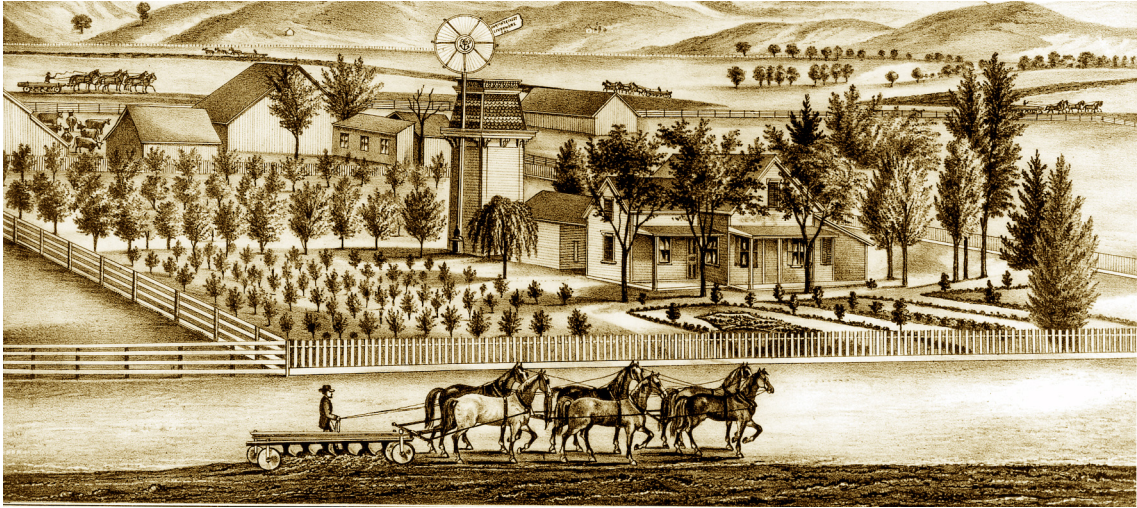


Livermore Heritage Guild

Saving Yesterday For Tomorrow



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May/June 2009

Vol. XL, No. 4

The Career of Edward Livernash, *Livermore Herald* Editor

In the March/Apruk issue of the newsletter, we included a short paragraph about Edward Livernash and his purchase of the Livermore Herald. Here is more of Livernash's story. - Editor

Three months after Edward Livernash purchased the *Herald* from W. P. Bartlett in June 1891, the newspaper building burned in an early morning fire. It had been insured for \$2,200. Livernash had also spent \$1,000 dollars for new type fonts and improvements of the shop.

But Livernash was not in town the morning the fire occurred. That day he had been arrested at the Ferry Building in San Francisco. Disguised as a Negro woman, complete with black face, he had in his possession a can of chloroform and a container of prussic acid. The police were surprised to find they had arrested a man. His explanation for the chloroform was that he was a restless sleeper and had insomnia. As for the costume, he had come to San Francisco to play a trick on his wife.

When his case came to court, a witness for the defendant was Dr. John Robertson (later of Livermore Sanitarium fame) who testified he had been treating Livernash. He further said, "he is one of the most profound instances of hypnotism that ever came under my observation." It seemed that the patient could trigger a hypnotic trance

by himself. Dr. Robertson also said that, "his patient would never have done such a thing (dressing as a woman) had he had complete control of his faculties."

Livernash returned to Livermore to salvage what he could of his newspaper business and sold his share of the *Herald* to his partner Jesse H. Dungan, who ran the paper for the next five years.

Before his attempt as an editor, Livernash had stud-

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LHG Bylaws Revision

The LHG Board is conducting its periodic review of the Guild's Bylaws, and it would like to consider your thoughts. Please go to the Livermore Heritage Guild website: www.livermorehistory.com. Click on WHO WE ARE, then below OUR BYLAWS, click on HERE. If you have any suggestions concerning the Bylaws, please send them to Neal Cavanaugh, who is chairing the Bylaws Revision Committee. I'm looking forward to seeing your thoughts at nealcavanaugh@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for your ideas.

