The Carmel Valley Historical Society wishes to thank the many Valley Volunteers who assisted in documenting this history. Without their help this story never could have been told.

Jeff Ohlson, Curator
March 2015
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Chronological History of CVFPD

1946 Tularcitos Fire Protection District formed
1948 Via Contenta property purchased from Tirey Ford
1948 Two-bay fire station built on Via Contenta
1948 Chief Les Ball appointed
1950 Chief O.T. Valnizza appointed
1950 First ambulance donated by Muriel Vanderbilt
1953 Dept. name changed to Carmel Valley Fire Protection District (State certified name in 1957)
1964 Alexander “Chip” Collins promoted to Chief
1969 Little League field relocated to Paso Hondo
1969 New training facility built
1974 Captain Don Laird died in the line of duty fighting the Los Tulares fire
1977 Chief Bill Sims appointed
1977 New fire station built
1979 Chief Bill Sims resigned
1980 Chief Robert Heald appointed
1991 Chief Bill Sims re-appointed for second term
1997 Public Safety Radio AM station established by Capt. Jeff Frye
2000 Bill Parham appointed acting Chief
2001 CVFPD & Mid Valley FPD consolidated (kept CVFPD name)
One of the oldest organizations in Carmel Valley, the **Tularcitos Fire District** was formed by post-World War II residents who were instrumental in the early development of Carmel Valley. Many were WWII military veterans.

The **Tularcitos Fire Protection District** was formed as an all-volunteer Fire Department in December 1946 by resolution of Monterey County’s Board of Supervisors. The resolution also appointed three interim District Commissioners to formulate plans for the district: Milton Kastor, Paul Porter, and Frank Lang.

The first meeting of the **TFPD** Commissioners was held on April 14, 1947 at the home of Paul Porter. They had the following challenges to tackle:

- Secure a fire truck (U.S. Army Surplus sales, heavy or medium duty, mobility vs. size, class, etc.)
- Determine potential for a volunteer firefighter organization
- Locate and purchase property for the fire station
- Determine status of farmers in the district (farmers concerned over tax rate could opt out of district protection)
- Secure insurance for volunteer firemen & equipment
- Produce a fire district code book
- Improve telephone communications between areas in the district
- Design a letterhead for official correspondence
- Create district fire posters made for distribution throughout the Valley
The Commissioners met frequently with ranchers and businessmen to determine the needs of the district. The Tularcitos Fire Protection District (TFPD) was approved by vote of the residents in April 1948 to function with the authority to tax the district. The plan included a budget to furnish a centrally-located building and its equipment – in 1948-1949 the total expenditure was $25,980 for operation, maintenance, and capital outlay. The State of California Division of Forestry was contracted to supply equipment and firefighting and maintenance personnel to provide interim year-round fire protection. At this time Norman Marshall was elected to fill the position vacated by Commissioner Lang.

A General Meeting was held in June 1947 to vote on whether the residents wanted fire protection (or postpone until 1948) and to approve funds for the district based upon 40¢ per $100 assessed valuation. Also on the ballot was a fire truck, fire department manned by local volunteers, and construction of a fire house.

The Commissioners’ plan to purchase property, equipment, and recruit volunteer firemen was put into action. A new fire truck was obtained in late 1948 that was temporarily housed in Merle Gesselman’s Garage until a permanent firehouse was built. When radios were issued, the County assigned the first I.D. designators as units # 701-719; the ’48 White was # 701, the ’48 Dodge was # 702, and so on.

The TFPD’s first fire truck was a 1948 White/Van Pelt delivered by the P. E. Van Pelt Co. of Oakdale, CA. in November 1948. Purchased for $14,200, the White had a 135 HP engine with 250 to 800 gallons per minute pumping capability, either pumping from its tank, a hydrant, or suctioning from a river or pool. It was painted bright red with the name TULARCITOS on the hood. It also had a short wheelbase for sharp curves and was considered the very finest design of its type. Instructions were given to the volunteers on how to use the engine, pumps, and all other equipment. The new truck was proudly parked in Los Laureles Village (prior name of Carmel Valley Village) for its initial firefighting demonstrations.
Tularcitos Fire Protection District’s first fire truck – a 1948 White/Van Pelt purchased for $14,200 and designated as unit #701.

The Nov. 1948 photo is thought to be taken when accepting delivery of the 1948 White/Van Pelt at P. E. Van Pelt’s Oakdale, CA facility.


