

# CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2013

## **The President's Message**

By Reggie Jones

Two months ago, the CVHS Board committed to opening the museum to the public before the end of this year with at least three complete displays. The Display Committee has been meeting twice a month since that time and the following displays have been selected for development.

The Hatton Parlor display will have as its centerpiece a mid 19th century square piano that came "round Cape Horn" and was a treasure in the Hatton's parlor for many years. The remainder of the display will highlight daily life of the late 19th and early 20th century Carmel Valley families. Development of this display will be led by Kim Williams.

The Indians of Carmel Valley will feature the story of local Indians of the Esselen and Rumsen tribes with many wonderful artifacts. This display will be led by Maurice Wolfe and Donna Zahn. In addition, Donna will also be working on the important part the Carmel River has played in the history of the Valley, including the memorable events, and the geology of the river.

The Zeigler Collection display will bring to life the working cattle ranches and cowboys of the Valley. The centerpiece of this display will be selected photographs from Ron Zeigler's extensive body of work from the 1950's-80's. Development of this display will be led by Jeff Ohlson.

We plan to develop details of each of these displays over the next couple of months and implement them by mid-November. Many other possible displays have been identified, but these will not be developed until next year. One additional display we will probably pursue in the near future, however, is an outdoor exhibit of farming equipment from Carmel Valley ranches.

If you have items to donate for these or other future displays, or if you have historical documents related to Carmel Valley to entrust to the Historical Society, please contact the Society at 649-5715 or by email at [cvhs3@att.net](mailto:cvhs3@att.net), or Reggie Jones at 659-4338, [slaterjones1@comcast.net](mailto:slaterjones1@comcast.net). We are very pleased that a founding member, Dolores McGlochlin, has boxed up her rare books, her newspaper clippings, and the minutes she kept from the first meetings of CVHS and will place them in our custody in the very near future.

## **Gigantic Rummage Sale Wrap-up**

We had inadvertently omitted some of the many people who helped make our Gigantic Rummage Sale such a success in our last Newsletter. We apologize. Our sincere thanks also goes to for all the time and effort they put in also goes to:

Julie Cason

Alan Crockett

Pat Cummings

David Fairhurst

Ann Flood

Wendy Hursey

Pat Jones

Chuck & Valerie McKay

Brenda Lambert-Mellinger

Mel & Joy Pritchard

Frank Quilty

Jim & Brenda Shakel

Paula Washington.

We worked with the Carmel Valley Kiwanis and all felt the whole experience was a great cooperative success.

After the Sale was over, an iPad was discovered left at the History Center. Christine Williams has it and if you are the owner, please call her at 659-1307 and identify it.

As the Society moves toward opening the Center to the public, we want to continue working with businesses and organizations in the Valley. If you want to join with the Society on an event or a meeting, please call Reggie Jones at 659-4338 to discuss any details.

And remember Elizabeth Barratt's book, "Images of America: Carmel Valley," can be obtained by calling her at 659-2751 or by email at [hrh&qe3@gmail.com](mailto:hrh&qe3@gmail.com). Elizabeth has prepared a very interesting slide show and talk about her book and can be available to speak at your organization's meetings. Just call her and arrange a time.

### **Remember.....**

*Talent and ability are of little use without integrity.*

*You're never right or wrong just because someone agrees with you.*

*Never feel guilty about excusing yourself from a potentially bad situation.*



## RLS Visited Carmel Valley in 1879

By

Elizabeth Barratt

In 1879, Robert Louis Stevenson had traveled from Scotland to visit his life's love, Fanny Osbourne, who was temporarily staying in Monterey. He only spent three months on the Monterey Peninsula. Yet, his observations of the area, including his comments on Carmel Valley's peaceful, pastoral nature, were published in an essay, "The Old Pacific Capital." He probably didn't realize the extent that his writings foretold the future changes the Valley's pleasing landscape would undergo in the name of progress.

