



## Remembering Carol Jean

Carol Jean Huddleston Famariss Dec. 20, 1922 - Feb. 24 2017



Photo, Ad 1956 Livermore News

A teaching icon to decades of Livermore dancers, Carol Jean was a beloved member of the Livermore community. She was born in 1922 and passed away on Feb. 24, 2017 at the age of 94. She achieved her ambition of opening her own studio in 1962 at 2121 Railroad Ave. The following article was published June 15, 1956 in the Livermore News.

Carol Jean Famariss has been teaching dancing for about 24 years.

At first that sounds impossible. Carol Jean, who looks in her 20's, is actually 33.

She started teaching when she was 9. But she says she never could have done that or put on shows without the help of her mother, who played piano.

When Carol Jean was 6, she had asthma and was advised to move from Oakland where she was born in 1922. So the Huddleston family moved to Pleasanton after being told Carol Jean might have only 6 months to live.

The doctors also advised her to take up dancing. That's about the most welcome medical advice she ever got, because she says she "was crazy about dancing."

She took lessons in Oakland and Hayward – tap, hula, toe, ballet, acrobatic, and singing. Those lessons never stop. After all these years, she's still taking lessons.

Carol Jean became a teacher partly because there was no one else around. She started with 10 pupils and 25 cents a lesson. The kids put on reviews and performed for various groups. Carol Jean recalls that when she was in eighth grade, she taught ballet to a high school teacher.

The family moved to Livermore in 1934, and Carol Jean started classes in the Palace Hotel, where the Purity Store is now.

Through the seventh and eighth grades, she had about 30 pupils and about 50 pupils through high school.

Like now, she taught Tuesday through Friday. On Saturday, she took 3 lessons in San Francisco. Besides this, she was getting straight A's in school.

And she was also doing some entertaining on her own. In 1939, she was Rodeo Queen and queen of Livermore Day at the County Fair. She also did a skit with Buddy Baer at Treasure Island.

She was doing what she calls "casual dates" – for example the Orpheum Theater and Moose Club. In other words, a show now and then.

After being graduated from high school, she kept on teaching full time and started entertaining in night clubs in the area – San Francisco, Oakland, Stockton, San Jose.

In 1942, she married Dick Famariss with whom she had been going since the eighth grade. The following year was the only one she didn't teach. When Dick went into the Air Corps, she followed him from base to base. She usually found an office job and before long was taking part in entertainment and often night club dates. Dick is now a transmission engineer for the telephone company here. He works at the booster station across from the Post-office.

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# Vintage Sale at the Duarte Garage

The Guild has been given a large collection of eclectic items from the Robert Knapp estate in San Jose. These treasures were accumulated over many years and reflect a wide range of interests. We have everything from vintage suitcases to an abundance of crystal and china to an amazing selection of jewelry. There is definitely something for everyone and it will all be offered for sale on August 12th. Stop by the Duarte Garage on Saturday, August 12th, 7:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. This is a vintage sale to end all vintage sales!





Visit us @ [livermorehistory.com](http://livermorehistory.com)

## Vintage Sale

at the

### Duarte Garage

Pine & N. L St

August 12

7 AM to 4 PM



## Sundays at Hagemann Ranch

By Sylvia Chatagnier and Barbara Soules

“I never knew this place existed!” That’s the comment we often hear when people walk through the gate of Hagemann Ranch for the first time.

The five acre property surrounded by suburbia in the northwest corner of Livermore is thriving again. The eleven buildings on this National Historic Site date from the 1870’s to 1920’s, most in their original locations. Today it is home to three nonprofit groups who all operate extensive and prospering programs.

The Heritage Guild manages the site and is in the process of restoring many of the buildings. Sunflower Hill has planted an extensive garden providing vocational education for special needs young adults. They harvest vast amounts of produce, much of which is donated to food banks. The Del Arroyo 4-H horse program has eight horses in the various paddocks. Their members learn and practice horsemanship skills and also raise various small animals that have homes in their barn.

The mission of the Heritage Guild includes educating the public about this special property. To fulfill this mission we have begun opening the ranch on the last Sunday of every month except June and December. These “Sundays at Hagemann” events include free family friendly activities which are usually seasonal in nature. Every month has been unique and entertaining.

Halloween featured scary stories and hayrides, while in February the 4-H group held a small animal petting zoo with the Odd Fellows hosting a children’s game area. The Tri-Valley Woodcarvers were on site in January; in March we had wonderful antique cars on display; in May we enjoyed a collection of restored fire trucks and hit ‘n miss engines. Many types of handiwork have been featured including quilt and lace making, knitting, and a “sheep to sweater” display complete with sheep, spinners and knitters. Tours of the property and refreshments are always available and the ranch is always decorated to fit the theme.

