



by Phil Bardsley

I ran across the evocative photo on the right while looking into the history of Livermore's bakeries. The photo shows an earlier time, before the automobile, when bread was delivered to your home by horse-drawn wagon. It also raises many questions: Who owned the Livermore French Bakery? Where was it? And who was eating all those baguettes? For answers, I contacted Donna Buchheit, granddaughter of the bakery's founder, Bernard Crohare.

Bernard Crohare had an eventful life, one filled with accomplishment and generosity. He was only 18 when he came to San Francisco in 1884 from Mauléon-Licharre in the Basque region of southern France. Bernard may have chosen San Francisco because he knew someone there. He found work in the Parisian and Boudin Bakeries; Bernard's father, Pierre, was a baker, and Bernard probably knew how to make good baguettes in quantity.

Starting a Family

Moving to San Francisco proved fortuitous for Bernard's personal life.

His future wife, Marie Burguburu, came to San Francisco five years later in 1890 to join her brother, Jean. She turned 19 on the trip. The siblings were from Chéraute, the town next to Bernard's hometown. In San Francisco, Marie worked as a maid. Marie and Bernard married in San Francisco in 1893.

An ambitious man, Jean Burguburu purchased a ranch near Livermore on the west side of Laramore Road (now Rincon Ave.) across from Pine Street. Over the next nine years, Marie and Bernard moved back and forth between San Francisco and a house on Jean's Livermore ranch. They had five children, two born in San Francisco and three in Livermore. Donna Buchheit's Aunt Claire explained the family's decision to finally make Livermore their permanent home. "The house, on Vallejo Street in San Francisco, was a three-room house, and it was on stilts. There was a boardwalk that led from the street back to the house. Bernard had asthma so bad that he could hardly walk the two or three blocks from the bakery to their house.



Livermore air seemed better for him." So, the Crohars decided in 1902 to settle in Livermore.

The Bakery

Bernard started the Livermore French Bakery that year in a building next to their home on Jean's ranch. At some point, he bought farmland in the same area near Rincon and planted a vineyard. Despite his illness, Bernard proved to be a man of many talents. His daughter Marguerite said, (Baguettes, continued on page 8)

Above: Livermore French Bakery delivery wagon filled with baguettes about 1903; **Far left:** Bernard Crohare, circa 1900; **Middle left:** Marie Burguburu Crohare, circa 1900; All photos courtesy of the Crohare family.



In this Issue:

Duarte Garage	page 2
Heritage Garden	page 4
Meet a Member	page 5
Hagemann Happenings	page 6
Collections Corner	page 7
Life Members	page 10
Midway School Donation	page 10
What Is It?	page 11
Calendar	page 12

Duarte Garage: What Are These?

by Will Bolton

Item #1: The Mystery Object

If you've visited the Duarte Garage in the last 15 years or so, you probably noticed a large object on the floor with a sign asking "What Is This?" Over the years, we have asked many visitors for their ideas. In response, we have gotten a wide range of suggestions but no definitive answers. I think we now have an idea of what it was used for, with some supporting evidence, and I appeal to the collective wisdom of the LHG Newsletter readers to help approximate the truth.

The Mystery Object has a 2.5" diameter round iron shaft about 50" long with a 17.5" long tapered square section at one end. The central portion of the iron shaft passes through a wood cylinder about 11" in diameter and 28" long. Based on the dimensions and densities of the materials, the approximate weight of the whole object is about 110 pounds. There is wear on the wood cylinder suggesting that a rope had been wound around it and had carried heavy loads for many cycles.

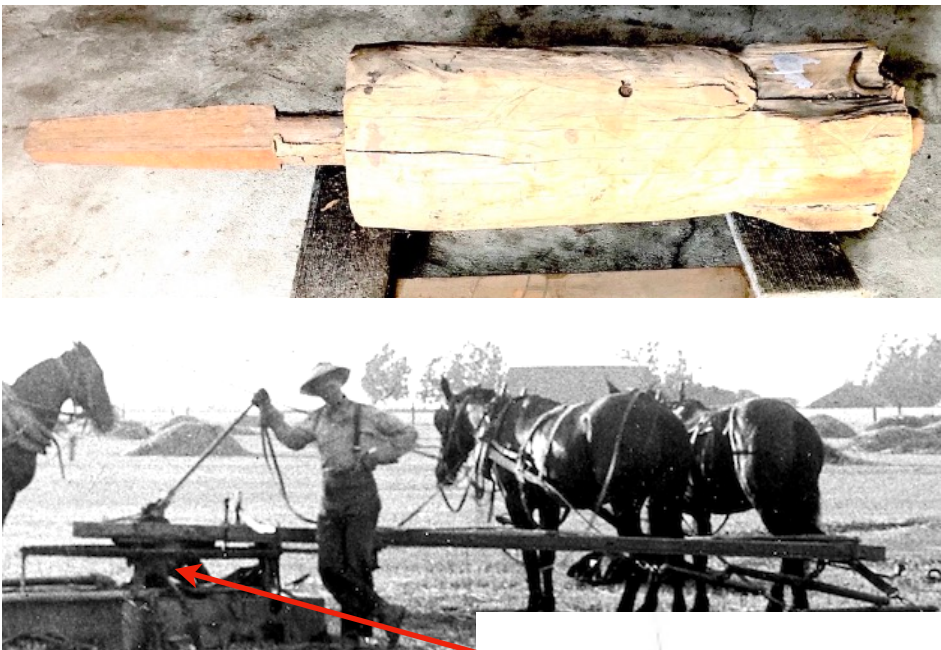
The features of the Mystery Object suggest some possible uses. A square end on a shaft has been used for centuries to transmit torque between a shaft and another object, like a hand wheel, water wheel, or grinding stone. The tapered square is a relatively simple shape to cast and provides a tight fit without precision machining. The wear on the wood section suggests use as something like a winch on a water well - but the Mystery Object is quite robust and clearly built for larger loads. When I first puzzled over this mystery, my first thought was a capstan or windlass on a ship to move heavy loads, for example, to raise sails or raise an anchor. However, it's been a long time since a four-masted schooner was seen plying the waters of the Livermore Valley. It's more likely that local use of the Mystery Object would have been in agriculture.