A Message from the President

April 25, 2008

Dear members,

With everyone watching their phones' callerID these days, it is getting harder to make a personal connection. So I was doubly lucky this month that both Barbara Jennings and Grady Bannert picked up on my first attempts. I will explain in a moment.

There are many not so historical aspects in the operation of our Heritage Guild. Budgets, bylaws, and working with local vendors to get good value for the Guild's money, hopefully earning a coveted donation. In my last letter, I told you about the much-needed shelving donation from Geran of Ross McDonald Co. for our Bunsah Research Room. After such good fortune, it was incredible that we found another friend in Fernando Romero Jr. ("JR") of Livermore's Tri-Valley Auto Body on First Street.

As seen in previous newsletters, we have a crew working diligently to restore the 1920 Seagrave Fire Engine. Among other things, they were in serious need of a place to paint all the panels so they would look professionally done. Talking to the folks at Tri-Valley Auto Body, it turned out that Fernando Sr. has been somewhat aware of the Guild through an acquaintance with one Mr. Barry Schrader. That, and some photos of a weathered but restorable fire engine, helped entice JR to visit the Duarte Garage for a first hand look at the project. We gave him a tour and then led him to the collection of panels and pieces that needed some layers of bright fire engine red. In accepting the challenge and our thanks, he commented, "what kid hasn't dreamed of working on a fire engine?" We are excited to be working with them.

Much as I wanted to write about this good luck, I did not know much to say about the Seagrave itself. It was Livermore's first "real" fire engine, bought new from the factory in 1920 emblazoned with the LFD logo in gold, and it stayed in the LFD lineup for many good years. Its chain drive makes for an interesting looking drive train and allows a high ground clearance, important for the muddy streets and grass fires it was likely called to attend. Lynn Owens, retired Livermore Division Fire Chief (and our auctioneer for the May 23 Auction at the Garage) suggested I speak with Randy Jennings, who, he was pretty sure, had driven the Seagrave.

And so Randy's wife Barbara picked up the phone and passed it along to Randy, who then passed on parts of many great stories about being a Livermore fire fighter, starting from his first days in August 1963. The Seagrave was already an antique compared to "modern" fire equipment, but by keeping it functioning and ready to go, along with having a well-trained fire fighting force, the City was able to reduce their fire insurance. By the time Randy joined up, the Seagrave was ready but idle, sitting in the still-present parking lot next to the old Fire Station and City Hall on First Street. However, even in those days four decades after the Seagrave arrived he said it was kept shiny and provisioned with hoses loaded and ready to go. When a short time later the City decided it should be retired to the corporation yard near the tracks, he protested that it would just get ruined out there and someday people would be wanting to restore it! His prediction realized, Randy has been over to the garage to look at the work in progress and has offered his hand to help in some of the painting as well.

We talked some more about fire engine operation and the days of riding in those open cab fire engines. As a

President's Letter, continued from page 2.

young firefighter he was sent as a mutual aid response to the Pleasanton fire at Pheobe Hearst's 50-room hacienda. He said they were pretty concerned, maybe a little scared, since the flames were visible even from Livermore! As our conversation wound down, he mentioned that another retired firefighter with Seagrave experience was still around.

And so it was that my next call went to Grady Bannert. Grady is another friendly, convivial guy (are all you firefighters like that??) who started in the 1950s and had some wheel time with the Seagrave. Both men described it as very hard to steer, but a well built, high quality machine. Grady said he was impressed that Livermore had been able to afford it, saying that small towns like Livermore usually ended up with Fords or Whites; it was the big cities that got high-end hardware like the Seagrave.

Though he could not think of any fires that the Seagrave was called to during his tenure, he recalls an emergency call on First Street after many days of soaking rain. There was so much water in the ground that an empty hotel pool was actually being floated up. So the Seagrave was dispatched to quickly fill the pool and settle it back into the ground. Perhaps this was not as urgent as the Richfield oil depot conflagration behind the Vine that Grady also got called on, but it isn't pulling kittens out of trees either!

Grady had not heard that we were working on the Seagrave, so I invited him to drop in and check out the progress. That invitation is also available to each of you. Please drop in during our open house days on the third Sunday of each month (except May; we will be preparing for the Auction). And if you would like to contribute we can always use crisp folding green, but a sandblaster or sandblasting services would be especially useful this month.

