

# Livermore Heritage Guild

*"Help Save Yesterday For Tomorrow"*



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P.O. Box 961, Livermore, Ca. 94551

WWW.lhg.org

Phone (925) 449-9927

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November/December 2004

Vol. XXXIV

No. 1

## **The First Churches in Livermore**

By Gary Drummond

### First Presbyterian Church

The earliest acknowledged Protestant religious services in Livermore Valley were held in the schoolhouse located somewhere near the intersection of Portola and Murrieta Boulevard intersection beginning in 1866. At first, a Presbyterian minister met with worshipers once monthly. By 1867 a Methodist brother included Livermore in his circuit, and until 1871, the Presbyterians and Methodists alternated religious services.

The Presbyterian Church was formally organized here in February 1871. For the first year, members continued to meet in the schoolhouse, but by May 1872 they were meeting at the Livermore Collegiate Institute on College Avenue. Church services soon moved to a more central location in town, the second floor of Bank Exchange Hall, then located on First Street a short distance east of Livermore Avenue. The minister remembered how "... often mingling with the sounds of praise came curses and clink of glasses from the saloon below. Sometimes a half-drunk reveler would stagger up the stairway to see from whence came the unmuted echoes of prayer and hallowed song."

In December 1873, the Presbyterians commenced construction of a permanent sanctuary seating 250 people and at a cost of \$2000. Construction was interrupted by a windstorm on January 15 1874 that flattened the framing. The builders started again. The structure still stands at the corner of Fourth and K Streets, although much changed from its original appearance.

### St. Michael's Catholic Church

From 1872 until 1877, the pastoral care of local Catholics was under a mission, first from San Leandro and later from Mission San Jose. The locals constructed a 25 ft. x 50 ft. building in 1872 on property donated to the church by the Alphonso Ladd estate. It was used only when the priest could arrange to visit Livermore.

The first permanent priest was assigned to Livermore in the summer of 1878, and was replaced nine months later by a pastor who served the parish for the next 38 years. At first, as there was no parish house until 1881, the priest lived with a local family. It was evident with the increasing immigration of Catholic families into the Livermore area that a proper sanctuary was necessary, As early as 1880, St. Michael 's parishioners held bazaars and fairs as fundraisers. It took ten years to raise enough capital to start construction. On March 17, 1891 the new church was dedicated. It was a magnificent wooden Gothic structure. The interior was 56 ft. x 108 ft. and could seat 500 people.

The roof rose to a peak of 70 ft., and the nave was 52 ft. high, from which were suspended two large crystal chandeliers, each having 32 gas lights. The bell tower reached 148 ft. in the air, and it was said the golden cross atop it could be seen from Mt. Diablo.

It was a windy day on August 4, 1916 when St. Michael's Church burned. The exact cause is still unknown. It is said that a fire broke out in a planning mill west of the church. Burning shingles were carried by the wind toward St. Michael's and caught the roof on fire. The town fire engine could not raise enough pressure for water to reach the flames, nor did the firemen have ladders long enough to form a bucket brigade to throw water on the roof. The steeple collapsed into the nave and the building could not be saved.

The Catholic community could not be without a place of worship. Almost immediately construction was started on a new sanctuary at the corner of Fourth and Maple Streets. Here arose the new (the present) St. Michael's Catholic Church, dedicated in June 1918.

*Picture on the masthead is circa 1910 of Livermore (the area was formerly known as Laddsville) near Junction Avenue, looking back towards downtown and St. Michael's Catholic Church when it was located on Old First Street.*



Annual General Meeting: Because of the Presidential debates, the annual general meeting was lightly attended. David Lowell was gracious enough to stand in at the last minute as speaker because our scheduled speaker had to cancel due to an emergency. David's presentation on the history of rose growing in Livermore was very interesting. It turns out Livermore was a major contributor to the development of many new championship species of roses until the industry relocated in the 1950's and 1960's. If anyone missed this great presentation, you can view this at the Carnegie Bldg.



**HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS**

**DOCENTS NEEDED:** Are you interested in becoming a docent at the Museum on Third Street? No experience necessary, we will gladly train. If you are interested in Livermore history, this is a great way to get involved with the Guild and also become acquainted with the various research tools we have available so you can even do your own investigations into Livermore history. Museum hours are Wed. through Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If interested, please contact Larry Mauch at larrym49@comcast.net or phone 449-9927. Please leave a message with your name and contact number so we may contact you.



New Officers for 2005: With the passage of the new By-Laws, the titles of officers changed. The Chairman is now the President; The Vice Chairman is now the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. A new title of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President has been created. With that the officers for 2005 are as follows:

- Larry Mauch, President
- Don Meeker, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- Jolene Abrahams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- Maryalice Faultings, Treasurer
- Susan Junk, Secretary

Standing committee Chairpersons are:  
 Bill Junk, Chairperson, Duarte Garage Museum Committee  
 Barbara Bunshah, Chairperson, History Center Museum Committee  
 Tim Sage, Chairperson, Ways and Means.

**CALENDAR**

Thursday, November 11 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

Thursday, December 9 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

Thursday, January 13, 2005 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

**Agenda for Future History Colloquiums:**

**All presentations are held 7 to 9 p.m. in the community meeting room of the Livermore Civic Center Library on South Livermore Avenue**

**November 10, 2004:**

John Sarboraria is presenting a slide show of his collection of "Historic Photos of Livermore"

**December 15, 2004:**

Don Meeker and Diana Carey present - "Christmas Sales and Entertainment between the World Wars"

**January 19, 2005:**

Alan Frank, curator of Niles Canyon RR station, speaks on "Rail Roads and the Tri-Valley"

\$2 suggested donation. Coffee, tea and sweet breads provided by the Library Cafe. The Library Cafe is open until 8:00 p.m. providing sandwiches and drinks



If you would like to sign up for either a downtown or residential **walking tour**, you may now register by either calling the History Center at 449-9927 or by visiting the History Center and completing a preference card. When several people have signed up for one tour or the other, a Walk Tour Guide will contact you with a time and date to meet.

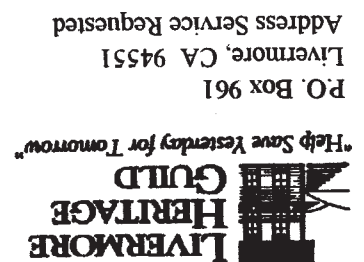
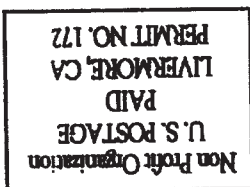
## A Word From the Chair

Members of the Livermore Heritage Guild adopted new By-Laws at the last general meeting. Attached are copies of the revised By-Laws.

The Heritage Guild has purchased Past Perfect, a computer program that is specifically designed for museum management. The program will handle our membership mailing list, establish a data base of all our archives and even help catalog displays and exhibits for future reference.

Photographs of items in our archives can be attached electronically to each record for a quick visual reference. We are also purchasing a new computer so we can start building our electronic filing system on Past Perfect.

If you are interested in participating in data entry into the Past Perfect computer database or have any comments about the By-Laws contact me at [larrym49@comcast.net](mailto:larrym49@comcast.net) or phone the History Center at (925) 449-9927 and leave a message. Hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas!



Livermore Heritage Guild Presents

Winter 2004/2005

# COLLOQUIUM

## Schedule

All presentations are held on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 PM in the  
Community Meeting Room  
Livermore Civic Center Library, South Livermore Avenue



**November 10th**

**John Sarboraria**

"Historic Photos of Livermore"

A slide-show presentation of his collection of historic Livermore  
photographs.

**December 15th**

**Don Meeker & Diana Carey**

"Holiday Sales and Entertainment between the World Wars"

A look at the 'must have' presents and hottest movies during the years  
between World War I and World War II.

**January 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Alan Frank**

"Rail Roads and the Tri-Valley"

Mr. Frank is curator of the Niles Canyon RR station and an expert on the  
rail roads and their effect on the Tri-Valley area.

