

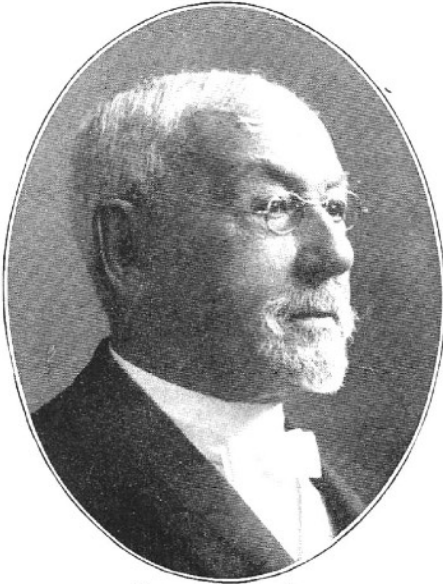


November 2024

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## Feeding the Horses

by Phil Bardsley



Abraham Anspacher, pictured above, made it his business to feed horses, but his legacy in Livermore is much larger.

The story of the Anspacher Brothers' business in Livermore parallels the meteoric rise in grain and hay production in the Livermore-Amador Valley during the 1870s. The burgeoning population of the Bay Area depended on horses to carry them, pull their wagons, and even move their trolleys up and down the steep hills. This created a market for hay and grain to feed all those hungry animals. Starting in the late 1860s, Livermore farmers turned from ranching to grain and hay farming to meet this demand. But they struggled to move their harvests out of the valley by wagon. With the new railroad opening in 1869, they were able to ship grain and hay more easily to San Francisco. Abraham Anspacher saw an opportunity to broker grain and hay sales and built a large business with his sons by the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks in Livermore.

Top Left: Abraham Anspacher. From Martin A. Meyer, *Western Jewry: An Account of the Achievements of the Jews and Judaism in California*, including Eulogies and Biographies; "The Jews in California" (San Francisco: Emanu-El, 1916)

Abraham Anspacher had been finding business opportunities his entire life. He was born around 1819 in Bavaria and came to the U.S. in 1827, settling in Evansville, IN. Over time he became a successful merchant dealing in dry goods. He married Barquette Rothchilds, also a German immigrant, in 1843 in Hamilton, OH. They had six children, Hannah, Philip, Simon, Adeline, Emma, and Joseph, and they resided for a time in Jefferson, KY. The family moved to San Francisco in 1868 where they became active in the local Jewish community. They lived on Van Ness Avenue, and later on Broadway. But, instead of opening a business in San Francisco, Abraham looked to Livermore.

Although he never lived in Livermore, Abraham visited and decided to invest in the fledgling town. He bought a plot and opened a store in January 1873 on the NW corner of L and First Streets. His sons Simon and Philip ran the operation. They added Garrison Gerst, one of their brothers-in-law, to the partnership in 1875.

### General Store

Anspacher Bros. had a spacious one and one half storey general store with two entrances on L Street. They sold groceries as well as dry goods, farming equipment, and hardware. On the grocery side of the store they sold dried fruit, including apricots, pears, and prunes, in addition to other grocery items. But groceries were a small part of their business. Ads in the early newspapers were for cloth, patterns, hats and parasols, and finished clothing. Abraham's granddaughter Alice remembered, "One section of the dry goods part was particularly intriguing to me. Along the cosmetic counter they had beautiful colored soaps, there in a box, and the cakes were quite fat....There was also a counter where there was a lot of letter paper....it was blue and it was pink and it was rather heavy and double,

creased in the middle, so that there were four sides on which to write."

The store manager apparently had a very good sense of humor, as shown in this *Livermore Herald* article from October 22, 1904:

**ATTRACTIVE SHOW WINDOWS** - Window dressing has become a fine art and we are always pleased to note any unusual local efforts in this line as it shows that our business houses are up-to-date and enterprising. One of the most striking and original displays in this line that we have noted is a show window at Anspacher Bros. this week. The window has been completely covered with whiting except a small circular space above which appears the legend 'For Men Only.' It is fun to watch the passersby. The men approach boldly but with the evident expectation of finding something naughty. The ladies are timid and pass several times before their feminine curiosity overcomes their scruples and they take a furtive peek. Both are disappointed, but their disappointment is tempered by a very neat and complete display of men's furnishing goods.

Anspacher Bros. were also insurance agents. A newspaper ad in the *Livermore Herald* from the late 1800s shows they were, "agents for a number of the best

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# Looking Back and Pressing Forward

by Loretta Kaskey

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."  
-- Marcel Proust

The summer crops are being pulled to make way for the winter garden. Looking back at the bountifulness of the summer tomatoes and peppers we were able to harvest, I am grateful for Lauren Robbers and Soraya Rawlings who helped make it all possible. I enjoyed our time in the garden this past season and can't wait to continue with them into the next.

Even Supervisor Scary Cat seems impressed with this harvest of peppers seen in the photo below. The basket is full to the brim with the lighter lime-

yellow colored Corno di Toro pepper, also known as the Bull's Horn or Cowhorn pepper, and the darker green Mexican poblano pepper. Both are popular heirlooms. The Italian variety is considered sweet, while the Mexican variety can be mild to spicy. Both are versatile in cooking. They can be used in stews, roasted, fried, or stuffed. The poblano is the pepper used in Chile Relleno. The peppers in the plastic baggie are the Japanese Shishito. They are usually picked green and are also considered a mild pepper, but heat and dryness are factors that cause stress on the plant and can then produce heat in the peppers. They also age from green to red. The red ones are typically more spicy than the green. They have thin,

slightly wrinkled skins and long woody stems. A popular and easy method of preparing them is to "blister" them in a hot pan with oil and salt.

