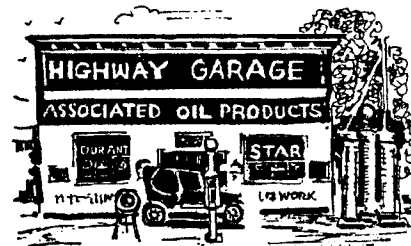




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# LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD



HIGHWAY GARAGE

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*" HELP SAVE YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW "*

NEWSLETTER

MEMBERSHIP OCT 1 TO SEPT 30: FAMILY \$10, INDIVIDUAL \$7, SENIOR \$3  
JUNIOR \$3, LIFE \$150, PATRON \$100, SPONSOR \$25, LIBRARY \$5

October 1991

Vol. XX

No. 1

Vanna Born, Carolyn Ramsey, and Bill and Susan Junk -- thanks to all.

## CALENDAR

October 10, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

October 25, 26 & 27, Friday, Saturday & Sunday  
LARPD presents the Haunted Barn 6-9 p.m.  
\$3 adults, \$2 under 18 and \$6 family of four  
Info: 373-5701

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR LHG MEMBERSHIP. YOUR DUES HELP US OPERATE THE HISTORY CENTER AND MAINTAIN OUR EXHIBITS AND PUBLICATIONS. IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS DUE FOR RENEWAL A COUPON WAS ENCLOSED LAST MONTH WITH THIS NEWSLETTER.

Tilli Calhoun and the Livermore Heritage Guild wish to thank all the volunteers who helped staff the Historymobile during the Harvest Festival in September: Walter & Joan Detjens, who prepared a special display of grapes and labels from valley growers who used these grapes in their wine; Mr. & Mrs. Fred Schofield, Tish Fletcher,

New book cases were installed at the Carnegie Library to house our growing reference library on Livermore history. We encourage those of you who are interested in local history to make use of these facilities.

The Maitland Henry collection of Livermore memorabilia donated to the Guild by his son Arthur contains nearly 500 photographs. The Guild has begun to make negatives of most of the photos for our files. These photos can be reproduced and the negatives preserved for future use. Anyone interested in donating to this project may do so by sending a check to: Livermore Heritage Guild, P.O. Box 961, Livermore, CA 94551 notating on your check LHG photo fund.

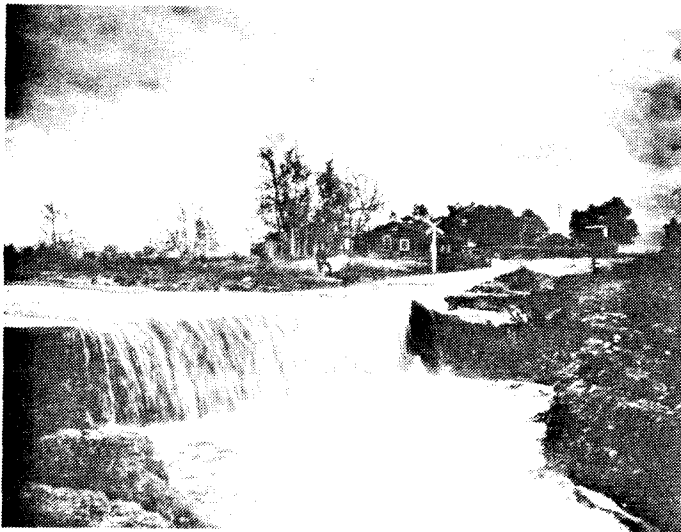
Excerpted from Livermore Echo, January 23, 1890

“Water from a canyon southeast of town flowed down East Avenue and Lizzie Street last Friday forenoon in such quantities as to threaten the place with inundation, transforming Front Street and the vicinity of the depot into a raging river. Some pretty lively work was done for a couple of hours, when the flood subsided, having done no great amount of damage. The like was never before seen in Livermore.

Excerpted from Livermore Echo, January 30, 1890

"The high water in Las Positas creek last Saturday washed out a large quantity of growing vegetables in A. DeMartini's garden on the Robert Livermore place and vegetables of all descriptions are now scattered along the banks of the creek for a long distance below.

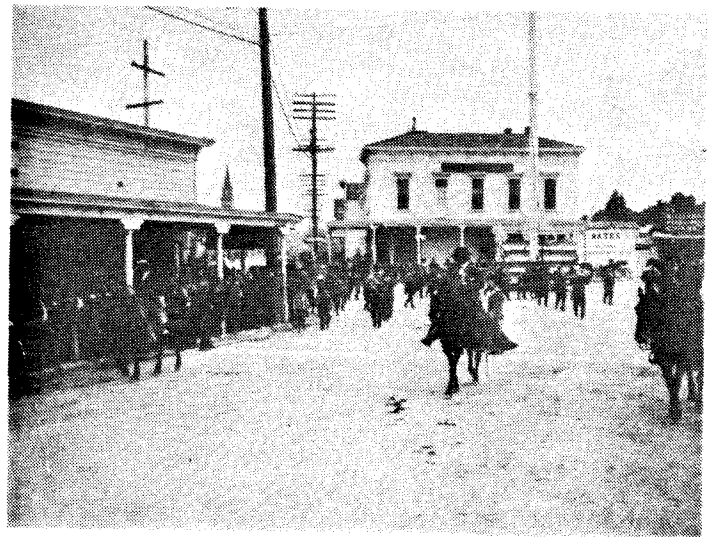
"A proof that Livermore has the finest natural streets in the world is found in the fact that, notwithstanding the flood of water which passed down First Street but two days before, workmen engaged Monday excavating for a culvert found the ground perfectly dry below a depth of two inches.



Excerpted from Livermore Herald, July 13, 1928

### Old Landmark Is Going

After half a century of service the old Livermore Hotel Building at First Street and Livermore Avenue is being razed to make way for extensive improvements on the corner. According to the best recollections of "old timers", the building was erected in the 70's and has become one of the landmarks of the town. For a number of years it has been classified as an eyesore and its destruction occasions no regrets. Plans which have been announced call for moving the service station of O'Neil and Williams closer to the corner and the erection of a new building along the rear of the lot. The structure will house business enterprises engaged in offering services to autoists.



**LIVERMORE  
HERITAGE  
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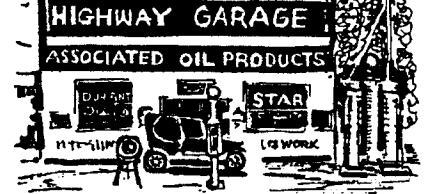
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# HERITAGE GUILD



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NOVEMBER 1991

Vol. XX

No. 2

Excerpted from the Livermore Herald, March 1, 1940

## CALENDAR

November 9, Saturday, 1-4 p.m.  
LAA Gallery, Carnegie Bldg.  
Reception for Clarice Roberts  
Refreshments will be served  
Clarice has a unique style. Her recently completed watercolor of Ravenswood will be on display

November 14, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

November 24, Sunday, 11-5  
Holiday Gift Shoppe  
Ravenswood  
Uniquely beautiful gifts, special activities for all children, and Santa will make an appearance at 2:00 p.m., Information: Karen 447-1929

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Thanks go to the following who helped make the Historymobile exhibit available at Festival '91: Bill and Susan Junk, Chet Fankhauser, Walter Detjens, Helen Moir, Toni Tami, Rosemary Stroud, Doug Baird, Ted and Bun Schofield, and Barry Schrader. Also Malvern Sweet, Tim Sage, Nancy Mueller, Bea Haera and Gary Drummond for manning the LHG booth.

