the U.S. Veteran's Hospital, which still operates as a general hospital for servicemen and women.



Livermore Heritage Guild

Livermore, California 1986

The Valley's clear air probably also contributed to an early and lasting interest in gliding and flying. A former resident of Livermore, Monte Fink, was in the employ of the Wright Brothers in 1911. There were some unofficial air fields in the Valley for years before the official one - The Livermore Airport - was opened in the late 1920's. The community boosters tried hard to get the U.S. Army Air Force to open its training school in Livermore (the school eventually went to Denver), and they tried again in later years to persuade the U.S. Air Force to locate the Academy here (Boulder, Co. won that time). During the Second World War, however, success came to Livermore: The Livermore Naval Air Station was opened on land once known as "the Big Field". After the war that site became the "Rad Lab", now the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The University of California's Lawrence Radiation Laboratory was established in 1952, and its companion the Sandia Laboratory joined the community in 1956. Between them, the two labs employ over ten thousand people and have contributed heavily to the growth of the modern town.



To modernize that Alameda County description of the town: the 950 acres have grown to 18.888 square miles, the population from 830 to over 50,000 persons, and the businesses have increased from 91 to over 3,200 (of which, surprisingly, only seventeen are currently of the type then known as saloons!).