

# CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

January 2013

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### A Message from the President By Reggie Jones

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I wish all CVHS members and friends a very happy 2013. We've had some encouraging progress at CVHS in several areas since you received our last newsletter. One action we took was to consolidate our debts and pay off the debt to our contractor, Regency Construction. We shall always be grateful to Tim Sherer, Regency, who completed construction of our building while extending to us an interest free loan. Your generous response to our appeal for year-end financial support has significantly improved our debt situation. The benefits of 'Birdies for Charity' contributions are still to come in March.

Today, Wednesday, January 16, we committed to specifying and acquiring the elements of our computer system: a desk top computer, monitor, all-in-one printer, a lap top computer and all required peripherals. We'll need an ergonomic chair—can anyone donate one in good condition? And, later, a digital camera for artifact documentation - and we'd be pleased to accept one in sound working order. We'll also be getting a high speed internet service. We hope that most of these items will be acquired before the end of the month. We are very grateful to our member, Jeff Ohlson, for his energetic leadership in this area.

We have begun to move artifacts from our storage container into the display area of our building. We've relocated about 20% of the total, so there's a long way to go, and the sorting/identifying/classifying of items presents a challenging task. Our "point man," Maurice Wolfe, has placed our Native American Indian artifacts in several display cases.

We've received our latest shipment of engraved tiles, and they will be added to the tiles already displayed on the outside wall. We will put up new frames to accommodate more tiles—so please continue to order them.

Our Annual Business Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 9, at 1:30 p.m. Please mark the date and attend if you are able. There will be much to report regarding both progress and plans. Also, officers for the 2013 Board of Directors must be elected.

Thank you all for your faithful support and encouragement.



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### *Birdies for Charity*

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By the end of December 2012, donations to Birdies for Charity at the Monterey Peninsula Foundation on our behalf totaled \$8,160, from more than 15 people. These donations will be returned to us after the annual AT&T National Pro-Am Golf tournament, February 4-10, 2013, and grow by 20%!

On January 19th, member David Hitchcock represented the Society at the Charity "Closest to the pin" competition for a chance to earn more money for us at the Charity Shoot-out on Tuesday, February 5th. David's ball was 6'3" from the pin and was in good standing until the final few golfers. We appreciate his taking the time on our behalf.

You can still be a part of the Birdies for Charity section of the Tournament. The Monterey Peninsula Foundation has designated February 28th (yes, *February 28th*) as the final day to accept donations. Letters explaining our participation in this event were sent out in December, but if you need an official form or more information, please call 659-2038, and we'll answer your questions.

You can make your donation online at:

[birdiesforcharity@attpbgolf.com](mailto:birdiesforcharity@attpbgolf.com),

the Society will receive a 20% bonus on that donation. If you prefer to donate by check, make the check out to the Monterey Peninsula Foundation and mail it to us at P. O. Box 1612, Carmel Valley, CA 93924-1612. Be sure to write in the Historical Society in the lower left-hand corner. We hope you will take this opportunity to help the Society with a very substantial return on your donation. And Thank You!

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### Membership News

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Welcome to our newest members Robert and Carolyn Rice, Ron and Kate Rule and John and Malgorzata Hausdorff! There are over 200 members on our roster and we are hoping that we'll have all the Valley residents as our members one day.

If you have a business in the Village, we urge you to become a member and be a part of the history of the area. For applications or any questions, please call Maxine Callinan at 659-4925.

## General Membership Meeting Scheduled for March

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We ask you to save the afternoon of Saturday, March 9th to come to our annual Membership meeting. It will begin at 1:30 PM, and will be held in the History Center. Reggie Jones and the Board will be telling you of all the great advances we have made this past year to the History Center, in organizing our artifacts and books and our plans for the future.

This is a very important meeting. As we get closer to having the Center officially opened to tell the history of Carmel Valley from the early days of the Indians to the present, we will need our members' input, especially from those who have lived here a long time. We have mentioned in newsletters in the past our need for your historic items and the stories about them, so they can be included in our displays. You will be able to see the work already done by Maurice Wolfe, and understand why the artifacts and their uses by our residents are so important to our history.

