

In celebration of our 50th anniversary we are reprinting an article from the Livermore Heritage Guild's December, 1998, newsletter. It was written in recognition of LHG's 25th anniversary. In our next issue we will bring you up to date with the Heritage Guild's more recent accomplishments of 1998 – 2023. We think you will enjoy reading and reflecting upon the significant role the Livermore Heritage Guild has played in making our City a wonderful place to live.

How It All Began

In February 1973, a contract was let by the Southern Pacific Land Development Company to demolish the Southern Pacific train depot in Livermore. Built in 1892 but no longer used, the depot was in bad shape and Southern Pacific wanted to develop the land. The contractor, who was given the demolition rights, offered his services in exchange for the lumber, valued at \$500, which was going to be reused to build horse stalls.

On February 24th an article ran in the local paper stating the depot had been given a temporary reprieve because a group of citizens expressed a desire to save the old depot from destruction. This group consisted of members of the Amador Livermore Valley Historical Society, the only historical society in the valley at the time. As part of the reprieve, the group was supposed to file a report regarding possible uses for the depot. One of the conditions was that

Southern Pacific Land Development Company wanted the depot removed from the site.

In March and April of that year, meetings were held to establish a plan for saving the depot. The consensus was that the depot definitely was in bad shape. It was estimated the cost to move the depot and place it on a new foundation would be about \$35,000.00. Additional monies would then be needed to restore the inside of the structure. The results of this meeting were published in the paper and the tone of the article was one of despair. It appeared that at this point the group was losing interest in the depot's future.

Another meeting was held in May to again discuss the depot's future. The papers reported that only four people were present for this meeting. The paper also reported that previous meetings had been attended by as many as twenty people. Again, this set the tone that the depot's future was in serious doubt. What wasn't reported was that three of the four people who attended that meeting were not part of the original group who had been working to save the depot. When she realized the initial group's interest was waning, Janet Newton, an original group member, had begun calling local citizens whom she thought would be interested in saving the old depot. This was the start of what is today the Livermore Heritage Guild.

The new group began forming its own plans to save the depot. Their plans were

leaning towards refurbishing the depot where it stood and making it part of the redevelopment plans. The petitioned the City Council to present their preliminary proposal.

In late June, the group again appeared before the City Council. The City Council voted to a stay of the demolition permit based on the newly formed Livermore Heritage Committee's preliminary proposal. No one realized the demolition was already in process inside the depot. Southern Pacific Land Development Company had, that same day, sent the contractor in to begin dismantling the building, working from the inside out.

The second day of demolition a reporter passing the depot saw the workers tearing apart the inside of the building and notified the newly formed committee. Committee members, with haste and determination, were successful in shutting down the dismantling operation.

The following day the local paper reported that the only reason the depot was not totally destroyed was that the contractor's tractor had broken down, so he started dismantling the building by hand. When this article appeared in the paper it seemed to propel the local interest in saving the depot to new heights. The Livermore Heritage Committee gained more members and

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Spring Has Sprung

by Loretta Kaskey



The winter crops have been harvested and half the beds have been prepped and planted with tomatoes, squash, collard greens, chard, and kale. It won't be long before the cucumbers, melons, peppers, and herbs are in the ground. The winter wheat, barley and red oats seed heads are all plumping and can easily be distinguished from one another now. The onions are definitely bulbing. Their stalks are thicker and more numbered than in December. We have an unintended cover crop growing alongside the onion, an invasive and common weed known as scarlet pimpernel (*anagallis arvensis*). Other names for this weed include red chickweed, poor man's barometer, poor



man's weather-glass, shepherd's weather glass or shepherd's clock. This weed is not edible. Its flower has five salmon-orange colored petals. The flowers will close up in late afternoon and on cloudy or rainy days. Sometimes the flower can be blue and then it would be referred to as blue pimpernel. This plant is not native to North America and was most likely brought here from Europe.

Our wonderful news is that the orchard is in! Congratulations to Sandra Lormand and Karen Jefferson!!! We hope that you will visit during the Hagemann Ranch Open Houses to see for yourself all the landscaping and garden progress.



Top left: Compare the growth of the onions with the last newsletter you received. These are no longer the two thin stalked onion seedlings of December. Can you spot the scarlet/blue pimpernel? **Top middle:** Heritage Garden volunteers Lauren Robbers and Soraya Rawlings with cabbage in hand and the red oats behind them; **Top right:** Baskets of the tail end of the winter harvest. Yellow Napa Cabbage flowers at top; cabbage in middle; and broccoli and cauliflower in the bottom of the photo. Photos by Loretta Kaskey.

THE LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD IS HAVING A GINORMOUS

YARD Sale

8:00am - 12:00pm

**DUARTE GARAGE,
NORTH DRIVEWAY
CORNER OF PORTOLA AND N. L STREET**

SATURDAY, JULY 8

Have usable items to donate?

email:
event@livermorehistory.com
please put "yard sale" in
subject line.

