



Anna Siig passed away suddenly at her daughter Valerie's home in Livermore on October 31, 2025. As Will Bolton aptly noted, Anna's obituary, lovingly crafted by her family, provides the structural framework for the story of her life. Our intent here is to build upon that framework by weaving together memories and anecdotes from some of the many Guild members who were fortunate enough to know her.

As her obituary explains, Anna was born in Reno, Nevada, to Danish immigrants Magna Thomey and Kris Siig. Anna was proud of her heritage and her adventurous spirit. She graduated from Reno High School in 1957 and could often be found driving her MG convertible over the Sierra Nevada to San Francisco, where she worked at the advertising firm BBDO.

Livermore, Family, and a Calling to Preserve

Anna met Roger Brown in Reno and later again in San Francisco. They married in 1962 and settled in Livermore, where Roger was working at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Livermore became home, where they raised their two kids, Cameron and Valerie.

In 1969, Anna and Roger discovered a historic gem—the old Baughman House, built in 1873—scheduled for demolition at L and 4th Streets in Livermore. They saved the house, moving it to Tesla Road, and spent years restoring it to its original beauty. The home became a gathering place for family, friends, and community stories.

Reflecting on Anna's earliest forays into Livermore history, Susan Junk wrote, "To me, Anna took Livermore history personally... She and Roger saved the old Baughman house... Old buildings seem to have unique noises and can be drafty; Anna took it as a sign that the spirits, possibly Hazel Baughman, approved of the efforts to preserve the house."

Around 1970, Anna and Roger moved the Victorian house from near downtown Livermore to Tesla Road. As Will shared, Anna later said that "in the area south of town she met some of the early Livermore families, learned some stories, and really fell in love with Livermore." She modestly added, "I've lived in Livermore for over 60 years but I still consider myself a newcomer."

Kim Fox met Anna in 1972 when she was 12 years old. She related, "We both lived seven miles out of town, on Tesla Road in Livermore. I was in 9th grade, and she was a young mother raising children and renovating her Victorian home. We had an instant bond, and I would go over to her house as frequently as possible."

Kim introduced her best friend, Sheri Ann Dante, to Anna, who recalled, "I remember being in her Victorian home as we tried a levitation experiment, and my chair was lifted in the air by the thoughts of the group. I was about 14 years old, and my astonishment of rising in the air has not faded."

The Livermore Heritage Guild and Community Life

Anna's obituary goes on to recount that Anna was one of the founding members of the Livermore Heritage Guild in 1973 and devoted much of her life to preserving the town's history. She delighted in celebrating Livermore's quirks, from organizing the 100th birthday celebration for the world-record "Longest Burning Lightbulb" to championing the preservation of local landmarks. She was especially pleased to learn that the Midway School would soon be moved next to the historic Hagemann Ranch.

"In my first year or two volunteering for the Heritage Guild I met Anna when sorting things for the auction," Barbara Soules wrote. "She was positive, enthusiastic, and direct. Every lot had to have a WOW object... Auction attire for the ladies had to include pearls to signify



the importance of the occasion and our solidarity."

Tim Sage recalled that Anna invited him onto the Guild Board after patiently listening to his many objections. When he confessed he was a procrastinator, she replied, "You'll fit right in." Tim writes, "That was the last bullet in my arsenal of excuses, so I hopped on Board, so to speak."

Will noted that Anna "was a direct participant or closely associated with many key moments in the history of the Livermore Heritage Guild," including saving the railroad depot and the Duarte Garage. He adds that Anna often replaced folklore with accuracy,

(Anna, continued on page 2)

Above: Anna Siig as a Ravenswood Docent. Photo courtesy of Val Thomey

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Anna

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providing “the somewhat less dramatic but more accurate account of the various negotiations, deals, and missteps actually involved.”

When Terry McCune was being trained on how to do accessions at the History Center, Harry Briley recommended that he reach out to Anna to see if she might be interested in lending a hand. Terry recounts that “although I’ve lived in Livermore since the sixties, I’ve learned as much from Anna as I did from working on the Guild’s collection... It seemed as if every item we worked on would turn into a story about Livermore history.”

Love, Loss, and Enduring Connection

As her obituary explains, in 1989 Anna married her second husband, Gary Drummond, a fellow Heritage Guild member. Together they traveled the world. Gary passed away in 2018, but their adventures together remained some of her fondest memories.