**Christmas will be upon us soon so remember to stop by the Carnegie Library for a unique assortment of gifts and stocking stuffers from the Livermore Heritage Guild and Livermore Art Association.**



The following piece appeared when the current Post Office was opened on South Livermore Avenue in 1940.

## LOCATION CHANGED MANY TIMES

Almost forgotten by the oldest residents of the city, apparently entirely overlooked by historians, the fact that Nottingham was the name of the first post office for this city is revealed only through the history of post office service here.

There was no such community as Livermore when Robert Graham moved here from Hayward in 1868 to erect a general merchandise store near the hotel operated by Alphonse Ladd. At that time the buildings surrounding the hotel formed what was known as Laddsville, now the East First Street section of the city, but when, on January 15, 1869, Graham became the first postmaster, that name was not adopted, the first post office being called Nottingham, presumably in honor of the English birthplace of Robert Livermore, first Anglo-Saxon resident of the valley. Graham was the father of Mrs. C.M. Nissen of this city.

That was the year, 1869, when the Central Pacific railroad was being built through this valley, its first train steaming over the new rails in August. A month before, William M. Mendenhall had donated a tract of ground to the railroad company, west of Laddsville, and had laid out the surrounding area in a town site, to be called Livermore.

Nottingham was soon dropped from consideration, post office records showing the name was changed to Livermore on July 7, 1870.

So completely was Nottingham forgotten, it was not until five years ago that the knowledge of that post office name was revived. Then Mrs. Mary Myrick, looking through old possessions, found an envelope bearing the Nottingham postmark. It contained a letter that had been mailed

to her from this city by the man who was to become her first husband the late F.A. Anthony, while she resided at Santa Cruz. Discovery of the letter started an investigation by City Clerk, Elmer G. Still who obtained the early history from the post office department.

Henry Goetjen, who also had a store in Laddsville, became the second postmaster as he succeeded Graham in July 1871, but he served only three months. Fire wiped out the business section of Laddsville, destroying the post office.

Laddsville was gone, but the nearby Livermore had become a thriving business center, one of its principal structures being the store of A.J. McLeod, located at what is now First Street and Livermore Avenue, the present site of the Bank of America. To that building went the post office, with McLeod assuming office as postmaster in October 1871. He relinquished the office in February, 1873, to Philip Anspacher, another pioneer merchant, but Anspacher turned the office back to McLeod a month later, and McLeod continued to serve for an additional eight years.

In April, 1881, Dr. L. H. Cutler was appointed postmaster, and the office was moved from the McLeod building to the structure on K Street, directly at the rear of the Lawless Drug Company. It stands today as the oldest post office building remaining in the city. Cutler served for four and one half years, being succeeded in October 1885 by George Beck, pioneer merchant, whose business and political career are still well remembered by many present-day Livermoreans.

Beck was operating a grocery store here and he established the post office in the Odd Fellows

building. It remained there for more than eight years, continuing in that location during the service of J.O. McKown, druggist, who succeeded Beck in February 1890, and held office for the ensuing four years.

For twenty years after March, 1894, when D.J. Murphy, later to become supervisor from this district, was named postmaster, the office was located in what is now the McKenzie News Stand on First Street, near Livermore Avenue. Murphy made the move and remained in charge for four years, relinquishing his position to Reuben Hunter in March 1898.

Hunter served for five years, being succeeded in February 1903 by T. E. Knox who was to follow Murphy's lead in later becoming supervisor. Knox, serving for 13 years as postmaster, maintained his office in the First Street building until 1914, when he transferred operations to the Livermore Avenue building which now houses the Copeland Electric Store.

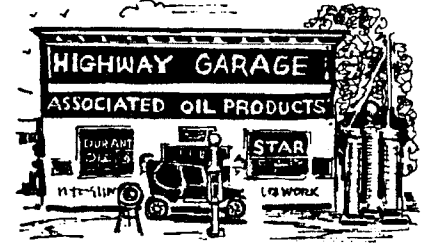
Two years later, in February 1916 M.G. Callaghan assumed office as postmaster, starting a career of more than 17 years in the postal service. Under his regime, the office remained on Livermore Avenue for 13 years, but in 1929 came the move to the structure at Second and J Street, present location of the office, now nearing the moment when it, too, will be abandoned by the department.

William R. McKinnon, present postmaster, succeeded Callaghan in office in May 1933. To him will go the honor of transferring postal operations to Livermore's first federal building.



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# LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD



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DECEMBER 1991      Vol. XX      No. 3

## CALENDAR

December 13, 14, & 15, Friday (7-9 p.m.), Saturday (10-7 p.m.), and Sunday (10-4 p.m.)  
Ravenswood Victorian Christmas Fair

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

# Extra!!!      Extra!!!

The 1992 Heritage Guild Calendars will be available on December 16. The theme for this year's calendar is "Livermore During WWII" and are \$6.00 each.

### Letter to the Editor:

Dear Larry:

Because Thanksgiving is as late as it can be this year, many of us will find Christmas shopping upon us in a rush. Will you please remind our membership in the December newsletter that the History Center has much to offer the harried shopper?

Notecards, for example, make great stocking stuffers and hostess gifts. We have six different

designs for selection, including those done by Tillie Calhoun and the elegant "Couples on Second Street from 1903".

Books are always welcomed gifts. Consider Janet Newton's Stories of the Vineyards and Wineries of the Livermore Valley or her The Charm of Old Livermore, which has wonderful stories and reproductions of her paintings of old houses. Always a delight to receive and read is Early Days in the Livermore-Amador Valley by Tillie Calhoun.

You will recall that the Guild received a matching grant from the Alameda County Art Commission to publish a self-guiding walking tour of downtown Livermore. Mac Smith of a Small Creative Agency provided the professional design and Gary Drummond the fascinating prose to produce a superior publication and another great hostess gift or "stuffer".

The 1889 color panoramic map of Livermore is mounted and ready to be framed for an uncommon gift. I gave one to Phillip to hang in his office, and he tells me that his visitors are fascinated by it. They like to find where their house is located or discuss where the old buildings were and whether they are still there or what happened to them. Last year, I gave him one of Jorja Vliet's

exceptional pen and ink sketches of the Southern Pacific Depot. Having a signed print of a limited edition makes one feel special.

Finally, for old and young alike, I would recommend our tee shirt that commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Lincoln Highway and our own Duarte Garage. Everyone who has one remarks on the comfort of the fabric, and remember that kids love to wear tee shirts in place of PJ's.

I'm sure I've overlooked a number of other gift possibilities, Larry; so just remind everyone that our hours are 11:30 to 4:00 every Wednesday through Sunday, and they can come and browse at their leisure.

Fondly,

Muriel Dean

Editor: O.K. Done!

In addition to the above mentioned publications, the following are also available from the History Center:

Dr. History's Whizz-Bang, by Jim Rawls, \$9.95

Valley Profiles, beautiful photos of the valley, \$29.95



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Alameda County Place Names, by Page & Dan Mosier, \$9.95

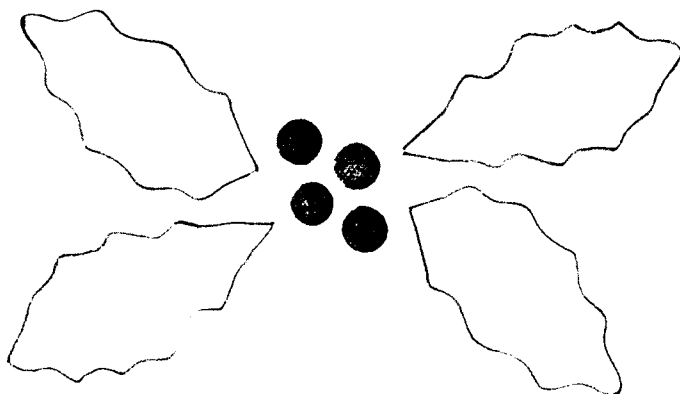
Historical Museums of the San Francisco Bay Area, by Dan Mosier, \$2.00

Las Positas: Robert & Josefa Livermore, by Janet Newton (2nd ed.), \$10.00

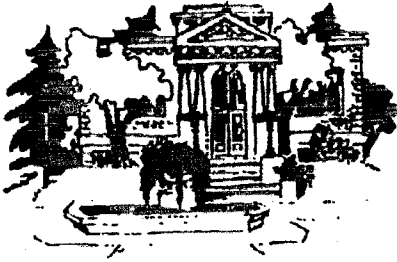
Publications Folder (a selection of 17 LHG booklets), \$5.00

Black and white reproductions of over 500 photographs are available by special order. A single copy of each available photograph can be seen at the History Center.