This basket of tomatoes in the middle photo is showcasing Juliet cherry tomatoes (far top left), the elongated San Marzano, Cherokee Purple (top), ribbed Costoluto Genovese, the Brandywine Pinks, and Ace.

We did get some melons and Soraya's favorite "Sandia" or watermelon. Here are a couple hanging with some tomatoes and peppers in the photo below.

All photos in this section by Loretta Kaskey.



## Newly Revised Historic Downtown Livermore Walking Tour Brochure Now Available at the History Center!

Expanded and completely revised with better photos, corrected history, and a new map! The self-guided tour booklet is available at the History Center for just \$5.00.

The 1-mile walking tour route starts at the Livermore Railroad Depot.

Convenient free parking is available at the  
Valley Center Parking Garage, 2350 Railroad Avenue.

Since the city of Livermore's beginnings in 1869, the economic center has been an area bounded by L Street on the west, Railroad Avenue on the north, east to McLeod, and Fourth Street to the south. This area was initially occupied by agricultural oriented commerce such as a flour mill, hay and grain warehouses, small stores, and hotels. The self-guided walking tour booklet covers most of this area, providing information about former businesses, shop owners, the history of the buildings, and stories of early Livermore residents.

LHG Self-Publish (3rd Edition) PM-70-0101 - \$5.00



# President's Message: State of the Guild

by Will Bolton

Because of the crowded schedule at the end of the 2024 Fiscal Year, this year's Annual General Meeting has been delayed into early November 2024. As a result, depending on whether or not you attend the AGM in person and on the printing schedule of the newsletter, this may be a preview or a review of the State of the Guild presentation. In either case, this will be a snapshot of some of the activities at the end of the year and how things are going around the Guild.

One of the residual effects of the COVID era has been moving many functions online and into virtual space. For the Guild, that has meant that most Executive Board meetings are held over Zoom (although activities where in-person interaction is important are still held face-to-face) and some functions that were previously conducted in person at the Annual General Meeting are now handled remotely. In particular, review and approval of the Guild Bylaws and election of officers by the General Membership are now handled by mail-in voting, with the results announced at the in-person AGM. For 2024, the reviewed and slightly revised Bylaws were approved and the two open elected officer positions were filled by the incumbents: Donna Stevens as Second Vice-President and Will Bolton as President. One benefit of the mail-in vote process is that a larger percent of the Guild membership is able to participate in the vote than were able to attend the AGM in person to cast their votes.

Broadly speaking, the activities of the Guild fall into three categories: facilities operations, projects, and special activities. Currently the Guild operates four facilities: the History Center at the Carnegie Building, the Hagemann Ranch, the Duarte Garage, and the HistoryMobile – with the Midway School a future facility but currently a major project.

The History Center is open for visitors several days a week, with the current schedule posted on the LHG website (<https://www.lhg.org>). Visitors can view displays related to Livermore history

(with new displays installed frequently), talk to a docent for requests for information or research assistance, purchase history-related books, and enjoy the Livermore Art Association gallery, which shares the Carnegie Building space with the Guild. Routine operations at the History Center include hosting visitors, maintaining the archives, reviewing and accessioning new donations to the Guild collection, and responding to research requests from the public and the City of Livermore.

Hagemann Ranch continues to have monthly open houses with a mix of themed events and self-guided tours. The themed events involve a significant number of volunteers in hosting visitors to the site, typically with music, vendors, guided tours of the Ranch, sometimes hay rides, and special activities for kids. The self-guided tours are lower-key events with fewer volunteers and an opportunity for a relaxed exploration of the Ranch with docents available to answer questions and provide small-group tours. The Guild maintains the Heritage Garden behind the Hagemann house, emphasizing heirloom vegetables. The orchard that was planted last year is becoming well-established, with a few trees beginning to bear fruit. The Guild supports our partner organizations at the Ranch: 4-H, with a focus on the animals at the Ranch and Sunflower Hill, with a focus on the vegetable and flower gardens. 4-H and Sunflower Hill usually participate in open houses, enriching the visitors' experience.

Monthly open houses at the Duarte Garage and Lincoln Highway Museum continue to have a different Featured Car each month. Volunteers at the Garage act as docents for the open houses and, between open houses, continuously work on maintaining the vehicles in residence and developing new displays. The Henry's A's car club meets monthly at the Garage and other groups often come to the Garage for a tour. A big development at the Garage this year was the donation of a 1926 Star Model M roadster to join the 1925 Star Model F Touring Car. The 1926 Star had been converted into a small pickup truck

sometime in its past. For the moment, our plan is to leave the almost 100-year old patina of the '26 intact but get it running as a parade car. In September, we got the '26 engine running for the first time in at least 50 years.

The HistoryMobile continues to take Livermore history to people at schools and events at the Hagemann Ranch and the Ravenswood historical site. This year, the HistoryMobile visited all the elementary schools in Livermore and shared California history with over 1,000 kids during school visits. The HistoryMobile received some much needed maintenance and repair this year, so it's ready for another busy year in 2025.

In the category of projects, the Guild currently has two major projects underway. The one with the longest history is moving the Midway School to Livermore and refurbishing it as a turn-of-the-century one-room schoolhouse. Garavaglia Architecture is under contract and is preparing a package of drawings and documents for submission to the City of Livermore for project approval. In a key meeting with the City this year, the City told the Guild that it appears the project could be approved and to proceed with preparation and submission of permit applications.

The second major project is structural improvement to the Hagemann house, with the eventual aim of outfitting it as a museum, representing a late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> Century ranch house. AVELAR & Associates is under contract to prepare a drawing and information package, similar to that for Midway, for submission to the City. This project will primarily consist of raising the Hagemann house, constructing a foundation under it, and lowering the house onto the foundation. This is a major structural improvement because the Hagemann house was built without a foundation.

