



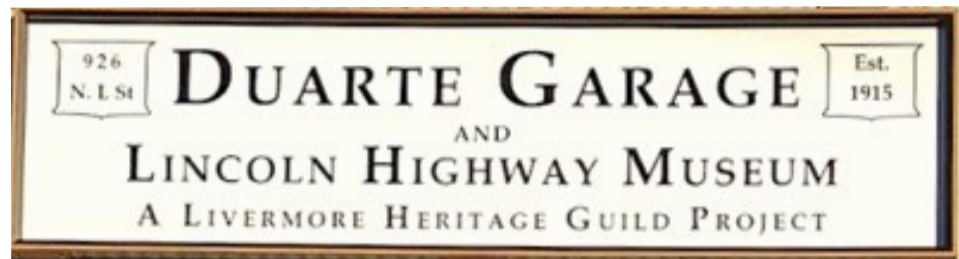
Return of the Signs

by Will Bolton

After a gap of about two years with no large sign on the south side of the Duarte Garage, there are - once again - a sign on the west side (L Street) and a sign on the south side (Pine Street). The second year of that gap was dominated by the COVID pandemic, which increased the difficulty of installing the large sign and reduced the urgency because of the general shutdown of public activities – including open houses at Livermore Heritage Guild facilities.

The previous signs had served well for several decades but were showing the effects of many years of exposure to the elements. These signs were painted on plywood with wood frames. The paint was cracking and flaking off, the plywood was delaminating, and the wood frame was warping and coming apart at the corners. Clearly it was time for new signs. Our plan was to remove the old signs, make careful measurements so we could reuse the existing, very robust mounting brackets on the Garage, and have new signs painted with more long-lasting materials. An unplanned opportunity to remove the south side sign presented itself in January 2019, when a storm ripped off some of the corrugated roofing from the Garage. Yorkshire Roofing of Livermore did a great job of repairing the roof. While they had their lift-bed truck at the Garage, we asked if they would take a few extra minutes to take down the south sign, which they gladly agreed to do.

The sign on the west side of the Garage was small enough, low enough, and light enough to be removed by one person using a ladder. With the signs inside the Garage, we could see that the large sign from the south side was in even worse condition than was evident from ground level. A fascinating find was the small signature “Scully” at the bottom of the painted area, where it was not visible from the ground. “Scully” was the informal name of Donald Scullion. Don



Scullion was born in Livermore in 1924 and attended St. Michael’s School and the California College of Arts and Crafts. He served in the US Marine Corps during WWII in the Pacific Theater, fighting in the battles of Guadalcanal and Pelelieu. After the war, Don served in the Merchant Marine. The highlight of his maritime career was a voyage around the world on the SS President Cleveland. Don returned to Livermore as a professional sign painter and owner of “Scully Signs.” He was the original painter of the giant Livermore Rodeo Cowboy statue and chute signs at the Livermore Rodeo grounds. Scully’s projects have appeared in Livermore for many years, including the Duarte Garage signs.

Another long-time resident of Livermore key to getting the previous signs on the Duarte Garage, was Jerry Bireley. Jerry had a varied career including operating the Associated Gas station at the corner of L Street and First Street (which is still a gas station) and the Family Station on Portola Avenue (which is still a garage) a few blocks northwest of the Duarte Garage. He was an active member of the Livermore Heritage Guild, involved with the Duarte Garage, spent time at the Garage in retirement, and donated petroleum-related items for display in the Garage. Jerry commissioned Scully

to paint the earlier “Duarte Garage and Lincoln Highway Museum” outside signs. Jerry’s sons installed the signs on the west and south walls where the signs have served for over 20 years.

When designing the new signs, we had several goals: reuse the existing mounting brackets on the Garage, use durable materials for a long life, and use a color scheme and design that would be typical of an early 20th century garage. After some research, we selected DiBond – a polyethylene core bonded to two face sheets of thin aluminum. This material has been widely used for signs

(Signs, continued on page 8)