Sally Nunes wrote of Anna’s empathy during Gary’s dementia: “Anna had an unending well of empathy and learned to forget the unintended pain that Gary’s disease caused. She remembered him with love and joy and thankfulness for the many adventures they shared.”

Susan recalled, “The door to her house was always open for friends to come and to talk, listen, eat, and drink... I think the best ‘gift’ that I learned from her was a ‘mmmmm hug’—it has therapeutic benefits.”

Many of the memories shared included treasured times spent sharing a cup of tea and a chat. Carrie Seng related that Anna was “a student of human nature and the world, so you would never run out of interesting things to muse about. If there was something on your mind, these musings with Anna would always leave you feeling like you had figured things out—clarified in your mind a path to get through some challenge of life or get started on a creative project.”

Janet Von Toussaint remembered with gratitude the times that she and Anna spent in Anna’s home: “Beautiful touches of elegance and class. Anna was

such a joy to have in my life, with just a pinch of naughty thrown in! The stories she told with that sparkle in her eye!”

Terry recalled that sparkle as well, saying that “she had a way of giving you a wink and a nose wiggle that told you how she felt about something, even when she wouldn’t say it out loud.”

Deborah Fields added the infamous nose wiggle to the list of reasons that Anna was loved and cherished: “It was in your quiet, knowing smile. It was in your elaborate phone doodles. It was in your curated eye for the unusual. It was in your love of history and your passion for preservation. It was in the way you wiggled your nose. It was in the letters you wrote and the calls you made to champion the causes you held dear. It was in the inclusive way you loved. It was in the way you mentored and encouraged others. It was in the way you honored and kept your heritage alive.”

As Will observed, “Losing a number of friends in a relatively short period of time tends to make one experience regret and sadness. Regret for the questions never asked, for the thoughts never discussed, for the experiences

never shared; sadness for the finality that none of those regrets can be resolved in the future. Perhaps a lesson is offered by a line, slightly paraphrased, from Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*: ‘Let us learn to show our friendship for a person when they are alive and not after they are dead.’ A part of coming to terms with regret and sadness is to keep this thought in mind: ‘Try not to be sad that it’s over. Be glad that it happened at all.’ I am very glad that I knew Anna Siig.”

Anna is lovingly remembered by her children, Cameron Purcell Casey (Brown) and Valerie Thomey (Brown) of Livermore, California; her beloved grandchildren, Miles and Jada Morris of Livermore, California; her brother Hans Siig of Reno, Nevada; her sister Marie Stafford of Virginia City, Nevada; and a large extended family and circle of friends who adored her. A private celebration will be held in spring.

If you would like to honor Anna’s memory, please consider a donation to the Livermore Heritage Guild’s Midway School Fund, continuing the preservation work she so passionately supported at LHG.org.



Contributors to this article:

Will Bolton, Susan Junk, Terry McCune, Sally Nunes, Tim Sage, Carrie Seng, and Barbara Soules, all of Livermore; Sheri Ann Dante of Wailuku, Hawaii; Deborah Fields of Bluffton, South Carolina; Kimberlee Fox of Bainbridge Island, Washington; and Janet Von Toussaint of Florence, Oregon.

More memories from these contributors can be found in the enhanced version of the LHG newsletter at [www.lhg.org/Documents/Newsletters/ Menu Newsletters.html](http://www.lhg.org/Documents/Newsletters/Menu%20Newsletters.html)

Duarte Garage: “Ding Ding”

by Will Bolton

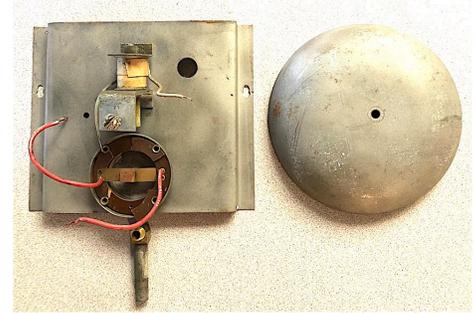
“Ding-Ding.” Generations of kids in the back seat of the family sedan in the 1950s knew that sound - without even looking up from their comic books. They knew they were stopping to buy gas and use a restroom. In the front seat of the sedan, mom and dad knew that sound meant paying an outrageous 29.9¢ for every gallon of gas. To the attendant inside the station, that sound meant stopping whatever they were doing, which sometimes meant doing nothing at all, to run outside and provide services to a motorist.