*Merry Christmas to all  
and to all a good night!*

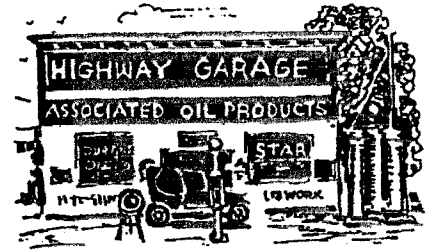


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JANUARY 1992      Vol. XX      No. 4

## CALENDAR

January 9, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

The new 1992 Calendars featuring Livermore and the Naval Air Station (now the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory) During WWII are available for \$6.00 including tax. Be sure and stop by Carnegie Library to purchase your copy.

Old Livermore High Building Had Unique and Interesting History, by Helen Plumb  
Excerpted from the L.U.H.S. Torch, April 1930

The history of our Livermore Union High School is unique not only for the fact that it was the first union school in California, but also because the man who was instrumental in creating union schools was a Livermore man.

It was through the efforts of Mr. F. R. Fassett, who was a member of the state legislature, that a bill was passed which made it possible for the districts in the county to unite and form a union so that a high school could be built.

Immediately after the Union High School Law was passed in March, 1891, the board of trustees

of the Livermore school sent invitations to all the districts around Livermore to attend a meeting for the purpose of organizing a union high school in Livermore. At the meeting representatives were present from eleven districts. All the districts were in favor of the movement with the exception of Pleasanton and Midway.

An election was necessary in order to get the approval of the voters of the districts. This election was held on May 23, 1891 and in the entire district there were only four votes recorded against the proposition. On July 6, Union High School No. 1 was organized with a board of trustees consisting of a trustee from each of the nine districts. The board elected J.G. Young chairman, and Mr. Fassett clerk. These facts make our high school a pioneer in the history of union schools.

For the first two years after the high school was organized, school was held in the grammar school building. After an election in 1892, it was decided to build a high school building. This building was finished and dedicated in August, 1893.

The building was a two story structure built in the center of a lot which was donated by W.M. Mendenhall. The building cost \$15,000. During the years that have passed, several wings were built on to the main building. It was found that the one lot was not large enough; therefore, the whole block west of the school was purchased.

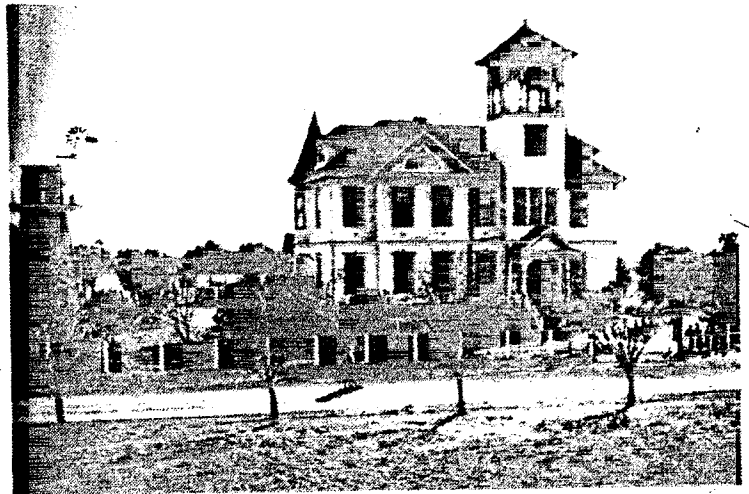
Mr. A.L. Young, in an interview, described the first day in the new school in this manner: "The first day we had no books as the stores in Livermore did not have the books needed for a high school education. Our teacher was a typical Englishman and he thought that no matter how much education you had, if you didn't know Latin, you were not educated; and conversely no matter what else, if you knew Latin, you were called educated. He wrote a sentence in Latin from the first part of "Caesar's Gallic Wars" on the board and told us to memorize it although we hadn't the slightest idea of what it meant. We also spent a good part of the day washing windows".

Mr. Young also said that the subjects first taught in the new high school were Latin, Spanish, plain and solid geometry, ancient, medieval, and modern history, first and second year English, and botany. In 1894 commercial subjects, bookkeeping, shorthand, and advanced arithmetic were started. Gradually domestic science, wood work, boy's shop, and others were added. For a while agriculture was taught, but it was dropped as it proved unsatisfactory. When athletics were started, there was no coach. One of the boys had seen two or three football games, but the rest did not know anything about it. The first football game played was against Centerville and Livermore lost fifty-six to nothing, but after a few other games they became much better.

For the first few years the high school was a two

year course school. Then in 1896 it became a three year school and in 1898 a four year school. In 1895 the high school became accredited to the University of California in everything except mathematics, and in 1896 the school was accredited in everything and has been ever since.

The years passed; and, as the many different sections built on to the main building and the building itself had grown old, it became evident that in case of a fire, many of the students would probably not be able to escape. Therefore, in the spring of 1929, a bond issue was passed by an overwhelming majority favoring an entirely new high school building. A section of land was purchased and the new building started. It is now almost finished, and we will soon be ready to move from the old building which has served so well for thirty-nine years into our new high school.



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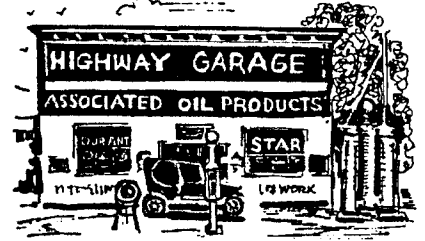
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FEBRUARY 1992 Vol. XX No. 4

## CALENDAR

February 13, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

The new 1992 Calendars featuring Livermore and the Naval Air Station (now the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory) During WWII are available for \$6.00. They are available at the Lawrence Livermore Lab store, Sandia, Goodenough Books and also the History Center.

Miss Jennifer Dye, a student at LHS presented a talk on Wineries in the Valley which she had prepared for a U.S. History class at the high school. Her talk was very well documented with photographs and was well received by the board members. Thank you Jennifer!

At the LHG January meeting the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District discussed an existing plan for the creation of a "house farm" in Livermore. The "farm" would be a site where historically worthy houses and perhaps other old buildings threatened with demolition would be moved. Gary Drummond and Anna Siig volunteered to be

a liaison to LARPD and the Historic Preservation Committee to see if a coordinated effort could be made to revitalize the plan.

## Did You Know There Were Two Railroad Stations In Livermore?

### Royal Welcome To New Railroad Enthusiastic Thousands Greet First W.P. Passenger Train

(Excerpted from Livermore Herald,  
August 1910)

Last Monday was a half holiday for everyone in Livermore and vicinity, the occasion being the opening of the Western Pacific Railway to passenger traffic.

The crowd began to gather at the pretty little depot soon after 1 o'clock although the train was not scheduled to arrive until 2:30.

