

OCTOBER 1990 Vol. XIX No. 1

CALENDAR

October 6 & 7, Saturday & Sunday
Festival '90, Gardella Green & the
Civic Center, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

October 11, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

October 13, Saturday, 1-2 p.m.
Carnegie Library

Janet Newton will be honored for
her contributions in preserving
Livermore history and as a founding
member of the Livermore Heritage
Guild. Refreshments will be
served. We hope you can attend.

November 3, Saturday,
Community Bazaar, Recreation Center
Call the History Center for details
449-9927

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR LHG
MEMBERSHIP. YOUR DUES HELP US
OPERATE THE HISTORY CENTER AND
MAINTAIN OUR EXHIBITS AND
PUBLICATIONS. CHECK YOUR ADDRESS
LABEL TO SEE IF YOU NEED TO PAY FOR
NEXT YEAR.

Janet Newton and her husband,
Ralph, have been long time
Livermore residents and preservers
of local history. In 1969 Janet
published her first book "Las
Positas", a 200 page book on the
life of Robert Livermore. Anyone
with an interest in Livermore
history should add this excellent
work to their reading list. In
1973 when the old S.P. depot was
going to be destroyed, Janet and
several other lovers of local
history formed the Livermore
Heritage Guild to help save the
building, a battle lasting over six
months but finally resulting in
success. In 1973 Janet and the
Livermore Heritage Guild published
"A Tour of Old Livermore". It was
later republished by Janet as "The

Livermore Valley 1878-1889", a
walking tour through Livermore as
it would have been in 1889. In
1987 Janet republished her book
"Stories of the Vineyards and
Wineries of the Livermore Valley"
an excellent history of all the
valley wineries. And in 1989 she
published "The Charm of Old
Livermore", a book of water color
paintings Janet has done over the
years of old houses and their
history in Livermore. Many of
these houses no longer stand and
this book printed in color, is the
only record of their appearance.
Many other booklets and pamphlets
were printed over the years. These
books were meant to preserve and
share Livermore history with others
who wanted to explore their town,
as none of these publications ever
resulted in a profit.

As an avid chronicler of local
history and a past director and
founder of the Livermore Heritage
Guild, the Guild will honor Janet
with a reception and presentation
for her accomplishments on
Saturday, October 13. We hope you
will join us at 1:00 p.m. at the
Old Carnegie Library for this
event. Many of her publications
will be available and you can meet
the author.

The following is excerpted from The
Livermore Herald, May 19, 1881.

YO SEMITE

There are probably very few people
in this community who have not
heard of the Yo Semite Valley,
while a large number of our people
cherish at least a faint hope of
one day visiting this great
store-house of the wonders of old
Dame Nature. In a majority of
cases, however, this has so far
proved to be "a hope deferred", for
scarcely a dozen residence of this
Township have ever yet seen its
realization.

THE PARTY

To insure a start, and for the greatest degree of enjoyment, should consist of either two or four persons, the latter number, if well chosen, being preferred. If two, you want a light buggy, spring wagon, or buck board; if four, a large spring wagon, and four nags are nearly indispensable. In either case, the vehicle should have ample room behind for carriage of several sacks of grain.

WHAT TO WEAR

Wear your worst clothes, stout, heavy shoes, and wide-brimmed straw hat. The weather in Yo Semite in June is warmer than in Livermore, and heavy overcoats are scarcely needed.

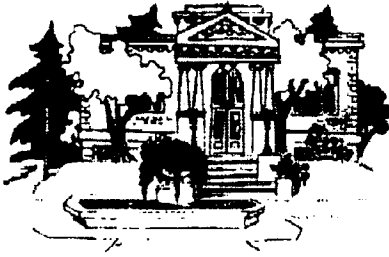
ROUTES

It is best to go by one route and return by another. From Livermore the Coulterville route is the best for entering the Valley, and the Big Oak Flat route---either by way of the Calaveras Big Trees, or not, at discretion---the best for leaving it. The distance (direct) by either route, is about 180 miles, and the drive into the Valley can easily be made from Livermore in four days. The first day's drive will be by way of Durham's Ferry, near San Joaquin

City, to near Modesto; the second to Snelling; the third, to an excellent camping place seven miles beyond Coulterville; and the fourth, to the Black Springs, four miles below the hotels in the Valley. At Snelling as much ground barley should be purchased as can be carried, the difference of a cent and a half, and five or six cents a pound, being well worth saving. If you are not to visit the Calaveras Caves, Bower Cave, on this road, is worth seeing.

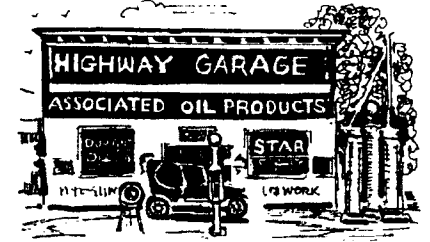
EXPENSE OF TRIP

The necessary expense attending a trip to Yo Semite, by private conveyance, is but small; one can of course add thereto if wished, or by ignorance of the best plans, ad libitum; but the actual necessary expense is much less than is generally supposed. The writer made the trip, last season, accompanied by a companion to Yo Semite and the Big Trees, visiting every notable object of interest on the route, at an expense of less than \$35 each. Seven days were spent in and about the Valley, the entire trip occupying eighteen days. The trip is one of very little fatigue, the one day spent each way on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley being the only disable part of the journey.



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" HELP SAVE YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW "

NEWSLETTER

MEMBERSHIP OCT 1 TO SEPT 30: FAMILY \$10, INDIVIDUAL \$7, SENIOR \$3
JUNIOR \$3, LIFE \$100, PATRON \$100, SPONSOR \$25, LIBRARY \$5

NOVEMBER 1990 Vol. XIX No. 2

CALENDAR

November 8, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

November 22, Thursday, 1-5:00 p.m.
Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Recreation Center, 8th & H Sts., Livermore. Free. Elderly/disabled transportation available; meals can be delivered to shut ins. Info: 455-9782 (Randy Moore) or 447-9153 (Barbara Forbes).

November 29, Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Livermore Christmas Tree Lighting at Old Mill Square (1st & Livermore, near the flagpole). Santa will make an appearance.

December 2, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Livermore Art Assoc. Christmas Shoppe, LAA Gallery, Carnegie Bldg. on 3rd St. between J & K Sts., Livermore. Info. at the Gallery (Wed. through Sun. 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) or 449-9927.

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

At last month's Festival, Marilyn Calhoun reported over 300 guests through the Historymobile. We wish to thank the following volunteers who assisted for the 2 days of the Festival: Bill Junk, Pat Hoenig, Walter and Joan Detjens, Gary Drummond, Tish Fletcher, Doug Baird, Toni Tami, Helen Moir, and John Miller.

