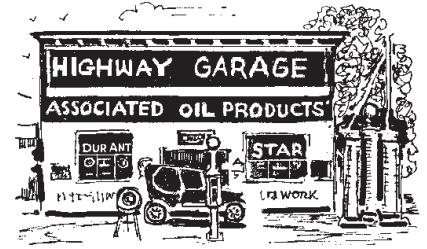


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LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD



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" *HELP SAVE YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW* "

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October 2000

Vol. XXX

No. 1

CALENDAR

Thursday, October 12 @ 7:00 p.m.
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Annual General Meeting,
Livermore Airport Terminal Bldg.
Friday, October 20, 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: Anne Homan "Morgan Territory"

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Livermore Heritage Guild will hold its Annual General Meeting on Friday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m. The speaker will be Anne Homan who is working on the history of Morgan Territory. The meeting will be held at the Livermore Airport main terminal bldg. This should be a very interesting presentation and we hope to see you all there.

Livermore Herald, November 17, 1939

County Superintendent Explains New Teaching Plan, Markings

Reasons behind the new teaching methods in the lower classes at the Livermore grammar school, in common with the other schools of the county, and the methods of marking are explained in an article written for The Herald by County Superintendent of Schools, E.E. Muller of Oakland.

The article was written at the request of The Herald following recent distribution of report cards at the schools,

the first under the new plan, and resultant difficulties among parents in attempting to understand the new methods, particularly the plan of using new ratings on the report cards. The county superintendent says:

Alameda County's new primary report card has gone home for the first time. As an aftermath, these questions have been voiced: "Why levels instead of grades? Why 'satisfactory', 'unsatisfactory', and 'outstanding' instead of the old marks of 'A, B, and C' or 75% and 100%".

Alameda County schools, like many other progressive counties and cities, have abolished "grades" during the first three years. In the place of these grades, we have eight levels of progress. These levels are necessary because all children are different and no one course of study or book will fit all of them. They may all be six years old when they came to school, but they differ as much in mental development as they do in height and weight. Then, too, they grow differently—some getting ready to read much earlier than others. Some children are ready to read when they come to school and others are not ready for several weeks or months. Often the child who develops slowly at first, outstrips the one who is ahead of him in the beginning. There is no pattern for growing either mentally or physically—each child does it in his own way.

The purpose, then, of the levels is to provide enough groups in the first three years so that every child may find his level and grow normally and happily. With this plan, he may slip from group to group as fast as he is able to go, at any time in the school year, never meeting failure. If at the end of a semester, he is not ready to go to the next level, he is given more work on the same level, but he never has to repeat that which he has once done. This prevents the

discouragement, which follows repeating a grade.

This system should prevent children from getting into the fourth grade without being able to read, and should reduce the great number of repeaters that are found everywhere in primary grades.

The new report card lists all of the levels and checks the one where your child is. His work is satisfactory on this level, or he would not be there.

Since all of a child's experience at these levels contributes to growth in reading, that subject alone is graded. We read at these levels number stories, science stories, health stories, art stories, etc., and so study all subjects through reading.

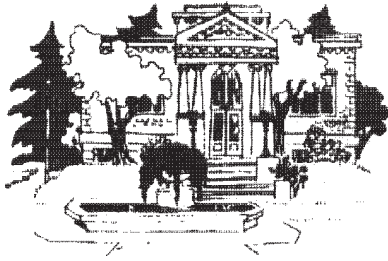
The old report card compared one child's achievement

with another's, in terms of perfection. The new card grades the growth of each individual.

"Satisfactory" means that the pupil is doing the best work his ability will permit. "Unsatisfactory" means that he is not doing as good work as he is physically, mentally, and emotionally able to do. "Outstanding" means that his achievement is superior to that of normal children.

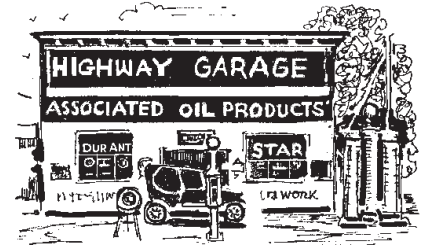
The old report card considered book learning alone; the new one grades not only reading, but health, effort, habits of thought, the ability to get along with people, and other attributes of citizenship.

Let's give the new system a trial – like your new automobile, it might work better than your old one.



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November 2000

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No. 2

land airport or Mills Field in San Francisco, gives it an important place in the system.

CALENDAR

Thursday, November 9 @ 7:00 p.m.
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Sunday, December 3
Holiday Expressions & Calendar Madness
LAA Gallery & Livermore Heritage Guild
12-3 p.m. @ Carnegie Bldg., 3rd and J Streets
Fine arts and crafts, unique gifts, Heritage Guild 2001 calendar

Sunday, December 10, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Ravenswood Victorian-era Christmas party
Decorations, entertainment, horse and carriage rides, handicraft area, St. Nicholas, food and beverages, gift shop will be open. 2647 Arroyo Rd., Livermore
Regular tours second Sunday of each month.
Info: 443-0238

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Excerpted from Livermore Herald, May 18, 1928

Livermore Airport Weather Station Signal System Will Give Data to Pilots

The Livermore airport took on added importance when an announcement was made Tuesday that it is one of the most important stations on the Oakland-Los Angeles air route concerned with the new weather observation plan which is soon to be put into effect. Livermore's strategic location as the last emergency landing field before reaching the Oak-

Service Established

The weather observation service is being put into operation by the U.S. Department of Commerce, which has established an airways division of the U.S. Weather Bureau, with western headquarters in San Francisco. D.W. Little, meteorologist of the department, has arrived in San Francisco to organize the service, which will include thirty-five stations between San Diego and Seattle at which weather data will be collected for the information of pilots.

Livermore Station Important

At Livermore will be what is known as a "panel station". Aviators passing over these stations can read, by means of a code signal system on the ground, the latest weather data. A pilot flying over Livermore en route to the bay city terminals can learn at a glance whether there is any fog at Mills Field, Crissy Field, Concord or Oakland airport. Should he deem conditions in the bay city adverse to permit landing, he can stop in Livermore. A similar station will be located at Redding.

At Medford and Bakersfield it is planned to have "flag stops" where aviators can be signaled to come down if conditions over the mountain range are dangerous. Mail planes will push through regardless of weather, but passenger-carrying planes will be instructed to stop before crossing the ranges in bad weather.

The information these local observers furnish will be gathered at a few "control stations" and in turn sent to San Francisco for study and for working into forecasts. At

present weather forecasts for air pilots will be furnished in accordance with their flying schedules, but later on will be made every three hours, day and night, with special information in case unforeseen storms or emergencies arise.

“The establishment of this service”, Little explains, “will be of great benefit to Pacific Coast airways which are considered among the most hazardous in America. This is due to the high mountain ranges being close to the ocean.

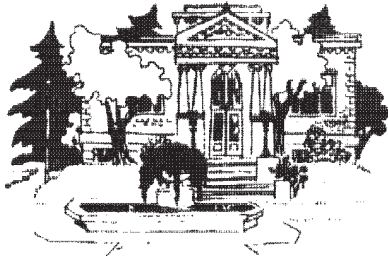
Ranges Present Hazards

“Traveling between Los Angeles and Seattle a flyer has to go ‘over the Alps’ four times. The lowest of these four ranges is twice as high as the highest range between

Chicago and New York. Of course, there are higher ranges in the Rockies, but flying conditions there are much better than on the Coast.

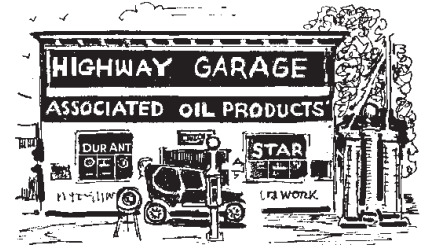
Between Mount Shasta and Redding, a distance of seventy-five miles, there is only one landing field and that none too good. The country is so rugged that there is no place for a landing field. Recently one of the aviators asked that two tall trees be cut down, as he could hardly brush by flying between them up a canyon.

“Through such a country as this it is necessary for pilots to have up to the minute weather data, and the government will try to furnish it. Great care will be taken in selecting weather observers because on their reports may depend the lives of the pilots.”



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December 2000

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No. 3

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

CALENDAR

Friday, December 15 @ 7:00 p.m.

LHG Board meeting (check at Carnegie Bldg. for location)

Sunday, December 3

Holiday Expressions & Calendar Madness

LAA Gallery & Livermore Heritage Guild

12-3 p.m. @ Carnegie Bldg., 3rd and J Streets

Fine arts and crafts, unique gifts, Heritage Guild 2001 calendar

Sunday, December 10, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ravenswood Victorian-era Christmas party

Decorations, entertainment, horse and carriage rides, handicraft area, St. Nicholas, food and beverages, gift shop will be open. 2647 Arroyo Rd., Livermore

Regular tours second Sunday of each month.

Info: 443-0238

ALL MONTH IN DECEMBER

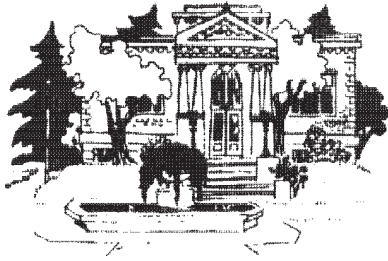
The Livermore Art Association and Livermore Heritage Guild invite visitors to view changing displays and find unique gifts. Carnegie Bldg.

Wed. through Sunday 11:30 to 4:00 p.m.

This year's calendar features photographs by various Livermore photographers from the 1870s to today. This is the first work that has ever been compiled of early photographers in Livermore whose work you might find in old family photo albums or local antique stores. It identifies when they were in business and a brief history. Also represented are photographers who have contributed to documenting Livermore's more recent history. The calendar contains some lovely photographs and makes a great Christmas gift and will be available in quantity on Wed., December 6.

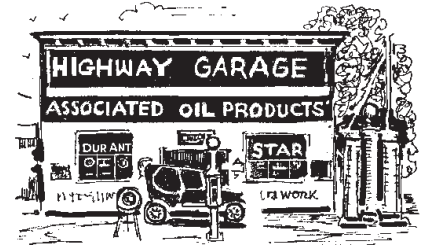
Some of the other publications available: Livermore 1883 maps (reproduction) at \$7.50 including tax, Livermore Heritage Guild mugs at \$9.00 including tax, Gary Drummond's book "Klondike News" (story of Livermore residents in the Alaskan gold rush) for \$14.02 including tax, and "Tesla" by Dan Mosier at \$32.42 including tax.

