

Livermore Heritage Guild

“Help Save Yesterday For Tomorrow”



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The Water Wars

In March and April 1875, there was a flurry of correspondence in the Livermore *Enterprise* between the Livermore Spring Water Company and A. B. Bowers, the engineer for the Arroyo Valle Water Company, a competing company. The subject was the virtues of water delivered by iron pipe versus delivery by wooden water pipe.

The Livermore Water people were drawing water from Arroyo Las Positas, pumping it up the hill to a point overlooking what is now auto row on Las Positas Road, and then taking it into town by flume to a tank located about where the new Livermore Cinema is. The tank stood on stilts and had a capacity of 50,000 gallons of water. From there it was distributed throughout the community in iron pipe.

The competing water company, the Arroyo Valle outfit, proposed to take water from Arroyo del Valle, which at that time wasn't flooded by Del Valle reservoir. The water followed the streambed to a point near the present Cresta Blanca bridge where a coffer dam had been constructed. From that point, the company would move water into Livermore by wooden pipes. The Arroyo Valle Company had

purchased more than seven and a half miles of wooden pipe for this purpose.

Bowers, the Arroyo Valle engineer, was quoted as saying, "... our Adam's ale will be as plentiful on our streets as lager ale..." The Spring Water people asked how Bowers proposed to connect the wooden pipe to the cast-iron hydrants already in place.

By the time the Arroyo Valle water reached Livermore, it had no pressure and it smelled strongly

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Reflections on AGM

Dear Guild Members,

Yes, the Annual General Meeting was a success! After LHG President Neal Cavanaugh did the main planning, Marie Abbott and others put a lot of thought and work into the finishing touches. Tim Sage taught us all a lesson about how to be a great emcee. And Dick Finn gave a wonderful presentation that left us all with questions about where the families of Civil War veterans from the valley are now living.

Treasurer Dick Lerche reported that the Guild currently has 311 members, including 35 sponsors and patrons, and 57 life members. He also reported that the general fund has doubled during the last two years.

Because of this increase, many who attended the AGM might be wondering why the Legacy Tour is talking of raising more money. The answer is simple: The Guild is dreaming and planning big! Real BIG!

For some years, the Guild has been wishing for a new History Mobile. While our current vehicle has served us well for many years, it is tired. We cannot drive it safely on the highway, and it has no air conditioning. On hot days, the heat really takes a toll both on school children and adults alike! So, a new History Mobile is on the



Above: AGM attendees enjoyed music provided by former Garage chairman Bill O'Neal's Valley Banjo Band.

Below: Former LHG president Larry Mauch chats with long-time members Phil and Muriel Dean.



list for the Legacy Tour income. The cost of transforming an RV or bus into a traveling museum could be as high as \$75,000 dollars. And this doesn't even include hiring someone to drive it to give Bill Junk, our usual driver, a break.

The Midway School will probably take a bit more money from the Guild, too. Just to give you a point of comparison, to move the Centerville Train Depot from one

end of a parking lot to the other and then restore it, the City of Fremont spent approximately \$1 million. Depending upon how involved the Guild gets in this project (we are not the only stakeholders), moving the school to Livermore, drawing up plans, and restoring it

may cost the Guild more than \$100,000.

One of our most ambitious plans is to create the Livermore Museum and Research Center. Two years ago, while planning for this eventuality, we learned that additional display cabinets might cost as much as \$25,000. Recently, the Guild has learned that in 1991, at the end of a very successful matching-funds program between

the City of Healdsburg and the Healdsburg Historical Society, \$480,000 was spent to transform the old Carnegie Library Building of Healdsburg into a modern, first-class museum and research center. We can only guess how much a similar project would cost in 2007 dollars, to say nothing of volunteer hours

If you care about the Livermore Heritage Guild and you care about the community that it serves, here are some of the ways you can help:

- 1) Attend Board meetings. We are happy that you attend the History Talks and visit the Garage, AND we need your leadership skills, too! By attending board meetings, you can tell us how we can better serve the community and, then, help us do it. The Board meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm in the Carnegie Building and meetings are open to all members.
- 2) Encourage friends, neighbors, and family members to join the LHG. An LHG membership makes a great birthday or Christmas gift! How many other gifts last ALL YEAR LONG?
- 3) Dedicate a portion of your will or living trust to the Livermore Heritage Guild. You might have already remembered PBS or Hope Hospice. Why not the LHG? Your contributions

will help us improve the community and create a lasting legacy for yourselves. You can even earmark those funds for specific Guild projects!

Whether you want to donate time or money or both, your continued support is vital and we appreciate it enormously. By working together, we are bound to make important changes to our organization and to the community we love.