The depot was prettily decorated for the occasion with flags, palms and grape vines which included some practical ideas in the shape of hay bales, wine casks and cream cans which typified the industrial side of the community.

While the work of decorating was proceeding baskets for presentation to the passengers were being prepared under the superintendence of Marshall Pratt. These baskets contained small bottles of wine and grape juice from the various local wineries, together with fruits and nuts. A card mentioning that the basket contained "liquid sunshine" and other products of the Livermore Valley and reciting the list of awards that products of the valley had received at the various great expositions, was placed in each basket.

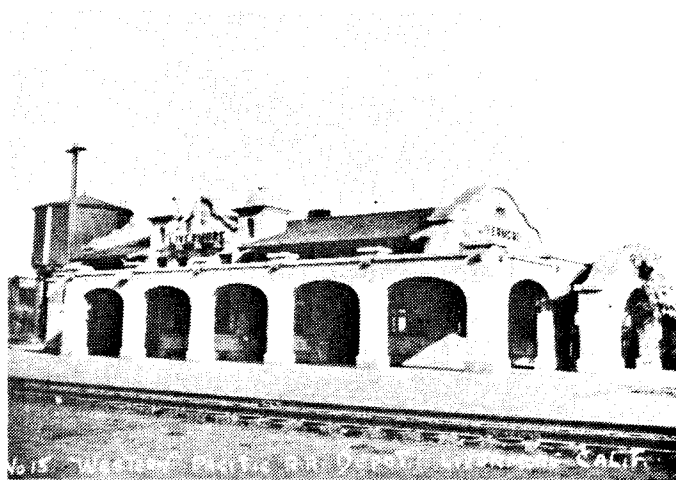
The train was nearly twenty minutes late when it reached Livermore, having been delayed at Stockton. It was greeted with a blare of band music, the waving of hundreds of flags by the school children and the cheering of a crowd aggregating fully 2000 people.

The completion of the Western Pacific Railway from Salt Lake City to its pacific coast terminal at Oakland, California, and the inauguration of passenger service is an event of national importance, as affecting the transportation interest of the country. This piece of road, 932 miles in length, is practically an extension of the Gould system westward, and means that a new factor has entered the field in the distribution of transportation traffic. The Western Pacific connects with the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad at Salt Lake, so that the Gould lines are now continuous from Pittsburgh and Detroit to the Pacific Coast,

and with these connections are able to supply through freight and passenger service from the Atlantic, the Gulf and the Great Lakes to the terminal city of Oakland, located on the continental side of the bay of San Francisco, from which ocean lines will take traffic to all points on the Pacific Coast and the Orient.

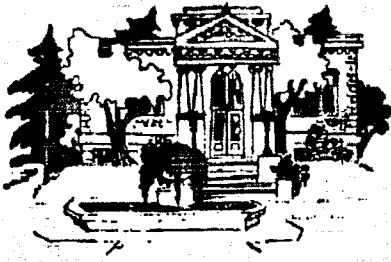
California is now in a position to compete with the East in manufacturing, in the score of saving, and the cost of motor power, while its climate, free from extremes of heat and cold, gives a maximum of labor efficiency at all seasons.

Note: Passenger service was discontinued on the Western Pacific Railroad during WWII and the station was demolished in 1956.



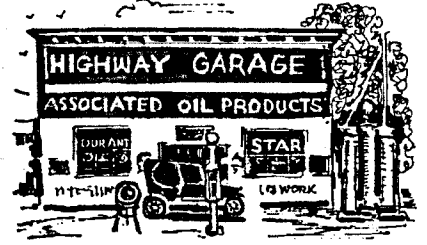
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MARCH 1992      Vol. XX      No. 5

## CALENDAR

March 7, Saturday  
Treasures and Trivia White Elephant Sale  
returns to the Barn on Pacific Ave.  
9 p.m. to 2 p.m.; one dollar charge at the  
door may be applied to purchases. For more  
information or to donate sale items, please  
contact Peggy Burdick 443-9279 or Tot Green  
447-7258. The sale is a production of the  
Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild.

March 12, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

March 21, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Livermore Art Association Spring Show  
at the Barn, Pacific Avenue, Livermore, Free

March 20, 21, & 22  
Friends of the Library Book Sale  
Lincoln Highway Museum  
March 20, Friday, 7-9:30 p.m.  
(FOL members only, however, memberships are  
available at entrance)  
March 21, Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
March 22, Sunday, 1-4 p.m.  
Free admission.

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

### REMINDER:

The 13th Annual Dinner and Auction Fundraiser  
for Lincoln Highway Museum will be Saturday  
May 23.

Thank you to Firestone Tire in Livermore for  
donating their labor to repair the brakes on the  
Historymobile.

Excerpted from the Livermore News,  
March 19, 1957

### Gardella Says Two Cities Should Merge

Former Mayor Louis Gardella this week pro-  
posed that the entire Livermore Valley be incor-  
porated into one city, possibly with the name of  
"Las Positas".

The entire valley will eventually be built up,  
Gardella said, and incorporation now would halt  
the growing trend toward overlapping districts.

He mentioned sewage, flood control, water and  
rapid transit as areas that could better be handled  
by one city, with a substantial saving in administra-  
tive cost in addition to the benefits of single  
control.

Fremont, the consolidation of five Washington  
Township towns, is an example of this type of  
thinking, Gardella said.

"Our growth is still ahead. We can assure orderly progress, with protection of all interests and development of all resources, if we unite in planning now," the former mayor, who served on the City Council 16 years, said.

As a practical matter he suggested a form of borough government with equal representation of Livermore and Pleasanton on the city council and an at-large member.

Incorporation of the entire area between Greenville and Dublin, to the foothills and north and south would make "Las Positas" the second largest city in the State, Gardella said, larger than San Diego.

That's something to think about--time's up!Next!

Excerpted from the Livermore Herald  
Special Midwinter Edition, January 25, 1896

### The Ryan Brothers

This firm, consisting of John D., James T., and William H., is engaged in the livery stable and undertaking business. For a number of years they have done all the hauling of timber and supplies from Livermore to the Corral Hollow coal mines. On another page may be seen a picture of two of their splendid six-horse teams on the road with heavy lumber for the mines. They have thus hauled all the timber and every machinery that has gone into these great mines.

John D. was born at Marysville, in this State; the other brothers are natives of Oakland. They formerly settled in this valley in 1871, and engaged in farming.

In 1884 the brothers went into the livery stable business here, while still continuing their farming operations. James T. Ryan is the superintendent of the mine freighting, and this is a big business of itself.

The Ryans are square-dealing, popular business men, and deserve their success.

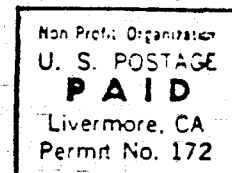
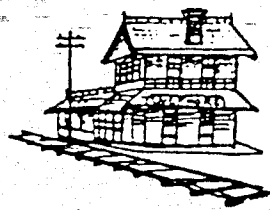


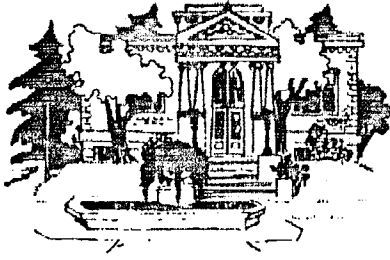
The livery stable was located on Livermore Avenue near the flagpole and went out of business in the early 1900's.

### LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD

P.O. Box 961 Livermore  
CA 94551

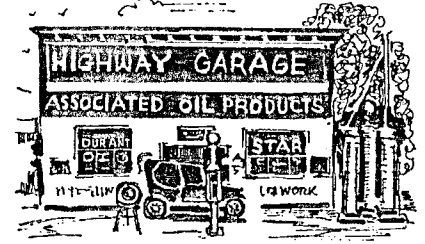
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# LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD



HIGHWAY GARAGE

PHONE : (415) 449-9927

*" HELP SAVE YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW "*

NEWSLETTER

MEMBERSHIP OCT 1 TO SEPT 30: FAMILY \$10, INDIVIDUAL \$7, SENIOR \$3  
JUNIOR \$3, LIFE \$150, PATRON \$100, SPONSOR \$25, LIBRARY \$5

APRIL 1992 Vol. XX No. 6

## CALENDAR

April 9, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, DUARTE GARAGE

May 23, Saturday, 6:00 p.m.  
Lincoln Highway Museum  
13th Annual Dinner and Auction  
Fundraiser for Lincoln Highway Museum  
Open to the public

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Tillie Calhoun is looking for docents and drivers for the Historymobile to local elementary schools starting in April (weekday mornings). Anyone interested can leave their name and phone number with Barbara Bunshah at the Carnegie Library, 449-9927, Wed.-Sun. 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. or call Tillie Calhoun at 447-2926.

## Recent Donations

Philamena Medieros has donated to the Heritage Guild her scrapbooks on Max Baer. We are

appreciative of this and hope to have a display featuring this acquisition and the early days of the boxing in Livermore.

Adele Kruger has donated to the Heritage Guild three early Livermore newspapers. The Carnival Press, about a carnival being held by the Woman's Improvement Club for improvement of the Library park, dated October 6 & 7, 1911. The Guild News, about a carnival being held by the Presbyterian Guild to raise funds to remodel the church dated June 5 & 6, 1914. The Livermore Valley Semi-weekly Review, a weekly paper that no one knew existed until this copy was donated, dated September 12, 1885. This particular copy is Vol. 4 No. 5, so apparently the paper was published for at least 5 years.

IT'S FUN to save Livermore history by interviewing citizens and recording the interview on cassette tape. We need interested volunteers to help with this important continuing project. Please contact Pat Hoenig (447-0411) if you want to be part of "saving yesterday for tomorrow"!

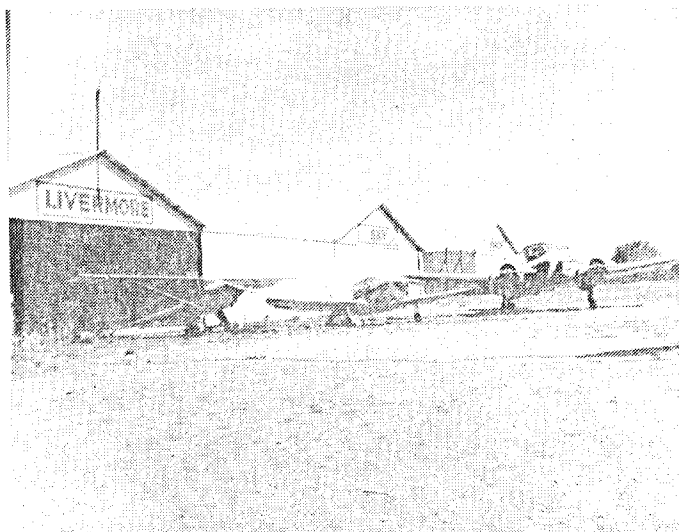
## The Old Livermore Airport

An airfield was originally established in the Livermore Valley in 1929 by the predecessor of the present Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) which was then referred to as the CAA (Civil Aeronautics Agency). It was acquired as an alternate landing field for the principal Bay Area airports. Livermore was chosen because the Valley is generally open to all traffic due to superior weather conditions. The field remained undeveloped with gravel landing surfaces and a 4,000 foot runway up until the time it was abandoned in favor of the present airport in 1965. The east end of the old field abutted against Rincon Avenue at the present site of the Rincon Avenue School. The services available at the old field were minimal. After World War II, the Federal Government turned the ownership of the field over to the city. The city leased it out to individuals to provide the basic services such as fueling and mechanical work.

### Airport History

In the early 1950's the city recognized that the airport should be relocated and allowed residential developments to encroach on the east end of the runway. As the developments encroached, the need for relocation became quite urgent. The city of Livermore recognized that a new and improved airport was seriously needed to serve industry and

business in the Valley. A study was made in 1957 which resulted in a recommendation that the airport be relocated approximately three miles west in the area where it is presently located. In the early 1960's, the old airport site was sold to a developer which provided the funds to construct a new and modern airport. Federal FAA matching funds were also obtained. The new airport opened in December 1965.



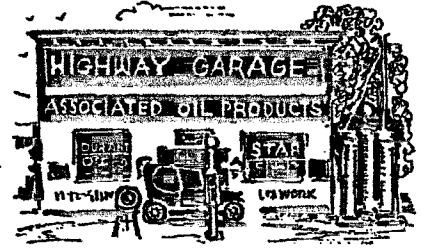
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MAY 1992

Vol. XX

No. 7

## CALENDAR

May 14, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Library

May 23, Saturday, 6:00 p.m.  
Lincoln Highway Museum  
13th Annual Dinner and Auction  
Fundraiser for Lincoln Highway Museum  
Open to the public  
Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. (tickets for dinner are available at the Carnegie Library at \$5.00 per person)  
Auction to follow at 7:30 p.m.

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Donations are still being accepted for the Auction. If you have anything you would like to donate, contact Barbara Bunshah at the Carnegie Bldg. @ 449-9927 or Chet Fankhauser @ 447-3809

Excerpted from the Livermore Herald, February 1, 1924

### Livermore Climate

Another splendid article boosting the climate of the Livermore Valley and surrounding hills was published in an issue of the San Francisco Chronicle this week, which foretells the enlargement of Arroyo Sanatorium.

The article said: That the Livermore hills in Alameda county offer an ideal climate for the treatment of tuberculosis is seen in the fact that the United States government and the Tuberculosis Association have followed the example of the Alameda county board of supervisors in locating hospitals there for the treatment of this disease.

The board of supervisors placed the Arroyo Sanatorium there twelve years ago, setting an example in the handling of tuberculosis which has since been followed by half the counties of the State.

Since then many California counties have followed the lead of Alameda county in constructing and operating tuberculosis hospitals far removed from general treatment. Now comes the United States government to construct the veterans hospital, which will be built adjoining the site of Arroyo.

### Del Valle Being Built

The Tuberculosis Association has already started work on the first unit of the Del Valle preventorium, where underfed and underweight children threatened with the ailment will be nursed back to health and strength.

"This certainly proves the good judgement of the board of supervisors in selecting that site for Arroyo," said supervisor John Mullins of the Alameda county board of supervisors. "The climate, other investigators have found, is ideal for

handling tuberculosis, as the many cures prove. It is far enough back from the bay to give the dry air which is so essential, and yet is close enough to the big center of population to make it accessible to the people. Arroyo is operated as a public institution where a person without money can receive the very best care that the medical world has to offer.

Mullins said there was always a small waiting list at the Alameda County Hospital and that eventually it would be necessary to build a large addition to Arroyo. It costs about \$15,000 a month to operate the place.

The county receives a subsidy of about \$27,000 a year from the State for the maintenance of Arroyo. Rules of the State Board of Health concerning housing, nursing and general treatment of tubercular patients, which a county must comply with in order to draw the subsidy, were first subscribed to by Alameda county.

Note: The Arroyo Sanatorium was located on Arroyo Road and should not be confused with the Livermore Sanitarium which was located on College Avenue and South L Street. Only the Veterans Hospital mentioned in the above article is still in existence today.