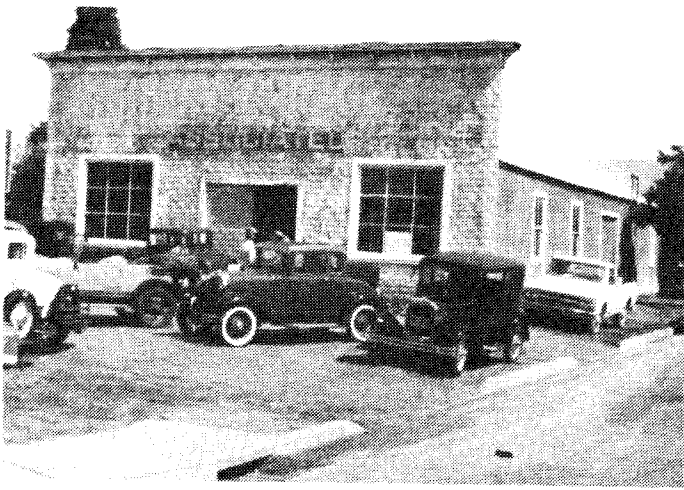
We also wish to thank Margaret Anderson for contributing the article about Yosemite from last month's newsletter. We had many comments from readers who enjoyed it.

The 1991 Calendars are available at the Heritage Center. This year's calendar features Livermore High School in honor of its 100th birthday. The calendar includes many historical facts and photos of the high school's history. This is the finest calendar produced to date by the Livermore Heritage Guild. (This was a joint effort with the Livermore High School Centennial Committee.) Calendars cost \$6.00 including tax.

With this month's newsletter, we are introducing a new format and logo. The sketches on the front of the Carnegie Library and the Duarte Highway Garage were both contributed by Tillie Calhoun. Also we will begin including a photo from Livermore's past each month. This month in honor of the Highway Garage's 75th birthday, we are including a photo of the Garage as it was when the Heritage Guild inherited it. We hope you like the new format and welcome comments.

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR LHG MEMBERSHIP. YOUR DUES HELP US OPERATE THE HISTORY CENTER AND MAINTAIN OUR EXHIBITS AND PUBLICATIONS. CHECK THE DATE ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO SEE IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS CURRENT.

November 15, 1888



W.W. Mendenhall last Saturday performed the wheelbarrow act by wheeling Jos. Bardellini from The Washington Hotel down First Street to the flouring mill and back to the music of a snare drum and accompanied by a large delegation of small boys. The performance was the result of a bet on the residential election; Mendenhall betting on Cleveland (Harrison won). As the wheelbarrow procession was passing along East First Street, a horse driven by Mrs. Mary Martin became frightened and backed against the hitching rails in front of G.W. Lindsey's store, demolished one of the wheels of her carriage. Jos. Bardellini tendered to the lady the use of his own carriage while the damaged vehicle is being repaired, and will pay for the damage done.

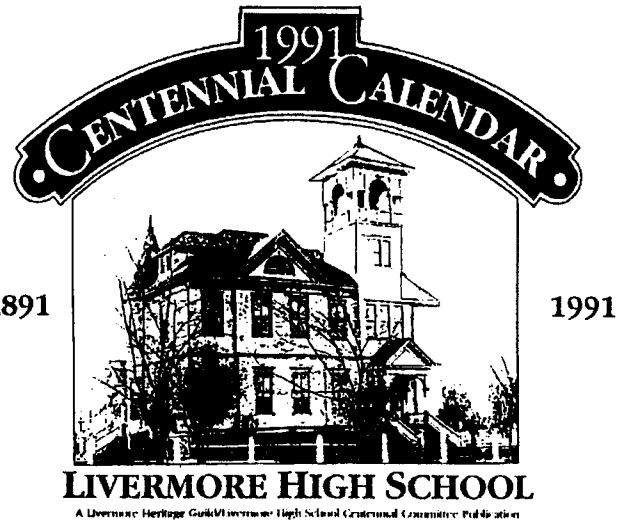
Parallels from the past-Chet Fankhauser
Livermore Echo, November 3, 1887

A gentleman in Livermore drew \$250 in the German lottery at the last drawing.

Frank Bettencourt last week, it is said, sold 10 acres of rough hill land, a portion of his ranch in Collier Canyon, for \$50 per acre. Guess the boom must have arrived in that vicinity.

November 24, 1887

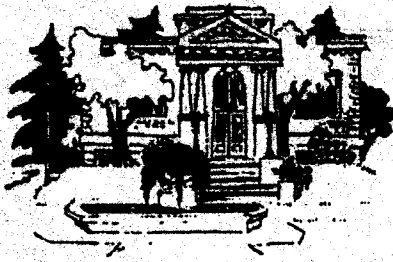
The Town Board on Monday evening rejected the propositions of the gas company for lighting the streets, and granted the franchise to an electric light company.



 **LIVERMORE
HERITAGE
GUILD**
"Help Save Yesterday for Tomorrow"

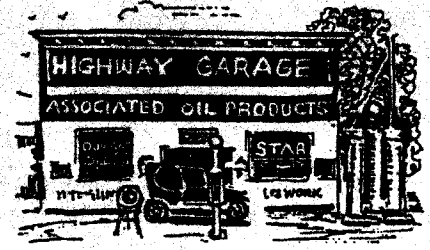
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NEWSLETTER

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JUNIOR \$3, LIFE \$100, PATRON \$100, SPONSOR \$25, LIBRARY \$5

DECEMBER 1990 Vol. XIX No. 3

CALENDAR

December 14, Friday
LHG Board Meeting at the Drummond House
567 South L Street
7:30 p.m.

DON'T FORGET TO DROP BY TO SEE THE TOY EXHIBIT AT THE CARNEGIE BUILDING. THANKS TO MERILYN CALHOUN AND BOB MYERS WHO LOANED THE TOYS FOR DISPLAY.

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR LHG MEMBERSHIP. YOUR DUES HELP US OPERATE THE HISTORY CENTER AND MAINTAIN OUR EXHIBITS AND PUBLICATIONS. CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL TO SEE IF YOU NEED TO PAY FOR NEXT YEAR.

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*Greetings
and Best Wishes
for Christmas
and the
New Year*

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS -- WITH A DIFFERENCE:

On the First Day of Christmas, the Historians suggest for Thee
A Highway Garage T-shirt

On the Second Day of Christmas, the Historians suggest for Thee
Two Artistic Sketches, and a Highway Garage T-shirt

On the Third Day of Christmas, the Historians suggest for Thee
Three Walking Tours, Two Artistic Sketches and a Highway Garage T-shirt

On the Fourth Day of Christmas, the Historians suggest for Thee
Four School Memories, Three Walking Tours, Two Artistic Sketches, and a Highway Garage T-shirt

On the Fifth Day of Christmas, the Historians suggest for Thee
Five Biographies
Four School Memories, Three Walking Tours, Two Artistic Sketches and a Highway Garage T-shirt

On the Sixth Day of Christmas, the Historians suggest for Thee
Six Bits of History, Five Biographies,
Four School Memories, Three Walking Tours, Two Artistic Sketches and a Highway Garage T-shirt

On the Seventh Day of Christmas, the Historians suggest for Thee
Seven Business Briefs, Six Bits of History, Five Biographies,
Four School Memories, Three Walking Tours, Two Artistic Sketches and a Highway Garage T-shirt

On the Eighth Day of Christmas, the Historians suggest for Thee
Eight Calhoun Note-cards, Seven Business Briefs, Six Bits of History,
Five Biographies, Four School Memories, Three Walking Tours, Two Artistic Sketches
and a Highway Garage T-shirt