Don't forget to buy your 2001 Livermore Heritage Guild calendar. This year's calendar features photographs by various local photographers both past and present. These calendars make a great stocking stuffer.



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January 2001

Vol. XXX

No. 4

CALENDAR

Thursday, January 11 @ 7:00 p.m.
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

January 17 to February 28

"Love is in the Air", a Valentine challenge, is presented by the members of the Livermore Art Association Gallery. Unique valentines and paintings for viewing and purchase at the Carnegie Bldg.

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Don't forget to buy your 2001 Heritage Guild Calendar. This year's calendar features photographs by various Livermore Photographers from the 1870s to today. This is the first work that has ever been compiled of early photographers in Livermore whose work you might find in old family photo albums or local antique stores. It identifies when they were in business and a brief history. Also represented are photographers who have contributed to documenting Livermore's more recent history. Cost: \$8.50 each.



Excerpted from Livermore Herald June 20, 1914

Livermore Valley is Ideal Spot for Home

Bankers' Journal has Fine Descriptive Article in Special Number

A valley of homes not mere places to live, but homes that stick in your memory like beautiful, satisfying pictures.

Livermore Valley claims a distinction over any other part of the State as the ideal spot for a home.

Its climate is unsurpassed anywhere on the Pacific coast, neither too hot nor too cold, neither too damp nor too dry—just the golden mean that people are seeking.

Livermore Valley has a central location. Within a radius of fifty miles from Livermore are found the most populous centers of the State.

This makes it an ideal location for the factory or business that requires the supplying of a great number of people with the greatest dispatch or for the small farmer whose perishable products must find a ready, ample and convenient market.

Livermore Valley is traversed by two transcontinental railway systems, the Southern Pacific and the Western Pacific, and two cross-valley trolley lines are projected, both connecting the populous centers of population on the shores of San Francisco bay with the interior valleys of the State and will doubtless be in operation in 1916.

The soil is varied in character and adapted to a great variety of crops. The homemaker has a wide range of choice along which to direct his energies and experience.

A comfortable living is assured. Success and competence will be measured by the amount of intelligence and industry applied along any line selected. Farming, fruit growing or

stock raising responds to intelligent effort and nowhere in the Golden West is conscientious labor more richly rewarded.

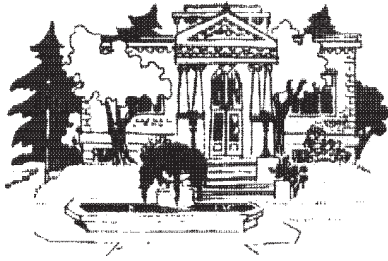
Land is still reasonable in price as compared with surrounding districts. Conditions generally warrant a careful investigation by the homeseeker, the factor owner or any one seeking a new location amid attractive surroundings.

There are hundreds of picturesque home sites in the adjoining foothills for the man of moderate means. The State highway connecting the magnificent Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys with the centers of population in the Oakland and bay districts has already been located through the Livermore Valley. This means that the many thousands

of visitors to the Panama-Pacific Exposition will find their way to Livermore, Stockton, Sacramento and Fresno over this most beautiful scenic route.

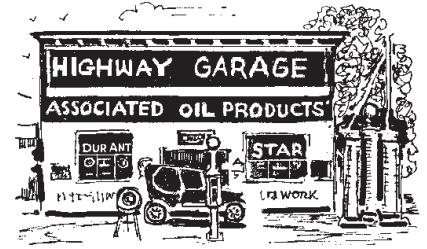
Livermore is abreast of the times in educational facilities, the Livermore Union High School being the first school in the State established under the act of the Legislature.

Churches of nearly every denomination are represented. If you once get in touch with the cordial spirit of Livermore, once see the beautiful valley set in an amphitheatre of wooded hills fanned by the cooling breezes of the Pacific, once get in touch with the opportunities to "make a living and plus", there is no question as to the outcome. You will settle down and become a permanent Livermorean.



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February 2001

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No. 5

Excerpted from Livermore Herald, October 7, 1967

CALENDAR

Thursday, March 8 @ 7:00 p.m.
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Saturday, March 10 **9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
Livermore Heritage Guild **GARAGE SALE**
Duarte Garage, corner of Portola and North L St.
Lots of good stuff!

January 17 to February 28
"Love is in the Air", a Valentine challenge, is presented by the members of the Livermore Art Association Gallery. Unique valentines and paintings for viewing and purchase at the Carnegie Bldg.

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Don't forget to buy your 2001 Heritage Guild Calendar. This year's calendar features photographs by various Livermore photographers from the 1870s to today. Cost: \$8.50 each.

We are looking for donations for this year's **LHG AUCTION**. The auction will be upon us soon. Donations of goods and services are greatly appreciated. All usable items will be accepted except books, clothing and furniture (unless considered antique). Unfortunately, computer equipment not working or more than 4 years old also cannot be accepted. Time to clean out those garages and let us help you dispose of those items that need a new home. Phone 449-9927 for pickup. This has been a fun event for everyone and we look forward to seeing you at the auction!

Third Oil Showing In Area

LIVERMORE: Nestled in the scrubby hills east of Livermore -- halfway to LRL's site 300 -- is an oil well.

Geologist Kit Heffelfinger, for Trico Oil and Gas Co., reported yesterday the hole on E.J. Mulqueeny property has oil in it. It bottomed out early yesterday at 5,020 feet and logging was under way yesterday afternoon.

The Trico-Mulqueeny well makes the third oil showing this week. Two others reported yesterday were McCulloch Oil Corp. on May Nissen property and E.C. Brown Petroleum Co. on Robert Frick property on Lupin Way.

Three other wells now are producing -- all drilled by McCulloch. However, they are all in one field within a quarter of a mile of each other.

The site is a half mile east of the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory on Patterson Pass Road. The Trico-Mulqueeny well is the first to show oil so far from the McCulloch sites.

The Brown-Lupin Investment No. 2 on Frick's property is approximately a mile from McCulloch's wells. Trico-Mulqueeny is about five miles away. By road, it is 10 miles out Tesla Road.

The only other oil drilling aside from the McCulloch field area was on Cross Rd. on Graham Nissen property earlier this year. McBurney Oil and Gas went to 5,000 feet before abandoning.

Actual production ability cannot be determined until pumping equipment is installed and oilmen are reluctant to make public guesses of a well's capability.

The three McCulloch wells and their daily pumping figures are: McCulloch-Greenville No. 1: 45 barrels a day; McCulloch-Greenville No. 2: 40 barrels a day; McCulloch-Nissen No. 2: 125 barrels a day. (McCulloch-Nissen No. 1 was a dry hole.)

Excerpted from Livermore Herald, October 1967

Livermore Valley Oil Boom Recalls Gushers
of Yesteryear
by M.R. Henry

Following the recent activity in oil discoveries in the Livermore Valley the Herald & News, beginning today, is publishing a four-part series on the history of Valley oil exploration. M.R. Henry, former publisher of this newspaper, has prepared the articles which will be accompanied by photos related to the early oil efforts.

Calhoma, Independence, W.M.&S., 15/3 and Alisal are names which come floating back through the mists of time, a half century and more, reviving memories of early attempts at oil development in the Livermore Valley.

The recent activity again brings the hope and possibility of a Livermore oil field to the front.

No less than 25 wells were drilled between 1900 and 1947. Those attracting the most attention, were put down from 1900 to 1929. All showed hopeful signs and some actually produced oil but none in paying quantities. This latest development, starting 10 months ago, comes after some 20 years of inactivity.

All the search for oil was carried on in the face of adverse testimony by two of the most famous names in geology in California.

In his history of the Livermore Valley, published in the Livermore Herald in 1936, the late Elmer G. Still, former Livermore city clerk, quoted Clarence King, an early day California geologist, as saying when he visited the Valley in 1885: "Oil will never be found in this vicinity in paying quantities because the underground strata being so inclined that the oil drains toward the San Joaquin Valley and cannot accumulate here."

While the reason for making the statement is not known, it was probably in answer to questions about a well bored in 1875 on the James Brown place, five miles northeast of Livermore. Some oil was found, the first recorded oil well in the Valley.

Col. M.M. Ogden, an important figure in Livermore oil development, said in 1911 in a statement on the possibility of striking oil here: "It has been said by Professor LeConte that we would never find oil of a parafine base in California. But it has been found at Livermore."

All these early wells were shallow – 1,500 feet and less. Four were between 500 and 1,000 feet deep and three less than 500. Lack of adequate machinery and financial difficulties were primary reasons for not going deeper.

An area just north of Tesla Road, about five miles southeast of Livermore in the Altamont hills, Section 15, Township 3 South, Range 3 East, was the favored spot for drilling. Well sites were located at or near spots in canyons where oil seepages were visible. Ten of the 25 early wells were located on Section 15.

One of the deepest wells, however, was several miles further east – the Daisy, half a mile east of Midway. It reached a depth of 3,100 feet.

Another, one of the latest and deepest, was on the Hansen property near the corner of Arroyo Road and Marina Avenue, several miles to the west. The Tesla Coal Company found seepages in 1901 in Corral Hollow near the mouth of Mitchell Ravine, and drilled two wells further north on the Livermore-Tesla Road.

Work was carried on at intervals up to 1906. The company had strong faith in the Tesla area as an oil field and planned to sink a third well, but this project never materialized.

Standard Oil Company put down two wells near Altamont, several miles to the north, and Coast Exploration Company went to 3,496 feet a mile southeast of the Daisy, both on the east slope of the hills.

While the concentration of wells was on Section 15, abandoned holes dot the extensive area from Altamont on the north to Corral Hollow on the south, and from Midway to Arroyo Road, a mile south of Livermore on the west. In addition, there were prospects discovered and, in several instances, wells put down in the Pleasanton-Dublin-Tassajara area.

Any little seepage or other sign of oil was a temptation to wildcatters; and, whenever they could raise a few dollars to get started a well went down. Each failure was followed by another on several wells. Hope never died.