[Sorry, we are not accepting clothing]

All proceeds will
benefit
Livermore Heritage
Guild Projects

Get great deals on
household goods, antiques,
collectibles, toys, furniture
& MUCH more.



President's Message: The First Century So Far

by Will Bolton

This Newsletter comes out at almost the exact middle of the first century of the Livermore Heritage Guild's existence. In 2023, we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the founding of LHG. The Heritage Guild was born out of the efforts of a small, dedicated, and active group of citizens to prevent the demolition of the historic Livermore Southern Pacific Railway Station. After the success of saving the railway station, the core group felt that there was more work to be done to preserve the historical context of Livermore - hence, the Heritage Guild was formed. The LHG motto of "Saving Yesterday for Tomorrow" reflects the spirit of preserving the history of Livermore and the surrounding area for the education and enjoyment of future generations. The cruel reality is that once a historic building, site, artifact, photograph, book, family history, local lore, or story is lost or destroyed, it's gone forever.

Over the first half of the Heritage Guild's first century, it has helped preserve numerous historic buildings; assisted in the listing of several local structures in the National Register of Historic Places; provided research and consultation on historical topics for the City of Livermore and its citizens; managed and provided public access to historic sites in Livermore, including the Carnegie Library, the Hagemann Ranch, and the Duarte Garage and Lincoln Highway Museum; helped save three structures at Ravenswood Historic Site, which had been slated for demolition; continued to bring Livermore history to the public and schools through quarterly talks in conjunction with the Livermore Public Library, visits to grade schools by the HistoryMobile, curator-led walks in historic areas of downtown and nearby residential areas; and much more.

One person who, in late 2022, brought to our attention the significance of 2023 to the Livermore Heritage Guild was Anna Siig. She is well aware of the 50th Anniversary of LHG because she and Roger Brown are the two surviving members of the group of concerned citizens who were there in 1973 at the Southern Pacific Railroad Station working to prevent its demolition and to

How It All Started

**Staying on Track:
Saving Yesterday for Tomorrow**

**Come Learn
What
Happened
at the Depot
in 1973**

**Featuring
residents
who were
there
in 1973**

**Saturday, June 17th
1:00pm-3:30pm**

**Railroad Depot
2500 Railroad Avenue
Community Room**

Free Entry | Family Friendly

Guest Speakers | Historical Displays

**Scan here
for more
information!**

www.lhg.org

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LIVERMORE HERITAGE GUILD
Since 1973

Saving Yesterday for Tomorrow

preserve the historically important building. Anna helped to found LHG to continue this work, participating as an active member and officer in the Heritage Guild over its entire history. She suggested that we should do something special to recognize this significant milestone. This idea blossomed into a series of special LHG events over the course of the 50th Anniversary year. There have already been several events as part of the celebration year and there are several exciting events to come in the last half of the year, including a public reception at the historic Livermore Railroad

Station. In a fitting tribute, Anna Siig and Roger Brown will be at the reception this June to provide some remarks on saving the station and on the founding of the Livermore Heritage Guild.

A schedule of 50th Anniversary events and details are available on the Livermore Heritage Guild website at www.lhg.org (or search "Livermore Heritage Guild"). I hope you can join in the events during the second half of the Anniversary year and lend a hand in future LHG accomplishments in the second half of its first century.



The 2023 Auction is History

by Dottie Eberly

The Livermore Heritage Guild held its Annual Auction Saturday afternoon, April 15th. Having the event in the afternoon and serving delicious finger food type appetizers were departures from our normal format. The 53 guests in attendance seemed to enjoy and appreciate the changes.

The auction is usually the largest single fund raising event of the year and this year was no exception. It was the most successful auction in the long history of the event!

There were a variety of donated antiques and collectibles included in the auction as well as some fun “experience” items. Karen and Darrel Sweet offered to lead a “Birds, Flowers, and Cows Too!” tour of their ranch; Nancy Rodrigue, of Rodrigue Molyneaux Winery, offered a visit to their winery with special discounts during the day; and a two night stay at the Boomtown Reno hotel was donated courtesy of Sharon Bosque-Wiebe Hoffman. A ride on the hay wagon in the Rodeo Parade, a private party at the Duarte Garage, and a ride on the Mack Truck in the Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade, all offered by LHG, rounded out the auction experience items.

Watching a Jeff Kaskey video exploring the Hagemann Ranch house foundation – or should we say the lack of a foundation – was one of the highlights of our quirky little auction and garnered a very nice amount of money as our Fund-A-Need project.

Thanks to all who attended and supported the mission of the Guild. We hope you enjoyed your afternoon, and we would welcome any thoughts or comments you would care to offer about the auction, especially the new format. Please send an email to newsletter@livermorehistory.com.