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Heritage Garden

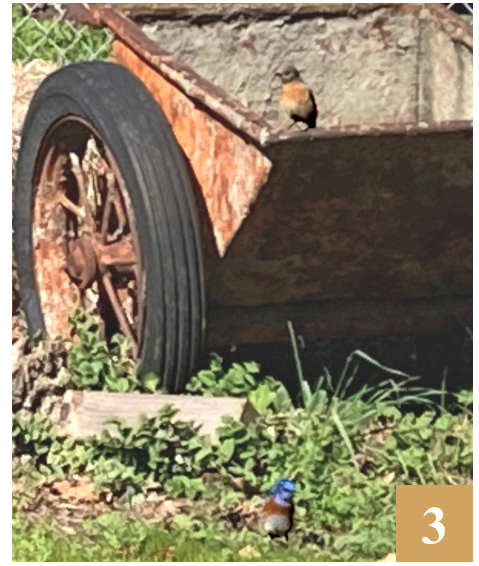
by Loretta Kaskey



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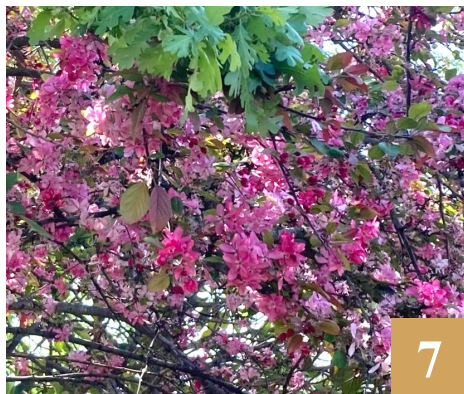
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Birds and bees and blossoms bursting forth... that's spring at the Heritage Garden and Hagemann grounds. Please enjoy a nice collection of captioned photos to celebrate this season. Numbered from top left: 1) Bridal wreath spirea, looks delicate but is quite easy to grow; 2) Hagemann bees pollinating the fava bean flower; 3) In addition to our regular denizens of chickadees, finches, crows, and black phoebes, the Ranch has a nesting pair of Western Bluebirds; 4) Close up of heads of barley. The crops are still lush and green. Another month is needed for a dried and ripened gold-brown, then they will be ready for harvest; 5) Wisteria from the side yard droops its bounty; 6) Hot poker plant and roses herald the arrival of spring and will continue their presence through summer; 7) Blooming crab apple growing under the front oak tree gives quite a visual performance; 8) The winter crops (fava beans, peas, winter wheat, red oats and barley) with the ranch lane in the background. All photos but number three by Loretta Kaskey. Third photo courtesy of Natalie Amat.

A Message from the President

by Will Bolton

On March 2, 2021, Ben Murray, the Principal Planner for the City of Livermore, sent a message informing the Livermore Heritage Guild that the building at 2066-2080 Railroad Avenue had burned the previous evening. The building had been the home of Livermore Pool and Spa on the north side of Railroad Ave. near the intersection with Livermore Avenue. From photos I found online, it appeared that the east side of the building nearest Livermore Avenue was older and had been “modernized” at some point in the past. A newer addition extended the building to the west. It’s always sad to see older buildings of any type destroyed around Livermore. When possible, it is much more satisfying to see old buildings preserved, maintained, and used for modern purposes while retaining the charm of the older structures – much like what has been done with Blacksmith Square on Livermore Avenue. These older buildings are the heart of the appeal of downtown Livermore.

I was curious about the history of what appeared to be the older side of 2066-2080 Railroad Avenue, so I contacted Jeff and Loretta Kaskey. Loretta responded with a 15-page report containing photographs, old maps, newspaper articles, and other information that she and Jeff prepared several years ago for the then-owner of the building, who was taking a project concerning the building to Livermore’s Historic Preservation Commission. I

understand the owner was considering tearing down the building but, after learning about its history, decided to retain it. Here is a brief excerpt from that report that gives a bit of the history of 2066-2080 Railroad Avenue:

“The building at 2066 Railroad dates to 1926 and has association with the Aylward family, who have had machine shops on this site since the early 1880s. Joseph Aylward came to Livermore in 1874 and established a machinery (Alyward haypress) and blacksmith business. An artistic rendering of that early machine shop is found as bldg. 54 in W.P. Bartlett’s Bird’s Eye View of Livermore Map. Early Sanborn maps support the machine shop location. The current building appears on the 1926 Sanborn map. The site transformed from blacksmith to support automobiles in the 1910s.”

The complete report on 2066-2080 Railroad Avenue is available from the LHG History Center in the Carnegie Building. This report is one example of the resources and services that LHG provides to support individuals, businesses, and the City of Livermore. Another example of services provided: in late 2020, the Heritage Guild responded to a request from the City of Livermore for high resolution files of 50 photos of historic buildings and locations around Livermore for use in the City’s Historical Context document. Around the same time, LHG responded to a request from a local bank for photos



Above: Photo courtesy of Kathy Lee.

to support their community mural project.

In more normal times, that is, before and (we would expect) after the pandemic, the Curator of the LHG History Center, Don Smith, has had interns and volunteers who respond to research service requests based on LHG archives and other sources. While such research and archive retrieval services are not as visible as activities at the Hagemann Ranch, Duarte Garage, or the periodic history talks at the Livermore Library, they are none-the-less an important part of the value LHG provides to the Livermore community.



Above left: The building at 2066-2080 Railroad Avenue before the fire. Photo courtesy of Google Maps Street View; Above right: The same building after the March 2021 fire. Photo by Will Bolton.

Hagemann Happenings

by Barbara Soules



At the ranch we celebrate any project that is completed, especially the long awaited, dreamed about ones. So imagine our excitement when not one, but three big projects were finished in the past few weeks.

The most visible one is our new, working, white, wooden front gate! Built entirely by Boy Scouts and their leaders, the gate was two and a half years in the making. An Eagle Scout project is required to be something lasting that contributes significantly to the community. Arjun Nimmakayala from Livermore Troop 939 came to the Ranch looking for such a project back in October, 2018. After several false starts, he became enamored with building a new, historically accurate front gate despite the complex construction that would be needed. The LHG photo collection and other sources provided samples of turn-of-the-century gate styles in the Tri-Valley. These, plus several of the large gates in other parts of the ranch, served as inspiration. Arjun began sketching, planning, and measuring. Multiple visits to the ranch and meetings with Jeff Kaskey and Barbara Soules helped refine the plan. After completing all the Scout paperwork, he then created a Sketchup 3D model of the gate which he could modify as needed. A presentation to the

Livermore Historical Commission resulted in the posts being shortened but approval of the overall project.

