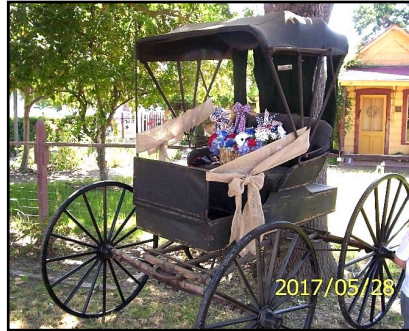
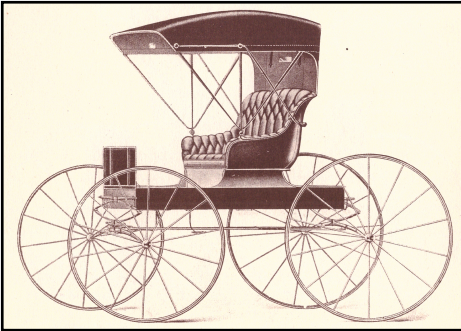




by Harry Briley



At a few Hagemann Ranch open houses, we roll out our 1916 one-horse Doctor's Buggy. I met the donor, Lynn Skarratt, by happenstance at the Museum on Main and had the opportunity to ask for the buggy's history.

While a doctor never used our buggy, that vehicle name reflected a basic style. A Doctor's Buggy might be called a Physician's Phaeton, Stanhope-style Buggy, Banner Buggy, or a Red Cross Buggy. Lynn reported that a near-identical model at the Smithsonian was called a "piano box buggy" since the passengers sat atop a boxed foundation.

My father-in-law, Jack Rittenhouse, became an expert on buggy styles in his book *American Horse-Drawn Vehicles*. Our model is shown as an "Auto-Seat Top Buggy". He wrote: "This buggy was a truly distinctive American type of vehicle because of its lightness and economy. The seat style shown here was similar to that used on early autos."

He credited this illustration to Huntingburg Wagon Works. The Indiana Historical Society listed this business from 1874 to 1958. A *TIME* article said on 3/14/1937: "President Herman Heitman of Huntingburg Wagon Works (largest in the U. S.) announced: 'The Depression did not affect us in the least and today we are expanding' ... Heitman has 80 men working six days and three nights a week. Last year they turned out 9,000 wagons and 3,000 buggies by hand."

Jack distinguished our buggy from its cousins. A business buggy, an 1890 doctor's wagon, a coal-box buggy, and a phaeton each lack the tell-tale boxed foundation. He found the box foundation in an 1880 encyclopedia.

Any buggy, like a two-door sport coupe, only carried one or two passengers and was not for transport of goods. Lynn's uncle Lloyd always called it by the common vernacular.

Our buggy features two brass plates: a nameplate identifying it as a Studebaker, and another honoring Eagle Scout Max Garcia, who restored the wheels in 2015.

I imagine this compact carriage for young couples going to a dance, traveling to church, attending the theater, or for a doctor rushing to see a patient. With children, a family needed the mini-van of the era, that is, a one-horse farm wagon. Our sporty buggy frequently visited Hagemann Ranch.

Lynn Moller Skarratt wrote: "Reimer and Catharina Stoeven built a house and had a farm in then Dublin (south of I-580) on the site of what is now the retirement community at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Foothill Road.

"In about 1887, they moved to Livermore. Their daughter Therese married Heinrich "Hein" Nienburg and the couple inherited the farm in Livermore. They had no children.

"I do not know when the buggy was purchased. It came from the Stoeven-Nienburg farm on Stanley Blvd almost across from the Hagemann Farm. The Stoeven and Hagemann families were friends, part of a large group of German and Danish immigrants in the middle 1800s."

The 1900 map on page 8 shows the Central Pacific Railroad (Stanley Boulevard) with the R. Stoeven farm (#8, south of the railroad) and the A. Hagemann ranch (#54, north of the arroyo, co-owned then with H. Detjens). The unmarked Olivina Avenue juts out going west from Livermore towards the Hagemann farmhouse. In the 1897 Murray Township index map, #11, #12, and #54 were owned by Martin Mendenhall. The north part of #8 (north of the railroad) was owned by R. Livermore.

"The Stoeven and Nienburg families were good friends of my great-grandparents, the Koopmanns, (pronounced "Cope-man") who had a farm further west on Stanley Blvd., and my grandparents the Mollers.

The Dublin farm was later the home of German immigrants Johanna and Ludolf

(Buggy, continued on page 8)

Left: Drawing: *American Horse-Drawn Vehicles* (Jack Rittenhouse, 1948, page 3, credited to Huntingburg Wagon Works, Indiana); **Above:** Hagemann Ranch Doctor's Buggy. Photo by Harry Briley

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Who is It/Where Are They?

By Jeff Kaskey

Many things in the Heritage Guild collection are archivally stored, well researched and clearly documented. But not all. One of the counter examples is this panoramic print of a fine looking group. Not only was it not properly stored, but until this month no one had risked even lifting the pieces from its precarious perch in the Harp room. Your writer has vague memories of it being somewhere in the archive for at least the last 20 years. With various generations of damaging tape and lots of rips and flakes, it is a little hard to know where to begin. The project began with a bit of light cleaning and the careful removal of lots of pieces of partly dried tape from both the back and the front. Besides the physical issues, we have precisely zero information about where it came from, who is in it or where the photo was taken.

