



Anita and the Fallen Arches

by Will Bolton



This isn't a story of a disaster in podiatry. Rather, it is a story about the "welcome" arches that used to grace the entrance of towns and cities across the country. Anyone who has spent any time in the Valley is probably aware of the Pleasanton arch across Main Street at the core of downtown Pleasanton. What some residents - even those who have lived in Livermore for a few years - might not know is that Livermore had two "Livermore" arches across the east and north entrances to town. The "Anita" in the title of this item is Anita (Caratti) Gandolfo, who grew up in Livermore, whose father built the Rockhouse, and who had personal memories of and information about the Livermore arches. But first - more about the welcome arches.

At the start of the 20th Century, as automobiles became more affordable, Americans quickly embraced the flexibility and freedom that automobiles offered. To realize the personal and commercial advantages that this new form of transportation offered would require drastic improvements in the road network across the country. As cross-country travel increased, roadside businesses popped up to serve the needs of the traveling public, with large signs to entice travelers to stop. Cities also recognized the benefits of "gateway" signs at the city limits to welcome

visitors and their money. By the 1920s there were hundreds of welcome arches at the entrances to cities across the country.

The Lincoln Highway Association was formed in 1913 to encourage the development of the road network and to push development of a transcontinental route across America from New York City to San Francisco. The original alignment of the Lincoln Highway approached Livermore from the east over the Altamont Pass. It proceeded down what is now First Street then northwest along the Dublin and Tubbsville Road (now Junction and Portola Avenues). A couple of local entrepreneurs saw the business opportunities presented by the traffic on the highway at the north entrance to Livermore at North L Street. In 1915, Frank H. Duarte built the Highway Garage and family cottage on the south side of the highway. In 1917, Anita (Caratti) Gandolfo's father, Aquilino Paul "Joe" Caratti, relocated his bakery and ice cream parlor business from downtown Livermore to the north side of the highway at North L Street. Around this time, the City of Livermore erected two "Livermore" welcome arches. One at the town's north entrance at the junction with North L Street, and the other at the east entrance on First Street near the railroad tracks. The

arches weren't what you might think of as arches. Each consisted of a brick pedestal on each side of the road with a metal pole extending out the top. Two cables were strung between the poles supporting large block letters spelling "LIVERMORE" top and bottom.

In 1913, the Livermore Herald noted that G.O. Darrow, who owned a bakery in Niles, was opening a bakery and confectionary shop in the old library building at 2136 First Street with two employees from his Niles location, Joe and brother John Caratti. A sign over the door identified the business as, "Darrow's Bakery Ice Cream & Coffee Parlor." Anita Gandolfo reported that Darrow developed health problems and sold the Livermore business to Joe Caratti. Joe economized by painting over the "D" in "Darrow" and renamed the business "Arrow." Joe adopted an arrow as part of the business signage. This arrow motif will later figure in the story of the North L welcome sign. In 1917, Joe Caratti moved the business to a venerable building across the highway from the Duarte Garage. Initially, the business was called the "Arrow Highway Inn" and featured a large Arrow placed on top of the building pointing to the south - certainly an eye-catcher for passing motorists. In 1924, the building (later known as the Rock House) was moved to make room for

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Above Left: One of the Livermore arches, as seen in reverse. Photo courtesy of the LHG Archives.

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Heritage Garden: A January Photo Essay

by Loretta Kaskey

The winter crops are in and growing.

“The time has come,” the Walrus said, “To talk of many things: Of shoes — and ships — and sealing wax — Of cabbages — and” garden cats. We have a few that hang out and help supervise the weekend work at the Heritage Demonstration Garden. That bit of Lewis Carroll came to mind upon seeing our garden cats among the winter vegetables of onions, broccoli, cauliflower, chard, kale, fava beans, and yes, cabbage.



Will-Kill-U (Will for short, named for his bad cat behavior of walking between your legs in a way that can trip you) is seen in the top photo, lounging by the cauliflower. The gardening team has been battling slugs/snails, earwigs and a little green caterpillar (*Pieris rapae*) sometimes called the “cabbage worm”. It is associated with a white butterfly that lays tiny whitish yellow single cone-shaped eggs. You can see the holes eaten by the caterpillar in the leaves in the above photo of one of our cauliflower plants. We try to pick the caterpillars and eggs off the leaves and dust with diatomaceous earth.



Scary (named as his gray and white markings reminded me of a skeleton and he is very skittish) on the left with Frenchie (named as she reminded me of the cat in the [Théophile Steinlen's 1896 Le Chat Noir](#) poster) sit among the cabbages in the top photo and enjoy a small crunchy snack before getting on with their duties at Hagemann Ranch in the photo immediately above. They don't really like broccoli, but our broccoli crop is looking good this year, as seen in the photo below.



Broccoli and cauliflower are different cultivars in the Brassica genus. Per the [Online Etymology Dictionary](#), the word broccoli was first used in the [17th century](#), and comes from the Italian plural of [broccolo](#), which means “the flowering crest of a [cabbage](#)”, and is the diminutive form of brocco, meaning “small nail” or “sprout”.