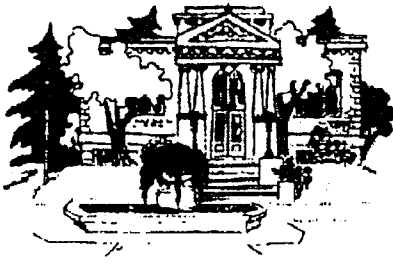
On the Ninth Day of Christmas, the Historians suggest for Thee
Nine Livermore Histories, Eight Calhoun Note-cards, Seven Business Briefs,
Six Bits of History, Five Biographies, Four School Memories,
Three Walking Tours, Two Artistic Sketches and a Highway Garage T-shirt

On the Tenth Day of Christmas, the Historians suggest for Thee
Ten "Couples" Note-cards, Nine Livermore Histories, Eight Calhoun Note-cards,
Seven Business Briefs, Six Bits of History, Five Biographies,
Four School Memories, Three Walking Tours, Two Artistic Sketches and a Highway Garage T-shirt

On the Eleventh Day of Christmas, the Historians suggest for Thee
Eleven Quite unusual Histories, Ten "Couples" Note-cards,
Nine Livermore Histories, Eight Calhoun Note-cards, Seven Business Briefs,
Six Bits of History, Five Biographies, Four School Memories,
Three Walking Tours, Two Artistic Sketches and a Highway Garage T-shirt

On the Twelfth Day of Christmas, the Historians suggest for Thee
Twelve Months of Memories, Eleven Quite unusual Histories,
Ten "Couples" Note-cards, Nine Livermore Histories,
Eight Calhoun Note-cards, Seven Business Briefs, Six Bits of History,
Five Biographies, Four School Memories, Three Walking Tours,
Two Artistic Sketches and a Highway Garage T-shirt

(Packages for any or all of these Twelve Days will be available at the History Center in the Carnegie Building, on or after
December 2, 1990). Phone 449-9927 for more information.



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JANUARY 1991 Vol. XIX No. 4

CALENDAR

January 10, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

January 24, Thursday, 7-9 p.m.
Livermore Library
Merilyn Calhoun will present the first of 3 talks on Livermore history about the first settlers (Free admission)

January 31, Thursday, 7-9 p.m.
Livermore Library
Merilyn Calhoun will present the second of the series about the Spanish Mexican period and Robert Livermore

February 14, Thursday, 7-9 p.m.
Livermore Library
Merilyn Calhoun will present the last of the series about the town growth

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

The Livermore Heritage Guild and the Livermore Library are sponsoring a series of 3 talks about Livermore history. These talks along with a slide show will be presented by Merilyn (Tillie) Calhoun, a fourth generation Livermorian and author of *Early Days in the Livermore-Amador Valley*. Merilyn has lectured for Las Positas College, the Livermore Library, and many other organizations. She also has assembled the display

in our Historymobile and taken it to many of the elementary schools in the area. The dates and times for the talks are listed in the above calendar and are free of charge. In service credit is available for Livermore school district employees who attend the 3 lectures. This series of lectures offers a good overview of the history of the Valley and should be of interest to anyone interested in local history.

Enclosed in this month's newsletter is a mail order form for the 1991 High School Centennial Calendar. If you missed anyone on your Christmas list or know someone out of the area who would appreciate a calendar, mail a check and the order form to the Heritage Guild and we will do the rest. It couldn't be easier. This calendar has been our best seller ever and the supply is limited.

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In 1936 city clerk Elmer G. Still ran a series of articles in the Livermore Herald entitled "Livermore History Highlights". The following is excerpted from one of those columns.

Olivina - This ranch of 2,000 acres located 3 miles south of town, which was purchased by Julius Paul Smith (1849-1904) in 1881 and 660 acres of it planted to vines and some olive trees by 1880, when it was the largest vineyard in the county, was so named by him, evidently from the words 'olive' and 'vine' or else from Latin 'oliva' and 'vinea'. Pronounced Ol-i-vee-na.

Oak Knoll - This small hill alongside the Arroyo Mocho and county road just west of town, which geologists have declared to be the moraine left by a glacier millions of years ago, and where a cemetery was established about 1875, taking the place of an earlier one poorly located in a low wet spot about one quarter of a mile to the southwest, was so called from a number of large oak trees which originally grew on it and around it but which have all disappeared many years ago, while the inconvenient steepness of the hill led to the practical abandonment of the cemetery there by the '90's.

Park Street - So named on the map of the Northern Addition filed in 1875 by Alexander Esdon, evidently on account of the double block located between this street and Walnut street and between Livermore avenue and L street being designated on the map as a "Plaza", or public park. In 1886 Jos. Waterman, Geo. C. Stanley and W. P. Bartlett, who were interested in selling their many lots and claimed to be owners of this double block also and that they had spent considerable money improving the west block, dedicated the double block to the town "as a public place of recreation and pleasure" on condition that the town expend \$75 per year in its care and improvement, and the dedication was accepted, but the required expenditure was not long continued, and in 1920 the town trustees granted a quit-claim deed for the west block to the then owners.

Holmes Street - This street, leading south from South S street to the Vallecitos road, was named for N. B. Holmes (1828-1907), who owned the property at the southeast corner of Holmes street and College avenue and who was a member of the town's first board of trustees in 1876.

Isabel Avenue - This road leading south from the Pleasanton road was named for the daughter of Louis Bernstein, Oakland prizefight timekeeper, who had a home there about 20 years ago.

Photo of the month

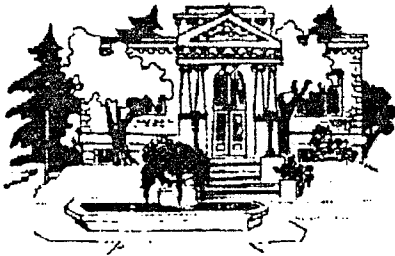


First Livermore High School built in 1893



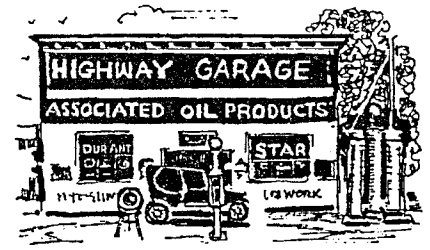
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FEBRUARY 1991 Vol. XIX No. 5

CALENDAR

January 31, Thursday, 7-9 p.m.

Livermore Library

Merilyn Calhoun will present the second of the series about the Spanish Mexican period and Robert Livermore

February 14, Thursday, 7-9 p.m.

Livermore Library

Merilyn Calhoun will present the last of the series about the town growth

February 21, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

(Note change of meeting date)

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Visitors at the Carnegie Building History Center will undoubtedly notice some major changes throughout the LHG display section. In order to provide a secure storage area for our growing collection of artifacts and memorabilia, the Board decided to switch the contents of the West Room and the East Room. After all the changes have been made the East Room will become a library study room and the West Room will become exclusively a storage area.

New display boards and cabinets are being installed with lots of new items on our city's history.

The old 6 drawer NCR cash Register given to the LHG by the Duarte Rexall Drug Store was finally opened by our LHG lock picker - Muriel Dean. After using or trying a dozen or more keys of varied sizes and pushing buttons for about an hour the machine started working. Still needed, however, is an instruction sheet showing the actual sequence of when to push what buttons. Muriel is pursuing this course and guarantees the cash register will be one of the star performers for the many student visitors through the History Center.