We do know a bit about the photo itself. As we have mentioned in past newsletter articles, these wide panoramic photos were the result of a special camera invented in 1904 and first produced in 1905. The camera creates a panorama by rotating on the top of its specialized tripod while the film is advanced in

synchrony with the rotating camera. Some images were over 6 feet long. The initial manufacturing was done by the inventor and a partner, and within a year the company was bought by Century Camera in Rochester New York, a division of Eastman Kodak. By 1907, the cameras were a product of the main Kodak company. Kodak continued to manufacture the camera into the 1940s. While photographers have kept some of them alive to the present day, their fidgety technical setup and the requirement for specialized film developing meant they never really went mainstream. Their use dropped quickly in the late 1940s with the availability of many easy to use high quality 35mm cameras and inexpensive snapshot cameras, each with drugstore film developing. The loss was quite a shame really – a true panoramic image, as opposed to something pasted together from multiple still pictures, would not be possible again with a commercial camera until the feature became available on Android and iPhones around 2011.

We can make some wild guesses about the photo. Many of the men are wearing

vests, and holding hats suggesting no later than early 1960s, more likely 1940s or much earlier. Women's clothing gives more clues, with the cloche hats and drop waist dresses suggesting 1920s to 1930s. Likewise the bobbed haircuts are late 1920s to early 1930s. Women's fashion changed notably after that, so it seems safe to assume 1920s to 1935. The group themselves look nicely dressed, but there are no uniforms, and there are a large number of women and some children, so we are probably not looking at a fraternal organization such as Lions or Eagles or Masons. With that variety and given the size, over 100 people, it could be a cultural or immigrant group (Danes, Portuguese, ?) or even an organized tour. The wide benches arranged in large squares in the background are not familiar from other photos of our area.

So we put this to you, our readers. Does the location seem familiar? Do you recognize an ancestor's face or a piece of regalia we had not noticed? Please let us know, or even let us know your guesses.

Below and bottom of page 3: Digital Composite of photo pieces by Jeff Kaskey



In Memoriam: Andrea Loyd

by Loretta Kaskey

The Livermore Heritage Guild mourns the loss of Andrea Loyd, who died suddenly on May 25, 2026. Andrea was a devoted volunteer, historian at heart, and cherished member of the Guild community. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Andrea was born on January 1, 1959, in Johnstone, Scotland, and immigrated to the United States at the age of 13. Her lifelong love of history and learning eventually led her to Cal State East Bay, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History with a minor in Political Science. Andrea said that the highlights of her college years were the historical research she pursued toward her degree — and meeting her future husband, Sheridan. The couple went on to build a life together, living for many years in Fremont before eventually making their home in Livermore.

It was Livermore's strong sense of community, and its passion for local causes, that Andrea said she loved most about the town she came to call home. That passion found its perfect outlet in 2012, when a visit to the Thursday night Farmers' Market led her to wander into the History Center. Her love of history sparked an inquiry — did the Heritage Guild need volunteers? — and from that simple question grew years of devoted service.



Dispersed amongst a successful career of more than 25 years in the field of Workers' Compensation, Andrea also served as a docent at the History Center and aboard the HistoryMobile, sharing her enthusiasm for local history with countless visitors and students. She also brought her warmth and holiday spirit each year as Mrs. Claus at the November Holiday-themed open houses at Hagemann Ranch, delighting generations of Livermore families. Additionally, Sheridan and Andrea would open their Livermore home for Guild Holiday parties. In 2016, she stepped into the role of the Guild's First Vice-President, taking up the mantle from Marie Abbott, and served in that capacity through 2022 — six years of steady leadership and commitment to the Guild's mission bringing speakers and cookies to what became the quarterly

“Then and Now” speaker series at the public library.

Andrea's journey — from a childhood in Scotland, to a career built on diligence and care, to a second chapter defined by her love of history and community — reflects a life richly and thoughtfully lived. Her curiosity, her warmth, and her passion for preserving the stories of Livermore's past leave a lasting mark on the Heritage Guild and all who had the pleasure of working alongside her.

Andrea is survived by her husband, Sheridan, and their two daughters, Sarah and Jillian. She is remembered fondly by her family and by her many friends and colleagues at the Livermore Heritage Guild, who are grateful for the years of history, laughter, and community she helped build.

The Livermore Heritage Guild extends its deepest condolences to Andrea's family and friends. If you would like to honor her memory, please consider a donation to the Livermore Heritage Guild's Midway School Fund, to continue the preservation work she passionately supported at LHG.org.

Above Center: Andrea at the “Charlotte's Web” Hagemann Ranch Open House, April 27, 2025. Photo by Loretta Kaskey



What's in a Picture?

By Phil Bardsley



Sometimes a simple snapshot tells stories reaching back into the past.

