

THE CARMEL VALLEY HISTORIAN

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Old Days at the Valley's "Carousel" Building

By Elizabeth Barratt, CVHS Historian

Long a favored local watering spot, the vintage tile-roofed Carousel building looks like a holdover from the last days of the Old West. A rustic walkway leads up to a pair of old-fashioned frosted glass doors that appear to have been there since 1895. They were actually purchased from a wrecking company that was demolishing an old house in San Jose. Brought to Carmel Valley in 1959, they were installed by Willard Fay, the best known and longest tenured (30+ years) of the Carousel building's many past owners.

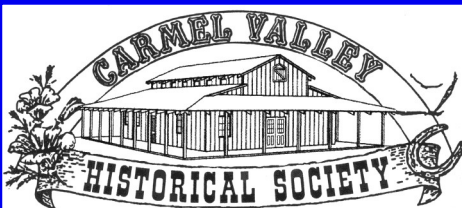
Despite its nostalgic, other-era façade, the building dates to 1928. Its life as a restaurant began in 1932 when the widowed Clara Miller arrived in California with her nine-year-old daughter, Ruth, and opened the premises as the Carmel Valley Tavern. According to Ruth (now Ruth Peace, longtime Carmel Valley Historical Society member), she and her mother lived in part of the building. The rest was a restaurant serving lunch, tea and dinner. The front fireplace room was the main serving area, where a man named Jim served as the sole waiter. The back portion of the building was used for storage. Her mother ran the restaurant for about four or five years, according to Ruth.

Clara met and married local realtor Herb Brownell and he later became one of the building's lessors. Re-named The Carousel under subsequent owners, the restaurant's festive theme included scalloped, tent-like canopies enclosing dining room banquettes and ribbon-decorated carousel poles encircling the bar.

In 1946 Bert and Margaret Dienelt took over part ownership with Dr. Raymond E. Brownell, a local dentist. A succession of managers followed, each one adding personal flair to the establishment. By 1948, manager David Prince was providing such gastronomic delights as Creamed Turkey Carousel at \$1.25, and Welsh Rarebit for 90 cents. Advertisements enticed guests to linger by the fireside for games (**See Carousel, page 3**)



The Carousel Building, Now Will's Fargo Restaurant —Photo by Dick Barratt



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A Message from the President, Kim Williams

It has been a busy spring and summer at the History Center. Of course there are the regular day-to-day responsibilities which your board members are super at keeping up with. **Dave Terdy** pays the bills. **Dianne Woods** processes membership renewals. **Gary Tate** fabricates whatever is needed. **Jeff Ohlson** keeps our building in tiptop shape (changing lightbulbs, keeping ants at bay, pulling down Carmel Valley's famous cobwebs). He also oversees our website and keeps our Board meeting minutes. **Cherie Ohlson** shepherds the Exhibits Committee which is constantly looking to keep our exhibits fresh. **Donna Zahn** works with the Collections Committee to process and catalog a myriad of objects, and archival materials. And yours truly tries to keep everything moving in an organized fashion and puts this newsletter together. Your Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month to make decisions and keep up on all aspects of the Society.



Past board members are still working hard for the Society. **Maxine Callinan** schedules and oversees our volunteers. **Elizabeth Barratt** works with the Collections Committee and writes interesting historical articles for the *Historian*, and **Reggie Jones** chairs our very important Grants Committee.

Recent activities also included staffing a booth at the Carmel Valley Fiesta, writing two major grant applications, and developing a new short-term exhibit, "Joan Baez: Carmel Valley and Beyond."

And of course we could not provide access for our visitors without the cadre of great volunteer docents whose names are listed below.

We'd like to give you a job to do too, so contact us soon!

Dr. Gary Breschini to Speak at the History Center



Dr. Gary Breschini

October is Archaeology Month and this year we will again be presenting Archaeologist Dr. Gary Breschini at the History Center on Thursday evening, October 15, 7:00-8:30 PM. He will be speaking about the **Carmel Mission Indian Rancheria**. Your Society recently submitted a major grant proposal to research the Society's collection of artifacts which were collected over 50 years ago by Don Howard at the area of the Rancheria. This lecture will give context for understanding the artifacts.

