

THE CARMEL VALLEY HISTORIAN

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Dams and Diversions on the Carmel River

By Elizabeth Barratt, CVHS Historian

In 1781, seeking a steady water supply for mission crops surrounding the mouth of the Carmel River, Padre Serra ordered an extensive irrigation ditch to be dug. A disagreement prompted supervisor Don Ignacio Vallejo to construct a second, parallel water canal.

Nearly a century later, Oakland Mayor Nathan Spaulding tapped into the Carmel River on a larger scale. As the owner of Rancho los Laureles (1874-1881) he was the first settler to bring modern water irrigation techniques to Carmel Valley. In 1876 he built an 8-1/2 mile ditch on the Carmel River to channel irrigation water to his 1,000 acres of crops. Running water was also brought to the ranch housing, work buildings and animal troughs.

The next owners, the Pacific Improvement Company, took Spaulding's ditch channel another step, adding pipelines. The company also built a small dam, which lasted until the San Clemente Dam was built in 1921.

Old-timer Joe Hitchcock recalled, "...only a pint-sized dam held back the river, so when we had rain, the water just ran bank full. If you lived on the south side

of the river and were fortunate enough to have your winter supplies safe in your storeroom, you had nothing to worry about. Every little stream that crossed the highway was crossed by small bridges or culverts, which were usually washed out and only

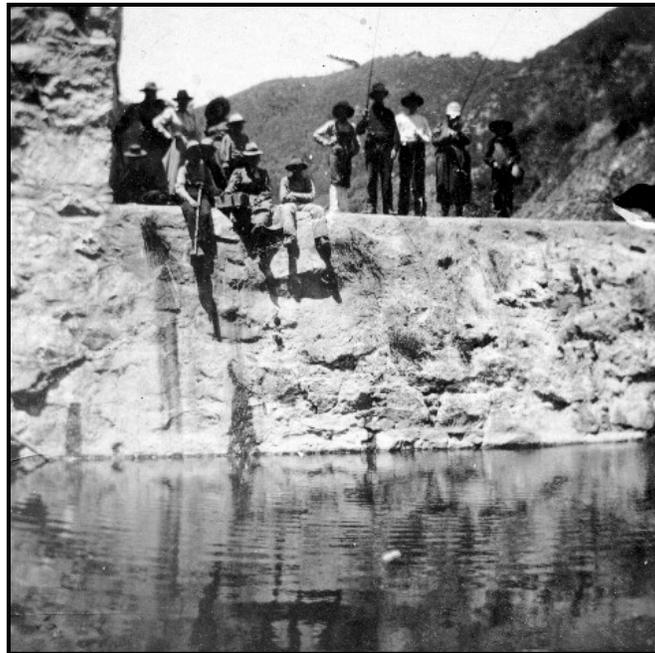
passable on horseback.

"When the storms were over, much work had to be done to make the roads passable again by the road crews and with the help of all the neighbors. The only equipment was a four-horse plow and Fresno scraper, picks, shovels and plenty of brawn."

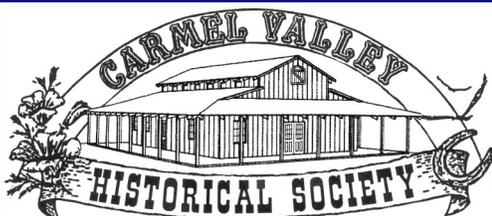
The small dam was constructed with labor supervised by Los Laureles Ranch manager William Hatton, who hired Chinese workers to blast out the dam foundations, situated at the junction of San Clemente Creek and the Carmel River.

Crews worked night and day shifts to complete the marble, granite and concrete structure,

which was finished in October 1883. In short order Carmel River water was then conveyed to the company's premier vacation destination, the Hotel Del Monte in Monterey, and then to other cities on the Monterey Peninsula. Chinese (See Dams, page 3)



Carmel Valley youth sit atop the original Hatton Dam, circa 1890
Courtesy of the Monterey County Historical Society



Editor: Kim Williams © 2014, Carmel Valley Historical Society

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A Message from the President, Kim Williams



It's hard to believe that our special little museum has been open for seven months already. We've welcomed many visitors from the Valley as well as many from other parts of the country. Earlier this month we hosted the meeting of the Monterey Regional Collections Roundtable with representatives from museums, state parks and libraries throughout the county. About 30 of the Carmel Valley Manor Day Trippers came for a tour and a talk by Rumsen Indian descendant Linda Yamane.