In addition to the major projects, the Guild supports "Affiliated Projects," which means limited volunteer support

(President, continued on page 9)

# Duarte Garage: Earth, Wind, and ... Water

by Will Bolton



Behind the Hagemann house is an old windmill that is special in that it is mostly intact and still sits over the well from which it pumped water for decades. Someone, a long time ago – possibly a squirrel with an acorn in its mouth – planted an oak tree way too close to the windmill. Unfortunately, as the oak grew, and after the windmill was no longer used to pump water for the Ranch, there was no incentive to remove or trim the tree to avoid damage to the windmill. Several years ago, Barbara Soules asked me if the crew at the Duarte Garage would be interested in repairing the windmill. Don Keech and I went to the Ranch on an inspection tour and determined that most of the windmill is still there, but the fan and tail feather are badly bent. A number of complicating factors have delayed repair of the windmill but, in preparation, we started collecting windmill parts. Don Keech rounded up a couple of windmill heads, Owen Parker donated some key pump parts, and we mounted an expedition to move to Hagemann Ranch a windmill that had been stored under the horse feeding shed attached to the side of Midway School.

The Hagemann windmill is part of a long history of using wind power to move

water that stretches back at least 2,000 years starting in the Middle East, then spreading east into India and China and later, west into Europe. Wind power in the form of windmills came to North America with European settlers. The use of a fan or sail on a horizontal shaft to capture the power of the wind was developed early but significant improvements in the efficiency of windmills occurred in the 1880s with extensive and carefully controlled experiments, resulting in an almost doubling of the efficiency of previous windmills. At their peak in the 1930s, there were about 600,000 water-pumping windmills in use in the U.S. The windmill and tower designs that evolved during this period are still being manufactured today.

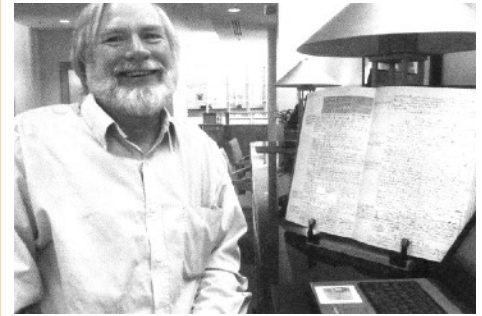
“The Aermotor Co. Chicago” is painted on the Hagemann windmill tail feather in large red letters. I’ve climbed the tower a few times to take photos of the damage, but we haven’t been able to inspect the windmill head closely enough to determine its exact model. However, it appears to be a Model 702,

(Earth, continued on page 9)

**Above:** Tree and wind damage to the Hagemann windmill; photo by Will Bolton.

## City Records

By Harry Briley



*Life seemed a lot simpler in horse & buggy days when the dollar had a better stretch. According to handwritten minutes preserved and stored in the City Clerk's vault, the following financial matters were duly recorded in August 1877 at a Livermore town meeting: A motion was approved to pay the Clerk's monthly salary in the amount of \$7.90 and the Town Treasurer reported a balance of \$160.06 in the treasury (after all bills were paid).*

More enlightening records of public meetings just like this are on the City website due to **Don Meeker** (former City Historian, 27-year Livermore resident, and retiree from Sandia National Laboratory).

Starting in 2002, Don set up a computer in the second-floor lobby of City Hall and volunteered volumes of time transcribing original leather-bound journals filled with historical handwritten records too fragile to electronically image. He started with the Town of Livermore's first Board of Trustees meeting held May 15, 1876. Still at it six years later in 2008, he worked on Minutes from 1918.

Click the link of the LHG Documents web page (<https://lhg.org/Documents/index.html>) and then select City Council Records, which include agenda packets, ordinances, resolutions or summary agendas all the way back to 1876.

Photo, updated text, and current web link from **Livermore Newsletter** article, Issue 28, Summer/Fall 2008



# Coast Manufacturing in Livermore

by Harry Briley

This article explains the historical exhibit currently in the History Center (Carnegie Building) in recognition of 100 years of the Coast Manufacturing and Supply Company in Livermore. The company was locally called “The Fuse Works”. The exhibit will run through the end of December.

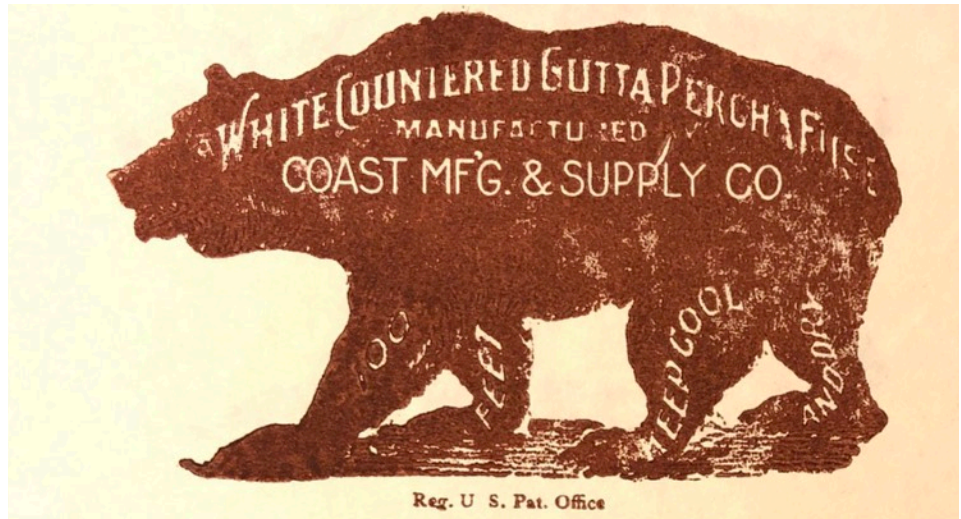
## Safety Fuse Cord

Prior to the invention of the safety fuse cord, black powder wicks to dynamite for hard rock mining or railroad tunnels were extremely variable in speed and thus dangerous. These less reliable fuses were made of straws or quills filled with black powder.