\$2 suggested donation  
Refreshments available  
*Coffee and Tea provided by the*  
**Library Cafe**

*(The Library Cafe is open until 8:00 PM providing sandwiches and drinks.)*



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January/February 2005

Vol. XXXIV

No. 2

## THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF TELEPHONE SERVICE IN LIVERMORE

By Gary Drummond

Livermore is known to have been the 24<sup>th</sup> town in California to have telephone service. The first instrument was installed in 1884 by J. O. McKown, a local druggist, who was also a stringer for a San Francisco newspaper. McKown was looking for some method faster than a telegram for getting news items to the paper. He was connected through the railroad lines that ran along the tracks.

News about telephone system expansion for the next ten to fifteen years is scant. Only random notes appear in either the *Livermore Echo* or the *Livermore Herald*. The *Echo* reported on January 7, 1892 that a new telephone line had been completed as far as Livermore the previous day. The paper noted also in October 1895 that "(T)he telephone office will shortly be removed to a building next to the Livermore Hotel. . . . Arrangements have been made whereby communication can be had through a telephone at the hotel from 8PM to 8AM with any of the night offices on the line." The *Echo* also advised its readers at year-end 1897 that "Brown and Beck have caused a telephone to be placed in their place of business, and customers may now order goods without the trouble of going down town."

At the turn of the century, the Sunset Telephone Company provided service. The company had two switchboards identified as Main and Black. The assigned num-

bers were switchboard-prefix and two or three digits: for example, Rev. James Stone was Main 381; J. H. Dutcher was Black 283. Later the very small number of rural connections were put on a Suburban exchange. Businesses and professional people generally did not include a telephone number in their newspaper advertisements so those provide no clue as to the popularity of the telephone. The exceptions were Day's Livery at Black 35, the Livermore Hotel at Main 34 and the local cigar factory.

C. H. Acker, who was available at Main 61, ran a messenger and buying service, traveling to San Francisco each day to deliver messages and to buy any merchandise his customers ordered provided he could carry it back to Livermore. In the early days, a customer could ring "Central" and she could often track down the person being called, following him around town, and when she eventually found him, deliver the caller's message. Although there had been no notices of new telephone connections in the previous five years, the *Herald* reported in 1906 that the telephone company needed only a few more subscribers to reach 100, the minimum number required to qualify for night service.

Rival telephone companies began springing up in 1907. The first was Livermore Water and Power Company, followed in 1908 by the Midway Telephone Company, and in 1909 by the Home Telephone Company. These small companies, including Sunset Telephone, were absorbed by Pacific Telephone and Telegraph (PT&T) in 1915. PT&T eliminated the third digit in a telephone

number, so that Main 771 became 77, and at the same time did away with all three of the old exchange designations. Businesses were on single-line service. On two-party residential lines, the first telephone had a suffix “W”, and the second one a suffix “J”. “W” was one ring; “J” was two. If a subscriber was on a four-party line, in addition to the “W” and “J” suffixes, “T” and “M” were used. With the change in telephone numbers, callers were told to ask for a number, not a name; otherwise “Central” had to look up the number in the directory which would delay the caller’s connection. Most rural lines provided up to ten-party service. In addition to the two numbers and a suffix, such as 25F (the “F” identifying it as a farm line), another digit was added so that a rural number might be 25-F-6, that indicated when “Central” rang six consecutive times, the call was for you.

The number of telephone service subscribers grew from 100 in 1906, to 200 connections by 1910, and 350 by 1917. In the fall of 1926, PT&T made major improvements to Livermore’s telephone system. It replaced the old magneto (hand-crank) exchange with a battery system and installed five sections of new switchboard capable of providing for 445 lines and 765 subscribers. Six hundred and twenty old-style crank instruments were replaced with the newer pedestal model. Subscriber numbers were unchanged: one house on Sixth Street had the same telephone number, 2-W, from 1916 until 1956, when dial service started here. (A neighbor in the same block had telephone number 2-J; let’s hope they were friends.) One more improvement to report: as of February 1<sup>st</sup> 1929, the telephone operator provided a time of day service.