The implementation phase could begin. Over a three week period in late March and early April, Arjun and nine other scouts painted the lumber, dug the four foot deep post holes, securely cemented the eight and ten foot posts in the holes, and constructed the twenty foot wide double gate. They were guided and aided in all stages by their construction leader Trex Donovan, the cement expert Brian Bruce, and the expertise of Jeff Kaskey. *Precision* was the word of each day. The gate had to be level even though the driveway was not, the posts had to be able to support the heavy gates, and all had to be aligned perfectly. Every measurement was taken four or five times, checked and rechecked. Teamwork was essential and this group

worked together beautifully. The finished product is a beautiful entrance to Hagemann Ranch that will serve the community for years to come.

The second completed project is also a new entrance, this time to the Ranch House. It is the work of our trusty First Presbyterian Church team, Don Bartel and Phil Dean. The front porch of the house has been in need of repair for a long time. The four corner posts were not original, but store-bought substitutes. The goal was to recreate the original porch. Phil and Don deconstructed the old plywood floor, filled in the base with gravel, and built a sturdy tongue and groove floor using salvaged lumber from the Southern Pacific depot. It is now painted red to match the house trim. The posts are replicas of the four columns shown in the 1940s photo below. They are constructed from wood salvaged from the water tower that was demolished a few years ago. Phil reports that the posts still need to be painted and there is still some trim work to complete. After that, it will be hard to tell if this is the original porch or a new reproduction. It's another project that will graciously welcome visitors for many years.

The last project is not long-awaited and not historical, just purely fun! A couple of months ago, Donna Costa, the 4-H leader, announced that she was buying two pygmy goats for the Ranch. Donna got them when they were two days old

(Hagemann, continued on page 10)



Top left: Arjun Nimmakayala in front of the newly installed front gate, which he designed and built. Photo by Barbara Soules. **Right:** The Hagemann front porch in the 1940s. That's Herb on the porch. Photo courtesy of LHG collection.

Whose Old House Was It?

by Richard Finn

I find researching who lived in the older homes of Livermore can be very interesting. To find out who might have lived in a house, one resource is the *Historical Resources Inventory* that was prepared for the City of Livermore in 1988. Another useful reference is the *Historic Resources Inventory* that was prepared for the City in 2004. Unfortunately this only includes the downtown area. As I write this, another *Inventory* is being prepared for the City.

While the *Inventories* can be very useful it turns out they are not always factual. For example, information on the 1988 *Inventory* tells us the house at 228 North K Street was “probably constructed by D. E. Thomas, a pioneer farmer, circa 1880.” It goes on: “In 1887, Francisco Augerbehre built a two story addition to the residence.”

Finding out who D. E. Thomas was turned out to be fairly easy. He was David Evens Thomas, born 14 January 1833 in Wales, came to America before 1860 and was a miner in Sierra County, lived in San Francisco for a while, farmed in the Hayward area, and before 1880 moved to Livermore again being listed as a miner. In 1886 his occupation was saloon keeper. He died 14 October 1896 and was buried at the Roselawn Cemetery.

Before 1854, David married Elizabeth, born about 1830 in Wales and died 4 April 1920 in Alameda County. They had daughter Selina/Selma born about 1854 in Wales and son Thomas born about 1856 in Iowa. So far I have been unable to locate the children after 1870.

Now the real challenge. I could not find information on Francisco Augerbehre. After doing a fair amount of looking, I emailed seventh cousin and fellow Tri-Valley researcher Peter Kitchingham and asked him to use his skills to find Augerbehre. Peter found the surname

we were interested in was not Augerbehre but rather Aguerere, sometimes spelled by the family as Aguerere. That find led us to Juan Francisco “Frank” Aguerere. He was born 7 February 1820 in Navarre, Spain and died 4 August 1901 in Livermore. Frank was buried at Saint Michael’s Cemetery in Livermore. In 1877 he married Marie “Mary” Etchelar, She was born about 1855 in France and died 10 November 1919 in Livermore. She also was buried at Saint Michael’s. Her interesting will/probate records can be found on Ancestry.com.

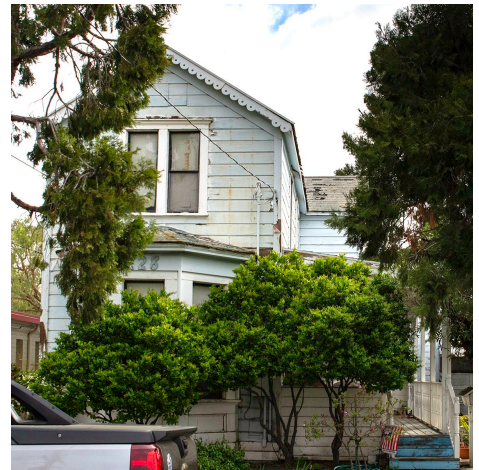
Frank came to America in 1859. We are not sure what he did in the early years in this country but in 1880 and 1900 he was listed as a farmer. Researching him is difficult because of the many different spellings of his surname. These included not only those above, but also spellings like Aquirrebehre, Aguerere, Augerbehre, Augerere, etc.