The invention and patented safety fuse in 1831 by William Bickford of Cornwall, England, was a major improvement that greatly reduced accidental explosions. According to the blog of Hal Post, a mining historian, “Bickford, with the help of his son-in-law George Smith and a working miner named Thomas Davey, invented a machine which would thread and weave two layers of jute yarn (a shiny vegetable fiber), spun in opposite directions, over a small tube of gunpowder, the whole of which would then be varnished with black tar to waterproof the [cord]”<sup>1</sup>. The heavy brass internal piece of this invention is featured in the lower right base of the exhibit’s display cabinet.

The safety fuse burned at a known rate of 30 seconds per foot. Such precise timing allowed simultaneous blasts of several drilled shot holes to customize the shape of a rock face for a mine shaft or a train tunnel. “Spittercord” (cord that could not be blown out) carried the flame from cord to cord until all the linked fuse cords set off the charges at the same instant.

In the book “Nothing Like It In The World”, Stephen Ambrose said that more black powder was used in the Sierra Mountains for the Transcontinental Railroad tunnels in 1865-1867 than was used in the entirety of the Civil War by both armies combined. Several safety fuse companies provided all that fuse cordage for the tunnel blasting<sup>2</sup>.



## Company Growth

The firm of Bickford, Smith, and Davey expanded to the U.S. in 1836 with the firm Bickford, Bacon, Eales & Company, located in Simsbury, CT. Joseph Toy, a bookkeeper, was sent to represent the interests of the English firm, and after continued problems, was advised to dissolve the partnership with Bacon and set up his own manufactory - Toy, Bickford, & Co. - in 1851<sup>3</sup>. To expand, Toy turned to his sons-in-law Ralph Hart Ensign and Lemuel Stoughton Ellsworth for help. In 1867, a California branch was established by Ellsworth in Alameda to meet the need for fuses in California and Nevada mines.

By 1870, the invention of the blasting cap called for a more precise fuse manufacturing process to meet the tolerances required. Joseph Toy met the challenge by controlling all parts of the manufacturing process from raw material to finished product and distribution.

By the late 1880s, Toy's fuse was used in mines across the U.S. After his death in 1887, the firm became known as Ensign, Bickford & Co. The California branch was located in Fitchburg, now a part of Oakland. Ralph Hart Ensign was listed as president but vice president and general manager James Merritt assumed the management of the business, which he successfully conducted for thirty years.

Prior to 1903, four independent fuse works operated in and near Alameda County. These were the Ensign-Bickford Company, the California Fuse Works, the Western Fuse & Explosive Company, and the Metropolitan Fuse & Match Company. This was not prosperous for any of the parties and Merritt succeeded in bringing about a consolidation, which resulted in Coast Manufacturing & Supply Company in 1903.

The Great War (WWI) changed the production line of the fuse works. The *Hanford Sentinel* reported a March 30 explosion in 1922:

The explosives plant in Livermore was the scene of an explosion today which blew to atoms two men, Fred Nash and Ray Figuerson, and did heavy property damage. The roar of the explosion was heard for miles. Large quantities of various explosives were stored at the plant and much was destroyed. During [World War I], it was one of the busiest munitions plants in the West.<sup>4</sup>

## Trevarno Road

In 1913, the Coast Manufacturing and Supply Company moved its massive fuse works factory and facilities to what is now Trevarno Road in Livermore off

(Coast, continued on page 6)

**Above:** Coast Manufacturing Bear Trademark from Safety Fuse Wrapper now on display in the History Center; courtesy of LHG Archives.

## Coast

(continued from page 5)

of First Street and extending to south of the railroad tracks. At the time of the move to Livermore in 1913, Albert H. Merritt, James's son, was the sole head and director of the company on the Pacific coast. The safety fuse assembly, black powder storage, and quarters for Chinese workers stood across the railroad tracks. The output of this plant was confined exclusively to one product, that of the safety fuse cord.

The name of Trevarno Road paid tribute to Trevarno, an estate in Cornwall, England that had been acquired by the Bickford family thanks to the success of the safety fuse<sup>5</sup>. The Coast Manufacturing and Supply Company constructed a two-story brick building for its headquarters and thirteen homes for its officers. Twelve of those homes are modest bungalow-style Craftsman houses, each with different architectural features and spaced apart to maximize privacy. Each home sits on a large lot with a long driveway connecting to a detached garage in back. Lush lawns and mature walnut trees line this wide private road.

The thirteenth home was occupied by Tom Norris, president from 1915 to 1946, who lived in a larger Mission Revival style home at the corner of First Street and Trevarno. At the time, this was the largest home in the Valley. The Rose Cottage, across the street, was the vice president's home.

In 1968, the Coast Manufacturing and Supply Company merged with Hexcel, a fiberglass manufacturing company. The fuse works business was sold to Apache Powder Company in Benson, Arizona. In 1976, Hexcel sold the 60-year-old homes to a local developer who renamed the area Trevarno Estates. The appearance of the old company development has remained largely the same since 1913, though some investigations have taken place.

According to Anna Siig in the November/December 2006 issue of the LHG Newsletter, volunteers, Guild members, and seven students worked with Basic Research to conduct an archaeological dig on the property south across the railroad tracks in 2004. Although bottle collectors and children

had dug the site over the years, it was not known that bottle diggers had gone down twelve feet! The city filled the huge hole and capped it with concrete. Even though most artifacts had been broken, there were some whole ones. From the many shards, we know the workers drank Japanese beer and had many attractive dishes, soy sauce, and rice wine brown jugs from China. There were also many shards of local wine and champagne bottles<sup>6</sup>. Sheri Ann Dante remembered that the dig team discovered the remains of shoes. Some had certainly belonged to the Chinese workers; a few were found that may have belonged to ranchers who worked the land before the Fuse Works era. One of the shoe remnants is a part of the current display at the History Center.