The cabbages are also in the Brassica genus. Cabbage was considered a table luxury in the Roman Empire. We are also growing Chinese cabbage (see photo above) which looks different than its more familiar round Italian cruciferous veggie. It is oblong or elongated and its taste can be described as mildly sweeter and less earthy than round cabbages. Napa cabbage is a form of Chinese cabbage.

The Legacy of Carol Jean

by Dottie Eberly

Carol Jean Huddleston Famariss is a local icon, building a successful business and impacting the lives of thousands of Livermore children and their families, beginning at a time when the majority of women did not work outside the home. The Livermore Heritage Guild is pleased to announce the opening of a new exhibit, "The Legacy of Carol Jean", devoted to Carol Jean and her dance studio. Tap shoes, tiaras, and over 250 photos of Carol Jean and her students are all included. Former Carol Jean dance student, and LHG member, Sheri Ann Dante, put together the exhibit which will be on display at the History Center until June 30th.

Carol Jean was born in Oakland, on December 20, 1922. Her parents were told she would not live a long life because of asthma severe enough to prevent her from attending school. The family moved to Pleasanton when she was six in an effort to improve her health. Carol Jean attended many Vaudeville shows with her parents and remembered dancing impromptu jigs while still sitting in her seat. She was born to dance. Her mother drove her to dance lessons in Oakland and Hayward and soon she was teaching other students in a room at the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church. When she was in 7th grade, she and her mother moved to Livermore. She attended 5th Street School. It was here that she met and became close friends with her future husband, Dick Famariss. Dick and Carol Jean both attended Livermore High School. While in high school, Carol Jean was named Livermore's Rodeo Queen and was featured on the front cover of a Livermore Chamber of Commerce brochure, all while entering and winning dance competitions around the Bay Area. She also represented the Livermore Rodeo at the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition when she rode in on a horse with Livermore boxer, Buddy Baer.

Carol Jean's mother, Norma Huddleston, was described by Dick Famariss as a concert-level pianist. For years, she supported Carol Jean by playing the piano as Carol Jean taught her students to dance. Lessons were held in many

different facilities, including the family home. During the winter months, Norma would place plywood down on the family's living room floor to create a dance floor. During the summer months, lessons were moved outside to the home's covered porch.

Dick Famariss enlisted in the Army Air Force shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. He and Carol Jean were married in San Diego on January 3, 1942. Carol Jean followed Dick from base to base whenever possible, sometimes giving dance lessons to soldiers on the base. While at Deming Army Airfield in New Mexico she directed a large musical production, "Americana".

Carol Jean returned to Livermore when Dick was deployed to England. During the war she taught dance at a hotel on First Street. She put on USO shows at various Livermore locations. Carol Jean and Dick built their dance studio in the 1960s at 2121 Railroad Avenue.

She taught dance professionally for over 60 years. If we can count those early years in Pleasanton which were probably done for free, she taught for about 75 years! Thousands of Livermore residents took lessons from her. It was estimated she had taught 10,000 students just in the first 30 years.



Were you one of her students? Who was Carol Jean, the teacher? Other than the fundamentals of dance, what did you learn from her? We would very much like to hear your memories for possible publication in the newsletter as well as a potential booklet of stories. Please send any remembrances of Carol Jean to newsletter@livermorehistory.com, along with your name and, if you are willing, permission to publish your stories.



Top: Carol Jean Famariss, mid career studio photo; **Above:** The iconic Carol Jean Dance Studio sign. Photos courtesy of the Famariss Estate.

City Historian Report: Some Interesting Livermore Teachers

by Richard Finn

A while back we received a query asking about Clara, wife of George Washington Patterson. You may know George was a major landowner in the Fremont and Livermore areas owning about 6,000 acres including where Lake Del Valle is now. Many of you probably have visited his headquarters in Fremont: Ardenwood Farm.

We found that George was born in July 1822 and married Clara Hawley in July of 1877. George was a few days short of being 55 while Clara was only 24, having been born in 1853. It turns out that Clara's father, James Hawley, was a good friend and business partner of George's.

So far, we do not know where or if Clara went to a "normal" school to become a teacher but by 1873 she was a teacher at Midway School (the very school the Heritage Guild is working so hard to get moved to Livermore). From at least June 1875, until she married in 1877, Clara was a teacher at the Grove Street School in Oakland. Her salary was \$840 a year. George died in 1895, and in January 1900 Clara married Rev. William H. Layson in San Francisco. This was an interesting marriage. William was younger than Clara, being born in 1860, but like George, he predeceased her. Clara died in May 1917 and was buried at the Chapel of the Chimes Memorial Park in Hayward as was George.

William, on the other hand, was buried at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park in Colma.