First Ambulance – 1949 Dodge Panel Van donated by Muriel Vanderbilt Phelps, then owner of Los Laureles Lodge.

1948 Dodge Van Pelt Power Wagon Water Pumper, unit #702 – thought to be the second purchase of the Fire Department.
The first two volunteer companies to be organized were headed up by Les Ball (Captain of Company No. 1) and O. J. Valnizza (Captain of Company No. 2) with a total of about 25 volunteers in place.

A 1.67 acre property was purchased from Tirey L. Ford in August 1948 for $1,700 – today’s site of the fire station on Via Contenta. Architect Tom Elston, Jr. designed the original station and M.J. Murphy Lumber Co. donated most of the materials. Contractor and volunteer Ralph Stean supervised the volunteers who provided the labor for constructing the 2-bay apparatus room.


The first regular meeting of the TFPD Volunteers was held in Frank De Amaral’s barn on November 12, 1948:

**PRESENT**

M. Kastor  
P. Porter  
N. Marshall  
M. Gesselman  
J. Tadlock  
D. Wolter  
E. Mayfield  
L. Ball  
C. Allaire  
S. Taylor  
J. Wolter  
E. Payne  
W. Ullman  
G. Lewis  
C. Castro  
B. Danielson  
E. Riddell  
L. Lutes  
G. Corrigan  
J. Hennessy  
R. Danielson  
J. Coehlo  
S. Williams

Commissioner – Chief Eng.  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Master Mechanic  
Dept. Clerk  
1\(^{st}\) Asst. Ch. Eng.  
2\(^{nd}\) Asst. Ch. Eng.  
Capt. Fire Co. #1  
Lieut. Fire Co. #1  
Lieut. Fire Co. #2  
Driver Fire Co. #1  
Driver Fire Co. #2  
Asst. Driver Fire Co. #1  
Fire Co. #1  
Fire Co. #1  
Fire Co. #1  
Fire Co. #1  
Fire Co. #2  
Fire Co. #2  
Fire Co. #2  
Fire Co. #2  
Fire Co. #2

**ABSENT**

O. Valnizza  
O. Dutton  
G. Risdon  
R. Stean  
L. Tanous  
J. Parsons

Capt. Fire Co. #2  
Asst. Driver Fire Co. #1
In December 1951 Mr. and Mrs. Claus (Franklin and Sally Pomper) made a surprise visit to Tularcitos School on the Fire District’s new red 1948 Dodge/Van Pelt Power Wagon fire truck. In addition to giving the school children a thrill, it was an opportunity for the Tularcitos Fire District to show off their new fire truck to the taxpayers. Chief O.T. Valnizza, fire commissioner Paul Porter, and Ralph Stean were among the onlookers.

Interestingly, the Van Pelt factory representative who drove the truck down from Oakland stopped on Pacheco Pass to extinguish a truck fire with the few gallons of water in the Dodge’s tank.

(Taken from a December 1951 CV News article)
This is the original 1948-1949 fire alarm control box that initiated the signal to the siren on top of the fire house. The device shown contained a different cam for each fire area – i.e., 1 Blast = First Aid Call; 2 Blasts = General Alarm Call to Quarters; 3 Blasts = Robles Del Rio Subdivision; 4 Blasts = Los Laureles Subdivision; 5 Blasts = East of Robles entrance, including Holman Ranch, Tirey Ford, Camp Steffani, etc; 6 Blasts = Lower Section of District from old adobe yard to Rancho Don Juan. Eventual improvements in communications made this vintage alarm box obsolete.

Pictured at left is the original siren that sounded the alarms. It is now on display in the History Center.
The original volunteers included Valley old-timers Orville Dutton, Sid Williams, Pete Danielson, and Ed Mayfield – and in 1948 Les Ball was appointed Fire Chief. For several months the volunteer meetings were held at the Hitching Post Tavern (now Murphy Lumber’s parking lot) and then at Frank De Amaral’s barn (which later became the famous Tantamount Theatre). These intrepid early volunteers did not receive full turnout gear (safety clothing designed to protect firefighters from high heat, etc.) until after the Carmel Valley Inn fire on a freezing night in 1966 when Commissioner Morden Buck had to supply all the blankets and coats he could find to warm the soaked firemen.

