

# Livermore Heritage Guild

*"Help Save Yesterday For Tomorrow"*



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

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## ***A Seditious Incident***

The citizens of Livermore were generally isolated from the events taking place in Western Europe during World War I. The people generously gave to Belgian relief in the early days of the conflict. The Women's Improvement Club encouraged the townspeople to contribute 50-pound bags of flour or an equivalent supply of beans and other household essentials to starving Belgians. The contributions were turned over to the Red Cross for shipment overseas.

But by 1917, when America entered the war, a local hysteria was developing. The Herald warned against "whispering propoganda". It went on to say, "Whenever you hear a rumor of a disaster suppressed by the government, or an attack on the physical and moral welfare of American troops, you can rest assured that it originated in the evil mind of a paid German agent."

Anti-German feelings in 1917 and 1918 may appear to have been somewhat heavy-handed. For example, the State Board of Education barred the teaching of the German language in all high schools in California and eliminated all books printed in German from the list of approved school text.

Even on the local level there were strongly held anti-German sentiments. The Livermore Board of Trustees approved an ordinance in May 1918 "prohibiting the utter-

ance or use of seditious language, or of words tending to disturb the peace." Violation was a misdemeanor and upon conviction the guilty party was subject to a fine of \$500 and six months in durance vile.

The record shows that the ordinance was violated at least once.

The culprit was Manuel Silva, a sheepherder and farm laborer, who had lived in the Valley for 40 years. The offense took place in the Rex Saloon in the Schenone Building on First Street. As Silva was leaning up against the bar, he "expressed the wish that Germany would win the war, applied an opprobrious epithet to President Wilson and renounced the Red Cross in terms that are unprintable."

The bar-room gang was about to clean Silva's plow, but the saloon keeper took charge of the situation and hustled Silva off to the local Justice of the Peace. Following a hearing, Silva was placed under arrest and remanded to the county jail for 90 days. The judge "denounced the prisoner in scathing terms for his disloyalty, and expressed his regret that he could not make the penalty imprisonment for life." He also warned him to keep away from Livermore "as his presence in this community will not be tolerated."

*By Gary Drummond*

From the Livermore *Echo*, April 22, 1909

### Many New Laws Enacted

Among bills of general interest signed recently by Governor Gillett are the following:

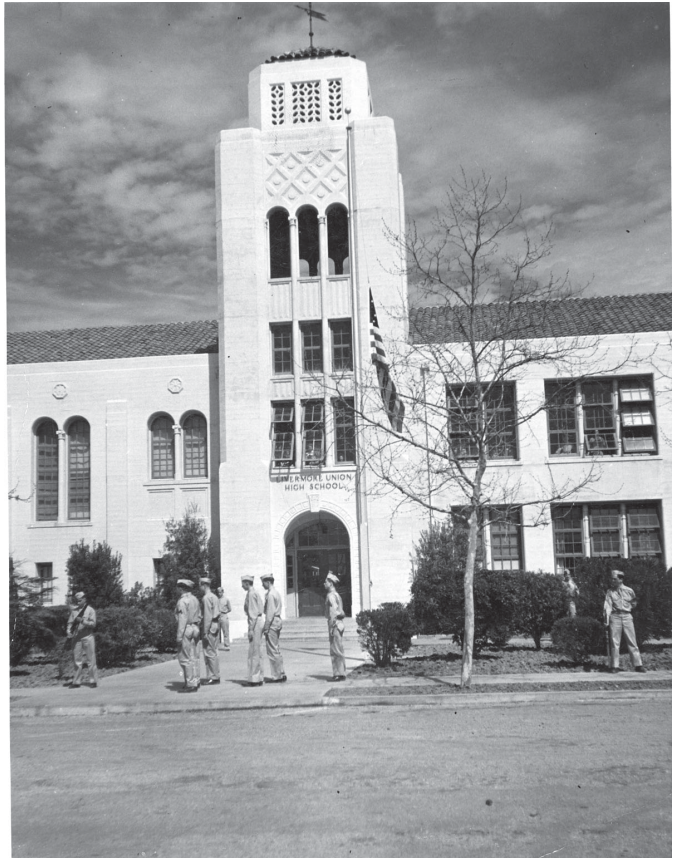
Senate Bill 342, Anthony - Providing penalties for the unlawful wearing of union pins.

Bill 423, Transue - Prohibiting the sale of liquor within four miles of any camp of laboring men, excepting only established saloons and stores.