Stevenson started out on a camping trip to Carmel Valley on September 9, 1879. He asked to spend the first night at the property of pioneer Edward Berwick near Robinson Canyon Road, sleeping in the 1869 barn. This barn later provided picturesque material for landscape artists. (Although the Berwick property is on the National Register of Historic Places, unfortunately the barn fell into ruin and is no longer present.)

After driving his wagon far up Robinson Canyon Road, the writer fell ill with a fever. He lay in a stupor for two days beneath a tree before being discovered and rescued by Jonathan Wright, who took him to his cabin.

The Wright-Stevenson Cabin, sometimes called the Smith-Wright cabin, belonged to Jonathan Wright, who lived there with his family. He was said to be a former ships captain turned goat herder. His partner, Anson Smith, lived in half of the home with his wife and daughter.

During that early fall of 1879, the fever-laden Stevenson recuperated in a cowhide-covered bed. He later wrote to a friend, "I am lying in an upper chamber nearly naked, with the flies crawling all over me and a clinking of goat bells in my ear."

Except for a lonely chimney, the cabin is now completely gone.

Stevenson later wrote of his Monterey Peninsula experiences. In his 1880 essay, "The Old Pacific Capital," he described a foreboding sense that Carmel Valley was on the brink of change. "In comparison between what was and what is in California, the praisers of times past will fix upon the Indians of Carmel. The valley, drained by the river so named, is a true Californian valley, bare, dotted with chaparral, overlooked by quaint, unfinished hills. The Carmel [River] runs by many pleasant farms, a clear and shallow river, loved by wading kine; and at last, as it is falling towards a quicksand and into the great Pacific, passes a ruined mission on a hill... but the day of the Jesuit has gone by, the day of the Yankee has succeeded, and there is no one left to care for the converted savage... their lands, I am told, are being yearly encroached upon by the neighbouring American proprietor."

Stevenson summed up the view of many who have passed

through Carmel Valley over the decades since his brief visit and who have witnessed the carving up of the land into smaller parcels. Although progress cannot be halted, the destruction of past history can be contained when residents and concerned parties come together in the name of shared appreciation of our common heritage.

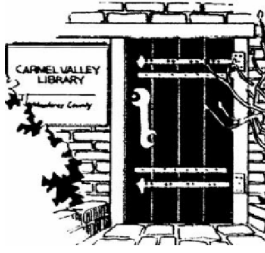
Elizabeth continues to represent the Valley and the Historical Society in County matters important to the Community:

"I have been re-appointed for a three-year term to the Carmel Valley Road Committee representing the Carmel Valley Village area and of course I always add CVHS when we go around and introduce ourselves. At the last meeting they covered discussion on improvements at the Laureles Grade-Carmel Valley Road intersection that would help improve safety. They also covered the final conditions for the San Clemente Dam Traffic Conditions and discussed the underground utilities program which will be coming in future years, the Garland Ranch to Pilot Road section will be a 5 to 7 year window to complete. There were a number of individuals there speaking out against the proposed dog spa and park at Quail. I thanked the new Public Works Director, Robert Murdoch, for the fact that Public Works now comprehends the need to help preserve our National Register Boronda trees instead of chopping them down. They need maintenance. He said the first segment to trim will be the six on CV Road, the Boronda Road trees will come after that as it is an expensive undertaking and they must budget for them. They are going to prune the trees from top heaviness and they will end up from 140 feet high now to around 70 feet when done which will stabilize them. The county has been in touch with several arborists on this and is going by their recommendations in the interest of helping to preserve these historic resources. The next C.V. Road Committee meeting will be at 1:30 PM on Wednesday, August 8, 2013 at Mid Valley firehouse and anyone can attend to listen in or make public comment."

### Save the Dates!

The annual Carmel Valley Fiesta will be held in the Community Park August 2nd through the 4th. This year the Historical Society will share a booth with CVVIC. Memberships and tile orders will be available, and the History Center will be open for all to visit. Some photos will be on display - maybe you can help us identify those pictured.