Free, Family-Friendly Activities

Sundays at Hagemann Ranch

Rancho Day

May 28, 2023, 2-5 pm

Cowboy Poetry with Cynthia and Nate

Cavallo Cowgirls Drill Team

Sugar Bear Band

Learn to Lasso

Ongoing activities: Refreshments, Tours, Blacksmith Shop, Ranch Chores and Art Demonstrations

Top: Auction guests planning their bidding strategies. Photo by Richard Finn.

Hagemann Happenings

by Barbara Soules



As we celebrate our 50th anniversary it is fitting to remember the actual founding of the Heritage Guild in 1973 and the people involved in that historic occasion. What actually happened 50 years ago will be the focus of our anniversary event, “How It All Started”, at the Railroad Depot on June 17th. At that event we will hear from folks who were actually there in 1973. However, because this article is about Hagemann Ranch, I wish to highlight one particular founder of the Guild, Herb Hagemann.

When Herb Hagemann, Sr. died in 1962, Herb Jr., his mother Edna, and his sister Gussie (Augusta) sold the remaining 260 acres of the ranch to developers, saving only the 4.5 acres with the house, barns, and outbuildings. This is what we now call Hagemann Ranch. The three of them continued living in the house for the remainder of their lives. Around this time Herb became very interested in history and, in the mid-60s, helped found the Alameda Livermore Valley Historical Society based in Pleasanton. He served as their first president. Members of this group were the first to ignite interest in saving the Livermore Railroad Depot after the SP Railroad issued an order for its demolition. Their purpose was best served by being formally organized as a non-profit organization. Thus, the incorporation of the Livermore Heritage Guild in 1973. Herb Hagemann served as the first president until they had formal elections and Roger Brown was elected.

As an amateur historian, Herb Jr. wrote several short books including, *A History of the City of Pleasanton*, on the occasion of the city’s centennial in 1994 and a biography of *Juan Pablo Bernal*. We have his books in our collections. His interest in the history of both Livermore and Pleasanton was personal. His ancestors were pioneers of both cities. Herb’s mother, Edna Kottinger, was the granddaughter of Judge John Kottinger, the founding father of Pleasanton. The Kottinger Ranch was the first home in town, built near the intersection of what is now Main and Ray Streets. Kottinger’s Barn, a historical site on Ray Street, was the first

jail and his home served as the first courthouse. John Kottinger, much like William Mendenhall in Livermore, knew the railroad was coming and envisioned a town. He began selling off his land to merchants and tradesmen to build businesses that would be needed by citizens of the new town.

Edna Kottinger’s great grandfather was Juan Pablo Bernal, who, along with his brother and two sisters, was the original grantee of the Spanish land grant, Rancho del Valle de San José. These 64,000 acres would become the town of Pleasanton and stretch eastward to include a far northwest section that is now Hagemann Ranch, the last remaining 4.5 acres of that land grant.

Isn’t it fascinating that today the Heritage Guild manages the ranch where one of its founding members lived all his life?

Life goes on at the ranch. 4-H has two new baby goats and a new horse. The little goats will not be staying, but the horse will be used for lessons. Sassy is a 23-year-old sorrel quarter horse. She is a rescue with a very sweet demeanor, and we are glad to welcome her. Congratulations go to the 4-H riding program. They received an award for being the best program of their type in Livermore for 2022. Congratulations!

Our Master Gardeners, Sandra and Karen, have been hard at work. With assistance from Tom, Kathy, John, and Will, they have planted an orchard behind the garage along the street fence. Staying true to history, we know the Hagemanns had an orchard and the trees were carefully selected to be ones that would have been grown around the turn of the century. It is a lovely addition to the property. Check it out when you are there.

Children’s Day in March was a very busy event with lines for almost every activity. The Petting Zoo was the star attraction. 4-H members bring their animals and make all of this possible. The Beekeepers 4-H Club also had a display. We are so grateful to 4-H for making this event such a success. The

result of their efforts is a lot of happy kids. The next event is the Mad Hatter Tea Party. This is one not to be missed. It is pretty hard to transform a ranch into Wonderland but we do our best! Come and check it out!



Top: Members of the riding program with the Best in Livermore award. **Above:** New resident baby goat. Photos by Barbara Soules.

Collections Corner

by Jeff Kaskey



From the earliest days of Livermore, residents stayed connected and active in the community through a broad array of social, fraternal, service, business, hobby, religious, and military organizations. While the children connected through school and extracurricular programs, adults were often members of multiple organizations, effectively cross-pollinating news, status, community service, and gossip. Memberships were frequently gender-based, either specifically or by default, so while dad headed off to Masons, Kiwanis, American Legion, or the Odd Fellows, mom might head to the PTA, Rebekahs, League of Women Voters, or Eastern Star.

As we moved to the time around and after the second world war, Livermore experienced dramatic growth just as the nation was going through a period of civic pride, so these associations were even more important for showing patriotism and simply staying connected in the growing town. A single home phone became common, but receiving a phone call meant you had to be home and your daughter or husband wasn't

already on the line, so for news to travel faster than the weekly newspaper, these community institutions remained essential.