Sincerely,

*Matthew Schellenberg and
Anna Siig*

Meet Matthew and Anna

LHG membership elected two new officers at the September Annual General Meeting: Matthew Schellenberg as second vice president for membership and Anna Siig as secretary.

Matthew, although a relative newcomer to the Guild has been a dedicated volunteer. He has an impressive and varied background: as a undergraduate biochemistry major, he synthesized two new compounds, he has written three (unpublished) novels, traveled to Russia in the middle of winter, and taught more than a thousand students at various colleges how to write an essay.

Born in Fremont, he has lived in Union City, Fresno, Coarsegold

(California), Reading (Pennsylvania), Bellingham (Washington), and Syracuse (New York). Three and a half years ago, he moved to Livermore, which he now calls home. Matthew likes to read, attend performances, lift weights, garden, travel, and learn about Livermore's colorful past. In his "spare time," Matthew sells real estate with Alain Pinel, Realtors, located in the historic Forresters' Building on J Street.

Anna Siig is a founding member of the Livermore Heritage Guild and a long-time resident of Livermore. Born and raised in Reno, Nevada, Anna lived briefly in Denmark after World War II, then returned to the States, married, and moved to Livermore where she raised two children and spoils two grandchildren.

Anna began her love affair with Livermore history when she and her former husband moved the

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Matthew Schellenberg and Anna Siig were elected 2nd vice president and secretary at the September Annual General Meeting.

From the *Livermore Herald*, March 1877

The Soirée Party

The first of a series of soiree socials given under the direction of Messrs. Bronson and Daggett of San Jose took place at Palace Hall on Friday evening last. To say that this party was a grand success would be but to faintly express ourselves in its praise.

It is not merely the size of an assembly that makes it pleasurable nor always good music but an un-definable something which seems to lurk in the air, inspiring all with an overflow of happy spirits and tending to sociability. The most austere will feel this influence and unbend themselves for the nonce. The term "social," then, as applied to this occasion was most fitting. Many met that evening as strangers and parted as acquaintances while in other instances acquaintance was cemented into friendship.

About 8:30 P.M., some thirty-five couples of the elite of Livermore and vicinity having gathered, dancing commenced, and was participated in with a will. The buoyant spirit of the occasion, to which we before alluded, seemed to possess every one in a remarkable degree, and the strains of

really fine music heightened this feeling.

Nothing, perhaps, could be more uninteresting in description, that the mere action of the dance - naught more fascinating in realization. Suffice to say, then, that the bright scene continued without interruption till the witching hour of midnight, when the entire company repaired to Mr. C. Gardemeyer's building, next door, to partake of refreshments.



While thus engaged, we will take a peep at the ladies and gentlemen present, and the habiliments of the former.

LADIES

Mrs. J. D. Smith, pink grenadine basque, and skirt of same material and color, flounced, cut en train. Hair in

French twist, with pendent curl. Pink kids, Sapphire and Roman jewelry.

Mrs. Fuller, modest black cashmere, neatly trimmed.

Miss Ella Butts, salmon-colored tarletan basque in pleats: skirt of same material, cut en train, narrow flouncing, and trimmed with small velvet bows. Hair in braid, with pendent curls; white kids.

Miss Annie Fish, black cashmere evening dress, demi-train; relieved at throat by illusion. Hair plain, with white flowers; white kids.

Miss Eva Turner, white Swiss overdress, with black lace fichu. Hair in puffs and long pendent curls. White kids.

Miss Annie Nash, pink and white tarletan, pleated flounces, puffed waist, with pink trimmings.

Miss Callie Markam, of San Francisco, delicately tinted pink silk corsage basque: gloves to match; black silk skirts, demi-train. Hair in puffs, black velvet trimmings. Etruscan jewelry.

Miss Mary Gillespie, white tarletan suit, elaborately embroidered with blue trimmings.

Hair in Grecian coil, and frizettes. Lavender kids.

Miss Mary Harlan, of San Ramon Valley, black cashmere, with Princesse polinaise, trimmed with silk fringe. Hair in French twist, with white flowers. White kids.

Miss Helene Harlan, of San Ramon Valley, suit of Navy blue, very becoming. Hair in long braid, ornamented with ribbon. White kids.

Miss Katie Campbell, brown cashmere suit, trimmed with knife pleatings. Hair in Grecian coil. White kids.

Mrs. G. E. Kennedy, blue-tinted corrage basque; gloves to match; black silk skirts, demi-train. Hair in puffs, black velvet trimmings. Etruscan jewelry.