Heritage Guild member Barry Schrader has written a small book about historical trivia and humorous anecdotes from Livermore's past and will be selling it at the History Center beginning Sunday, February 17. There will a reception and autograph party that day from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. when members will also have an opportunity to view the new local history exhibits just installed.

The book is entitled "Will the Last Person Leaving Livermore Please Unscrew the Bulb in Fire Station One" and is limited to a printing of 199 copies. Barry did his own printing with his antique handplaten letter press, using a fine quality textured paper and having it bound in maroon leather with gold embossing. It is a small (4x5") book of 50 pages. Each book is individually numbered as a collector's edition. The price including tax will be \$17.66.

In conjunction with the book he created a Livermore trivia card game called "Live Longer

in Livermore" which can be purchased at the History Center for \$3.50. Checks for either the book or trivia game should be made out to the Livermore Heritage Guild.

History Center manager, Barbara Bunshah, is planning to set up a summer display of "Two Views of the Valley" based on photographs from the Valley Herald's collection (specifically the photos of Gordon Clark) and on photos of Elliott Dopking. Watch the Newsletter for the opening date.

The first of three talks about Livermore history given by Marilyn Calhoun at the Livermore Library on January 24 was a sold out success. Late arrivals were seated on cushions on the floor. Marilyn covered the impact of the original Indians who lived here in the Valley. Her teaching aids included samples of the major food sources and herbs used in daily life.

Calhoun's second lecture will cover the Spanish Mexican period and Robert Livermore. It will take place from 7-9 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Livermore Main Library on Thursday, January 31.

The last of the series about town growth is slated from 7-9 p.m. at the Library on Thursday, February 14.

The talks are free and allow lots of time for questions and discussions.

PARALLELS FROM THE PAST

Barbara Bunshah has been asked many times about the age of some of the trees enclosing the

Carnegie Library Building. She ran across the following articles from the Livermore Herald:

LIVERMORE HERALD: February 7, 1941 MAPLE TREES FOR PARK PLANTING

Replacement of trees removed last week from in front of the municipal library is slated for early next week. City Inspector C.G. Clarke will direct planting of trees selected by the Woman's Improvement Club which is in charge of the library park. A type of maple tree, regarded as particularly well adapted for local conditions will be planted.

LIVERMORE HERALD: February 21, 1941 PLANT MAPLE TREES AT LIBRARY PARK

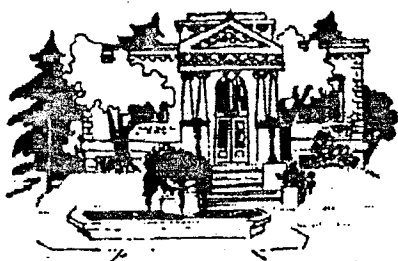
Eighteen silver maple trees were planted along Third Street, in front of the Library Wednesday, replacing old locusts which were removed a few weeks ago. The trees were selected by a Woman's Improvement Club committee and were planted under the direction of City Inspector C.G. Clarke.

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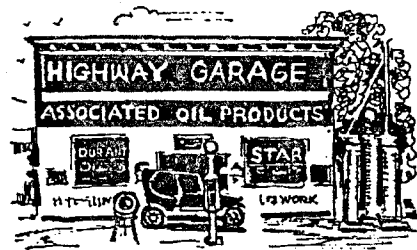
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MARCH 1991 Vol. XIX No. 5

CALENDAR

March 14, Thursday, 7-9 p.m.
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

March 15, 16, & 17
Friends of the Library Book Sale
Lincoln Highway Museum

Friday, March 15, 7-9:30 p.m.
(FOL members only, however, memberships are available at the entrance)

Saturday, March 16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sunday, March 17, 1-4 p.m.
(All books at 1/2 price)

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Last month's autograph party by Barry Schrader at the History Center drew large crowds and a sell out of his limited edition book, "Will the Last Person Leaving Livermore Please Unscrew the Bulb in Fire Station One." Only 200 copies were printed and in three days there were no further copies available. A ground swell of appreciation has blossomed in hope that a second volume might be produced.

The History Center now features a nice exhibit of early Victorian ladies' gowns including all the accessories. Drop by to see the fashion show.

Chairman Larry Mauch and Tim Sage have been busily sawing book and map cases in half for the final construction of a new storage area for LHG material. The new room will be waterproof, secure, and furnished to hold the Guild's ever increasing collection of Livermore memorabilia and artifacts.

If anyone missed the three part program on Livermore history given by Merilyn Calhoun recently at the Livermore Library, drop in the History Center. Larry Mauch and his trusty camcorder filmed each session. The 3 programs can be viewed on the VCR at the Center by making arrangement ahead of time with Barbara Bunshah.

Our annual LHG fundraiser Dinner and Auction is looming on the horizon. Be sure to reserve the evening of Saturday, May 25 on your calendar for an unusual chance to purchase strange and interesting items for house, husband, wife, and children. Co-chaired by Henri and Chet Fankhauser, the event will feature a delicious spaghetti and meatball dinner plus salad and desserts.

Highlight of the evening will be the auction of donated items collected during the year to tempt all acquisitive appetites. Col. Lynn Owens will auction off an amazing collection of household goods, old Livermore memorabilia, antiques and collectibles. This year a very gracious and generous friend of the Guild has donated 7 boxes of silver plate, elegant glass, Limoges china, and depression glass in many designs. All will be up for sale at the auction.

Although the shelves are almost full of small items, we can still use larger pieces of furniture in reasonable condition. If you have any items to donate, call Henri or Chet at 447-3809 for pick-up arrangements.

There are still a few copies of the 1991 Livermore High School Centennial Calendar available at the History Center. The price has been reduced to \$4.00 including tax. This has been our most popular calendar ever so if you haven't picked up a copy, supplies are running out.

For the benefit of members who may not have read Barry Schrader's book, we would like to include a few items of interest from the edition:

DID YOU KNOW THIS:

The Liberty Bell came through town on a railroad flatcar, headed for San Francisco's Panama Pa-

cific Exposition in 1915, pausing awhile for the crowd to see and touch; the Livermore High Band played at the station during the stopover.

In September 1927, Charles A. Lindbergh flew over the town to salute the patients at the Vets Hospital, but didn't find the Hospital, so returned two days later, flying low so the men could see him wave, also buzzing the Arroyo Sanitarium and Del Valle Farm.

In 1928 the City bought the first automobile for the Livermore Police Department.

Weather: According to reports published in The Herald and some Zone 7 records the driest years since 1870 have been 1975-76 with only 4.74 inches of rain, 1876-77 with 6.01 inches. Wettest seasons have been 1982-83 with 31.95 inches, 1889-90 with 28.66 inches and 1892-93 with 26.29 inches.

First Oil Well: The first Livermore area well was drilled about four miles north of Livermore in the summer of 1900. The well was abandoned at a depth of 1,175 feet that same year. Another well was drilled seven miles southeast of Livermore in 1901 and showed more promise.

In 1934 Max Baer, the "Livermore Larruper", became world heavyweight boxing champion by defeating Primo Carnera.



