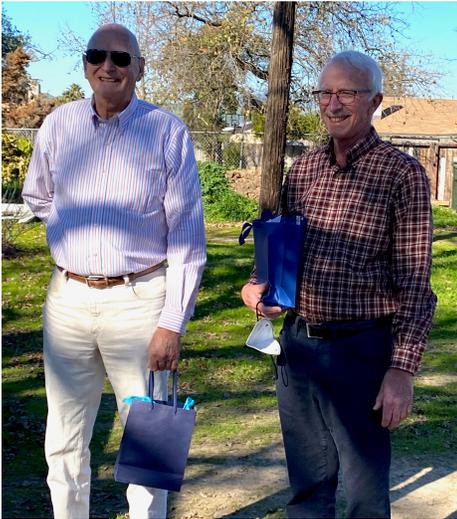




Heritage Award Recipients: Master Carpenters

by Barbara Soules



The annual LHG Heritage Award is given to a deserving person or group that has made a significant contribution to the Guild and community, usually over a long period of time. This year the award went to two exceedingly deserving fellows who only began volunteering at Hagemann Ranch five and seven years ago. In that short time Phil Dean and Don Bartel have together quietly transformed the majority of the outbuildings on the ranch from falling down, unusable structures to buildings that we use daily and are almost identical to the early 1900s originals. The positive impact of their work will be felt by the entire community for decades to come. To date they have completed eleven restorations and they aren't done yet. When asked why they worked so hard on these projects Phil replied, "Don and I, retired, looking for something to do. Something rewarding."

Phil and Don met at First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. One of the church's missions is an annual Neighbor to Neighbor Service Day. On the last Sunday of September all regular services are canceled and the congregation fans out across the city to serve where needed. Phil and his wife, Ann-Sofie, coordinated the day in 2015. After consulting with Jeff Kaskey, they brought a crew, led by Phil, to Hagemann to paint the Granary. Again,

led by Phil, the crew returned in 2016 to scrape and paint the garage. Don was off on a non-painting job on those days. He'll tell you; he doesn't paint.

About this time, Jeff, recognizing Phil's enthusiasm and skill, challenged him to tackle Chicken Coop #2 (CC#2). Phil was a bit skeptical, but after consulting with Don and another friend, Howard Mendenhall, they accepted the challenge. Thus began the series of nine individual construction projects, each suggested by Jeff but entirely and skillfully implemented by the Phil and Don team.

Now, who are these fellows? Retired guys, who love a challenge, enjoy hard work, and are very skilled with their hands. Phil Dean's career was working for computer companies. He began as a software programmer, as did his wife, Ann-Sofie. He retired as a program manager from Tandem Computer Co. in Cupertino, and they moved to San Luis Obispo for ten years. In 2010 they returned to Pleasanton to be near the grandkids. Phil's dad built his own house. I think his woodworking skills must be inherited.

Don Bartel is a mechanical engineer from Kansas City, Missouri. In 1997 he was transferred to LLNL for a two-year project which ended up lasting 23 years. He worked part time the last few years, which left time to volunteer at Hagemann. Don grew up in Missouri working on farm equipment in his dad's sales and repair shop. As an adult he bought 55 acres and was the prime contractor of his family home. Some additional construction experience included traveling to New Orleans after Katrina with Habitat for Humanity. A group of twelve made that annual trip seven times.

Back to the ranch projects. The original use of CC#2 is still a mystery. But it definitely was not a chicken coop. This was the building we encircled with caution tape during events because we

feared the slightest bump would cause it to crumble. Raised about two feet off the ground and resting on cement blocks with 2x4s at diagonals at each corner, it would require a new foundation before it could be lowered to ground level. Don and Howard planned to use car jacks that they positioned on each side to raise it up while installing the foundation. Some restoration of the siding and painting by the church crew in 2018 and the building looked like new. Its use was still questionable until the 4-H Club brought in a herd of five pygmy goats who needed a place to live. By fencing in the surrounding area and adding a new front door, the goats have a fine home.

They then moved on to the real Chicken Coop #1. It had served as a tack shed for years and all remnants of chickens were missing except for the small square openings along the side for retrieving eggs without disturbing the residents. Horses had chewed the siding in the back corner requiring new siding and it needed a new roof. Don and Phil created a chicken palace complete with private nesting boxes, a perch, and a ladder leading to the perch. The original roof was long shake shingles and, thanks to a donation from Atlantic Forest Products through Paul Johnson, they were able to replace it with comparable materials.

(Carpenters, continued on page 2)

Left: Phil and Don being presented with the Heritage Award, January 30, 2022. Photo by Dottie Eberly.

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Carpenters

(continued from page 1)

There were several intervening projects, but the biggest challenge came with the Wash House. The cement laundry sink had fallen through the side wall and the roof, rafters, and headers had such bad dry rot that they all had to be replaced. The floor was dirt. Determining what it originally looked like was problematic. Magically, with a new shake shingle roof over new rafters and new gravel floor, we can now open the front door properly and show guests Mrs. Hagemann's restored laundry room.