The main subject of this picture is the Portuguese Holy Ghost parade in Livermore in about 1911. While the photographer was interested in the parade, the picture also shows almost the entire north side of East First Street that connected Livermore with old Laddsville. The buildings lining the street are reminders of many people who had businesses in early Livermore. This article first describes the origins of the parade. Then it explores the stories of the businesses along the street behind the parade.

The Holy Ghost parade is part of Portuguese culture. The Portuguese who settled in California came almost exclusively from the Azores, islands about 900 miles west of mainland Portugal. Portuguese began settling the Azores in the 1400s. By the late 1800s, the combination of population growth and limited land on the islands created a wave of emigrants. California promised opportunities to work in fishing and agriculture, which attracted many Portuguese. In 1900, more than half of

Portuguese immigrants to California lived in the Bay Area, with Alameda County hosting the largest share. These Azorean Portuguese built cultural centers where they could speak Portuguese and carry on their traditions. One of those traditions is the Holy Ghost festival (*Festa do Divino Espírito Santo*). It honors Portuguese Queen Saint Isabella of Aragon who reigned from 1282 to 1325 and was known for her charity.

In Livermore, the Portuguese cultural center was on the northwest corner of North Livermore Avenue and Walnut Street where the Eagles hall is now. The Holy Ghost festival included food, music, and dancing at the cultural center, and a parade from the cultural center to Saint Michael's Catholic Church. The festival queen was crowned and a special mass was held at the church. The picture featured here shows the parade in 1911 moving east along First Street at McLeod Street. At that time, the Catholic Church was on First Street. In the picture, the church is the large gray building behind the 148-foot tall steeple in the background on the north side of

the street. It was across the railroad tracks from the end of Church Street at about 2562 Old First Street today. The church burned in 1916 and was replaced by the current church on Maple Street.

For a more personal look at the Holy Ghost festival in Livermore, and a recipe for the traditional beef stew dish served at the festival, see:

<https://dragonflytreasure.blogspot.com/2020/09/missing-portuguese-holy-ghost-festa-and.html>

What are the other stories this picture tells? In 1911, the businesses we see lining East First Street would have been well known to the photographer and to all residents of the small town of Livermore. But now, over 100 years later, each of the businesses has a story to tell: what came before this point in time, and what happened after. This article highlights those stories.

Starting from the church and moving left (west), we see another tall landmark, the chimney of the Diamond Milling Co. The white front and the awning of the two-story mill building on First Street are visible in the picture as well. While it looks like the mill was next door to the church, it was actually some distance away, across the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks from the church. What's the story behind the mill?

Hans Hansen's Diamond Mill was Livermore's third and last flour mill. The three earlier millers in Livermore had very bad luck with fire. The first was Calvin Stevens, who took advantage of William Mendenhall's (Livermore's founder) offer of a free lot for anyone who would build a flour mill. The lot, known as Mill Square, was near the corner of Livermore Avenue and First Street behind what's now Lizzie Fountain Park. Stevens built the mill in 1869 when his mill in Union City, now part of Fremont, burned. William

(Picture, continued on page 5)

Top left: Holy Ghost Parade and Schenone's shop, c.1911. Photo courtesy of LHG archives

Picture

(continued from page 4)

Laumeister leased the mill from Stevens and operated it until 1882, when it, too, burned. Laumeister rebuilt his mill a couple blocks east along First Street. Jacob Hanna bought Laumeister's mill in 1889, but it burned in 1894. For the next twelve years, Livermore didn't have a local mill. Then, Hans Hansen, a Danish immigrant, built the Diamond Mill in 1906 where Hanna's mill had been. It operated until the market for local flour milling tapered off after WWI. The building became a grain warehouse and was torn down around WWII.

The next visible structure visible to the left of the mill was a somewhat larger house. It may have belonged to Simon Weterau, Livermore's first baker. The French Laundry building with the large flat awning, shown next to the house, originally had Weterau's bakery. Weterau built the bakery in 1870. Even though Livermore was in its infancy, and P.H. Angelopulo had a bakery about two blocks east in Laddsville, Weterau found a market for fresh-baked bread. In fact, there was demand not just for bread but also for pies, cakes, crackers, and even candy, all of which the two bakeries supplied. Weterau tried to sell the bakery in 1875, but he was still in business in 1881. The bakery was still operating in 1893, and then it became the French Laundry shown in the picture.

What was a French laundry? The term became fashionable throughout California in the late 1800s. It suggested that customers' laundry would be handled with extra care and attention to detail, and that it used methods brought to California by French immigrants. The term also set the laundries apart from Chinese laundries, which were common in early Livermore. French laundries were white-owned and charged more for their service than the Chinese-owned businesses. The French laundry shown in the picture was torn down in 1912 to make way for Valley Garage. When the building was demolished, Simon Weterau's 1870 oven was still there in the back of the shop.