**13th Annual Heritage Guild Auction**  
**SATURDAY NIGHT, MAY 23**  
**SPAGHETTI DINNER @ 6:00 p.m.**  
**AUCTION BEGINS @ 7:30 p.m.**

**items to be auctioned include:**

**Conn electric organ with bench, sounds great**

**Ladies 10 speed bicycle**

**Ski equipment**

**Livermore memorabilia**

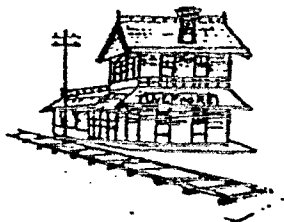
**including old newspapers and political signs**

**Lynn Owens will be our auctioneer**

**LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD**

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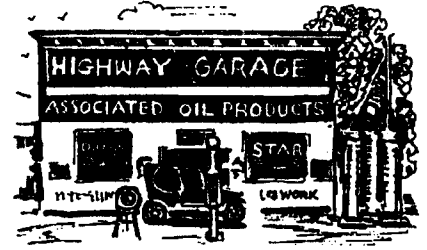
Larry & Treva Mauch 92  
1392 Windsor Way  
Livermore, CA 94550





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JUNE 1992            Vol. XX            No. 8

## CALENDAR

June 13 & 14, Saturday & Sunday  
Livermore Rodeo

June 23, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. we will have our annual general meeting at Concannon Vineyards. The speaker will be Michael Perry of Valley Winegrowers Associations, a group that is promoting a plan for the Livermore valley vineyards futures. There will also be a display on the Valley vineyards history provided by Gary Drummond and Anna Siig. Also at that meeting, we will elect officers for the 1992-1993 board. The nominees are the following: Chairman: Larry Mauch; Vice Chairman: Muriel Dean; Secretary: Barbara Bunshah; Treasurer: Malvern Sweet; Ways and Means: Henri Fankhauser; Directors: Gary Drummond, Bea Haera, Tim Sage.

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

During the month of June a rodeo display by Barbara Bunshah will be featured at the Carnegie Bldg. Drop by to see it.

Several windows were replaced at the Duarte Garage by Tim Sage and Larry Mauch. We are currently letting out a contract to repaint the front of the garage and also to build a fence between the garage and the cottage on the Portola side. Gary Drummond and Chet Fankhauser along with Muriel Dean are ordering 2 large 6 foot replacement windows for the front of the garage to be installed by the Guild in the next several months.

The Livermore Planning Commission will meet June 2 to discuss the demolition of the C & J Livermore Guest Home located on J and Eighth Street and construction of a new three story structure retaining only the entrance and front door from the old building. Originally the building was constructed as a hospital called St. Paul's. The following is the history of the building and the man who built it.

Dr. Paul Dolan established his practice in Livermore in April 1916. In August 1919 he moved his practice in with Dr. Warner who had enlarged his

offices at Second and J Streets several months earlier establishing an emergency hospital next door. Dr. Warner retired in the early 1920's leaving the practice to Dr. Dolan.

In December 1926 Dr. Dolan let a contract to Nels Jensen of Livermore to build a new and larger hospital in a "quieter section of town" six blocks away at Eighth and J Streets. The Architect chosen was A.L. Coffey of San Francisco, a well known architect of hospitals. The building originally was 46 x 96 feet, built of cream colored stucco and red tile. The building was designed on the lot to match the set back of the existing houses in the neighborhood. Enough wards were built to handle eleven patients comfortably and eighteen in emergencies.

The following is a description from the Livermore Herald dated December 17, 1926.

"There will be a small entrance porch at the front of the building. The entrance will lead into the reception room located in the center of the front of the building.

To the left of the reception room there will be a private room with another private room adjoining, with a bath between. A passage way leads to an outside sun porch, 8 x 32 feet in size. Beyond this passage way there will be two three-bed wards with laboratories. Next will come the nursery, breakfast room, diet kitchen and porter's room.

A hallway will extend the entire length of the building in the rear of the reception room. To the right of the entrance will be two private rooms with baths, duplicating the arrangement on the left of the entrance. Behind these rooms will be the operating room, with scrub up rooms. Adjoining these will be the maternity room. Then will come the X-ray laboratory and nurse's room with bath. There will be a rear entrance, which will also take care of ambulance cases.

There will be a large basement, in which will be located store rooms and the heating plant for the hot water heating system."

The opening ceremonies were held on June 5, 1927 and were attended by nearly 1000 people, including the Livermore band. The cost of the hospital was \$20,000. Dr. Dolan retained his offices at Second and J Streets. The hospital was placed under the supervision of nurses Ester Albertson, previously with St. Francis Hospital, and Duane Merrill, previously with Dante Sanatorium, both located in San Francisco.

The first operation was performed on June 7 the following week. The daughter of the painting contractor for the hospital, E.H. Gray, had her tonsils removed.

The hospital served all physicians in the area. In May 1936 the building was enlarged by eight beds with the addition of two rooms and a screened

porch on the south side. The addition was 30 x 38 and cost \$1800.

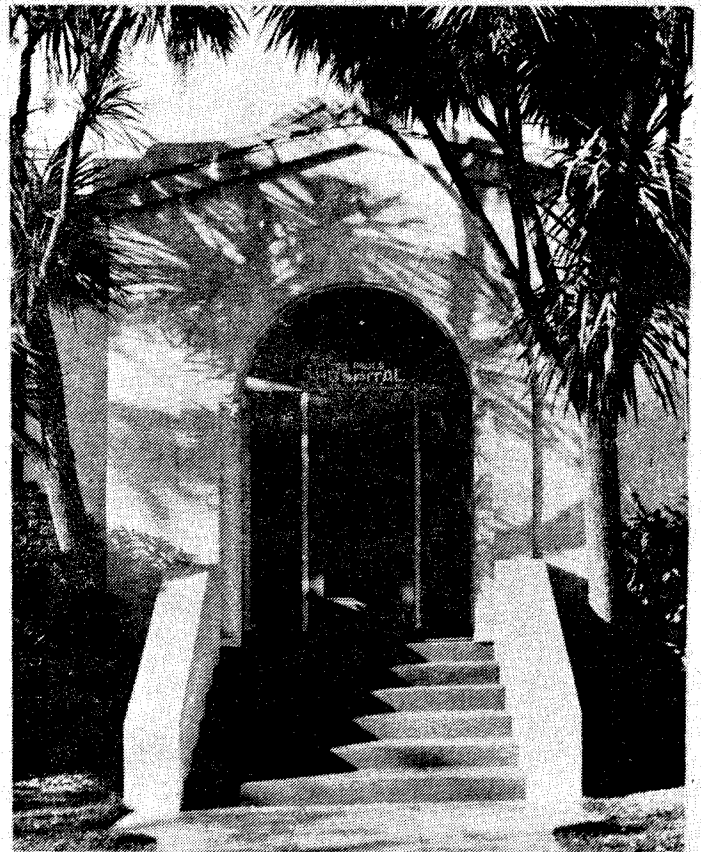
The new addition was completed and another open house held on July 12, 1936. The attendance for the event was over 400. The surgical and obstetrical departments were renovated later that same year, and a laundry was added in a separate building.

In May 1940 it was announced that the hospital would again be enlarged with the addition of a modern nursery. The nursery was equipped with an incubator for prematurely-born infants. Prior to this time the only available equipment of this type was in Oakland. The new wing built on the Eighth Street side brought the capacity of the hospital to 24 beds.

In August 1958 Dr. Paul Dolan passed away, the services were held at St. Michaels Church and the city flag was flown at half mast. Dr. Dolan had served as Health Officer, Park Commission member, President of the Livermore Chamber of Commerce, Director of the Community Chest and President of the Alameda County Fair.

