

CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

August 2012

Gigantic Rummage Sale This Weekend!

Are you ready? The Gigantic Rummage Sale will run from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM both Saturday and Sunday. There are bargains and opportunities galore just waiting for you! We are holding the Sale in the new History Center at 77 W. Carmel Valley Road, and this will give you the chance to see the inside of our lovely building.

There are some unusual items you will want to check out including a 5-foot, round Karastan area rug, a brand new mountain bike, exercise equipment, a trumpet for your budding musician, some unique wall hangings and art work, a 24" electric stove as well as some contractor's tools in excellent condition. But there is so much more! Looking for dishes, small appliances, pet items? How about lanterns, unusual holiday decorations, or planters? They are all here waiting for your inspection.



Our Gigantic Sale is the biggest fund-raiser for the Society this year. The building has been completed, but there are still many things to do before we can open the Center as a museum. Since we want to be a vital and important part of the Village, we encourage you to stop by this weekend and enjoy the Sale. We thank all our members for their past support and helping to make this Center possible.. When you come by, bring a friend - membership applications as well as tile order forms will be available.

If you still have donations for the sale you can bring them to the History Center beginning Tuesday, August 21st after 9:00 AM or you can call June Taylor at 659-2038 for more information. We cannot accept computers or their components, large furniture or appliances, clothing or children's car seats.

This has always been a wonderful way to meet our members, invite many more to join us, and a chance for you to see your friends in the Valley, so plan on coming early - or even coming twice!



The Rancho Era and Early Settlers

by
Elizabeth Barratt

Just imagine being a visitor to Carmel Valley about 175 years ago and coming upon a sweeping scene devoid of fences, homes, farms, roads, and people. In the early days of Mexican administration, beyond the cultivated lands around the mouth of the Valley, officials and padres didn't think the soil or climate had much to offer future inhabitants.

On January 22, 1828, answering a request from Alta California Governor José Echeandía, Mission padres Vicente Sarría and Ramon Abella reported the following impressions of Carmel Valley, stretching from the river mouth to about five miles inland. "Immediately in front of the Mission one can see that the land contains fields, flocks, the river, hills and plain. There are no neighboring ranchos."

Near what would become Rancho San Francisquito, they wrote, "there is no land irrigated. The place is not suitable to summer planting because sufficient heat is lacking in the day. The wind passes through and lessens the night fog, and as early as seven o'clock in the morning the corn and beans have dried up." They described the Carmel River water supply as irregular, due to swift winter currents and shallow streambeds in summer. However, one positive comment noted the valley's abundance of redwood, pine and oak, trees would provide a good timber source.

Alta California's affairs were disturbed during the absentee Echeandía administration, which operated from San Diego instead of at the capital in Monterey. Although desiring to populate the area, government officials worried that Mission Carmel had taken all the lands suitable for cultivation, thus keeping out potential settlers.

Even though the padres' letter seemed to confirm officials' suspicions about the quality of arable acreage, within the next decade and a half, five major grants were bestowed in Carmel Valley. The first, Rancho los Tularcitos (1834) was given to Rafael Gómez, who built the first adobe house in the valley. Rancho San Francisquito (1836) was granted to Doña Catalina Manzanelli de Munras and Rancho Potrero de San Carlos (1837) to Fructuoso del Real. Lázaro Soto received Rancho Cañada de la Segunda in 1839, the same year Rancho los Laureles was granted to José Manuel Boronda.

For the next few decades, main rancho enterprises were farming and livestock raising.

The large land grant period didn't last long. Following California's admission to the Union in 1850, Mexican landowners had to prove their property claims. For some, the red tape proved extremely difficult. By the 1870s, none of the original grantees held their land. New settlers, largely Yankee, bought up the property and began to cut out smaller parcels. It was the beginning of a new era for the Valley, when the newcomers introduced modern orchard and farm cultivation, vineyards, irrigation, dairying and livestock raising.

By then, it was starting to look like a more lived-in locale.

Looking Ahead

On September 8-9, the annual Ranch Roundup will be held at the Trail and Saddle Club. The Society will have a booth at the Round up and manned by our past president, Ellsworth Gregory. The two-day event will bring ranchers together for fun and events and there will be food available from Carmel Valley's own Babaloo Food Truck. At lunch Randi's Lucky Hearts Cowgirls Drill Team will perform flying flags in precision formation. Drop by and enjoy.

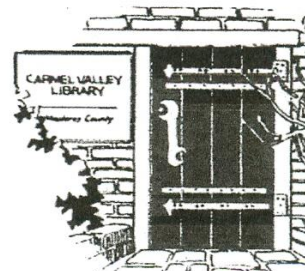
On Saturday evening, October 13th, the Society is joining forces with CVVIC to present the "Party in the Village" at Hidden Valley Seminars. It will be a big evening of country music with Heartstrings, the Hay Boys and featuring the California Cowboys with special guest Bobby Black on the pedal steel guitar. But besides all this terrific music, you will get the chance to kick up your heels and dance into the night!