In the 1950s the District’s many initiatives included traffic control, installation of 25 rented fire hydrants (a lack of water pressure/flow was identified in many areas), fire house improvements, new fire equipment, and even a change to the name of the TFD. In January 1953 a letter was written to the District Attorney asking to change the name of the Tularcitos Fire District to avoid confusion with the California Department of Forestry Tularcitos Station at San Clemente Dam. The community was told of the name change in the July 1953 issue of the Carmel Valley News, which reported:

“When the new telephone directory comes out in August the Tularcitos Fire Department will be listed under its official name, the Carmel Valley Fire Department, according to Paul Porter, fire Department Commissioner.”
COMMISSIONER’S ROLL of HONOR

Commissioners were elected to the important management job of overseeing the fire services for the district. The commissioners managed department business policies, budgets, and personnel and were responsible for supplying firefighting equipment and services for the department. Fire prevention education and outside burning permit requirements for the community were also part of the job. The Commission’s Chair was rotated every couple of years.

These dedicated and respected individuals were:

Norman P. Marshall  Ralph L. Stean
Milton C. Kastor  Clayton B. Neill
Paul F. Porter  Chris Spalding
Edgar H. Haber  Morden Buck
C. Hugh Erwin  Jim Conrad
Frank Lang  John Hewitt
Charles L. Borchers  Bill Parham
Jerry Kurz Sr.  Larry Busick
Bud Hobbs  Pete Garneau
Dan Wiess
HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

These plaques are located on the grounds of the Via Contenta fire station.

Paul Porter

Chip Collins

Don Laird

Bud Hobbs
The name change was formally certified by the State in December 1957, thus the name **Carmel Valley Fire Protection District** was born. In the 1950’s the **CVFPD** joined the California State Firemen’s Association along with the Carmel Valley Volunteers organization.

The firehouse temporarily housed the Sheriff’s office, as was reported in the June 1956 Carmel Valley News.
O. T. Valnizza pictured in the January 1954 CV News; CVFD Commissioner Paul Porter and Chief Valnizza made a point to residents and to the California Water Co. that there was insufficient water for firefighting in some Valley areas. Fire underwriters also gave an unfavorable report on the water situation in the Valley.

CVFD’s entry in the 1954 CSFA Convention Parade in Monterey. L to R - Casey Smith, Sam Corona, O.T. Valnizza, Jack Uzzell. Vehicle thought to be a late 1920’s Chevrolet Roadster modified to remove the doors and add a wooden bell, rack, lights, and hose outlets. It was not a fire vehicle but one used in parades and other events.
I, FRANK M. JORDAN, Secretary of State of the State of California, hereby certify:

That on the 6th day of December, 1957, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Fire District Law, more particularly Section 14017 of the Health and Safety Code, there was received in this office and filed in the official records thereof an Affidavit executed by:

Charles L. Borchers, Edgar H. Haber
and Milton G. Naylor
Carmel Valley, California.

I further certify that said Affidavit recites the facts of organization of the district hereinafter named and is supported by a certified copy of the documentary proof of its organization, a description of the boundaries being contained therein or attached as a separate instrument and that said documentary proof is the December 2, 1946, Resolution of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors declaring formation under name "Tularcitos Fire Protection District" and September 15, 1953, recorded Resolution of the District setting forth change of name.

Therefore, by reason of said filing in this office and by authority of Section 14017 of the Health and Safety Code, I further certify there is in legal existence in the County of Monterey, State of California, a duly organized Local Fire District under the name:

CARMEL VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the Great Seal of the State of California this 6th day of December, 1957.

FRANK M. JORDAN
Secretary of State

By
Deputy Secretary of State
In 1972 the Commissioners voted to annex Mid Valley into the CV Fire District. This was met with general disapproval. During the transition the Carmel Valley Fire Protection District was contracted to provide fire protection to the Mid Valley Fire District until its fire department was fully operational. Commissioner Ed Haber resigned to serve on the Board of Directors and help form the Mid Valley Fire Protection District. The MVFPD was organized in 1973 and eventually became operational in 1976.

As new fire engines were purchased additional bays were added to the original two-bay structure (see arrow in photo). Offices, a meeting room, and a communications center were added later. Eventually the need for a more modern and spacious facility led to demolition of the old building and construction of the present fire station in 1977.
In 1969 the Little League field was moved to its current location at Paso Hondo to make room for a new 2,400 sq. ft. training building.

The CVFPD had many volunteers and administrators over its operational life. At least 220 volunteers were trained and certified to serve the community and many served both the Department and Volunteer organizations in different roles and capacities at different times. Some firefighters were 2nd and 3rd generation family volunteers.