Frank and Mary had five children. All but two had passed away before Mary died in 1919. Those two lived in the K Street house into the 1920s when they moved to a house on Livermore Ave. The oldest of the two was Angelita “Angie” Mary Aguerere who was born in San Francisco on 2 October 1877 and died 17 April 1947 in Santa Clara County. She was buried in the family plot at Saint Michael’s. Angie started her working life as a dressmaker, was a saleslady in a dry goods store, was a bookkeeper, and then was the bookkeeper in the office of Doctors Warner and Dolan. Her brother Joseph “Joe” Mark Aguerere lived with her in the K Street house.

Joe was born 7 October 1886 in Livermore and died 25 July 1941 here in Alameda County. Joe is also buried at Saint Michael’s Cemetery. He started his working life as an odd job laborer and in later years was a hay and grain farmer.

Like many area farmers (and his father before him) Joe lived in town but farmed on rented or owned property out of the town limits.

To me, the K Street house is just another example of a place you can pass and have no idea who lived there over the years and what complicated lives they might have lived. In this case, a house with a history of about 140 years.



Top: The house at 228 North K Street;
Above: The Aguerere tombstone marking the family plot at Saint Michael’s Cemetery
Photos courtesy of Richard Finn.

Musings and Memories

by Anna Siig

Anna is keeping busy out on the Musings and Memories beat chasing down leads about Quonset huts. We hope to be able to publish the results of her investigations in our next issue.

Meet a Member: Gale Hudson

by Will Bolton

We seem to be caught up introducing you to Board members but the feature has been so well received that we'll continue on with ... "Meet a Member". In this space we will have the pleasure of introducing those who have made an impact on the Guild.

Gale Hudson has been a resident of the Duarte Cottage since 1986. During that time, he has seen some pretty interesting things. A few months ago, he saw the decades old and very large Pepper Tree in the Cottage yard topple over during a wind and rain storm. A couple years earlier, he saw a portion of the Duarte Garage corrugated roof blow off in another wind storm. A constant source of entertainment is the large number of cars running through the 4-way stop signs at the intersection of Pine and North L Streets. Unfortunately, some of those misdeeds result in collisions that have actually threatened the Duarte Garage. Gale described an event in the 1990s that was particularly dangerous. A car going at a high speed headed northwest on Junction Avenue, failed to negotiate the corner, jumped the curb, ran through a corner of the park, through the white picket fence to the side of the Cottage, grazed the Pepper Tree, and crashed through the Garage wall between the two

windows on the east side. At the time, Gale had his 1982 Corvette parked in the Garage under a car cover. While the crash could have done major damage to his Corvette, the speeding car and the debris from the Garage wall barely touched Gale's car. An indication of how fast the car was going before running into the Garage: Gale saw a hub cap caught in the branches 30 feet up in the pepper tree. The most significant damage from Gale's perspective was a torn car cover (the insurance bought him a new cover). The damage to the Garage was quickly repaired and is scarcely visible today.

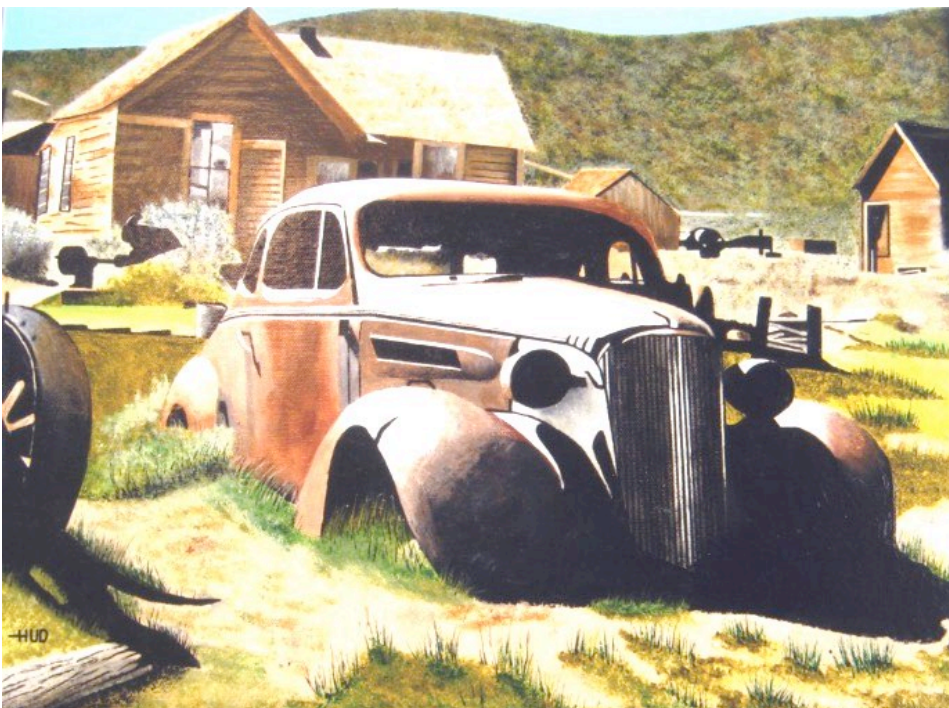
Clearly, Gale has seen some interesting things while living in the Duarte Cottage, but how did he arrive at the Cottage? Gale was born in Oakland and grew up there and in Bijou, California – now part of the South Lake Tahoe area. He had a stable childhood filled with baseball, scouts, a paper route, and school. His father was a blacksmith, who shared his interest in nature – an interest that Gale still retains. After graduating from Laney College, Gale accepted an offer to work at Sandia at its rapidly growing facility in Livermore. Gale left Sandia for a few years to work for a Lockheed contractor in Nashville,



Tennessee. After returning to Sandia in Livermore, Gale worked until his retirement in 1996. Gale was living in Tracy when Tim Sage mentioned to him that the Duarte Cottage was vacant. Gale coordinated with the Heritage Guild, did some repairs, and moved in. He reports that he enjoys the Livermore environment and appreciates the historic nature of the Cottage.