Jeff Kaskey
President

Livernash, continued from Page 1

ied the law, and when he returned to San Francisco, he opened up a law firm. For a short time he was also the editor of *California Illustrated*, a Hearst publication. Getting involved in politics, he was elected on a combined Union Labor-Democratic ticket to the U. S. House of Representatives, where he served from 1902 to 1904.

In 1909, he legally changed his name to Count Edward James de Niverais, after discovering on a trip to France that he was an heir to the family name. (The Livernash name appeared to be an American corruption of the French name.) His obituary on June 3, 1938, noted that he was survived by the Countess Zilla.

-By Gary Drummond

What Does It Take To Run A Farm?

Do you know the function of the equipment listed in these two auction sales from 1909? Which could be adapted to use with engine driven devices and which would be no longer needed? Below are items found by Don Meeker in the *Echo* newspaper.

Big Auction Sale Aug. 28th. M. S. Serpa & Co.,

well-known farmers on the Vasco ranch, have given up their lease and have called an auction for Saturday, Aug, 28th, when they will sell to the highest bidder the following: 10 pair lead bars, 3 chains, 2 gang plows, 5 single plows, 4 cultivators, 3 harrows, 6 eveners, 1 seed sower, 2 mowers, 2 header-beds, derrick and fork, 3 lumber wagons, 5 hay bucks, header, spring wagon, 2 carts, buggy, 10 sets harness, 24 collars, single driving harness, double driving harness, sulky rake, roller, 10 dozen chickens, 1 cow, 5 yearling calves, 5 suckling colts, 5 yearling colts, 2 2-year-olds, 19 heavy draft horses and brood mares, kitchen stove and miscellaneous articles.

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LHG History Mobile Visits Livermore Valley Charter School

This month a teacher from the Livermore Valley Charter School, Ms. Vicki Lo, asked if we could bring our History Mobile to their school to present Livermore history to their third-grade classes. Bill Junk agreed to bring the History Mobile to the site, and Tilli Calhoun graciously agreed to give her tour one more time. Vicki arranged for volunteers to help and



also set up an assembly so all the third graders could get an overview before boarding the History Mobile.

We were fortunate to have several Guild members offer to record this event: Jeff Kaskey, Bill Nale, and Neal Cavanaugh. Several members of the Livermore Legacy Tour (Deborah Field, Ellie Hagans, Nancy Mulligan) helped organize and participated in taking over some of the tours. With 100 third graders, we had to repeat the tour 10 times during the day.

Tilli spoke to the assembly about the beginnings of Livermore, starting with the Indians, the Spaniards, and the ranchers and illustrated her talk with old photos and some of her own paintings. The children were very attentive and seemed eager to have their turns in the History Mobile. Once the first group arrived inside, the excitement was palpable.

What excited these children were

the real hands-on artifacts. They got to handle a real cowhide -- feel the fur outside and then see that leather was underneath. They were amazed. They got to hold a pestle that an Indian woman of long ago had used until there was a fingerprint in the stone where she had held it. They even loved the pictures of Indians grinding acorns with babies on their backs or hearing the story of the grizzly bears that used to roam the valley. One hundred children went through that day and there was never a problem of discipline or lack of interest. They were fascinated by everything, and I think it's something they will always remember.

Hopefully we will be able to see, in the not too distant future, the video from the tours. The faces of the children show more than anything how important the History Mobile is to keeping alive our Livermore Heritage and why we need to secure a new vehicle and some new docents to give the tours. Our goal is to be able to give tours to ALL third graders in Livermore by next May.

-By Nancy Mulligan

Tilli Calhoun used photographs and her own paintings to talk to third-grade students at the Livermore Valley Charter School about Livermore history. More than 100 eager students boarded the Guild's History Mobile to see artifacts and documents.



Third-Grade Downtown History Walks

For ten years, Guild volunteers have led third-grade school children on downtown history walks. The children learn where the Chinese washhouses were located in 1884; what happened after the brewery burned; they learn that many years ago there was a three-story building at First and Livermore Avenue.

