

THE CARMEL VALLEY HISTORIAN

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Early Years at Carmel Valley's Library

By Elizabeth Barratt, CVHS Historian

Patrons of the midcentury adobe brick building that houses the Carmel Valley Library step into a unique structure that actually began as a home. Locally, conducting library services from a home dates back over a century, when Carmel Valley's first library operated in Jamesburg out of the James/Lambert home. A portion of the home became a branch of the Monterey County Free Libraries, founded by County Librarian Anne Hadden on September 1, 1913. Additional space on the premises served as the area's post office.

The first custodian of the local branch library, Eleanor (Nellie) James Chew, was also the postmistress. She was the daughter of early settlers Mr. and Mrs. John James and was married to Constantine Marcus Chew, after whom Chew's Ridge is named.

By December 1938, renamed the Carmelo Branch Library (after "Carmelo," an old popular name for Carmel Valley),

the library was moved and reestablished at another residence, the home of Mrs. George Koch. She served as library custodian until November 1, 1947. Mrs. Lillie Clinton took over as custodian until May 1, 1948, when she left the area. An item in the February 21, 1948 Carmel Valley News stated, "The library has been located up Hitchcock Canyon, the lady who has been the County branch librarian is moving and the job is open."

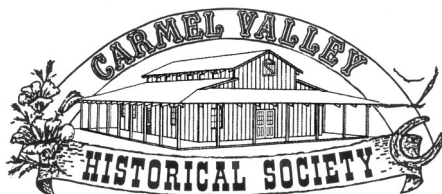
Postman Roderick Eckert became the next library custodian, a position he held from May 1, 1948 until January 1, 1951. At the time the book collection numbered about 300 volumes.

In the meantime, the library collection was stored in a temporary location known as the Box Stall. On January 28, 1949, books and furniture were installed in local Realtor Irene Baldwin's office building. The new space held her real estate office, the post office and the library. At this time the library's name was also changed, from **(See Library, page 4)**



Carmel Valley Library, 65 W Carmel Valley Road

Photo by Dick Barrett



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A Message from the President, Kim Williams

It's not too early to think about the end of 2015 and the beginning of 2016. With the new year comes time for New Year's Resolutions. It is my hope that each of you will resolve to support the Carmel Valley Historical Society through your membership.

Each quarter we mail over 300 copies of this newsletter to potential members- people who are interested in Carmel Valley history, as well as over 200 newsletters to our membership. Wouldn't it be fantastic if we could double our membership! Enclosed with this edition of the Historian is a membership envelope.

I also would like to encourage you to send in a year's end gift to the History Society. All memberships and donations are tax deductible.

Coming up in just a few days we will be gathering for our annual Christmas Party at the History Center. I, and the rest of the Board, are hoping to see you there.



Kim Williams



You are cordially invited to our annual

Christmas Party

Saturday, December 5, 2015, from 3:00 to 5:00
at the CV 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 the History Center (659-5715) for more information.

Volunteer Activities



Thanks to the CV Garden Club for doing another semiannual cleanup of the bushes around the History Center. Dianne Woods and Bob Byrne are pictured. Volunteers not pictured are: Ellen Korstanje, Lindsay O'Farriell, and Carol Covell.

Note the new History Center sign, designed by Jeff Ohlson on the building!



Gary Tate is brandishing his chainsaw during the retention pond cleanup behind the History Center. The retention pond is the site of our planned Native Plant Garden.

The Bucket—One of the Last Cowboy Taverns

By Jeff Ohlson

K. D. Mathiot owned and operated the 240 acre Rancho Carmelo Dude Ranch located a mile east of the Carmel Valley Village. Rancho Carmelo Dude Ranch promotional literature proclaimed it as the first dude ranch in California. It was established in 1928 and was in operation until the mid 1960's. It had a large barn on the south side of Carmel Valley Road in which fresh 4-horse relay teams were used for the regular stagecoach stops for the Salinas-Jamesburg stage.

In the early 1930's K.D. built a small store and tavern across the Carmel Valley Road and just west of the big barn in which guests of the ranch and local cowboys gathered for drinks and camaraderie in an old west atmosphere. In 1953 the Mathiots leased the tavern to Mrs. Loris "Cookie" Benchley. It was named "The Bucket" at least from this time until it eventually fell into disrepair and burned down in the weeks prior to April 1969.