The key word here is “services.” For many decades in the 20th Century, gas stations didn’t just sell gas and oil, they provided a broad range of services for automobile owners. Early gas stations grew out of the distribution system for lamp oil and more refined kerosene in small quantities through general stores, hardware stores, and even pharmacies. As automobiles became more common and the demand for gasoline to fuel them increased, businesses concentrating on selling gas and supplies for automobiles became viable. The first purpose-built “filling station” was reportedly built in 1905 in St. Louis, Missouri. In the early 20th Century, the distribution system for automobile fuel rapidly developed. Vertically integrated corporations were doing everything from exploring and drilling for oil, refining, distributing, to selling gas and oil at the retail level. Branding and marketing became much more important. Different gasoline

companies adopted distinctive color schemes, station designs, and symbols. Remember the flying red horse, the red and yellow scallop shell, the green dinosaur, the big red or white “A” with wings?

Different brands of gasoline and oil competed not only on price but also on the services they offered, marking the transition from “filling stations” to “service stations.” Services usually included pumping the gas; cleaning the windows; checking the engine oil level; checking condition of the tires, fan belt, radiator coolant level, windshield wiper blades, providing free highway maps, and sometimes even vacuuming the floor mats. They usually sold small repair parts; sold, mounted, and balanced tires; and frequently had a sign in front of the station stating “Mechanic On Duty” to provide repairs and maintenance, such as oil changes and greasing the suspension joints. 20th Century televised oil company ads often showed a crew of handsome young men in the crisp uniforms of their oil company charging out of the station and swarming around the customer’s car, looking much like a NASCAR pit stop. The trigger for this frenzy of service was the sound of the driveway signal bell (Ding-Ding).

The topic of gas station driveway signal bells came to mind recently when Owen Parker, a regular volunteer at the Duarte Garage, brought in a disassembled driveway bell of uncertain provenance.

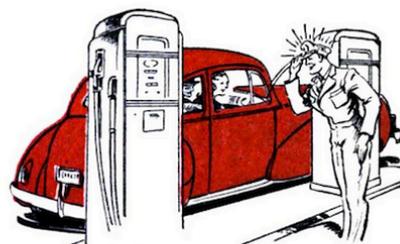


The principle of operation of the bell is straightforward. A flexible rubber tube with a closed end is placed across the driveway. When a car drives over the tube, a pulse of air actuates the bell. It seems the earliest versions of such a bell relied just on air pressure to ring the bell. However, Owen’s bell has a pressure switch plugged into 120 volt wall current to actuate a solenoid that strikes the bell. This provides a more consistent and much louder Ding-Ding than air pressure alone.

In searching for more information about driveway signals, I found that Milton Industries got a patent for this style of bell in 1959 and still makes essentially the same bell today! After some discussions with the nice people at Milton, they decided to donate a new driveway signal bell kit to the Duarte Garage. The package arrived right after the first of January. We are currently developing a display for the bell including a section of rubber hose so visitors to the Garage can stomp on the tube and hear the Ding-Ding. People react to the sound of the bell differently. For some it is a nostalgic treat (probably grownups who were the kids in the backseat of the family sedan). Some people hate the sound (probably the guys who worked at a service station and listened to the bell all day). Some people have never heard the sound other than perhaps in an old movie. Whatever your reaction to the bell, you will soon be able to visit the Garage and unleash your inner child by jumping up and down on the rubber tube to experience one aspect of the long-gone era of service stations.



1. PROMPTNESS SAVES THE CUSTOMER'S TIME.



2. PERSONAL NEATNESS—



3. AND COURTESY ARE IMPORTANT—



4. ESPECIALLY WITH LADIES.

Left: 1944 Service Station attendant’s instructions. Source: clickamericana.com
Top right: Driveway bell donated by Owen Parker. Photo by Will Bolton.

Tire Change Archeology

by Will Bolton

We have received the new tires/tubes/rim strips for the 1926 Star Model M (converted to a pickup truck). These tires are 440/450-21. Like many tires and wheels of the 1920s, the Star tires and rims are a unit that mount to the wooden spoke wheels by four tabs fitting over threaded studs and secured by nuts. The rims are split near the valve stem and are held together by a single bolt. To remove and replace a tire, it is necessary to remove this bolt, overlap the ends of the split rim, and pull the rim to a smaller diameter to allow the tire to go over the rim.

