

# Do You Remember?

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## The Henry Family and *The Livermore Herald*

Charles Everett Henry was born in Swanzev, New Hampshire, in 1842. One of his ancestors had signed the New Hampshire Declaration of Independence and fought in the Revolutionary War. When Charles was 23 years old, he married Juliette (Julia) Fisk in September 1865. His father died soon after his marriage. He did not get along with his stepfather, so he and Julia decided to come to California. About 1866 they sailed to Panama, came through the Isthmus, and up the coast to California, happy to be away from a life of farming on New Hampshire's stony ground. Their son, Arthur, was born in Sacramento in 1868.

The family soon moved to Dixon in Solano County, where young Arthur grew up with his four siblings. According to Arthur's obituary, for the town of Dixon, "he held a warm feeling in his heart, for it was there that he entered upon the profession which became his life's work; it was there that he met the girl of his choice (Edna M. Ross), who became his life's partner; and, it was there, too, that their first child was born." Arthur worked for a while for the *Dixon Tribune*, soon bought the paper, and continued as editor and publisher.

In 1899 Arthur Henry sold the Dixon newspaper and purchased *The Livermore Herald*. Renouncing in 1949, Arthur's oldest son, Maitland,

mused, "You are an Old-Timer in Livermore, for certain, if you were here when the Arthur Henry family—mother and four children—arrived just fifty years ago today, July 1, 1899, to join our dad, who had purchased *The Herald* a few weeks previous." Arthur and Edna Henry had four more children in Livermore. Arthur's obituary, probably written by Maitland, said of him: "His editor's pen had a way of advancing a point in a clear, concise manner. ... Public-spirited and loyal to a high degree, his every thought, word, and effort was given for the betterment of [the Livermore Valley] and the upbuilding of the community." Beginning in January 1907, Arthur also served for 5½ years as the Livermore City clerk.

Maitland, as he was growing up, worked as a printer's devil (apprentice) in his father's shop—running errands, mixing ink, fetching type. He graduated from Livermore High School in 1908; five years later the *Herald* noted that he was doing independent study and reading and working as assistant to his father at the newspaper. After his father's death in 1920, Maitland took over as editor while his mother served as the publisher. On September 2, 1921, the front page announced, "*Herald* Goes to Its Readers This Week in Improved Form." The firm had bought a new Standard Mergenthaler Linotype

machine, which meant that type no longer had to be set by hand, character by character. Maitland had waited three weeks to test the machine; after its successful inauguration, readers were invited to come any afternoon to inspect the machine and get a souvenir slug of lead. Maitland's sister, Lois, graduated from Livermore High in 1915 and typed many years on the 90-character keyboard as the *Herald* linotype operator. Eventually, Maitland became publisher as well as editor.

Eva Williamson graduated from UC Berkeley and then from the UC San Francisco School of Nursing. As a waitress and housekeeper, she had earned money for her schooling. Maitland and his mother attended a newspaper conference at Asilomar. Eva met them while she was waiting on tables there. Eva and Maitland Henry married in 1924. Before World War II, her time was focused on the needs of her children; occasionally she did some proofreading at home. During the war she worked a regular shift at the *Herald* office. Because of the shortage of nurses, she also worked the night shift in obstetrics at St. Paul's Hospital. The couple had four children; the oldest son, named Arthur for his grandfather, came back to Livermore in 1954 after his graduation from Stanford and edited the paper until it was sold in 1965.

Maitland Henry was a



Lois Henry is seated at the linotype keyboard. Photo courtesy of Philip Henry

journalist who cherished local history. He encouraged city residents to contribute articles and reminiscences about the old days in Livermore. He himself researched local history, such as the story of the city's National Guard units. He wrote about his role as editor and publisher of a small-town paper: "Every newspaper publisher because of the very nature of his work has a peculiar place in the community, and hopes his response to what the community has a right to expect of him merits that support. His responsibility for leadership in all matters having to do with the public is definite. It is self-evident his paper and his office will be a clearing house for much that leads to advancement of the community, and he has not only the special responsibility but the special privilege of participating in just about everything that 'makes the wheels go round.'"

Maitland R. Henry Park is located at the northwest edge of Livermore at the corner of Mendocino Road and Del Norte Drive. The

man for whom it is named published *The Livermore Herald* for 35 years. Adding his father's and his brother's work, the Henry family published the newspaper for a total of 66 years.

Maitland's youngest brother was Alan C. Henry. Last Thursday evening,

I met Alan's son, Philip Henry and his grandson, Chris Henry. Now that Philip has retired, he has been working at the family's genealogy. He brought many items to share with me, including some wonderful family photos.

(Readers can reach me at [am50homan@yahoo.com](mailto:am50homan@yahoo.com).)

## Dublin to Host 'Meet the Lenders' Session

Dublin invites interested individuals to attend the Meet the Lenders event scheduled for Wednesday, February 6 at the Dublin Library Community Room located at 200 Civic Plaza in Dublin. Learn how to obtain financing for a start-up or existing small business and begin forming critical relationships with dozens of banks, community lenders and other investors. This event is free to attend for Dublin businesses and residents, and is brought to you by a partnership between the City of Dublin, the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and the Alameda County Small Business Development Center.

The event begins promptly at 8:30 am and will offer participants a Borrowing 101 panel discussion featuring lenders from: alternative funding, Small Business Administration, commercial banks, micro lending, and State lending programs. The event will conclude with a Lender Resource Fair where attendees will have an opportunity to speak one-on-one with the lenders and resource organizations.

For more information contact Hazel Wetherford, Economic Development Analyst at (925) 833-6650 or pre-register online at [www.dublin.ca.gov/meetthelenders](http://www.dublin.ca.gov/meetthelenders). Preregistration is now open.