The Valley Volunteers, Inc. filed with the State of California in December 1955 and held their first monthly meeting in February 1956 to discuss volunteer business and social issues such as fund-raising and community service events. Safety rules and procedures, officer duties, by-laws, and meetings and membership requirements which governed the Fire Department’s Volunteer organization were also established. A Volunteer representative also sat in on CVFPD Board of Directors meetings to provide status on Volunteer activities and to report back to the Volunteers.
A firefighter Nominating Committee was formed and one of the requisites was that firefighters had to live within the District to be members. Volunteers played an integral role in Fire Department operations such as researching, purchasing, and even driving the new fire engines from the seller facilities across the U.S.

The residents of Carmel Valley were (and are) a volunteering community. Many Volunteers volunteered with other organizations: Paul Porter was President of CV Chamber of Commerce, with Lou Allaire as its secretary-treasurer and Byington Ford on its executive committee. Don Cummings also served as Vice President of the Carmel Valley Historical Society. Ed Mayfield, an original volunteer, was a local building contractor and often paid his men who were volunteers when they were called off the job to assist the Fire Department.

The December 1948 roster on the right is as written by Secretary Norman Marshall.

The Fire Department District and Volunteers were as follows from 1948 through the 1950s:

**Commissioners:** Milton Kastor, Paul F. Porter (Chairman), Frank Lang, Lester Borchers, Ralph Stean.

**Fire Chiefs:** Les Ball, O.T. Valnizza.

**Asst. Fire Chiefs:** Tim Henry, Hugh Erwin.

**Firemen:** Orville Dutton, Sid Williams, Pete Danielson, Lou Allaire, Bob Haller (first paid fireman), Frank Popovic, and Ed Mayfield.

**Secretaries:** Paul Porter, Norman Marshall.
In the mid 1950’s Ed Haber replaced Bob Mottern as CVFPD’s general meeting chairman and Bill Muscutt replaced Charles Ashley as treasurer.

This article appeared in a Dec. 1963 issue of The Outlook newspaper.
Established in 1956, many members served the Corporation over the course of its history – either elected as Directors or appointed as President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer. Standing committees consisted of the Finance, Social, and House Committees. The By-Laws limited the number of active members to no more than thirty-five and that all had to be an active fireman in the Department. They came from all walks of life: carpenters, painters, electricians, insurance salesmen, teachers, and many other trades serving the community. Its founding Directors were Valnizza, Mayfield, Allaire, Collins, Steliga, Bewley, and Uzzel. Valnizza and Mayfield also served as President/Vice-President while Allaire served as Secretary and Collins served as Treasurer.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1968</th>
<th>1978</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.  Boyd Danielson, Asst. Ch.</td>
<td>1.  Bill Sims, Chief</td>
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<td>5.  Don Cummings, Capt.</td>
<td>5.  Don Corona, Capt.</td>
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<td>15. William Parham</td>
<td>15. Larry Cisneros</td>
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<td>16. Art Haber</td>
<td>16. Richard Crane</td>
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<td>17. Larry Feldman</td>
<td>17. Augie Acuna</td>
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<td>18. Peter Garneau</td>
<td>18. Tom Augustitus</td>
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<td>27. Bill Owen</td>
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<td>29. Gary Tate</td>
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<td>30. Mike Viljoen</td>
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<td>32. J. B. Bowe</td>
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CVFPD’s 1972 American La France fire engine with Captain Don Laird and Chief Chip Collins (standing) in front of the CVFD’s firehouse.
In all, six Fire Chiefs served the Department: Les Ball (1948-1950), O.T. Valnizza (1950-1964), Alexander “Chip” Collins (1964-1977), Bill Sims (1977-79; 1991-2000), Robert Heald (1979-1990), and Bill Parham (2000 -2001). The Fire Chief’s job was a paid position and key qualifications were the ability to work with the Volunteers and to professionally represent the Department to the Carmel Valley Community and other organizations on the Peninsula.

The Fire Department was organized into three companies - each had a Captain, Lieutenant, two or three Engineers, and several Firefighters. In the late 1990’s the Lieutenant position was discontinued and each company went to two Captains.