We have some antique tools in the Garage that are built specifically for working with these split rims. While we have removed and replaced a tire on the 1925 Star Model F in the Garage several years ago, we refreshed our collective memory of the techniques by removing the tire from the 1926 Star spare tire and rim.



The image above shows the rim after the tire and tube have been removed, showing the split in the rim. When the ends of the rim are aligned, the collar on the right side of the split fits in the hole in the tab on the left. The bolt (not shown) that holds the ends of the rim together is screwed into the threaded hole in the collar. The hole for the valve stem is to the right of the split and collar.

The top center photo above shows the Stalwart Crew of Trevor (l) and Tom (r) installing the split rim tire tool on the spare Star tire rim. We have a large floor mounted tire machine for split rims, that includes a bead breaker to assist getting the tire off the rim. This large tire machine, which is visible behind Trevor's back, came to the Duarte



Garage from the Altamont Pass Garage. However, for this operation, we used a smaller hand tool with three adjustable arms that grab the rims in strategic locations to pull the rim to a smaller diameter for removing the tire from the rim.

In the top right image, the split rim tool has started to pull one end of the rim inside of itself to reduce its diameter.



With the rim pulled in, it is possible to remove the tire from the rim with tire irons and some pulling and levering.

In the photo below, the tire and tube have been removed from the rim. The tire irons are on the floor behind the tire and rim. The Stalwart Crew's Victory Antler Dance is taking place to the right just out of the photo. We regret that we were not able to fully memorialize the Victory Antler Dance with a photo, but feel confident that your imagination will be able to fill in the omission.

All photos by Will Bolton.



Livermore Finds the Arch

It Didn't Know It Was Missing

By Jeff Kaskey



In or after 1892, a brick building appeared in downtown Livermore which was the office and storage for Livermore Power and Water company. The building's main entrance faced North, looking across a siding and directly at the Southern Pacific Railroad depot. The site was in the industrial area of downtown, next to a hay barn and on land that had previously been a shed and Chinese washhouse, according to the Sanborn maps. By 1904, LP&W was owned by William Dingee. His company had acquired or possibly simply forced out of business, the Livermore Spring Water Company, which itself had, in 1876, succeeded the Arroyo Mocho Water Company, famous for or maybe done in by its use of wooden pipes for conveyance.

Mr. Dingee was quite wealthy, having made a fortune in real estate and as the owner of the Oakland Water Company, which notably had forced the competing Contra Costa Water Company out of business. We also know of his wealth by virtue of a fire at his Oakland estate

Above: The Livermore Power and Water building before demolition, showing arch location. Photo: Historic Preservation Commission August 15, 2018 Agenda Packet

“Fernwood”, which documented hundreds of thousands of 1899 dollars worth of rare artwork among the expensive losses.

The business and the building however were not built by Dingee, but by Dennis Bernal who owned LP&W along with the Livermore Flouring Mills. And according to an interview with Zylpha (Bernal) Beck, Dennis' daughter, LP&W was sold to Dingee around 1901. The sale of a significant business to a wealthy investor might explain Mr. Bernal's purchase of the Livermore Brewery from the estate of Wendell Jordan. Jordan had recently expired, drowning in a large vat of brew. Two decades prior to his demise, Jordan had helped organize the Livermore Fire Department and served in it since. So it is particularly appropriate that this was also the year that Mr. Bernal donated a now famous light bulb to the Livermore Fire department.

Bernal's LP&W structure was utilitarian in function, but he had chosen to include somewhat stylish brick arches over each of the building's windows and a grand brick arch over its front door, perhaps to give arriving rail passengers a stately welcome.

In 1904, Dingee sold out to California Gas And Electric which became Pacific Gas and Electric the following year. PG&E owned it for a number of years, using it as minor offices and storage. There were possibly some intervening owners until it was purchased by Jerry and Audra Bireley and Jerry's sister Edna Chance along with her husband Eldred in the late 1950s. It isn't quite clear if Quality Cleaners was already in the building or if they moved the business there, but for another dozen years Quality Cleaners operated from the building. A whole other article can be written regarding the contributions of Mr. Bireley to the City of Livermore.