### Chinese Workers

In recognition of the many workers of Chinese origin who worked and lived at the fuse works, the Livermore Heritage Guild mounted a brass plaque on a boulder at the end of Trevarno Road with this inscription:

FROM CHINA TO AMERICA – Coast Manufacturing and Supply Co moved to this site in the early 1900s and produced fuse lines for explosives. Between 1913 and 1926, Coast hired Chinese immigrants to work in the powder houses located just to the north of this grove of trees. These Chinese immigrants lived in a house located within this grove until 1926. Their contribution to this company and to the commerce of this country is hereby acknowledged.

This plaque is among many fascinating historical plaques in Livermore which are photographed in Richard Finn's full-color book "Livermore Plaques" (available in the LHG bookstore).

As a part of the current display at the History Center, there is a very large wooden sign above the display cabinet, painted crimson red with black Chinese characters marking a specific building on the Trevarno Road property as a place of calm and retreat. A placard on the top of the display case gives the interpretation in English. From 1913 until 1926, up to twenty two Chinese men worked at the Fuse Works. A ledger at the Museum on Main in Pleasanton lists some of the names of the men. There are more ledgers at the Bancroft

Library at UC Berkeley. Armed with workers' names, a researcher might find their records or even their pictures at the Angel Island immigration archives.

The display case also shows dark brown pottery wine jars from the Chinese quarters for export to America. Words in English fired into the clay warn that the jars are illegal by federal law for sale of the contents. Papered over these are the contents' labels in Chinese, and obviously for sale in America. See if you can find the warning text on the displayed jars. Half the jars have no labels and half have either the complete or partial labels from Hong Kong attached. Judging from the many intact specimens on display, the content was wildly popular.

### History Center Display

One highlight of our exhibit are the dozen brass printing plates for printing the delightful trademarks, identification symbols, and handling information for the various safety fuse cord kinds and lengths.

Also in the display are several safety fuse wrappers. One safety fuse paper wrapper shows a side image of a grizzly bear with the text: WHITE COUNTERED WATERPROOF SAFETY FUSE 100 FEET MANUFACTURED BY COAST MFG & SUPPLY CO. LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA and IN COLD WEATHER WARM FUSE SLIGHTLY BEFORE UNCOILING. The paper wrapper covered a 6-inch diameter spool as originally packed in wooden boxes. Samples of these packing boxes, old wood and new cardboard, appear above the display cabinet.

We hope that you will visit the History Center very soon to see these and other artifacts of the Coast Manufacturing and Supply Company's fascinating history in Livermore.

1. <http://www.halslampoost.com/Blasting%20Items/slides/Coast%20Mfg%20Bear%20Trademark.html>
2. Ambrose, S. E. (2005). *Nothing like it in the world: The men who built the Transcontinental Railroad, 1863-1869*. Simon & Schuster.
3. <https://connecticuthistory.org/the-steady-evolution-of-a-connecticut-family-business/>
4. <https://cdnc.ucr.edu/?a=d&d=HS19220330.2.97>
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/objects/uX4fb8QkQpSZgs5lYvgxQg>
6. <https://www.lhg.org/Documents/Newsletters/News2006-2009/2006Nov.pdf>



# Hagemann Happenings

by Barbara Soules



In the past few months there have been some significant improvements at the Ranch. It is with a grateful heart that I note the individuals and groups that have made much of this possible. When next you visit the Ranch, the changes will be obvious.

Most notable is the new paint job on the lane fences and many of the building fronts. On September 7<sup>th</sup>, over one hundred volunteers descended on the Ranch for Community Service Day. They scraped and painted until they ran out of paint. What a difference!

The path around the house is now complete. The final layer of beige decomposed granite makes for a level and attractive walkway. Begun as an Eagle Scout project, a local contractor completed the path. Thanks to Sandra, our loyal garden volunteer, who coordinated the project.

Another Eagle Scout project which has given us seating in the backyard was completed recently by Alex Gomez of Troop 924. He and his troop built two convertible benches/picnic tables. Guests appreciated them at the Prairie School event.

A couple of months ago a huge limb of the giant eucalyptus tree next to the chicken coop died. The city promptly sent a crew to trim the tree. Shortly after, the whole tree suddenly died and presented a safety issue. Again, the city sent in a crew to fell the tree. We miss the shade, but the area is safe.

Phil Dean and Don Bartel have finished building a large wooden box called an "aerated static pile." This is a cost-

effective system for composting organic material, in our case, horse manure, which uses aeration to remove excess moisture and heat. A blower forces air through the material, eliminating the need to turn the mixture and also reducing odors. The result is high quality compost. We will now be able to provide local gardeners with a better product in less time.

Two of our more mechanically inclined volunteers repaired both the Kubota tractor and the hit-and-miss engine. Joseph Hohl fixed the engine and Jeff Kaskey repaired the tractor fuel lines.

TAP Plastics in Pleasanton tackled the biggest acrylic box they have ever made when they created a protective cover for the 3D ranch model built by Alison Eberly, which was featured in our last newsletter. They also made a cover for the Midway School model we use at the Midway display.

One of the most appealing aspects of Hagemann Ranch is that all the folks working there are volunteers. These resolute folks give of their time, energy, and talent because they believe in the cause, keeping the Ranch historic, open and attractive. Many work at the Open Houses. The complete list varies each month, but the "regulars" include Dottie Eberly, Jeff Kaskey, Donna Stevens, Richard Finn, William Kelleher, John Slover, Peter La Freniere, Judy Bearrows, Don Keech, Susan Junk, Kathy Lee, and Wes Shaffer. The professionalism and creativity of this team are what make the events so successful.