There are about six other projects I could describe, but space doesn't permit. They include the front porch, the pump house, the side fences along the front gate, and multiple replacement windows and doors which Doug Bering, a Pleasanton cabinet maker, helped create.

Phil and Don usually work alone in the mornings and surprise us with the results.

Their intent is always to restore structures as close to their original state as possible.

Approximately 90% of the lumber used was salvaged redwood from our collection. One hard and fast rule was "no Phillips screws!" Don and Phil's attention to detail, creativity, and carpentry skills shine forth in every wall, door, roof, and window they touch. We were proud to present them with the 2021 Heritage Award.

From Top: 1) View from the back of Chicken Coop #1 in progress with Phil. Photo by Don Bartel; 2) Chicken Coop #1, now with the chickens. Photo by Barbara Soules; 3) Wash House in November 2019 before any restoration. Note the large hole in the side where the cement sink fell through. Photo by Phil Dean; 4) Wash House now with new shake roof and restored windows. Photo by Barbara Soules; 5) The Granary in October 2015, just after it had been painted. Note that Chicken Coop #2 is up on blocks, still awaiting restoration. Photo by Barbara Soules; 6) Chicken Coop #2 now as the home to the Pygmy Goats: Ricky, Lucy, Fred, Ethel, and Peanut. Photo by Barbara Soules.



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President's Message: Youngest Ever?

by Will Bolton

In this space in previous issues of the LHG Newsletter, I've pointed out the accomplishments of some of the wonderful volunteers that make the Guild function. This time, I have a unique opportunity to introduce perhaps the youngest ever, no kiddin' for real LHG volunteer: 10 year old Bailey Pritchett, ably supported by her mother, Nikki Pritchett.

I first met Nikki and Bailey at the Midway School Project display table at a Hagemann Ranch open house in the fall of 2021. They visited the table and, after some background discussion of the school and the project to relocate it to Livermore, Bailey asked if she could get involved in some way. My first thought was the curriculum committee of the Midway group. Through Barbara Soules, Nikki and Bailey got in touch with Sylvia Chatagnier, who leads History/Curriculum Development for Midway. Their discussions led to the idea of researching games that kids would have played in the 1890s and early 1900s.

Around this point, Nikki told Bailey, "This is your project. I'm not going to do all the work. It's up to you to make it happen." And she did. With Nikki's great support and guidance, Bailey is getting it done. They checked out all the books they could find in the children's section of the Livermore Library. When they exhausted those resources, they went to the adult section and found more books. Bailey read all this material and began to identify appropriate games from the era of interest. The next step

was clear - bring the games to Hagemann open houses in conjunction with the Midway School display and involve visiting kids and their families in playing and learning about the games.

Some of the games Bailey identified have persisted into recent times (that is, prior to the development of the all-consuming computer and smartphone); for example, hopscotch, jump rope, jacks, and marbles. Other games haven't been as common in recent decades; for example, the game of graces. This game is played by two players, each with two wood dowels, and a ring, traditionally steam-bent wood wrapped with ribbon. A player places the ring on their dowels, crosses them in an "X" configuration, then rapidly pulls them apart, launching the ring into the air. The second player attempts to catch the ring with their dowels. The winner is the first person to successfully catch the ring ten times in a row.

At the March Hagemann open house, I asked Bailey what sparked her interest in history. It grew out of the 3rd grade history curriculum, when she read Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Little House in the Big Woods." When I asked how many of the books in the series she had read, she started counting them off on her fingers. By the time she was running out of fingers on her second hand listing the books in the order of the chronology of the stories (not necessarily the order in which they were written), I was getting pretty impressed. Her interest in history was solidified by several visits to the



Gold Rush era town of Columbia, California. Her interest in LHG was sparked by the HistoryMobile. Because of the pandemic, the HistoryMobile hasn't been visiting schools for the last couple of years. However, Bailey and her family went to the ice cream social held at Ravenswood last summer. The HistoryMobile was at the event - its first outing in over a year. Bailey toured the HistoryMobile and asked, "Can 9-year olds join the Heritage Guild?"

This brings us back to Hagemann open houses and Bailey and Nikki's interest in volunteering. They are regulars at the Hagemann open houses, usually in the back yard behind the Hagemann house with the kid's activities and frequently with Bailey in period costume. I encourage you to come to the open houses and find the Old Time Games table. Nikki and Bailey are a Dynamic Duo and are great at engaging visitors and getting them involved in the games. You'll meet some great people and have some fun.

Top: Bailey at the HistoryMobile talking with Jeff Kaskey, the visit that ignited Bailey's interest in LHG. Photo by Nikki Pritchett; **Far Left:** Bailey in the games area at a Hagemann Open House. Photo by Will Bolton; **Left:** Bailey demonstrating how to play hopscotch at a Hagemann Open House. Photo by Nikki Pritchett.