The headlines of the paper the same week talked about a commission and fund raiser for a new hospital for the valley to be called Valley Memorial. The Valley had grown and the need for a new hospital was urgent; the fund raisers were successful and the new hospital was opened in Oct 1961.

St Paul's was closed as a hospital in the mid 1960's and reopened as a rest home. As a rest home the building has had several names. For a long time the name was Bethany Home, then later St. Michael's nursing home, and now C & J Livermore Guest Home.



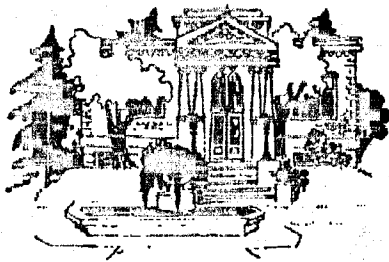
St. Paul's Hospital was a private hospital, and forerunner of today's Valley Memorial Hospital. Currently, it is St. Michael's Nursing Home.

**ATTEND THE GENERAL MEETING  
JUNE 23 @ 7:30 p.m.  
TO BE HELD AT CONCANNON VINEYARD**



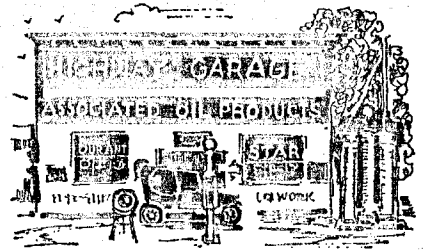
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NEWSLETTER

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JUNIOR \$3, LIFE \$150, PATRON \$100, SPONSOR \$25, LIBRARY \$5

JULY 1992      Vol. XX      No. 9

## CALENDAR

July 19, Sunday  
Art Under the Oaks  
Alden Lane Nursery

July 25 & 26, Saturday and Sunday  
Livermore Air Show

August 13, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Building

August 16, Sunday, Art in the Park  
Carnegie Park

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

The Historymobile visited 9 schools in April, May and June with approximately 900 students participating. The docents were Marilyn Calhoun, Muriel Dean, Joan Detjens, and Bill Junk. The drivers were Bill Junk, Cliff Selvage, Barry Schrader, and Bob Wade. Thanks to all who helped make the Historymobile such a success.

As some of you may have read in the newspaper, an old basement was discovered beneath Hendrix Appliance Store. Muriel Dean from the Heritage Guild gives the following account of what took place.

On Wednesday, June 3rd, I was working at the History Center when the phone rang in the early afternoon. A reporter from the Valley Times identified himself and asked. "Has the coroner's office contacted you yet?" Rarely am I struck speechless, but... "No," I finally managed to mumble. chuckling, the reporter said, "And you ask, 'Why do you ask?', right?"

Thus it was that I learned that a forgotten basement had been discovered under Hendrix Appliance Store at 2086 First Street. Michael G. Galleher, the contractor in charge of remodeling the store, had accidentally found the cellar and unearthed, among other things, bones of an unknown origin; hence, the call to the coroner's office and, subsequently, to us. "Had a butcher's shop been operated at the same location perhaps?" Not an unlikely possibility.

I started to grab for some reference books and also put in a call to Barbara Bunshah, our best reference source of all. All of this was pretty interesting, but the real excitement was about to begin.

While I was on the phone comparing notes with Barbara, Pat Dugand, manager of the Main Street Project, came in with the real news. Bones weren't the only things found; there were bottles and newspapers and who knew what else. What Pat realized was that the possibility of unearthing some real gems existed, and that the Heritage Guild should be involved. Bless Pat for her quick thinking and appropriate action!

Because I was committed to the History Center for another hour, I called Anna Siig. She responded at once and took herself and her camera down to Hendrix' to investigate and record. She also alerted Gary Drummond who was at the scene by the time I had finished at Carnegie and got there.

Patty Hendrix, who, with her husband Bill, owns the store, welcomed us most graciously. After all, they were merely trying to get their store spruced up and looking good for Red Flower Sunday. An archeological dig was not part of the plan. Nonetheless, Mrs. Hendrix showed us what artifacts had already been discovered, and as I was admiring

them (and wondering how we could make them part of our permanent collection), Gabriel Chiu, the owner of the building, arrived. When asked by the reporters who were present, what he planned to do with all the things found, he never hesitated: he responded that they should stay in Livermore; therefore, he would donate everything to the Heritage Guild.

Ah, music to my ears.

Saying, "I will return!" I made a beeline over to Barbara's where we gathered up a bunch of boxes. Not knowing what we would find "down below," we called Bobbie Baird and enlisted her aid as well. Back to Hendrix's we sped, there to be met by Bobbie. In our grubbies, we shimmied down into the basement and rescued what we could: not as much as we had hoped for; more than we had expected.

Come see how we did. The collection is on display in the History Center, now operating on summer hours from 11:30 - 3:00, Wednesday through Sunday.

#### Heritage Guild Hands Out History Awards

At the annual meeting, the Heritage Guild presented the awards to the following people for their contribution in preserving and promoting Livermore's history.

Vanna Born received an award for her early research and for her help in establishing the oral history project for the Guild.

The First Presbyterian Church was honored for continuing to restore their 1874 chapel building at the corner of 4th and K Streets.

Olga and Ed Peiffer received an award for their interest and expertise in photographing historical

events in Livermore and contributing such to the archives of the Guild.

John Sarboraria was honored for past support on various projects relating to Livermore history and as a rich resource on the early drug stores in Livermore and who, with his associates, has established a permanent pharmacy exhibit at the History Center in the Carnegie Building.

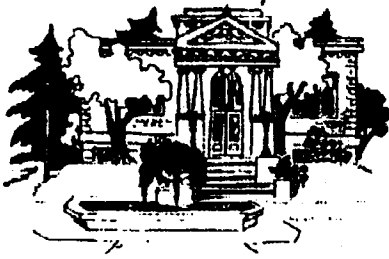
We want to thank Pat Hoenig for her efforts in designing a new plaque with this year's as well as last year's recipients to be installed in the entrance way of the Carnegie Building.

Barbara Bunshah and the rest of the Heritage Guild members were pleased to receive a letter from Arthur Henry commenting on last month's newsletter about St. Paul's Hospital. The following is excerpted from his letter:

"The late Karl Wentz was the first baby born at St. Paul's, and I was the second. My mother was a registered nurse, a close friend of Dr. Paul Dolan, and was greatly interested in the opening of the hospital. Dr. Dolan, who was undoubtedly aware of the due dates of all Livermore babies in 1927, had assured my mother that I would be the first St. Paul's baby. As it turned out, I was late by a few days and arrived on June 30, and Karl was early a few days and arrived on June 21."

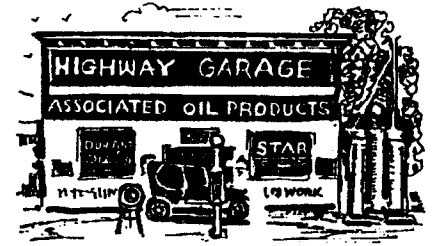
Arthur goes on to state that they are enjoying living in their new community of Fallbrook in the San Diego area and they are volunteer members of the Friends of the Fallbrook Library.

We are always grateful for any comments or additional information anyone might wish to contribute regarding articles in the newsletter about Livermore and its history.



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# LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD



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AUGUST 1992

Vol. XX

No. 10

## CALENDAR

Thursday, August 13, 7:30 p.m.

LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Sunday, August 16

Art & History in the Park

Carnegie Park, 3rd and K Streets, Livermore

10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Be sure to attend Art in the Park and visit the Historymobile which will also be there.