Two photos from the Guild archive (LHG1218 and LHG1228) taken around 1920 provide possible clues to the use of the Mystery Object. The description associated with LHG1228 states: "Hay press crew moving through the farms &

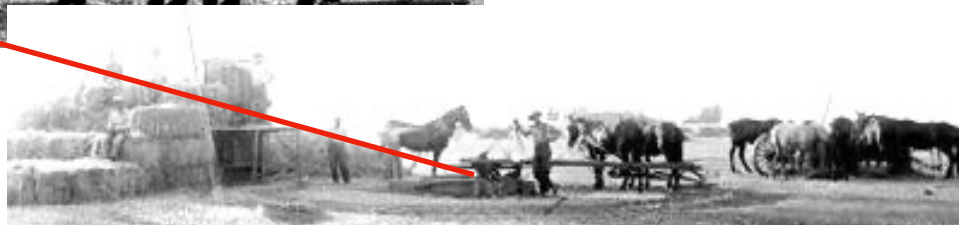
ranches baling hay. Power to press the hay into bales was furnished by the two horses on the 'sweep', which tightened the press as the horses went 'round and round'." The location for the photos is approximately where Granada High School now stands. Both photos show a team of horses hitched to the "sweep" - a wood beam perhaps 8 feet long, which is attached to a central pivot. The horses clearly pull the beam "round and round" the central axis, providing the force to compress the hay. Assuming a 1 foot diameter central drum and an 8 foot beam, the leverage could amplify the force of the team of horses by a factor of approximately 16 - reduced by friction in the mechanisms. The literal horsepower to compress the hay into bales would probably be transmitted to the press by ropes. Enlarging and enhancing high resolution scans of the original photos provided from the archive by Harry Briley shows what appears to be a vertical cylinder about 1 foot in diameter at the pivot point of the horse-drawn beam.

Based on the physical size and features of the mystery object, the wear pattern on its wood cylinder, the evidence in the historical hay press photos, and the fact that this type of equipment was used in the large hay business in the Livermore Valley a hundred years ago leads me to conclude that the Mystery Object could have been used as the central capstan in a horse-powered hay press. However, this is just a conjecture. I would really like to get more input from those with experience or knowledge of this type of haying operation and equipment in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. After all these years, the Mystery Object is still on the floor of the Duarte Garage with a sign asking "What Is This?" Can you help answer the question?

(Mystery, continued on page 3)



Top: the Mystery Object. Photo by Will Bolton. **Right, and in detail above:** Mystery Object suspected to be the drum located at the red arrow; standing on end with the tapered square end on top, which engages the "sweep" beam. Photo courtesy of LHG Archives.



Mystery

(continued from page 2)

Item #2: The Thing: A Bell from the Bell?

Some time ago, an anonymous donor came to the Duarte Garage with an unusual item and an interesting story about it. The Thing is made of thin brass, spun into a shape roughly resembling a bell. It was found at the Schenone Building after a cleanup campaign. Knowing that the Schenone Building once housed the Bell Theater (later called the State Theater) the Donor felt that the Thing might have some historical connection to the theater - and pulled it out of the trash pile. After an interlude of many years, the Donor brought the Thing to the Duarte Garage, where we have puzzled over it for months.

The Thing is about 15” tall and about 17” in diameter. It does generally have a bell-like shape but it doesn’t sound like a bell when it is tapped and it doesn’t have any obvious way to hang it like a bell. There is a zig-zag pattern of 196 small holes punched around the large end, suggesting use as a lamp shade; however, it is closed at the top and surmounted by a two and a half inch brass ball on a short pedestal. Jay Morris and I were at the Garage one Saturday holding the Thing in the air and trying to imagine what it might have been used for when Jay made a brilliant suggestion: “Turn it over.” Suddenly, we had an “AHA!” moment.