In the Livermore Heritage Guild's collection are items of many of these organizations, from our vast Forester's collection to photos of Lions, Elks, Rotary, Stockmen, art and craft groups, and Legionnaires. We recently received a box of ledgers, papers, and scrapbooks from the local Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7265 dating from the late 1940s through '70s. These give a useful composite image of American life just after the war as we leapt into the sprawl recorded in Bill Owens' *Suburbia*.

The Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW (who only dropped "Ladies" around 2015) was involved in a wide range of civic activities. We have copies of our local group's reports telling of their annual achievements. The National Home Chairman reported \$10 donated to the annual Christmas Cheer fund in 1977. The same year, the Chaplain reported sending seven Get Well and only one Funeral Spray, so the Get Well cards apparently worked. Not everything was cheery though. The President's questionnaire confirms that they held a Guest Night, and that she has the cooperation of the members, but another question asking "Do your Auxiliary members get along well with your Post?" was answered with a clearly printed No.

As with any group, they had their share of mundane tasks. Handwritten minutes of the March 23, 1949 in the L Street Veterans Memorial Building (meeting starting at 8:25 pm!) indicate a motion and second for a resolution that each member shall bring "a dishtowel with VFW stamped in one corner" to the next meeting. Motion carried.

The Ladies, however, also engaged in considerable serious work. Nationally, the Rehabilitation Committee donated over \$1 million to veteran hospital and rehab causes in 1955. The Hospital committee reported over one million volunteer hours, and many dollars and

hours were put toward the causes of cerebral palsy, cancer, childhood paralysis, civic improvement, scouts, youth programs, and so on.

One interesting report from the National organization in 1955 was the "heartwarming" report from the Ladies Auxiliary Civil Defense Director. They trained thousands of volunteers for the Ground Observer Corps, conducted a high school essay contest on "What Civil Defense Means to Me" and made special efforts to publicize the work of women in civil defense work. The Director's heart was probably particularly warmed when she was invited to attend "Operation Cue" and "Open Shot", two above ground atomic bomb tests in Nevada.

The Ladies Auxiliary also enabled certain forms of group insurance, such as the "Cancer and Dread Disease" plan. It would seem that a 'dread disease' is whichever one you have and don't want, but they do propose a list, including Polio, Smallpox, Rabies and Typhoid. In 1960, annual coverage per person was \$2.00.

Other bits of trivia in the ledgers show that the business of an Auxiliary might be less neat than the carefully handwritten pages indicate. The secretary occasionally notes that a motion was made "after extensive discussion," and on March 23 of 1955, the nominations for next President proceeded through 10 nominees, each of whom declined, before a name was penciled in. Perhaps someone was strong-armed after the meeting.

VFW and VFW Auxiliaries continue to this day to support veterans and important causes in their communities. Livermore's VFW has been without an Auxiliary for a while, but VFW Jr Vice Commander Michael Gilmore, mentioned that they are interested in starting it up again. The VFW still meets at the Veterans Memorial on L Street, so maybe say hi and see what they are up to now.

Above: Unknown Ladies Auxiliary members. Photo courtesy of LHG archives.

Membership News

by Donna Stevens



Congratulations to Charles Crohare, winner of the first special drawing for members at this year's auction! Charles and five guests will ride on the 1944 Mack fire engine in this year's Rodeo parade.

We announced several new member incentives in the February newsletter and this auction special drawing was the first. The prizes offered at the auction were a fire engine ride for six in the Rodeo parade OR a free ticket to the upcoming Historic Wineries tour on June 4th. Tickets for the drawing were available to all members attending the auction.

If you are not a member, consider becoming one! Member incentives include a subscription to our printed quarterly newsletter, a 10% discount on all History Center purchases, and tickets to the members only drawing at both the auction and Annual General Meeting. In addition to those perks, members will be offered free or discounted tickets to special programs and events including the very special Historic Wineries and Wine Cave Ruins June 4th tour. If you aren't yet convinced you want to be a member see the flier to the right to read more about this very unique tour, complete with transportation being provided by the Wine Trolley. If you STILL aren't convinced, we've sweetened the deal even more by throwing in a free one year membership to any senior (age 62+) who purchases a regular price ticket at \$65 for this exclusive tour.

Join us! We'll be excited to meet you on the Historic Wineries and Wine Cave Ruins tour.

Visit Ravenswood, Dos Metas, Olivina, and Wente sites, four of the oldest wineries in the Livermore Valley. Hear fascinating stories about the founders and the wines they produced.