Simon Weterau also had a saloon. It was in the building next door to the left of the laundry. Around 1900 the former saloon became Luigi Schenone's produce shop shown in the picture. Schenone had been in Livermore about 20 years at this point. He immigrated from a small town near Genoa, Italy in 1890. He bought land on Las Positas Road and began growing vegetables, which he sold from a horse-drawn wagon. In 1895 he married into the two most prominent families from the valley's Rancho period. His wife, Kate Livermore, was the granddaughter both of Robert Livermore, Sr. (owner of Rancho Las Positas) and of Juan Pablo Bernal (owner of Rancho El Valle de San Jose). Schenone grew the vegetables that he sold in the store, and he sold fruit from local and regional farms. By 1915, Schenone had moved into a larger space two buildings to the left. The new space was in the McLeod building (not shown in the picture), and his store rapidly grew into a grocery selling staples and imported Italian foods as well as produce.

For more of Luigi Schenone's story, see "The Bridge of Gold" in the Livermore Heritage Guild August 2024 newsletter: https://lhg.org/Documents/Newsletters/News2020-2029/2024_08.pdf

A large hill is visible in the background of this picture. It sits behind what is now Old First Street and Junction Avenue. When this picture was taken, Anton Gardella grew grain and hay on the land in front of that hill. Commerce still relied on horses then, and Gardella also raised big work horses for Bay Area drayage companies. Like Luigi Schenone, he was an Italian immigrant from the Genoa area. In 1905 Gardella bought that farmland from the Ladd family, and in 1908 he built a distinctive home on the corner of First Street and Junction Avenue. It was about a block east of the church and is not visible in the picture. The house was moved one block west when the railroad tracks were moved in the 1970s. It now houses businesses at 2578 Old First Street. In the 1950s and 1960s, Gardella's former

farmland and the hill shown in the picture became home to Junction Avenue School and a large housing tract.

The building bordering the left side of the picture was Dutcher's hardware store. Norris Dutcher moved to Livermore from New York in 1868. He worked as a blacksmith, and then he had a hardware business in various locations in town. In 1888 he built the two-story building shown in the picture. It housed his hardware business downstairs and had rental apartments upstairs. In 1912, a year after this picture was taken, his son joined him, and the business became N.D. Dutcher and Son. Eventually, Norris' grandson took over the business, which he operated until 1959. The building housed a number of businesses after that, including a bicycle shop, and the owners continued to rent out the apartments upstairs. The building was torn down in 2004 when it was over 100 years old. The facade of the current building at 2300 First Street, with its second-story bay windows, is reminiscent of the old Dutcher's hardware store.

That's a lot of small-town history in one picture!



Above: H.P. Hansen standing in front of his Diamond Flour Mill, after 1906. Photo courtesy of LHG archives

Midway School Project

by Barbara Soules

The relocation and restoration of Midway School is now being coordinated by our Project Manager and General Contractor, John Daley. He is arranging site visits and planning with movers and other contractors. The survey to determine the move route is complete and the lease is ready to be approved by City Council. Garavaglia Architects are reviewing the Structural Engineering Drawings. The moving schedule has been extended as we wait for City Council to review and approve the outcome of the "Housing and Community Development Surplus Land Act" review.

We have been consulting with Livermore teachers regarding the curriculum we will use in the immersive program at the school. A major decision was made recently to focus our program on fourth grade instead of third. The rationale is that third grade classes already have several historic field trip options including the HistoryMobile, Downtown Walking Tours, Ravenswood,

and Ag Day. An additional local history trip may not be practical or desirable. California's State Social Studies curriculum for fourth grade includes a goal of "describing the history of education". Certainly, a morning spent in a one room schoolhouse classroom will help fulfill that requirement.

Community support is paramount to the success of this project and that support from Livermore has been tremendous. The Guild would especially like to thank those who have donated \$10,000 or more to move and restore Midway. The presence of a new historic museum in Livermore will be a testament to their generosity.



Thank You for Helping Pave the Path January - July Brick Purchasers

Altamont Cruisers

*Don Bartel
Tom Bramell
Gail Bryan
Dona Crawford
Jack and Anne Dini
Bodey Dressler*

Robert Gibson

*Jean and Richard Lerche
Livermore Lions Club
Carol Sampson
Barbara Soules
Dennis Tungate
Anna Vinn*

*It's not too late to
have your name added to the list!!*



*Use the QR code above or
find more information at
thatsmybrick.com/LHGCA
to learn all the details*

Hagemann Happenings

by Barbara Soules

Hagemann is an ever-evolving historic site. Gardens grow and produce food for the hungry. New animals join their kind in the barns. Donations of all kinds are gratefully accepted and put to use where needed. Scouts continually bless us with new projects. New volunteers join our ranks to share their talents and infuse us with new energy. Community members visit and share their stories of Livermore and the Hagemanns in particular.

This summer is no exception. The gardens are beautiful, producing many pounds of fruit and vegetables for local food banks. Two new cats will be joining our rodent patrol. There are also a couple of new bunnies, baby ducks and growing chickens. With the Midway one room school project quickly approaching completion, folks are cleaning their closets to discover old books and desks for us to use in the school.

Nithilan Krishnakumar completed his Eagle Scout project. He and his team of Troop 941 scouts built three new wooden horse feeders. These will replace the plastic ones we have been using, creating a much more vintage appearance. They also help keep the hay in the feeder instead of on the ground where the horses can ingest sand and possibly develop sand colic, a deadly issue for a horse.