We will also be explaining how you, the members, can help us with some of our coming challenges. The Board has already purchased special museum software called "Past Perfect," which is used by almost every museum in the local area. Our interaction with them will enable us to work together on exhibits and for example, trade artifacts for specific displays. Reggie indicated we are working with professionals who have knowledge and experience in buying the right computer for our Center and to instruct the Board in how to use the computer and software to our best advantage. But we will also need volunteers who are interested in learning and working with us. The General Membership Meeting will enable us to explain our needs and present all of these opportunities.

So we urge all of you to make plans to come to the Meeting and hear of our progress and where we plan to go in the coming year. For more information, please call Reggie Jones at 659-4338, or June Taylor at 659-2038. Refreshments will be served.



## Working the Land Goes Back to Carmel Valley's Early Settlers

By Elizabeth Barratt

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While at Carmel Mission, Padre Palou wrote that a year-round supply of running water made the area ripe for planting crops and ideal for pastureland. During the Mission period, growing fields around the mission included the present Mission Fields tract area. When Padre Font visited the mission grounds in 1776 with the second De Anza expedition, he noted the area's cool climate, and reported that padres grew cauliflower, lettuce, artichokes, and herbs, with fields of legumes, barley and wheat growing near the Carmel River.

In his 1850 volume, "Three Years in California," the Reverend Walter Colton praised Carmel Valley's natural resources. "Through its ample lands flows a beautiful stream of water, which every governor of the country, for the last thirty years, has purposed conducting to the metropolis. Its gardens supply the vegetable market of Monterey. Its pears are extremely rich in flavor. In its soil were raised in 1826, the first potatoes cultivated in California. So little did the presiding padre think of this strange vegetable, he allowed the Indians to raise and sell them to the whalers that visited Monterey."

An 1881 History of Monterey County noted, "A few miles back of Monterey lies the Carmel Valley, dotted with farm-houses and dairy buildings. The planting of vines and almonds has been successfully tried here; while peaches, apricots, pears, nectarines, cherries and strawberries thrive." The same account described the valley's major products as "beef, butter, cheese, potatoes, pork, whale oil and dried fish."

Dairy, livestock and grain were also large industries in the early American settler period, with farm produce including corn, squash, tomatoes, melons and grapes. The products were sold locally, or sent to Monterey for shipment to San Francisco markets. For decades, Carmel Valley was recognized for its pear orchards, first introduced in 1795 by Padre Lasuén at Mission Carmel. A large pear industry was developed by settlers and their descendants, with 400 pear orchard acres under cultivation by the early 20th Century.

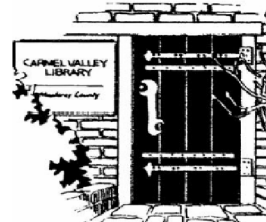
The successful local enterprise led to the organization, on March 1, 1920, of The Carmel Valley Fruit Growers Association. The major varieties, Comice, Clairegau, Winter Nellis, Anjou and Bosc were harvested in September and October. After picking, the pears were washed, graded and individually packed in pine boxes. From 90 to 100 refrigerated carloads of the fall and winter varieties went to market each year. The farmer cooperative shipped them via the California Fruit Exchange agency to eastern auction markets, usually New York. Most of the orchards were torn out by the early 1940s after Carmel Valley's pear market went into decline and collapsed.

In more recent

decades, Carmel Valley's bountiful farm production has given over to organic produce and particularly to wine grape cultivation. Estate boutiques today offer wine tasting to visitors who come to savor the newest product growing in the valley's rich soil.

Elizabeth ~~will give a talk about her book~~ to the Questers, from Carmel, on Tuesday, January 22nd at the History Center. If your group would like to have Elizabeth give her very interesting and informative talk about the book, "Images of America: Carmel Valley", please call her at 659-2751. Her book is also available for \$23.75 each. It is very popular and can make a unique gift, especially for anyone living in the Valley.

