

THE CARMEL VALLEY HISTORIAN

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Vizcaíno Discovers Carmel Valley

By Elizabeth Barratt, CVHS Historian

Sent on an expedition by the Viceroy of New Spain to explore and chart the California coast, the Spanish explorer, Sebastián de Vizcaíno (c.1550-c.1628), is best remembered in our local history books for his momentous discovery of Monterey Bay.

An account of the visit notes that on December 16, 1602

his small fleet of three ships, the *San Diego*, the *Santo Tomás* and the frigate *Tres Reyes* sailed around Point Pinos and into the previously unknown harbor. Vizcaíno named the discovery after his patron, Viceroy Don Gaspar de Zuñiga y Azevedo, the Count of Monte Rey.

Once on shore, the men set up camp close to a fresh water source, a spring located in a nearby ravine. Beneath an oak tree thought to be near the entrance to today's Presidio of Monterey, they put up a makeshift arbor for a church and held mass. The weather was extremely cold. Many men were sick, some had died.

Quickly, one of the ships was prepared to carry ill passengers back to Acapulco, with messages documenting news of the discovery, and a request for fresh supplies of men and provisions.

For the next two-plus weeks, Vizcaíno remained in the harbor of Monterey, his men gathering wood and water for the continuing voyage. He described the area as thickly populated with natives, who came to visit his men. He reported that they were peaceable and communicated via sign language.

Hampered by the freezing blast, preparations for the ongoing expedition were slow because many of the crew remained ill.

Even 412 years later, we can imagine their suffering, camped out in raw weather with little shelter. The voyage diary records, "...the extreme cold, which was so intense

that Wednesday, New Year's Day of 1603, dawned with snow...and that hole from which we were taking water was frozen over more than a palm in thickness, and the bottles, which had been left full overnight, were all frozen so that even when turned upside-down not a drop ran out."

Two days later, on January 3, 1602, the men were prepared to set sail. Before departing, they decided to explore locally. Trudging over today's Carmel Hill, they came upon what are thought to be herds of elk.

The diary relates their trek. "This day the general, with the commissary and ten arquebusiers, went inland, toward

the southeast, having heard of a copious stream that ran into the sea and of another good headland, and in order better to see the lay of the land and its people and animals. He proceeded some three leagues when he discovered another good port, into which entered a copious river descending from some high, snow-covered mountains with large pines, white and black poplars, and willows. It had an extended river bottom, and in it were many cattle as large as cows (See **Vizcaíno**, page 2)



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A Message from the President, Kim Williams

This month marks the one year anniversary of the opening of our beautiful little museum. It is truly amazing to see exhibits develop as dedicated volunteer curators seek to interpret the history of Carmel Valley in an engaging and appealing way. If you haven't visited recently, you will be impressed. When we opened we had four exhibits—now eight!

How is all of this funded? Basically in four ways: 1) your membership dues, 2) your above-and-beyond donations, 3) grants, and 4) fund raisers. Speaking of fund raisers, your Historical Society and the Carmel Valley Village Improvement Committee recently had a most successful one, Party in the Village! Over \$4,400 was raised for the Society and an equal amount for CVVIC. To the hardworking volunteers who put all of that together—Thank You!

Speaking of money: Because of the generous support of our regular donors and two recent grants we were able to pay off all short-term debts. A special thanks to the CV Forum and The Upjohn California Fund for their grants that allowed us to do this. Our only indebtedness now is to the CV Recreation and Park District for the paving of the parking spaces adjacent to the History Center. We have a remaining balance of about \$13,000, which is to be paid over the next 17 years.

I hope to see you all at our annual Christmas Party on December 6!



You are cordially invited to our annual

Christmas Party

Saturday, December 6, 2014, from 3:00 to 5:00

at the History Center, 77 W. Carmel Valley Road

Come visit with old friends, meet some new friends, greet your Board Members,
and see our newest exhibits.

Please plan to bring a finger-food hors d'oeuvre or dessert, or a bottle of white wine.
Call Trudi Hart Gregory (624-9611) for more information.

(Viscaíno from page 1) although apparently they were harts, and yet their pelts were different, for their wool dragged on the ground, and each horn was more than three yards long. An effort was made to kill some of them but they did not wait long enough. No people were found because, on account of the great cold, they were living in the interior." Vizcaíno was later quoted as having named the river *el Rio de Carmelo* after Spanish friars who had accompanied the mission. He sent Ensign Juan Francisco with four soldiers to seek out a nearby rancheria but found no one there.

Back on their flagship in Monterey, the men raised all but one anchor that nightfall. Aided by a land breeze, they set sail at midnight, continuing north toward Cape Mendocino. They never returned to the newly discovered Monterey Bay, nor to Carmel Valley.

Even though it had been bitter cold during his brief visit,

Vizcaíno's glowing description claimed that the area's balmy climate resembled that of Castile in Spain. He reported the land was well populated, even though, en route to Carmel Valley, he saw no humans and only a deserted rancheria. He observed plenty of water fowl, fish and game in the vicinity.

Vizcaíno's great contribution on the voyage was to map the coastline for future explorers. He called the newly discovered Monterey Bay "the best port that could be desired." His assertion that it was "sheltered from all winds," was perhaps one of the reasons that Spanish explorer Gaspar de Portolá failed to recognize the area. On his first expedition to rediscover Monterey Bay in 1769, he failed to recognize the area and continued north. It would be another year, on a second exploration, before he found the bay and the valley so beautifully described 168 years earlier.