Volunteer Activities Writing for a Grant



Grants Committee members work with Grant Writer, Donna Kneeland on a major grant application. Clockwise from left: Cherie Ohlson, Reggie Jones, Donna Kneeland, Kim Williams and Donna Zahn.

Volunteer Docents

Thank you to all of our volunteer docents who keep the History Center open.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| * Tom Augustitus | * Brenda Lambert Mellinger |
| * Elizabeth Barratt | * Cherie Ohlson |
| * Dick Barratt | * Jeff Ohlson |
| * Maxine Callinan | * Sue Pius |
| * Elizabeth Carlson | * Patricia Porter |
| * Andy Case | * Connie Streett |
| * Sally Feistel | * Gary Tate |
| * Trudi Hart Gregory | * Dan Weiss |
| * Ellsworth Gregory | * Kim Williams |
| * Reggie Jones | * Donna Zahn |

New Volunteers



Is this you doing something for the Historical Society?

We have a job waiting for you if you can:

- Manage a database
- Sort and file old clippings
- Vacuum and dust
- Fold and sort newsletters
- Maintain a garden
- Use your special skill

Fossil Fish from the Rancho San Carlos Area

Research is being conducted on the identification of this fish fossil. Léo LaPorte, UCSC Professor Emeritus, is working with the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco to determine the identification of the fish. The head itself is 7" long, and teeth are clearly visible. The fossil is likely to be 5 -10 million years old. We will know more soon, so stay posted! The fossil is on long-term loan from Krissy Huston, and her children, Katie and Dylan Kane.



Photo by Donna Zahn

(Carousel, from page 1) of cribbage, checkers, chess, cards and backgammon. Seasonal events included costume parties, fashion shows, dinner dances and local art exhibits. By 1949 a chef named "Michel" took over, serving French cuisine such as sautéed frog legs, and throwing Tahitian-themed parties. Then came Chef "Charles," whose specialties included Chicken Estragon and Crepes Suzettes. "Big" Bob Robinson and "Little" Bob Mills, who offered evening piano entertainment plus a New Year's Eve floorshow, quickly replaced him. By 1951, hours were extended until 2 AM. Following dinner, waiter Sammy Lopez performed with other staff in an ensemble called "The Carouselers," on tenor sax, trumpet, piano, drums and vocals. Tuesdays, another popular Carousel feature, Bingo Night, raised funds for local charities.

At the time, Carmel Valley was still a seasonal spot. As with many other area restaurants, The Carousel closed for the winter, usually going dark after New Year's Day and reopening on April 1. By 1952, John Wibby, a new part owner, was looking for a way to stay open year-round. During his ownership, an alley was added along the back of the building, cutting off part of a back patio where lunch was served. To accommodate the lost space, the bar area was enlarged and expanded.

Dick and Nan Beardsley took over the lease, operating from 1954 until early 1957. To make ends meet during the nightspot's annual winter hibernation, Dick took a part time job at M.J. Murphy. When The Carousel reopened for the season, guests dined to the organ music of Johnny Henderson, with Benny Campagno on drums and Lucille Mauze on vocals. Live entertain-

ment from The Carousel was broadcast on KMBY Radio. The menu offered a New York Steak dinner for \$2.50 and barbecue ribs ran \$2.00.

Russell Bradford became the next lessee in February 1957 along with co-lessee Alex Tuszewski. As chef and host, Alex boasted prior experience at The Brown Derby and at Chasen's in Hollywood. An upgraded menu listed exotic selections such as Beef Stroganoff, Chicken Kiev and Lobster Thermidor.

After nearly three decades and numerous owners and managers, The Carousel building changed hands in July 1957 under new owner Willard Fay. The following year, he closed the space to launch a lengthy makeover of the premises. Artist Roy Ami Hamlin transformed the interior from merry-go-round to Victorian-era Western Saloon. Accouterments included the signature 19th Century front doors and a cocktail lounge in the fireplace foyer room. A small side room became a butcher shop, where patrons selected their cut of meat or fish from a refrigerated case and watched it being weighed on an old-fashioned butcher's scale. Chef Clifford Washington, who had been valet to actor Robert Montgomery and later chef to a San Francisco Chronicle executive, oversaw the newly expanded kitchen. Outdoors, the Western motif featured a stagecoach replica fashioned by Al Salyer of Camp Steffani, who remodeled a 90-year old buckboard from Tres Pinos to match the restaurant's new theme.