HISTORIC LIVERMORE WINERIES CAVES AND RUINS TOUR

Sunday, June 4th

Four tours

8:45am | 9:45am
10:45am | 11:45am

Transportation provided by Livermore Valley Wine Trolley

Four hour tour
\$50 Members
\$65 Non-members

Other highlights

- Sparkling wine toast to the 50th anniversary of the Livermore Heritage Guild
- 2 for 1 Wente tasting certificate
- Opportunity to enjoy LARPD's picnic area

Livermore Heritage Guild
 @livheritageguild [www.http://www.lhg.org/WineCaveTour.html](http://www.lhg.org/WineCaveTour.html)

Began

(continued from page 1)

momentum. Soon after, the organization was incorporated and officially named the Livermore Heritage Guild. Eighteen months later, in 1974, the Southern Pacific depot was fully restored and opened to the public as a restaurant on the same site it had occupied since 1892.

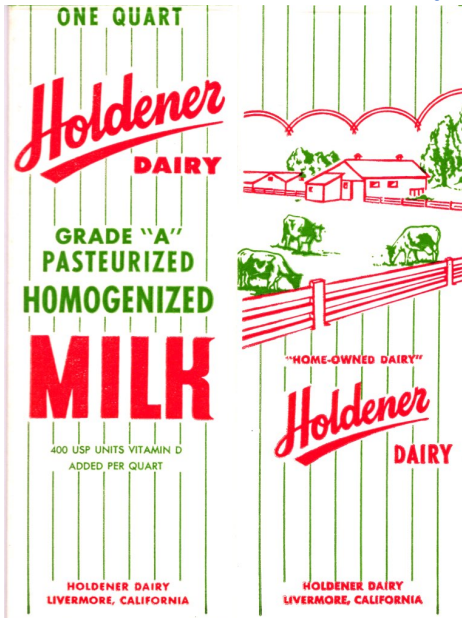
Today, twenty-five years later, the Livermore Heritage Guild, an all-volunteer organization, still works to preserve the history of our city. The

“Guild”, as it is known to many, has not only played a part in the preservation of the old depot, but also Ravenswood, the Duarte Garage and Trevarno. A Guild member assembled the first historic resource survey of the community which was adopted by the city's Historic Preservation Committee in 1977. In 1978, a Guild member was instrumental in getting the D.J.Murphy house at Third and McLeod Streets accepted on the National Register of Historic Places. Members of the organization also document the history of the community through articles in the Guild's newsletter

and in books and pamphlets. The organization has supplied research information on many of this city's historic businesses, personalities and residences to organizations, the city and individual private citizens who share our love for the Valley's history. The Guild Officers and Board members want to thank all of you who have supported our efforts during these twenty-five years with your membership contributions and volunteer efforts. The Livermore Heritage Guild couldn't have done it without your support. THANK YOU!

City Historian: Where Did All the Dairies Go?

by Richard Finn, with research by Sapna Rao Srigiri



At one time, there were several dairies in or around Livermore. Who operated them and what happened to them? In this article we will write about the two largest and in the future we will write about some of the smaller dairies like Jean Eyherabide's, which it seems had a side business with a still in 1932. The two largest area dairies were Freisman's (west of the golf course and south of 580) and Holdener's (south of East Stanley Blvd including the land where Taco Bell is now). A hit to local dairies was in 1928 when the Veteran's Hospital gave their milk contract to the Tracy Dairy. We will not be highlighting all the dairies in Pleasanton like Koopmann, Heath, Meadowlark, Hansen & Orloff, and Hansen & Geger. Both Freisman and Holdener enlarged their dairies by buying smaller dairies. For example, Freisman bought the Jean Eyherabide dairy in 1935.

Freisman Dairy started in 1912 when Walter J. Freisman bought 80 acres from Dr. Warner and had 30 dairy cows

shipped by steamboat from Ferndale. Freisman would take milk to Livermore in cans by horse and buggy. In 1920 Freisman had a dairy route for the Shady Brook Dairy of Pleasanton. But it was not until October of 1933 that Freisman Brothers Dairy was founded. A short time later they were in the news, claiming license fees were too high. At one time the dairy had 300 cows and four delivery trucks with 18 employees. In 1945 Freisman Dairy sponsored the local USO Center. In 1948 Freisman Dairy received a Gold Medal at the California State Fair and in 1950 had the highest producing dairy cow in the County. They bottled under the Golden State label and later as Foremost.

A short Holdener Dairy history: In 1913 Arthur and Sophia Holm started what became Valley Dairy with one cow. In August of 1927 Paul Bleisch bought the Holm Dairy. In May of 1931 Valley Dairy lost eleven cows from eating poisoned grass. In October of 1931 Paul Bleisch sold the 15-acre Valley Dairy to Frank Market and Ferdinand "Fred" J. Holdener. In 1932 Valley Dairy installed a pasteurizing plant. In August 1932 a Valley Dairy cow was highest in testing. The next month they bought a new truck. In 1934 Ferdinand Holdener became sole owner of Valley Dairy; Frank Market was out. In 1936 Valley Dairy bought Livermore Dairy. In 1941 a cow from Valley Dairy was named best cow in Alameda County. In 1942 Leslie Iverson sold his milk route to Valley Dairy. Ferdinand Holdener bought Valley Creamery (Pleasanton) from Sam Keating in 1943. Strange way to put out a fire: in 1948 a fire in a Valley Dairy truck was put out with milk! Carl liked to tell how they delivered milk: you would pull a handle in the truck which would slow it down, you would jump out of the slowly moving truck, run up