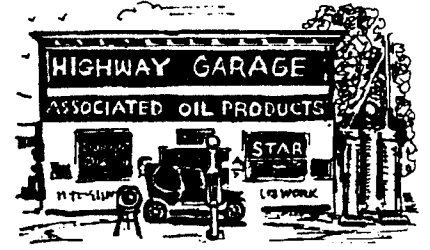
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NEWSLETTER

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JUNIOR \$3, LIFE \$100, PATRON \$100, SPONSOR \$25, LIBRARY \$5

APRIL 1991 Vol. XIX No. 5

CALENDAR

April 11, Thursday, 7-9 p.m.
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

April 13, Saturday, 9:13 a.m.
E Clampus Vitus Memorial Plaque Presentation
Southern Pacific Train Depot
North L St., Livermore

April 27 & 28, Sat. & Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Alameda County Fairgrounds,
Quilted Treasures IV Quilt Show
by Amador Valley Quilters

May 25, Saturday, 6:00 p.m.
Lincoln Highway Museum
12th Annual Dinner and Auction
Fundraiser for Lincoln Highway Museum
Lots of good food and auction items
Open to the public

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

On Saturday, April 13, at precisely 9:13 a.m. the E Clampus Vitus, Joaquin Murietta Chapter 13 will memorialize the old Southern Pacific Train Depot on North L St., in Livermore. The ceremony includes presentation of a bronze plaque suitably inscribed and a short talk by Barry Schrader on the history of the Depot and its salvation from the

demolition derby. Schrader was one of a group of local citizens responsible for saving the Depot from being destroyed. Grand Noble Humbug Ray Bonnetti of the local Clampers organization heads the picturesque members honoring the building.

The group has been responsible for recognizing other historical areas such as the Kottinger Barn, the Toliver monument at the Livermore Airport, and others in Alameda and Contra Costa County.

Visitors may view a choice lot of VCR tapes on the TV screen in the Carnegie Building while they look through the exhibits and displays of the History Center and LAA Arts Gallery. Art tapes include Cowboy Art; The Figure in Watercolor - Charles Reed; Chinese Brush Painting; and Jack MacRae - Landscape Painter. LHG History tapes include a film of Livermore's Centennial Year by Ed Peiffer; cable TV interviews of Jim Concannon and Jean Wentz; Leona McGlinchey on the History of the Livermore Rodeo; and the Lincoln Highway Vintage Auto Tour at the Duarte Garage in July 1988. Any of these VCR movies and many more can be shown for you during your next trip through the old Carnegie Library Building. Just ask one of the docents at the center to let you look over the long lists of TV movies available for viewing.

Auction items are still pouring in for the 12th Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Auction on Saturday, May 25, at the old Lincoln Highway Museum.

Among some of the more interesting donations are a 3'x5' half inch thick smoked glass cocktail table on brass and glass pedestals, a nice old Empire style walnut veneer 2 drawer pedestal sewing table; boxes of knitting and embroidery thread; and a 1920's porcelainized kitchen stove. This year the dinner tickets will be limited to the first 125 paid up reservations at \$5.00 per person. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and the auction starts at 7 p.m. sharp. More information will show up in the next LHG Newsletter. Mark your calendar today.

LIVERMORE HERALD - April 18, 1924

Purchasing Hearst Place - A deal is to be consummated within the next few days in which the Hacienda del Poso de Verona, the country home of the late Mrs. Phoebe Hearst, will be sold to a stock company of Oakland businessmen, who will convert it into an exclusive country club. Details of the deal have not been completed as yet, although the major agreements have been arranged. Necessary papers for the transfer of the property are in preparation. Rumors current here for several months that a sale of property had been effected were confirmed by persons in charge of the Hearst estate interests, following an extensive inspection of the ranch and buildings last month.

LIVERMORE HERALD - April 18, 1924

Erecting Gasoline Station - Chas. Ferrario is erecting a gasoline and oil service station at his property on the corner of First and L Street. The building will be 12 x 12 feet in size, and there will also be a ladies rest room 10 x 10 ft in size. The buildings will be of brick, with concrete foundations and crushed brick roof. Two 250 gallon gasoline storage tanks are to be installed, and concrete sidewalks laid along both the First St. and L St. frontages of the property.

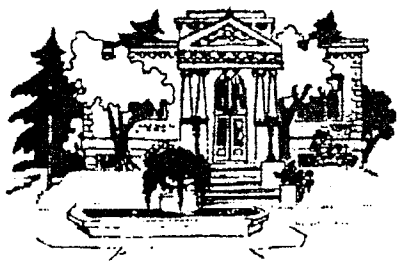
LIVERMORE HERALD - April 11, 1924

First St. Paving Is Now Under Way. Work of putting the surface of West First St. to the westerly town limits in shape for paving is now well underway. A tractor drawn scraper has been breaking up the surface all week and doing the preliminary work toward establishing the grade. The contractors will push the work through to completion, and it will not be long now until the gap to complete the paving from Livermore to Pleasanton will be complete. The Street Committee of the town trustees is going ahead with plans to put L St., and Lizzie (S. Liv.) to the town limits.



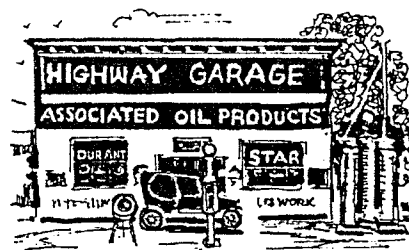
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MAY 1991

Vol. XIX

No. 7

CALENDAR

May 9, Thursday, 7-9 p.m.
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

May 25, Saturday, 6 p.m.
Lincoln Highway Museum
12th Annual Dinner and Auction
Fundraiser for Lincoln Highway Museum
Lots of good food and auction items
Open to the public

June 27, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Annual General Meeting
Dan Mosier to speak on Tesla Coal Mines
More information next month

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

12th ANNUAL LHG DINNER AND AUCTION

Mark your calendar, save your money, invite your friends, and come to our fun-filled Auction evening on Saturday, May 25, at the Lincoln Highway Museum. A delicious dinner of home-made spaghetti and meatballs with salads and desserts will be served at 6 p.m. for a donation of \$5.00 per plate. Dinner will be limited to the first 125 reservations. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the History Center, 3rd & J Streets. The Auction will begin promptly at 7 p.m. directed by Col. Lynn

Owens. Donations or auction sales goods are still being collected. For home pickup, call the History Center, 449-9927 during business hours.

Highlights of this year's auction items include a large collection of depression glass pieces -- tools and top-grade hardware--J.F.K. collectible papers and magazines--old Livermore memorabilia--78 and LP records--6 solid oak kitchen chairs--Exercycle--costume jewelry--skiis and boots, porcelainized 1930's kitchen stove--drop leaf kitchen table--knitting and embroidering supplies--3x5 bronzed glass cocktail table--heating and massaging Relaxicisor--quilt fabrics and lots more interesting things.

If you can't attend the Auction and still would like to help, Henri Fankhauser and Nancy Bireley would like to have extra desserts for dinner. A bag or box of freezable cookies can be used. Call 447-3809 with your contribution information.

Remember--all profits from the Auction will be used to continue our restoration work at the Highway Museum--besides that, it's a lot of fun.

On Wednesday, May 15, the Guild will say--individually and collectively--a quiet "Thank You" to Andrew Carnegie for his gift to the city of Livermore for the building we use as a History Center. May 15 marks the 80th Anniversary of the date on which the building first opened for public inspection.

The project to gain a Carnegie grant began in 1902 and continued until October 1909 when it was achieved.