The latest era of the early period found wells drilled close to the present strike. Bulletin 140, State Division of Mines, issued in 1948 gives this information:

“In 1944, a well being drilled for water on the Hiefner ranch... encountered sand at depth of 241 feet from which a heavy oil-water emulsion was baled. This oil showing led Bradford and Guardino in 1945 to drill a shallow well adjacent to the abandoned water well to a depth of about 500 feet. This well was abandoned and presumably they obtained comparable showings.

“In the spring of 1947, a water well drilled on the ranch of Mingoia Brothers near the northwest quarter of the same section was abandoned because of oil showings. A successful water well was then drilled about 1,000 feet southwest of the abandoned well.”

Regarding the general possibilities the bulletin says: “A few oil seeps, a small amount of produced medium gravity oil and about 25 abandoned wells make a short story of the unsuccessful search for an economic accumulation of oil or gas in the Tesla quadrangle. Almost half of these ventures were shallow cable-tool holes drilled prior to 1912. The largest concentration of wells is near some old seeps on the Hamilton Ranch...”

Actual well borings were for the most part honest attempts to secure oil. Faith based on showings was deemed sufficiently promising to justify work and expenditure of money. Qualified drillers were brought in from proven fields. Several of the large oil companies were interested and one, Standard, made two attempts in the early days.

But the other aspects were typical of wildcatting. Delays were frequent and sometimes long lasting, due either to shortage of funds or breakdowns. Thomas and Hammil started a well – the “15/3” – in 1926 but it was shut down from mid-1927 to August 1928 because of a money shortage.



Old Independence Oil Company Rig

The 15/3 was shut down again for a month in 1901 when a driller died suddenly and for another month in March 1902, when the derrick was blown away by a heavy gale. These disasters proved minor, however, when a few months later the drilling tools were lost in the well. They were not recovered for more than a year. Drilling resumed July 1, 1903.

Another well—the Independence—was scheduled to start in June 1910, when Col. Ogden located the site. It had not

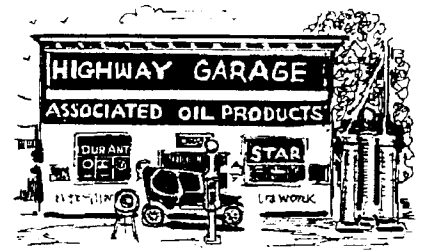
started by October. In December, heavy rains made roads impassable and all work was stopped. When work finally was resumed, a heavier derrick was chosen and drilling did not get underway until November 1911.

Machinery breakdowns were common and it was often necessary to secure replacement parts from Bakersfield or Los Angeles. (to be continued in March newsletter)



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March 2001

Vol. XXX

No. 6

CALENDAR

Thursday, March 8 @ 7:00 p.m.

LHG Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

March 1st-30th

Splash of Spring, watercolor paintings by Livermore
Art Association Artist of the Month

Linda Jeffery Sailors

LAA Gallery, 3rd and K St., Livermore

Reception at LAA Gallery

Sunday, March 4th 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 10 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Livermore Heritage Guild **GARAGE SALE**

Duarte Garage, corner of Portola and North L St.

Lots of good stuff!

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

We are looking for donations for this year's **LHGAUC-TION**. The auction will be upon us soon. Donations of goods and services are greatly appreciated. All usable items will be accepted except books, clothing and furniture (unless considered antique). Unfortunately, computer equipment not working or more than 4 years old also cannot be accepted. Time to clean out those garages and let us help you dispose of those items that need a new home. Phone 449-9927 for pickup. This has been a fun event for everyone and we look forward to seeing you at the auction!

Pssst, Buddy----

Wanna give your sweetheart a
one-of-a-kind St. Patrick's Day gift??

Shop at the Livermore Heritage Guild's

GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE

Duarte Garage, Pine and North L,

Saturday, March 10, 2001

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Excerpted from Livermore Herald, October 17, 1967

Bitter Disappointment

Livermore Had Hopes for 'Darling' Oil Well

by M.R. Henry

The Alisal was the Livermore favorite of all the wells put down in what was called the "Livermore oil field."

"Darling" or "sweetheart" could well be better terms to describe the affection which this well had in the community.

Although not organized here and not originally financed here, actual drilling operations were under control of Livermore men and financed by Livermore capital. It was drilled at the time when hopes were highest, following some nine years of experimental drilling, all of which gave promise. Although small—population 2,030 in 1910—Livermore was progressive and aggressive and wanted to grow faster than it could expect with farming and cattle raising as its principal means of support.

At the time, the very life of the town appeared to depend on striking oil. It is impossible today to make understandable the intense hope which prevailed. The Alisal was looked to as the well which would produce oil, lead to the development of the field and make Livermore another Signal Hill or Coalinga, then the leading oil producing sections. A strong point was that Livermore men were in charge and they were men in which the town had confidence.

The Alisal failed, although it was the only well which produced oil which was actually used. Five barrels a day was used to fire the boilers of the W.M.&S. drilled nearby. With it, the dreams of a Livermore oil field faded away, to be followed by skepticism. However, there was always an underlying hope that some day oil would be struck and a field developed. This same hope has persisted to this day on the part of those who experienced the hopes and disappointments of the Alisal and 24 other wells sunk between 1900 and 1947.

The log of the Alisal may be taken as fairly typical of most of the other early wells, but from a drilling standpoint only, not from the manner in which its financing and management were handled. Livermore capital was only a minor factor in the others.

Drillers continually spoke hopefully of the bright prospects as the bit went down, and likewise continually had breakdowns, lost their tools in the well and suffered delays for many other reasons.

The log as the public knew it is reproduced here from the files of the Livermore Herald, indicative of the anticipation, the eager hope and final bitter disappointment:

March 8, 1909 – Livermore Oil Company formed at a meeting in San Francisco. Capital stock set at \$1,000,000. Plan to drill on Section 15, Township 3 South, Range 3 East, near the old 15-3 well.

May 29: Leases on 2,000 acres in Townsend district secured.

June 19: Test well is started.

July 24: Test drilling completed, finding oil sand at shallow depth.

August 7: Contract let with G. S. Mendenhall as driller. Work to start with Keystone rig but full standard outfit to be used when well reached depth of 1,000 feet. Casing to be 14 inches in diameter to start.

September 4: Drilling at 75 feet.

October 23: Oil bearing shale located at 250 feet.

January 15, 1910: Work retarded by lack of funds. Livermore men being interested in company to secure capital. W. J. Connell, high school principal H.B. Varney, banker, and H.P. Winegar, merchant, all of Livermore, to act as directors.

January 21: Livermore people in full control. M.G. Callaghan, insurance man and later postmaster, elected secretary.

February 12: Drilling resumed.

February 25: Trace of oil reported at 532 feet.

March 5: Bailer bringing up several gallons of oil from 600 feet. Well shut down because of machinery breakdown, replacement being ordered from Los Angeles. Stock selling at 10 cents a share.

March 12: New part arrived but well had caved in for 200 feet during shutdown and this portion has to be redrilled.

March 19: Drill through caved in section. Work again delayed due to changing casing to 7 5/8 inch diameter.

March 26: Strong gas encountered at 635 feet. Well shut down waiting arrival of an under reamer from Bakersfield. Oil was trickling down from behind casing.

August 28: Pumping started, 20 barrels of oil being taken from well and used as fuel for boiler. Sand filled the hole for several hundred feet, packing so tightly it would have to be drilled out.

October 8: Financial difficulties surmounted. Sand to be drilled.

October 15: Sixty feet of sand removed and well back on pump. Oil stream from pump small but increasing.

October 22: Pumping. Sand occasionally clogging pump.

November 5: Sale of stock authorized to finance purchase of standard rig and drilling of another well. Production from this well not sufficient to justify continuance of pumping but drillers felt that by drilling further back on the formation and deeper that good production could be obtained. Pumping five barrels a day. Oil used to fire boilers at both Alisal and W.M.&S. and as a demonstration used tin cook stove in N.D. Dutcher & Son hardware store.

December 17: Sufficient funds subscribed to erect a standard rig on a new location but it was decided to postpone action until spring as roads to well were impassable due to heavy rains.

September 23, 1911: Paid its state license tax, renewed its leases and hoped to start drilling again.

September 30: Considered proposition from a driller to clean out well and develop oil which it produced, the directors being convinced this was not accurately determined when drilling had been stopped. The driller offered to take his pay in stock of the company.

October 21: Statement by Col. Ogden, who located the well, said Alisal was actually a test well. He spoke of it in the past tense, indicating no further activity could be expected.

December 16: History of well reviewed in San Francisco Call feature story on possibility of oil field at Livermore.

December 23: May renew activities.

March 23, 1912: Drilling plans failed after long delay and assessment of one-fifth of a cent a share levied.

April 6: Nearly all assessments paid.

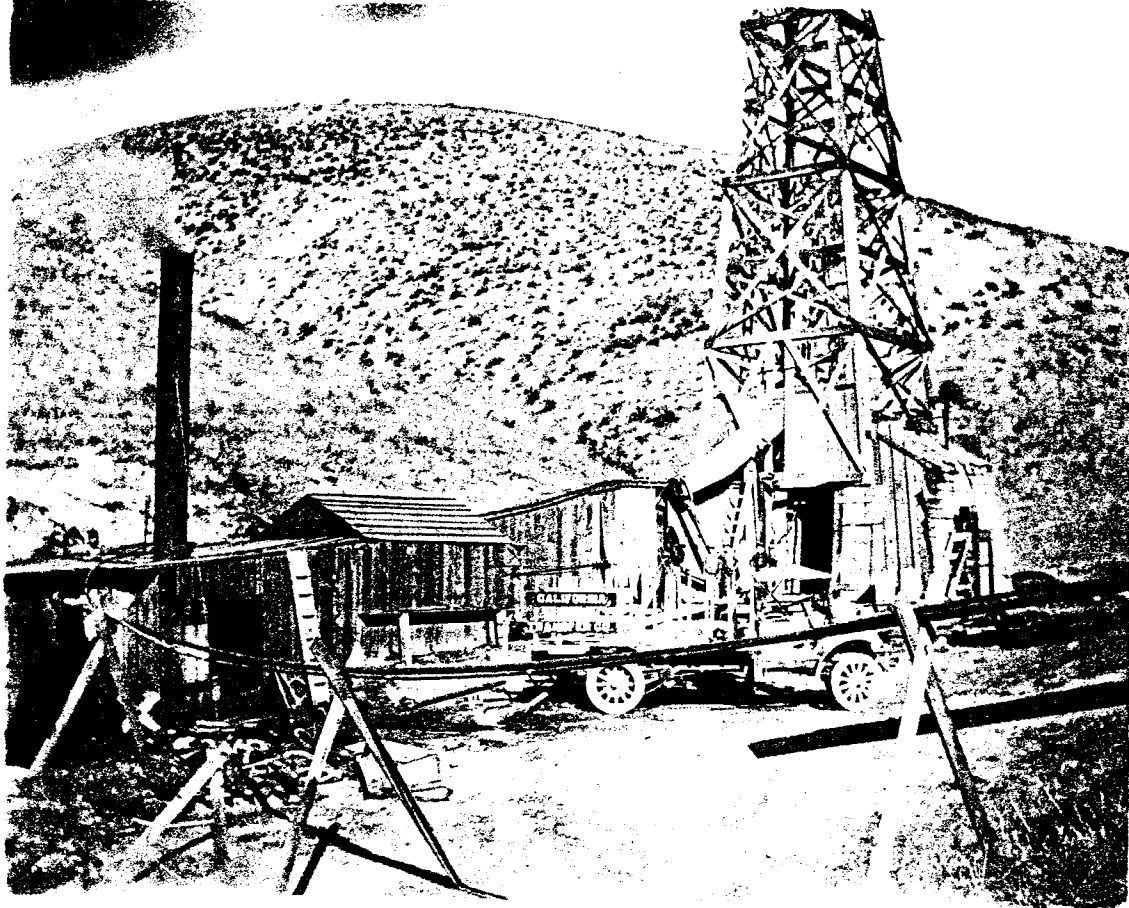
May 18: All bills paid, but affairs still upset.