Through the dedicated and determined efforts of many, the Department and its Volunteers evolved into one of the most professional and best trained organizations on the Peninsula. The Valley Volunteers were proud of their skills, training, and contributions made to the Community and the Carmel Valley Fire Protection District. It is safe to say that the Carmel Valley community was grateful for having the Valley Volunteers at the ready to come their assistance at a moment’s notice.
The Fire Department was comprised as follows in the late 1980’s:

**Commissioners**: Larry Busick, Bud Hobbs, Jerry Kurz

**Fire Chief**: Robert Heald

**Assistant Chiefs**: Don Corona and Bill Parham

**Firemen**: 4 paid and 32 volunteers

**Administrative**: Sharon Weiss

In the late 1990’s California’s fiscal operating environment was changing. This precipitated in reorganizations and consolidations of the fire districts. In 2001 the Carmel Valley Fire Protection District and Mid Valley Fire Protection District were consolidated under the same *Carmel Valley Fire Protection District* name. Further consolidation took place in 2009-2010 with the Salinas Rural Fire District to form the *Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District* which is in operation today.
The commemorative plaque pictured below was designed and built in 2011 by volunteer firefighter and wood craftsman Mike Cappetti. Each brass inscription has the name and years of service of the 220 volunteers who served through the Fire Department’s history. The Valley Volunteers were the backbone of the CV Fire Department.
EMERGENCY CALLS

CV Volunteer firefighter service to the Valley community was unique and personal. Their mission was to protect life and property of the district and they were called for duty day or night on many different fire calls – such as structural, vehicle accidents, or wildland fires. Wild land fires caused by lightning, arson, illegal camp fires, tree other causes have been Carmel Valley since the drought or flooding periods always been contributing and attendant sedimentation limbs over power lines, or occurring in and around earliest of times. Extreme and local weather have factors and mud slides can be a direct result.

Over the 50+ years of the CVFPD’s operating life, its volunteer firefighter ranks have not only been involved in fighting fires but in a significant number of ambulance EMS medical emergencies including transports to the hospital. Other calls were for residential service calls such as “disaster” flood assistance, drownings, animal rescues, locked vehicle and miscellaneous home assistance, or rattlesnake problems. After the 1995 floods it was concluded that improved disaster communications was needed. Captain Jeff Frye was instrumental in developing the Public Safety Radio system which allowed residents to listen to their AM radios for current disaster or pertinent pre-recorded non-disaster messages such as fire prevention and home safety.
Each firefighter had to be cleared through a medical exam and had to be trained and certified in many different procedures – from the “turnout procedure,” to fire truck driving and equipment usage, structural and wildland firefighting, and EMS and rescue procedures. Each person received 80 hours of initial training and an additional 120 hours of EMT training. Training exercises were scheduled for every Tuesday evening. Each firefighter was also tested for physical agility, ladder climbing, ability to deal with small crawl spaces, and pulling heavy fire hoses. Firefighters were paid a small stipend for first aid training that was put into the general fund. However, all had to pay for use of their own vehicles and clean their own clothing. Training in close coordination with other fire districts and California Department of Forestry spotter and retardant dropping aircraft was required for wild land firefighting operations.

Many volunteers also received training as “Swift Water Technicians” during high water rescue conditions in the Carmel River. The firefighters shown below are training for multi-floor structure access.
The Fire Department initiated a new 10-member Rescue Unit in 1969 to be prepared for mountain rescues. This need became apparent after a rescue attempt of an airplane that crashed in the mountains in the fall of 1968. Training included mountaineering skills to help the firemen rescue pilots and passengers of crashed airplanes in the mountains. The photo at right shows Don Cummings descending a 130 foot cliff down to the Carmel River bed at a training site just east of the Carmel Valley Village. The firemen were instructed in mountaineering techniques such as repelling by Norman McBride, an expert mountaineer from the Sierra Club. Helicopters from the Monterey Naval Air Facility would pick up the Rescue Unit team and drop them off in the mountains as close to the crash sites as possible.

Bill Parham (descending on rope), Norman McBride, and Art Harber are pictured training for rope descents. The firemen trained about 3 or 4 hours a week on local cliffs or at the firehouse and were equipped with all the necessary ropes and climbing equipment. The original members of the Rescue Unit were: Raz Belleci, Larry and Don Cummings, Bill Parham, Art Harber, John Woods, Stan Roberts, Don Weber, Gary Paddock, and George Palmer.
Assistant Chief Bill Parham and Battalion Chief Pat Dowd are shown conferring with Bob Townsend of the California Department of Forestry during an evacuation drill of the Robles Del Rio subdivision. This 1992 training exercise tested the emergency preparedness of several different agencies.
Memorable
Wildland and Structure Fires

- Country Club Drive (1960’s)
- Carmel Valley Inn (1966)
- Hitchcock Canyon (1966)
- Tularcitos (mid 1970’s)
- Los Tulares (1974)
- Ventana Wilderness Marble Cone (1977)
- Tantamount Theatre (October 1978)
- Hastings Natural History Reservation (1980)
- Laureles Grade (arson, 1981)
- Double H Ranch (spark from tractor, 1984)
- Hitchcock Canyon (1989)
- Robles Del Rio (1989)
- Stonepine Resort/Carmel River (1993)
- Tassajara (1999)
- Robles Del Rio Lodge (2010)
A CDF Bell helicopter dropping water on fire just east of the Village, July 1993.