The Livermore Valley Charter School has added another element to the third-grade local history curriculum. Children are doing either a research paper on a local topic or creating something about Livermore in visual media.

We asked one teacher to share the projects her children had created. Here is the list:

Miss Lo's Third-Grade Class Roster		
Student Name	Project	Topic
Hunter Calkins	Power Point	Livermore Feed Store
Andrew Cushing	Power Point	Firebrick Company
Sarah Daniels	Model	Cedar Grove Church
Aerin Lee	Model	Vine Theater
Nicholas Lloyd	Model	Totem Pole
Grant Murphy	Research Report	Concannon
Thomas Pico	Research Report	Masonic Hall
Brooke Powell	Power Point	Duarte Garage
Jacob Sale	Research Report	Robert Livermore
Benjamin Schasker	Research Report	The Lawrence Livermore Laboratory
Dominic Shepherd	Power Point	The Independent Newspaper
Eamon Smith	Power Point	Post Office
Amelia Sobrepena	Model	Duarte Garage
Samantha Steinle	Model	Wente Winery
Savannah Stevenson	Power Point	Rock House
Ivy Tang	Research Report	Max Paine (boxer)
Fabiola Valle	Power Point	The Carnegie Building
Kaitlyn Wang	Power Point	Ruby Hill Winery
Chelsea Warner	Model	The Carnegie Building
Adam Zhu	Power Point	The Diamond Flour Mil



LHG 2009 Auction Coming Soon!

The Guild's 2009 Auction Committee has been meeting and donations are coming in rapidly. Jeff Kaskey, Guild president, says, "There is a 5 KW gas powered generator and some books from the 19th century, and whatever interesting curiosities a neighbor donated from her attic!"

The auction has also received approximately 28 table lamps, without harps or shades. The lamps are attractive and most are in very good condition. Many are the same design, having come from a hotel in Hawaii. Call us if you want one or more table lamps – we might be able to make a pre auction deal! Otherwise, the auctioneer may include two table lamps with some of the other auction items!

Yes, there are many other interesting and even slightly strange items for the auction. And some lovely things, such as a set of china complete with serving pieces, have been donated! We also have some tempting vintage clothing, something rare for the Guild auctions.

Nonetheless, we are looking for more donations. Remember that collection of things from Uncle Herbert? Well, they might just be perfect for the auction this year.

Auction Co-Chair Bill Junk reminisced: "Remember some of the unusual donations we have received in the past -- a beat-up and warped kitchen table that went for \$250, a gold crown from a tooth, a two-foot-tall tin rooster to name a few. Almost every year we get an item that no one can identify. It's all part of the fun!"

Remember the Guild when you are sorting and cleaning. We pick up

donations. Call Bill Junk at 447-4561 or Anna Siig at 447-5475.

Working the auction offers a great chance to help do a one-time, finite job! You can help set up for the auction a week or so before or help final set up days before the auction. You can help as a runner the night of the auction. Helping serve dinner is a short and fun job.

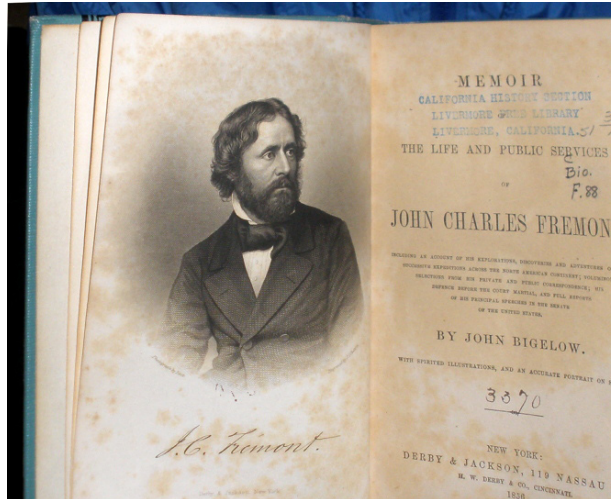
Give us a call at the numbers above or talk with Lynn Owens, auctioneer, or Jeff Kaskey, president of the Guild.

Please tell others about the auction. We welcome our friends of many years and newcomers who are ready to bid and have fun too!