The original intended site of the new Library was at the corner of 5th & K Sts. Opposition to this location surfaced and the City purchased the McKeaney Block, bounded by 3rd and 4th, and J and K Sts.--the present site.

Designed by William Weeks, the building was constructed by Hoyt Brothers of Oakland. The funds for furnishing and stocking the Library were raised locally by lodges and clubs via cake sales, dances and other activities.

The Guild and Art Association moved into the Carnegie Building in September 1973, some seven years after the library collection had been transferred to the new facility in the Civic Center. In the interim, the building had been the office for the Recreation and Park District.

There is a project underway to list all of the surviving Carnegie Libraries of California on the National Historic Register, a move the Guild fully supports. Happy 80th Birthday.

HELP! Can anyone out there identify a personal name for the History Center? We have a name ANTOINE BUFET and a date of death: 1914, but nothing else. The county histories, cemetery

lists and newspaper obituary lists provide no clues. Perhaps he was not a Livermore resident at all. Can anyone help us? Call the History Center if you have any information.

Plans are being completed for the Livermore Union High School 100th Birthday Celebration on the High School grounds, Saturday, June 15.

Events scheduled include a run at 8 a.m., tours of the school building, field activities, games from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and a dance from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Designated areas will be set up by decades for visitors to register and discover classmates who may be in attendance.

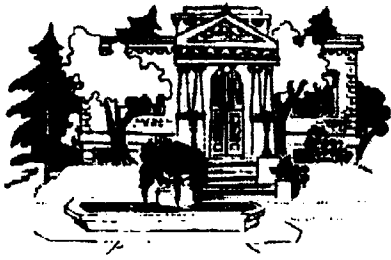
Volunteers are needed--and do not have to be graduates of the High School. If you would like to help register former students, etc., phone Kevin Drake at the High School, 447-3112. If you would be interested in greeting and chatting with the students from the classes of the 1920's or earlier, call Marilyn Calhoun at 447-2926.

A new display is being planned for the History Center beginning in June. It will be called "Three Views of the Valley" and will feature pictures taken of the Tri-Valley area by three well known photographers--Elliott Dopking, Gordon Clark, and Henry Thomas. More information next month.



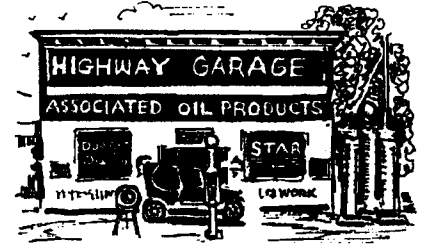
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JUNE 1991

Vol. XIX

No. 8

CALENDAR

June 13, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

June 27, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Annual General Meeting

City Council Chambers on Pacific Ave.

There will not be an LHG board meeting in July.

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

New linoleum has been installed in the Highway Garage cottage thanks to efforts by Muriel and Philip Dean. In the next month there will be new carpet installed as well. In the last year Philip and Muriel have spearheaded a drive to spruce up the cottage and the surrounding grounds. Their efforts have resulted in a **great** improvement to an old Livermore landmark.

Barbara Bunshah is organizing an exhibit of photos by Elliott Dopking, Gordon Clark and Henry Thomas entitled "Three Views of the Valley" which will be on view this month at the History Center.

The Guild is extremely grateful for Art and Betty Henry's donation of his late father's (Maitland

Henry) significant memorabilia. It is presently being sorted and inventoried to provide the basis for future displays and much research.

The next LHG production will be our Annual General meeting which will be held at the City Council Chambers on Pacific Avenue near the Multiservice Center at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 27. The general public is welcome to attend.

During the meeting the Guild will hold its annual election of officers. The 1991-1992 slate of officers is as follows:

Chairman: Larry Mauch

Vice Chairman: Barry Schrader

Secretary: Barbara Bunshah

Treasurer: Malvern Sweet

Ways and Means: Chet Fankhauser

Directors: Pat Hoenig, Susan Junk, Nancy Mueller, Bill Miller, and Lorraine Raison

This year's meeting will feature a talk and slide show by Dan Mosier on the Tesla Coal Mines. Dan has written several books including "Harrisville and the Livermore Coal Mines", "Alameda County Place Names", and others. Dan has been a speaker at many local historical functions. This should prove to be a very informative presentation on Livermore history. We hope you will all turn out for what should be a fun evening. Refreshments will be served.

Excerpted from: Pen Pictures from the Garden of the World, Lewis Pub. Co., Chicago, 1891

Livermore Spring Water Co.

"Livermore Spring Water Co., - This company was incorporated in 1874 by John Aylward, Robert Livermore, Valentine Alviso, Michael Mullaney, Charles Hedzal and W. Gibbons. The first officers elected were : John Aylward, President; W. Gibbons, Secretary; and Robert Livermore, Treasurer. The first board of Directors consisted of Hedzal, Aylward, Livermore and Alviso and Mullaney. In 1976 a mortgage upon the company's plant was given for the purpose of obtaining ready means for prosecuting the work, and it was foreclosed and bought in by John Aylward in 1885, since which time he has been the sole proprietor.

The water used in this system is obtained from two sources - the Arroyo Mocho and Las Positas Springs. The point on the Mocho from which water is taken is about three miles from Livermore, giving a fall of 125 feet. The Las Positas Springs are about 2 1/2 miles from town and this gives a fall amply sufficient for all purposes. Water is conveyed to the City through iron pipes of the best construction, and over ten miles of piping are used in the entire system, which supplies the life-giving fluid for all domestic as well as fire purposed in Livermore. Much credit is due Mr. Aylward for the active interest he has taken ever since becoming connected with the water company in the matter of improving its facilities."

The Livermore Echo was established in July, 1882 with W. E. Still as proprietor. Mr. Still was in the real estate business and needed an advertising medium and decided to start his own newspaper. The Echo first came out as a small, four column folio. W. E. Still was born in Michigan in 1843 and came to California in 1863. He was in San Francisco until 1871. He worked at carrying newspapers and also worked for the Call as a mail clerk. In 1869 he bought a ranch on the Arroyo Mocho, five miles from Livermore. In 1873 he became an agent for leading book publishers until 1881 when he began his real estate business. He was married in Livermore in 1876 to Annie E. Webb. They have four children.



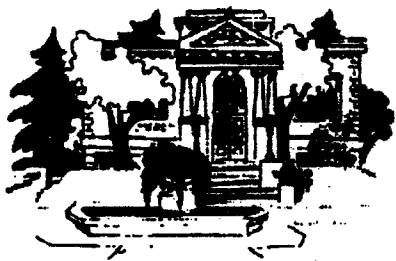
The Livermore Echo Office



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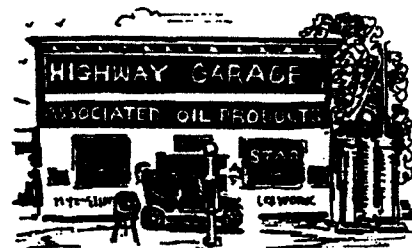
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JULY 1991

Vol. XIX

No. 9

CALENDAR

There will not be an LHG Board meeting in July

July 27 & 28, Saturday & Sunday

Livermore Air Show

(The Historymobile will be present during both days for your enjoyment)

August 8, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

The Annual General meeting was a great success with Dan Mosier's presentation on the Tesla Coal Mines. It was obvious from the slides and presentation that Dan has spent many, many hours researching the coal mines in the area. We understand sometime in the future Dan hopes to write a second book specifically on the Tesla Mines and we look forward to its publication. If any of those who attended the General meeting are interested in further reading regarding the coal mines, "Harrisville and the Livermore Coal Mines" by Dan Mosier is highly recommended.