Over the years, Gale has retained his interest in nature and undeveloped places. He has hiked and climbed peaks in Yosemite and the Trinity Alps. Gale's interest in mid-1800s history and the outdoors has led him to explore more than 80 ghost towns in the western United States. His interest in nature and ghost towns is also reflected in his photography and painting. When asked where he learned to paint, Gale responded that he took some art at Laney College but, "didn't learn much." Obviously, he learned enough to develop impressive painting skills, as one look at his paintings of animals, waterfalls, mountains, and ghost towns will confirm. In addition to his painting talent, his sense of humor is evident in a group of paintings he calls "altered art," in which he recreates well known paintings with an ironic or humorous element added. For example, Gale painted the Mona Lisa with her

(Meet a Member, continued on page 9)



Above: Gale Hudson, outside the Duarte Cottage; **Left:** One of Gale's paintings. Photos by Will Bolton.

Collections Corner

by Jeff Kaskey

In May of last year, we heard from cinematographer Eric Anderson about a brass bed dating back two generations in his family. Since Eric is a great-great-great grandson of Robert Livermore in the line of Robert Livermore, Jr., we were immediately intrigued, but a bed is a serious undertaking for our limited space, and ultimately, they decided to keep it in the family. However, in the course of our email conversation, it emerged that other artifacts were available, and in a classic case of burying the lede, Eric noted that he also wished to donate a pair of tatted pillow covers bearing the monogrammed initials of Robert Livermore, Jr. and his wife Teresa (Bernal) Livermore, that Teresa had made. This was dramatically more exciting than a bed, as it was a touchstone piece, visually bringing together the two pioneer Livermore and Bernal families. Unfortunately, Eric lives in Southern California, and being in the middle of a pandemic, he had no plans to be traveling right away. So, we patiently waited and ultimately this March, Eric had his vaccine and was ready to travel.

It was very much worth the wait. Eric's box contained a few other curious items, such as a 1953 Livermore Rodeo program (Eric's grandfather, Roy Anderson, was rodeo Treasurer) and some charred, untranslated letters from Denmark to a Theoder Jensen, dating as far back as 1910. But the gems of course are the two textiles.

Eric referred to them as pillow covers, but as of today there is no pouch, each item is a single piece of cloth. We will continue to refer to them as pillow covers until better information suggests

otherwise, but even if they were originally part of a pillow container, we do not imagine they would have ever been used as basic bed pillows. Likely purely decorative, they may have been on some form of upholstery piece, but by their fancy work and their lack of displayed wear, we are fairly confident these were never in general use. The construction includes various forms of needlework, loosely considered here to be tating and free embroidery. Our guess is that they are from approximately the 1870s.

Conserving textiles is not our expertise, so the pieces will be sent out for professional evaluation and conservation. We are currently working with Beth Szuhay of Chrysalis Art Conservation who will report on the pieces' construction, condition, and recommended treatment, and then mount the pieces for preservation and display. We are excited to have the pieces available to show, hopefully about the time when guests will again be welcomed into the Carnegie History Center. When the pieces are ready, we will be sure to let you know!

The needle work donation is a hard one to follow, but I am pleased to note that the Holm family also found a few choice pieces for the Guild's collection. Besides impressive farm equipment that I believe Will has written about (page 9), we received some smaller gems as well. A few large photos of downtown and the Southern Pacific depot in the 1950s and sheet music from the 1930s (piano with ukulele chords), were accompanied by Marilyn Holm's (aka Tilli Calhoun, our late legendary teacher, artist, historian, storyteller) fifth grade (1940) report



card. It was a time when a simple three-tiered system was sufficient, and Tilli scored a respectable number of Outstandings along with many Satisfactories. Worth noting is a full year of Outstanding for Dependability. Many of us would do well to aspire to as much. In the same envelope is the 1923 report card from Livermore Union High School belonging to Tilli's mother, Ione.

Another little treasure in the donated items was the graduation program for the Livermore Grammar School class of 1900. They welcomed the new century and celebrated the 22 graduates with two Declamations, four Recitations, five musical numbers and a one-act play, adding ceremony to the Conferring of Degrees. We close this note with a photo of the Southern Pacific depot in 1955 from the Holm donation.

Top: Close up of one of the textiles, showing the initials RL; **Above:** Detail of the tatted lace corner of the textile. Photos by Jeff Kaskey; **Left:** The Southern Pacific depot in 1955. Photo courtesy of the Holm family.