February 1, 1913: Suit filed against Alisal, together with W.M.&S., Independence and Monterey Southern Oil Co. of San Francisco, by property owners holding leases demanding companies to abandon premises and remove all machinery within 90 days because of cessation of work. The Alisal had long before stopped all work.

Except for the strong local interest because of Livermore capital and management, this drilling log was typical of all the shallow wells—1,500 feet and less. Hope flared up and died down as drillers made optimistic announcements, then reported breakdowns, cave-ins, loss of tools and finally abandonment.

And yet, there is still evidence that there were grounds for faith. Bulletin 140 of the state division of mines reported on a study of the area by geologists in 1948. It said: "Oil-stained sand can still be seen in a tunnel about 500 feet below the Alisal well."

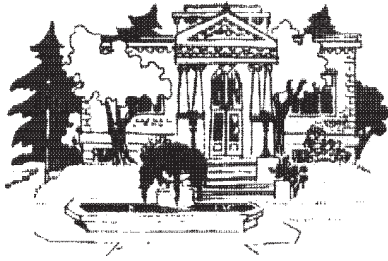
(Part 3 will be in May newsletter)



Hamilton Ranch 1912

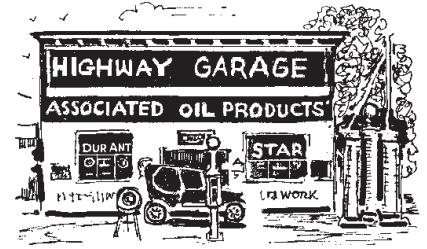
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JUNIOR \$3, LIFE \$150, PATRON \$100, SPONSOR \$25, LIBRARY \$5

April 2001

Vol. XXX

No. 7

Profit from LHG Garage Sale in March was over \$500!

CALENDAR

Thursday, April 12 @ 7:00 p.m.
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Excerpted from Livermore Herald, April 2, 1921

Saturday & Sunday, April 21 & 22

Livermore Art Association will be hosting the Spring Art Show at the Barn, Pacific Ave., Livermore
11 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days with a reception from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday evening

Observe Easter At Arroyo

Saturday, May 26 **Duarte Garage, Livermore Heritage Guild Annual Auction** and spaghetti dinner. Auction preview begins at 5 p.m., dinner starts at 6 p.m. and the **auction starts at 7 p.m.** Tickets for the dinner are \$6.00 and can be purchased in advance at the Carnegie Library Bldg. or at the door that night. This price includes spaghetti dinner, coffee and dessert. The auction itself is free.

Easter Sunday was celebrated at Arroyo with an entertainment given by the Alameda County Hospitals Federation, under the direction of Capt. W. I. Day and August Miller. The entertainment was one of the best ever given by this helpful organization and was a very complete affair, consisting of speeches by E.F. Garrison, county auditor, August Miller, Capt. Day, Dr. Jesse B. Schafhirt and Dr. Chesley Bush and musical selections by a large number of entertainers who journeyed out to Arroyo to make this occasion an enjoyable one for the patients.

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

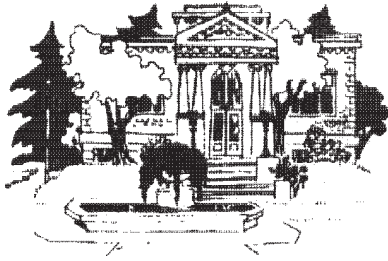
We are looking for donations for this year's LHG AUCTION. The auction will be upon us soon. Donations of goods and services are greatly appreciated. All usable items will be accepted except books, clothing and furniture (unless considered antique). Unfortunately, computer equipment not working or more than 4 years old also cannot be accepted. Time to clean out those garages and let us help you dispose of those items that need a new home. Phone 449-9927 for pickup. This has been a fun event for everyone and we look forward to seeing you at the auction!

The following report of the program is sent by our Arroyo correspondent: "The Hawaiian orchestra was first on the program, and gave us the latest thing in string music that was full of tantalizing tunes and weird notes. Jerry's jazz orchestra followed with a line of jazz that proved them to be past masters in the art of dispensing this brand of music.

"A violin solo by Miss Laura Warnock, accompanied by Miss Catherine Thornton, was loudly encored and had to be played all over again before the enthusiastic audience would be satisfied. Miss Thornton gave us something that was classical in her piano solo and was quite a change from the syncopated variety that comprised the balance of the program.

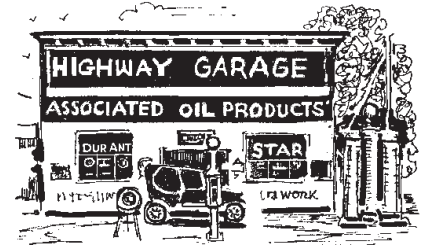
“Geo. A. Warnock touched our hearts with his sweet melody and had the large hall echoing with applause when he rendered “Mother Machree.” Mr. Davidson created bushels of mirth, with his catchy song, “She's Pretty and She Knows It.” Capt. Day concluded the performance by giving Easter service and preached a very impressive sermon on the Golden Rule, and how to apply it to everyday life.

“Songs and music were given for the patients in the infirmary who were unable to attend the services and each patient was presented with flowers and individual baskets of Easter eggs. The whole program was a great success and we are more than grateful to those who made this occasion possible.”



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May 2001

Vol. XXX

No. 8

CALENDAR

Thursday, May 10 @ 7:00 p.m.
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Saturday, May 26 **Duarte Garage, Livermore Heritage Guild Annual Auction** and spaghetti dinner. Auction preview begins at 5 p.m., dinner starts at 6 p.m. and the **auction starts at 7 p.m.** Tickets for the dinner are \$6.00 and can be purchased in advance at the Carnegie Library Bldg. or at the door that night. This price includes spaghetti dinner, coffee and dessert. The auction itself is free.

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Excerpted from Livermore Herald October 18, 1967
Oil in Livermore

Plans Were Only Dreams

By M.R. Henry (third in a series)

There are many interesting sidelights on the drilling operations and on companies which were formed but never passed the organization stage.

The Independence speeded up activity at its well in November, 1911, when it started hauling supplies with steam traction engines. These engines previously had been used to haul ore from the Red Mountain magnesite mines of Livermore over the Mines Road. They had two advantages: they could haul loads far in excess of those by horse-drawn wagons and they could operate over roads made muddy by rain, conditions which made hauling by teams impossible.

Two wells turned into producing water walls. The Southern Pacific secured water for its locomotives at

Altamont by pumping from the nearby Egan well of the Standard Oil Co. The Daisy well is capped and still produces water for livestock.

Women had their part in promotion. In March, 1912, Mrs. Ada Clement of Oakland, one of the organizers of the Alisal, formed a new company, the Livermore and Pleasanton Oil Co., to prospect for both gas and oil, but never got it started. Then there was the mysterious Princess Red Wing, mentioned elsewhere.

The Livermore Oil Co. was incorporated in February 1900, and claimed to have leases in the Vallecitos Valley, San Benito County and Livermore Valley. A derrick was to be erected near Corral Hollow. No further mention of this company is found.

In October 1908, the San Joaquin Oil Co. was formed to drill near the Daisy but never appears again in the news.

Oakland men leased the Nickerson place at Altamont in November 1908, and announced drilling plans. No other mention is found of the enterprise, except that its stock was to be sold by Financial Underwriters of Oakland.

Peter Moy, who had extensive sheep ranges on the east side of the Altamont hills, was associated with a group of Alaska promoters who planned to drill between Corral Hollow and Lone Tree Creek to the south.

There were a number of promotions in the Pleasanton area. In April, 1910, San Francisco, Oakland and Pleasanton capitalists formed a company with the high-sounding name of "North Star Mining, Prospecting Smelting and Mercantile Company" and started drilling, but passed out of the picture. A company was formed in March 1900, to drill in Dublin canyon, but never made any progress. Edward Salz, owner of 520 acres in La Costa Creek Canyon, south of Sunol, announced plans to organized a company and drill in October 1908, but the plans never materialized.