When looking for information about Clara, I came across some other Livermore teachers that had interesting stories. One that really caught my eye was the newspaper headline: "Goes East To Wed Unseen Namesake – Pretty Teacher of Livermore Pledges Her Troth After a Romantic Correspondence" (*San Francisco Call*, July 6, 1909). What was that all about? When reading the article, we find that a young woman by the name of Beatrice Bright had been corresponding with a postal clerk, Charles Bright, in Bloomington, Indiana. From reading other newspaper accounts we found that Charles and Beatrice corresponded for sixteen months before they decided to get married.

Beatrice arrived in Chicago (it took a week to cross the country) where Charles met her. He picked her out of the crowd by the dress she wore and the fan she was carrying. They planned to get married in Chicago the next day, but that did not work out because they needed a couple who knew them to stand up for them. One paper stated they were married, 18 August 1909, in the home of the groom's sister in Louisville. No clue if it was Louisville in Indiana or in Kentucky (which was not too far away). Turns out it was Kentucky.

Beatrice B. Bright was the daughter of James Bell Bright/Brite 1841-1906 and Sabre Simpson 1842-1923. Beatrice was born 6 January 1883. The Brights were well-to-do farmers in the Tassajara area of Contra Costa County. Beatrice may have been tall and athletic; we find her in 1902 as the center of the Livermore High School girls' basketball team. So far I do not know exactly when Beatrice taught in Livermore, but it must have been between 1902 and 1904. She did teach in both Contra Costa and Yolo counties. We know she was teaching at Knight's Landing in Contra Costa County before she took the train to Chicago. Beatrice was not listed as a teacher in the 1910 or 1920 census but was a teacher from at least 1930 until the time of her death at the Bloomington Hospital on 30 May 1953.

Charles Henry Bright was born in Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana. It seems he spent his entire life there. His first occupation was working for the American Express Company. About 1910, he became a cab driver and then taxi manager. That is what he worked at until he was unable to work about 1950. He died 5 February 1960. Beatrice and Charles were both buried at the Rose Hill Cemetery in Bloomington. They had no little Brights.

You might find this interesting: per my Family Tree Maker database, Beatrice Bright was the aunt of the husband of the grandniece of the wife of the husband of the first cousin once removed of the husband of first cousin two times removed of the husband of half third grandniece of the wife of Robert Thomas Livermore. Remember that for a trivia night. Clara Hawley Patterson seemed to have no relationship to Robert Livermore.

This is another example of when you go looking for information you never know what you will find about unrelated items. That is what makes it all so interesting.



Left: Midway Public School students, 1941. Photo courtesy of LHG Archives.

Hagemann Happenings

by Barbara Soules

The National Register of Historic Places lists Hagemann Ranch under two categories: architecture and agriculture. The last sentence of the National Register report states, “the district represents a rare and intact remnant of the agricultural past of the Livermore Valley.” As caretakers of this site, we Guild members take seriously the responsibility of preserving both aspects of its history and sharing them with the community. To this end, our carpenter duo, Don and Phil, (with some help from their friends) have done amazing work restoring most of the outbuildings, plus the front porch of the house. Plans with architects and house movers are being made to restore the ranch house for use as a museum. Work to preserve architecture is a high priority.

Agricultural activities are ongoing daily at both Sunflower Hill and our Heritage Garden. These two gardens serve as small representations of the large agricultural enterprise that was Hagemann Ranch from the 1870s to the early 1960s. Martin Mendenhall, from his base at the ranch house on Olivina Avenue, farmed 565 acres mostly in wheat and barley. Cattle grazed on thousands of surrounding acres. But soon the demand for food for the growing population caused cattle lands to be plowed and planted in grains. Until the 1880s, wheat was the dominant crop. In 1900 more than one fourth of all working people in Livermore Township were farmers. Farming remained the driving economic force of Livermore until WWII.

In 1896, when Martin Mendenhall sold part of the ranch to Herman Detjens who, in 1897 formed a partnership with



August Hagemann to work the 185 acre farm, the main crops were still wheat and barley. But by the turn of the century, barley was fast becoming the most lucrative crop due to the demand from breweries both nationally and internationally.

In 1901, August Hagemann tried an experiment in conjunction with UC Berkeley. He planted a new species of barley that proved to be better suited to the local climate and was preferred by the German beer brewers. He and Mass Luders switched to growing this new Moravian barley and became the main suppliers of the seed for local use and export. Barley quickly became the dominant crop in the valley.

Herbert and Edna Kottinger Hagemann took over operations of Hagemann Ranch soon after 1912 and continued farming into the 1950s. Orchards, vegetables, and roses were added to the

crops they grew. A variety of farm machinery was needed for this large operation and Herbert built the Red Barn to store some of it. Originally there was a large open door on each side to allow equipment easy access.