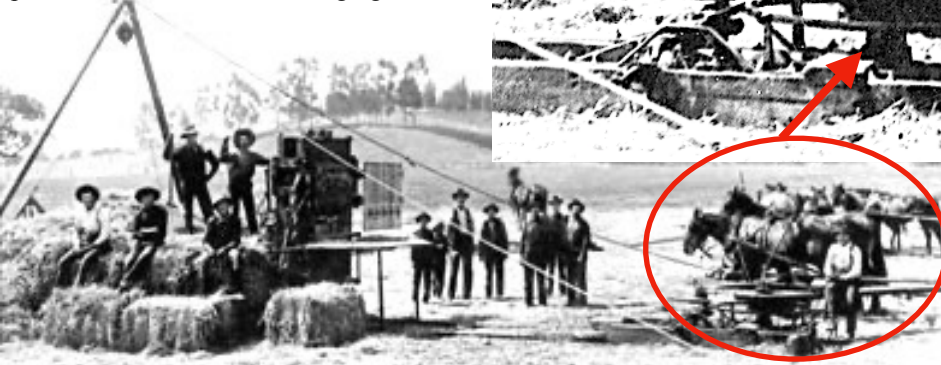
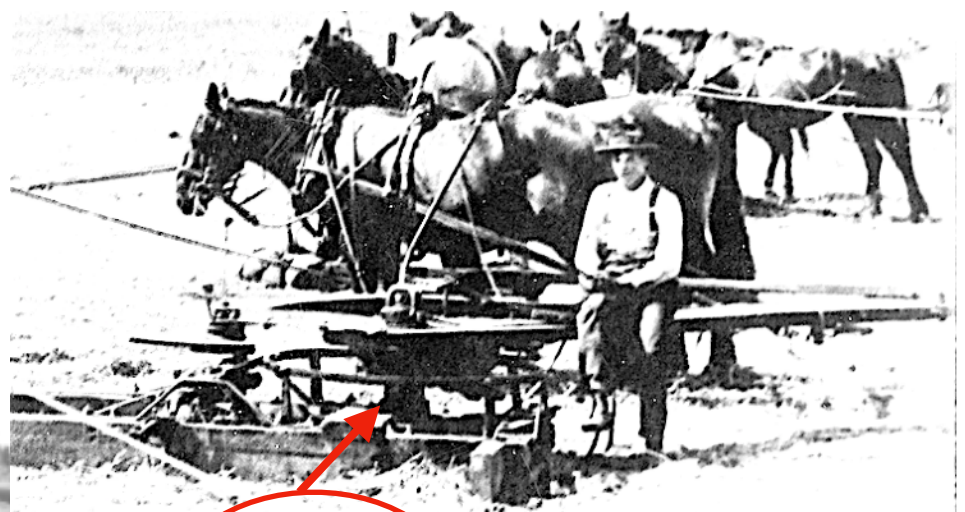
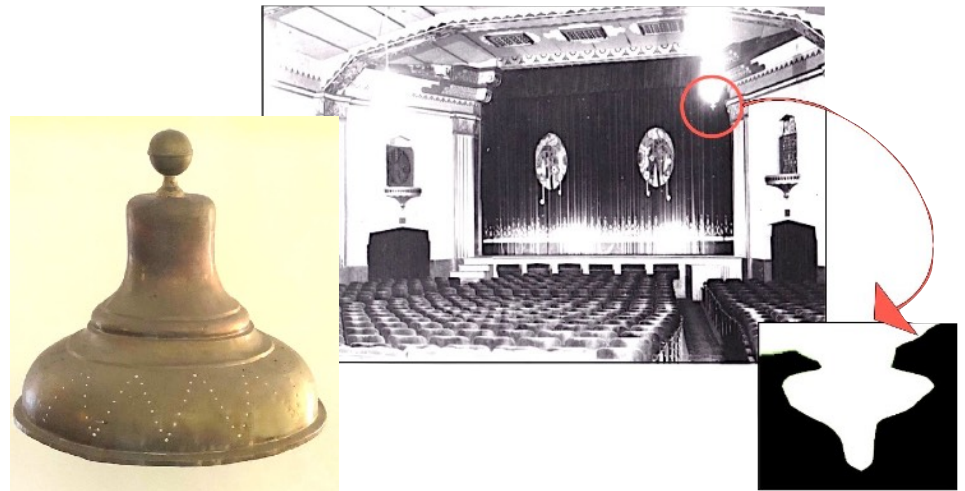
In what may be a unique statement in the history of the Guild Newsletter, I suggest you turn the page upside down, look again at the picture of the Thing, and see if you share our “AHA!” moment. Turned over, the Thing looks less like a bell or a lamp shade and more like the pendant that is often seen hanging at the

bottom of an elaborate chandelier. Given the size of the Thing, it would have had to be from a rather large chandelier...as would be installed in a theater.

After some searching, I’ve found only one photo that shows the decorations inside the State Theater. It is from the Jack Tillmany Collection and was taken after the 1931 remodeling of the theater. It shows two large chandeliers on either side of the stage and screen, which is covered with decorative curtains. The bright lights of the chandeliers obscure their details. However, the right chandelier is seen in front of the dark curtains, showing a blurry silhouette of a pendant at the

bottom of the chandelier. Although blurry, the silhouette suggests a shape similar to the Thing. After enlarging the blurry image and doing some image enhancement to the edge, the resulting silhouette looks quite a bit like the Thing. This isn’t definitive but it seems that the Thing is likely one of the pendants that hung below a chandelier in the State Theater.

After we figure out a good way to accomplish it, we plan to display the pendant at the Garage with the popcorn machine, which was used at the State Theater until it closed in 1956. Meanwhile, you can see the pendant sitting on a table at the Duarte Garage.



Far above left: the Thing. Photo by Will Bolton; **Far above right:** State/Bell Theatre Chandelier after 1931 theatre remodel. Photo courtesy of Jack Tillmany Collection; **Left, and above in detail:** Arrow points to the suspected Mystery Object. Photo courtesy of LHG Archives.

Heritage Garden Beautification

by Sandra Lormand

On November 25, 2024, the Livermore City Council awarded a Livermore City Beautification Award to the Livermore Heritage Guild for the restoration of the gardens surrounding the ranch house at Hagemann Ranch and for the installation of the citrus and fruit orchard on the north side of the house.

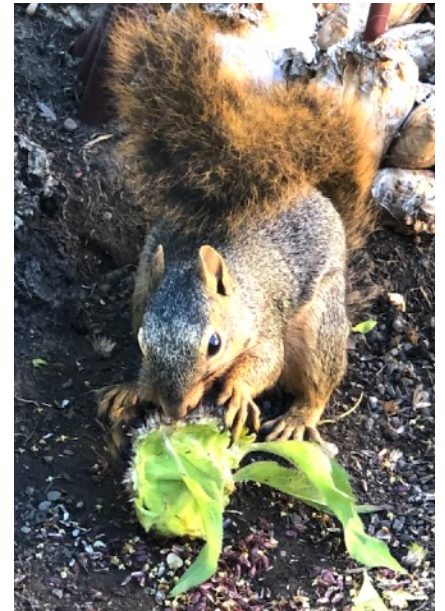
These awards recognize the efforts of Livermore’s residents and organizations in enhancing and increasing the aesthetic attraction of Livermore. This is the second Beautification Award that the Guild has won. In 2021, the Guild was given a Beautification Award by the City for the creation of the beautiful gate that provides access to the Ranch. It was designed and constructed by Eagle Scout, Arjun Nimmakayla, from Livermore Boy Scout Troop #939.