A working ranch needs constant attention. The daily chores require many folks. At least three times each week John and Peter come to perform various maintenance jobs. John always stays late to clean paddocks and to guarantee the ducks and chickens have food and water. Loretta Kaskey spends every Saturday morning in the Heritage Garden with her gardening team. They donate their bountiful harvest. Sandra Lormand and Karen Jefferson are responsible for the beautiful perennial gardens around the house. They also maintain the orchard. Tom Eberly is the "go to" person for all electrical and automotive issues and cares for the golf cart. Together all these folks, and more I may have forgotten, have contributed to making the Ranch a vibrant, educational, and inviting community gathering place.

We invite you to join us at the Holiday Celebration on November 24. Note that this is the weekend before Thanksgiving and a perfect time to start your holiday shopping.



**Left:** The new path around house; **Above:** The eucalyptus stump and the new convertible benches/picnic tables; all photos by Barbara Soules.



## Feeding

(continued from page 1)

insurance companies in the country." In the March 28, 1877 *Echo* they advertised, "If crops should be short, Anspacher Bros' prices will be shorter." Judging by the many articles in the *Herald* announcing the sale of land involving the Anspacher Bros. company, they may have been involved in real estate investing along with their other businesses.

### Hay and Grain Warehouses

While their insurance, general merchandise, and grocery departments were an important part of their business, warehousing hay and grain probably brought in the bulk of their income. In 1876 they owned the block on the north side of First Street between L and M streets. By 1884, they had a grain warehouse next to the Southern Pacific Railroad siding and stretching the entire block. Anne Homan noted, "Warehouse owners served as brokers, buying agents, and at times, speculative buyers of hay and grain for the purpose of reselling it."

An 1890 article in the Livermore *Echo* gives an idea of the quantity of grain being harvested: "D.M. Teeter's machine one day this week threshed 1622 bags of wheat, each weighing 146 pounds, in 13 hours, moving the machine once during the time. The grain grew on the Stanley Ranch." That's 118 tons of wheat harvested on one farm in one day.

Anspacher Bros. were not the only warehouse agents in Livermore. The 1893 Sanborn map shows hay warehouses belonging to the Livermore Warehouse Co., S. Stevens, H. Fried, and the Farmers Alliance, in addition to Anspacher's hay and grain warehouses. Anne Homan wrote, "By 1904, Livermore had 12 warehouses with a holding capacity of 50,000 tons. Railroad agent J.L. Mitchel listed the following freight in pounds shipped

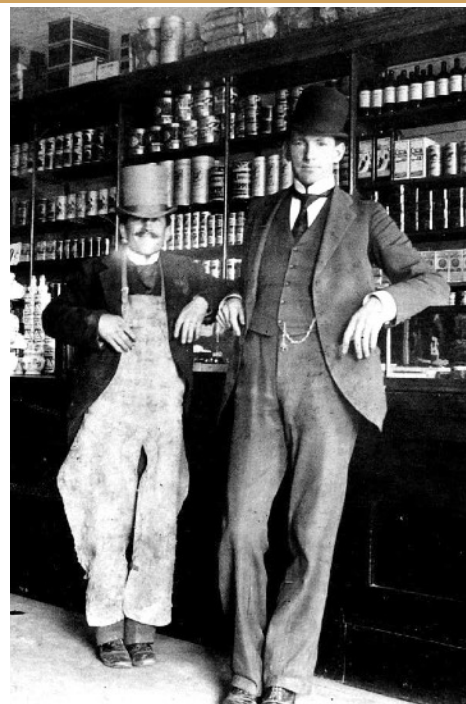
from the Livermore station in January 1880: hay 1,011,640; wheat 692,466; barley 96,630; oats 44,350; flour 11,810." The July 24, 1890 *Echo* reported, "Long lines of wagons laden with hay stand every day in front of the various warehouses, waiting to unload."

By 1888, Anspacher Bros. had added a lumber shed along the sidings between M and N streets. With all these warehouses to coordinate, they installed their own phone system in 1901. In 1909, they added another grain warehouse when they leased the E.S. Stevens building along the siding between J and K Streets.

Anspacher Bros. sold the store to W.H. Taylor and Co. in 1915 and sold the lumber business to a group of local businessmen. According to Homan, "[T]hey kept the Livermore warehouses and bought hay and grain during the harvest seasons, possibly until the death of Simon's son, Philip B. Anspacher, in 1925." Barrette Anspacher died in San Francisco in July 1890, and Abraham died in Alameda in April 1907.

### Legacy

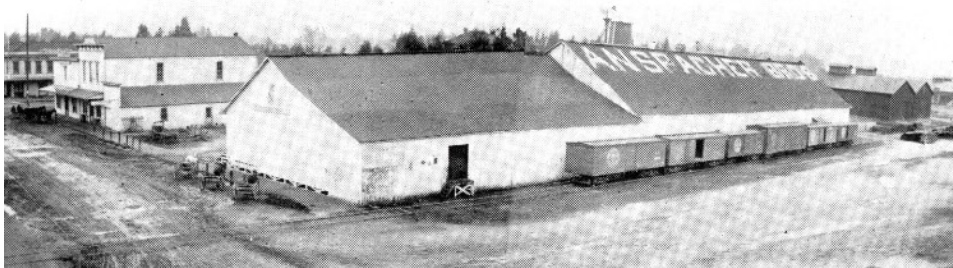
In San Francisco, Abraham Anspacher was known for his charity work and civic involvement. For a time, Abraham was president of the Emanu-El Congregation and was active in the Eureka Benevolent Association. Known as "Old Man Benevolent", he took care of Jewish orphans and educated them at his own expense. His sons followed his lead in several ways. In 1911 the *Herald* wrote, the Anspacher brothers "agreed to pay for the special lighting of the streets for a month as a trial of the regular system proposed by the Livermore Merchants Assn." About the business, Alice Anspacher Myers remembered, "We gave credit and we took mortgages on a farm, but it was the honor of the family never to foreclose but to carry these men and people until they could really make good."