Killer Found at Hagemann Ranch: Smut Involved!

by Will Bolton



In his concurring opinion in a 1964 obscenity case before the Supreme Court, Justice Stewart Potter wrote that, while he couldn't define it, "I know it when I see it." Similarly, I thought I knew what smut was, but that notion was overturned by a visit to the Hagemann Ranch by a long-time friend, Randy.

Randy had been to Hagemann Ranch a few times, bringing donations to Barbara Soules for the eventual Hagemann House museum. During one of those visits, I gave an impromptu (and probably, incompetent) tour of the Ranch for Randy, a member of his family, and a mutual friend from work. When we reached the Agricultural Sculpture Garden – the accumulation of farm equipment next to the Ranch entrance – I pointed out a mostly conical, galvanized steel object mounted on a weathered wooden frame. I had been puzzled by the words stenciled on the side in black paint: "CYCLONE," ROTARY SPRAY, SMUT KILLER, Pat. Dec. 3rd, 1912. Randy, who has an agricultural background from a family farm in Kansas, was thoughtful for a moment, then said, "I used to hear about 'corn smut.'"

Based on Randy's clue, I did a quick search on the innertube and found that smut – in this context – refers to fungal diseases affecting commercially important grains, including corn, wheat, sorghum, and others. With that realization, a "smut killer" at Hagemann Ranch seemed much less menacing and more a subject of curiosity. What role did the Cyclone Rotary Spray Smut Killer have in combating grain smut? It appeared that

the machine was missing some parts. What parts were missing? How did this thing work? Based on Randy's clue, we had a spirited exchange of emails over the next few days looking for more information on smut killers.

Randy did a quick patent search but, without the patent number, he wasn't able to identify the Cyclone machine. We continued to search and found patent information about two other machines dating from the mid-1800s that showed grain passing along a circular path through the machines. This clue corresponded to the conical shape of the machine at Hagemann.

In a curious cosmic coincidence at this point in the search for smut information, Don Keech gave me a few copies of the Pacific Rural Press from the 1920s. While browsing through the November 27, 1920 issue, I found a Q&A column in which a farmer in Novato was asking a question about wheat smut. After the expected discussion of the fungal nature of the disease, the answer was, "All you have to do is to dip your seed wheat to protect it from its own smut." Evidently, the Cyclone machine somehow was involved in "dipping" seeds.

Yet more innertube searching turned up an 1926 article from Utah Agricultural College (now Utah State University) titled, "Control of Stinking Smut of Wheat With Copper Carbonate." This paper reviewed a number of liquid fungicide treatments for grain,

including copper sulfate and formaldehyde solutions (You would really like your wheat treated with formaldehyde, wouldn't you?). This would explain the term "dipping" used in conjunction with treating smut. However, the paper went on to describe the advantages of using a dry treatment with copper carbonate along with some illustrations of several machines that could be used for treating seeds. These illustrations finally showed how the machine at Hagemann Ranch could have been used to treat seeds.

Now, the only missing piece of the puzzle were the missing pieces of the machine. In all this searching, I found only one picture or drawing of a complete Cyclone Rotary Spray Smut Killer. This photo was from a January 2017 Chupp's Auction catalog. It shows the same wooden frame and the conical upper portion but also shows a second, lower conical structure with a central inverted cone and curved vanes. The mounting features of the missing lower cone are evident in the Hagemann Cyclone machine. It appears that the grain and fungicide powder are introduced into the top of the machine and the cones and vanes thoroughly mix the two, coating the seeds. The treated seeds would finally fall into a container or bag below the machine for storage and eventual planting.

A final note on the Hagemann Cyclone machine: Kathy Lee had noticed that the old, weathered antique Cyclone machine was sporting two bright white plastic wheels crudely attached with a couple of bolts. I accepted the challenge and made two weathered redwood wheels to replace the white plastic wheels. However, based on the Chupp's photo, it appears that the Cyclone machine had no wheels. I will leave it to visitors to the Hagemann Ranch to vote on whether to remove the wheels to return it more closely to its original appearance or keep the wood wheels...just because.



Above Left: The Hagemann Ranch machine. Photo by Will Bolton; **Left:** Complete Cyclone machine from a 2017 Chupp's Auction Catalog.

Hagemann Happenings

by Barbara Soules

Abundance! That is how I am describing all the positive things that have been happening at Hagemann recently. Blessings in the form of new relationships, money, donated objects, and successful events have flowed our way in abundance.