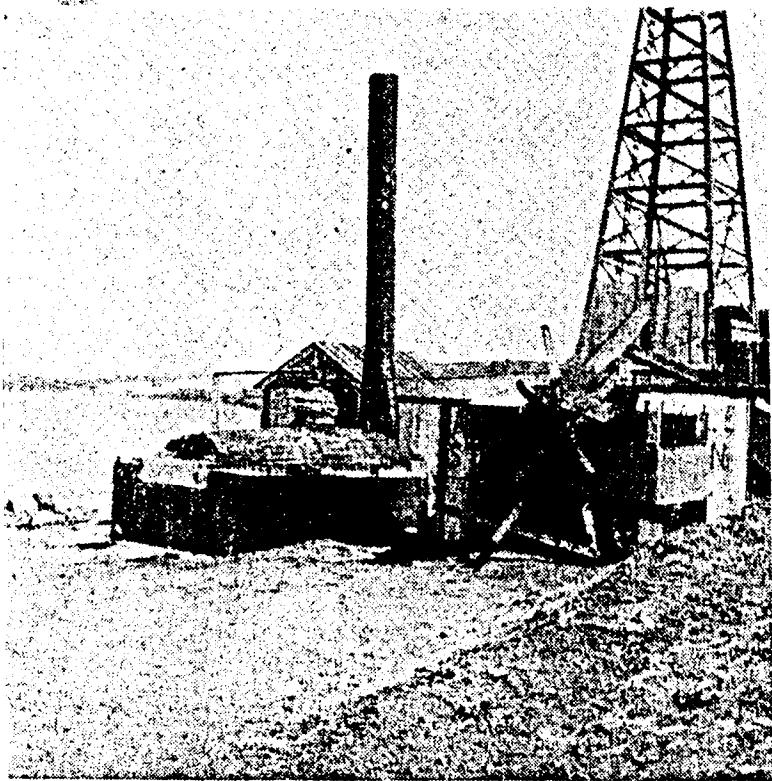


Photo Courtesy C. G. Clarke

THE DAISY WELL NEAR MIDWAY

There were several projects in the Dublin-Tassajara region in later years but none developed producing wells.

The exciting part of the wildcatting venture with which the public was mostly concerned had to do with financing and leasing.

It is almost impossible to believe the wide extent to which news of the Livermore operations reached. It brought in money from many hopeful investors. The Independence Oil Co. was organized in 1909 and its records show a total of 148 stockholders, with addresses as widely divergent as San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, San Mateo, Lackawana, N. Y., Princeton, N. J., Richmond, VA., New York City, Long Island, N. Y., and other places in California.

There were 17 from Gloucester, MA. and six from Boston, plus several more in Massachusetts cities. The reason was set forth in the obituary of W. W. French, Livermore stockholders numbered 36. The company had special claim to fame in that one of these Livermore stockholders was Battling Nelson, then world's lightweight boxing champion. He had trained in Livermore and bought property here. It can be safely said that no stockholder ever made a collar on his investment, except those who sold to other investors.

"The Derrick", a San Francisco oil paper, published a two-page story on the Livermore field on December 28, 1908.

"Money Talks", a financial publication in San Francisco, featured Livermore oil in an article published about the same time. The Livermore Chamber of Commerce received many requests for information by mail and telephone. The Los Angeles Times on October 31, 1908, said that San Francisco was excited over reports that the Daisy well had struck oil.

Most of the wells were located by qualified oil men but in at least 2 instances clairvoyants called on the spirits to decide where wells would be "spudded in".

Leases were the one source of revenue from which owners of ranch property throughout the eastern section of the Valley profited. However, in some instances leases became highly involved, resulting in clouds on land titles and the owner wished they had never heard of an oil lease.

From \$1 to \$2 a year was the going price per acre for leases. Some were for one year, some for three.

The Standard Oil Co. had leases on 6,000 acres when it started drilling at Altamont and wanted 30,000 acres. An unnamed oil company claimed to have 4,000 acres under lease in 1908 near the site of the abandoned Brown Ranch well.

The Livermore-Coalinga Oil Co. had leases on 1,100 acres in the eastern part of the valley when it planned to start drilling in 1908.

When the Standard shut down operations at Altamont in 1910, it abandoned most of its leases but retained those on a line between its well and the Alisal. A. M. Gilstrap held leases on 5,000 acres in 1931 in the Paterson Pass area.

The California Corporation Commission moved in to the picture in December 1927, ordering the Pacific Oil Leasing Co. to stop its traffic in oil leases. Pacific's was allegedly charged with operating without a permit, making an exorbitant profit and that its activities were against the best interests of the community. The commission also said that Calhoma, which was not operating at the time, would be restrained if it attempted to resume operations without a permit.

Landowners alleged that Pacific and Calhoma had leased drilling rights for \$1 an acre and sold them throughout the country at from \$5 to \$100. They said that in subleasing these rights the companies had so confused land titles that many suits have had to be instituted in court by owners who were forced to prove their legal title to their own land.

Fraudulent boring operations were also charged, such as keeping a rig in operation without actually drilling to impress prospective lease buyers visiting the well.

Livermore Heritage Guild Auction

Saturday, May 26, 2001

Duarte Garage

Portola and L Streets

Livermore



Antique grocer/butcher scale patented 1909, Office desk from telephone company, Pine kitchen cabinet, Dresser (all wood, 4 ft. wide ca. 1940), Grandfather clock (Howard Miller), Armoire large Art Deco style, Red Comet train set G scale, Decorator sewing machine cabinet, Several mantel clocks, Large box 1990s baseball cards (approx. 3000), Dolls including Barbies (some mint in box), American Girl brass bed and wood post bed with canopy, Turn of the century cabinet hide-a-bed from Mannex Ranch (E. Livermore hills), Lighted beer sign, Printing press 12"-2 roller style turn of the century, Marble type set table, tin job case cabinet, Minolta VHS movie camera in aluminum case, 16 mm. Bell & Howell movie projector, collection of beer posters, foreign and domestic, piano rolls, Printer's type trays, Bikes, Old bottles, Area rugs, 2 window air conditioners (Whirlpool) boxed, and other items too numerous to mention

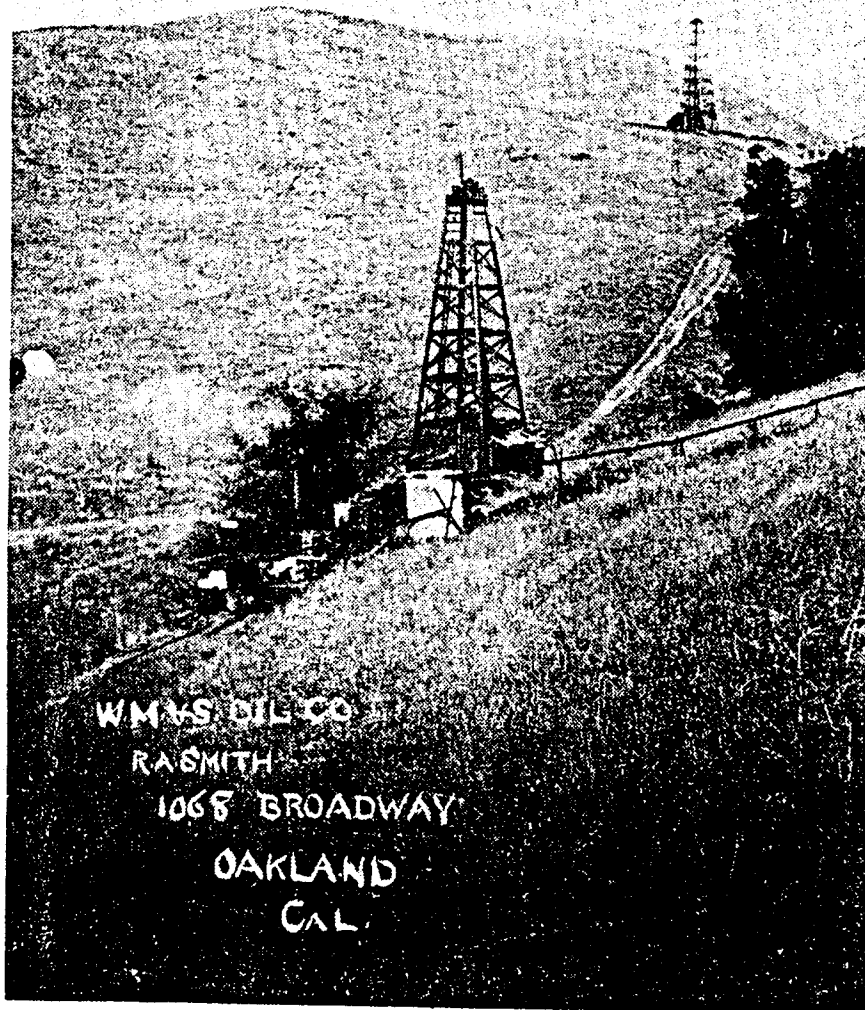


Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Spaghetti Dinner at 6:00 p.m. (\$6.00 per person, includes coffee and dessert)

Auction at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets for dinner can be purchased at the Carnegie Library or at the door



W. M. & S. OIL CO., THE ALISAL IN BACKGROUND

Twelve companies were selling oil leases in 1927. The following year two unusual operators made their appearance, Chief and Princess Redwing of Oklahoma announced they had bought 160 acres and would start 32 wells, one to each five acres. They did not give the location of the land, and there is no record of further action on their part.

Information on shares of stock issued by the various companies was always at a minimum and never dependable. Financing was always in a chaotic condition, price of shares rising with each rumor of oil being struck and falling as the rumors proved false. There were also many reorganizations, each having an influence on the value of stocks.

The general trend is shown by what happened with the Daisy well, more data being available on that drilling project than any others, and still very meager. When a rumor

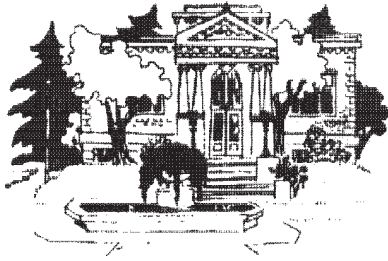
developed in October 1908, that oil had been struck shares brought 26 cents to 31 cents on the San Francisco Oil Exchange, a substantial increase. In May 1909, the company was reorganized, W.J. Rhoads, the driller, retaining controlling interest with 251,000 shares and the balance, amount not revealed, sold at 10 cents. More than a year later, in September 1910, there was another rumor or oil being struck and work was stopped to test the showing. The company was acquiring more land and the stock had advanced to 25 cents a share, stockholders doing the buying to increase their holdings.

In November 1911, the Independence required additional capital, \$3,500 subscribed in Livermore raising the price of shares to 25 cents. In June 1910, the W.M.&S. issued an additional one million shares, the price not being given.

Promoters often resold their stock at higher figures, some fantastic, up to \$100 a share, as advantage was taken of the proclivity of certain types of persons to plunge in oil and mining stocks in the hope of cashing in, this despite a total lack of knowledge of oil drilling or mining.