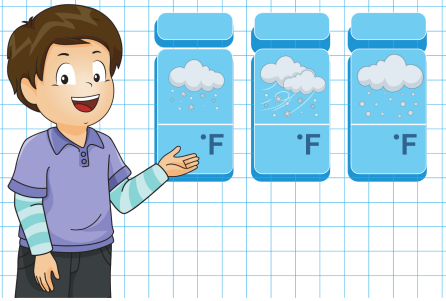
A sampling of some of the farm machinery that would have been used is now on display in the far northeast corner of the ranch. Soham Khedkar from Troop 939 created this display for his Eagle Scout project last February. He and his crew cleared space for each implement, laid mulch, and lined each space with bricks transforming that corner into a space through which

(Hagemann, continued on page 6)

Above: Herb Hagemann seeding crops in the 1950s. Photo courtesy of the LHG Archives; **Below Left:** Current farm equipment display. Photo by Barbara Soules; **Below Right:** Hagemann Ranch in the 1950s. Photo courtesy of the LHG Archives.



WEATHER FORECAST



Last issue we introduced Greg Pane, a frequent Hagemann Ranch keyboardist, who is also a self-taught local climatologist. His forecast for February tells us the weather for the Hagemann Ranch “Hello Spring” open house should be delightful. Hope to see you all there!

LONG RANGE WEATHER FORECAST FOR LIVERMORE, CA

Winter 2024

By Greg Pane – Livermore, California weather observer since 1976

(Forecasts are for Livermore and apply to the overall climate region. Specific data forecasts are based on Livermore, California)

February – Temperatures will be within a degree either side of normal and rainfall about 2/3 to 3/4 of normal. The jet stream will be weaker than January and will allow for some longer periods of fair weather than January and December. Rainfall should be mostly from the mid to northern latitudes. This will produce multiple days with mild amounts of rain. No big long heavy downpours are expected this month.

February Normals are 61 and 41, rainfall: 2.75” Expected in 2024: 61/41, rainfall: 2.00”

March – Temperatures below normal, rainfall slightly above normal

April – Temperatures below normal, rainfall well above normal

Free, Family-Friendly Activities

Sundays at Hagemann Ranch

February 25, 2024, 1-5 pm
455 Olivina Ave., Livermore

Hello Spring

The Heritage Garden & Sunflower Hill Gardens
 Plant Exchange: bring one, take one
 Plant Seeds; Plain Gold Band
 Farewell to Winter with S'mores & Fly a Kite

Ongoing activities: Refreshments, Tours, Art & Blacksmith Demonstrations

Livermore Historical Society
 Presents
HAGEMANN RANCH
www.lhg.org

March 24—Children's Day
 April 28—Charlotte's Web
 May 26—Musical May: Music, Drama & Dance
 June 30—Cars & Engines
 July 28 & August 25—Self Guided Walking Tours
 September 29—Prairie School
 October 27—Halloween
 November 24—Holiday Celebration

Hagemann

(continued from page 5)

visitors can stroll and view our collection. It includes several saws, a couple toothed mowers, and three plows of various sizes. One is a gang plow donated by Frank Micheli. The largest piece is a hay rake donated by the Holm

family. Next time you visit, be sure to check out this display.

The February 25th Open House will be “Hello Spring”. The Plain Gold Band will provide the entertainment while we celebrate all things spring. An added treat will be S’mores made on the Eberly’s portable burners. Bring a plant and take one at our plant exchange, and watch kids fly kites in the arena.

Collections Corner: Where's the Ville?

by Jeff Kaskey

All these years I've driven on or past Greenville Road, it never dawned on me that the name suggested that there was a "ville" I was missing. If you are on Danville Blvd, you are headed towards or away from Danville, named for early settler Daniel Inman. So where was Greenville and what family was Green?

In February of 1823, one John Green was born in Elfeet, in Newtowncashel Parish, Longford County, Ireland. By his mid-twenties, Ireland was in the grip of what we now call The Great Famine, and along with many of his countrymen, John fled the country heading to the United States. He arrived in New York aboard the "Lady Franklin" in September of 1851. In New York, he apprenticed to a large pharmaceutical company. One of the creations of the company was a product the company's descendants still sell today, a cologne called Florida Water.

Entreated to sail to California by brother Thomas Green, John left New York sometime in the 1850s after having promised his employer never to divulge the secret formula of Florida Water. He settled with his brother in San Antonio (now East Oakland) where he set up a drugstore. However, the drug industry was no more interesting to him on this coast, and by about 1857 he was again ready to move on, this time east over the Hayward hills.

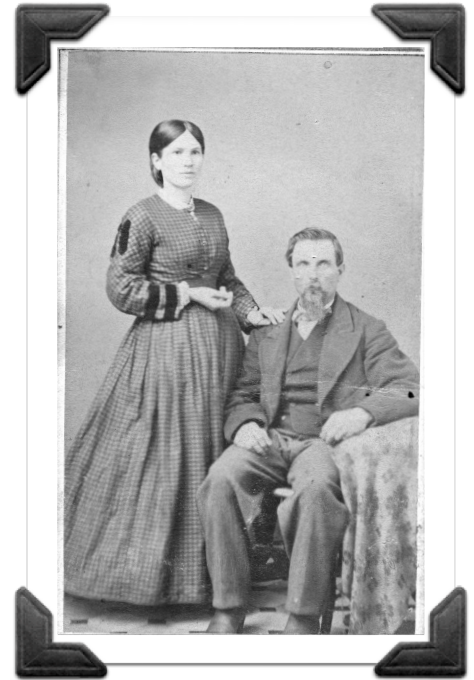
Unfortunately, shortly after arrival, Green was paid a visit by valley pioneer Michael Murray who informed Green

that the plot upon which he was squatting was currently in dispute between Murray and James Witt Dougherty, each claiming they had purchased the land from Jose Maria Amador. As Murray's quarrel was not with Green, Murray invited him to settle on a piece of the Murray farm in Amador, soon to be renamed Dublin by the many Irish settlers.