**Have you noticed** the uncovered letters on the building at the corner of Railroad and N. Livermore Ave.? Formerly housing Valley Brake & Auto Repair, this building is currently being earthquake retrofitted. After sandblasting the building, the letters slowly appeared: PIEROTTI MACHINE SHOP. In the Livermore Herald dated February 9, 1923: “Mrs. Annie H. Schrader states that she has renewed the lease held by V. Pierotti on the machine shop located on Livermore Avenue near the Southern Pacific tracks.” from the Livermore Herald dated June 24, 1927: “Z. Toma and Wm. H. Twisselmann announced Wednesday that they had purchased the garage and machine shop of Vincent Pierotti on Livermore Avenue and would succeed him in the management of the business. The former has been a mechanic in the shop for the past nine years and Mr. Twisselmann has been the firm’s book-keeper for two years. Both are well qualified in their respective branches of the business and will do well. Chas. Kincaid will continue as a mechanic in the shop.” Mr. Pierotti passed away in September 1927.



**B. V. ZABALLA,**

Telephone Main 14

IMPORTER and  
JOBBER . . . . .



**: CIGARS :**

FIRST STREET,  
Livermore, Cal.

LIVERMORE CIGAR FACTORY 458

First District, California.

Manufacturer of the Celebrated Zaballa Bouquet Cigars

**HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS**

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Are you interested in receiving notifications of upcoming events by email? If you would like to receive notifications by email instead of snail mail, please send your email address to the President and newsletter editor Larry Mauch at "larrym49@comcast.net". Include "LHG events notification" in the subject line; send your name as it appears on your membership and the email address that you would like future notifications sent to. You will receive a confirmation email that you have been added to the email list. Note: At this time we are not able to send the newsletter by email.

**Did you know?:**

There are more than 6 volumes at the History Center about the history of Veteran's Hospital. These were compiled by Barbara Groth who has done a wonderful job.

**Downtown Walking Tour:**

If you would like to sign up for either a downtown or residential **walking tour**, you may now register by either calling the History Center at 449-9927 or by visiting the History Center and completing a preference card. When several people have signed up for one tour or the other, a Walk Tour Guide will contact you with a time and date to meet.



*Picture on the masthead is circa 1960 of First Street in Livermore when telephone poles were the most prominent feature on the sidewalks.*

**CALENDAR**

Thursday, February 10 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

Thursday, March 10 @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

**Agenda for Future History Colloquiums:**

**All presentations are held 7 to 9 p.m. in the community meeting room of the Livermore Civic Center Library on South Livermore Avenue**

**February 16, 2005:**

**Barry Schrader**, Mudslinging and MUCKRAKING between Valley newspapers. Barry's column appears in the Independent, Valley Times and Herald. He has been involved in the newspaper business 16 years and 23 years in public relations/PIO work for Sandia/LLNL.

**March 16, 2005:**

**Don Nolte**, retired Director of the Livermore library, will talk about his experience serving in the US Information Service in the years 1951-53 in Cairo, Egypt during a period of political unrest.

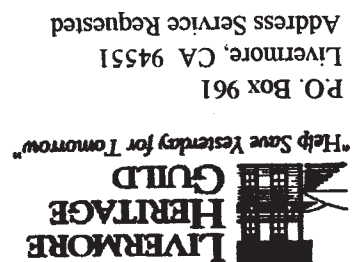
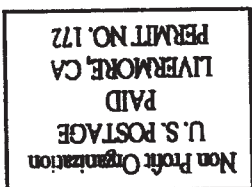
\$2 suggested donation. Coffee, tea and sweet breads provided by the Library Cafe. The Library Cafe is open until 8:00 p.m. providing sandwiches and drinks



## A Word From the Chair

A new year begins and it is time for resolutions to be made. The Heritage Guild is in the process of finalizing our goals for 2005. After they are approved by the Board we will post them in the next newsletter. One major change for this year is Barbara Bunshah is preparing to step down as Curator for the Carnegie Library Museum on Third Street. Barbara has spent countless hours over the last 25 years as Curator manning the front desk, answering questions and recording the history of Livermore. Her knowledge is irreplaceable. Barbara has earned a well deserved rest and

will be reducing her hours. Over the next several months Barbara will be helping document her filing systems and assist in developing written procedures for the docents. We recently purchased a new Dell Computer and PastPerfect museum collection management software so we will be doing some reorganization of the archives as well. Barbara's intentions are to work Sundays the next several months if you would like to stop by and say hello. We will plan a big party for Barbara in the next month or two, stay tuned!