This second Beautification Award was the result of a nomination by Loretta Kaskey who recognized the vision and the three years of labor given by Karen

Jefferson and yours truly to the gardens and orchard. With a bit of help from various Guild members, Karen and I have mulched, pruned, re-worked the irrigation system, removed and replaced all non-period appropriate plants. Plus we have won the battle of the invasive plants and weeds! The ranch house gardens look lovely and are such an improvement.

But the biggest change is just north of the gardens. That’s where we have a brand new, thriving orchard! Maudie Kuenning, of the Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club, donated the funding for both the installation of the irrigation system and all the fruit trees. The roses, plants, trees, and the orchard are beginning to mature and should be lovely and bearing fruit in the spring. Come visit Hagemann Ranch on February 23rd during the “Swing into Spring” Open House and see for yourself!

Below: A Heritage Garden “Helper”. Photo by Sandra Lormand; **Far below:** Current view of the north side and south east side of ranch house after Sandra and Karen worked their magic. Photo by Karen Jefferson.



**SWING INTO
SPRING!**

**SUNDAYS AT HAGEMANN RANCH
FEBRUARY 23, 2025
1:00 - 5:00PM**

LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD
Presents



Historic
HAGEMANN RANCH

455 Olivina Ave. Livermore



Meet a Member

Interviewed by Jan Bardsley

Editor's Note: During my tenure as LHG newsletter coordinator/editor I have made sure to introduce each LHG Board member to you, our newsletter readers. Often, I also have the pleasure of introducing you to other members of the Guild, perhaps not as visible as Board members, but nonetheless members who make significant contributions to LHG. This month I am excited to have you "meet" Phil Bardsley who has been very busy behind the scenes. The name might be familiar because he has authored the last three front page articles for our LHG newsletter. While that is a HUGE contribution, what makes him unique is that he lives in North Carolina!

-Dottie Eberly

Where were you born and raised?

I was almost born in the middle of the night in our Plymouth sedan on Highway 50. My parents lived in Livermore, but they wanted to use Herrick Memorial Hospital in Berkeley where my brother was born. My mom hung on, and we made it to Berkeley, just.

My first home was on North I St. Then we moved to Clarke Avenue behind Junction Ave. School in the early 1960s. Because Junction was K-8, I was fortunate to have the stability of staying there and forming friendships with my neighbors and classmates that continued through four years at Livermore High School and beyond.

My parents valued our education. Luckily, our schools were well-funded. I enjoyed studying with smart, devoted teachers, like LHG Life Member, Judy Beery, and Ken Teberg. They gave me a solid education that carried me to UC Davis and Berkeley as well as to UCLA for grad school. I count those blessings every day.

How would you describe your childhood?

I was part of the free-range Boomer generation. I biked all over town to see friends and explore. The only rule was: Be home by supper time.

We explored the arroyos – Las Positas, Mocho, and Del Valle. We walked along the Las Positas through what I now



know was the Schenones' and Gattornas' farms to the east of North Livermore Ave. We explored the Mocho at Stanley Blvd and at South L St, where the old narrow-gauge railroad tracks from the gravel company poked up through the river rocks. Once we walked behind a winery that was dumping its dregs into the Mocho. I think I would appreciate the smell more now that I enjoy wine.

As older kids, we even biked out to Arroyo Park to smell the sycamore trees and look for tadpoles in the Del Valle. It was an idyllic, carefree childhood, only possible because our parents trusted us, Livermore was safe, and the weather was perfect.

What caused you to move away?

I left Livermore to go to college at UC Davis. There I met my wife on the first day. She has now put up with me for 55 years. When she finished grad school in Japanese literature and went on the job market, a university in North Carolina offered her a job. We left California for her job and to be closer to my brother. I found a job in public health research as a data analyst at UNC-Chapel Hill. We're both retired from UNC after 30-year careers.

Above: Jan and Phil Bardsley approximately 2015. Photo courtesy of Phil Bardsley.

Any college/early career/early adult experiences you would like to share?

During college, I spent my summers painting houses with my brother. All in all, I enjoyed working outside, learning how to paint, and seeing how individuals felt about their homes and neighborhood.

Right after college, my wife and I taught English in Tokyo for a couple years. We can laugh now at our many faux pas as we tried to adapt to new customs.

What did you like most about Livermore? (i.e. what's the best thing that you'd recommend to a non-resident?)

Although Livermore has grown a lot since I moved away, it hasn't exploded. This is in large part because of zoning laws that have both slowed growth and favored farming on the land surrounding the city. The changes to First Street – rerouting truck traffic between 84 and 580 via Isabel Ave, and redesigning the sidewalks and parking to make the shopping area more pedestrian friendly – have done a lot to increase the town's charm. Viewed from the hills, the city still looks like a rural town surrounded by farms.

(Member, continued on page 7)

Hagemann Happenings

by Barbara Soules

The Midway School relocation and restoration campaign is in full swing. The City of Livermore has assigned a planner to this project and soon our team, the historic architects, Garavaglia, and the City Planning Department staff will begin meetings to formulate the final building plans. Funding the project is crucial because contractors need to know they will be paid. The capital campaign to Preserve Livermore's Learning Legacy begun in May 2023 has gratefully raised close to \$20,000 to date. Many thanks go to Gail Bryan, a major donor to this fund. The reality is that the architects estimate the total project will cost nearly \$400,000. Therefore the Midway Committee has embarked on two major fundraising projects that you will be hearing a lot about: **Buy a Brick!** and the **Harmony and Historic Homes Tour**.