On July 2, we celebrated the one year anniversary of opening the ranch to the public by hosting “Cowboy Day”. The free celebration welcomed visitors with a chock full schedule of events for

all ages ranging from horse tack displays, 4-H horsemanship demonstrations, and modern valley ranching discussions with Darrel Sweet, to glass blowing and cowboy poetry honoring the late Lynn Owens and read by Livermore’s Poet Laureate. Abundant children’s activities included dressing like a cowboy to have your picture taken on a real saddle, lassoing, and unique western themed games in the backyard.

We were very pleased to be able to offer a glimpse of the original “cowboys” of the valley by including a demonstration by the El Ranchero Charro Team led by Javier and Rafael Solorzano. There were rope tricks on and off their horses and they showed the paces of specially trained Espanola horses while dressed in full costume. Historically, charro is a term for vaqueros who performed and competed for spectators on weekends. They discussed the history of the vaqueros and charro events.

Baughman’s Western Outfitters was there selling some western wear (hats and kerchiefs were popular in the warmth of the day) and refreshments were served from the Livermore Lions Club Chuckwagon.



Russ Bearows discusses his tractors, on loan to the Guild.



Darrel Sweet speaks to the crowd.



A member of the El Ranchero Charro Team performs.

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## A Message from the President

Members and Friends,

The summer is flying by and your Livermore Heritage Guild is as busy as ever. You'll read about our popular monthly Sundays At Hagemann headed up by Barbara Soules, produced by lots of Guild volunteers, and attended by hundreds of guests each month. I generally give some of the historic walking tours of the site, but took a little time out to learn roping at a recent event. That plastic calf dummy had nothing to fear from me, but I had a good time trying. We are now getting families who are repeat visitors and bring along friends, so even if you have already dropped in for an event, think about making it a friend and family affair and come back to see what is being featured each month. And of course it's always even more rewarding if you are one of the volunteers!

At the quieter and air-conditioned end of the Guild, we are continuing to improve the collection at the History Center, both with new additions and by cleaning up our collection records. We have thousands of items in our computer database, and Collections Manager Harry Briley, working with Linda Driver and other volunteers, are doing good work in keeping our database clean and usable. Harry is also handy with network wiring, and along with volunteer Jon Hart, they have improved network access in the Carnegie building. Finally PastPerfect (our collection database) can be used reliably from the docent desk. If you are not sure how exciting that is, then maybe it's time to come out and volunteer a little docent time!

In another building we affectionately called Sort 'n Store, known to the rest of you as the 1960s library, we had been storing items for both our collection and our annual auction. With the new council chambers plan moving forward, the City closed us out of Sort 'n Store and we went on a cleaning spree (which made our Auction all the more exciting) to minimize the boxes that had to move to more conventional (and expensive) storage. We knew this day was coming and we had a good run with the low rent at Sort 'n Store, but we are sad to see it go.

Speaking of the Auction, we did decide to make a BIG change next year. About half of you have been asking to have it moved to some weekend other than Memorial Day. Both volunteers and attendees found that the weekend just got too busy. The other half thought that between Guild tradition and the excitement of a busy weekend, staying with Memorial Day was the only choice. So after 40 years of making one half happy, we're switching to a new date for the auction and we hope you will all switch comfortably with us. The new date is one weekend earlier: May 19, 2018. Mark your calendars now and I hope to see you there!

When you are next at the Duarte Garage, check out the restoration project on the old popcorn machine from the State Theater. Will Bolton has more to say about it on page 7 of this newsletter. Someday soon I hope we can snack on popcorn from that machine!

Late breaking news: There's always something new at the Guild. We received a call from Diane Reinstein, offering the donation of a two-wheeled horse-drawn buggy that her late husband Art had purchased from Barbara Davis Wood two decades back. Mrs. Wood told Art that the buggy once belonged to Livermore's first doctor. We don't have corroborating evidence yet, but will be examining the buggy for markings and looking through photos, and anyway, it's a great story. The buggy joins our small collection at Hagemann Ranch. Interestingly, it is very similar to another buggy we already have, that is said to have originated on the ranch. Come check them out at the next open house, August 27!



*Jeff Kaskey*

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## Annual General Meeting (AGM) Schedule and Elections

This year we are trying something slightly different. For those who care about the business details, we will have the formal Annual General Meeting, as defined in the bylaws, including the financial review and election for 2nd Vice President and Secretary, on the afternoon of Friday, September 15th. The exact time of the meeting is still to be determined. Dottie Eberly has agreed to stand again for the Secretary position, but we are still looking for a V. P. candidate.