First the relationships. Our association with Trinity Church next door to Hagemann Park began years ago when we needed more parking space during Sunday open houses. Their parking lot was, and continues to be, the perfect solution. The staff at Trinity shared some recent changes. They are creating a more vibrant community with the church and school, the Livermore Valley Academy, (LVA), and are intent on becoming really good neighbors with Hagemann Ranch. They wish to share resources and expertise. The school administration, clergy, and church staff toured the ranch and met staff from Sunflower Hill (SFH) with the hope of having their assistance when they plant their new garden. 4-H beekeepers will be assisting with their bee colony. LVA is interested in the ranch from an educational and historical point of view. Last week their preschool through kindergarten classes culminated their farming unit with a field trip to Hagemann. Kids and animals are such a beautiful combination!

On the other end of the school continuum a high school transition class from Pleasanton toured with a similar

positive reaction to the animals. But they were also interested in the history. They already work at SFH and wanted to learn about the rest of the ranch.

At each open house folks sign up to volunteer. In an attempt to provide a specific time for them to come and work, we have begun scheduling a workday the weekend before events. At our first workday we tackled chores that required teamwork. We trimmed trees, chipped wood, and cleared the lane.

Financial blessings came in the form of a Rotarian Foundation grant for \$5,000 to fund the work of an historical architect on the Midway School project. Having Rotarian support will be very beneficial as this project progresses.

A local resident observing a situation at work and recognizing its historical significance resulted in the ranch receiving two pallets of yellow Carnegie bricks. Our donor works for EBMUD and saw the 14,000 bricks in a deconstruction site and called to ask if the Guild would like some free bricks. Enter Joe Bishop, Kathy Lee, Susan Junk, and Will Bolton who made two trips to Oakland to pick them up. The scouts will use them to line walkways as part of their Eagle projects.

This blessing involves giving. A Sunol gardener showed up at the Sunday event to inquire if we had any manure to share. Do we ever! When I showed him the

pile, he was thrilled and offered to take it all. He's interested in forming an ongoing relationship because our supply is never ending. By the way, if you need some for your spring garden, now is a good time to contact us and make arrangements to pick up a free bag.

The last two Hagemann events have been wonderful experiences. Vintage Crafts and Toys featured the very popular Tri-Valley Wood Carvers, a spinner, a quilter, and Greg Pane on keyboard. For the kids the games in the backyard were the highlight. They stayed for hours playing games that were not on a screen. March was Children's Day with over 600 visitors. Bees, horses, guinea pigs, goats, rabbits, chickens, and a huge cockroach were all the stars of this show along with the HistoryMobile. The April Sunday at Hagemann event is the Mad Hatter Tea Party. It's an event not to be missed.



Top: Even pumping water turns into a game at Hagemann Ranch; **Above:** Yellow Carnegie bricks stacked on pallets, ready for the walkways; **Left:** Two types of spinners at the Vintage Crafts and Toys event, with some beautiful quilts displayed behind them on the fence. All photos by Barbara Soules.

Duarte Garage: Tale of the Scale

by Will Bolton



A Watling Model 400 penny scale has been sitting in the hall to the women's restroom at the Duarte Garage for many decades. How it came to be at the Garage isn't clear, although Susan Junk believes it came from a drug store in Livermore. Until recently, we hadn't looked closely at the scale to determine if it was practical to get it working. The initial examination showed that the scale had been dropped or tipped over at some point, resulting in chipped enamel on the cast iron top. The largest of three glass panels on the top was broken and missing, two smaller screen-printed glass panels on the top were deteriorated, and some internal metal parts were obviously bent. Because the top of the scale had been open for many years, the interior mechanisms were covered in dust and debris. On the other hand, all the functional parts of the scale seemed to be in place, so restoring it to working order appeared practical.

The top of the scale contains the "fortune" mechanism. A person who wishes to know their weight and the answer to a question of their choosing steps on the scale, turns a knob to select their question from a list visible in a large window in the top, then inserts a penny. The coin will trigger the mechanism to reveal the person's weight and the answer to their question. Fortunately, we found a small company run by Bill Berning in Genoa, Illinois that is a great source of information and parts for Watling scales. We acquired replacements for the three broken or badly deteriorated screen-printed glass panels on the top of the scale, a replacement for the broken "Your Answer Here" plate that obscures the answer to selected questions until the

coin is inserted, and a new roll of 200 questions and answers printed on a strip of linen. Locally, we found replacements for lock cylinders – for which we had no keys – that secure the front and back of the scale.

On either side of the "fortune telling" window in the top, there are two smaller windows with charts of heights and corresponding weights for men and women. The scale was made in 1949, so the charts provide a revealing comparison of size and weight of people between then and now. For men, the range of height and weight expectations were from 5'-0"/120 lbs at the low end to 6'-1"/181 lbs at the high end. For women, the range was from 4'-10"/108 lbs to 5'-10"/154 lbs. I know there are some comments I could make at this point, but discretion tells me to restrain myself.