# Livermore Heritage Guild

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Reimers Fashion Garage and F.C. Lassen's feed store, located on L Street, circa 1926

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March/April 2005

Vol. XXXIV

No. 3

## SUPPLYING WATER IN A NEW COMMUNITY

By Gary Drummond

Supplying water to a growing community like Livermore one hundred and thirty years ago must have been a challenge. Individual wells provided water to some homes and businesses, and perhaps even to one's neighbor. But there was also a community well. It was located on the north side of the street opposite the old City Hall at First and McLeod. Two oil cans were suspended over a wheel so that when one can went down the other came up, and was operated by hand. And that's where many pioneer housewives in Livermore got their supply of domestic water.

By 1875 Livermore had two competing water companies. One was the Arroyo Mocho Water Company, organized in the fall of 1873. It had secured rights to water coming down from what's now the Mines Road area. The other was the Livermore Spring Water Company, incorporated in October, 1874. This company's water came from Las Positas Creek, that runs along what is now I580, and then had a lot more water in it than at present.

What were the motivations for each of these? The Arroyo Mocho Water Company listed water for irrigation as its primary goal, with a supply to town comparatively unimportant. Its distribution system was comprised of wooden pipe, made in Washington Territory and shipped

down here; it was claimed to cost less than iron pipe, would last as long as iron, and most important, the water would be uncontaminated. The company work force dug a ditch 36,183 feet long to bring water close to town, and then laid 7,500 feet of wooden main in the main streets of town with side connections to customers. The Arroyo Mocho Water Company offered free water (for the interim).

The Arroyo Mocho Water Company was never successful in moving water from the Mocho, and instead started taking water from the Arroyo del Valle. In October 1875 the company announced that water had been turned into the street mains, but "for a week or some more to come," it would not furnish water to its customers "as the water will taste of the pipe until it has been washed out." The enterprise was never a success: besides low water pressure, its water smelled strongly of hydrogen sulfide and was unfit for drinking.

The Livermore Spring Water Company, in contrast, pumped water from Las Positas Creek into a series of reservoirs for business and residential service. One reservoir was down near the creek; another was located on the hill opposite the Masonic (Roselawn) Cemetery, and water was pulled up there by a steam pump. (The reservoir was still there as late as 1950.) The water was conveyed into town in a redwood flume one and a half miles long and from there was distributed in the town through iron pipe. As the community grew, it became necessary to provide water

storage facilities near the center of town. Tanks were installed between First Street and the railroad tracks east of Livermore Avenue with a total capacity of 50,000 gallons. It was from that point that water was distributed to businesses and residences for a number of years to come.

There is evidence the Livermore Spring Water Company was undercapitalized. In November, 1875, it assessed its shareholders 75 cents a share, and threatened in its assessment notice that “any stock upon which this assessment shall remain unpaid. . . . will be advertised for sale at public auction. . . .” And 1500 shares of stock owned by two prominent Livermore men were lost in this way.

A footnote to the town well described in the first paragraph: it was used until about 1880 and then was inadequately filled when abandoned. In the winter of 1889, it caved in for the first time. In February, 1916, a woman walking along the street “was surprised to find herself sinking into the ground. Fortunately her downward progress stopped when she had sunk a few feet. . . .” That time the town fathers made certain the well site was completely filled.



Installing sewer pipe on First Street circa 1904

## HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR A TREASURER:

The Livermore Heritage Guild is in need of a Treasurer. The finances are relatively straightforward. We just need someone to manage the checkbook, several savings accounts and submit a monthly report at Board meetings on the second Thursday of each month. If interested, please contact Larry Mauch at larrym49@comcast.net or phone 449-9927. Please leave a message with your name and contact number so we may contact you.