To add even more interest, there will be a Silent Auction featuring wine and dinner certificates from local restaurants, a raffle for either a barrel of special wines or a barrel of beers. A no-host bar will be run by the Kiwanis and you can munch on popcorn, pretzels and delicious hors d'oeuvres. Tickets will be \$35, on sale at the Carmel Valley Business Service, the UPS Store in Mid-Valley, The Running Iron and Hacienda Hay and Feed in the Valley, DoReMi Music in Carmel and the Feed Trough in Salinas or online at partyinthevillage.org. Any questions? Call 659-9419. This should be an evening of fun and great entertainment for everyone.

Membership Notes

Welcome to William and Sally Askew and family, Ellen McGrath and Dianne Woods, our newest members! We are always glad to add to our membership roster. If you have friends who would like to become members, please call June Taylor at 659-2038 and she will send you the applications. The more, the merrier!

News from the Carmel Valley Library



Friends of the Carmel Valley Library will host a special presentation by Vince Voegeli, Resident director of UC Berkeley's Hastings Natural History Reserve on Saturday, September 1st, at 10:15 AM, as part of the first Saturday Series. Mr. Voegeli will speak about the history of the reserve and the fascinating research being done at this site. This year marks the Reserve's 75th anniversary.

Hastings is a Biological Field Station of the University of California, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and Natural Reserve System.

The staff at Hastings provides the wildlands and facilities to conduct university and graduate level studies of natural systems in the Santa Lucia mountain range in Monterey County.

The program is free to the public. Seating is first-come, first served. The Library opens at 10:00 AM. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please call 659-2377.

The Homework Center is now in session with the new school year. Youngsters from age 8 and up can get help with their homework. The sessions are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3-6 PM and on Thursdays and Fridays from 3-5 PM.

Did you know that....

*if you crack one egg against a second egg,
only one egg will crack?*

*if you add a pinch of sugar to the spaghetti
sauce, it will cut the acidity?*

*if you add 1/2 cup minty mouthwash to 2
quarts of warm water, it will help to both deodorize
and destroy bacteria on tile floors?*

New Tile Frames Going Up

Have you found your tile on the outside wall of the History Center? Many people who stop by the Community Park stroll by the Center and are intrigued by the framed tiles. There they recognize the name of friends who have been honored or memorialized with a special tile.

One new tile frame has just been put up so we can install the most recently ordered tiles – perhaps yours will be among them. More tile frames will be installed as they are needed.. The response to offering a tile to the Valley residents that will keep their family and friends remembered always has been most gratifying to the Society and we thank all of you who have participated.



Don't have a tile yet? This can be remedied by calling Pongie Jones, at 659-4338, and he will send you a tile order form. There are forms also available next to the tile walls. It will be great to have all the people in Carmel Valley remembered with their own special tile on the wall of our History Center.

Board of Directors

As we go forward with our next phase in presenting a history of Carmel Valley, we are always looking for new ideas and suggestions to make this History Center an important part of the whole Village. The Society now boasts over 200 members not only in the immediate area, but we have kept in touch with many who have moved away and who still want to hear about the Valley through our Newsletter.

With this new phase, we need to expand our Board of Directors with new members who want to help us with their thoughts and actions. Our Board has been working together for over ten years and we know there are many of our members who can give us the kind of boost we need to get to our Grand Opening Day. What about you? We are sure there are parts of the Valley's history we need to incorporate into the exhibits, but we may not know the details. We know there are stories and pictures and artifacts just waiting for their exposure to all of us.

With fall just around the corner, our usual activities begin again and sometimes they take up more time than we remembered.

But we would ask that you think about being a part of making the history of Carmel Valley interesting and vital to not only us, but to all the visitors who come each year. You can call Richard Barratt at 659-2751, or June Taylor at 659-2038 for more information. We welcome your ideas.

***Don't forget to come to the
Gigantic Rummage Sale this
weekend, August 25th-26th, in the
New History Center
77 W. Carmel Valley Road***

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM each day

***Unique art items, bookcases,
microwave ovens, decorative
baskets, lamps, area rugs, linens,
contractor tools, games, and more!***

***Find great bargains, see your
friends, support our Historical
Society!***

***Workers needed!
Call June at 659-2038***

Where did these worms come from?

Last year the Valley endured a double invasion of inch-long skinny worms that devoured the leaves from the oak trees. The shards of leaves and all the worms' leavings covered driveways, roofs plants and gardens - it was amazing! But even though the second infestation came right before winter, the leaves came back, just not quite as thick.

Now it seems the worms are back, only smaller, and they are on everything! The leaves haven't fallen as before, but they are all brown and look dried and dead on the trees. We thought the cycle was every seven years. These nibblers are six years early!