Signs

(continued from page 1)

for many years, proving to be quite durable. Fred Deadrick used his considerable woodworking skills to make a frame for the new signs of an engineered wood material that has a reputation for being long lasting. The design of the sign also involved some research. We looked at photos of Livermore businesses from the early 1900s and garages of the era from across the country, including a garage sign that provided the general layout of the new south side sign. The final design was based on these sources to fit the period in which the Garage was built.

We also researched potential painters for the sign and found that hand-painting sign talents are now rare. Currently, most outdoor signs are made by computer-generated graphics. However, we were very fortunate that, through a suggestion from Tim Sage, we contacted Terry Bell of Livermore. Terry, also known as “TBonez,” has a background in graphic design and is knowledgeable in the art of Hot Rod culture. His pin striping and graphic design work is widely seen on custom cars, motorcycle gas tanks and helmets, clothing, skateboards, display panels...almost anything that will accept the 1-Shot paint he uses. Terry agreed to be a part of the Duarte sign project and to work with us to develop the design, select the appropriate lettering style, and hand paint the signs. He did the painting in his home studio but brought the signs to the Duarte Garage for the final painting touches on the sign frame.

With the signs in hand (actually, sitting on tables in the Garage), we were looking for a way to install them on the Garage. The new west sign was easy to install by one person and a ladder. However, the south sign was too large to safely install with ladders. We needed the capability of industrial lift equipment that we didn’t have. An opportunity was provided by Don Keech, who arranged for the new south side sign to be

Top right: Terry Bell putting the finishing touches on the large sign, November 2019; **Middle right:** The “Scully” signature under the letter O in Livermore; **Bottom right:** Pedro Flores and Mark Nissen installing the sign, January 2021. All photos by Will Bolton.

installed at a very affordable price (free) by Condon-Johnson & Associates of Livermore. Mark Nissen and Pedro Flores of Condon-Johnson had a scissors-lift delivered and made quick work of installing the sign.

Now, an interesting coincidence to close the circle on the Garage signs. In 2014, Danny Mitchell, one of Terry’s friends, noticed some items - including a Weber Red Kettle barbecue, which Dan collects - in a Livermore driveway with a sign that said “free.” While investigating the Red Kettle, Dan noticed a box next to the barbecue with “Hastings 24-carat Gold Leaf” on the side. Back home with the items he’d picked up and knowing Terry’s interest in pin striping and custom graphics, Dan called Terry to come to his house to see the gold leaf. After seeing what Dan had collected, it was clear that these items had once belonged to a sign painter. Terry and Dan returned to the house to go through more boxes. Terry knocked on the back door and spoke to the lady who answered. She confirmed that the items belonged to a sign painter, her husband Don Scullion. They were able to sit and talk with Don briefly. During the visit, Terry was able to collect other sign painter tools of the trade, including some of Scully’s Grumbacher brushes. Terry stopped by a week later to talk more, only to be told his health was failing. Terry found out later Don had passed and regretted not stopping by sooner. The beautiful part of his story is that Terry Bell used some of Don Scullion’s brushes in painting the new Duarte Garage signs, continuing Scully’s connection to the Garage and to Livermore signs for decades to come.



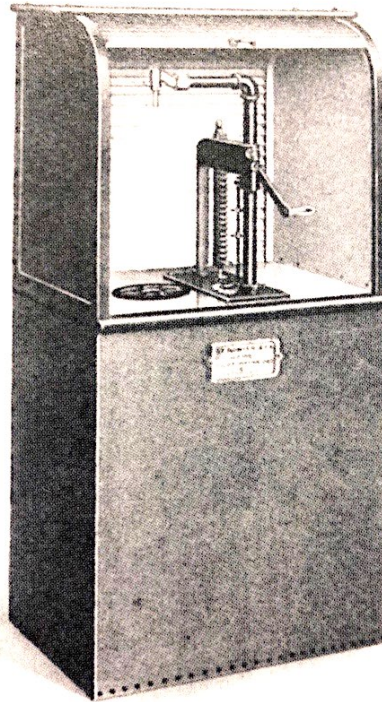
Duarte Garage

by Will Bolton

In late March and early April 2021, the Holm Ranch donated a number of pieces of vintage agricultural equipment to the Livermore Heritage Guild for display at the Hagemann Ranch. The extended Holm family includes Tilli Calhoun, a name well known to most Heritage Guild members, and her youngest daughter Nancy Mueller, our primary point of contact for the donations. Stories of the Holm family, the Holm Ranch, and the recent agricultural equipment donations will be the subject of future writings. However, the subject of this writing is one donated item that went not to the Hagemann Ranch but to the Duarte Garage: a “Bowser” oil tank. We hope that as the COVID safety limitations relax, we can return to our usual project approach so that this oil tank will be the next and the last of the Garage Pandemic Projects.



The Bowser oil tank was used at the Holm ranch property on Stanley Boulevard west of Isabel Avenue. It was used, along with a gas pump, to serve agricultural equipment on the ranch. The rectangular tank has a 65-gallon capacity with a hand pump that dispenses up to one quart of oil with each cycle. It is made of heavy gauge galvanized steel and held together by large steel rivets. A particularly interesting feature of this oil tank is that it has a metal roll top that covers the top of the tank and the pump - much like a roll top desk - when they are not in use. Searching in Jack Sim’s authoritative book, “An Illustrated Guide to Gas Pumps” showed that this oil tank and dispenser is a Bowser Model 52-B, introduced in 1908. The earlier Bowser Model 52, introduced in 1901, was quite



similar in appearance but had a wood case and wood roll top. The all-metal 52-B has soldered seams and is remarkably oil tight after 100 or so years.