### CARNEGIE LIBRARY DISPLAY COMMITTEE

If you have a creative eye and enjoy the Valley's History, we are going to redo several display cases in April for a May open house. If you would like to participate, please call the History Center on third street or drop by and leave a note. The phone number is (925) 449-9927

### CALENDAR

Sunday, April 10th 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
Retirement Reception for Barbara Bunshah  
Carnegie Library Building

Thursday, April 14th @ 7:00 p.m.  
LHG Board Meeting, Recreation Center

Saturday May 28th @ 5:00pm LHG Auction  
Preview @ 5:00pm  
Auction Starts @ 7:00pm

### Agenda for Future History Talks:

**All presentations are held 7 to 9 p.m. in the community meeting room of the Livermore Civic Center Library on South Livermore Avenue**

#### **March 16, 2005:**

**Don Nolte**, retired Director of the Livermore library, will talk about his experience serving in the US Information Service in the years 1951-53 in Cairo, Egypt during a period of political unrest.

**April & May: Because of other scheduled LHG events, the next History Talk will be in June.**

\$2 suggested donation. Coffee, tea and sweet breads provided by the Library Cafe. The Library Cafe is open until 8:00 p.m. providing sandwiches and drinks

## A Brief Word

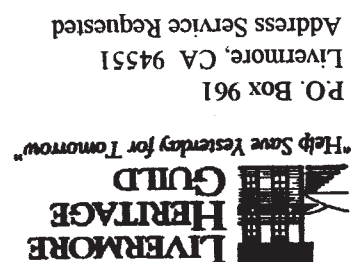
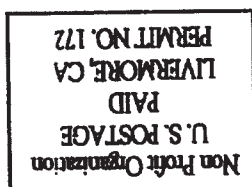
Please join us on April 10th to celebrate Barbara Bunshah's accomplishments with the Livermore Heritage Guild. Barbara has volunteered countless hours as the Curator at the Carnegie Library, as well as compiled an extensive index to the Livermore newspapers, a project that has lasted over 20 years. Barbara's expertise in Livermore's history and her index has aided countless individuals in the community with their own research projects. Barbara has stepped down as curator and is reducing her hours. We want to make a presentation to Barbara and celebrate her accomplishments. We hope you can make it!

In May we will be celebrating Historical Preservation Week at the Carnegie Library with a presentation of awards to individuals who have preserved Livermore History through their exceptional efforts. We will also be featuring several new exhibits on Livermore's history, including the display of Robert Livermore's signed copy of the registration of his cattle brand in 1845. This original document from our archives was signed by Pio Pico, the Mexican Governor of California and Robert Livermore. Details will follow in April.

The Livermore Heritage Guild is a non-profit organization staffed by all volunteer workers. If you enjoy history and want to learn more about our valley, please consider volunteering. We have several active projects we are working on that require various skills. We are currently setting up Past Perfect Museum software and will require data entry experience. We are establishing a museum committee to manage the displays in the Carnegie Library and Duarte Highway Garage. Speaking of which: if you like old cars, fire engines and farm equipment, you might want to get involved with the Highway Garage committee. A couple of hours of your time once or twice a month can make a big difference and you will be surprised by Livermore's rich history.

If you have any comments or want to just say hi, please contact me at [larrym49@comcast.net](mailto:larrym49@comcast.net) or drop by the Carnegie Library on Third Street Wednesday through Sunday 11:30 to 4:00 pm. and speak with one of the volunteer docents.

Thanks and Enjoy,  
Larry Mauch



# Announcements

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We Invite You To Attend A  
Retirement Reception For

**Barbara S. Bunshah**

Sunday  
**April 10, 2005**

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

at the

**Carnegie Library Building**

Third Street, Livermore, California

We will honor Barbara for her outstanding service, accomplishments, and contributions to the Livermore Heritage Guild and the community, and her remarkable commitment to

**“Help Save Yesterday For Tomorrow”.**

*Light refreshments will be served*

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**Don't Forget the Annual LHG Auction on May 28th**  
at the Duarte Highway Garage in Livermore.

If you have items you would like to donate please call Bill Junk at 447-4561  
or leave a message at the Carnegie Library Museum at 449-9927

All Proceeds Support the Livermore Heritage Guild



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May/June 2005

Vol. XXXIV

No. 4

## THE AUTOMOBILE

by Gary Drummond

Little did the people in Murray Township realize what the future might bring when in July, 1899 the Herald reported, "It is rumored that the valley is soon to have an automobile. Mrs. (Phoebe) Hearst is said to have purchased one; if true, ours will be the first rural community in the state to have one of the marvelous vehicles." In September of that year, a local doctor ordered an automobile from the Best Works in San Leandro, who heretofore had primarily manufactured threshing machines. It was the beginning of a social revolution.