Welcome New Members: Laura Pishmont, Martin & Joan Rosen, Bob & Carol Silverman

Donations: Photos, Artifacts, Library Materials

Angie Bulta—Various maps and informational pieces, Rancho San Carlos and The Santa Lucia Preserve

Newspaper article describing bullriding at Holman Ranch, 1955

Bud Carlson—Flight record and log book - "W. Wood"

Roger and Allison Gardner—Numerous items including a map of the CV airfield, c. 1952

Nikki Griffin—Magazine article on the history of the Garcia Saddle Company 1895 - 1966. Article - "History of Saddle Maker, Henry Garcia"

Ruth Hardisty—Wooden plaque, photo of John Tregea, 1980, "Cattleman of the Year"

Betty Hughes—Book - "Carmel Valley Manor"

Irene Kellner—Historical vintage items

Tracy Kugelman—Photo album of the first Carmel Valley garden show

Bill McQuerry—Large photograph of the historic Rancho Carmelo Dude Ranch, c. 1930, from the K.D. Mathiot family archives

Faye Messenger—Two Farberware coffeepots

Tom Nason—Monterey Cypress wood for mastodon/mammoth fossil display pedestal

Nancy Porter—Two photographs of the Boronda Adobe

Jay Rehor—Three books regarding the history of the San Clemente Dam

Darby Worth—Photograph of Carmel River (Pat Hathaway Collection) and Watercolor of the Berwick barn by M. Marshall

Financial Contributions

General Fund: * Maxine Callinan * Dean Forzani * Brenda Mellinger * Linda Page *

Tiles Project: * Kathryn Rayne * James & Alice Morris * Rochelle Simms *

Grants: * Carmel Valley Kiwanis Foundation * Carmel Valley Forum * Carmel Valley Garden Club * Malcomb & Joanne Millard Fund * The Yellow Brick Road Foundation * The Upjohn California Fund *

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

CVHS Accomplishments in 2014

This year we turned a building into an operating museum. This was made possible by a combination of the years of work by the Society founders and supporters as well as by current volunteers and members. We have...

- Created docent program, recruited and trained nine docents.
- Established *Collections Committee*. Developed criteria for accepting, cataloguing and acknowledging donations.
- Established *Display Committee* to determine future exhibits and support the development of exhibits in progress.
- Catalogued a majority of library materials on Excel.
- Catalogued a majority of acquisitions using Past Perfect, a computer software program developed expressly for museums.
- Paid off all short-term debt.
- Organized contents of the storage container: sorting, cataloguing and culling 20+ years of acquisitions.
- Established regular hours of operation for the History Center: Fridays and Saturdays: 12-4
- Regularly updated the website with Society news, articles and other items of interest.
- Formally named our newsletter "The Carmel Valley Historian."

Curated New Exhibits:

- Following the Kelp Highway-Carmel Valley's First Residents
- Mammoth or Mastodon Fossil?

- Fire Protection District & Volunteer Firefighters' History
- Carmel Valley Vintage Airfield
- Jamesburg Earth Station in Cachagua

Hosted:

- Archeologists Gary Breschini & Trudy Haversat for a presentation about Monterey Peninsula prehistory
- Monterey Regional Collections Roundtable, a Monterey Peninsula group of museum curators & administrators
- Carmel Valley Manor Day Trippers for a presentation by Linda Yamane, Rumsen Indian
- Four Winds Council, Esselen group

Participated in Fundraisers:

- Organized two art sale/fundraisers with the daughters of Carmel Valley artists, Frederick and Mary Barnas Pomeroy
- Co-hosted Party in the Village! fundraiser with CVVIC
- Participated in the Peddlers' Fair to dispose of donations that were either duplicates or not relevant to our collection.

Wrote Grant Requests and Received \$11,500 from:

- Barnet Segal Charitable Trust
- Carmel Valley Garden Club
- Carmel Valley Forum
- Carmel Valley Kiwanis Foundation
- Malcomb & Joanne Millard Fund
- Upjohn California Fund
- Yellow Brick Road Foundation

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 6
CVHS Christmas Party
3-5 pm at the History Center

Saturday, March 14, 2015
Membership Meeting
4-6 pm at the History Center

Mastodon/Mammoth Fossil
Display pedestal crafted by Dean Forzani

Help Wanted

We could use a volunteer to clean up around the building, blowing leaves, etc. We can always use on-call volunteers to assist with moving boxes and other items. Call the center and leave a message if you can help.



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CV History Center Hosts Group Visits



In addition to visitors at our regularly scheduled openings, the History Center welcomes groups for private visits. Recently two groups came: The Carmel Valley Manor Day Trippers and members from the Four Winds Council. The Day Trippers enjoyed a presentation on the Rumsen Indian culture by Rumsen Linda Yamane. The Four Winds Council is a cooperative association of four centers located in or near the Ventana Wilderness and the Los Padres Forest: The New Camaldoli Hermitage, the Esalen Institute, the Esselen Tribe, and the Tassajara Zen Mountain Center. That group tour was by Esselen Tom Little Bear Nason.