The social meeting, dinner, and history talk will be on Saturday, September 16th, beginning at 5:30pm. Members and guests are welcome at both the business and the social meetings, and both events will be held at the Duarte Garage.



## Southern Pacific Depot Moves To New Home



Between midnight and 4AM on July 16, 2017, Livermore's Historic Southern Pacific Depot was moved back to sit once again next to Livermore's train tracks, at the downtown Livermore Transit Center at 2500 Railroad Ave. The Depot will soon be restored and used for its originally intended purpose as a passenger waiting area and ticket booth for the Transit Center. The move of the depot to the tracks provides a context for its continued enjoyment and interpretation and may help the depot to finally qualify for the California and/or National Register of Historical Resources. The depot will be restored to its post 1906 condition using a grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission along with money from the City of Livermore.

Changes made to the building post 1973 have been removed as non-historic and the previously lost or destroyed exterior features will be reconstructed. Per the plan as described on the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) website, the restoration includes:

- Removal of non-historic additions on the freight side (current East wing) of the Depot.
- All paint colors will match the Southern Pacific Standard Plan Number 18 paint colors
- Two non-functioning stovepipe chimneys with a sheet metal finish will be added. One to replace an existing chimney and the second to reconstruct the historic chimney on the current western roofline.
- Roof crest added to match historic [roofline]
- Rehabilitation and restoration of [existing sliding freight doors] and reconstruction of those that are missing
- Reconstruction of portions of roof and north and east walls after removal of non-historic elements.
- Reconstruction of historic windows that were previously removed.
- Removal of non-historic exterior staircase to second floor
- Removal of second floor door to be replaced with a reconstructed replacement of an original window

Among other benefits listed on the city's website, the project will do the following:

- Rehabilitate the building, including improvements to the foundation, roofing, lighting, heating and ventilation, and restoration of existing walls and ceilings, interior stairways and bathrooms. These improvements will vastly extend the building's life.
- Locate the Depot adjacent and parallel to the railroad tracks, which together with the Depot's use as a ticketing office and historic rehabilitation, will significantly improve its chances for inclusion in the state or national registry of historic buildings.
- Recreate a passenger waiting area featuring a museum to showcase photographs and artifacts belonging to the Depot.
- Return the Depot to active use by a responsible, long term tenant (Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority) to reduce the chance of vandalism. The new location will be active from 4:30 am until 1:30 am with regular bus and ACE train services and activities.





## Remembering Carol Jean From Page 1

He's interested in entertainment, but he doesn't take part except for 2 years he helped Carol Jean teach ballroom dancing class. She and Dick took a course for Arthur Murray teachers.

Carol Jean has about 90 pupils and teaches from 1 to 7 pm. Some pupils start at about 3 years old. For 8 years, she taught here and in Centerville. Now her headquarters are at the Dania Hall, but her ambition is to have her own studio.

"Ballet is the foundation of dancing," she says. In fact, much of the dancing you see on television is modern ballet – called jazz modern. By the way, she says there's a lot of opportunity for male dancers. Men dancers are at a premium. When a child first enters a class, she gets basic exercises and steps. Specialization comes later. She gave us some reasons for taking dance: Love of rhythm and music; stage experience; develops poise and confidence; health reasons. Some of her pupils have appeared on television and 3 have started their own studios. Pupils ordinarily take one 45 minute lesson a week. Carol Jean's ambition had been to become a professional entertainer, but she developed arthritis during the war and that was enough to end that dream.

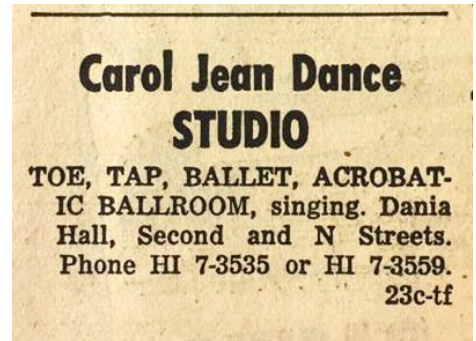
Each year, her studio puts on a program for the Eagles at the time of Mothers' Day. She also puts on an annual review – a recital which shows the results of the year's work. Her pupils have a float and perform in the Rodeo Parade. This year they'll entertain at Livermore Day – June 26 – at the County Fair. Lodges often ask her to put on entertainment – something that Carol Jean welcomes because it gives her pupils experience.

Carol Jean says ballroom dancing can become boring to people who do other kinds of dancing. The reason is that in ballroom, there are fewer steps, but in ballet and toe dancing, for instance, there are thousands of steps, and there's always something new and creative.