To have the Watling working so that visitors to the Garage could use the scale, we needed some way to remove coins from the coin box inside the scale. We didn't have a key, but Bill Berning told us that he could provide a key if we gave him the number stamped on the back of the lock mechanism, which was inside the coin box - for which we had no key. To resolve this conundrum, we formed the Watling Penny Scale Voyage of Discovery. Jon Reekie brought in his lighted endoscope and laptop to peer into the coin box through the chute that delivers the coins into the box. He found that there were so many coins in the box that it wasn't possible to see the stamped number. Jay Morris brought his "claw machine," a flexible grabber that could fit in the chute (now known as the "Cave of Coins"), to remove coins.

Jon Reekie continued the coin cave mining until the ability of the claw machine to remove coins diminished, with the number stamped on the back of the lock still not visible. At that point, we reconsidered our approach and switched to disassembling the scale to remove the coin box. This decision was somewhat analogous to transitioning from tunneling to mine coal to removing the whole mountain top to get at the coal. With the coin box removed from

the scale, we simply turned it over and dumped out the coins. With that done, Jon could use his endoscope to take a photo of the number stamped on the back of the lock, allowing us to order a key.

While spelunking in the Cave of Coins and the bottom of the case, we found many odd items: broken glass from the top window on the scale, several straight pins, a wrapper from a Maskey's Mint, a Bazooka bubble gum wrapper and several Bazooka Joe comics, a cigar butt, and a key. That last discovery led to a few minutes of excitement until we realized that the key was to a Master lock, not the Watling coin box. In addition to pennies, there were quite a few nickels and dimes. Evidently, there was something about the concept of a penny scale that didn't resonate with all users. Fred Deadrick did an analysis of the coins in the scale, which showed a dramatic drop in the number of coins deposited after 1971. By correlating that

(Scale, continued on page 8)



Top Left: Top of the Watling scale before work started; **Far Above:** Jay Morris (L) and Don Keech (R) mining the Cave of Coins using the claw machine; **Above:** Jon Reekie using his endoscope and laptop to explore the Cave of Coins. Photos by Will Bolton.

Collections Corner: Turlock Trip Report

by Jeff Kaskey

When I heard the donation included a three-piece suit and hat, I had a certain image in my head as to what I would be retrieving. I have a fondness for keeping my otherwise naked pate sheltered, so I was at least curious as to what the hat might be, or perhaps if it might fit, but although not disappointed, I moved on through the list to see what other charms might be included. Shawls, a mink coat, and a coffee set by Gussie seemed sure to please many of our members. So I struck out for Turlock to meet with Phyllis.

Phyllis Minoggio Frasier is the daughter of Denise Beck Minoggio and Felino G. Minoggio, nicknamed Phil to distinguish him from his father Felino G. Minoggio. Denise's parents are Zylpha Bernal Beck and George W. Beck. The photo captions give away the ending, but I do want to emphasize that her lineage touches many of the important families of Livermore. Beck is indeed of Beck's Drugs and of course Bernal is descendent from the original owners of tracts in the Rancho el Valle de San Jose.

Grandmother Zylpha is one of five children of Dennis and Josephine Bernal, and Josephine is the daughter of Hiram Bailey and Casimira Bailey. Casimira in turn is the daughter of Josefa Higuera and Fuentes Molina. After Fuentes passed away, Josefa married Robert Livermore and he adopted Casimira, after which Josefa and Robert had another eight children.

Therefore I was driving to Turlock to pick up a donation from the Great Great Granddaughter of Robert Livermore. I should note that the family frowns on any qualification of that status owing to the adoption, and certainly for our purposes of establishing an artifact's provenance and collecting family stories, it is of no consequence. This lineage and many other branches are noted in Janet Newton's *Las Positas*, but not noted is that Phyllis's paternal grandfather Felino was ranch manager at Cresta Blanca winery. To round out the family connections, Phyllis's first husband was Robert Charles Crohare, brother to the man many of us think of as Charles Crohare, Sr., but there are enough

Charleses in that family that I am not sure Sr. is a useful designation.

Phyllis was cheery and delightful and had already laid out all the pieces she was donating for me to examine. Among the shawls, one belonged to Casimira (Livermore) Bailey and is shown in Newton's *Las Positas* as being worn by Casimira's daughter Josephine. Another is shown in Newton's book as being worn by Zylpha and may have belonged to her mother, Josephine. Having photo evidence of the pieces being worn is darn good provenance. Further, there is a mink coat which Phyllis believed belonged to her mother (Denise) but during later examination I found an interior monogram of ZBB, so it obviously goes one more generation back, putting it probably between 1910 and 1930.

Moving closer to today, the donation includes the 1938 wedding dress (and maid of honor dress) from Denise Ruth Beck's wedding to Felino Minoggio (Phil). And for those wishing provenance, we have two wedding photos featuring the dresses.

Gussie's coffee set (inscribed as a wedding gift to Phyllis and Robert Crohare) joins many other interesting pieces, including many samples of tating, bottles from Beck's Drugs and Bernal's wine, and a couple of other pieces of handwork.