to the house to deliver the milk, run back to the moving truck and jump in getting ready for the next delivery. Some of the trucks did not have a door on the right side to make it easier and safer to get in and out. In 1949 they reported a newborn calf at Valley Dairy weighed 146 lbs. Most calves weighed between 65 and 90 lbs which is about the same as beef cattle. In 1951 Valley Dairy sold their milk routes to Carnation Milk Company. The Holdeners then sold bulk milk to Carnation for about five years. In 1953 Fred Holdener was named to the Board of the Alameda County Dairy Herd Improvement Assoc.

In July 1956 the Holdener Drive-In-Dairy opened employing a lot of high school students over the years. Those of us who have lived in Livermore for a number of years remember driving down the driveway past the old farm house to the back where the milk was sold. In 1966 Holdeners sold 10 of their 15 acres to developers. That was the same year Fred Sr. retired. Son Fred Jr and wife Elsie took over the Drive-In and son Carl and wife Betty moved the 150 milk cows to their 200 acre farm near Tracy. Holdener Drive-In Dairy gave many tours of their facility: YMCA, Y-Wives, Brownies, Tunisian Cattlemen, Girl Scouts, etc. In December of 1980 Holdener Drive-In Dairy closed business and sold the last five acres to a developer— it was the last dairy farm in Alameda County. Taxes, competition from large chain groceries, etc. pushed the Holdeners to close and with it the end of a dairy that started with Art Holm over 100 years ago. At one time it is said there were more than one hundred dairies in Alameda County. Part of the Holdener Dairy still lives on. The old farmhouse was moved in 1981 to College Ave. The house was sold for \$1000 which seems like a big bargain but it was said to cost \$37,000 to move it. Holdener Park is another reminder of this long lived dairy and family.



Top: Holdener milk label. Photo courtesy of Richard Finn; **Far Left:** Holdener retail stand. Photo courtesy of Elsie Holdener; **Left:** Marie Holdener, making deliveries during WWII while her brothers were away at war. Photo courtesy of Carl and Betty Holdener.

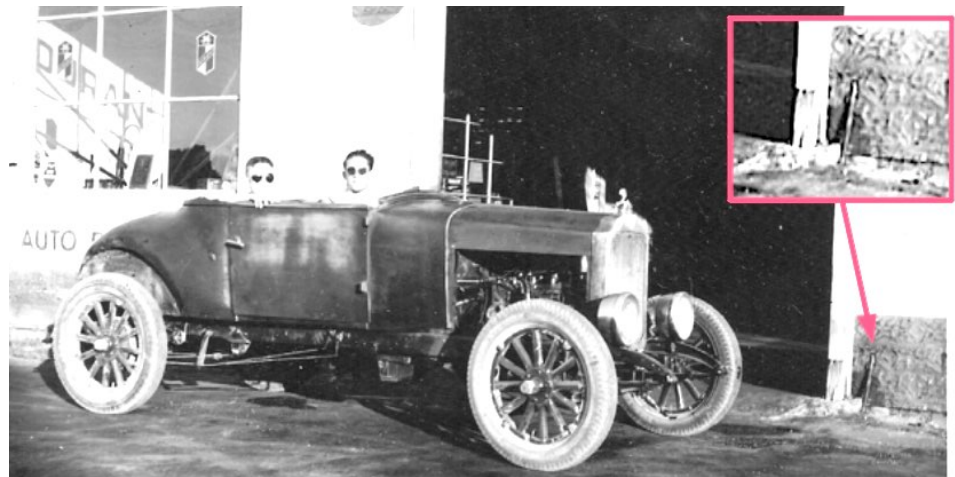
The Return of Duarte Garage Archeology

by Will Bolton

Much of what I am about to write may be wrong. However, it is based on the techniques of Duarte Garage Archeology, so I am trusting the process. As you may recall, when the Livermore Heritage Guild became involved with the Duarte Garage, literally all the equipment and almost all of the fixtures of the Garage had been removed. Fortunately, through many kind donations from the Duarte Family and friends from the Livermore area, some original items from the Garage are now back. Our goal is to return the first portion of the Garage - north end, built in 1915 – to its original appearance, which involved placing items back in their original locations. The only information we have to place items in their historical locations are the recollections of family members and others who saw the Garage in its original configuration, a few photographs taken inside and outside the Garage, and physical evidence, such as nail and screw holes, paint drips and marks, holes in walls and boards, and scrapes and wear marks. These are the tools of Garage Archeology.