Green quickly established himself as a respected man in the area, and by the early 1860s he had married Anna McGovern and served as postmaster as well as a County Supervisor, all while establishing an extensive ranching business. In his 1863 run for Murray Township Supervisor, he beat a Kottinger and a Teeter.

He soon bought his homestead property from Murray, as well as land to the east, setting up a Green Hotel and Green Store in Dublin (currently a church) and another Green Store and a Green School on his newly purchased land north east of the settlement of Alphonse Ladd (also north east of the not-yet-existing town of Livermore). His Dublin property and mansion is shown in the Thompson and West Atlas of 1878.

Having property in Amador named for Jose Maria, in Murray Township named for Michael, and now land north of Laddsville, named for Alphonse, it is not mysterious how he arrived at Greenville as the name for his new property. Like Laddsville, Greenville never grew much beyond the store, a few homes and a



school for Greenville children, and similar to Ladd Avenue, Green's name lives on in the Greenville Road.

Besides spending time in local politics, mercantile, and ranching, John Green became deeply involved in training champion race horses. His most famous was a world champion trotter named Directum. He also engaged in, well, horse trading, with Martin Mendenhall.

Now that you've met the man, where exactly was Greenville? Drive north on Greenville Road until it ends at Altamont Pass Road, and the empty land in front and to the right (currently owned by BART) is the historic site of Greenville. In years past we have been told that bits of building foundations were still visible; maybe someone can do a bit of archeology to see what is still there.

Though John and Anna are buried at St. Michael's in Livermore, the story of John Green does not end there. Besides his many namesake establishments, the family was notable in many pieces of local history. John's son Edward Francis

(Ville, continued on page 8)

Above: Anna and John Green; Left: the Green Store in Dublin. Photos courtesy of the LHG Archives.



Fallen Arches

(continued from page 1)

widening of Portola Avenue and the name was changed to “Joe’s Inn” and later to “Joesville.” The nature of the business expanded from a bakery to include sandwiches, groceries, and a roadside tavern. At the time of the move, the large arrow on top of the building disappeared, but it may reappear in the next part of the story. As a young girl, Anita Gandolfo recalls playing on the Livermore arch pedestals with her brothers. They would walk around the pedestal on a little ledge on the concrete base. They would also hide in a recess in the pedestal behind a single column supporting a round light fixture.

Anita Gandolfo recalls that drivers on the highway couldn’t see the large



“Livermore” sign because it was parallel to the road. A sign that was perpendicular to the road was needed so drivers could see it soon enough to turn south on North L Street to reach downtown. A photograph taken in 1958 shows the Livermore arch but with the addition of a large arrow, which appears to be lighted, on top of the eastern pedestal pointing south down North L Street. Could this be a reappearance of the arrow that had been on top of the Arrow Highway Inn that disappeared in 1924? Anita couldn’t say for certain what happened to the old sign, but concluded that it could be the same one. At this point, I geeked out a bit to analyze the 1917 photo of the arrow on top of the Arrow Highway Inn and the 1958 photo of the Livermore arch with the large arrow mounted on the east pedestal. I will spare you the details but I established four points of comparison between the arrows in the two photos. My first calculations showed two of the four points in agreement and two not in agreement. However, when I took a closer look at the 1958 photo I could see evidence that the head and tail of the arrow had been narrowed. When I took this into account, three of the four points were in agreement and one was equivocal. My conclusion is that it is probably the same arrow, but modified when it was mounted on the Livermore sign.



As Paul Harvey used to say on the radio, “Now for the rest of the story.” Of the hundreds of welcome arches across the country, only about 40 remain. The two Livermore arches seem to have been removed in the 1960s. I have heard reports that the letters from one, or maybe both, of the arches were at the City yard along the railroad tracks near the current commuter rail station. However, they disappeared years ago – probably scrapped. So far, I haven’t heard anything about the fate of the arrow, but it was probably scrapped at the same time as the Livermore letters. Anita Gandolfo celebrated her 100th birthday in 2023. Her family story deserved a much more complete discussion - a future project. However, in November 2023, she sat down with Anna Siig to video record an hour-long conversation about her family, the Rock House, and other stories about the history of Livermore. There is a link to this video on the Livermore Heritage Guild website. Finally, if anyone has more information about the arches, the disposition of the materials, or photos of the arches, please let me know. I’d like to add more to this little-known slice of Livermore history.