By the time it opened in April 1959, The Carousel had been transformed into Will's Fargo, a play on owner Willard Fay's name, thus beginning a name tradition that successive owners have continued through the decades.

Our New Exhibit - “Joan Baez: Carmel Valley and Beyond”

Our newest exhibit, “Joan Baez: Carmel Valley & Beyond” opened with a reception on August 28. The exhibit commemorates the 50th anniversary of the controversial opening of Ms. Baez’s Institute for the Study of Nonviolence in Carmel Valley. It spotlights the tumultuous times of the ‘60s and the lifelong commitment of Joan Baez to nonviolence expressed in her social justice activism and music.

Iconic photographs by Bob Fitch who chronicled much of the civil rights movement of the ‘60s and ‘70s showcase Ms. Baez with her mentors and fellow activists.

“Joan Baez-Carmel Valley and Beyond” is dedicated to the memory of David Jones, 1973 – 2015, also a musician committed to social justice. Generous donations given in David’s memory by Yellow Brick Road friends of his parents, Reggie & Anne Jones, have made this exhibit possible.

Photo right: Joan Baez and Cesar Chavez walking at the funeral for farmworker Juan De La Cruz, Delano, California, 1973

© Bob Fitch Photographic Archive at Stanford University Libraries

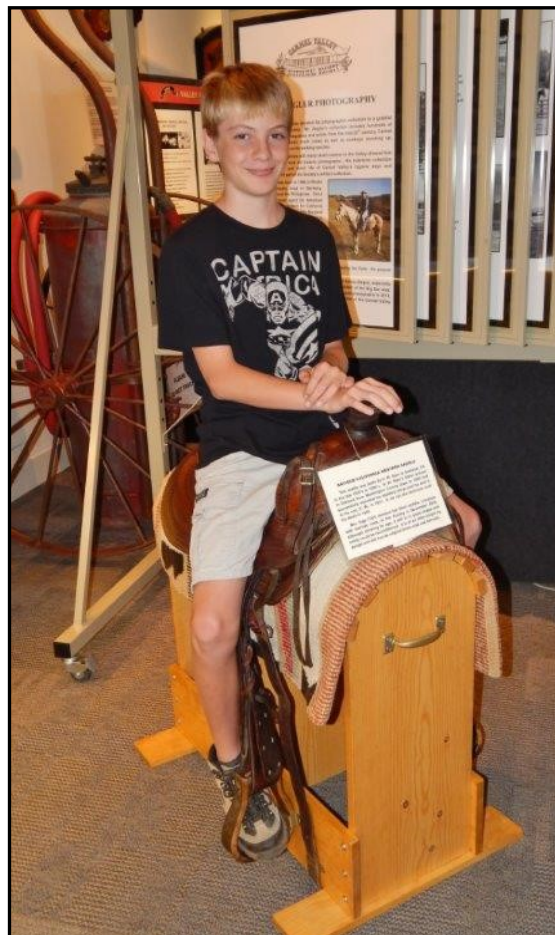


Old Visalia Saddle Returns to the Valley



The History Center’s new 1930’s Visalia saddle is shown on the right in the photo above. Once owned by Milton Kastor, a local guide, hunter, horseman, and one of the original Fire Commissioners of the Tulare Fire Protection District, the vintage Visalia is on loan from his daughter, Vala Johnson, now living in Montana. Ray Berta is shown posing next to his father Leo’s saddle after placing a nicely coiled riata on loan for display on the Visalia saddle.