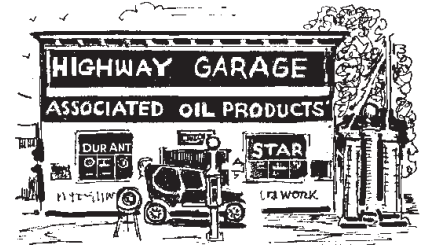
Assessments were frequent, causing distress to stockholders, who expected their stock to skyrocket in value rather

than remaining at a low figure and being subjected to assessments. The story on the Alisal well is the most complete on assessments. Since the well was locally financed, information on its operation was more available and of greater interest in Livermore. In September 1903, the 15/3 levied assessment No. 9 at 2 cents a share, indicating eight previous assessments on which no information had been made public.



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June 2001

Vol. XXX

No. 9

CALENDAR

Thursday, June 14 @ 7:00 p.m.
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Saturday & Sunday, July 14 & 15

Livermore Art Association Art Under the Oaks at Alden Lane Nursery. Two days of art demonstrations, displays, and sales. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

This year's annual auction brought in more than \$5,000 again! Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this all possible. Special thanks to our auctioneer Lynn Owens.

Summer hours for Carnegie Bldg.: Beginning June 1, 10:30 to 3 p.m. Wed. thru Sunday. Also open Thursday nights during Farmers Market so stop by and visit while shopping for fruit and vegetables!

Come see the Livermore lightbulb T-shirts! On sale at the Carnegie Bldg., available in 2 different styles. Come to the Lightbulb celebration Friday, June 8 at East Ave. fire station, 5-7 p.m. Adults \$3, children under 12 \$1

On sale beginning June 1 is The Morning Side of Mount Diablo by Anne Marshall Homan. This book is an illustrated account of the San Francisco Bay Area's historic Morgan Territory Road. Great gift for a history buff! \$28.50 plus tax. Anne Homan will also do a Book Talk for Friends of the Livermore Public Library on Friday, June 8th at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center Library

Excerpted from Livermore Herald, June 15, 1934

Largest Parade in Rodeo History

Opening Event of Celebration Attracted Participants From All Central California

The West that was mingled with the West that is in a spectacular four-mile parade to open the celebration Saturday morning. Under the direction of Dr. F.L. Herrick, the 1934 parade far exceeded all past pageants in both size and scope.

Sheriff Harvey Odell of San Joaquin county headed the procession with sheriffs and mayors riding on horseback or in stages as his official escort. Behind them came the Livermore Band, resplendent in cowboy outfits, featuring gorgeous blue shirts. The Port of Stockton offered an ocean liner, ploughing through mechanical waves.

The Oakland American Legion drum and bugle corps rumbled and blew a pathway for old vehicles carrying Livermore city councilmen and Alameda county supervisors and the Livermore high school and followed the old log wagon, drawn by plodding oxen. Then came the Livermore Chamber of Commerce stage and a group of old rigs, and the State Board of Equalization marching forty-two strong.

Indians in colorful ceremonial costumes, brought here by the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, preceded a real roundup group, Leo Wilson of Contra Costa county leading a delegation of mounted riders and an old chuck wagon. Sammy Garrett and Tillie Bowman rode abreast on their beautiful horses. G.L. Montgomery of Gilroy drove the stage on which his father, "Buck" Montgomery, pioneer Wells Fargo messenger, had been shot in a Trinity county holdup.

Coughlan's Beer Garden presented a palm-covered float on which beer flowed merrily. A bright red auto, loaded with youthful cowboys preceded a man on 20 foot stilts.

Boy Scouts marched while the Eagles' Cowboy Drum Corps, sun flashing from golden shirts and white trousers, rumbled snappy beats. Colors waved as veterans' organizations and Boy Scout troops massed their flags.

Gilroy's 80-piece State championship school band received a hearty ovation and more Boy Scouts, from all over the county, marched in groups. Angels Camp presented its famous Miners' Band, headed by General Grant, champion of the frog jumping contest, held last month. Splits of golden Livermore wine were distributed from a Cresta Blanca winery float.

Then came a section of pioneer vehicles, representing various Livermore organizations, loaded with members attired in old costumes. The Business & Professional Women's Club, Native Daughters, American Legion Auxiliary, Improvement Club, Pocahontas, and Young Ladies' Institute rode in ancient rigs. Covered wagons represented the American Legion, the Native Sons, and the Coast Manufacturing & Supply Company.

Foresters danced an old hoe down on a special float. The Livermore Yacht Club presented a speedboat. Anderson Motors showed the Rodeo grounds in miniature. Hagstrom's Food Stores entries ranged from a tiny pony wagon to a huge truck and trailer. Livermore Lions offered an elaborate '49 float.

Colors of American Legion and 40 and 8 posts preceded the famous train of the veteran funmakers. Forty Oakland boys and girls, forming an accordion band, played in unison. Huge blocks of ice, in which several varieties of fish had been frozen, adorned a truck. The Richmond Eagles' Drum Corps roared.

Junior Traffic Reserve officers went on parade, headed by the Livermore Grammar School unit, carrying a huge

American flag. Behind them marched groups from St. Michael's School, Mt. Eden, Ashland, Pleasanton, and Alameda. Craft's Calliope preceded a float bearing dancing and singing negroes. Howard Lefever's old Buick was followed by a float entered by John F. Dondero on which a live mountain lion stalked.

Hayward presented its grammar school band, followed by a marching group from Livermore Circle, Druids, and a platoon of California Grays. Niles was represented by decorated autos, cowboys and cowgirls, a covered wagon, and the jackass polo team.

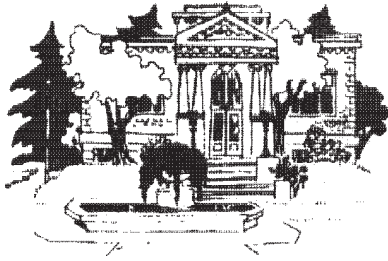
Martinez' high school band headed a Contra Costa county delegation of autos and cowboys and cowgirls.

Chief Hosecart uttered words of wisdom from the rear of the Livermore fire department hook and ladder. R.A. Hansen piloted his 1907 Stevens Duryea, crowded with his "family" in costumes appropriate to the car. A beer float was followed by Hayward Rodeo horses and freak autos. Centerville Lions presented a decorated auto, followed by a string of cars representing the forthcoming Washington Township fair, the Centerville cowboy band, and the Alvarado cowboy club.

San Leandro appeared in force, with its high school band, a long line of cars carrying city officials and flower show boosters, and a fire engine.

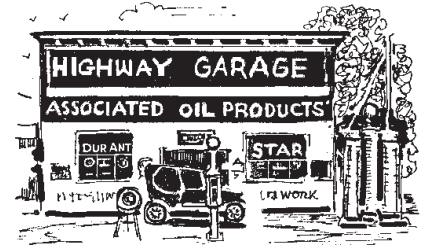
Pleasanton, too, formed a complete division with high school band, float, a fire department entry which had been purchased from Livermore in 1889, entries representing the Lions Club, Alisal Improvement Club, and Junior chamber of commerce, and a group of riders.

The pony division headed a huge group of cowboys and cowgirls, gathered here from all over the State.



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July 2001

Vol. XXX

No. 10

CALENDAR

Thursday, July 12 @ 7:00 p.m.
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Sat. & Sun., July 14 & 15, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day
Art Under the Oaks at Alden Lane Nursery
Over 40 artists will be demonstrating and displaying their work. Local wineries will be pouring tastes of area vintages. The ever popular fruit tasting will also be held.

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

LHG is reordering both kinds of light bulb T-shirts. You can come in and prepay and we will save one for you.

LHG needs workers to man the History Center on Thursdays from 3 until 8:00 on Farmers' Market Thursdays until the Fall. We are always looking for people to help man the History Center Thursday through Sunday every week. We can also use people to help at the Garage and the History Center once in a while for general cleaning and dusting.

We accept donations for our annual auction all year. We thank those who have given donations already! A great big thank you from the Auction Crew to Lynn and his wife for being auctioneer and spotter and for the donations, help, attending, bidding, all helping make the auction a great success as well as a lot of fun.



Excerpted from Livermore Herald, July 1, 1955

Reflections by M.R.Henry

Of all American holidays, Fourth of July has changed the most, both in the actual observance and the influence its observance has on the public.

People in the fifties and older remember the Fourth of July as the exciting day of the year, the day to look forward

to and to remember, second only to Christmas, which, incidentally, has not changed at all. There was noise and excitement, a parade, an orator who truly "made the eagle scream," foot races, bicycle races, a greased pig contest, dancing, horribles, firecrackers, roman candles, and sky-rockets to end an exciting day. Livermore, Pleasanton and Centerville alternated in holding Fourth of July celebrations on a somewhat irregular schedule. Every small town could be depended upon to be holding a celebration or planning one for next year.

Even if there were no celebration, everyone could make his own noise with a supply of fireworks, which usually caused enough accidents and fires to guarantee excitement. People stayed at home in those days and were satisfied with simpler pleasures. There was less on their minds so they remembered American victories in war to a greater extent than today. Their thinking was more concentrated on the United States as a nation. This Fourth of July thinking prevailed until about the time of World War I when Americans became more world minded, as it became increasingly clear that we were becoming the outstanding world power and must, therefore, become involved in the affairs of other nations. During and after that war came the deluge of everyday activity, brought on largely by the increased use of autos, and the old ways of life began to lose their hold.

For the most part whatever there is left of the old-time Fourth of July celebration is the community picnic, a quiet, restful affair appealing more to the older folks, who were entirely satisfied that there are no giant crackers exploded under a can, without threat of injury to a mob of boys crowding closely around the H-bomb of half a century ago. These boys of today can play with sparklers, the chief of police says. For Fourth of July at least they would trade television, radio, fast cars and whatever else 1955 has to offer for cannon crackers and sky rockets of their own.

Americans are not less patriotic, their attitude is simply that of changed times, as is so widely prevalent in all human endeavors. But, still, contemplation of the glories of the past, which made possible the glories of today, is laudable. No better time than the Fourth of July and no better method than a review of the opening paragraphs of that stirring document, the Declaration of Independence, adopted on that first Independence Day, July 4, 1776: "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of station to which the Laws of Nature and Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

There is the transcendent Fourth of July thought: "Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed." A thought as significant today as on July 4, 1776.