Left: North east arch pedestal, located right next to the Garage; **Below Left:** The Arrow Highway Inn in 1917; **Below Right:** Livermore arch and arrow as seen in October of 1958. Photos courtesy of LHG Archives.

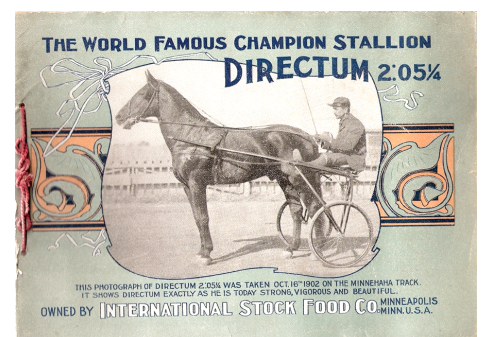
Ville, continued from page 7

Green was a bookkeeper for Phoebe Hearst. Another son, Joseph, owned land in San Francisco, the development of which, just after the 1906 quake, landed him in court as part of a bribery scandal. And as recently as 2007, a new Green School was dedicated in Dublin.

I sourced most of this information from the much more detailed writings of

David Patrick Keller, a direct descendant of John Green. The information is from notes compiled to write his 2009 book *John Green: California Pioneer* and from a 2012 interview by Anna Karagakis on her “Slice of Life” program on Tri-Valley TV and now on YouTube. Most importantly, I implore you to extend a wave of gratitude next you pass Greenville.

Right: Postcard showing the world famous Directum. Courtesy of David Patrick Keller.



The Stars of the Duarte Garage

by Will Bolton

The real stars of the Garage are the Duarte Garage Hard Corps volunteers, who make everything happen. However, in this case I'm referring to the automobile Stars of the Garage. Note the plural "Stars". In March 2022, Jim Alves donated his family's legacy 1925 Star Four Touring Car to the Garage. We have enjoyed admiring the car, learning about it, getting it running, and showing it to visitors to the Garage. We were very fortunate to have a second Star car donated to the Garage on January 14, 2024. Kevin Foley, of Fremont, was looking for a good home for his 1926 Star Four Coupe that had been converted to a small pickup truck. With the assistance of Rick Botti, of the Durant Motors Automobile Club, Kevin offered his car as a donation to the Duarte Garage, an offer we quickly and gratefully accepted. The 1926 Star is an unrestored "survivor" car that proudly wears the evidence of its almost 100 years on its worn paint and rusty spots. From their serial numbers, we know that both of the Stars were produced at the Durant plant in Oakland, CA.

Many people have noticed the names "Durant" and "Star" painted on the north windows of the Garage, along with many other signs identifying automotive products and services. However, those names aren't just decoration; they go back to the early days of the Garage. The September 11, 1915 issue of the *Livermore Herald* newspaper noted that "Frank Duarte, formerly of Niles, is having a garage erected on the triangular



lot near the Junction of North L street (sic) and the State Highway." Initially, the Garage was 45 feet wide and 65 feet long, including an office, storage rooms, and a well-equipped machine shop. It offered service and repairs, sold automobile supplies and accessories, and fabrication services. Interestingly, the May 5, 1917 issue of the *Herald* had a Chevrolet advertisement listing the full range of models with prices from \$610 to \$1500, all prices F. O. B. Livermore, Authorized Dealer, Highway Garage, F. H. Duarte, Prop. There seems to be no other evidence of the Garage being a Chevrolet dealership.

In its January 12, 1923 issue, the *Herald* announced that the Highway Garage was, "Now Selling Durants...Chas. Houx, former automobile dealer of the

Livermore Valley, has returned to the local field, and is now connected with the Highway Garage. He is cooperating with F. H. Duarte in the sale of Durant and Star cars and will be the field representative of the firm." The article went on to state, "...Mr. Houx has been selling Durants in Tulare County and Santa Cruz. He has been successful in opening up a big Durant sale in both territories, he states, and expects to be equally successful in Livermore." Frank Duarte produced a flier for the Garage that stated, in large letters, "We Wish To Announce That Charles Houx has joined our sales department and is handling sales of DURANT CARS for this agency. Here is an unrivaled combination of a first-class salesman and an unbeatable car, with the logical result of a tremendous boom in the sales of DURANT CARS in this region."

In the February 16, 1923 issue of the *Herald*, a small item stated, "Enlarging Garage - F. H. Duarte is having an addition built to the Highway Garage, located at the junction of L Street and the highway. The addition will double the size of the garage. Increased business makes this addition necessary, Mr. Duarte states." The addition was 40 feet

(Stars, continued on page 10)



Above: The 1926 Star at the Garage, meeting its new roommate, the 1925 Star; **Left:** Kevin Foley, Rick Botti, and Owen Parker with the '26 Star. Photos by Will Bolton.

Musings and Memories

by Anna Siig



Anna is entering a new phase in her life and this will be her last regular column for the newsletter. However, we hope to continue the Musings and Memories column and invite LHG members and guests to be a part of it. Since the newest display in the History Center features Carol Jean Famariss, let's start off with her as the subject of our first column. This is your official invitation! Can you share a remembrance of her? Send it to newsletter@livermorehistory.com no later than March 31st.