Although a small, fun-loving lady, Cookie reportedly ran a tight ship. She tolerated little with her wooden mallet close at hand and could handle the meanest drunks.

Cookie prepared and served food and refreshments while she and her bartender Jerry Bostick served wine, beer, and cocktails. The Bucket had a room for the restaurant, one for the bar, and two attached apartments (Cookie lived in one). Its facilities included a jukebox in the bar and two outdoor toilets behind the building.

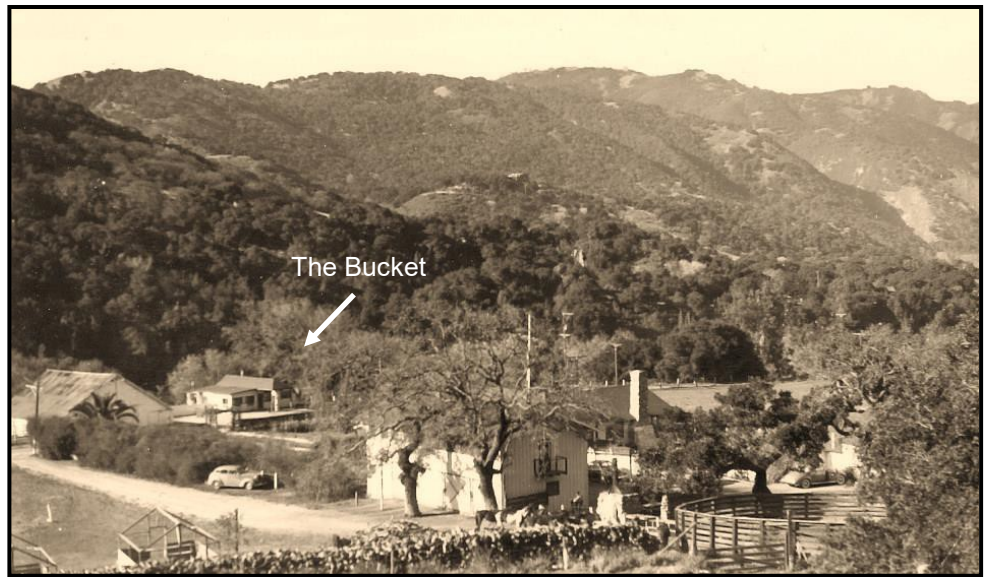
At one time the property had one or two gas pumps to complement the restaurant and tavern and was even said to house an art gallery. Cookie and her eventual husband Robert "Pancho" Meadows continued to operate the tavern with Pancho helping out as bartender.

The Bucket was known by locals as the "Cowboy" or "Bucket of Blood" tavern, the latter name stemming from the many fights that were to have occurred there. One of its "permanent residents" was Al Hall, U.S. Army Retired, who worked for K.D. It was said that he'd miss a few days of work after K.D.'s pay day. In the late 1960's Al Hall and a couple friends lived in the defunct tavern before it burned.

Passed down from one generation to the next, many stories came out of the tavern's heyday. It was frequented by the rich and famous as well as infamous and stories of bar brawls and gunfights and the like endure to this day. Among the storied memorabilia that hung from its walls were branding irons and several dozen dollar bills, each with a signature and story to tell. A life-size dummy that originally hung in a tree next to the tavern in effigy of a disliked local constable was also part of the tavern's storied folklore. The structure fell into such disrepair in the 1960's that it was condemned to operate as a restaurant and tavern. It however was still rented for \$50 or \$75 per month as living quarters. It even-

tually burned down in early 1969 due to "suspicious" means. So many mourned the loss of The Bucket after it burned that a "Wake 'O The Bloody Bucket" was held, complete with western music and tavern artifacts. It was attended by many locals. To them it marked the end of an era and, historically speaking, it probably was. If only its walls could have talked!

The Carmel River ran immediately behind and about 100



The Bucket tavern is seen in this 1950's photo looking SW from the hill above the Rancho Carmelo Dude Ranch.

feet below the tavern. K.D.'s property spanned both sides of the river. Swimmers used the cliff on the near side of the river for diving and had a beautiful white beach on the far (south) side for sun bathing. A trail behind the tavern was used to access the river. During the ranch's heyday, visitors to the Dude Ranch caught sizable steelhead in the river and tavern patrons were also known to swim in the river. Even today, the swimming hole and beach area are known as "The Bucket". However, one must know where to access the steep trail to the river.

