

## Do You Remember?



By Anne Homan

### F.A. Schrader's Blacksmith Shop

Blacksmith Square is a delightful area at Railroad Avenue and South Livermore Avenue with two restored buildings separated into small shops that sell, among other merchandise, local olive oil and wines. The main building was originally a blacksmith shop built by Fred Schrader in 1914. Made of brick manufactured by the Livermore Fire Brick Company, it has a false front with a massive cornice.

The single story structure was built in a simple rectangle design with four-over-four rectangular windows. A small addition to the south front served as an office and main entrance for customers. Two large industrial doors are on the north and south sides of the building. The other structure is a frame building and was used for storage. The Blacksmith Square developer has faced the structure with brick closely matching the older brick of the other building and created a pleasant patio between the two buildings.

Rostock, Germany is an important port on the Baltic Sea north of Berlin. Frederick "Fred"

working in a Chicago wagon factory. Three years later he crossed the continent to California and continued his chosen occupation in Hayward and Dublin. He traveled to Guatemala; between 1884 and 1886 he worked in railroad shops as the Guatamala Central Railroad was being built.

Following that job he came to Greenville and began running the Greenville Blacksmith Shop near the intersection of Greenville Road and Old Altamont Pass Road.

After six years, he purchased the blacksmith shop of James Beazell on South Livermore Avenue south of the present Blacksmith Square location. On May 17, 1890 Fred had married Augusta Kruger in Stockton. They built a home on Livermore Avenue and in 1892 celebrated

him, not dying until 1942.

Fred made many improvements to the old Beazell shop in 1904. He had electricity installed as well as new machinery. A three horsepower electric motor furnished power for a blower connecting the shop's three forges. The shop's drills, emery wheel, grindstone, and a new bolt-cutting device were also connected to the power source. He installed a new bandsaw for woodworking.

Schrader was elected by the Livermore Board of Town Trustees to succeed retiring trustee D.J. Murphy in 1909; he remained in office for four and a half years. His *Livermore Echo* ad in 1907 said that horseshoeing was his specialty and that he was the agent for Studebaker wagons, Milwaukee Mowers, and the San

ther north on Livermore Avenue, between the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks and the Western Pacific tracks and built his new brick shop and his frame storage warehouse there.

Fred Schrader died quietly without a struggle in the chair in his brick blacksmith shop office on February 10, 1915. According to the *Herald*, "he had been on the street only a few minutes before and seemed in good health and spirits," although he had been under a doctor's treatment for heart trouble. He belonged to the German fraternal order, Hermann Sons, and the Masons. His funeral took place from Livermore's Masonic Hall on Sunday. He was buried in Roselawn, the Masonic Cemetery.

In April 1916 Annie H. Schrader announced that she had bought M.C. Montgomery's interest in the Schrader/Montgomery business. For several years, she leased the shop to V. Pierotti; the last record of the lease was in 1923, when it was called a "machine shop." Pierotti's shop was a cross between the traditional blacksmith shop and the newer style combination of automobile dealer and repair shop. Below the name Pierotti, the old painted words advertising his business are still barely visible on the bricks of the front façade: "blacksmithing, shoeing, autos." A number of other businesses followed in the same buildings.

My husband has restored a number of old cars. He always went to D&G Mufflers, run by Gene and Mark Hutto, which was the last business at the site before its conversion to Blacksmith Square.

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August Schrader was born there on 29 August 1851. He immigrated to the United States with his parents at age 10.

The family lived in Elgin, Illinois, where Fred learned to be a wheelwright. In 1871 he started

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## Jazz/Hip-Hop Clinic Set

The Granada High School dance team will present its 7th annual dance clinic on Sat., Feb. 4 from 3 to 6 p.m. in Granada's main gym, 400 Wall Street, Livermore.

Featured will be jazz/hip-hop dance. The clinic includes dance instruction with separate routine and performance for middle and el-

its completion with a party for 100 guests.

Everyone enjoyed the good food, and the Higuera brothers played music for dancing until five in the morning. Augusta died in 1900 at the German Hospital in San Francisco as a result of surgery for stomach problems; Fred married again in December 1901 to Amelia Gochey. In February 1907 he bought two lots at the intersection of Fourth and I Streets, where he built a large home, which still stands at 713 South I Street. Probably, they hoped for a family, but they had had no children when she died in March 1908. Annie H. was his third wife (we don't know her maiden name)—he married her about 1909, and she outlived

Leandro Monarch Hay Press. Another ad in January of the same year listed the prices for horse-shoeing charged by all nine of the Livermore blacksmiths; they varied from \$1.25 to \$2.00 and up for a stallion. In 1912 Schrader entered into a partnership with blacksmith C.M. Montgomery. Together, they built the new brick blacksmith shop in 1914. Previously, Schrader's shop, the old Beazell shop, had been part of block one owned by C.J. Stevens, Livermore's original mill owner, but after Stevens' death, his estate would not renew the lease. Block one ran along Livermore Avenue from First Street to the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. Schrader wanted to stay in the same area, so he bought a lot far-