New volunteers are vital to the ongoing success of community events and upkeep of the ranch. There were several

new faces at the last open house, and we occasionally get new people at Workdays. Two fellows recently volunteered to reactivate the two “dead” beehives. They are harvesting Hagemann Honey and even creating a new label.

At the last Open House, we had several honored guests. Direct descendants of Robert Livermore visited. Dave and Tom Livermore and their families enjoyed personal tours and visited with other pioneer family members who were on site. They had made Livermore a destination to explore all the sites related to their ancestor.

Rancho Day in June featured three special activities. The Livermore Police Department Mounted Patrol with Officer Justice roamed the ranch so folks could meet their mounts and take pictures. Former poet laureate, Cynthia Patton, and Nate McKenna read cowboy poetry. This is a genre of poetry that describes a cowboy’s life on the range and in the saddle when the west was young. The BLT Trio (Tim Berry’s band) joined for the first time and was welcomed warmly. They added so nicely to the festive atmosphere.

The July and August Sundays at Hagemann events are low-key open houses. Come and join us to wander the ranch at your own pace and spend extended time visiting the animals and touring the gardens. The dates are July 26 and Aug. 30. The September event

will be a celebration of our 10th Anniversary of Sundays at Hagemann. Save September 27 to join our party.



Top: Livermore Police Department Mounted Patrol with Officer Justice **Above:** Cynthia Patton reading cowboy poetry at the June 28th “Rancho Day” Hagemann Ranch Open House. Photos by Barbara Soules.

THE LIVERMORE HERITAGE &
LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY
GUILDS present the 2nd

**HARMONY &
HISTORIC
HOME
TOUR**

Save Saturday, October 17th for the second Harmony and Historic Home Tour sponsored jointly by the Heritage Guild and the Amador Symphony Guild. Learning from past experience, this event will be bigger and better than ever. Antique cars will be parked at each house adding to the vintage character and coordinated porch decorations will adorn each home. Each has a story to tell, and owners are anxious to share. Symphony members will again be performing in each home. Get your tickets early at lhg.org or use the QR code.

🎵 **LIVE MUSIC** at each of our
LIVERMORE HISTORIC HOMES
Tour starts at **CARNEGIE PARK**

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 from 11 am - 4 pm

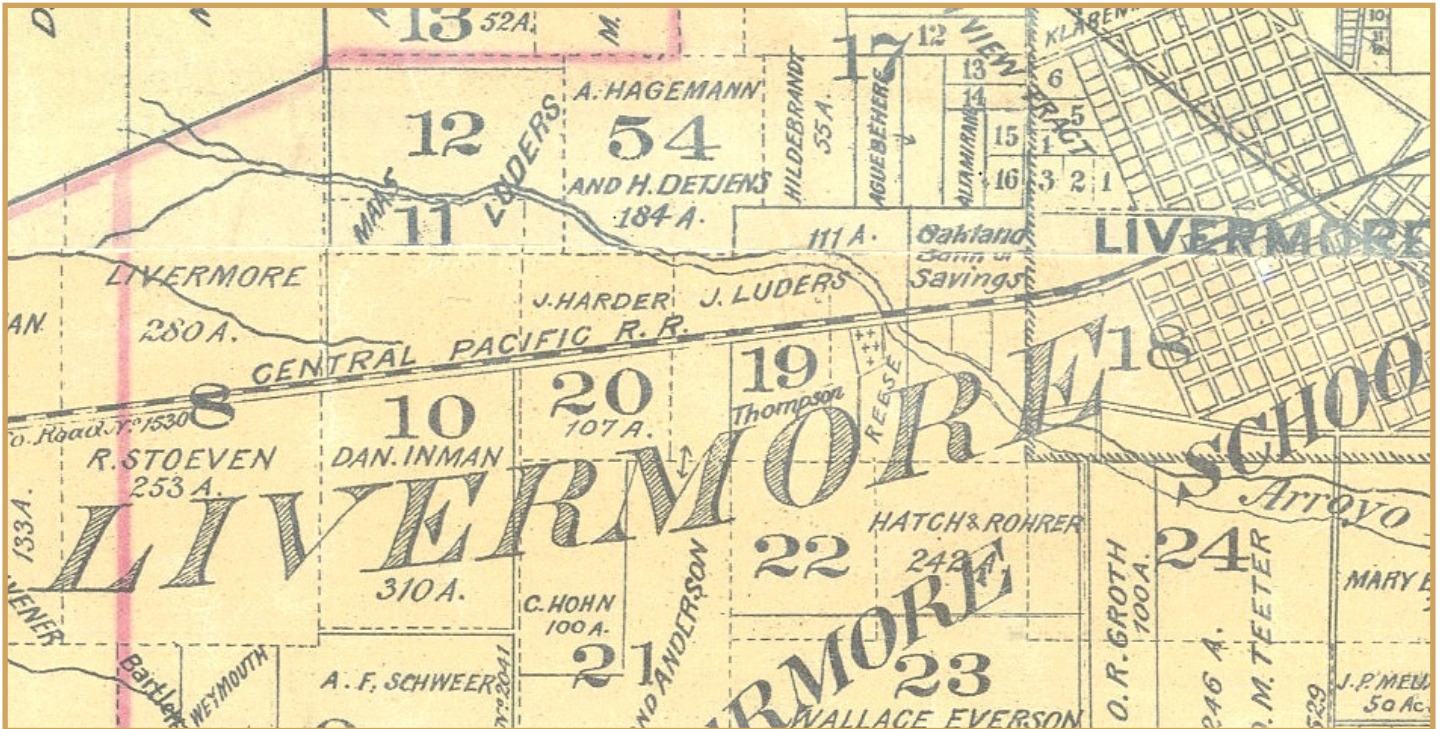
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW



**SCAN THE QR CODE
OR VISIT LHG.ORG**

Buggy

(continued from page 1)



Gerloff. Johanna was the older sister of my grandfather, John Henry Moller. When Ludolf died, "Tanta Hanna," (Johanna) moved to Oakland to be near her daughter and son-in-law. She sold the [Dublin] farm to my father Harold Henry Moller and his two brothers Lloyd Martin and Roy John.

"My uncle Lloyd started spending summers helping Hein with the farming when he was in high school. Lloyd was like a son to the Nienburgs and continued helping them throughout their lives. He inherited the farm [on Stanley Boulevard] and later gave the Doctor's Buggy to my husband and me. "We loaned the buggy to the Alameda County Fair in their antique farm

vehicle exhibit for years. When the Fair eliminated that exhibit, they wanted me to donate the buggy so they could sell it. My husband Jack had passed away but I did not want to give up the buggy just to be sold. I put it in storage and looked for another public home for the buggy. No museum had room to display or store it. I ran out of options.

"Then Elizabeth Isles, Director of the Dublin Heritage Center, called me about the Hagemann Farm Park being created. So I donated the buggy there. I was so happy that people would see it again. I am sure that the buggy made many trips between the Stoeven-Nienburg farm and the Hagemann farm. The Doctor's Buggy is back in a familiar place as its perfect home."

Reimer, Catharina, Therese, and Hein are buried together in the Dublin Pioneer Cemetery (North of I-580). The John Henry Moller family is also buried there. Using Lynn's letter, I created relationship links for cemetery records. Anyone can access these family records at no cost at findagrave.com

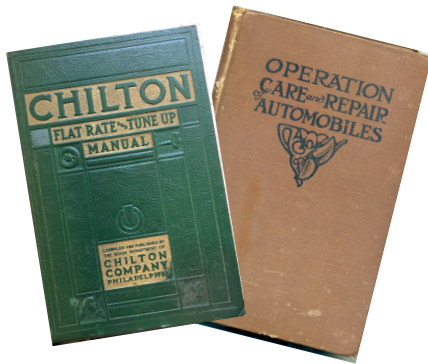
Richard Finn of the Guild noted that he has the Moller, Stoeven, Hagemann, Nienburg, Koopmann, and related families in his Tri-Valley Heritage Families database if readers want to research those early families.

Above: Map: George L. Nusbaumer & W. F. Boardman, Official Map of Alameda County, 1900 (See also Murray Township Index Map, 1897)

Please join us for the
Livermore Heritage Guild's
Annual General Meeting
Saturday Morning November 7, 2026
Time and place to be announced

The Great Books of Duarte

by Will Bolton



As far as I know, Frank Duarte did not write the Great American Novel. Therefore, the title above would probably be called “clickbait” today. On the other hand, in the early 1900s - which is time period we are considering here - the title above would probably be called “encouragement to read this item.” So, please read this item.

Although there isn't a copy of Homer's *Odyssey* or Isaac Newton's *Principia* in the Duarte Garage, there are copies of books that were quite important for the establishment and operation of an early roadside garage. These books fall into two broad categories: those intended to help with the technical aspects of maintaining and repairing automobiles and those intended to help with profitably running the business.

Automobiles developed from earlier wheeled conveyances, such as carts, buggies, wagons, with their wooden structure and wheels, axles, steering, and seating. Even bicycles provided an example of the crank and chain drive as a means of converting periodic pushes from a rider's legs into rotary motion of the drive wheel with mechanical advantage to move the vehicle. Introduction of a motor to supplant animal or human muscle power provided a new level of complexity and unfamiliar devices. Those maintaining and repairing the rapidly expanding number of automobiles needed reference materials to help them master the new technologies. A number of publications quickly started filling that need with instructions and reliable data. For example, in 1903, William Randolph

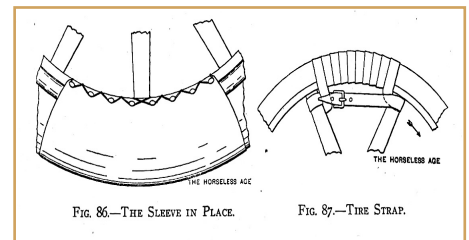
Hearst followed the lead of European magazines and began publishing a monthly newsletter called “MoToR.” That evolved into “MOTOR” magazine and eventually the “MOTOR” repair manuals. Similarly, the well-known Chilton repair manuals evolved from the “Cycle Trade Journal,” a bicycle publication first published in 1896.