The Society has also received a donation from the estate of Rod and Anne Mills, long-time members and benefactors. The gift of \$5,673.63, was received by the Board at their meeting on January 2nd. We are very grateful to the Mills for all their work with the Gigantic Rummage Sales and their continued enthusiasm for building our History Center.




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## *A Festive Christmas Party!*

Our annual ~~Christmas Party was celebrated~~ on December 8th, and what a lovely party it was! Ellsworth and Trudi Hart-Gregory filled our display room with decorated tables, a musical merry-go-round that played the carols, a gorgeous tree and a lot of Christmas spirit.

The buffet of holiday favorites from our guests was very special, and we all enjoyed an afternoon of socializing and meeting other members. Even the weather cooperated! It was so nice to see many members come to see the beautiful new building and to join the Board members in celebrating the season. A big Thank You to Ellsworth and Trudi for a wonderful afternoon!

## **News from the Carmel Valley Library**

By Jennifer Smith

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### **Party in the Village**

We have received our part of the sponsorship of the Party in the Village. The big dance and concert was held at Hidden Valley Center on October 13th, where the Society joined forces with the Carmel Valley Village Improvement Committee to offer a party of great western music, excellent hors d'oeuvres, beverages served by the Carmel Valley Kiwanis and a terrific Silent Auction plus a raffle for a wheelbarrow of fine wines and a wagon full of select beers.

Local groups The Heartstrings and the Hay Boys got everything started with their unique styles and warmed up the audience. Then the California Cowboys played and sang for almost two hours and just about everyone found their way to the dance floor.

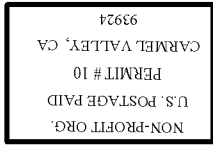
When all the expenses were paid, our share of the profits was \$4,916.58. We are grateful to CVVIC for asking us to be a part of this fun event. The joint committee worked very well together and we are in the beginning stages of planning another Party in the Village for October 5, 2013. Even though it's down the road a bit, put the date on your calendar and watch for more details.

Join us for an engaging morning Saturday, February 2nd at 10:15am as the Friends of the Carmel Valley Library hosts a lively poetry reading by six local Carmel Valley poets— Laura Bayless, Robert Feller, Lisa Meckel, Robert Nielsen, Illia Thompson, and Deborah Wenzler. Each poet will share poems reflecting their insights about the theme of peace. The poets will also talk about their creative process and the meaning of poetry in their lives. Share a morning of poetic imagination with your poet neighbors!

This First Saturday program is hosted by the Friends of the Carmel Valley Library, and is free to the public. Seating is first come, first served. Refreshments will be served. For information call the library at 659-2377.

Also, be sure to stop by the library to see the artwork done by Isabelle Hall. Ms. Hall was a journalist most of her life and was a resident of Carmel Highlands for ten years while she and her late husband, Stan, edited and published the Carmel Valley Sun newspaper.

Ms. Hall turned to oil painting in 1994 and captured the sea during the years she lived at the north end of Big Sur. Then traveling to the West's National Parks as well as the desert and mountains of Arizona, she found the landscapes challenging and rewarding. Born in Toronto, she was inspired by the Canadian Group of Seven, artists who covered the wilderness in canoes to paint the north. Isabelle has become a renown artist and her paintings are on exhibit at the library until February 28, 2013.



CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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*Did you know that....*

*you can clean your barbecue grill with a ball of steel wool (not SOS)? Just hold it in your tongs and wipe the grates clean.*

*you can remove rust from kitchen chrome by wrapping aluminum foil (shiny side out) around a finger and rubbing the spot until the rust is gone. Then wipe with a damp cloth.*

*you should check the items in your medicine cabinet regularly and replace those that have expired?*

## To Reach Us

If you have a story to share or a question needing an answer, please call Reggie Jones at 659-4338 or email him at [slaterjones1@comcast.net](mailto:slaterjones1@comcast.net), or June Taylor at 659-2038, or [jltayl@mindspring.com](mailto:jltayl@mindspring.com). We welcome your questions and comments about the Society, the History Center, becoming a member, getting a tile order, donating an artifact or the Newsletter.