What makes all of this happen? Volunteers! That's where you come in. Contact us. We surely have a job that suits your interests and skills.

I hope you will join us on November 1st for our fabulous fundraiser (with CVVIC), Party in the Village!, at Hidden Valley. This event provides a significant amount of money for the Society and is also a lot of fun.

Curators on a Roll! By Cherie Ohlson, Display Committee Chair



Four exciting exhibits are in development for an October debut that will further showcase the truly amazing history of our area. Curators are spending countless hours working with community members and other subject-matter experts to finalize these exhibits, and they think you will enjoy them as much as they are enjoying researching and designing the displays. Here are a few highlights:

Carmel Valley Fire Protection District & Volunteer Firefighters' History

This exhibit will tell the story of the Fire Department and its many Volunteer Firefighters over its 65-year history. Photos of founding members and early fire engines along with a plaque of Volunteer names will be showcased.—Jeff Ohlson, Curator

Mammoth or Mastodon - What's in Your Backyard?

In the early 1980's the flooded Carmel River took out 200' of someone's backyard and apparently delivered an intriguing fossilized hip bone - a mammoth or mastodon - we're not sure which, but it's an exciting find! The fossil will be displayed on a Monterey Cypress pedestal crafted by Dean Forzani, Esselen, of Carmel Valley. The exhibit will also include a "hands-on" cast of the fossil made by Ron Long, specialist in vertebrate paleontology.—Donna Zahn, Curator



Following the Kelp Highway - Carmel Valley's First Residents

Archeological discoveries located at the Carmel River Lagoon are providing part of the developing story of the first human entry into California

and into the American Continent. Via a fascinating map, follow the "highway" from Siberia to the tip of South America, and view stone tools that give some indication of the life-style of the first residents of Carmel Valley.

—Donna Zahn, Curator



The **Jamesburg Earth Station** in Cachagua played an important role in America's space program for nearly 20 years, and was a relay station for the video portion of the Apollo 11 space mission when Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon. Photos and other memorabilia will explain the historical significance of this little-known station.—Reggie Jones, Curator

Welcome New Members: Tom Tanner, Alison McFarlane, Ilene Tuttle

Donations: Photos, Artifacts, Library Materials

Tom Augustitus--Photo of Lou Allaire in plane taking off from Carmel Valley Airfield.

Elizabeth Barratt--Books: History of California (children's book) & 10 additional books on local history.

Preston & Janet Cole--Plaza Linda story - laminated from CV Sun newspaper.

Roger & Allison Gardner--Fishing/hunting map of Carmel Valley, Jamesburg postcard, Tirey Ford obituary, Carmel Valley Volunteer Firefighters uniform, various files, newspapers, documents, audiotapes. Manuscript "Rosie & His Cracker Barrel" by Marilyn Sanders.

Peter Garneau--Reproduction of black and white aerial photograph of the mouth of the Valley.

Anne Hess and Flora Smith--Watercolor: "Pumpkin Time" by Mary Pomeroy (Martin's Barn).

Michael Hemp--File folder of Carmel Valley Airpark photographs, Book: Cannery Row.

Bunny Jones--Memorabilia from Lola Maskiewitz.

Susan Michelson--Mark Twain books and postcards.

Monterey County Historical Society--10 stone artifacts.

Shirley Olmsted--Carmel Valley newsletter, magazines, dial phone, "Robles del Rio Country Club" sign.

Krystal Park--Furrower plow - iron and wood.

Sue Pius--Authentic Navajo Double Saddle Blanket.

Frank Quilty--Two office copiers.

Jack Swanson--Book, autographed by author: The Life and Times of a Western Artist.

Mike Urquides--Fire Fighter "turnouts" worn in the 1950s & 60s.

Ridge Watson--Brochures of Robles del Rio Lodge 1989, Acacia Lodge 1987, Stonepine.

Donna Zahn--Fossil mastodon/mammoth and cast of fossil made by Ron Long.

Financial Contributions

General Fund: * Mildred Annand * Peter Garneau * Cynthia Hertlein * Dick Heuer * Roy Kaminskie * Barry Harrow & Ann Flood **Tiles Project:** Monica Callinan * Roy Kaminske * Frank Quilty

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Dams (from page 1) crews, under Pacific Improvement Company supervision, constructed a 23-mile pipeline that wound down Carmel Valley, around Cypress Point and Point Pinos, and through Pacific Grove to the Del Monte Hotel. Later, two reservoirs were built near Pacific Grove to hold this abundant, seemingly limitless liquid resource.