Miss Ellen Hayes, black skirt and white tarletan basque and overdress. Hair in frizettes.

Miss R. Macdonald, Navy blue cashmere, evening suit, demi-train. Pale buff silk sash, and gloves to match. Hair in chatelain braid, with white ostrich feather.

Mrs. W. S. Low, cinnamon-colored silk, demi-train, with knife pleatings; long pointed basque. Coral jewelry. White kids.

Miss Belle Thompson, of San Francisco, white tarletan overdress, trimmed with pink. Black Skirt.

Mrs. W. Frisbie, myrtle-green silk, with clusters of side and box pleats, demi-train. Hair in French coil, low on neck.

Miss Mary McLeod, navy blue, with trimmings to suit.

Mrs. A. J. McLeod, black silk evening suit.

Etta Doyle, dark cashmere evening suit.

Lizzie Owens, white grenadine suit, with black lace. Hair in frizettes.

Also Miss Reed, Mrs. Geo. E. Freeman, Mrs. J. Bowles, Mrs. Thos. Veal, Mrs. L. Oliver, Miss C. Hayes, Miss Ora Bowles.

GENTLEMEN

Messrs. A. Mendenhall, W. Mendenhall, J. D. Smith, G. W. Comegys, Wm. J. Coffey, Jesse Bowles, I. H. Ankele, of Pleasanaton, E. Webb, Haven Bragdon, Andrew Cross, C. Webber, Norris Dutcher, Jay Dutcher, A Beazell, Dr. G. B. Jarrett, G. E. Kennedy, J. A. Clary, F. Schlesinger, A. J. McLeod, W. Jordan, T. Hayes, W. Frisbie, Owen Owens, John Owens, Gus. Muller, H. Rubiar, Geo. Stanley, T. A. Spalding,

R. Smith, Mr. Harlan, of San Ramon Valley, Mr. Douglass, of Altamont, G. E. Freeman, Thomas Veal, Mr. Weigh, S. Waterman, Edward Webb, Edwin Howe, Frank Marston.

What was worn under and over an 1877 dress:

During a fashion show a model was dressed in all the layers that were necessary for the period. It took about 15 minutes to get her dressed in this outfit. When finished, she was wearing the following: drawers, chemise, corset, stockings, shoes, corset cover, bustle, two petticoats, skirt, bodice, hat, gloves, parasol and purse.

Frizettes: (*American Heritage Dictionary*) fri-sette also fri-zette noun. a fringe of curled, often artificial hair, usually worn on the forehead by a woman.

Tar-la-tan also **tar-le-tan:** noun. A thin, stiffly starched muslin in open plain weave.

Corsage Bodice: sometimes specifically with a low neckline.

Polonaise: Gown having skirt fronts (or upper layer of skirts) drawn back over an underskirt to create a drapery at sides or back.

Basque: A bodice closely fitted by seaming from the shoulder to waist, with or without a short, skirt-like continuation.

Brocade: Jacquard-weave fabric having interwoven all over designs of raised figures, ususally flowers and foliage.

-Anna Süg

Guild Sends Representative to AASLH Conference

In early September, I attended the annual meeting of the American Association of State and Local History in Atlanta, Georgia, on behalf of the LHG. The conference gave me a valuable opportunity to learn from colleagues and experts.

The theme of this year's meeting was "Relevance = The Bottom Line." Many of the panels and roundtable discussions that I attended focused on ways to increase visitor interaction and create family-friendly exhibits.

One of the most inspirational (and frightening) sessions I attended was "Walking Your Talk: Engaging Your Community." Dr. Candace Tangorra Matelic facilitated the session and early on said: "There is a huge crisis facing many of the historical and heritage societies in this country. In ten year's time, many of these organizations will not exist."

My heart leapt to my throat where it throbbed with panic. I could not help but think about the aging membership of the LHG. Nor could I avoid thoughts about the many organizations from my grandparents' time, organizations that have slowly been on the decline due to a lack of new members.

"But there is hope," Dr. Matelic said. "There is a way to change this trend in your organization and it is called 'interpretive planning.'"

And it is that topic—"interpretive planning"—that I would like to discuss with you on October 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the new library's Community Room B. I do hope you will join me.

- *Matthew Schellenberg*

Officers Continued from Page 3

Jack Baughman house, which was due to be demolished, to a hilltop near Tesla Road in 1969. Saving the house served as an introduction to members of long-time Livermore families and to Livermore's history.

Since the Guild's founding 34 years ago, Anna has been an active member. She is a past president, has helped with exhibits, learned auction work from the pros, Henri and Chet Fankhauser, and enjoys networking with people, collecting their stories and copying their treasured photos for the Guild archives. Working at Wente's for 14 years gave Anna an interest in wine history, an interest she shares with her husband, Gary Drummond.