Some details we don't know are when the building was stuccoed, or when and how the interior was modified, but by the time of any photographic record or recorded memory, there was no exterior visible brick, and much of the interior was covered in drywall, with metal sash windows in the few remaining openings. Industrial dual metal swinging doors faced north and two industrial side doors gave access to what would have been the cleaning operation.

And there it remained until 2018 when the City of Livermore was drawing up plans for the next downtown development and a parking garage was drawn for the area just north of our building. The structure was being purchased from the Bireleys and slated for destruction, but owing to its age the demolition was brought to Livermore's Historic Preservation Commission for approval and recommendation. Only bits of what you have just read were known at the time and the building was deemed to have insufficient historic significance to warrant saving. As a featureless stucco rectangle, there was little to recommend it.

Just before the August 2, 2018 HPC meeting, it turned out that one door of the condemned building was ajar, and no one seemed attentively guarding it, so a

(Arches, continued on page 8)

Midway School Project

by Barbara Soules

We are getting close! The architectural drawings have been submitted to the City Planning Department. Their approval will signal the issuing of the Entitlement permit which will lead to the Encroachment permit that will give us the right to move the building. We have engaged a contractor and house movers who are ready to begin when permits are in place.

The City asked that we change the placement of the building on the park. It will now be on the west side of the path from Olivina Avenue through the park, closer to the fence between the park and Ranch. It will be almost in line with the Red Barn. As a result, the entrance to the school will be from the Ranch. We will create a decomposed granite path from the parking lot and the Red Barn patio area through a new gate in the fence to the school.

The curriculum subcommittee met with the Director of Elementary Education at LVJUSD to initiate plans for writing the field trip program curriculum. It will complement a much broader classroom curriculum on California and local history. A group of teachers, administrators and our group will begin work in the spring. The hope is to begin the field trips in spring 2027.

The fund-raising campaign is in full gear. Careful cost analysis including permits and the unexpected has increased the estimated cost to \$700,000. We are actively soliciting individual and corporate donations as well as planning another home tour and selling Midway Bricks. Community support is essential to the success of this very significant Midway Project.



Thank You for Helping to Pave the Path...

Phil and Jan Bardsley
 Dona Blackmore
 Bob Bronzan
 Alan Burnham
 3 Calhoun Sisters Ranch
 Laura Calvillo
 Julie Clark
 Jennifer Dayrell
 Richard and Wanda Finn
 Rickie Friedli/Giono
 Sharon Gach
 Annie Giannini
 Charlene Grandfield
 Susan Junk

Loretta Kaskey
 Don Keech
 Jean King
 Jean and Richard Lerche
 Don and Linda Milanese
 Dan Mosier
 Kelly and Michele O’Hair
 Ann Pfaff-Doss
 Jeffery Richardson
 Nancy Rodrigue
 Rotary Club of Livermore
 Ann Scullion
 Lorna Smith
 Donna Stevens



*It's not too late to
 have your name added to the list!!*

Use the QR code to the left or find more information at thatsmybrick.com/LHGCA to learn all the details

Top Right: Refinished desks by Phil Dean and Don Bartel. Photo by Barbara Soules.

Hagemann Happenings

by Barbara Soules

2026 promises to be an exciting and fulfilling year at the Ranch. By spring, Midway School will be in the process of reconstruction on Hagemann Park and there is a distant possibility that the process of restoring the Hagemann home will begin by the City. Work on the Hagemann House is in the city budget for 2026-2027. For years those of us working at the ranch have held the goal of restoring the family home as a museum for public tours and to have the one room school next door in the park. This combination of these two historic sites creates a unique tourist destination, expands the offerings at monthly open houses and, most importantly, serves as a destination for elementary school field trips. These field trips will be flexible with options for half day programs at either the school or the Ranch and a full day program including both sites.

More immediate accomplishments will include refinishing the student desks to be used in Midway. Right now, our carpenter duo of Phil Dean and Don Bartel are refinishing, repairing and staining approximately 25 vintage desks we have collected. It would be good to have 30 student desks, so if you can help us locate another five, we would be very appreciative.



Very soon the cow barn (4-H headquarters at the far end of the lane) will have all new stall doors. Last year, Gavin Schoenweiler replaced the four doors on the east side of the barn as his Eagle Scout project. This month Ananya Garg will restore the doors on the west side as her Eagle Scout project. This will be a big improvement.

Sunflower Hill is building three new shade structures in their garden area. Their population is quite susceptible to sun and heat, and these will provide some much-needed protection from the elements.