A recent application of this process was stimulated by an odd hole in the north wall of the Garage close to the west side of the large sliding doors. This hole is about one inch in diameter, close to the floor, and extends downward from the interior of the Garage through the wood siding and stamped metal cladding on the outside of the Garage wall. This hole was clearly not an accidental hole, it was deliberately made. There are scuff marks on the inside of the wall extending upward from the hole indicating that a hose or pipe extended down the inside of the wall, then through the hole to the outside. The question was, “What purpose did this hole serve?”

A photo of the north side of the Garage taken in 1926 shows a single “pre-visible” gas pump located about 20 feet north of the Garage and slightly to the west of the center of the sliding door. (Note that the term “pre-visible” doesn’t mean that the gas pump was invisible; it means that it didn’t have the glass cylinder of later “visible” pumps that showed the gas being delivered from the pump to the customer’s car.) A key piece of evidence in this mystery was a photo



taken around 1931 or so showing Fran and Earl Duarte sitting in a stripped down Star Roadster. This photo is quite interesting in its own right, but a detail in the photo is important to understanding the mystery hole in the wall. It clearly shows a pipe emerging through the hole and continuing underground in the general direction of where the pre-visible gas pump had been located. This bit of evidence suggests a link between the mystery hole and the gas pump. My first thought was an air hose for inflating tires of vehicles getting gas at the pump. However, inside the Garage the west side of the sliding door passes behind the hole, leaving no route for an air line to get to a compressor. If it were an air line connected to a compressor, the line would have been run a few feet to the west to avoid the sliding door.

The next major piece of evidence came while Jay Morris and I were looking at the wall inside the Garage and Jay noticed two knob and tube electrical power wires running down the wall and through a horizontal 2x4 board directly above the mystery hole. Closer examination showed two small holes in the wall at the end of the wires where something had been attached to the wall ...perhaps a surface mounted wall switch. Adjacent to the electric power wires were two bell wires that are part of the system of door and window switches that would ring a bell if any door or window in the Garage were opened.

This is the point at which the pieces of the mystery seemed to fall into place.

The pre-visible gas pump had a glass globe on top that could be illuminated by a light bulb inside. The pipe going through the mystery hole was probably a conduit for the electrical wires running to a light bulb in the top of the gas pump. The switch on the wall would have turned the light on and off. The bell wires could have run through the conduit to the gas pump so the alarm bell would ring if someone attempted to pump gas when the Garage was closed.

I admit that this is mostly circumstantial evidence and speculation but I think it makes sense, so I submit this as another Duarte Garage Archeology success. However, I welcome any photos, memories, stories, or other evidence that would shed light on the mystery hole in the wall.

Top: Fran and Earl Duarte in a Star Roadster, ca. 1931. Note the pipe to the right of the door opening, extending downward from the Mystery Hole in the wall and into the ground. Photo courtesy of LHG archive.

Right: The Wayne 276 pre-visible gas pump was the first type of gas pump at the Duarte Garage. The white glass globe at the top could be illuminated from inside by an electric light bulb. Photo courtesy of Wayne Tank and Pump Co. catalog, c.1924.





YOU are Needed... At the Fair!

by Dottie Eberly

Be a volunteer at the Alameda County Fair any time, any day, Wednesdays – Sundays, and earn money for the Heritage Guild!

LHG is pleased to be one of the nonprofits partnering with the Alameda County Fair volunteer program. The Fair uses volunteers to monitor areas such as Small Animals, Amateur Gardens, Fine Arts, Education, and Hobby Buildings, or to work at the concerts or the race track. If you enjoy interacting with people and being a part of the energy and excitement of the fair, this is the place for you. Most volunteers come back year after year and count this among the highlights of their summer.

Volunteers are not paid directly for their time but instead earn \$7 per hour for the Heritage Guild. Last year only THREE LHG people worked at the Fair yet still made \$182 for the Guild. It's easy, it's

fun, and you're making money for LHG all at the same time! Please join us!

All volunteers will be trained and will receive free admission to the Fair and parking for shift working days. Because most shifts are only four hours, volunteers can attend the Fair as a guest before or after their shift. As a bonus, volunteers receive two more admission tickets to the Fair to go back and enjoy the Fair on another day as a guest.

Use the QR code on the left to create a volunteer account. Once you have the account, you will automatically be notified when it is time to schedule your shifts. All this is done online and you will simply pick the dates/times and areas of interest. The Fair's staff tries to honor requests of friends to work together for a shift with most scheduling done on a "first come, first served" basis. Try it! Get your "Summer Vibe" on!