.....

Recently the old fire bell was removed from what was once Livermore's second fire station (1905-1967) as well as a Town Hall (1905-1957) on the corner of First and McLeod Streets. This is the story of the first fire station and Town Hall located on Second Street, on what is now the Wells Fargo Bank parking lot, where the bell originally was housed.

The following article appeared in the Livermore Enterprise dated 17 July 1875:

"Dedication: On Thursday a number of our Firemen assembled at their new truck house for the purpose of placing the bell in the belfry, and in a manner dedicating the House. A fine keg of beer was tapped on the first floor and a jolly time was participated in - the workmen, in the mean time were arranging ropes and pulleys for hoisting the bell. Treasurer Hupers was on hand with his jolly smile and good cheer, and Foreman Jordan with his Assistant. Low and Burke were issuing their "pronounceimentos". On placing the bell in the cupola a bottle of champagne was broken over the

signal for fire. A general jollification followed, and the new truck house was consigned to duty. As soon as it is completed a ball will be given, of which due notice will appear."

On the same page was the following:

"Fire Bell: the Hook and Ladder Company have their house nearly completed, and on Thursday their fine large alarm bell was received. It was placed in the belfry on Friday and now if a fire should occur we can know it by the sound of the bell. The house is well arranged and as fast as possible will be furnished in shape. The upper story will be assigned for meeting purposes and the lower for the truck. The bell weighs 500 pounds and cost about \$75."

The Hook and Ladder Company was sole occupant of the building for many years. The town of Livermore used the upstairs as a meeting place for the Board of Trustees while looking for a permanent place to meet. Finally in 1882 the town decided to purchase the building.

The following article appeared in the Livermore Herald on 12 January 1882.

"The Sale of the property of the Livermore Hook and Ladder Company to the town of Livermore will be made within a few days. The purchase money being now in the town treasury. The property consists of the two story engine house building and lot on Second Street. The hook and ladder truck and appurtenances belonging thereto. The price paid is \$1200. One half of the amount was raised by a Town tax of twenty-five cents on the hundred dollars, the balance being derived from the general fund."

On January 12, 1888 there is an article in the Livermore Echo about the purchase of a new fire bell:

“Chief Engineer Bradshaw has purchased a new fire bell for the engine house. It was cast at the celebrated Cincinnati Bell Foundry, weighs 1,000 lbs. and will be a great improvement on the old one.”

On March 8, 1888 the following appeared in the Livermore Echo:

“The work of repairing and strengthening the Town Hall and the building of the tower for the bells has commenced.”

The 1889 panoramic map of Livermore published by the Livermore Herald shows the Town Hall and fire house with the bell tower beside it. It appears that there may have been one bell in the top of the

building and a larger bell in the bell tower. The bell retrieved recently is probably the bell purchased in 1888 and mounted in the tower.

In 1905 the town decided to sell the old Town Hall/fire house and purchased the “old bank building” on First and McLeod Streets for use as the Town Hall and fire station. The lot was sold to H. Gardemeyer and the building acquired by Joseph Fletcher and moved in April 1906 to the corner of 3rd and K Street. The building was converted by Mr. Fletcher into a private residence.

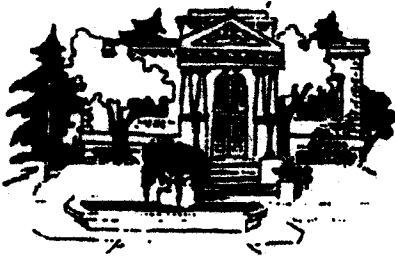
In January of 1973 the house sat vacant. An attempt was made by the owner, Robert Poli, and supported by the Livermore Heritage Guild to restore the dilapidated house in exchange for special consideration for developing an office building on the corner (parking was one of the issues). An agreement could not be reached and in June 1974 the building was demolished. All that's left is the empty lot on the corner behind the Bank of Livermore.



Above: sketch of old Town Hall from 1889 map

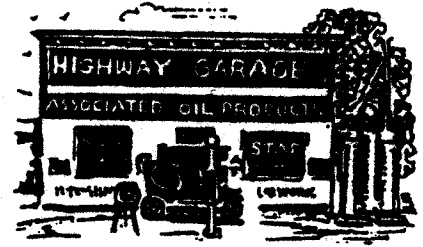
Left: Photo of Town Hall just before demolition in 1974 (photo courtesy of Ed and Olga Peiffer)





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SEPTEMBER 1992 Vol. XX No. 11

## CALENDAR

September 10, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

September 26, Saturday, 11:00-3:00 p.m.  
Appraisal Day, AT&T Visitors Center  
4400 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

**REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR LHG MEMBERSHIP. YOUR DUES HELP US OPERATE THE HISTORY CENTER AND MAINTAIN OUR EXHIBITS AND PUBLICATIONS. IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS DUE FOR RENEWAL A COUPON IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER.**

There will be an Appraisal Day (benefitting the Livermore-Amador Symphony, with specialists from Butterfield & Butterfield) offering a fair market appraisal at \$5.00 an item on Saturday, September 26 from 11:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the AT&T Visitors Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive, Hacienda Business Park, Pleasanton. Start dusting off those family treasures and other collectibles! For further information call 462-4585 or 443-0751.

The new fence has been completed between the cottage and the Highway Garage. The place is starting to look pretty spiffy!

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The following is excerpted from the Livermore News, December 11, 1956 (the Vallecitos lab is located on Highway 84 near the 680 interchange)

### G.E. Moves Into New Lab In Vallecitos Next Week

General Electric Company atomic scientists will begin moving into the company's new Vallecitos Atomic Laboratory, December 17, it was announced this week.

George White, general manager of the Company's Atomic Power Equipment Department, of which the Laboratory is a part, said that 35 scientists and technicians will be involved in the move from the temporary Laboratory headquarters in San Jose to the permanent site near Sunol.

White said the personnel will use office space in the partially completed administration building to carry on preliminary laboratory work.

"Actual research equipment and laboratory facilities will not be completed until sometime in 1957, however," White said.

Being built at a cost of approximately \$10,000,000, the new laboratory will be dedicated to the development of peacetime applications of atomic energy.

Major components of the laboratory upon completion will include a radioactive materials facility in which tests will be carried out on reactor fuel elements and structural materials which have been exposed to radiation; a critical assemblies building where research will be carried on to study those parts of atomic reactors which sustain reaction; and a fullscale development boiling water power reactor.

This reactor will not only be used to Laboratory tests and research, but will also furnish steam for generation of the country's first privately financed atomic electric power.

The steam will be supplied to a 5,000 kilowatt turbine generator being installed by the Pacific Gas & Electric Company. The electricity produced by this plant will be fed into the PG&E system. Operation of this plant is expected to begin late in 1957.

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Excerpted from the Livermore Herald, May 1, 1925

"That Field of Orange Poppies Near Livermore Town", By R. H. Hall

I remember the poppies near Livermore Town;  
Whole field of poppies in golden orange gown.

Close by the roadside, startling the eye;  
"California" proclaiming to each passerby.

"Una copa de oro" I believe was the name,  
A little child told me the poppy should claim.

Out here on the mesas, I'm wondering now  
If that field of orange poppies was saved from the plow?

Or are they just hidden, down deep in the earth,  
Where the touch of the springtime will call them to birth?

Maybe now they are waking to greater renown,  
That field of orange poppies near Livermore Town.

(Mr. Hall is a former Tassajara school teacher, who frequently visited the Livermore Valley. He has written this poem at Anton Chico, New Mexico, his present home).



*"Help Save Yesterday for Tomorrow"*

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