I am burying the lede here, because after going through the table covered with shawls and porcelain and more, we went down the hall to where the three piece suit was hanging. I stood in front of Robert Livermore's three-piece suit and was completely surprised at what I saw. Because indeed Robert did not spend his time here as a staid wool-suited English gent, rather he was a dapper, maybe even flashy, Californio. An Englishman whose wife, neighbors, and peers were from Spain and Mexico, being that this was still Mexico, and his fine suit naturally reflected that. The pictures show some of the nice detailing, all of course hand done, and the main material appears to be a suede. There is both wear and tear on the pieces, though they are



still in excellent shape. The wear lets us imagine that this could have been the sole piece of dress apparel for a settler who spent his days working the ranch in sturdy cotton and rough leather. Elbows and collar are worn, the crotch is patched, signs of wear and repairs done on a uniquely important piece of finery. There are also some condition issues that may come from later times, a few moth nibbles and some slight tearing.

(Turlock, continued on page 8)

Above: The jacket and pants of Robert Livermore's three-piece suit, showing detailed embroidery in both pieces. Photos by Jeff Kaskey.

Scale

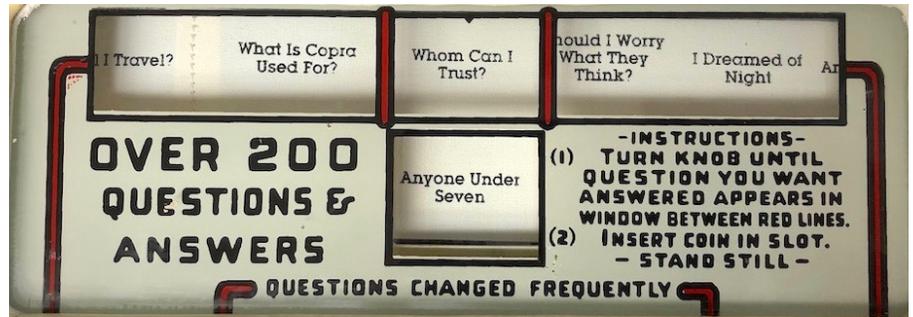
(continued from page 6)

date with the dates of drug store closings in Livermore, we might have some indication of where the scale was used.

The Watling scale is back on duty in the bathroom hall. The next time you are in the Duarte Garage, take a look at it, compare your weight to the ideal weight in 1949, and – perhaps - get an answer to that nagging question that has been bugging you.

We would appreciate any information about the provenance of the Watling scale and how it came to be at the Duarte Garage.

Top Right: Question posed to the Watling Scale; **Bottom Right:** Question answered by the Watling Scale. Photos by Will Bolton.



Turlock

(continued from page 7)

Oh, and the hat! It is a sturdy weave like a straw hat, but feels twice the weight and thickness of a typical straw/Panama hat of today. The embroidery above the hatband is prominent on the outside but not visible inside which speaks of a fairly thick structure. The hat band announces itself with gusto and concedes nothing to either the

embroidery above or the suit detailing below.

These are brand new additions to the collection, so they will take some conservation evaluation before they can be exhibited, but I fully hope that before too long we will be able to put many of these pieces, especially Robert Livermore’s suit, on display for you at the History Center.

Left: Robert Livermore’s hat. Photo by Jeff Kaskey.

Heritage Garden

by Loretta Kaskey

Visitors and volunteers to Hagemann Ranch can get excited about many things. Some can’t believe this 5-acre site exists nestled in suburbia. Others marvel at the “frozen in time” turn of the century (1900s) feeling they get when walking down “the lane.” We definitely have volunteers who like to repair a horse-damaged fence line, mow the grass, move manure, or cultivate and care for a garden. Our Granada Green Team and Gardening Club volunteers presented me with a new reason this fall.

Multiple members genuinely were excited about a mushroom. The fungus was observed in the paddock west of the “H” barn growing in the stump of a cut down eucalyptus. It was showy (yellow-orange) and easy to spot, not like some mushrooms hidden in the landscape.

The google identifier did indeed support its common name as “Chicken of the Wood” and reported back that it is edible. Any guesses as to what it tastes like?

Additional searches on how to prepare “Chicken of the Wood” include: grilling after basting in an olive oil and teriyaki sauce; sautéed with butter, sliced shallots and garlic; baked Blackened, Buffaloed, or with BBQ; and of course, chicken fried Chicken of the Wood.



Above: This fungus, from the Laetiporus genus, has multiple common names including sulfur shelf, chicken of the woods, the chicken mushroom, or the chicken fungus. Also known as a species of bracket fungus, the mushroom grows in fan-shaped shelves and does not have gills but rather pore tubes on the underneath side. It is more edible when young, typically only the outer edges are collected, and is said to have a slightly grainy meaty texture. Photo by Loretta Kaskey.