CVVIC will have tickets on sale for the second cooperative "Party in the Village" Concert and Barn Dance fund-raiser to be held on Saturday, October 26th, at Hidden Valley Seminars. The Party was a great success last year and we are hoping to make it even better this time. Buying your tickets early will save money - \$35 at the



## News from the Carmel Valley Library

By Jennifer Smith and Doug Pease

### *First Saturday Series Hosted by the Friends of the Carmel Valley Library*

**SEPTEMBER 7TH** at 10:15am: *Dee Dee Garcia White will talk about saddle making and the legacy of two historic saddle companies, G. S. Garcia Saddlery and J.M. Capriola Company. She is the granddaughter of G.S. Garcia and a co-author of Legacy of Silver and Saddles: G.S. Garcia to J.M. Capriola, 1864-2004. Dee Dee also volunteers with the Monterey Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival.*

**OCTOBER 5TH** at 10:15am: *Brian Jacobson will talk about Mars and recent developments in this fascinating planet's exploration. Get ready to be amazed and engaged! As an amateur astronomer and docent with the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy, Brian Jacobson has engaged hundreds of students in presentations about Mars.*

*The Friends board of our local library seeks another board member or two, starting the first of 2014. The basic commitment is our one hour board meeting 5:30 pm at the library the first Wednesday of each month, and the annual members meeting the first Saturday of November. We need someone to be secretary, which involves keeping minutes of the monthly meetings and lending a hand wherever there is an interest among the things we do. Contact Doug Pease at (831)905-5730 or email at [bookr8er@gmail.com](mailto:bookr8er@gmail.com).*



## Library in a Barn

By Eleanor Avila

The Museum Library has evolved into an interesting collection of books, photos, magazines, artwork, and newspapers, all relating to California history--and specifically to Monterey County. The library is a work in progress as we analyze the contents of the old shipping container--but the librarians and Staff have agreed that the scope of this small community library should focus on Carmel Valley history, the people, and important events. It can't be a source for major academic research--other institutions are more suited to this.

Some of the important items received from Carmel Valley residents include:

- a fine collection of materials relating to R.L. Stevenson, an autobiography by Joe Hitchcock,
- 18 books in the Images of America series (including Elizabeth Barrett's book on Carmel Valley),
- a fairly extensive collection of information on the California Missions,
- Monterey History & Art Noticias relating to Carmel Valley, and photo albums.

Of interest are "Rosie and His Cracker Barrel" and "Tassajara Hot Springs." We would like to enlarge the Carmel Valley section.

We need volunteers! On Tuesday mornings, from 9:00 AM to noon, we will be going through photos, file contents and artifacts from the container and we would appreciate anyone with some time to spare to come and help identify the people in the photos, the locations of some of the scenery photos and any other items we are working to catalog. We especially need residents who have lived here for a long time or had relatives who did, and can recognize people in the photos we have. Just call Maxine Callinan at 659-4925 for any other details, or come by the History Center on Tuesday mornings. We need your help.

## Our Thanks!

From the Questers Yearly Historical Publication:

The Carmel Adobe Chapter

"In January we gathered in CV at a brand new venue built by the Carmel Valley Historical Society to house a collection that has been stored in private homes for years. We were so impressed with their dedication that we gave a contribution to aid in the display of their early artifacts."

The History Center's fame continues to spread in the area.

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## TO REACH US

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If you have a question, a story to share or just a comment about the Newsletter,  
please call Reggie Jones at  
659-4338, or email him at  
[slaterjones1@comcast.net](mailto:slaterjones1@comcast.net).

Or you can call June Taylor at  
659-2038, or by email at  
[jltayl@mindspring.com](mailto:jltayl@mindspring.com)

For Memberships, call Trudi at 624-9611

To order a tile, please call Reggie.