A CDF Lockheed P2 Neptune firefighting airplane dropping fire retardant.

The volunteers had to be prepared for any emergency as these two auto accidents on Carmel Valley Road suggest.
Fire on Country Club Drive

CVFD ’62 La France fire engine at scene of fire.

On the left:
Don Cummings, Bill Parham, Bill Conlan, and Jim Madsen.

On the right:
an auto accident on CV Road.

Firefighter training burns: on the left a 1967 “practice fire” at the Carmel Valley Golf & Country Club compliments of owner and Fire Commissioner Ed Haber; on the right two volunteers and the ’62 La France engine with a casual observer looking on at a Miramonte Road burn.
Firefighters Richard Crane, Jim Madsen, Don Cummings, Bill Parham, and Bill Conlan.

Firefighters are silhouetted at the Carmel Valley Inn night structure fire in 1966.

July 1954 Laurel Drive fire east of Rancho Del Monte Country Club, 200 bales of hay burned that belonged to Volunteer Firefighter Orville Dutton.
Circa 1990’s: volunteer firefighters Roger Gardner and Kalani Fonseca along with a CHP officer inspect the wreckage of a dump truck which sped out of control down the Laureles Grade across the Carmel Valley Road and into an oak tree.

The brakes of the dump truck could not stop the truck which was filled with 10,000 pounds of sand. The driver unfortunately did not survive the crash.
Circa 1950's - Carmel Valley's First Aid crew with American Red Cross Dorothy James, who presented a certificate of merit to Chief Hugh Erwin.


Front row: Santos Corona, Don Corona, Hugh Erwin, Dr. Clancy Van Horn, and Ora Vasquez.

Firefighters in a training scenario.
CVFPD’s 1949 Cadillac Station Wagon ambulance.

Don Corona, Don Laird, and Chip Collins checking out the Fire Department’s new 1965 Oldsmobile ambulance donated by the Carmel Chapter of American Red Cross which also paid for its operating costs. In the 1960’s the ARC’s Carmel Chapter donated ambulances to the Carmel, Carmel Valley, and Big Sur fire departments.
CVFD Ambulance crew – L to R
top row: Don Cummings, Raz
Bellicci, Chip Collins (driver),
Don Laird, and Bill Ijams Jr.

L to R bottom row: Charlie
Ganzel, Bill Parham, Bob Orris,
and Art Harber.

1965 Oldsmobile ARC
ambulance on right at
firehouse. It was used
extensively on many Valley
emergencies.

On the left is Chief Chip Collin’s
personal use 1968 GMC
Suburban.

1970’s American Red Cross
ambulance in front of the old
firehouse.

Three volunteers tip their hats
to their new ambulance, L to R:
Kalani Fonseca, Francis
Hughes, and Roger Gardner.
A 1989 4WD International Type 3 wildland fire engine built by Westates Fire Apparatus in Woodland, CA is pictured during a Holman Ranch vegetation fire.

Standing in front of ’62 La France (#717) fire truck:

In 1995 the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 95-017 which commended all Strike Team members involved in fighting the June 1994 Bailey Fire in Southern Riverside County. Carmel Valley Fire Protection District volunteers and equipment supported this major firefighting operation.
COMMUNITY SERVICE

Once the operation of the fire department was running smoothly, the commissioners and firefighters initiated many activities that served and entertained the community for many years. The volunteers had a code of ethics and there was great *esprit de corps* among them. They had fun pulling good-humored jokes on each other to soften the serious business of firefighting. Each year volunteers were nominated to serve on the Social Committee. By all measures, the fire department played an integral role in the life of the community.