Jason Bezis, a graduating senior, was present at the General meeting and was presented with a

letter of commendation for his work on this year's Centennial Edition of the El Vaquerito. Jason was editor in chief as well as a writer of many of the articles in this edition. The paper will be used by future historians as a great reference piece on the Livermore High School. Some papers are still available at the Livermore High School at a cost of \$1.00.

This year the Livermore Heritage Guild presented five certificates of appreciation to non-Board members who have made significant contributions to the preservation of Livermore history. Among those honored were: Merilyn Calhoun (who also did the artwork for the certificates), Barry Schrader, Bill Junk, and Bob and Rosemarie Wade for their work with the Historymobile. As many of you know, the Historymobile has been present at many of the Red Flower Sundays and city functions as well as touring many of the third grade classes throughout the city. Other people who have helped staff the Historymobile are: Trish Fletcher and Joan Detjens. The success of this project was due primarily to the efforts of the above named individuals. A certificate was also presented to Arthur Henry and family for the bequest of Maitland Henry's collection of Livermore memorabilia. Maitland was the editor of the Livermore Herald for many years and his collection will add greatly to the research and study of Livermore's past.

Chet and Henri Fankhauser reported a net profit of \$3500 from this year's Auction held at the Duarte Garage. This is a new record for the Auction. The Guild wishes to thank Chet and Henri along with Lyn Owens, auctioneer, for their efforts and for this year's success.

Janet Newton recently celebrated her 80th birthday. Janet was a founding member and past President of the Livermore Heritage Guild. The entire Board wishes Janet a happy 80th.

If anyone has a few hours to spare and would like to man the Historymobile, PLEASE contact Marilyn Calhoun at 447-2926. You don't need to be an authority on the history of Livermore as the displays are all explained in detail and cheat sheets are provided for the docents.

Barbara Bunshah wants to know: Does anybody have a script from Mr. Stanley's Spanish III class? It was written in the spring of 1942 and the play was called "The Courtship of Robert Livermore". If anyone has any information, PLEASE call Barbara Bunshah at 449-9927.

Excerpted from the Pen Pictures from the Garden of the World (Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1891)

William M. Mendenhall was born in Ohio in 1823. His father was a farmer. In 1845, in company with

12 other men, he made the journey across the plains to California, arriving at Sutter's Fort on Christmas Day. He went to SF and then to the redwoods behind Oakland where he worked at making shingles for \$5 per 1000. When war broke out with Meixco, he joined the U.S. forces under Fremont. Afterwards he did some farming in Santa Clara County. Then went to Oregon but soon came back. He raised stock on a farm in Contra Costa County and then bought 650 acres of land in the Livermore Valley. He gave twenty acres of land and the right of way to the Central Pacific Railroad. He gave 2 lots and \$100 to the Methodists, to the Presbyterians 12 lots, for a grist mill site five acres, to John Aylward a half block of land as an inducement to bring water into the town in 1871, land for a college and a loan of money for a fine building. (The grist mill was destroyed by fire in 1885). Mr. Mendenhall has also been one of the chief promoters of the Livermore Gas Company's works and is now President of that Corporation. He is a member of the American Legion of Honor, Livermore Council, no. 1070. He was married in 1847 to Mary Allen at Santa Clara. They have had ten children, of whom nine are living.



"Help Save Yesterday for Tomorrow"

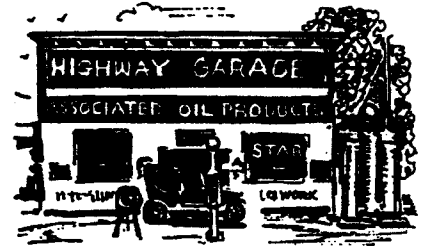
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AUGUST 1991 Vol. XIX No. 10

CALENDAR

August 8, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

August 18, Sunday, 10:30-3:00
Art & History in the Park
Carnegie Park (Red Flower Sunday)

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

A historic research project is currently underway on the Livermore Naval Air Station and the Heritage Guild has been asked to participate. We would be interested in talking with anybody who has served at the Air Station during its existence. A response is needed by August 15 – please contact Barbara Bunshah at 449-9927 or evenings at 447-5065 as soon as possible.

Interview with Hilma Wentte Hagemann
by Chet Fankhauser

Not often does the hobby of a former president of the Bank of America impact the players of several Little League baseball clubs around the Valley.

Here in Livermore in the early 1950's, the woodworking hobby of Carl F. Wentte, retired president of the Bank of America directly helped our Little League players with presents of repaired baseball bats from the famous San Francisco Giants baseball club.

Carl F. Wentte started his banking career here in Livermore at the old First National Bank then left and went with the Bank of Italy which later became the Bank of America. During his 45 year career, he progressed up the banking ladder and ended up as president of the Bank of America during the 1950's.

This interesting sidelight of local history came about through an interview with Hilma Wentte Hagemann. She showed me several examples of above average woodworking projects made by her brother Carl after he had retired from his career with the bank.

Mr. Wentte was a close friend of the San Francisco Giants mogul Louis Lurie, Sr., besides being an avid Giants fan. After discovering that bats damaged or broken during baseball games were being discarded, Mr. Wentte asked that the unusable bats be given to him for repair and recycling.

In his woodworking hobby shop at his home in San Francisco, Mr. Wenté restored the bats back into working order, and then set up a unique bat distribution system through several of his friends in the Valley. To receive one of the S. F. Giant's bats, a Little League organization had to earn the present by some special activity or achievement. Here in Livermore, banker Joe Callaghan was the local distributor for the Livermore Little League Club.

From pieces of broken bats, Mr. Wenté also turned out pepper grinders with special German made inserts. About a dozen of these grinders were made and presented to family members and friends. Each highly polished piece was carefully initialled with a CFW registry mark.

Another special project of Mr. Wenté was his series of skillfully made wood backed jig saw puzzles. About 200 puzzles were meticulously cut from plywood pieces covered with Norman Rockwell Saturday Evening Post magazine covers or landscape prints collected by members of the family. About 100 of these delightful puzzles were given to the Veteran's Administration Hospital in San Francisco.

Members of the Wenté family were encouraged to eat See's chocolates and save the boxes for Carl.

These boxes were ideal containers for his puzzles. His wife maintained a library card file of puzzles that could be checked out by friends or family. About 112 of the puzzles still exist as family treasures.

The jig saw puzzle Hilma showed me was carefully labelled "Trout Fishing in the North West" with a date of October 10, 1969 on the title label sticker and consisted of 233 pieces. The wood puzzle pieces were interspersed with one inch figures of birds, animals and flowers - each an integral part of the interlocking puzzle.

Other examples of his accomplished woodworking hobby included contributory bowls made for Livermore churches; 3 ring puzzles that slide apart worked in black walnut and oak; chains of 15 wooden links all made from a single piece of wood, and inlaid wooden bowls made from several layers of different kinds of hardwood.

After viewing the quality of these family treasures, it was apparent that Mr. Wenté was not only a successful banker but also a superb craftsman.