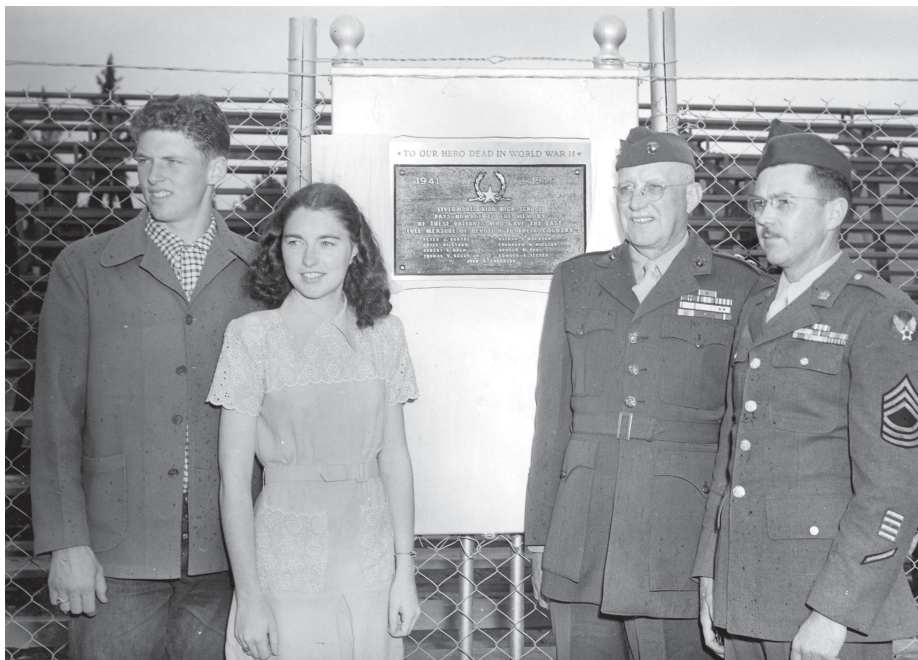
Senate 624, Stetson - Limiting the interest of salary loan brokers to 5% per month.

The Governor failed to sign bills insuring the better training and qualifications of persons acting as chauffeurs and repealing the compulsory vaccination law that provided that vaccination shall be practiced only when smallpox exists.

*Detachment of Livermore High School Cadet Company during a ceremony honoring former students killed in World War II*



*Dedication at Livermore High School of a plaque in memory of former students killed in World War II. Jack Bonetti Anderson, Brigadier General Joseph T. Smith, Master Sargent Elliott Dopking, Livermore High School Graduates.*





## ***WW II Exhibit at the Carnegie***

Have you been to the Carnegie Building to see the World War II exhibit? It's at the History Center through January. Due to popular demand the display will be up until the middle of February. John Shirley has filled a whole display cabinet with pictures and memorabilia. The Jewel and Malvern Sweet family graciously shared items and photos from Malvern's time serving during WWII and Korea. Another collector brought in family items, memorabilia from a friend and some of his own collection. Chuck McFann, Tilli Calhoun, John Aspinwall, and Bill Junk have shared items from theirs or family members' service. The exhibit is well worth seeing.

The Heritage Guild will continue collecting photos, stories and future display items as we plan to have another display in November 2006.

If you have a story to share, photos, or memorabilia you are willing to display in the future, let us know.

**Don't forget the Annual LHG Auction.** We are collecting donations now. Clean out those garages and closets and donate to the auction. We will pick up! Call Bill Junk at 447-4561, Anna Siig at 447-5475, or the Carnegie Library at 440-9927.

**Would you like to arrange a group tour of the Duarte Garage?** Call Chief Mechanic and Curator, Bill Junk at 447-4561

## **CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, February 1st, 7 pm**  
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Library, downstairs

**Wednesday, March 1, 2006**  
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Library, downstairs

**LHG Sponsored History Talks**  
7:30 pm, Community Meeting Room of the Livermore Civic Center Library

**Wednesday, February 8, 2006**  
Herb Street continues his story of his experiences in World War II. Tonight's topic is his time as a German prisoner of war.

**Wednesday, March 8, 2006**  
The Story of Carrell of Corral Hollow, 1850-1880, presented by Sheila Lockwood and Dan Mosier.

**Wednesday, April 12, 2006**  
Tilli Calhoun shares family experiences and stories of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

\$2 suggested donation. Light refreshments are available before the lecture.

## ***Contact Us***

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## ***A Brief Word from the President***

Well it is the start of a new year, and we wish everyone the best. We have made our resolutions for 2006. You should see two new books come out by mid-year about Livermore's History. The Guild is working on a book with Arcadia Publishing. It will feature mostly pictures, the best of our collection, with captions about Livermore's history. Anne Homan has been working on a book that is similar in format to an encyclopedia on Livermore's history; it will also contain pictures and be a great resource. The two books should complement each other well. We will notify you as soon as they are available.

The history talks are starting the year out with a great line-up. Herb Street gave the first of his two talks about WWII in January. The first talk was well attended, and Herb talked about his experience as a dive bomber pilot. His next talk, in February, will focus on his experience as a prisoner of war. Several people have commented on Herb's ability to hold the audience's attention using a mixture of facts and humor, making it an enjoyable experience for everyone. In March, Dan Mosier and the daughter of Earl Williams, the author of "Carrell of Corral Hollow" will speak about the Edward Carrell diaries from the 1840s and 1850s that they published and about the area's history. In April, Tilli Calhoun will talk about the 1906 earthquake and Livermore's as well as San Francisco's experience. More great talks will follow.

New displays will be in place by mid-February in the Carnegie Library; among them will be a display of artifacts and pictures on the Foresters of Foresters Hall and artifacts and pictures from our collection on the Dutcher hardware store. The store dates from the late 1870s.

*Larry Mauch*