Musings and Memories

by Anna Siig

Many hours a day, many days a week and weeks into months, I have been reading a large novel/history book. It dates, so far, from 1899 to 1980. It touches on one family, friends, and business associates. Travels to Peru, Chile, Denmark and about 29 other countries are mentioned.

I wish I could say that this marvelous read is about Livermore history. It is, however, the family of my father's aunt, uncle, and their four children who lived in Connecticut and in Spokane, Washington. Included in this "archive" are letters, a few canceled checks, news clippings, college grades, and more. "Hearing" their voices is making history of the family, the Depression, and WWII years come to life. Yes, I am learning things that were not in the history books I read in school.

If you have family letters or any historical papers, please think of sharing them. My hope for this family archive is finding a museum or archive that will want to have the collection for the study of fashion (Oh! Those shocking new bathing suits!) or greeting cards, cars, gossip - it is all there. These kinds of writings help make history come alive. It is written as it is lived by this one family and many friends. It would be so great to have a collection similar to this one, of any size, to be shared about Livermore history. Do you have some? Please let the Guild know and we will see about making copies or accessioning!

Brian McFann started a site for recording memories of former students of 5th Street School. If you can help get the website up and running again, more in person memories of those many years can be recorded. Please call me at 925-518-1755 if you are interested.

If you are a retired school teacher, please contribute the class photos you no longer wish to keep. The Heritage Guild can either add them to the archives or, as a fundraiser, sell the extras to former students or their families. In all of the collections, there is also a wealth of photos or stories for genealogists. Enjoy reading your own family history or that of others... truly a treasure.

Free, Family-Friendly Activities

Sundays at Hagemann Ranch

Vintage Wheels & Engines

May 29, 2022, 2-5 pm

455 Olivina Ave., Livermore

Vintage Cars

LHG Fire Engines

Heather Lynn, Vocals

Antique Dealers

Rocket Launching



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



June 26—Rancho Days

August 28—Schooldays of Old

September 25—Harvest Festival

October 30—Halloween

November 27—Holiday Celebration



Auction Canceled

At the April 13th Board Meeting, the Board decided to cancel the auction.

Volunteer at the Alameda County Fair!

Be a volunteer at the Alameda County Fair any time, any day, Wednesdays – Sundays, and earn money for the Heritage Guild!

LHG is pleased to be one of the nonprofits partnering with the Alameda County Fair volunteer program. The Fair uses volunteers to monitor areas such as Small Animals, Amateur Gardens, Fine Arts, Education, and Hobby Buildings, or to work at the concerts or the race track. If you enjoy interacting with people and being a part of the energy and excitement of the fair, this is the place for you. Most volunteers come back year after year and count this among their highlights of the summer.

Volunteers are not paid directly for their time but instead earn \$7 per hour for the Heritage Guild. All volunteers will be trained and will receive free admission to the Fair and parking for shift working days. Because most shifts are only four hours, volunteers can attend the Fair as a guest before or after their shift. As a bonus, volunteers receive two more admission tickets to the Fair to go back and enjoy the Fair on another day as a guest.

Scheduling is done online. Each person will create a profile and pick the dates/times and areas of interest to them. The Fair's staff tries to honor requests of friends to work together for a shift with

most scheduling done on a “first come, first served” basis.

Online sign-ups are anticipated to become available no later than mid-May and can fill up quickly. If you are interested in this great opportunity to have fun and earn money for LHG at the same time, send your name, email address, and phone number (just in case) to: newsletter@livermorehistory.com.

As soon as more information is available, we'll email you directly to get you on the Road to Summer!

Scan for more information!



LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Wednesday, May 11	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, May 15	10am — 2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Saturday, May 21	9am - 12pm	Workday at Hagemann	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, May 29	2pm- 5pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Vintage Wheels and Engines	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, June 8	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, June 18	9am - 12pm	Workday at Hagemann	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, June 19	10am — 2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, June 26	2pm - 5pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Rancho Day	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, July 13	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, July 17	10am - 2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Wednesday, July 27	7pm	Then and Now History Talk: Livermore Railroad	Livermore Library

Cornelia Farm on the Pleasanton Road

by Richard Finn

In August 2014 the Livermore Heritage Guild received an email from Ingmar Nissen, in Sweden, asking for information about the Livermore farm *Cornelia* that his great grandfather Victor Bergenheim leased 1889-1892 with his brother Gottfrid. Since that time I have on occasion been in contact with Ingmar. The Bergenheims grew fruits and grapes on the farm, which they sold to wholesalers in Oakland and San Francisco, until the big freeze in 1892 when they lost their entire crop. At that time they bought a farm in the mountains on Porter Creek near Calistoga. So, the Bergenheims were only in the Livermore area for about three years. Knowing that, I did not expect to find very much information on them but it turns out we did. For more information on the Bergenheim and related families such as vonScheele, Lybecker, and Goes please see my article in the August 2018 issue of the LHG Newsletter. While those families were not in the Livermore/Pleasanton area very long, we did find records of a marriage and several children born and baptized in Livermore.