Serving as auction chair as well as secretary, a comment often heard from Anna is, "Now, if you are looking for volunteer work, remember the Heritage Guild."

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of hydrogen sulfide; it was undrinkable. The principle investors abandoned the whole project in 1877. It was a total loss.

In the summer of 1915, workmen who were grading East First Street prior to paving the street, plowed up several sections of the old wooden pipe. It had been installed 40 years before, the last remnant of a failed dream.

The Heritage Guild has a section of wooden pipe on display at the Duarte Garage.

-*Gary Drummond*



Calendar

Workshop, October 29, 7 pm, Livermore Library Community Room B. Matthew Schellenberg will share "interpretive planning" information from the AASLH conference.

LHG Board Meeting, Wednesday, November 7, 7 pm. Carnegie Building (Third and J streets), downstairs.

History Talk, November and December none scheduled due to holiday activities.

Duarte Garage Open, Sunday, November 18, 10-2 pm. On the Old Lincoln Highway at the corner of Portola and L Streets.

History Center Open House, Sunday December 1, 1-3pm, Carnegie Building (Third and J streets).

LHG Board Meeting, Friday, December 7th, 7:00 pm at home of Siig and Drummond, 567 South L Street. Rules are: guests bring desserts or savories to share and hosts provide beverages. Please let Anna, 447-5475, know if you plan to attend the meeting and social.

Duarte Garage not open December.

Newsletter Mailing, Saturday, December 29, 11:30, Carnegie Building, Third and J Streets. Call Maxine, 925-422-6539, or just drop in.

LHG Board Meeting, Wednesday, January 2, 7 pm. Carnegie Building (Third and J streets), downstairs.

History Center Open House. Mark your calendar and be sure to attend the LHG's 2007 holiday open house. Sunday, December 1, 1 - 3 pm at the Carnegie Building at Third and K Streets. Meet old friends and make new ones. We'll have refreshments, exhibits, and fun. It will be a good time to do your holiday shopping, too!

News Notes

The **Guild's History Mobile** made its annual appearance at Concannon Vineyard during the Memorial Day weekend Harvest Festival. Susan and Bill Junk drove the vehicle to the site and assisted with set-up and shutdown. Tilli and Wayne Calhoun, Patsy Neely, Mary Rasmussen, and Marie Abbott led visitors through the exhibits.

Books for sale. Remember the History Center's gift shop when doing your holiday shopping. Our best selling *Early Livermore*, would make an excellent gift for friends and family. Another great gift is Anne Homan's encyclopedic look at Livermore's history, *Historic Livermore, California, A to Z*. You will also find the 2008 LHG calendar, t-shirts, cards, and a good collection of other books on Livermore and its history. Drop in at the Carnegie Building, 3rd and K Streets, Wednesday through Sunday, 11:30 to 4.

Livermore photos can be found on Google Earth, through the efforts of Guild member Bill Nale. Go to Google Earth, download the free software, select Fly to, and type in Livermore, California. Try it; it's fun!

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The Livermore Heritage Guild newsletter is published six times per year. Contact the newsletter editor with comments or suggestions for articles.

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Masthead photo: Cresta Blanca Hill from Arroyo Valle creek bed, circa 1897.

Restored Model T Makes Debut!

The Model T and the Mack Fire trucks were invited to the Livermore Home Depot Kids' Workshop on Saturday, October 6. Bill Junk drove the Mack and the T was taken over by trailer in the morning. After the event Tim Sage drove the Model T, with me as passenger, for some practice laps in the parking lot. Then driver, Tim Sage, with "chief restorer," Chuck McFann as passenger took their turn in the spot light!

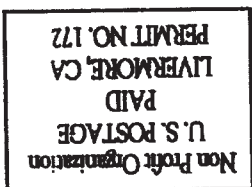
Home Depot does the Kid's Workshop the first Saturday of each month with "make and take" project for kids. October's theme was safety, and the Mack and Model T were joined by fire trucks from Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department and Lawrence Livermore National Lab. Alameda County Search and Rescue was there as well with their search dogs.

The public enjoyed all the fire trucks, and Guild members, especially those who are helping restore the Model T, were thrilled with the T's debut. Sometimes it's fun to make history.

- Susan Junk



After the Home Depot Kids' Workshop, Tim Sage and Susan Junk take a lap around the parking lot in the debut appearance of the Guild's restored Model T fire truck. Tim and Chuck drove the T back to the Duarte Garage.



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