2026 is the 10th anniversary of Sundays at Hagemann open houses. July 2, 2016, was the first time the public was welcomed on the Ranch and they came in droves. The event featured Cece Otto, a 21st Century Vaudeville Singer. There was a huge raffle, a free BBQ lunch and tours. The HistoryMobile was on display, there was square dancing and a petting zoo for the kids. From October 2016 forward we have had monthly events, except during Covid. Hopefully we can celebrate this anniversary with the grand opening of Midway in September at the Prairie School event. The schedule of events for 2026 can be found at the bottom of the Hello Spring postcard elsewhere in this newsletter.

Save the date, February 22 for the first themed event of the year, Hello Spring. We'll feature the Plain Gold Band and a portrayal of the children's book, The Ox Car Man by Annie Giannini, one of our loyal volunteers. There will be plant exchange—bring a plant and take another one home. Special guests Sunflower Hill and Culinary Angels will both have displays. We look forward to seeing you there!



Far Left: Gavin Schoenweiler and dad working on the Cow Barn doors; **Top Center:** July 2, 2016 Guests in the barbecue line at Hagemann Ranch open house; **Above:** New Cow Barn east side doors in progress. Photos by Barbara Soules

Arches

(continued from page 5)



preserve the arch for use in a future nearby location in the new downtown development.

Eight years later, we invite you to wander the newly remodeled alleyway between Caratti Jewelers and the Little And Brave Boutique, and find Mr. Bernal’s brick arch, recently reconstructed for your historic contemplation. A plaque commemorates the arch, though you may be disappointed with some of the missing details. We can fix a plaque, but at least we’ve saved the arch.



quick glance inside was possible. Deconstruction preparation had begun, and the interior drywall was removed, exposing the grand brick arch. Previous interior photos had been taken recently by the city to show to HPC, but they were before the drywall removal so this

was possibly the first real knowledge of the arch for perhaps 100 years.

With the tasty hint of a grand arch hiding behind the stucco, HPC was able to delay approval of the demolition until the City did further examination and photographic recording of the now-stripped interior. The City obliged, and a special HPC meeting was called two weeks later on August 15 to present the new photos. With solid confirmation of the presence of the arch, HPC passed a resolution allowing the City to proceed with demolition only after working to

Above: Interior of the Livermore Power & Water building - the uncovered arch. Photo: Historic Preservation Commission August 15, 2018 Agenda Packet **Above Center:** Same photo using AI to remove trash cans and storage containers and “reimagine” the doors. **Right:** Arch and Loretta Kaskey standing in nearly the original spot, ready for your visit. Photo by Jeff Kaskey

What Is It?

by Jeff Kaskey

Truth to admit, I have sometimes written a whatsit article when I already had a pretty good idea of what was on offer. A few years back you got to guess at a suppository maker, and I admit some glee in offering it up. But this time I am completely clueless. The object came from the dirt at Hagemann Ranch, kicked up while moving around some boards. The area is now near the Aerated Static Pile composter on the east end of the ranch, but it could have been anything 20 years ago, or 100 years ago.

Which is part of my dilemma. This object clearly was not made last year, but it could be a few decades old, or it could date to the 1800s. We find a lot of metal scrap on the site consisting of

broken straps or buckles or shackles, and pieces we drop today may soon look like antiques. But this shape seemed just interesting enough, I felt that if you knew what it was, it would register instantly. Having grown up in the Midwest, a deeply rusty item was not unusual even on serviceable, recent items, like my Volkswagen Beetle riddled with rust holes that exposed the road below to backseat passengers. But I digress.

This item, while heavily rust encrusted, seems to have a nice square nut on one end. Such things still exist, but square nuts were slowly replaced by hex nuts starting in the late 1800s through the 1940s when they were almost

completely erased during the industrial revolution which accompanied WWII. I think we are looking at a hand-forged item based on the thickness and consistency, but that does not mean it isn’t commercial. So. If you have a clue, please let us know. Banana for scale.



Gaga for Googie

by Carolyn Lord



At L and First Streets, the Donut Wheel's 'round the clock, 'round the year offerings of coffee and donuts has made it one of the cherished, cultural icons of Livermore. The fact that the donuts are served-up with a robust helping of mid-century Googie-Style architecture makes them even sweeter.