Welcome New and Renewing Members! January - March 2023

Individual	Household	Senior
Molly Alexander	Jeanne Brown Family	Jim Arnold - NEW
Christopher Carrano - NEW	Margaret Fazio & Family	John Ashburn - NEW
Sylvia Chatagnier	John Grondalski Family - NEW	Frank Bielecki - NEW
Christopher George	Paul & Beth Grasseschi	Peter Lafreniere - NEW
Arthur Kobayashi	James & Peggy Kervin	Charles Long - NEW
Greg Short - NEW	Lillian Marciel	Lorraine Magee
	David & Alice Quinn	Kathleen Young
		Beth Wilson
Sponsor	Patron	Life
Dona Blackmore	Phil Bardsley - NEW	John Stein
Paul Callaghan - NEW	Jennifer Dayrell	
Sandy Clark	Muriel Dean	
Sandra Lormand	Phillip Dean	
Carol Silva - NEW	Richard Stulen - NEW	
Mark Weise - NEW		

In Appreciation

Donations
Susie Calhoun
Sandra Lormand

Did you enjoy your visit to one of our three historic sites? Please post a review and/or a photo on TripAdvisor.com for any of the three LHG historic sites: Hagemann Ranch, Duarte Garage and Lincoln Highway Museum, or Livermore Heritage Guild (the History Center at the Carnegie Building).

A TripAdvisor.com link newly appears at the bottom of the main page for each of these sites on the lhg.org website. Your review helps boost visibility and the overall ranking of each of these sites. Help us make others aware of these hidden gems!

Musings and Memories

by Anna Siig



The photo collection at the History Center of the Livermore Heritage Guild is available for viewing. It is a very interesting collection. Sometimes photos come to the Guild without information about the people in the photo.

One such photo was of a young boy driving his pony and a pony cart. The picture was taken in front of the Carnegie Building. However, there was no other identifying information.

Many years after receiving the copy of the photo, a gentleman came to town to visit the neighborhood where he grew up. One thing led to another, he returned for another visit with Guild members, bringing along an old photo album.

Yes, he had a photo of the boy and the pony cart. A relative, Harold Anderson, was that boy, and the beloved pony was Dolly Gray.

The gentleman told us a lot about his immediate family and about living with his aunt and uncle after the passing of his parents. His story is interesting, sad, and one of courage and living a full life. It was an honor to meet him and hear his story.

As with many aspects of the Livermore Heritage Guild, there are surprises around every corner. People bring amazing gifts for the Guild. Photos, old

letters, artifacts of many kinds. They come with stories, with questions, looking for information on family members, and for information about an old home they just purchased here. The Guild docents and members have been able to help the City and private citizens and business owners with information and photos of older structures in Livermore.

And some of the stories remind us that history does indeed repeat itself. That is both the bad news and the good news. Visit one of the Guild sites and enjoy hearing stories, seeing old structures, and perhaps being inspired to do a project or write a book.

Left: Harold Anderson and Dolly Gray. Photo courtesy of LHG archives.

**PROGRESSIVE
DINNER**
AUGUST 12TH,
4:45PM - 8:30PM

See all of the Livermore
Heritage Guild Museums in one
evening while enjoying
delicious food at each location!



Carnegie Building
Appetizers and Beverages



**Hagemann Ranch
(and the HistoryMobile)**
Tri-tip and sides



Duarte Garage
Dessert Selection

Non-Member: \$35
Member: \$30
Children 3-10: \$20
Children under 3: free



Buy your tickets now!

No ticket sales after July 31st.

Timetable and parking
information will be given after
ticket purchase



LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Wednesday, May 10	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, May 20	9:30am-12pm	Workday at Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, May 21	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, May 28	2pm-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Rancho Day	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, June 4	Various	Historic Wine Cave Tours	Various
Wednesday, June 14	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, June 17	1pm-3:30pm	Open House at Livermore Railroad Depot	Livermore Depot
Sunday, June 18	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, June 25	2pm-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Self-Guided Tours	Hagemann Ranch
Saturday, July 8	8am-12pm	LHG Yard Sale	Duarte Garage North Driveway
Wednesday, July 12	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, July 22	9:30am-12pm	Workday at Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, July 23	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, July 30	2pm-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Self-Guided Tours	Hagemann Ranch
Wednesday, August 9	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Saturday, August 12	5pm	Progressive Dinner	History Center, etc.
Saturday, August 19	9:30am-12pm	Workday at Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sunday, August 20	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sunday, August 27	2pm-5pm	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Self-Guided Tours	Hagemann Ranch

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!



Who's Reading the Newsletter?

At 19 years young, Sheri Ann Dante's cat, Callie, considers herself a heritage cat. She thus enjoys reading the latest issue of the Livermore Heritage Guild newsletter.

Have you got a photo of someone reading our newsletter? Pass it along! We'd love to feature all our readers, even the four-legged variety!

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

The Livermore Heritage Guild History Center is located in the historic 1911 Carnegie Library building at 2155 Third Street. 925-449-9927

Hours for the History Center are varied at this time. Please call ahead or check the website for updated information as it becomes available.

www.lhg.org

Annual membership dues are: Individual \$25; Household \$35; Senior (age 62+) \$15; Student \$15; Sponsor \$75; Patron \$150; Individual Life Membership \$500.

Please make checks payable to "LHG."

Livermore Heritage Guild
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