Save The Date: May 10, 2025

Saturday, May 10th, is the date for the first ever Harmony and Historic Homes Tour, co-sponsored by the Heritage Guild and the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild. Our portion of the proceeds from this joint fundraiser will go toward the Midway School project. Featured will be eight historic homes in South Livermore. Musicians from the Livermore-Amador Symphony and their friends will play musical interludes in the homes throughout the afternoon. These are homes you drive by and say, "I sure would like to see inside". Well, this will be your chance to do just that.

Included are homes previously owned by two former mayors, the city's first dentist and his wife who worked to have the Carnegie Library built, William Mendenhall's daughter, the founder of Livermore's first soda works, and Livermore's first female attorney.

Harmony and Historic Homes Tour
 Sunday May 10, 2025
 11 am - 4 pm
 Tickets:
 Individuals \$50.00, Seniors (65 and up) \$40 (before May 1st)
 After May 1: Individuals \$60 and seniors \$50

Tickets will be for sale on the LHG website in March (lhg.org)

There are two other ways you can support Midway School and help with the House Tour. Volunteers will be needed on the day of the event to serve as docents in the homes and in advance to help stage the homes. We'll also need folks to handle tickets and refreshments. Please email Nancy Mulligan at n.mulligan@comcast.net to volunteer.

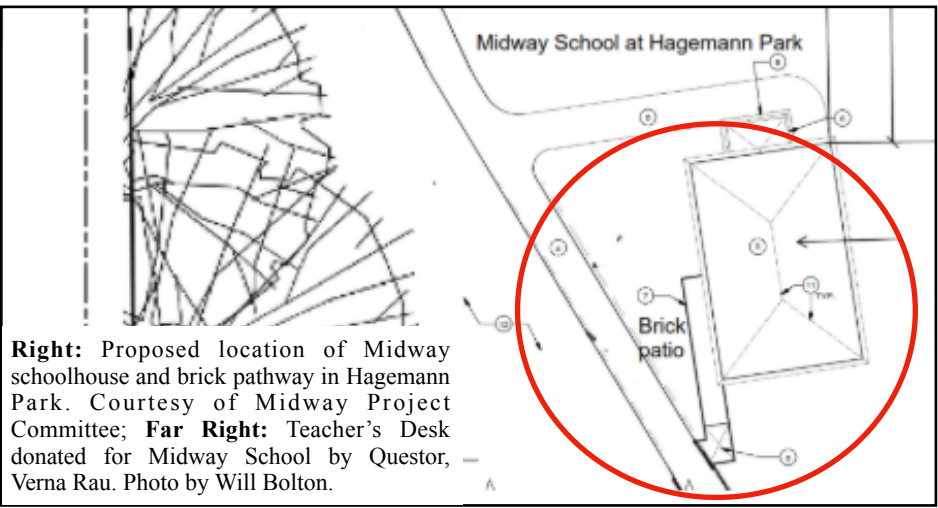
Sponsors will be a very important source of income, and they will have ample exposure in our publicity and on event day. Any individual, business or organization can be a sponsor. Please help us recruit as many sponsors as possible. Sponsorships will be available at the LHG website on the ticket link.

Buy a Brick

The brick buying campaign managed by the company, That's My Brick, promises to be an exciting and lucrative fundraiser because these aren't your ordinary bricks. Your specially engraved brick will join those of other supporters to form a patio area near the ADA ramp of Midway School in its new location at Hagemann Park. It speaks of your commitment to preserving Livermore's learning legacy by helping to relocate and restore a significant historical property. The personal legacy you create at Livermore's newest historic building will last several lifetimes. Please read the brochure enclosed with your newsletter for all the details and please, **Buy a Brick!**

Back at the Ranch...

Our holiday decorations added a bit of cheer to the neighborhood. They will be coming down at our monthly workday. The horses, goats and chickens are all well, staying dry and warm and enjoying the new loads of hay. The first Sundays at Hagemann event is a walking tour in January and then "Swing into Spring" on February 23 will celebrate the new season. Both the Sunflower Hill and the Heritage Gardens will be featured. Joey T and Friends will provide the entertainment. There will be kites for the kids to fly and other spring crafts. Be sure to bring a plant to trade at the plant exchange. See you there!



Right: Proposed location of Midway schoolhouse and brick pathway in Hagemann Park. Courtesy of Midway Project Committee; **Far Right:** Teacher's Desk donated for Midway School by Questor, Verna Rau. Photo by Will Bolton.



Collections Corner: Photos, Old.

by Jeff Kaskey

Working with a museum collection is part science, part research, part art, and always interesting. In case we forgot to recently note, you are always invited to volunteer some time and join the effort!

These particular finds were in an envelope simply labeled "Photos, Old." Carefully stored in our archive shelving, but with no additional material. All the photos are studio portraiture, and while we are still researching the characters depicted, the images themselves seemed worth sharing. We are fortunate that a previous holder of each photo took a moment to write a name on these, so we have a place to start. And meanwhile, some very compelling images.

The formal couple's portrait is labeled Carl and Carrie Mauchle. There is suspicion that Carl is actually his

brother Alfred, since Fred was married in 1914 to Carrie (nee Carrie Cleopatra Periera). They were active socially in Livermore, died in the 1950s, buried at St Michaels. Their expressions are between passive and serious, as though neither has noticed the large swan that landed on Carrie's head just before the shutter was snapped. Fred was a member of the Eagles, and a rodent inspector... The Buddhist swastika logo seen on the mat was used by Livermore photographer Hogle (1913), though this version has no studio name embossed.

The simple solo portrait features Mary Ruetz with her hair in classic 1920s finger curls, made possible as women emerged from WWI with more freedom to cut their hair short. The curls are the first thing you notice, but the focused gaze holds you. Mary's parents, Pauline and Reinhardt Ruetz came to Livermore as immigrants from Germany.