Thank You

Thanks to all those who formed the Livermore Heritage Guild. Thanks to those who have helped it grow and who help it now. Thanks to those who gave their many talents, freely and happily, often discovering new talents along the way. Thanks to members' quiet support. Thanks to those who talk to others about the Guild. Thanks to businesses that have donated to auctions and with services. Thanks to the quiet workers helping in the background. Thanks for the newsletter editors and columnists. Thanks to one person who, almost four years ago, began research into the Guild's history that led to the great 50th Anniversary events of 2023. Thanks to Poppy Ridge and their catering staff for adding so much to the 50th Anniversary party and dinner. I am saying it again - as it is something to make note of - the Guild's 50th Anniversary. Thanks to some special members and officers for their consistently good work, great ideas, kind and respectful interaction with others, and regard for Livermore history.

-Anna

Life Members

We wish to acknowledge the loyal commitment of our Life Members. The trust and support these members have shown in the Heritage Guild by becoming Life Memberships is truly appreciated. If you wish to purchase a Life membership, please visit www.lhg.org and find the "Join" button or refer to information on the back page of this newsletter.

Beverly Schell Ales	James and Carol Lathrop
Anastasia Alexander	Steve Laughlin
Jim Alves	Jean Lerche
Baughman's Western Outfitters	Richard Lerche
Kathy Baird Baumgartner	Marcus Libkind
Judith Beery	Daren Livermore
Will Bolton	Dereck Livermore
Kim Bonde	Len Matchniff
Sharon Bosque-Wiebe Hoffman	Larry Mauch
Tom Bramell	Treva Mauch
Bob Bronzan	Terry McCune
Cathie Brown	Bertha Meamber
Gail Bryan	Don Meeker
Alan Burnham	Nancy Mueller
Susie Calhoun	Brian O'Dell
Alice Calvert	Jim Oliver
Laina Carter	Ann Pfaff-Doss
Merry Carter	Robert Rich
Dorothy Clarkson, Andy Lundberg	Karen Richardson
Erik Collier	Russ and Claudia Riley
Connolly Family	Mary Rizzo
Nancy Cooper	Nancy Rodrigue
Charles Crohare	Tim Sage
Whitney Dahl	Joan Seppala
Kathleen Duarte-Erickson	Lynn Seppala
Ellen Eagan-McNeill	Anna Siig
Mary Evans	Don Smith
Karen Faraldo	John Stein
Doris Ferreira	Ann Stephens
Alan Frank	Irv Stowers
Bruce Gach	Patty Stowers
Roberta Hadley	Anthony Troha
Arthur Henry	Janet Von Toussaint
The Henry's A's	Wendy Weathers
Leslie Jensen	Mrs. Karl L. Wente
Susan Junk	Karl D. Wente
Loretta Kaskey	Jeffrey Williams
Jeanette King	Jim Winnick
Brenda Lang	Beverly Wooster

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by 60 feet and was intended to be a showroom for new cars. A small item in the March 7, 1924 issue of the *Herald* reported, "Establish Sales Room - The Highway Garage has established a sales room in the Carlisle building on First street (sic) opposite K. J.B. Walker is in charge. All the Durant line - Flint Six,

Durant Four, and Stars - are handled." The Carlisle Building was about where the First Street Alehouse is now located. At this point, it appears that Frank Duarte had a sales staff of two and two showrooms for Durant cars, in addition to his Highway Garage, suggesting an optimistic view of the future car

(Stars, continued on page 11)

Meet a Board Member: Sylvia Chatagnier

by Harry Briley



Please welcome our newly elected Secretary, Sylvia Sweet Chatagnier (roughly approximated as: sha-teng-hay with a French nasal uhng sound). She comes from four generations of Young and Sweet families living in the east hills of Livermore. Her great-great-grandmother Anna Julia Young trekked to California in 1862 in a covered wagon from Illinois to homestead on North Flynn Road.

Anne Homan captured a few pages about the Young family (page 535-538 with notes from Julia's 87-page autobiography on lulu.com) and the Sweet family (page 453-456) in *History of Livermore: A to Z* (available in the Carnegie Building on Third Street). Sylvia's parents built their semi-rural home on Almond Avenue off East Avenue. This let her father, Malvern, work as Principal at Junction Avenue School. She was born in the historic St. Paul's hospital, which serves as bragging rights of any early Livermore citizen.

Sylvia recalled the acreage on Almond Avenue then had room for horses, chickens, goats, sheep, and a spare calf needing to be bottle-fed. They kept most of the animals up on the Sweet ranch off Patterson Pass Road. As a child, she played pick-up baseball games with neighbor kids in the back acreage as well as the popular 1950s and 1960s "Cowboys and Indians", using real horses!! I suspect she felt quite adept at coming out on top when she was the "Indian". Occasionally she rode her horse the distance from Almond Avenue to the family ranches up in the hills.