Charity continued with Abraham's grandchild, Philip B. Anspacher, who left \$500 dollars in his will to the Livermore Library. His daughter, Carolyn Anspacher, a native of Livermore, became a distinguished reporter at the San Francisco Chronicle. Carolyn's cousin, Francesca Lowenthal Kahn, was a valued member of the Livermore Heritage Guild. While the Anspachers' store and warehouses have long since disappeared, one of their homes remains. In 1888, the house known as Twin Palms was built for Philip Anspacher at 879 South L Street. Philip never lived in it, but his sister Emma did live there with her husband Samuel Sellers (seen above to the right in the photo of the store interior).

The Anspachers are remembered for their outsized role in Livermore becoming a grain- and hay-producing powerhouse for 70 years as well as for their philanthropic and social contributions to Livermore and the Bay Area.

**Above:** Interior of Anspacher's Mercantile Company, date unknown. The person on the right is believed to be Samuel Sellers, the store manager and Abraham's son-in-law. Person on the left unknown. Photo courtesy Russell W. Taylor, LHG archives; **Left:** Anspacher store and warehouse, South L Street at the SPRR tracks looking southwest. The store is in the upper left at the corner of L and First Streets. From Midwinter Edition, *Livermore Herald*, January 25, 1896





## President

(continued from page 3)

but generally no expenditure of Guild funds. Currently the Affiliated Projects are: completing the Livermore Rail Depot Freight Room as a public meeting space, supporting Friends of Tesla Park in their efforts with California State Parks to designate Tesla as a "Reserve," repainting the Livermore Agricultural Heritage Mural that was located downtown on L Street and was painted over, and creating the Centennial Sculpture to replace the now-removed "totem pole."

The final category of Special Activities comprises both Routine Special Activities and Special Special Activities. I just made that up, so don't expect to see it in any Official Guild Documents. 2023 was the Heritage Guild's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and, therefore, was packed with Special Special Activities – probably not to be repeated for another 50 years. 2024 had a number of Routine Special Activities. For example, two LHG Historical Scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors at Vineyard Alternative School. There was also a full schedule of 40 third grade school groups, with close to 1200 people taking part in the downtown history walks. In place of the traditional Annual Auction this year, a large yard sale was conducted in conjunction with the Halloween Hagemann Ranch Open House.

In summary, the state of the Guild in 2024 is "very good." This brief summary just scratches the surface of the Guild's activities this year. The Guild is in a good financial position, has a great core group of active volunteers, continues to provide real value to the City and the community, and is a well-respected organization. The challenges for the future include maintaining this high level of performance, encouraging more active participation by the members, engaging more new members to sustain the organization and bring in new ideas and energy, and fund raising for the major projects.

**Above Right:** The windmill and water tank in happier days (for them); photo courtesy of the LHG archives; **Right:** The Windmill Brain Trust (L-R) Don Keech, Charles Sweet, and Owen Parker; photo courtesy of Will Bolton.

## Earth

(continued from page 4)

which would date it to after 1933. Surprisingly, Aermotor is still in business after several location and name changes. It now manufactures windmills in San Angelo, Texas. Even more surprisingly, Aermotor still makes essentially the same windmills as in the early 1900s. It also makes replacement parts for their old models; however, the parts are not inexpensive – hence, our interest in finding usable old parts. Unfortunately, the old windmills we found were often missing key parts and were rusted to immobility.

We began a long process of sorting and cleaning the old windmill parts. Owen Parker had the tools and experience to do an amazing job of freeing up seized parts, removing the rust, and returning them to usable condition. We have talked for some time about having a display that would show people what mechanism in the windmill head changed the rotating motion of the fan into the up-and-down motion of a steel rod to the pump cylinder at the bottom of the well. Owen volunteered to take some of the parts we had collected to make the display. While seemingly simple, there is actually quite a bit of thought, design, and development that has gone into a "modern" (since about 1900) windmill. All these details may be



a little hard to follow when written on a page but are easy to understand when one is looking at Owen's display of actual windmill parts being turned by a hand crank rather than being turned by a 8 foot diameter fan on top of a 30-foot tall tower. One can also see what's inside the pump cylinder 100 feet below ground in the well pipe that would be driven by the windmill.

Owen's windmill display is currently at the Duarte Garage. If the parts in the display are needed for the eventual repair of the Hagemann windmill, we can remove them from the display. In the meantime, the parts serve an educational and entertaining purpose. Don Keech, Charles Sweet, and Owen Parker – the Windmill Brain Trust – have decades of hands-on experience with windmills. Come by the Garage to see the windmill display. If you are lucky, one of the Brain Trust members will be there to share stories and history of windmills in the Livermore Valley.