[You can read the complete story and see more photos at carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org]



Bud Carlson recently donated this matchbook from The Bucket, a long-gone favorite Carmel Valley watering hole.

The Bucket



Cookie Benchley and John Barchi are shown outside The Bucket at the April 1, 1953 grand opening of her new proprietorship. John Barchi lived and worked at the Rancho Carmelo Dude Ranch across the Carmel Valley Road and spent a lot of time at The Bucket.

If you have a story about the Bucket or another Carmel Valley venue, drop us an email or give us a call.

(Library, from page 1) “Carmelo Branch Library” to “Carmel Valley Library.” The Baldwin building was located just east of the Bernardus Winery building and now houses Valley Typesetters, Village Chiropractic and Jim’s Window, located at 1 W. Carmel Valley Road.

Irene Baldwin took over as custodian of the library in 1951, assisted by Helena Heron. Mrs. Baldwin was a popular community member, known for welcoming children and visitors into the space. In 1956 she built an addition to the rear of her office to house the library, which was open from 12-4 daily except Sundays.

Mrs. Baldwin was library custodian until July 1957 when her sister, retired schoolteacher Marjorie Ibsen, took over. By 1958 the increasing collection was moved again, to a larger portion of the building fronting Carmel Valley Road. The monthly rent was increased from \$35 to \$60. At this time, library hours were changed slightly to 1-5 Tuesday through Saturday. Miss Ibsen served as custodian until 1967.

Although Mrs. Baldwin had enlarged her building to accommodate the ever-expanding library collection, by 1967 more space was required. The library was relocated again, to an even larger portion of the same building. Still, there was only seating enough to accommodate five patrons. It had only one study space consisting of a chair and a table.

Realizing the library needed a home of its own, in March 1979 a group of devoted library patrons got together to form Friends of the Carmel Valley Library. Tasked to find a larger,

centrally located facility with handicap access, the group sponsored an expanded outreach that included fund-raising activities. On February 5, 1980, the Carmel Valley Library opened at 65 W. Carmel Valley Road, in the former Buckeye Building, its current location. The move also allowed more space for additional books, which soon numbered 15,000 volumes plus several hundred reference volumes, according to the July 26, 1989 *Carmel Valley Sun*. The new library space was expanded again in 1984.

But back to the home theme: the library’s move to its present space was almost like coming around full circle. The first, long-ago library collection that started in a home in Jamesburg, ended up in a building that first began as a home in Carmel Valley Village. Constructed for local Realtor Herb Brownell and his wife Clara just after World War II, the modern-style adobe brick structure was conveniently located next to Brownell’s Carmel Valley Realty office, which now houses the Corkscrew Bistro building.

After the Brownells sold their home to Reuben Hampton in 1959, the space was remodeled into a restaurant named Reuben’s, a popular local steakhouse. The front yard was cleared of trees and paved to make way for parking. The space later became Casa Carmela Italian Restaurant (1966-1971) and finally The Buckeye Restaurant (1972-1979).

Now in its most recent incarnation, the Carmel Valley Library serves as a popular gathering place and home of another sort, one devoted to the many book lovers and community groups who are so well served in its accommodating space.

THANK YOU TO ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Financial Contributions

General Fund: * Marianne Gawain * Thomas Gladney * Barbara Higuera * Arthur & Katherine Latimer * Ray Lent * Allison McFarland * Ellen McGrath * Linda Pager * Val Pakis * Suzanne Taunt * Darby Moss Worth *
Grants: The Yellow Brick Road * The Upjohn California Fund * Carmel Valley Kiwanis Foundation
Tile Project: John Martin * Doris Senger *

Donations: Documents, Photos, Artifacts, Library Materials

Stephanie Culbert: 12 notebooks, 1 portable file box & 1 blue folder - all containing personal research projects pertaining to Carmel Valley created by Stephanie Culbert

Steve Goff: Vintage brass fire hose nozzle

Joe Hertlein: Various recent copies of Pine Cone newspapers

Reggie & Anne Jones: Joan Baez Songbook 189 p., published in 1954

Ray Lent: Program from Museum of the American Indian exhibit: "The First Ambassadors- They Came to Washington in 1821"