The oldest automobile reference manual at the Duarte Garage is titled, “Operation, Care, and Repair of Automobiles,” published in 1907. The book's title page states that it was “Edited from the files of The Horseless Age,” a periodical first published in 1895. A 1902 issue of The Horseless Age reported on recent interest in applying electric ignition to gasoline engines. The 1907 book dispensed with a table of contents and other such frippery. It delved straight into electric ignition, starting with an explanation of magnetism. It also touched on spark plugs, generators, carburetors, tires (including applying a bandage of leather or strips of rubber over the outside of the injured tire and rim – a technique not in much use for the last 100 years), lubrication, and even washing and storing automobiles. What was not included was any information about specific automobiles. Evidently, at the time, the systems were so simple that anyone competent enough to attempt a repair would immediately be able to apply the principles in the manual to any automobile they might encounter. However, this simple situation quickly changed as the number of automobile companies in the US reached a peak of almost 2,000 in the 1920s before being reduced to a relative handful by the Depression. The automobile manuals responded by greatly expanding to include sections covering the unique characteristics of each individual make.

The second type of Great Book in the Garage is the flat-rate manual, which assisted in profitably running an auto repair business. Much like the technical manuals, the flat-rate manual evolved with the development of the automobile. Early on, only the wealthy could afford to buy automobiles and would hire chauffeurs and staff to maintain them..

In the 1910s, as mass production of automobiles reduced the price and more cars were owned by the less well-to-do, demand for repair service increased. Garages popped up – like the Duarte Garage – offering service and repair for automobiles. Typically, the shop would charge for parts and actual time for the repair at a shop labor rate - mechanics were paid by the day or hour. With differences in the skill of mechanics, the cost of a repair could vary widely between shops or even within a single shop. To provide some stability, the concept of standard repair times emerged. This evolved into the flat-rate manual, which listed repairs and a standard time that the repair should take. In principle, the customer benefited by having predetermined cost for the repair. This concept was and is controversial and can be subject to abuses of various types (not a topic to be discussed here). One flat-rate manual from the 1920s at the Garage lists a dizzying array of repairs and is 8” thick. In addition to the standard time for each repair for a long list of automobiles, it lists the parts required and even the cost of the parts. Evidently, costs were reasonably stable in those days because there was an annual update tucked in the front of the old fixed rate manual.

Both types of automobile Great Books are on display at the Duarte Garage. Visit the Garage to take a look and see how many of the automobile makes are represented in the books you recognize. For example, have you ever heard of the “Graham”?



Top left: Two of the Great Books in the Duarte Garage.

Above: Diagram of how to apply a tire bandage over the outside of an injured tire and rim. Photos by Will Bolton

Call for Officer Nominations



The Livermore Heritage Guild conducts its annual officer elections by mail. This ensures all members in good standing have the opportunity to participate in both the nomination process and voting.

Eligibility

Any member whose membership is paid through **October 31, 2026**, is invited to submit candidate nominations (including nominating yourself). The nomination window is open upon receipt of the newsletter,

Tip: You can check your membership expiration date on your newsletter address label.

Open Positions

Nominations are currently open for the following offices (job descriptions are listed in the far column):

- President
- Second Vice-President
- Treasurer (one-year unexpired term)

Note: All nominees must be current members of the Livermore Heritage Guild and must consent to their nomination.

How to Submit a Nomination

To submit a nomination, please provide a short statement of nomination along with a brief candidate's statement written by the nominee. Submissions must be sent via one of the methods below:

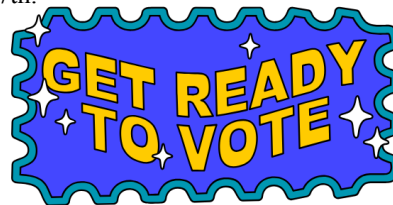
- By Mail (USPS):
LHG Nominations
P.O. Box 961, Livermore, CA 94551
OR
- By Email:
nominations@livermorehistory.com
(Must be received by September 17)

Slate Selection

On September 27th, the Board will consider all nominations and select a slate of candidates.

Election Ballots

Stamped, pre-addressed postcard ballots, along with the candidates' statements will be mailed to all members in good standing on or about October 7th. Members will have the opportunity to elect three officers to the LHG Executive Board. Returned ballots must be postmarked by October 27th. Election results will be announced to the membership at the AGM on November 7th.



Job Descriptions

The **President** shall have the responsibility for the overall management of the Guild, shall see that all orders and directives of the Executive Board are carried out, and shall preside at all meetings of the general membership and the Executive Board. The President shall nominate, with the approval of a simple majority of the Executive Board, all standing and special committee chairs with the exception of the Nominating/Election Committee and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating/Election Committee. The President shall prepare an annual report which will be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the membership. This report shall include a summary of the past year's activities and the ongoing plans for the coming year.

The **Second Vice-President** shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President and First Vice-President. The Second Vice-President shall also serve as the Membership Chair and help to coordinate volunteers.

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

Do You Know ...