(Photos, Old, continued on page 9)



Far Left: Carl (who might be Alfred) Mauchle and Carrie Cleopatra Periera Mauchle; **Above:** Mary Ruetz circa 1920s?, daughter of Pauline and Reinhardt Ruetz. All photos courtesy of LHG Archives.

Member

(continued from page 5)

How did you become involved in the Guild?

I've always been intrigued by Livermore's history, starting with curiosity about the Livermores' homestead, Altamont, Laddsville, and the train depot. In retirement I've been able to indulge my interest, focusing on Livermore's food history. The resources, especially the volunteers, at the Guild have been invaluable.

Is there anything in particular you would like to see the Guild doing in the next 10 years? 20 years?

I hope that more of Livermore's history can be preserved and made available online.

Can you give us one silly, crazy little factoid about yourself?

I was in a clay-relief mural on the side of Junction Ave. School for many years. My first-grade class, taught by Miss Isaki, who also appeared in the mural, served as a model for one of the panels. Does anyone have a photo of the mural? Let me know via newsletter@livermorehistory.com

What other interests or activities, non-LHG related, make you happy?

I learned to cook from my mother when I was young. Later, nutrition research was a favorite part of my career. In retirement, I'm volunteering at a soup kitchen and a food pantry. These experiences have all increased my curiosity about food and how it has both shaped and been shaped by culture. I'm now writing a book on Livermore's food history, with LHG newsletter articles spinning off as I find people to write about who played an important role in forming Livermore's evolving food culture.

When Phil finishes his book on Livermore's food history, he promises to visit Livermore and be a speaker at our "Then and Now" history talk series. We know you'll want to meet him. We'll publish the date as soon as we have it!

Baguettes

(continued from page 1)

“Bernard was a baker, but he also would break and train horses to pull wagons and carts and then sell the horses in San Francisco.”

The Crohars' Livermore lives changed dramatically on the morning of April 18, 1906, when the San Francisco earthquake struck. Even though they were 40 miles away, they felt the temblor. Claire, who was 10 at the time, remembered it well. “On the morning of the earthquake, Bernard had risen at his usual early hour and gone out to the bakery. He was preparing the ‘sponge’ when the oven began to move, and he thought the bricks were going to come apart. He ran outside and was doused with water from the water tower on the roof of the building. The tower did not fall but the water sloshed over the side.” Donna says, “Claire remembered that after dark, the sky was red from the fires in San Francisco. People from the city descended upon the Crohars the next day or so. People arrived by train or by horse and buggy to stay with them. She said, people were everywhere in the house and barn. The men slept in the barn on the hay. Some friends went to stay with the Ibarolle family, who owned a rooming house and lived near the Crohars. Bernard made many loaves of bread which were transported to San Francisco to the refugee camps.”

In 1910, the Crohars moved into town after buying the block north and east of North L and Elm Streets. The property was anchored by their home on the corner at 708 North L Street, a stucco Craftsman bungalow that is still there. The bakery stayed on the property near Rincon.

With business increasing, Bernard built a 9 by 10-foot oven in 1912 on the Rincon property. He saw his bakery grow into a family business called Crohare and Son French Bakery featuring home delivery. Marie was the bookkeeper. Their son, Charles Dominic, delivered the bread using the horse and wagon shown on Page 1. In 1921 they bought the Ford delivery truck shown above. But



starting a car back then could be dangerous. *The Livermore Herald* on January 14, 1922, noted, “The cold weather of these winter mornings is dreaded by the automobilists who would have to crank their machines, and Chas. Crohare, driver of the delivery car for the New French Bakery, had the misfortune on Tuesday to have his arm broken while cranking his Ford.”

Family members felt responsible to do their part. Daughter Marguerite, for one, was attending college in San Francisco to become a teacher, but she returned to Livermore to help the family when her brother Joe died in 1925. Donna says, “Marguerite helped Bernard in the bakery. Among other duties, she oversaw weighing and shaping the dough and said she got very good at estimating one pound.” The routine, though, was grueling. “They rose very early in the morning to get the bread in the oven and baked in time for daily delivery. This was a 7-day-a-week operation.” At Thanksgiving the huge bakery oven did double-duty when Bernard would roast their friends’ turkeys.

Bakery Move

The town’s growth and modernization brought changes to the Crohare’s business. In 1925, the town of Livermore decided to build a “sewer farm” to replace the old cesspool. The town purchased property west of Rincon Ave. owned by Bernard as well as property owned by two other people. Bernard moved his business next to his home on North L St after building a bakery there in 1927. The bricks in the oven came from the Livermore Fire Brick Company that operated along the railroad tracks on the western side of town. Bernard leased the vineyard portion of the Rincon property back from the town for at least the next two years and continued growing grapes. Donna’s mother talked about picking grapes. “She said it was one of the hardest jobs she ever had.”

After over forty years in business, Bernard closed the bakery in 1943 when his wife had a stroke and

(Baguettes, continued on page 9)

Above: Charles D. Crohare, early 1920s with Ford delivery truck and three puppies. Photo courtesy of the Crohare family.

Baguettes

(continued from page 8)

needed his care. By that time, the Crohare family had already started a new business. In 1942, Bernard and Marie, along with their son Charles, bought the western portion of Olivina, an historic olive orchard and winery on Arroyo Rd, from the Julius P and Sara B Smith estate. Charles lived on the property where he and his family raised cattle and horses and grew hay. Much of this property became Sycamore Grove Park in 1974, and the vineyard behind the iron "Olivina" gateway at Arroyo and Wetmore is now owned by Wentz Vineyards. In the 1990s, Charles Francis and Charles Troy, Bernard's grandson and great-grandson, planted new olive trees and began producing olive oil on the remaining property, a business Charles T has continued since his father's death in 2023. Look for a more in-depth exploration of the history of Olivina coming in the May 2025 LHG Newsletter.