In early 1901 a salesman for Locomobile autos came through Livermore on his way to delivering a machine to a Bakersfield customer. It was a magnificent machine – steam-powered, gas-fueled, at the cost of one and a quarter cents a mile, with a double cylinder reversing engine. The salesman "favored a number of local citizens with a spin over the model roads of the valley, and all were delighted by the experience." By the time the salesman departed, H. R. Crane, a local bicycle dealer, had been named Locomobile agent.

But there was a downside to this new innovation. Automobiles never failed to produce panic among wagon and buggy teams. As a remedy, the Automobile Club of California offered a "horse familiarization" course where, by locating one or two automobiles at some convenient

place in the community, horse owners could bring their animals close to a vehicle with its motor running.

Local farmers constantly railed at inconsiderate drivers who failed to slow down when passing a team on the road. A petition, addressed to the County Board of Supervisors, asked that automobiles be banned in Livermore Valley, insisting that "most drivers are of an irresponsible class who have only recently joined the ranks, as they appear to have little knowledge of their machines except to drive them at their full speed." The Board pointed out that automobiles have an equal right to the roadway. The Murray Township Supervisor argued that "automobiles of San Francisco do thousands of dollars of damage to our roads and do not contribute one cent to their support. This problem will never be settled until the State takes over the main highways."

Early day automobile manufacturers multiplied like today's dot.com companies. It was reported that a company had been formed in San Francisco to take over the old Bilz Buggy and Wagon Works in Pleasanton for the manufacture of automobiles. "...the company already has orders for several large machines and (the principals) are confident that the industry will assume large proportions." Nothing more was ever reported about this venture.

Meantime, locals were becoming comfortable with the automobile. In July 1904, Dr. J. K. Warner purchased a 10-horsepower Cadillac automobile. It was said to have

been fitted with the latest improvements “including a powerful searchlight which will be valuable for use on mountain roads at night. The machine is a heavy runabout, but the tonneau cover is so arranged that a second seat and canopy top can be used where needed.” Three months later, Dr. Warner traded the Cadillac in for an Oldsmobile, as “he found it too heavy a machine for his purpose.” H. R. Crane bought Warner’s Cadillac and rented it out for excursions complete with chauffeur.

Crane, the Locomobile agent, took on sales of other automobiles. In 1903, it was the Oldsmobile line; in 1905, the Autocar, Rambler and Pope-Hartford lines, and in 1907 he became the local Ford agent.

Law enforcement was another issue brought about by the automobile. There were outraged citizens in Pleasanton when the town fathers raised the speed limit from 10 to 20 miles per hour within the town limits. The Town Marshal was, however, instructed to see that the ordinance was strictly enforced.

A new State law became a source of some confusion when three local citizens were cited one evening when they left their automobiles standing in front of the Bell Theatre on Livermore’s First Street without their lights on. The confusion: the law used the term “in use”. The law stipulated that automobiles will have two lights in front and one red in back burning from a half hour after sunset until a half hour before dawn when a vehicle was in use. Some drivers interpreted this term to mean only that time when they were actually traveling from place to place. The County District Attorney, however, interpreted the law differently and ruled that a vehicle standing on the street “awaiting the owner’s pleasure was in use”. It cannot be said to be out of use unless housed in a shed or garage. The Legislature clarified the language shortly.

Automobiles had become a common sight on local streets by 1905, and horses no longer shied at them. That same year the first taxi service started up when John Lassen purchased a 10 horsepower Pope-Hartford touring car and proposed to do a general passenger business around Livermore and throughout the valley.

And so it went. Horses became accustomed to passing automobiles; drivers became more or less conscious of traffic regulations; and pedestrians became more adept at avoiding aggressive drivers. The situation hasn’t changed in a hundred years.

## **HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS**

**Its Auction time again! This year will be another fun packed event. We have something for everyone. We hope you will join us for some laughs and fun. This year's proceeds are going towards the purchase of a MicroFilm reader printer for the Carnegie Library.**

## **CALENDAR**

Saturday May 28th

Preview @ 5:00pm, Optional Dinner @ 6:00pm

Auction Starts @ 7:00pm

Thursday, June 2nd @ 7:00 p.m.

LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Library, downstairs

Thursday, July 7th @ 7:00 p.m.

LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Library, downstairs

## **Agenda for LHG Sponsored History Talks:**

**All presentations are held 7 to 9 p.m. in the community meeting room of the Livermore Civic Center Library on South Livermore Avenue**

### **June 15, 2005:**

**Anna Siig**, will share and discuss artifacts from the excavation last year at the site of the Chinese community living and working in the early 1900's at fuse works known as Coast Manufacturing, now the Hexel site. It is a chance to learn about a little known but important group of people who were an integral part of Livermore's history.

### **July 29, 2005:**

**John Shirley**, will share a video presentation of his participation in a recreation of "The Fight at Anzio and the Liberation of Rome" during World War II. This is sure to be a very interesting evening.

\$2 suggested donation. Coffee, tea and sweet breads provided by the Library Cafe. The Library Cafe is open until 8:00 p.m. providing sandwiches and drinks.

NOTE: David Heyman is interested in stories about Max Baer Sr & Jr. David's email address is david.heyman@lms.com. If you have an interesting story, drop David an email.

*It's Auction Time Again!*

## *Livermore Heritage Guild Auction*

May 28th at the historic “Duarte Garage”  
Portola Ave. at N. Livermore Ave.  
Livermore, Ca.



*It is time for another fun filled evening of “auction mania” and just plain old fashioned fun!*

This year's auction has something for everyone. We were fortunate to receive a large donation of antiques, including twelve, yes twelve, antique sewing machines. These machines are in various stages of refinishing so the machine's heads are separated from the stands; think of it more as a “do it yourself” kit! The sewing machines include 4 each “White”, 4 each “Singer”, a “New Home”, a “Florence Rotary” and a “New Cottage” model. We have a solid oak table ready to restain, several antique end tables, antique wicker baby cart, (needs new rubber on the rims), a metal table and chairs from the “City of Paris” in San Francisco, (needs some sanding and repaint), an antique scale, antique toasters and iron trivets, antique chair, Birdseye maple desk, antique headboard, “Airline” antique radio, numerous pictures (we only kept the best ones for the auction), Anniversary clock from Germany, WWII army knife, Bee keepers outfit, glassware, tools, toys, match collection, Norditrack Aerobic Cross Trainer, wooden cases for mounting insects, small size Rolltop desk for a hallway or child, telescope, several antique cabinets, etc., etc.

**Auction preview at 5:00pm, optional pasta dinner at 6:00pm (donation of \$8.00 requested. We are limited to 120 dinners so first come, first serve) followed by the auction at 7:00pm.**

## A Brief Word

Last I heard, summer was still scheduled to be here soon! In June, stop by the Carnegie History Center; the new displays will be installed by the middle of June. With the auction and all, we are running a few weeks behind. June also marks the beginning of the History Talks again at the new library. See the schedule and speakers inside this newsletter. Don Meeker will be assuming the Curator's duties at the Carnegie Library while Bill Junk will continue as Curator of the Duarte Garage. Thanks guys for your time and effort. I want to thank Muriel Dean who has been setting up QuickBooks 2005 on our computer to better track the Heritage Guild's finances. Bill Nale has been working feverishly digitizing our photo collection, thanks Bill! Maxine Trost had Robert Livermore's Cattle Brand application restored, after which Maxine matted the document for our display in June, thanks Maxine! Marie Abbott has assumed the role of Publicity Chairperson for the Guild, we appreciate her efforts and enthusiasm. We are installing a highspeed internet connection this month at the Carnegie Library to better facilitate our research capabilities. This years auction proceeds will go toward the purchase of a new microfilm reader/printer for the Carnegie Library, so be sure and attend and bid, bid, bid! HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE! We would like to create a video of Gary Drummond's walking tour of downtown, so if anyone knows of someone with experience that can help, please have them contact me. My email address is larrym49@comcast.net or leave a message at 449-9927.

See you at the auction!  
Larry Mauch