Before it was relocated to the foot of Paso Hondo in 1967, the Little League field sat next to the firehouse. The league was formed in 1958 and each season the Fire Department sponsored the “Volunteers” team. In the 1980’s the teams were the Indians, Falcons, Lions, Tigers, Toros, Broncos, Pirates, Cubs, Hornets, Volunteers, and the Wolfpack. The opening day ceremonies featured Carmel Valley’s “First Citizen,” Joe Hitchcock, throwing out the first ball. Other dignitaries including Randy Randazzo were in attendance. These events always included snacks, team photos, and other festivities.
Tularcitos School children get a bus ride back to school after a visit to the firehouse put on by the Valley Volunteers, circa early 1950’s. Note the fire alarm siren on the firehouse roof. The school bus driver (and deputy sheriff) was Tiny Marrs.

June 1968 firemen's benefit ball promo: L to R: Judy Parham, Chip Collins, Barbara & Raz Belleci, Mal Tavares, Joyce Nelson, and unidentified woman. The fire truck pictured is the 1948 Dodge/Van Pelt Power Wagon.
• Tularcitos Fire Dept. Cub Scout Pack # 76 sponsor:

• Carmel Valley and Pasa Tiempo Little League team sponsor (supplied equipment, uniforms, and coaching). Pasa Tiempo was a social organization for local teenagers.

• Fire Dept. Barbecues.

• Yearly Easter Egg hunt at the Community Park or Firehouse.

• Women’s Auxiliary Auctions fund-raising events

• Collaboration with Kiwanis events.

• First Aid, C.P.R., and Fire Safety Classes for the community.
A yearly Firemen’s Ball & Dance letter was sent out by the social committee – the 1989 letter and the ad for the May 1960 dance at Rancho Del Monte Country Club are shown below.

![1989 Firemen's Ball Letter](image1)

![1960 Fireman's Ball Ad](image2)
VOLUNTEER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES, con’t

- Parades in general – FIESTA, Santa parade, 4th of July, Tularcitos School Halloween parade.
- Christmas/Santa Claus events (Santa’s Christmas gift deliveries with sirens blaring). A CVFD fire truck delivered Santa and Mrs. Claus to the Village during Christmas 1981 when the Monterey Airport was closed due to weather.
- Yearly ride on fire truck for Valley kids during Fire Prevention Week.
- Provide meeting room facilities for the community (the Carmel Valley Women’s club held luncheons at the firehouse).
- Fireman’s “muster” competition events.

With the 1948 White Van Pelt in the background, paid volunteer Kalani Fonseca is pictured with Tularcitos School children during a Northern California Savings & Loan event that donated to the Department as well as the CV Little League.
Cannery Row Muster
“Tug of War” Contest.

Cannery Row 8 vs CVFD’s Nelson, Conlan, Weber, Cummings, Paddock, and Parham.

“Fire Musters” were friendly competition events between local fire companies. In the above muster event, Captain Jeff Trapp watches as firefighters Randy Newman, Brad Klemek, Dave Mullally, and Marcus Arana compete in a bucket brigade at the annual “Muster-by-the Sea” event. The competition was to transfer as much water from one tub to another without spilling in the allotted time.
Initiated by Bill Parham in 1969-1970, the Volunteer Firefighters performed a yearly Santa gift delivery service to the community. Several Santas and fire engines were utilized in making the several hundred gift deliveries throughout the Village area as far east as Sleepy Hollow. This unique Christmas tradition was highly anticipated and made lifelong memories for the children.

The Santa in the photo at left is calling the child by name as he hands her gift to her.
CVFPD’s 1948 White Van Pelt is on display at the 1967 Fiesta de los Amigos event held in Carmel Valley Village’s Delfino Rd plaza area.

Fireman John Woods escorted Smokey the Bear and a fire truck load of children during the Dec. 1977 Santa Fly-In parade. The fire truck used was the 1948 White Van Pelt.
WHERE ARE THE OLD FIRE TRUCKS NOW?

1948 White Van Pelt fire engine was the first purchase by the Tularcitos Fire Protection District. It is pictured in front of the original fire house structure built by its own Volunteers. It served the Community until its retirement in 1984.

The White was donated to the Carmel Valley Community Youth Center in 1987 where it was installed in the Tot Lot. It remained at the park until Robb Talbott brought it into his collection in the 2007 time period.

The old #718 White now rests in the Talbott collection after sustaining considerable damage from mistreatment at the Community Youth Park.
1948 Dodge Power Wagon Van Pelt 4WD water pumper pictured in front of the firehouse on Via Contenta in the 1950's.