Legacy

Donna has many pleasant memories growing up next to the old bakery at 708 North L St. "Our days were filled with adventures around the property, which was a full block. It had the house, the bakery, a big garage, a barn and a little bunk house building which made for lots of areas to play. We had chickens, horses, and cattle, which were brought home from the Olivina to feed off the grass. I can remember when they sold all but a half-acre where we lived that my play yard had really shrunk." The bakery building was demolished in 1990 because it was not retrofitted for earthquake safety.

Bernard and Marie believed in generosity as well as hard work. Donna recalled that, "My mother (Marguerite) often spoke fondly of her parents' strong work ethic and care for their community". Her mother (Marie), the bookkeeper for the family business, always made sure there was a bit in the reserve for families who were unable to pay for bread. Neither ever wanted a family to go without. Many of the older

Photos, Old.

(continued from page 7)

Bill Wilson is an unfortunately common name for such an uncommon portrait. While Bill appears to be rolling his eyes at the absurdity, we admire the creativity of the studio which, after crafting a theatrical version of a Native outfit, found themselves without a decent tomahawk. A quick jaunt to the butcher netted an inspired substitute with a meat tenderizer. And really, I imagine that would strike fear into any opponent. The crossed arrows on his sleeve are sometimes simply a Native symbol for peace, but were also a late 1800s symbol for the Army's Indian



Scouts, modified in the 1940s as a Special Forces logo.

Last is Walter L. Tompkins, aged 5 in the photo, possibly dated 1895. For him I have nothing beyond one other Tompkins who appears in town early to mid-century. I just could not resist including the classic portrait, perhaps on the occasion of preparing for his first day of school. I hope we find more, but given that the studio is from Everett, Washington, it is possible that Walter is not local, but rather just mixed in with other Photos, Old.



Left: Bill Wilson; **Above:** Walter L. Tompkins, age 5, circa 1895? All photos courtesy of LHG Archives.

people in the valley remembered my Uncle Charlie as a man who cared for his community. He was always there to help anyone in need. They recalled that, when he was delivering the bread, he would give children change so they could buy candy. Charles T recalls, "[I] had one lady back in the 1980s tell me she [remembered] when her family would be given bread from Dominic [Charles D. Crohare] during the Depression and were told to pay it back when they could. That French

bread was what they had for their meals that day. She had tears in her eyes when she told me that story from her childhood."

So, who ate all those baguettes? Probably all the French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Greek immigrants in Livermore, as well as anyone who couldn't afford a loaf, and everyone who loved a fresh loaf of French bread.

Life Members

We wish to acknowledge the loyal commitment of our Life Members. The trust and support these members have shown in the Heritage Guild by becoming Life Members is truly appreciated. If you wish to purchase a Life membership, please visit www.lhg.org and find the “Join” button or refer to information on the back page of this newsletter.

Beverly Schell Ales	Connolly Family	Jean Lerche	Tim Sage
Anastasia Alexander	Nancy Cooper	Richard Lerche	Joan Seppala
Jim Alves	Charles Crohare	Marcus Libkind	Lynn Seppala
Kathy Baird Baumgartner	Whitney Dahl	Daren Livermore	Anna Siig
Judith Beery	Jennifer Dayrell	Dereck Livermore	Don Smith
Will Bolton	Kathleen Duarte-Erickson	Larry Mauch	John Stein
Kim Bonde	Ellen Eagan-McNeill	Treva Mauch	Ann Stephens
Sharon Bosque-Wiebe Hoffman	Mary Evans	Terry McCune	Irv Stowers
Tom Bramell	Karen Faraldo	Bertha Meamber	Patty Stowers
Bob Bronzan	Alan Frank	Don Meeker	Anthony Troha
Cathie Brown	Bruce Gach	Nancy Mueller	Janet Von Toussaint
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Alan Burnham	The Henry’s A’s	Kelly O’Hair	Wendy Weathers
Susie Calhoun	Susan Junk	Jim Oliver	Mrs. Karl L. Wente
Alice Calvert	Loretta Kaskey	Ann Pfaff-Doss	Karl D. Wente
Christopher Carrano	Don Keech	Robert Rich	Jeffrey Williams
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Merry Carter	Brenda Lang	Russ and Claudia Riley	Beverly Wooster
Dorothy Clarkson, Andy Lundberg	James and Carol Lathrop	Mary Rizzo	
Erik Collier	Steve Laughlin	Nancy Rodrigue	

Midway School Donation



Above: l-r: Susan Junk, Kelly O’Hair, Barbara Soules receiving donation for the Midway School project from the Altamont Cruisers. Photo by Sylvia Chatagnier

Editor's Note: We wrap up the accidental "theme" of this newsletter with two final "What Is It" items. We hope the collective sleuthing power of our readers can help to solve the various mysteries posed throughout this newsletter. Please send your suggestions to either newsletter@livermorehistory.com or to the respective authors directly.

What Is It?

by Harry Briley and Bob Lormand

We puzzled over this vintage medical device, coming up empty on Internet Searches. It appears to be placed over a skin infection that sucks goop into a collecting bulge in the glass. The bulge of course would be closest to the floor. The well-used red rubber squeeze bulb has two tire patches. White medical adhesive tape secures the bulb to the glass intake receptacle. No donor documentation came with it. Does anyone know what this thing is called and its approximate years of use? Let Harry know at brileyh@comcast.net



Above: Mystery Object. Vintage medical device? Photo by Harry Briley; **Right:** Mystery Object. Horse rein spreaders? Photo by Jeff Kaskey.