Excerpted from Livermore Herald, July 2, 1954
Old-Time 4th of July Celebration Lively Event

Next Monday, the Fourth of July holiday, will be a quiet day in Livermore and most small towns and cities, but there was a time when it was periodically the liveliest day of the year, celebrated in the true spirit of Independence Day.

Typical of Fourth of July celebrations as they were held up to almost the start of World War I was that staged by Livermore in 1899.

First event of the day was the firing of the town cannon, a duty performed through the years by the late George Huff, a town

character, who took his part seriously. The cannon is now quietly at rest at the city corporation yard.

In those days, Livermore was a hot spot for bicycle racing, and the program opened at 8:30 a.m. with races on Lizzie Street, now South Livermore Avenue. Distances ranged from a quarter mile to five miles and world records were established on several occasions.

The parade was at 10:30, followed by the patriotic literary exercises at which the orator of the day, the late Judge Lincoln S. Church in this instance, made the eagle scream in fashion appropriate to the time.

Dancing followed from 2:30 to 4:30 and then the fun began for the livelier young men, with foot racing, greased pole climbing, tug-of-war between Livermore and Pleasanton and that event of events the "Horribles" parade when the town cut-ups had their fun.

In the evening was the illuminated and decorated bicycle parade at 8:30, with the grand ball concluding the day.

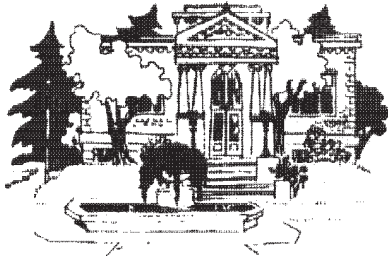
No greater honor than to be selected for one of the special official positions of the day, those for the 1899 celebration having been—Goddess of Liberty, Miss Ada Jordan, now Mrs. Ada Jordan Pray of Durham; George Washington, Chris A. Buckley, Jr., now of Pebble Beach; Martha Washington, Miss Anita Aylward, now Mrs. Anita Clarke of Oakland; President of the Day, the late D.J. Murphy; Grand Marshal, the late J.O. McKown; Reader of the Declaration of Independence, the late Miss Leah McLeod, later Mrs. L.M. MacDonald.

The young boys shot off fire crackers from the break of day until evening fell when they turned to the sky rockets and roman candles, one grand sport not available to the youngsters of today.

No town held a celebration every year, which was fortunate as the event would have become common place and anticipation and memories would have been lacking. Livermore celebrated next in 1904 and again in 1907.

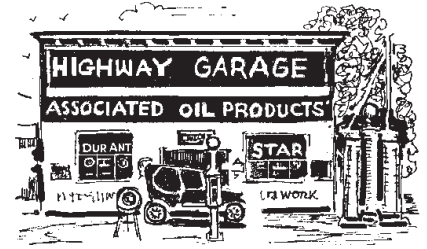
Livermore, Pleasanton, Niles and Tracy alternated more or less regularly, providing a celebration within train travel every year or two.

The fast travel for long distances was lacking, but not missed for no one knew anything about what was to come, and both memory and the records will prove that the dangers of firecrackers, even the cannon crackers which blew tin cans high in the air, did not equal the auto travel of today.



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JUNIOR \$3, LIFE \$150, PATRON \$100, SPONSOR \$25, LIBRARY \$5

August 2001

Vol. XXX

No. 11

CALENDAR

Thursday, August 9 @ 7:00 p.m.
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

August 12 Noon to 4 p.m. FREE
Olf Fashioned Ice Cream Social, Ravenswood
Traditional family entertainment, including music by the
Pleasanton Community Concert Band.
2647 Arroyo Rd., Livermore Info: 443-0238

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

Please save the last Saturday in September for the Livermore Heritage Guild's Annual General Meeting and Open House @ Duarte Garage. Details to follow in September newsletter.

The September newsletter will also include Renewal membership forms. The Post Office requires all newsletters be identical, so consequently life members will also receive a renewal slip which they can pass on to a friend.

Wanted: Someone with pleasant handwriting to write notes once each month to new and renewing members. Note paper will be provided. Please call Anna Siig 373-9468.

Excerpted from Livermore Herald, October 1967

Early Oil Pioneers

by M. R. Henry

This is the final installment in a four-part series on early oil exploration in Livermore Valley, written by former Herald & News publisher Maitland R. Henry. Recent discoveries of oil in the Valley may produce the boom that was being sought as early as 1899.

Among the names identified with early oil well drilling in the Livermore Valley is that of W. W. French, leads all the rest.

French was the only one of the early operators to have a well named for him. The Atlantic & Western Oil Co., which took over the Independence after his company had reached 1,700 feet and continuing it to 3,150 feet, renamed the well "French No. 1."

Col. M.M. Ogden, whose pompous figure became familiar on Livermore streets, came here as an expert in oil development. He had extensive experience in the Pennsylvania oil fields and in the Kern and McKittrick fields in California. The first Kern County fields were opened as a result of a survey Ogden made.

He was the first secretary of the San Francisco Oil Exchange. The colonel located the Alisal, Independence and W.M.&S. well sites. He continued to be a firm believer in the ultimate success of the Livermore field until his death in 1922.

Two Livermore residents – one a pioneer and the other a

newcomer – came into prominence with the first well. It was drilled by the Alameda Oil Company northeast of Livermore on the Brown ranch, starting just prior to January 1900.

John Aylward, who owned a machine shop and was a leader in public affairs, did most of the promotion work for the well, signing leases on thousands of acres which he turned over to the company.

Property owners were not paid for these leases. Their recompense was to come from royalties if a producing well developed. Although he never worked on a drilling crew, his son, E.F. Aylward, whose death occurred recently, put in more time on drilling machinery than any other person.

A master mechanic, he was either called to the wells to repair the machinery, which continually broke down, or worked in his shop on parts which could be brought to town.

C.P. Lefever was the driller of the first well and remained here to put down several others. He started his career in the Pennsylvania oil fields in the '70s and continued in Colorado, Texas and New Mexico before coming to California in 1897. He spent two years at Coalinga and then came to Livermore. Lefever retired from drilling in 1907 and became Livermore's town marshal serving until his death in 1917. Three of his sons became identified with drilling.

The late Howard Lefever promoted several wells. He was a director of the Livermore-Coalinga Oil Company and also engaged in drilling. His wife, Mrs. Etta Lefever, still resides here, as do his son, Harry Lefever, and daughter, Mrs. Rene Mestres.

The other sons, the late Percy Lefever and Robert W. Lefever, worked with drilling crews both here and in Kern County.

The latter now resides at Port Hueneme and annually visits Livermore to attend Company I Old Guard reunions. He served several terms as a Santa Barbara County supervisor.

E.P. Newhall engaged in both oil and mining development in this area. He was associated with the Independence,

W.M.&S. and Monterey Southern Oil Company. He was president of the E.P. Newhall Quicksilver Company, which attempted to develop quicksilver mines in Deer Park, near San Antone Valley, reached by the Mines Road from Livermore.

C.G. Clarke, retired Livermore city engineer, was a member of the drilling crew on the Daisy, in 1908-1909 well at Midway, where he lived at that time.

Horton & Kennedy, Livermore lumber yard and planing mill, erected the derrick for the W.M.&S. well.

Greatest tragedy of the early Livermore Valley oil development is told in the obituary of W.W. French, published in the Aug. 16, 1935 issue of the Livermore Herald: "Brown hills of the Townsend district still held their secret as William Wesley French, who had devoted the last 20 years of his life and expended a fortune in efforts to tap their hidden pools of oil, died penniless and alone at Fairmont Hospital, San Leandro, Sunday evening.

"A prominent attorney of Boston, mayor and police judge of Gloucester, Mass., French came here in 1915 to provide financial backing for the old Independence well. And there was born a sublime confidence, an unshakable conviction, that existed to the day of his death.

"His own personal fortune of some \$75,000 exhausted as the bits drilled into either dry holes or water-logged strata, always with just enough showing of oil to keep his hopes high and his courage firm, French turned to eastern friends, inspired them with his own convictions and induced them, too, to sink their funds in unproductive wells.

"Reduced to poverty, aging fast and with health impaired, French still greeted each new burst of activity in the search for oil with wild enthusiasm, countered each disappointing failure with the firm conviction that the next attempt would make his dreams come true.

"Unwilling to face friends whose money had been lost, French stubbornly refused to return to the east, content to eke out an existence here. He dabbled in real estate, did a bit of notary work, on rare occasions offered legal advice, attempted house-to-house selling of raincoats, shoes, knives and a dozen other things. Expensive quarters which he occupied on his arrival here gave way to furnished rooms,

a cot in the rear of a littered office and finally, a leaky shed attached to a decrepit barn.

“Food was a glass of milk, a handful of figs, a few crackers. Clothes were gifts from compassionate merchants and faithful friends. Twice, sickness brought him to death’s door but both times courage brought an emaciated, feeble man back to his feet to await the day when oil would flow from the Livermore hills and he could return in triumph to the scenes of earlier days, his oil development career a success.

“Charity was unthinkable to a man who had one been the wealthy mayor of an eastern city, a former student at Harvard, a graduate of Dartmouth. Only when age and illness made him unable to continue stubborn, unreasonable opposition was it possible early this year to give him county aid, to bring him from his hovel to a comfortable room, to

provide food and clothing.

“And still pride ran high. On July 4, he went to Oakland on “business”, seeking a means to earn a few pennies. Police found him wandering around the city and took him into custody. Haughtily, he demanded to be returned to Livermore. Instead, they placed him in Fairmont Hospital.

“For a full month he remained there, still confident he would be able to return to Livermore, still certain he would live to see this district the oil center of the world. He died Sunday night.

“A native of North Brockton, Mass., French was 87 years, 6 months and 29 days of age. His only known relative is his wife, Mrs. Luetta French, residing at Gloucester. During the early days of her husband’s activities she had occasionally visited him in Livermore but only for short periods.”



ATWOOD PRINTING CO., STOCKTON, CAL.

Original Courtesy C. G. Clarke

STOCK CERTIFICATE OF TRACY OIL CO.
They Drilled The Daisy Well

Excerpted from Oakland Tribune, June 29, 1988

Livermore's Small Share of Black Gold

The gasoline you pumped into old Bessie today may not have come from a hot Texas oil field or from a Saudi Arabian desert. It may have come from under a Livermore cow pasture. That's right, oil in Livermore.