How critical the need is for History Center docents?

- On a four-week schedule we say we are open a total of 70 hours
- SIX docents cover 44 of those hours
- **26 hours remain unassigned**
- More docents are needed to represent LHG
- Trusty, devoted docents try to fill the empty time slots but often the History Center is closed

If you enjoy meeting people and hearing their stories, this is for you!

Help is desperately needed on the third and fourth Sundays of the month 10:00 am - 2:00 pm;
first and third Saturdays 11:30am - 4:00pm; some Fridays 11:30am - 4:00pm.

Email: volunteer@livermorehistory.com and let's set up an appointment to chat!

Heritage Garden

by Loretta Kaskey

If you strolled past the vegetable beds last August, you'd have witnessed the



aftermath: shredded rinds, gnawed stems, and the unmistakable evidence of a squirrel buffet where our squash harvest had been. Despite faithfully reapplying a scent-based deterrent week after week, our furry neighbors proved more persistent than our patience. By midsummer, we'd waved the white flag.

But your Heritage Garden Team does not surrender so easily. Over the winter, we



put on our thinking caps and turned, as we so often do, to the past for a solution.

Enter the cloche.

Victorian gardeners faced the same battle we did, and their answer was the humble cloche: a bell-shaped cover — originally glass — placed over vulnerable plants. By the 1800s, no serious kitchen garden was without a row of them marching down the beds.

This spring, we fitted wire cloches over the squash. The results speak for themselves: last year's photo shows total devastation; this year's harvest is sitting pretty- untouched, plump, and entirely squirrel-free.

Sometimes the best solutions aren't new — they're borrowed from gardeners who solved this problem a century ago.

LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Wednesday, Aug. 12	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, Aug. 16	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Saturday, Aug. 22	9:30am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, Aug. 30	1-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann: Self-guided Tours	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, Sept. 9	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Thursday, Sept. 17	————	Officer Nomination Period Closes	Email or postmark
Saturday, Sept. 19	9:30am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, Sept. 20	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, Sept. 27	1-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann: Prairie School	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, Oct. 7	————	Election Materials Mailed	————
Wednesday, Oct. 14	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, Oct. 17	11am-4pm	Harmony and Historic Home Tour	Various
Sunday, Oct. 18	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, Oct. 25	1-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann: Halloween	Hagemann Ranch
Tuesday, Oct. 27	————	Election Ballot Postmark Deadline	————
Wednesday, Oct. 28	7pm	Then and Now Talk: History of the IOOF Livermore Cemetery	Main Library
Saturday, Nov. 7	10am-11:30am	Annual General Meeting	TBD
Wednesday, Nov. 11	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting

Welcome New and Renewing Members!

April - June 2026

Patron

Phil and Jan Bardsley
Carrie Seng
Carol Silva
John Taylor

Sponsor

Sandy Clark
Cheree Hethershaw
Livermore Lions Club
Jennifer Tobin - NEW

Household

Bill and Anne Anaya
Ann and Ben Barrientos
Judy Bearrows
Dan and Donna Buchheit
Ken and Ginger Common
Joanne and Aubrey Headley
Wendy Howe
Dan and Page Mosier
David and Alice Quinn
Thomas Rognlien
Maria Saenz - NEW
Dennis Uhlich
Sophia Venn - NEW

Life

Charles McCumber
Michelle McCumber

Senior

Philomena Buonsante
Phyllis Minoggio Frasier
Jon Hart
Gale Hudson
Kathleen Javdani
Art Kobayashi
Mary Kroesen
Steve Leeds
Lorraine Magee
Mark Montgomery - NEW
Nancy Mulligan
Owen Parker
Sharon Parker - NEW
Pat Smith
Charles Sweet

Individual

Marie Bidinost - NEW
Tammy Breithaupt - NEW
Julie Clark
Suzanne Clark
David Gates - NEW
Susan Rambo

Contact Us

President

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will.bolton1@aol.com

1st Vice Pres. Program Chair

Loretta Kaskey
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2nd Vice Pres. Membership Chair

Dottie Eberly
newsletter@livermorehistory.com

Secretary

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Treasurer

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Will Bolton
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Volunteer Coordinator

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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. Please call ahead or check the website for updated information.
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.

Renewing memberships online: www.lhg.org hit the JOIN/RENEW button

Please make any checks payable to "LHG." Livermore Heritage Guild
P.O. Box 961
Livermore, CA 94551

In Appreciation

Donations

Pam Grajek
Anna Siig Estate

Duarte Garage Projects

Altamont Cruisers

Midway School Project

Alan Burnham
Karen & Thomas Jefferson
Loretta Kaskey
Bill Maranville
Kelly O'Hair
Marie Stafford

Midway School Project

In memory of Andrea Loyd

Lisa Cabral
Judy Elliott
Steven and Mary Kurs

In memory of Mary Rasmussen

Dona Blackmore
Wendy Howe

In memory of Anna Siig

Lorraine Magee
Nile Runge
Kirsten Wightman

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!

Platinum
Transparency
2026

Candid.

Charity
Navigator



+ FOUR-STAR +