## Farmers and Merchants National Bank

By Harry Briley

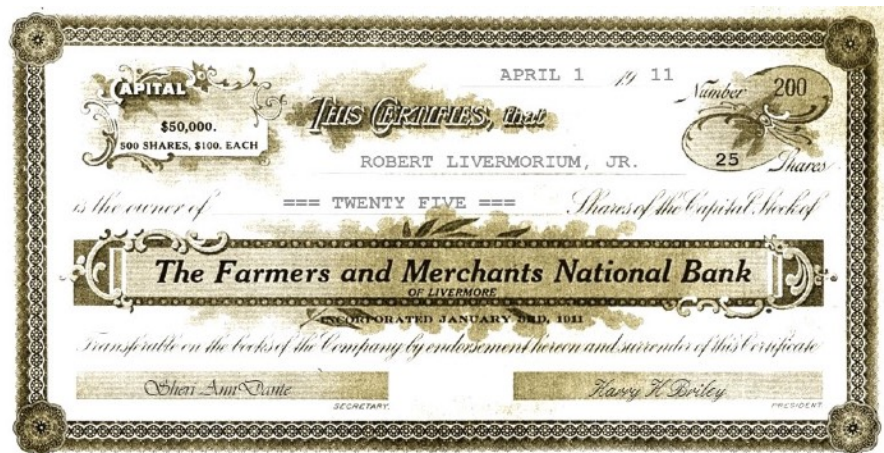
In August, the Guild received the original Book of Shares Certificates for the Farmers and Merchants National Bank. They sold capitalization stock for \$50,000 (500 shares at \$100 each) when they incorporated on January 3, 1911. The average number of shares purchased per person appeared to be about ten shares (\$1000) which in 1911 was almost the cost of a house!

When the Bank merged into the Bank of Italy in 1916 (later Bank of America), these shares certificates were redeemed, punched with small holes, and glued back into this Book of Shares.

Anne Homan, in our available book "Historic Livermore A to Z", wrote (excerpted):

In 1895, the [Bank of Livermore] moved to the first floor of the McLeod building at the northeast corner of First Street and Livermore Avenue. Bank of Livermore became the Farmers and Merchants National Bank on 1 January 1911... Another city bank, First National Bank of Livermore, [started] in 1903....Both of these banks became consolidated with the Bank of Italy...in December 1916.

Thus, these share certificates were only valid for five years. Thank you, Barbara Resendez, for donating this expressly unique artifact of Livermore from 110 years ago.



Free, Family-Friendly Activities

# Holiday Celebration

Sundays at Hagemann Ranch  
November 24, 2024, 1-5 pm

Artists and Crafts Bazaar; Piano music by Greg Pane  
Hispanic Heritage Center, Piñata Celebration  
Diwali-Festival of Lights; Visits with Santa Claus

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

LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD Presents

Historic HAGEMANN RANCH  
www.lhg.org

455 Olivina Ave., Livermore

Sundays at Hagemann are free events held on the last Sunday of every month except December.





**LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD**

**Come Join Us For Our**  
*Annual General Meeting*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH**

**10:30am - 11:30am**

**DUARTE GARAGE  
NORTH L STREET AT  
PINE STREET**

- JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND DONUTS
- HEAR THE STATE OF THE GUILD PRESENTATION
- MEET THE 2024-2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD
- CONGRATULATE THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION AWARD WINNER

**SEE YOU SOON!**



## LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Saturday, Nov. 9	10:30am	Annual General Meeting	Duarte Garage
Wednesday, Nov. 13	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, Nov. 16	9:30am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, Nov. 17	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, Nov. 24	1pm-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Holiday Celebration	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, Dec. 11	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 8	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, Jan. 18	9:30am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, Jan. 19	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, Jan. 26	1pm-5pm	Self-Guided Walking Tour	Hagemann Ranch
Tuesday, Jan. 28	7pm	Del Valle Lake History	Public Library

## Welcome New and Renewing Members!

### July - September 2024

#### Life

Paul Halvorsen  
Donald Keech

#### Patron

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Finn  
Dennis Tungate

#### Sponsor

Nicole Campiotti  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Common  
Steven Ruley Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Sweet

#### Individual

William Flower  
Jon Hart - NEW  
Kathy Lee  
Cheryl Remillard  
Carrie Seng  
Wes Shaffer

#### Senior

Shirley Anderson  
Kathryn Braun  
Carolyn Cordrey  
Madelynne Farber  
Phyllis Minoggio Frasier  
Rickie Friedli/Giono  
Ann Giannini  
Richard Jones  
Peter Kitchingham  
David Livermore  
Gloria Malone  
Opal Mendenhall  
Francis Terry Mulvey - NEW  
Conni Naylor  
Sally Nunes  
Madeline Scullion  
Pat Smith  
John Slover  
Donna Stevens  
Charlene Swierkowski  
Marie Timmer  
Sue Vincent

#### Household

Richard & Susan Canfield  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Eckart  
Joanne Headley  
Wes Nelson Family  
Jonathan Reekie  
Robin Roth  
Nile Runge Family  
Carol Sampson  
Sarah Sloan - NEW  
Barbara Soules  
Janis & James Stephen  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Teruya

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The Livermore Heritage Guild newsletter is an official publication of the Livermore Heritage Guild.

Contact the newsletter editor with comments or suggestions.

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

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

Annual membership dues are: Individual \$25.00, Household \$35.00, Senior (age 62+) \$15.00, Student \$15.00, Sponsor \$75.00 and Patron \$150.00. Life (Individual) \$500.00 memberships are also available. Please make checks payable to "LHG."

Livermore Heritage Guild  
P.O. Box 961  
Livermore, CA 94551

## In Appreciation

#### Donations

Karen and Thomas Jefferson

#### Midway School Project

Shirley Anderson in memory of Alma Heaton

## LHG Out and About



**Above:** LHG's newest walking tour docent, Jessica Dennis, leads a school group past Livermore's first jail as a part of the Gary Drummond Historic Downtown Walking Tours. Photo courtesy of Jessica Dennis.



**Above:** From left, Sheri Ann Dante, Kathy Lee, Rickie Friedli/Giono, Karen Sweet, and Sally Nunes get ready for the Halloween Hullabaloo Yard Sale at Hagemann Ranch. Photo courtesy of Dottie Eberly.

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

Platinum  
Transparency  
2024

Candid.

Charity  
Navigator



★ THREE-STAR ★