The Livermore Well Field off Greenville Rd. has been quietly pumping the black gold from beneath the valley floor since 1967, when oil was discovered here by the McCullough Oil Co.

The Livermore field, which later was purchased by the Hershey Oil Co., is the only producing oil field in Alameda County, and one of the few producing well fields in Northern California. And although the Livermore field won't intimidate the likes of a J.R. Ewing or an Arabian oil sheik, it has been producing revenue for Hershey and a handful of Livermore residents who receive royalties.

"It's been a good little field," said Harry C. Harper, vice president and secretary of Hershey Oil Co. "It's producing longer and better than we might have originally thought it would." Harper said the Livermore field is one of the northernmost oil fields in the state. "It is unusual in that it is not in the main San Joaquin basin or an established basin," he said. "We are one mountain range over from where most of the oil and gas was generated."

Harper said his company has attempted to drill more wells in Livermore, but without success. "We tried to extend the field several times, but without much luck," he said.

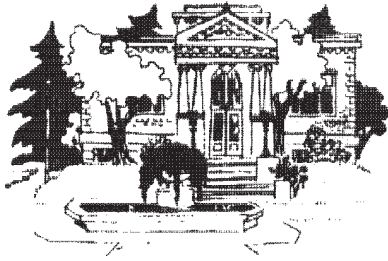
Livermore Crude is low in sulphur content, which makes it easier to refine into gasoline than many domestic oils, Harper said. It contains about three-tenths of 1 percent sulphur, compared to as much as 2 percent in a lot of oil produced in California. The field currently produces 60-75 barrels of crude a day from 10 wells. Total production through January of this year was about 1.6 million barrels. Harper said there are about 200,000 barrels of proven reserves still in the ground, and the Livermore wells should continue pumping for up to 10 years more, provided the price of oil doesn't drop so low as to make the field too expensive to continue operation.

Over the years, Hershey has sold its Livermore Crude to such oil giants as Shell Oil and Union Oil, and to smaller, independent dealers. It currently sells for \$12.25 a barrel, "a fairly low price, to my way of thinking," Harper said. West Texas Crude sells for \$1 or \$2 a barrel more, he added.

The small Livermore field is one of hundreds of similar fields all over the state that add to the state's oil pool.

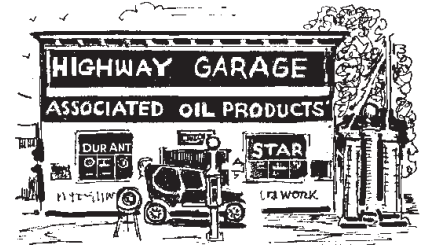
"In the overall scheme of things," Harper asserted, "you add up all the fields like that one and it counts for a big part of production." Harper said the company is proud of what he calls "that little field." But the 50-acre field in the shadow of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory doesn't pose a threat to OPEC or J.R. Ewing.

"We are not going to destroy the market for them," he promised.



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September 2001

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No. 12

CALENDAR

Sunday & Monday, September 2 & 3, 11-5 p.m.
Harvest Festival, Concannon Winery 4590 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Livermore Art Association members display watercolors, oils and other media. Free

Thursday, September 13 @ 7:00 p.m.
LHG Meeting, Carnegie Bldg.

Saturday, September 29, noon - 2 p.m.
Annual General Meeting, Lincoln Highway Garage
Catered luncheon by Gimanelli's Delicatessen: \$17/person, need RSVP & payment by 9/10.
Speaker: Maj. J.R. Schlechter, retired Army and retired Highway Patrol, will be presenting a program on the Lincoln Highway. He is very knowledgeable about the Highway in the Western part of the State.

Saturday, September 29, 3-7 p.m.
Open House at the Lincoln Highway Garage at L St. & Portola Ave. Live music by Magic Moments playing 50s music, docents to answer questions about the Garage and its history, 50s classic cars presented by the Altamont Cruisers, food vendors, T-shirts for sale, raffles. Memberships to the LHG will be available

HERITAGE GUILD HAPPENINGS

REMINDER: It's that time again! Annual dues are due for everyone who is not a life member. Please fill out the enclosed membership form and include your dues.

Excerpted from Herald & News October 2, 1967
Valley Wine Producers Ready For Big Season
Livermore -- It's harvest time for Livermore Valley vineyards and local wineries are in full swing into the job of turning grape juice into what Benjamin Franklin said is "proof that God loves us and loves to see us happy."

The picking season started late this year. Weather was cooler during the exceptionally wet spring and the vines never caught up. But now the grapes are at peak condition and teams of workers are sweeping across the fields neatly severing the tightly-packed bunches of fruit from gnarled vines.

The giant among Livermore Valley producers is Wente Brothers Winery, which owns about 800 acres of vines. The firm recently planted another 300 acres in Monterey County near Greenfield.

President Ernest Wente predicts, "we should have a beautiful harvest" this year if the weather is right -- which means not too hot and no rain.

Wente Brothers crushes 3,000 tons of grapes a year to produce some 540,000 gallons of wine. Wente says his winery offers 20 varieties, mostly of white wines. Because of the exceptional climate, ideal soil and interest taken by growers over the years the area produces the best white wine in the United States, and possibly the world, said Wente.

About 100 workers, many of them transient, are now employed at Wente Brothers. By next week the harvest will be going full blast and will continue through the month.

The harvest has been on at the Cresta Blanca Wine Co. for two weeks and should continue another three. Don Rudolph, manager, said the quality of this year's crop is above average. Some 30 pickers now are working Cresta Blanca's 200 acres.

Nine varieties of white wine are produced at Cresta Blanca. The wine is fermented and aged there but now is sent to Fresno for bottling.

The other of the Valley's Big Three wineries, Concannon Vineyard, last week began its harvest, which is expected to yield 85,000 gallons.

If the tastes of politicians are any guideline, the quality of Concannon's product can be attested to by recent orders placed by the White House and the office of Gov. Ronald Reagan.

The product has improved since a Persian farmer let his cup of grape squeezings sit too long in the desert sun and returned to find the first wine.

When wine making is mentioned, images of peasant women stomping grapes and feted vats gurgling with fermenting juice may come to mind but more modern methods now are employed.

Field testing is the first step in the process of turning Concannon grapes into a bottle of White Riesling, Petite Sirah or one of the vineyard's 15 other varieties. Bunches of grapes are picked from several spots in each field and taken to a laboratory equipped with rows of beakers, jars and instruments.

Joseph Concannon explains that it is vital to pick the grapes at just the right time. A couple of days error in either direction could be enough to affect the quality. Because not all the approximately 250 acres of vines can be stripped of ripe fruit at once, the vineyard purposely is planted in early, medium and late arriving varieties to allow harvesting in sequence.

The purpose of field testing is to determine the exact level of acid and sugar in the grapes. As the fruit ripens the amount of sugar increases and the acid content drops.

When the grapes have reached the proper stage, it is time for the pickers to go to work. Progressing steadily down the long rows, they expertly slice the bunches from the vine with short curved knives and drop them into boxes.

The boxes are stacked at the end of rows and picked up by a truck, which then takes the sweet, juicy grapes to the crusher. This machine shatters the grapes and rejects the stem. The remaining mixture of juice, skins and seeds is called "must".

Concannon, a grandson of James Concannon who founded the operation in 1883, emphasized that the process differs at every vineyard. Many larger wine companies such as Wente Brothers, are more mechanized, for instance.

At the Concannon Vineyard the "must" is pumped into tanks, where most of the juice is separated. The remaining

material is sent by conveyor to presses, where the rest of the liquid is extracted.

For white wine the yeast to start fermentation is added the same day. The yeast consumes the sugar, about 22 percent of the liquid to start and converts it to carbon dioxide and alcohol. About one percent of the sugar is converted every day.

Red wine grapes are handled differently. Since most of the color is in the skin, the yeast is added directly to the must and the juice is not drawn off until the sugar content is down to about five percent.

To develop sweet wines it is necessary to leave in more of the sugar, usually about three percent. The finished product is stored in interim vats for further filtration: then pumped to the cellar where it ages for anywhere from five months to five years.

The Concannon Vineyard recently took steps to ensure that future harvests will be at least as productive as now, or more so. Last winter, 2,000 feet of six inch pipeline carrying water from the nearby South Bay Aqueduct were extended under South Livermore Avenue to supply most of the vines in the Concannon fields. Assisting in the planning of the project was the Livermore office of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service. For two years before a small part of the Concannon Vineyard located west of S. Livermore Ave. was irrigated with water brought through a 2,400 foot pipe from the aqueduct. Concannon said the extra water is needed to replace dwindling supplies available from the firm's vineyard well. In 1950, the well level was about 140 feet and produced 1,100 gallons a minute. It now is 320 feet deep and supplies only 120 gallons a minute.

The population explosion in the Valley and dam construction in the foothills are two of the major reasons for the dropping water table, said Concannon. Before about 1940, no irrigation at all was necessary. The water table was so high that roots extending downwards about 15 feet were continuously irrigated. Concannon hopes to bring the vigor of his vines back to their original condition with regis the increased water. He also said they are establishing new vineyards, section by section, which requires about twice the normal amount of water.

It is necessary to irrigate frequently in this area because the "Livermore gravelly loam" soil which the vines are planted in is very low in moisture retention. He said a grower can apply several inches of water and in 30-40 days the roots are getting dry again.

Open House at the Lincoln Highway Garage at L St. & Portola Ave.

Buffet luncheon September 29, 2001

Cost: \$17.00/person.

RSVP with payment must be made by **Sept. 10, 2001**.

Please complete form at bottom and include with your payment.

Payment may also be made at the Carnegie Bldg.

Catered by Gimanelli's Delicatessen and Pasta Shoppe

Menu:

Cheese and Spinach Ravioli

Roasted Chicken

Caesar Salad

Italian Bread

Biscotti/Brownie Tray

Coffee

Water

Tea

Any questions please contact: Wendy Weathers at 925 963-8019.

Lunch 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Meeting 1:00 - 1:30

Speaker 1:30 - 2:15

Name: _____ Make checks payable to LHG

Phone: _____ Mail to: LHG, P.O. Box 961, Livermore, CA 94551

Number of people attending: _____

Luncheon and meeting are open to the general public but you **MUST** prepay for the luncheon by September 10.