The auction is on Saturday, May 23rd, this year. The usual schedule: preview at 5 pm, dinner served starting at 6, and the auction starting at 7 and going until... . Dinner tickets will go on sale a couple of weeks before the auction. Call the History Center at 449-9927 for more information.

-By Anna Siig

Some of the rare and unusual items that will be auctioned off at the annual LHG auction.



This 1856 book on John Fremont, is one of a few pre-1900 books that will be auctioned. When we say antique auction, this book is over 150 years old!



Calendar

LHG Board Meeting. Wednesday, May 6, 7 pm. Carnegie Building (Third and J Streets), downstairs. All welcome.

LHG Auction. Saturday, May 23. 5 pm preview, 6 dinner, 7 auction begins. At the Duarte Garage on the Old Lincoln Highway at the corner of Portola and L Streets, Livermore. See article on Page 6.

Duarte Garage. On the Old Lincoln Highway at the corner of Portola and L Streets, Livermore. Not open in May. Come to the Auction.

History Talk. No History Talk in May. Come to the Auction.

LHG Board Meeting. Wednesday, June 3, 7 pm. Carnegie Building (Third and J Streets), downstairs. All welcome.

History Talk. Wednesday June 17, 7:30 pm. (Doors open at 7) Don Larsen, Livermore teacher, artist, and author of *I've Never Been an Old Man Before* shares the lively story of a couple married for many years, describing how they used humor to get through the "November years" of their lives. Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Light refreshments.

Duarte Garage Open. Sunday, June 21, 10-2 pm. On the Old Lincoln Highway at the corner of Portola and L Streets, Livermore.

Newsletter Mailing. Saturday, June 27, 11:30. Carnegie Building, Third and J Streets. Help get the newsletter ready for mailing. Call Maxine at 925-447-7401 or just drop in.

LHG Board Meeting. Wednesday, July 1, 7 pm. Carnegie Building (Third and J Streets), downstairs. All welcome.

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Auction Sale at Olivina Ranch on Sept. 11th

On the above date, beginning at 10 a. m., I will sell at public auction on my premises, 2 1/2 miles south of Livermore, the following property: Nine mules (1300 to 1500 lbs.), 7 work and driving horses, 2 saddle horses, 7 colts, one and two years old, 1500 grape boxes, 1500 fruit trays, 1 canopy-top surrey, 1 top buggy, three 4-horse wagons, 1 2-horse truck, 1 1-horse truck, 6 gang plows, 2 side-hill plows, 2 nursery plows, 20 sets double work harness, 1 set double buggy harness, 1 set single buggy harness, 50 collars, 4 hay bucks, 3 hay rakes, 2 mowing machines, 1 broadcast seeder, 4 4-horse cultivators, 4 walking cultivators, 3 disc cultivators, 3 grape cultivators, 7 harrows, 2 Morgan grape hoes, 4 sulphuring machines, 1 stock food cooker. Also a lot of doubletrees, lead-bars, hoes, shovels, lanterns, mattocks, and blacksmith's tools, including a self-feed drill, an anvil, vice, forge, etc.

The MULES are the last and the BEST and LARGEST of the many raised on the OLIVINA; and the horses are all young and sound, beautiful blacks and bays. LUNCH SERVED AT NOON

MRS. SARA B. SMITH.

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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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Front page photo: Scene of Livermore from Thompson & West Atlas, 1878. (Copy courtesy of the Bancroft Library)

We Get By with a Little Help from Our Friends

Steven Flaughter, right, is rehousing our collection of Forester items for improved archival protection and research access. Steven is an intern from CSU EastBay. CSUEB interns agree to complete a one-hundred hour, supervised project.

Charles McGregor has donated a computer, an XP operating system, and a 20" CRT monitor for use at the History Center. The Guild is very grateful for this gift. It will make our research and cataloging activities much easier.

In March, volunteers donated nearly 100 hours of work in the History Center. Last year volunteers worked a total of 1580 hours in the Duarte Garage. In May, dedicated volunteers put in 407 hours! The Seagrave crew often does not record their time, so the actual totals are higher.

The Guild thanks everyone who has helped preserve yesterday for tomorrow!!