The name plate on the oil tank is imprinted with “S.F. Bowser.” Upon seeing this, my first reaction was, “Was this made in San Francisco?” The answer to that question is, “No, it stands for Sylvanus Freeloove Bowser.” That middle name caused me a moment’s reflection; however, it turns out to have its origins in Old English, meaning “peace-survivor.” It was not an uncommon name in the Eastern U.S. in the 18th century, but with a much different association than in the 1960s. Bowser was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1854, and was the first person to build and sell dispensers for gasoline and other similar liquids. His first pump was sold in 1885 to dispense kerosene for lamps. In 1887, he was granted a patent for a “Storage and Measuring Tank for Volatile Liquids.” His pumps were so successful that the “Bowser” brand became synonymous with vertical gas pumps and many types of liquid dispensing tanks.

We have just started to clean the Bowser oil tank and are starting to uncover hints of the original color scheme. We will provide more updates in the future as we work on the oil tank and learn more about the tank, where and how it was used on the Holm Ranch, and the members of the Holm family who were associated with it.

Far Left: The Bowser tank in the Duarte Garage at the start of the cleaning process. Photo by Will Bolton; **Left:** The Bowser model 52-B from *An Illustrated Guide to Gas Pumps* by Jack Sim.

Meet a Member

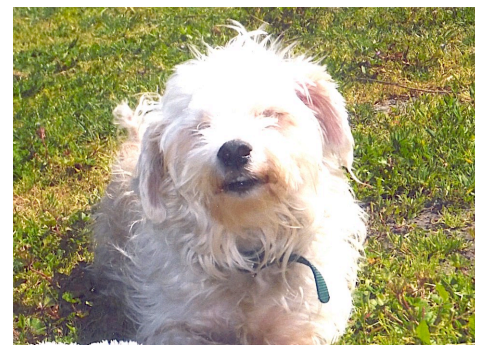
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enigmatic smile while clutching a hand grenade in her lap.

When visiting the Duarte Garage, if Gale happens to be outside, it’s always a delight to chat with him. We are fortunate to have Gale as a long-time

member of the Livermore Heritage Guild and a resident of the Duarte Cottage with his guard dog, “Bodie.”

Right: The Fierce Attack Dog, Bodie. This picture doesn’t convey his true nature. He is in disguise. Don’t be fooled. Photo by Will Bolton.



Celebrating Life Members

We attempted to acknowledge the loyal commitment of our Life Members in the February issue but several names were inadvertently dropped from the list. We apologize for the mistake. The trust and support these members have shown in the Heritage Guild by purchasing Life Memberships is truly appreciated. If you wish to purchase a Life Membership, please visit www.lhg.org or refer to information on the back page of this newsletter.

Beverly Schell Ales	Susie Calhoun	Arthur Henry	Bertha Meamber	Don Smith
Anastasia Alexander	Alice Calvert	The Henry's A's	Don Meeker	Ann Stephens
Margaret Andersen	Dorothy Clarkson,	Leslie Jensen	Nancy Mueller	Irv Stowers
Baughman's Western	Andy Lundberg	Susan Junk	William O'Neal	Patty Stowers
Outfitters	Nancy Cooper	Loretta Kaskey	Ann Pfaff-Doss	Anthony Troha
Kathy Baird	Manuel Costa	Jeanette King	Robert Rich	Gayl Tschritter
Baumgartner	Charles Crohare	James and Carol	Karen Richardson	Ken Tschritter
Thomas Beaudet	Kathleen Duarte-	Lathrop	Russ and Claudia	Janet Von Toussaint
Judith Beery	Erickson	Steve Laughlin	Riley	Wendy Weathers
Will Bolton	Ellen Eagan-McNeill	Jean Lerche	Neil Riley	Karl L. Went
Kim Bonde	Mary Evans	Richard Lerche	Mary Rizzo	Karl D. Went
Bob Bronzan	Phyllis Fachner	Daren Livermore	Tim Sage	Jeffrey Williams
Cathie Brown	Karen Faraldo	Len Matchniff	Joan Seppala	Jim Winnick
Sally Brown	Doris Fereira	Larry Mauch	Lynn Seppala	Beverly Wooster
Lawrence Burdick	Bruce Gach	Treva Mauch	John Shirley	
Alan Burnham	Roberta Hadley	Terry McCune	Anna Siig	

Hagemann

(continued from page 4)

and bottle fed them every two hours, keeping them in her SUV when she worked. As a result, they are extremely tame animals who love people. The question was, where do we house them? The suggestion to use the newly reconstructed Chicken Coop #2 was quickly adopted. At this point, the cooperation and ingenuity of LHG volunteers quickly materialized. First, the building needed a front door. Phil and Don to the rescue. There is now a

beautiful redwood door with a sturdy, period-appropriate handle. The small goat entrance in the back needed a door to secure the animals at night. Again, Phil and Don. There is now a sliding door. The yard had to be fenced in to create a play yard for the goats. Enter our own construction crew, Kathy Lee and Will Bolton. They gave the large enclosure a double people gate to prevent goat escapees. The goats needed more exercise. Del Eckels built a climbing structure for them. The house needed a screen door to provide some

breeze in the hot weather. Kathy built a perfect one. The finished product is a goat palace.