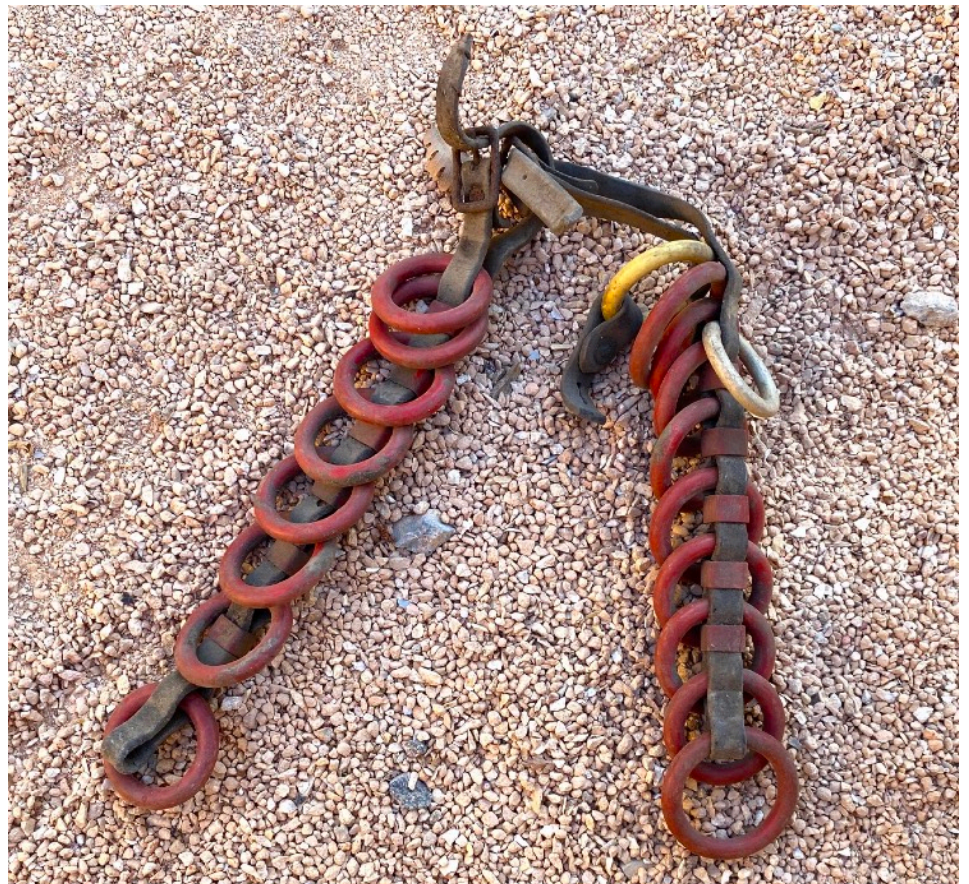
What Is It?

by Jeff Kaskey

This "what is it" item has been sitting with some weathered old horse tack for quite a while at Hagemann Ranch. I was initially thrown off because the rings feel very plastic-y, so I assumed they were fairly modern. It turns out these are celluloid, a very early plastic dating to the later 1800s. Celluloid was used as a cheap substitute for various materials, such as ivory in billiard balls and fancy toiletries, and then as a base material for early film. In any case, rather than being

a mark of modern hardware, it indicates that these pieces are plausibly pre-1930.

I am told that these things are called "spreaders" and somehow are associated with the placement of a horse's reins. Unfortunately I have not been able to find a picture of these in use. So while I already, sort of, know what it is, I don't have an idea of how, exactly, they are put into service. We would love to see any vintage photos showing these items in use.



Welcome New and Renewing Members! October - December 2024

Sponsor	Household	Senior
Dona Blackmore Terry Rossow	John and Diane Gandolfo Richard and Debi Irby William and Nancy Mohler Carol Wahrer	Linda Barncord - NEW Christine Boczanowski Bill Cervenka Nancy Harrington Joseph Hohl Susie Hohl Joanne Volponi
Individual		
Ron Chaffee Jay Morris Brendan Timmer		

In Appreciation

Donations	In Memory Of
Jean King Richard Lerche Terry Rossow Wes Shaffer Marie Timmer	Dottie Santucci by Susie Calhoun
Hagemann Ranch	Midway School Project
Joann Overacker	Altamont Cruisers Shirley Anderson in memory of Jean Farmer Livermore Lions Club

LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Wed. Feb. 12	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Sat. Feb. 15	9:30am-noon	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sun. Feb. 16	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sun. Feb. 23	1pm-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Swing into Spring!	Hagemann Ranch
Wed. March 12	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Sun. March 16	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sat. March 22	9:30am-noon	Workday:Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sun. Mar. 30	1pm-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Children's Day	Hagemann Ranch
Wed. April 9	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Sat. April 19	9:30am-noon	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sun. April 20	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sun. April 27	1pm-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Charlotte's Web	Hagemann Ranch
Sat. May 10	11am - 4pm	Harmony & Historic Homes Tour	Various

If you have not heard about our various events, then maybe we don't have your email. Please update us at lhg@lhg.org and we'll let you know about all the heritage happenings!

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The Livermore Heritage Guild newsletter is an official publication of the Livermore Heritage Guild. Contact the newsletter editor with comments or suggestions.

The Livermore Heritage Guild History Center is located in the historic 1911 Carnegie Library building at 2155 Third Street. 925-449-9927

Hours for the History Center are varied at this time. Please call ahead or check the website for updated information as it becomes available. www.lhg.org

Annual membership dues are: Individual \$25.00, Household \$35.00, Senior (age 62+) \$15.00, Student \$15.00, Sponsor \$75.00 and Patron \$150.00. Life (Individual) \$500.00 memberships are also available. Please make checks payable to "LHG."

Livermore Heritage Guild
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