Even after searching intermittently for over five years I still do not know exactly where the *Cornelia* Farm was. We do know it was on the Pleasanton-Livermore Road (now Stanley Blvd). Our best guess is that it was about where Shadow Cliffs Park is now since we know it was on the east side of the Arroyo. It might have even been where the CEMEX plant is.

While we do not know exactly where *Cornelia* Farm was, we do know who owned it during the Bergenheim period. The owner was a fellow by the name of John Hoffman Wheeler. He lived in Pleasanton in 1886 and in Livermore at some point. John's father, Charles, started Wheeler Farms in Saint Helena (vineyards and winery) in 1871. The winery business still exists under the Wheeler Farms name but is now run by the Araujo family, bottling wine under the J. H. Wheeler brand. When Charles died in



1904, he was said to be the oldest winemaker in Napa County.

John was a very ambitious man involved in a number of enterprises. He owned a carbon disulphide works in Berkeley (1882) and in about 1885 he bought the property in the Tri-Valley which he named after his first born daughter Cornelia. Some sources indicate the property was in Livermore but most seem to place it near Pleasanton. In 1886 he was listed as a vineyardist in Pleasanton, in 1889 he took over the operation of the Wheeler Winery after the death of older brother Rollo, and in 1894 he added 100 acres to Wheeler Farms. In 1900 he was listed as a chemist (before this Charles must have taken over running the winery again), and sometime before the 1906 earthquake, John was the owner of a tartar cream works in San Francisco which he lost because of the quake. Before 1910 he was back at Wheeler Farms (perhaps 1904 when his father died?) as owner/manager. In 1919, because of Prohibition, 100 acres of vineyards were pulled out and diverse fruit orchards were planted. Before 1940, much of the property was replanted in walnuts and not planted in grapes

again until about 1960 – long after the death of John Hoffman Wheeler.

John held several positions with the California State Board of Viticulture, including serving as the first Secretary, and he was an original member of the Napa County Viticultural Protective Association. He was progressive in a number of ways, including having a diverse workforce of Japanese and German POWs during WWII.

John Huffman Wheeler was born 22 February 1857 in Oswego, Oswego Co., New York and died 14 June 1939 in Saint Helena, Napa Co., California and was buried at the Saint Helena Cemetery at age 82.

After all our research the question still remains where exactly was the *Cornelia* Farm? Our hope is that a reader will recognize the house shown in the photograph above, which was recently sent to us by Bergenheim descendant Ingmar Nissen.

Above: The photo, taken in February/March 1891, shows members of the Bergenheim, vonScheele, and Lagerwall families. All the people in the photo have been identified. Photo courtesy of Ingmar Nissen.

Welcome New and Renewing Members! January - March 2022

Life	Sponsor	Family
Sharon Hoffman	Sandy Clark	Jeanne Brown Family
Individual	Muriel Dean	Peggy & Jim Kervin
Molly Alexander	Phil Dean	David and Alice Quinn
Sandra Amaral	Senior	Family
Sylvia Chatagnier	Catherine Amaral	Doris Ryon and Family
Susan King	Margaret Fazio	Carol Sampson and
Rick Knowles	Valerie Huff	Family
Justin Probert - NEW	Richard Hurtz - NEW	
Joseph Viera	Barbara Savoy	
	Kathleen Young	

In Appreciation

Donations	In Memory Of
Ingrid Wood	Phyllis Fachner by Richard Finn
Doris Ryon	
For Will Bolton from National Society Daughters of the American Revolution	

Help Wanted
History Center Docent

Four hours one Friday per month
11:30 am – 3:30 pm
OR
Four hours one Sunday per month
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Docents must be provided for all open hours at the History Center.
PLEASE help LHG meet this obligation.
Training is provided.
For more information email your name and phone number to:
Susan at
newsletter@livermorehistory.com

Help Wanted
Button Table Minder

Do you enjoy creative kiddos?
See the creative process in action as simple buttons become wearable art!
Help wanted
at the Button Table during Hagemann Ranch Open Houses
last Sunday of each month
(except July and December)
2:00pm – 5:00pm
Fun job -- fast paced and guaranteed to make an afternoon fly by!
Apprenticeships available
Contact Dottie at
newsletter@livermorehistory.com for more information

If you have not heard about our various events, then maybe we don't have your email. Please update us at lhg@lhg.org and we'll let you know about all the heritage happenings!

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

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

Annual membership dues are:
Individual \$25.00, Family \$35.00, Senior (age 62+) \$15.00, Student \$15.00, Sponsor \$75.00 and Patron \$150.00. Life (Individual) \$500.00 and Business \$300.00 memberships are also available. Please make checks payable to "LHG." Mail to P.O. Box 961, Livermore, CA 94551.