

CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

November 2012

A Change in Leadership

By Reggie Jones

After almost five years under President Dick Barrat's leadership, Dick has become engulfed in the demands of his teaching job to the extent that he does not have sufficient time to devote to CVHS Presidential activities. So the CVHS Board has passed the baton to me, Reggie Jones. We shall be ever grateful to Dick for his effective and caring leadership. During his Presidency, we progressed from a set of building plans to a completed and impressive (though not quite paid for!) History Center. Dick guided us through some difficult and discouraging times along the way. He will continue to be a Board Member, and we shall continue to benefit from his wisdom.

Encouraged by a \$15,000 grant from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation for future History Center development, our Board is planning the paths and moving ahead towards our goals. In the near term we will accomplish the following:

In the course of developing the History Center we have, and will be, generating vast amounts of data which have to be catalogued and stored. Maxine and Dan Callinan have donated a computer on which we will download the Past Perfect software package. Past Perfect is a powerful computer program used by almost all museums in the country. Into the computer we will load various data, financial, library, (our books are currently being sorted and catalogued by Eleanor Avila, Jennifer Smith and Dorothy Becker: thank you all very much), artifacts (see next paragraph), membership, donor and commemorative tiles. All this will take a lot of effort. An achievable schedule is computer and software up and running by November 30. Financial, book and tile data installed by mid-January.

The work of sorting and cataloguing our artifacts has begun. Maurice Wolfe has already completed several boxes of Esselen Indian era artifacts and is placing them in three display cabinets. Maurice outlined near-term and long-term plans for cataloguing, layouts and public displays at our last Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 7.

Most important of all, our Board recognizes that these tasks are beyond our limited capabilities. We need to, and shortly will, reach out to community leaders who share a vision of a vibrant History Center in Carmel Valley and who are willing to use their abilities to help make it happen. We will need professional help fairly soon (Registrar, Curator, etc.). We also recognize that our Board of Directors has re-cycled itself year after year for many years and we need new members to share their talents and ideas to come

forward. We want to work toward the goal of establishing an organization which can do justice to the impressive History Center that your contributions have made possible. CVHS has met and survived significant challenges in the past. We expect to do so in the future.



P.S. Please look at our Roll of Honor Board inside the building, honoring those who have given generously to CVHS over the years. We know that the Roll will contain errors, so if you identify any, please let us know: The Roll of Honor, right now, is a "work in progress".

Committee Appointment

Board member Elizabeth Barratt has been appointed by Supervisor Dave Potter as the alternate representative on the Carmel Valley Blue Ribbon Road Committee. As you may remember, Elizabeth was instrumental in getting the eucalyptus trees designated as a National Historic Register in January, 2012. We all thought this would protect those trees, which are over 100 years old, from being destroyed. Leslie Svetich, and her family, -the owner of the property at 1 Boronda Road just behind the trees - would be drastically impacted if the trees were ever removed, but Monterey County continues to pursue eliminating them using eminent domain. She would be prevented from voting on the question as it involves her property.

The stop line for cars entering Carmel Valley Road from Boronda Road was moved farther onto Carmel Valley Road so traffic could be more easily seen from either direction and it has worked very well since this happened. Elizabeth has been trying to work with the supervisors to have a representative from CVHS on this Committee, and we are proud of her for following up on this appointment.

The Party in the Village

Did you come out to the Party in the Village? It was a wonderful evening full of great country-western music and delicious snacks and lots of dancing that was a benefit for the Carmel Valley Village Improvement Committee and the Historical Society. Everyone seemed to have a terrific time. The Silent Auction featured some very intriguing items to bid on – bottles of local wines, lunches and dinners at some of the best restaurants, certificates for spa treatments, tennis lessons and shopping. There were two raffles – one for a whole wheelbarrow full of great wines plus the wheelbarrow, and one for a wagon-ful of beers, including the wagon!



Kiki Wow introduced the Heartstrings Band as they opened the evening with their special brand of music lifting the spirits and getting everyone into the party mood. Then the HayBoys came on and got the dancing started. Everyone snacked on popcorn, chips and salsa and some delicious hors d'oeuvres between spending time on the dance floor. A wonderful upbeat evening.

Marj Ingram and her committee of volunteers from CVVIC and CVHS did an outstanding job of putting the barn dance together. Her enthusiasm and organization of all the details kept everyone moving forward and getting the whole community involved. And she certainly knew the best bands to choose for the greatest music!

Many thanks go to the whole committee that included Barry Harrow, Katherine Klawans Smith, Julie Cason, Karolyn Stone, Mike Oprish, Pinkie Terry, Ellsworth Gregory, Kiki Wow, Art and June Taylor. We'll be glad to do this again!

A New Arrival!

The Society has received one of the most recognized, most familiar and the most historical items in the Valley. Onisemo, the tall, wooden sculpture that stood in front of the Carmel Valley Market for so many years is now standing tall in our History Center! Thanks to the generosity of Randy and Charlene Randazzo, he has a new home in the Center and will be on display along with the story of how he came to Carmel Valley.

Onisemo was the last known Coastanoan Indian born in Carmel Valley and when the statue was brought from Washington, he was still living here. Within the Market's advertising, "Onee" would offer his favorite quotes, such as "Politicians are like the weather -full of hot air." "Onee" proudly now takes his place in our History Center, a tribute to the Valley's heritage.

Nathan Spaulding was The Innovator in The Valley

By Elizabeth Barratt

Progress by one individual in Carmel Valley began in 1874 when Oakland's Fifteenth Mayor, Nathan Spaulding, purchased the sprawling Rancho los Laureles. He was the second owner of the ranch after the Borondas sold it in 1868. The innovative mayor-rancher spent so much time on his beloved Carmel Valley ranch that the Oakland City Council complained to the Oakland Tribune that at times they couldn't get city work accomplished as the mayor was not present at meetings to cast a vote.