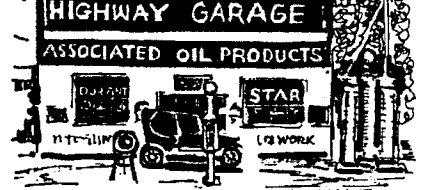
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SEPTEMBER 1991 Vol. XIX No. 11

CALENDAR

Ravenswood Fall Festival
September 7, Saturday, 10-4
Free (373-5700 for more information)

September 12, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
LHG Board Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

October 5 & 6, Saturday & Sunday, 10-5
Festival '91
Civic Center, S. Livermore Avenue

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR LHG MEMBERSHIP. YOUR DUES HELP US OPERATE THE HISTORY CENTER AND MAINTAIN OUR EXHIBITS AND PUBLICATIONS. IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS DUE FOR RENEWAL A COUPON IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER.

Muriel and Philip Dean have been working feverishly on the Lincoln Highway Cottage to include having carpet installed, Philip installing louvered doors, and Muriel making and hanging new drapes.

The following is excerpted from the Centennial edition from the History of St. Michael's Parish. The church was built in 1890-91 (site was where Kinney Shoe Store is now standing on Old First Street, formerly known as the community of Laddsville) and burned down on August 4, 1916.

The Gothic Church Burns

Maria (Vargas) Azevedo tells what happened:

"I remember the church fire. If I close my eyes I can still see the waves of smoke, feel the summer heat, and smell the burning wood and grass. When the old church on First Street began to burn, and the fire bells started to ring, everyone within hearing and smelling distance came out of their homes to see what was happening. Volunteer firemen were running in from all directions. I lived at 280 North Livermore Avenue, and I was caring for a sick, 3 month old baby, my first child. It was a hot, humid day, and the baby was so uncomfortable I had removed most of her clothing. Holding her in my arms, I came across the field (now Chestnut and I Streets) and looked up to see clouds of smoke floating upward. There were fields of grass in the area where the present Junction Avenue School is, and everyone was running over to help the firemen.

"Having come to America only two years previously, I did not speak English very well, and it was a few minutes before I realized that all the soot and smoke was coming from the church where I had been married and where my baby had been baptized. I was a young woman, then, far away from home, and trying to understand a new world; the church was my link with my past. The church burned down. My baby died. I remember vividly the events of that time. It was a very bad time for me.

"A new church was built. I had other children. In June 1978, I was 86 years old. But I remember the church fire. If I close my eyes, I can still see the waves of smoke, feel the summer heat, and smell the burning wood and grass. I can still feel the loneliness of being in a new country, and I can still feel the pain of losing my first baby."

The church fire was the most serious Livermore had experienced, destroying property worth about \$30,000. During the fire some high school students rushed in to salvage what they could. Mary "Meime" (Azevedo) Borges carried out one of the angels alongside the altar; and someone else saved the other. Father McKinnon removed the Blessed Sacrament.

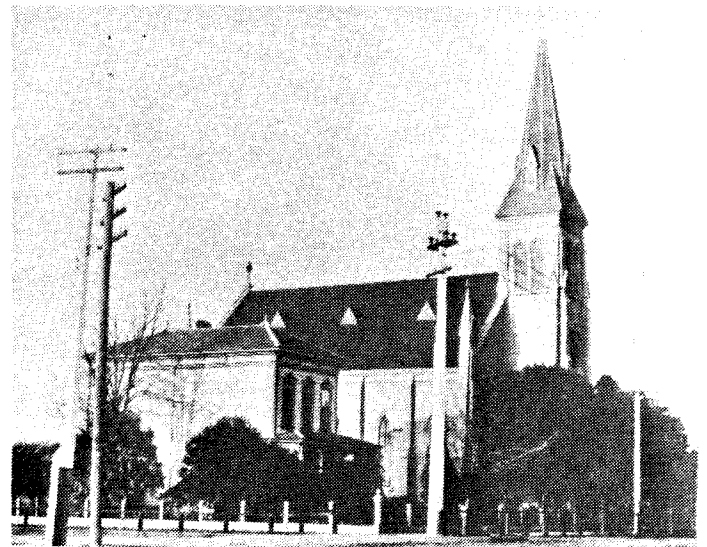
The exact cause of the fire was never determined. Some say that the blaze broke out in a motor box in the planning mill of Horton and Kennedy. Burning shingles were carried by the wind toward St. Michael's Church, and embers lodged in the church roof and the 148 foot high steeple beyond the reach of the fire hose. Fire fighters could not reach the roof to use buckets to extinguish the flames, because the hook-and-ladder truck did not have long enough ladders. In a few minutes the roof was a mass of flames, the burned out steeple collapsed into the body of the church, and the building could not be saved.

The rectory caught fire several times, but, by using the hand-engine, the firemen were able to pump enough pressure into their hoses to save the parish house. (In 1922, the rectory was sold to Owen Rogers, a parishioner. Much later, the rectory was demolished to make way for Kinney's Shoe Store). The fire then spread to the home of the Moys, which burned to the ground in a few minutes. Fire caught in dozens of other roofs in Laddsville, but the hundreds of volunteer fire fighters, hard at work with hose, buckets, and wet sacks, prevented any other buildings from burning.

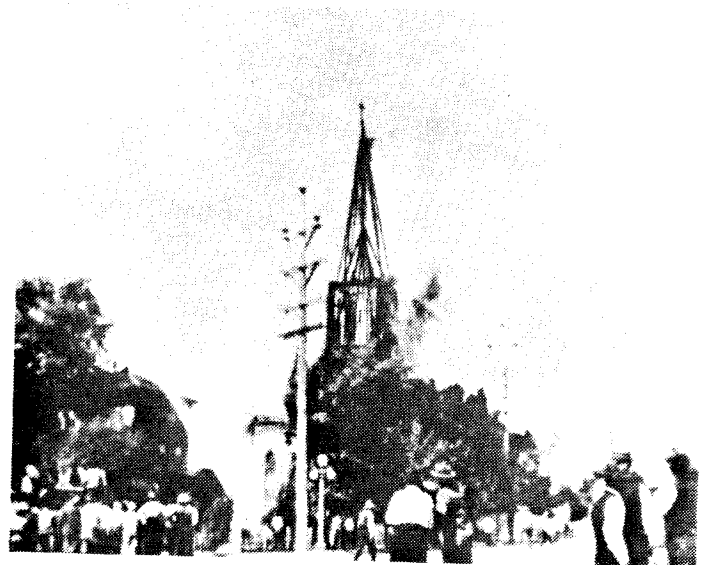
Fritz Kelly and his father, John C., of Junction Avenue were not at the site at the time, but when they approached in their buggy, Fritz said, "The mill is gone!" to which his father replied "The church is gone!"

Plans for New Church

Once again the first little church, built in 1872 and used as a parish hall since 1891, overflowed during Sunday Masses. The insurance on the burned church was only \$10,000. Father McKinnon, his assistant pastor, Father McNamara, and a committee of parishioners and citizens set about quickly to arrange construction of a new church. They decided to rebuild on a new site at Fourth and Maple Streets, adjacent to the newly opened parish school, St. Michael's Academy.



St. Michael's Church ca. 1916 before the fire



St. Michael's Church after the fire