"Googie" is typically defined as unexpected shapes of buildings, exaggerated rooflines, plus unexpected building colors and construction materials. Googie was popularized during the Atomic Age following World War Two and was often used in the design of gas stations, coffee shops and motels. Resort areas such as Palm Springs, became concentrated pockets of this new, ebullient style of architecture.

However, the Donut Wheel didn't always look this way because the original building was constructed before the War in 1941, by Purity Market. This grocery store chain offered the new style of shopping with self-service aisles, and a cashier at the check-out stand. In response to the nascent suburban lifestyle and the use of cars, a private off-street parking lot was included for their patrons. Purity Market used the same architectural plans they had used for several other stores; the curved

roofline and visible arch on street façade could be seen in their Lodi, Woodland, and Palo Alto stores.

After World War II, Livermore's prosperity was, in large part, due to the establishment of the Radiation Laboratories which resulted in more people, homes, and businesses. Larger grocery stores, such as the Safeway on First and M Street (which became Dom's Surplus until 2021, and is now Purpose-Built) were built to meet the demand and the older, smaller grocery building had to find new uses. In 1958, the Purity Market was redesigned by Hans Schiller (1917-1998) and modernized into its current Googie form. The distinctive zig-zag roofline and aluminum-sash wall of windows were added. High on the façade on First Street, distinctive aqua-colored glass tiles were installed with the eaves and arch painted to match.

I have always delighted in the architecture of this building, as well as patronized the Donut Wheel and the Laundromat. I decided to do a painting of the building in the late afternoon, when the sun is illuminating the west side of the building and the zig-zag eave casts its characteristic shadow. I also worked in December when all of the leaves had fallen from the street trees, so

the building wasn't obscured. Sitting at the corner, right at the curb, it is easier to see the "butterfly" roof line. This style is created when the typical high peak of a roof is inverted to create a V shape, suggesting the wings of a butterfly.

I titled my painting "Hans Schiller's Purity Market", not only because he had transformed the Purity Market into the Googie landmark we see today, but also to call attention to Schiller's story. Hans Schiller was a German architect who was an assistant to another German architect, Erich Mendelsohn (1887-1953). In the face of growing anti-Semitism and the rise of Nazi power, the two Jewish architects left Germany in 1933. Schiller went to Palestine and then in 1941 he came to California where he established an architectural practice in Marin County. Meanwhile, Mendelsohn eventually came to San Francisco and taught at UC Berkeley. Given the strong connections between Schiller, Mendelsohn, the University in Berkeley, and the Labs in Livermore, I wonder how Hans Schiller secured the remodeling job of this outdated grocery store in Livermore?

A "plein air" artist since college, Carolyn Lord's early career was influenced by the 20th Century California Watercolor Style of Millard Sheets and his peers which featured bold color and strong design. Through study at ateliers, her recent watercolors and oils often include aspects of Tonalism and Impressionism. She is inspired by the California's vernacular architecture, landscape, and gardens and her work often features her hometown of Livermore.

She has explored other aspects of art: participating in workshops; teaching art; hand painting tiles for kitchen and hearth installations; designing and painting theater stage sets; and designing posters for the Livermore Valley Opera.

Above Left: "Hans Schiller's Purity Market" Watercolor, 15" x 22", by Carolyn Lord, Private Collection

Mark Your Calendars!

Free Family-Friendly Activities

Sundays AT Hagemann Ranch



Hello Spring
February 22, 2026, 1-5 pm
455 Olivina Avenue, Livermore

Plain Gold Band
The Ox Cart Man
a Portrayal

Plant Exchange
(bring a plant, take a plant)

Sunflower Hill Gardens
Culinary Angels
Come Fly a Kite

Ongoing Activities: Refreshments, Tours, Blacksmith Shop & Art Demonstrations



LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD
Presents
Historic HAGEMANN RANCH
www.lhg.org

March 29—Children's Day
April 26—Alice in Wonderland
May 31—Cars and Engines
June 28—Rancho Day
July 26, August 30—Open Houses
September 27—Prairie School
October 25—Halloween
November 29—Holiday Celebration

THEN & NOW: LIVERMORE STORIES
FOR ADULTS

A HISTORY OF RANCHING AT SYCAMORE GROVE PARK

Presented by
LARPD Open Space Interpreter Eric Whiteside

WEDNESDAY	MARCH 18	2026	7 P.M.
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Livermore has a rich history of ranching and Sycamore Grove Park is no exception. Come learn about the history of the park's land and one of its lesser-known historical landowners and ranchers: **Delores Mesa**

REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED.



CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY, STORYTIME ROOM, 1188 S. LIVERMORE AVE.

To request a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please call or email the City of Livermore's ADA coordinator at (925) 960-4170, (TTY Relay at 711), or adacoordinator@livermoreca.gov. Accommodations should be requested at least three working days before the scheduled event.



Questions? Please call (925) 373-5500 or visit the library's website: www.library.livermoreca.gov









New Exhibit at LHG History Center!
January - June

Hospitals of Livermore 1895 - 1970 focus

In the 1920s Livermore was a hospital town with an insane asylum, two tuberculosis open-air facilities, and three hospitals. A new exhibit at the History Center (January-June) pays homage to these hospitals that attracted patients from out of town for the sunny unpolluted valley climate.

With much modern name confusion, Dr. John Roberts founded the Livermore Sanitarium (spelt correctly) in 1895. The Sanitarium had a campus (where Cedar Grove Church sits) for alcohol or morphine addictions and a second campus for mental illness down College Avenue in William Mendenhall's former home. One bungalow on the Mendenhall estate had padding for the worst cases. Most patients at both campuses were not restrained and lived in private rooms dormitory-style, costing \$30 to \$60 a week to recover.

Arroyo Sanatorium (also spelt correctly) opened in 1917 through 1960 in the hills above Del Valle Dam for tuberculosis: first for children and later expanded to adults. It was led by Dr. Chessley Bush. Nearby, the Veteran Administration Hospital was also initially built for tuberculosis in 1925 near Sycamore Grove Park. It came with a herd of deer on the park-like grounds.

In town, there was a private 10 to 18 bed hospital, St. Paul's, (1927 through 1955) where many residents still alive today were born. A photograph of a Valley Memorial promotional sign claimed only 23 beds for 25,000 residents existed in 1960. The new Valley Memorial Hospital was built in 1961 and had 46 beds (1961-2015), now Stanford Health facilities on Stanley Blvd.



LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD

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	Doris Ryan
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LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Wednesday, February 11	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, February 14	9:30am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, February 15	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, February 22	1-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann: Hello Spring	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, March 11	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, March 15	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Wednesday, March 18	7pm	Then and Now Talk: Sycamore Grove Ranching	Public Library
Saturday, March 21	9:30am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, March 29	1-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann: Children’s Day	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, April 8	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, April 18	9:30am-12pm	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, April 19	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, April 26	1-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann: Alice in Wonderland	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, May 13	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Sunday, May 17	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage

Welcome New and Renewing Members!

October - December 2025

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Anne Kramer

Patron

Philip Ramsey

Sponsor

Linda Driver

Individual

Sheri Ann Dante
William Flower
Jay Morris

Household

Diane Gandolfo
Charlene Grandfield
Alan Teruya

Senior

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Linda Barncord
Cynthia Bird
Joe Bishop
Dona Blackmore
Chris Boczanowski
Joann Douk - NEW
Rickie Friedli/Giono
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Susie Hohl
Susan Irby - NEW
Bob Lormand
Conni Naylor
Judy Rice
Ken Underhill

Student

Vincent Panarello - NEW

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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
P.O. Box 961
Livermore, CA 94551

In Appreciation

Donations

Jessie & Reggie Gaylord
Class of 1975, Livermore High School

Midway School Project

Altamont Cruisers
Shirley Anderson
Keith and Jeanne Brown
Gail Bryan
Madelynn Farber
Jeff Kaskey
Loretta Kaskey
Jean King
Barbara Pallo
Janet Von Toussaint
Karen & Dennis Vied

Midway School Project in memory of Anna Siig

Dona Blackmore
Richard and Wanda Finn
Jean King
Elizabeth Owens
Marilyn Russell
Kenneth Underhill
Joanne Volponi
Jeff Williams
Jackie Zucker

Bundle Wagon Plaque Project

Tom and Dottie Eberly
Madelynn Farber

An enhanced version of the LHG newsletter containing additional photos and information can be found at:

https://www.lhg.org/Documents/Newsletters/_Menu_Newsletters.html

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!

Platinum
Transparency
2024

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★ FOUR-STAR ★