Laurie Petkus: Four redwood fence posts and a coil of galvanized barbed wire, believed to be a portion of the original fencing from 1880 of the southern Berta fence line

Nancy Porter: Scrapbook of CV events and newspaper clippings circa 1950's and 60's; various black & white and color photos of Carmel Valley area; various CV newspapers

Darby Moss Worth: Packet of photos related to Darby Moss Worth and Tularcitos School; newspaper articles from CV Outlook and Monterey Herald regarding Tularcitos teachers retiring in 1980 and CV Outlook articles pertaining to Mission re-creation projects from 1979 and 1980

Items on Loan to the History Center

Elizabeth Barrett: Fishing tackle: 4 lures & 2 lines with lures (Airport Exhibit)

Bob Fitch: 10 photo images relating to and used for the "Joan Baez: Carmel Valley & Beyond" exhibit

Krissy Huston: Pair of vintage ladies' cowboy boots, originally from Rancho San Carlos. (Airport Exhibit)

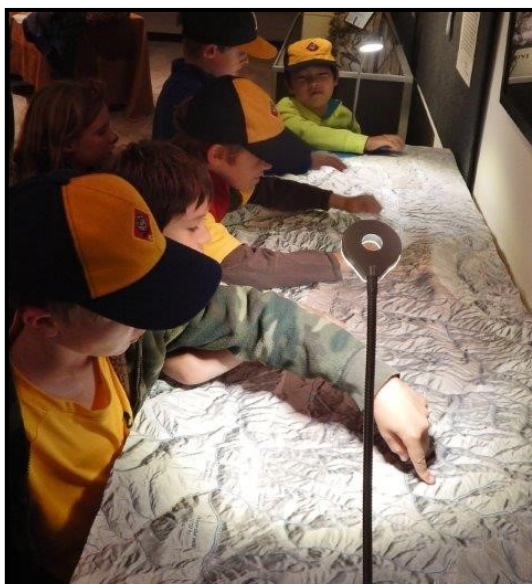
Jeff Ohlson: 1950's vintage fishing rod (Airport Exhibit)

Donna Zahn: Vintage Stetson beaver felt hat with vintage Stetson hatbox (Airport Exhibit)

Welcome New Members

Tom Drumright, Marianne Gawain, Barbara Higuera, Sara Maguire, James Panetta, Suzanne Taunt

Share your Historian with a neighbor, and invite them to join!



Cub Scouts Visit the History Center



Local Cub Scouts check out the 3D map and work on a history project with Board Member Donna Zahn.
 Photos by Jeff Ohlson

Carmel Valley Historical Society

WEB | www.carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org
 EMAIL | cvhs3@live.net
 CALL | (831) 659.5715
 WRITE | PO Box 1612
 Carmel Valley, CA 93924-1612
 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

Board of Directors

Kim Williams	President
Gary Tate	Vice President
Dave Terdy	Treasurer
Jeff Ohlson	Secretary
Cherie Ohlson	
Dianne Woods	
Donna Zahn	
Ellsworth Gregory	Board Member Emeritus

Upcoming Events

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

Saturday, March 12, 2016
Membership Meeting
 4-6 pm at the History Center

CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 PO BOX 1612
 CARMEL VALLEY, CA 93924-1612

Holiday Schedule

- We will be open after Thanksgiving, November 27-28.
- We will be closed Christmas & New Years weekends.
- But if you have visiting family members who would like to visit the CVHC, you can Maxine Callinan at 659-4925 for an appointment. However not on Christmas or New Years Day.

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Joan Baez: Carmel Valley & Beyond
 At CVHC through December



Photographer Bob Fitch talks about his experiences with Joan Baez at the recent CVHC reception. Donna Zahn, who curated the exhibit with Cherie Ohlson, listens intently. The exhibit will be up through December. Photo by Jeff Ohlson

News & History at Your Fingertips!

Our website is constantly being improved to serve you better. Back issues of our great newsletter and selected histories are continually being added.

Just select NEWS, then NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES, and GALLERIES, then HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, from the Home Page. Not only does this allow residents who have moved away to keep up with the History Center's latest offerings, but gives students and researchers ready access to Carmel Valley news and history. It's time to bookmark our website for quick access to your local learning portal:

www.carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org

Or check us out on Facebook.