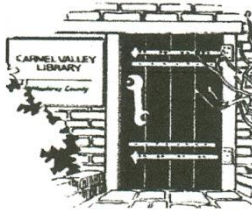
Spaulding introduced modern irrigation methods and the Valley's first rail fencing. According to old-timer Joe Hitchcock, the lumber had to be brought down from San Francisco via steamship, off loaded at Pt. Lobos and brought into the ranch by a 6-horse team on huge wagons. Spaulding blasted an 8-mile long ditch and reservoir on the ranch to provide additional water for his crops and dairy cattle. Later William Hatton would expand this water supply by building a small dam on the ranch for the Pacific Improvement Company.

It was also under Spaulding's ownership that the magnificent, 130-year old Eucalyptus trees which still line Boronda Road at Carmel Valley Road were planted. Eucalyptus, an import from Australia beginning in the 1850s, were a popular ornamental landscape tree at the time and often used in California to create tree lanes. Since 2012, the trees have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

During the 1880s, Spaulding's employee housing became a resort lodge for the next ranch owner, the Pacific Improvement Company, the holding company of the Big Four of railroad fame. Besides its large dairy business, the company operated an "outpost" at its Los Laureles Lodge as an extension stay for guests of its Hotel Del Monte in Monterey. The lodge became a rustication spot for day-trippers and hunting parties who made the wagon trip over from Monterey along the steep, winding Laureles Grade.

Although the 6,625-acre Rancho los Laureles remained largely intact into the next century, by the 1920s, most of Carmel Valley's other large ranchos were sold and land divided up into smaller parcels, often for extended family members.





News from the Carmel Valley Library

The Friends of the Library cordially invite you to a Wine Tasting Experience with Rich Tanguay, Wine Master, on Saturday evening, November 17th at Hidden Valley Theater. Mr. Tanguay will speak on "The Insights of Wine Maker" and there will be wine tasting, a wine seminar, an hors d'oeuvres buffet and a glass of wine. A Silent Auction of fabulous wines will tempt your palate.

The experience will begin at 5:30 PM and tickets are \$35 each or reserve a table of eight for \$240. Tickets are being sold at the Library and at Casa Del Soul on Center Avenue. This unique evening is a benefit for the Carmel Valley Library, so come and enjoy!

The Library continues its First Saturday series on December 1st with the Carmel Valley Girl Scout and Brownie troops Holiday Chorus and "Girl Scouts and the Gift of Giving." It's a wonderful way to start the holiday season as the girls serenade you and also tell you about the projects they do that help the community. It starts at 10:15, and everyone is welcome. This is a morning not to be missed.

Birdies for Charity

The Society is again participating in the Monterey Peninsula Foundation's Birdies for Charity event.. This is our third year and there are some new rules that will help us even more. This is a way to stretch our donation dollars by having them grow by 15% and even 20% if they are done online. There are several ways for you to make your donation grow in a short time.

You can make a flat donation of, say, \$100, making the check payable to the Monterey Peninsula Foundation and mailed to the Society at P. O. Box 1612, Carmel Valley, CA. In the lower left-hand corner of the check, indicate the Carmel Valley Historical Society as your designated charity. When the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament is over, that \$100 will grow by 15% and we will receive a check for \$115.00. However, if you would donate that \$100 online at:

atpbgolf.com/charity/birdies-for-charity/participating-charities

and choose the Donate Now button, your donation will return 20% or grow to \$120! The minimum donation is \$20.

We will be talking more about this opportunity, but if you have questions, please call us at 659-2038. There are usually more than 60 charities that take part in earning a great return on their donations, so we are very proud to be a part of this event. We ask

that you carefully consider making a donation to the CVHS through the Monterey Peninsula Foundation and give us a chance to earn 15% to 20% on that donation!

Membership News

Welcome to Michele Higa and Zivana Ljubkovic, our newest members! We are very glad to add to our membership roll and hope even more will join us. If you know of someone who would like to be a member, call Maxine Callinan at 659-4925, and she will send them an application. Become a member and watch us grow!

Oops! We're Sorry

In thanking the workers at our Gigantic Rummage Sale, we inadvertently left out the names of Jean Lovell, Haven Roberge and Trudi Hart. We apologize. They are veteran helpers with our Rummage Sales and their help cashiering, arranging and just being there are part of the reason our Sales are such successes. Our belated thanks.

Recent Grants

We received a \$1000 grant from the Upjohn California Fund and Cynthia Hertlein that will help us work on cataloging our artifacts in preparation for organizing displays. The Society also received a \$15,000 grant from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation for use in finding experts to guide us as we set up our museum. There are many components that are needed for displays, recording and cataloging, and reaching out to the community and these grants will help us put them all together. We are very grateful for these grants.

A Voice from the Past

Thanks to Fawn Remington, our "long distance" member who lives in Colorado, we have found a Valley resident who grew up here and has put many of her stories on Facebook. Freda Nason Sheppard now lives in Kingman, Arizona, and is Fred Nason's sister. Fawn found her Facebook page and called the Society to let us know of this wonderful wealth of knowledge about the early days living in the Valley.

Many years ago, her family lived in Cachagua and owned most of the property in the area, including Princess Camp. She has stories about the ranches, the people and much of the Valley the way it used to be. Check out her Facebook page, or contact her online at: sheproute66@npg.com. We're sure she'd like to hear from you.