Kids Love Our New “Sit-On-Me” Saddle



Financial Contributions

General Fund: * Iathan & Mildred Annand * Maxine Callinan * Victor Carder * Chris Darken * Ann Hess * Vala Johnson * Roy Kaminski * Leo & Margaret Laporte * Jack McKay * Joanne Nissen * Flora Smith * Jennifer Smith * Robert Talbot * Rolph Zerges & Lynda Rummel *

Grants: * Barnet Segal Charitable Trust * Malcom & Joanne Millard Fund *

In Memory of David Jones: Yellow Brick Road Friends including: * Beverley Ambort * Sandra Bernstein * Shelby Butzlaff * Robert & Margaret Chadwick * Susan & Doyle Clayton * Charlie & Carolyn Hayes * Susan Hovermale * Susan Lowell * Susan Marsh * J.E. & Sheridan Powers * Audrey Whaley *

Donations: Documents, Photos, Artifacts, Library Materials

Mildred Annand: Native American stone pestle: 5.75" long; Native American stone mortar: 11" x 8" with a 5.5" deep bowl

Elizabeth Barrett: Vintage copy of "Seoanne's Neuman & Barretti's Spanish Dictionary" abridged school edition

Gary Breschini: 2 copies of "Beyond Boundaries- Celebrating California Archaeology Month - October 2015" poster

Maxwell Chaplin: Binder containing "The Executive Officer's Report on the Proposal to Incorporate the town of Carmel Valley" (LAFCO File #03-10 dated 10/18/2006) and accompanying Carmel Valley Forum's Notebook Presentation

Ann Flood & Barry Harrow: Carmel Valley Street Map: 2003-2004 from the Carmel Valley Kiwanis Club

Beth Hall: 12 color 4x6 photographs depicting the construction rebuild of the Community Center playground and a copy of *Carmel Valley Outlook* article pertaining to "Youth Center Playground to get Facelift" dated 2/27/97

Brenda Lambert-Mellinger: Book: "From Colored Town to Pebble Beach - The Story of the Singing Sheriff" a memoir by Pat DuVal, who was assigned to Carmel Valley for many years

Darby Moss Worth: Small southwestern Native American basket

Items on Loan to the History Center

Ray Berta: Riata rope loaned for display on Visalia saddle

Krissy Huston and Katie & Dylan Kane: Fish fossil retrieved from quarry at Rancho San Carlos in the mid to late 1980's Fossil head is 7" long and the vertebrae is 7.5" long. Possibly from the Monterey Formation

Vala Kastor-Johnson: 1930's Visalia stock saddle (no cinches), new wool saddle blanket, tooled leather bridle

Jennifer Stevens (From the Nancy Jane Carlen Collection): Vintage Martin guitar with strap needlework-embroidered "JBC" and soft case- previously owned by Joan Baez; B&W photo of Nancy Carlen and Joan Baez taken at Big Sur Folk Festival; B&W photo of Nancy Carlen, Judy Collins, and Joan Baez; color photo of Nancy Carlen and Joan Baez; color photo of Nancy Carlen and Joan Baez taken Christmas 2010 at Nancy Carlen's home at Quail Lodge, CarmelValley; 3 original Big Sur Folk Festival posters, Bob Muson, artist; 8 original music books- pertinent to Joan Baez

THANK YOU TO ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Welcome New Members

Brian Baggett, Ray Lent, Jame Panetta, Joshlyn Scheid, Doris Senger

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

Carmel Valley Historical Society

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 EMAIL | cvhs3@live.net
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 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 Event

Thursday, October 15

A Talk: "The Rancheria of the Mission Indians"

7:00-8:30 PM at the History Center
 \$5.00 Suggested Donation, Members Free. (*You can join CVHS at the event.*) The talk by Dr. Gary Breschini also celebrates October as Archaeology Month and coordinates with a major grant proposal that your Society recently submitted.

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From Very Good to Even Better!

The work of the Exhibit Committee typically takes place around the table in the Library. However, in July we gave up our chairs for a walk around and through the building with an eye toward evaluating what has been put in place since our opening in December, 2013. It was an interesting and productive experience.

For three hours, committee members Reggie Jones, Cherie Ohlson, Jeff Ohlson and Donna Zahn, along with former Board Member Maxine Callinan, walked and critiqued signage, building safety and appearance, readability of exhibit information, arrangement and lighting of displays, our website, docent training and much more.

The exercise was a good reminder of all that's been accomplished as well as giving us ideas to better showcase our Valley history and improve operations. We plan to make the walk-around a quarterly activity.



A smaller footprint for the Victorian Parlor



Realigned Native Peoples Exhibit