At that time, the newest subdivision was the Jensen tract (the college named

streets) across East Avenue. Both LLNL and Sandia were still way out in the countryside with cows and horses in surrounding pastures. Aside from church gatherings, Sylvia was unaware of much interaction between the science and ranch communities. However, she noticed the significant building boom to house the many newcomers.

In the 1950s, she said the business district seemed exclusively on First Street and only later sported shopping centers on Second Street. She started school at the new East Avenue School, then only hosting grades 1-4 and then Fifth Street School up to 6th grade, and then back to East Avenue when it became a Junior High School.

While in high school, Malvern was well enough off to own a truck for ranch work and for driving to school, leaving a car at home for her mother Jewell. Many families had only a single car with the wife driving her husband to work or not having a car at all during the workday. Sylvia and her older brother would drive that old beat-up farm truck.

All three Sweet kids left Livermore to attend Modesto Junior College since it had an agricultural program, which her brothers chose. Sylvia chose Home Economics and Biology. After getting her AA, and soon her bachelor's degree, she started in department store retail sales, as she rattled off her big-name stores in Contra Costa County. After a ten year interval as a stay-at-home mom, she next began a 25-year second career there as an 8th grade science teacher.

Halfway through her teaching career, she moved back into her parent's home, where she lives today. The disadvantage

was giving up a 5-minute commute to school for an hour drive each way. After her parents died, her brothers were glad Sylvia chose to live in the old home since it contained so many treasured mementos and history stored in large chests. She still has a half-acre to host some sheep and a nursing calf from the family ranch just like her early memories. Her brothers manage the ranch properties in the hills that include her own acreage where she raises her cattle.

With a long double career, how did she wind up in the Livermore Heritage Guild? While Malvern had been an LHG officer and long-time member, Sylvia only connected about five years ago, helping Barbara Soules at the Hagemann Ranch historic site. She noticed how all the volunteers, each doing some small part, make the entire LHG function. She enjoyed how much LHG members new to Livermore take time to learn so much local history. These aspects impressed her enough to accept the role of Board Secretary for 2024-2026 (well, with some friendly nudges from Barbara of course). We are so glad to have you on our Board, Sylvia!

Above: Sylvia Chatagnier. Photo by Harry Briley.

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business. Unfortunately, as roaring as the 20s were, we all know how the decade ended... much disappointment and dashed dreams.

Richard Finn, City Historian and stalwart Heritage Guild member, found a listing of tenants in the Carlisle Building, confirming that Frank Duarte

opened a showroom there in March 1924. However, the listing of tenants also shows that the space had another tenant about 18 months later. Based on the information we have at the moment, it's not clear when Frank Duarte's automobile dealership business ended but we do know that in 1930 the Durant plant in Oakland, CA, quit making Star cars. In the early 1930s, after several

corporate reorganizations, Durant Motors, Inc. ceased operations in 1933.

Several people have observed that, with two Star cars, the Duarte Garage is close to being a dealership again. We don't aspire to that goal, but we do treasure the two examples of Star cars and enjoy sharing them with visitors to the Garage. Please come to a Duarte Garage Open House and see the Stars of the Garage.

Welcome New and Renewing Members! October - December 2023

Sponsor

Dona Blackmore
Harry Briley
Linda Driver
Maureen Gardner
Individual
Dale Miller - NEW

Senior

Shirley Anderson
Jan Brovont - NEW
Owen Brovont - NEW
Mary Keech-Butterfield
Bill Cervenka

Senior (cont.)

Phyllis Minoggio Frasier
Nancy Harrington
Susie Hohl - NEW
Joseph Hohl - NEW
Stephanie Ryan

In Appreciation

Donations

Shirley Anderson
Dona Blackmore
Gail Bryan
Lisa Burkhart
Bill Cervenka
Altamont Cruisers
Kishore Donapati

Alan Frank
Livermore Lions Club
Terry Rossow
Doris Ryon
Richard Ryon
Barbara Soules
Dale Miller for Depot Freight Room

LHG Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Place
Wed. Feb. 14	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Sat. Feb. 17	9:30am-noon	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sun. Feb. 18	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sun. Feb. 25	1pm-5pm*	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Hello Spring!	Hagemann Ranch
Wed. March 13	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Sat. March 16	9:30am-noon	Workday:Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sun. March 17	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sun. Mar.24**	1pm-5pm*	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Children's Day	Hagemann Ranch
Wed. April 10	7pm	LHG Board Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Sat. April 20	9:30am-noon	Workday: Hagemann Ranch	Hagemann Ranch
Sun. April 21	10am-2pm	Duarte Garage Open House	Duarte Garage
Sun. April 28	1pm-5pm*	Sundays at Hagemann Ranch: Charlotte's Web	Hagemann Ranch

*Note time change **Note date change

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!

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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 \$25.00, Household \$35.00, Senior (age 62+) \$15.00, Student \$15.00, Sponsor \$75.00 and Patron \$150.00. Life (Individual) \$500.00 memberships are also available.

Please make checks payable to "LHG."

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