From time to time, Carol Jean, who belongs to the National Association of Dance and Affiliated Artists, is plagued by fly-by-night teachers who come to town. She says the typical approach is selling lessons door-to-door and getting sizable down payments.

She and Dick live at 1764 College in a home built 3 ½ years ago.

What outside activities do you have? "The Square Circle Club." That's a local square dancing club. Carol Jean likes to read, swim, golf, and see stage shows. She belongs to the VFW Auxiliary.



Carol Jean, Rodeo Queen 1939, with rodeo star Johnnie Schneider.

Her brother, Michael Biele, is in the Navy. Her mother and her husband live in Watsonville.

Carol Jean says she enjoys teaching "because there's always something new and interesting" and she enjoys meeting the mothers.

What do you like least? "The details – like shopping for costumes."

How long does it take to learn dancing? "If you have the knack, you can become something in 5 or 6 years."

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Carol Jean went on to teach another 30 years after that newspaper article was written. Though she never had any children of her own she was presented with a Mother of the Year award by Eagles in 1974 because she was a mother to the 10,000 students she taught throughout the years. What an amazing woman she was. She will be sorely missed.



## Popcorn Machine Progress

By Will Bolton, February 22, 2017

Fred Deadrick and I worked on the Manley Premier (Model 45 Serial #45-119) popcorn machine. In prior weeks, we cleaned and polished many trim parts, stabilized the cracks in one end window, and reinstalled the vertical corner pieces. On Saturday February 18, we installed the amazing corner-piece aluminum castings. Next we trial fit the top panel and the top polished trim strip. These went on with only a little struggle and fit so well that they are probably installed to stay.

Sunday was the February Open House at the Garage. Susan Junk, Merv Nichols, and Anna Siig were docents. They greeted visitors. When things were slow, I snuck into the machine shop to see about removing a major panel on the backside of the popcorn machine...a complicated process.

At one point, I was in need of a second set of hands to hold the panel while I removed some difficult screws. At that moment, seven-year-old Aden arrived at the door with Anna. I asked if he wanted to help. After parental permission, he got a folding chair and gloves and held the panel while we got it removed for cleaning and polishing.

The next Duarte Garage Open House will be held on Sunday, August 19th. Come by and see our progress!



## LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Saturday, August 12	7am — 4pm	Vintage Sale	Duarte Garage
Wednesday, August 16	7pm — 8:30pm	History Talk by Edwin Contreras: Local Banditos	Livermore Main Library
Saturday, August 19	TBA	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, August 17	1pm — 4pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Classic Travel Trailers and Fraternal Organizations	Hagemann Ranch
Friday, September 15	TBA	Annual General Meeting: Business Meeting	Duarte Garage
Saturday, September 16	5:30pm	Annual General Meeting: Social Program and Dinner	Duarte Garage
Sunday, September 24	1pm — 4pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Ice Cream Social	Hagemann Ranch



## Sundays at Hagemann Ranch

From Page 3



Norma Web discusses color with an aspiring artist.

Led by Margaret Miller, the Cactus Corner Youth Square Dancers performed and invited spectators to try the dance patterns for themselves.

It was a great day, but if you missed it, don't despair, you have another opportunity on Sunday, August 27, from 1pm - 4pm. We'll be featuring vintage travel trailers and displays from various fraternal organizations. Hagemann Ranch is located at 455 Olivina. See you there!



Above: Cactus Corner Youth Square Dancers perform for the crowd; Below Left: Plain Gold Band serenades guests and goats; Below Right: Judy Bearows demonstrates broom making.



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

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

Livermore Heritage Guild

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

History Center hours generally are Wednesday through Saturday,

11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.


Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Phone: (925) 449-9927.

Free admission.

Annual membership dues are:  
Individual \$25.00, Family \$35.00,  
Senior (age 62+) \$15.00, Student  
\$15.00, Sponsor \$75.00 and Patron  
\$150.00. Life (Individual) \$500.00  
and Business \$300.00 memberships  
are also available. Please make  
checks payable to "LHG." Mail to  
P.O. Box 961, Livermore, CA  
94551.





**This is the first newsletter that we've issued in quite a while and we're still shaking off some of the cobwebs. The following errors appear on page 7 of this newsletter:**

**In “Popcorn Machine Progress”, the date of the next Duarte Garage Open House should be listed as Sunday, August 20th.**

**In the “LHG Events Calendar”, the date of the next Duarte Garage Open House should be listed as Sunday, August 20th, and the date of the next Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Classic Travel Trailers and Fraternal Organizations should be listed as Sunday, August 27th.**

**We sincerely regret the errors.**