At three weeks the siblings moved into their new abode. Ricky and Lucy are now two months old and have provided constant entertainment for everyone at the ranch. They are now only being bottle fed *once* a day!

The other young animals at the ranch are now a year old. Dasher and Dache have grown into very good looking and friendly horses. The 4-H students helped them celebrate with cake and singing throughout the week of March 29th. The horses didn't appreciate the cake but they loved the extra attention and hay.



Left: The new Hagemann front porch, courtesy of Don Bartel and Phil Dean; **Above:** The new pygmy goats, Ricky and Lucy. All photos by Barbara Soules.

In Memoriam: Russ Bearrows

by Jeff Kaskey

We lost Russell Nathan Bearrows, known to us as Russ, in his 75th year on March 7, 2021. Russ came at the Guild with hammer and tongs. Literally, as he was our Blacksmith at Hagemann Ranch. He delighted in showing the skills and the red-hot work to guests at the ranch, talking about the iron, the trade, and its history. He spoke at a walking pace, comfortable to chat with and learn from, and guests alternately watched and peppered him with questions. He answered a woman's question about repairing kitchenware, a child asked what his workpiece was made of, incredulous that solid metal was bent so neatly to his will. At one open house another senior exhibitor was displaying farm tools next to Russ's post in the Blacksmith shop and the chatter between the two of them informed and entertained a continuous audience of guests. At another open house, Russ shaped iron parts while his wife Judy demonstrated broom making from broom corn on an amazing antique broom-winding machine.

Russ came to us through his association with the history exhibits at, or that used to be at, the Alameda County Fairgrounds, where he and Judy demonstrated the vintage hardware. As that exhibit space was reduced, they wanted to make sure the agricultural artifacts which had been on display would still be available to share our heritage with the public. Russ

approached the Guild with some of the exhibit pieces, many of which it turned out, were originally on loan to the Fair from Russ. He contributed important pieces to both the Duarte Garage and the Hagemann Ranch collections.

To our Duarte Garage and Lincoln Highway Museum, Russ donated belts and pulleys which were used for display and as part of the restored overhead belt system in the garage shop. At Hagemann Ranch, the Guild welcomed his donations of blacksmith hardware and tools as well as three large wooden-wheeled wagons. In addition he offered the use of his restored and personally maintained historic Case tractors. It turned out that Russ knew the Hagemann family long before many of the rest of us and in fact some of the tools he brought to the ranch had started in the Hagemann family including one of the Case VAC tractors. I am happy to say that 70 year old tractor once again gets work done at the ranch. One of the wagons Russ donated was taken on as an Eagle Scout project, where the wagon was completely dismantled and restored and used for parades and hayrides, pulled by one of Russ's tractors, sometimes with Russ at the wheel.

Things and deeds though come from many people, but Russ was also just delightful to have as part of the Heritage Guild family. Ready with a smile and a laugh, happy to lend a hand, tell a story



Above: Russ Bearrows at his anvil at Hagemann Ranch. Photo by Doug Jorgensen.

or do both at the same time, Russ quickly became a trusted old friend and advisor. A handsome old devil, we believe that someone once remarked to actor Sam Elliott that he looked a bit like Russ. For these reasons and so many more, we miss him and are thankful for his commitment and for the time he spent with us.

Mystery at the Museum

by Jeff Kaskey

This little not-a-hockey-puck treasure was found at Hagemann Ranch.

It is sitting on a record just for size reference (what do you put a white thing on?) and the diameter of this little cutie is three inches. Anybody have any ideas as to what it is? Let Jeff Kaskey know at jkaskey@yahoo.com.

Right: The top of the mystery object and (**far right**) the bottom. Photos by Jeff Kaskey.



Welcome New and Renewing Members! January - March 2021

Life

Charles Crohare

Sponsor

Sandy Clark
Muriel Dean
Philip Dean
Charles Sweet

Individual

Molly Alexander
Sandra Amaral
Kelly Burke - NEW
Sylvia Chatagnier
Donna Costa - NEW
Ron Gunter - NEW
Jeff Kaskey
Rick Knowles
Dennis Tungate
Joseph Viera

Senior

Catherine Amaral
Del Eckels - NEW
Don Keech
Marcia Kellam - NEW
Arthur Kobayashi
Cathy O'Connell
John Slover - NEW
Kathleen Young

Family

Jeanne Brown & Family
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Clawson
Margaret Fazio & Family
James & Peggy Kervin
Andrea Loyd
David & Alice Quinn

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Contact the newsletter editor with comments or suggestions.

Livermore Heritage Guild

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In Appreciation

Donations

Shirley Anderson

Jeff Kaskey

Barbara Soules

In Memory Of

Tressie Kirkman by Shirley Anderson

Robert Flelcher by Shirley Anderson

LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Wednesday, May 12	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting*
Wednesday, June 9	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting*
Wednesday, July 14	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting*

* Information is subject to change pending County/City health guidelines. Be sure to check the lhg.org website frequently for updated information.

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

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

History Center is currently closed. Please check lhg.org for updated information as it becomes available.

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.