By 1921, the early Chinese-built Hatton Dam was considered insufficient to serve the larger needs of the Monterey Peninsula. Soon the larger, concrete arch San Clemente Dam was built by the California Water and Telephone Company. It was situated about 600 yards upstream, replacing the original Hatton dam structure. The new, modern dam took its name from San Clemente Creek, so-named by the Spanish for Pope Clement I. The second-century saint had performed a miracle that caused a spring of clear water to appear near a quarry in the ancient Greek colony of Chersonesus.

By December 1948, with area growth once again outpacing the available water supply, the California Water and Telephone Company built the Los Padres Dam, located at Barnes Flat on the upper Carmel

River, six miles above the San Clemente Dam. It was named for the nearby Los Padres National Forest.

Today, two and a quarter centuries after Padre Serra's first river diversion, citizens continue to dispute how we should direct the precious, now dwindling waters of el Rio Carmelo. Despite weather divergences over the centuries that have caused both flooding and dry spells, the ongoing tapping and rechanneling of water, and the building and removing of dams on the Carmel River, has continued.

In our lifetime, river observers have witnessed and documented the abundant, running-over-the-embankment times, as well as our current dry, rocky-bottom times. Whatever the waterway's current aspect, the winding, willow-and-cottonwood-bordered river has remained a picturesque and precious focal point over the centuries.

As we wait for the lush times to return, we can still gather at the river (what there currently is of it) and nod in agreement with author John Steinbeck, who in his 1945 novel *Cannery Row*, wrote, "The Carmel is a lovely little river. It isn't very long, but in its course it has everything a river should have."

Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 9

A Talk: "The Prehistory of the Monterey Peninsula Area"

7:00 PM at the CV History Center
 \$5.00, Members free. (You can join CVHS at the event.) Gary Breschini and Trudy Haversat, archaeologists. The talk also celebrates October as Archeology Month and coordinates with our new exhibit, "Following the Kelp Highway."

Friday, October 17

Opening Reception, "The Collector"

5:00-7:00 PM at the Monterey Regional Airport Terminal (Free) A portion of CVHS's extensive Marshall Doll Collection will be featured showing dozens of dolls from North, Central, and South America.

Saturday, November 1

Party in the Village!

7:00-11:00 PM at Hidden Valley Music Seminars
 \$25.00 Wonderful fundraiser for CVHS & CVVIC—Great music, great dancing. See you there! Yahoo! Tickets available at...

Saturday, December 6

Annual CVHS Christmas Party

3:00-5:00 PM at the CV History Center.

PARTY IN THE VILLAGE!
 It's BOOT KICKIN' Barn Dance!
 featuring CALIFORNIA COWBOYS
 PLUS! BOBBY BLACK!
 MICHAEL SINGER, SONGWRITER
 MIKE BECK!
 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2014 ❖ 7:00 - 11:00
 DOORS OPEN AT 6:30
 HIDDEN VALLEY MUSIC SEMINARS
 88 WEST CARMEL VALLEY ROAD ❖ CARMEL VALLEY
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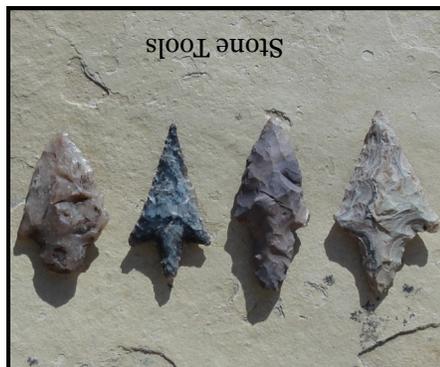
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| <p>CALL (831) 659-5715</p> <p>EMAIL cvhs3@live.net</p> <p>WEB www.carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org</p> | <p>WRITE PO Box 1612 Carmel Valley, CA 93924-1612</p> <p>VISIT 77 West Carmel Valley Road Museum Hours Fridays and Saturdays: 12:00-4:00 History Center Library Hours Generally Tuesdays: 9:00-12:00 Call to confirm if the library is open.</p> |
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Tiffany Style Lamp



Stone Tools



Artifacts From Your Museum

Do you know these people?