The same truck is pictured in the barn at the Salinas Talbott Winery in August 2014. Mr. Robb Talbott has carefully preserved the original truck sans its water tank which was rusted beyond repair. It was modified to seat guests for vineyard tours.
1962 American La France fire engine as it looked in the 1960's. Larry Cummings with Chip Colins on the hose joking around with volunteer wives Joyce Nelson and Mary Ijams.

1962 American La France fire engine as it looked in August 2014 parked at the Monterey County Regional Fire Department on Via Contenta in Carmel Valley Village. This La France is owned, maintained, and driven by the Volunteers in parades.
These gauges indicated water pressure in the lines.

The engineer would switch to the pump controls before leaving the cab. This allowed him to control engine rpm and adjust pressure in the system remotely.

These controls allowed the engineer to select the source of water and control water pressure. Each engine had an integral water tank or could suction water from an external hydrant. The fire hoses could be attached either on the left, right, or aft sides of the engine depending on need. Bleed valves were also provided to de-pressurize the lines when shutting down the system.

It served the Fire Dept and Community from 1974 to 2001. It is now in the Talbott vintage fire equipment collection. It has 17,000+ miles on it.
EARLY 1960’S FIREFIGHTER “TURNOUTS”

The quick-donning turnout boots, pants, and coat procedure was very important to the firefighters. The boots and pants were prearranged for quick-donning first, and then the coat and helmet were donned. A practiced firefighter could be ready to go in well under a minute.

Note that the canvas-coat type turnout on the left was used by the Volunteer firefighters in the photo on the right. The turnout originally came from the Salinas Rural Fire Department. A set of turnouts in 1960 cost around $300; today’s cost is around $2,000 for new nomex-type turnout gear.
CVFD BADGES and PATCHES

Firefighter badges comply with established standards and include fire station information and symbols of the individual's position such as firefighter, engineer, lieutenant, captain, battalion chief, division chief, assistant chief, or chief. The bugle, as shown in the silver lieutenant’s badge above, symbolizes the rank of firefighter within the unit. For example, lieutenants have one bugle on their badge or patch, captains have two that are side-by-side, battalion chiefs have two crossed bugles, division chiefs have three crossed bugles, assistant chiefs have four crossed bugles and the fire chief or commissioner has five crossed bugles. The patch shown on the right was used by the entire Fire Department team.

Don Weber (1953-1980) and Don Cummings (1957-1987) were both Assistant Fire Chief’s in the 1960 to 1980 time period, a significant time period in Valley Volunteer firefighter history. Don Weber’s radio call was “7-10” for Company #2 and Don Cumming’s call was “7-11” for Company #1.

Note that Cumming’s Company #1 patch shown on the right contains four dice: a #3, a #4, a # 5, and a # 6. So, 3 + 4 = 7 and 5 + 6 = 11 which represent his call sign, “7-11.” Weber’s Company #2 had a similar patch. All members of each Company would have worn these and similar patches on their hats, coats, or coveralls.
THE PAST GIVES WAY TO THE PRESENT

1970’s
How the fire station looked before making way for the new building.

2014
How the fire station looks today.
2014

The Valley Volunteers Pancake Breakfast at the Community Center during the 2014 Fiesta weekend.

L to R: Herb Shoemaker, Seth Goldberg, Jud Boone, Dave Chaney, (son of Volunteer), Don Corona, David Cummings, Randy Newman, and Ray Lucido.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Volunteer Name</strong></th>
<th><strong>Service Dates</strong></th>
<th><strong>Name</strong></th>
<th><strong>Dates</strong></th>
<th><strong>Name</strong></th>
<th><strong>Dates</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Alewine, Travis</td>
<td>2005-11</td>
<td>Clausen, John</td>
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Kurz, Jerry 1976-81 Palmer, George 1960-74 Spaulding, Chris 1970-75
Laird, Don 1964-74 Parham, Bill 1965-02 Spindler, Mark 1984-11
Lantis, Leo 1959-60 Parson, Jack 1949-56 Stean, Ralph 1948-51
Lewis, Bob 1984-12 Pastore, Gabriel 1959-60 Steliga, Tony 1951-61
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Majdic, Fred 1950-56 Powers, Gary 2002-08 Trapp, Jeff 1989-02
Mauzey, Walt 1950-63 Ramirez, Rogelio 2002- Valnizza, O.T. 1948-64
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O’Campo, Sal 1967-74 Sherman, Doc 1948-52 Williams, Sid 1948-52
O’Dell, James 1949-49 Sherman, Greg 1964-67 Wolters, Dean 1948-49
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