

# CARMEL VALLEY HISTORIAN

CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 3 \* SEPTEMBER 2017

## The Second Tularcitos School 1893-1953

By Elizabeth Barratt, CVHS Historian

During the 1892-93 school year the first Tularcitos School was closed and the school site relocated from its original spot at Carmel Valley Road and Laureles Grade. In its place, a new building was completed farther east along Carmel Valley Road, situated near the entrance to today's Stonepine Lodge. For the next 60 years, Carmel Valley's elementary students went to school at the locale.

For Joe Hitchcock, whose family lived in Hitchcock Canyon, the new school setting meant easier access for the local families at the upper end of the Valley. "We walked, as it was much closer," Joe noted. "It was then that Frank Parce, with the help of Peter Stella, my father and Chester Holton, erected a suspension bridge crossing the river at Camp Steffani. In those days the river flowed the year

round unless the winters were dry. That was the first bridge up in these parts and served a very useful purpose. We were cautioned to cross one at a time so the bridge would not sway."

A community dance commemorated the new school opening. "Our teacher was Miss Annie E. Donovan, who had taught at the old school. Following her was Mr. Fred P. Feliz who had also taught us at the old school beginning in 1888, and who lived at Camp Steffani with his good wife. The pupils were the three Cahoons, two Stella boys, two Pedrazzi boys, Herman Berta and three Hitchcocks. A little later two Pedrazzi girls, Zena, Stella and Gertrude Ponce joined our ranks."

Four decades later, Ruth Peace attended the Tularcitos School, by now rebuilt, expanded and refurbished with a white stucco exterior. In 1935, Ruth was the sole Eighth Grade student and graduate of the year. By that time, there were 18 students, ranging from first to eighth grade, with still only one teacher to oversee them. "Except for the son and two nieces of George

Koch, a well-known artist who lived year round in Robles, all the rest were the children of ranchers or farmers," she wrote. Ruth recalled some students' names: the children of Peter Girard, both Vasquez families, the Brudenbaker children, the Joe Wolters family, plus Ruth and her sister.

During those years, the teacher was Marion Hopper, the daughter of early Carmel Bohemian writer James Hopper. Ruth

recalled that during her early years at Tularcitos, some students still rode horses to school, but by the mid-1930s everyone arrived in two cars. Without a school bus, teacher Marion Hopper drove in from Carmel on school days, stopping enroute to pick up children who waited just east of the present Mid-Valley Shopping Center. Gertrude (Mrs. Jiggedy) Vasquez brought the students from the east side of the Valley. Besides her own five children, she also brought the Girards. Ruth recalled that the youngest Vasquez, known as Punky, was too young to attend class, so he was known as the honorary student. Mrs. Vasquez stayed at the school all day and then served as the janitor after class ended. She brought her sewing machine to school as well, not only to make things but to repair occasional tears and rips.

(See Tularcitos, page 4)



In 1893, the second Tularcitos School was built along Carmel Valley Road near the present Stonepine Lodge, east of the Village. The structure was later replaced with the building pictured above, which served Carmel Valley's elementary students until the early 1950s. This photo taken c.1932. Folk singer Joan Baez held non-violence seminars here 1965-1969.

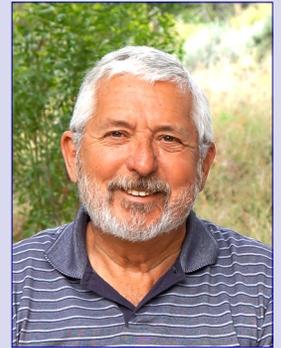
*Photo courtesy Monterey County Free Libraries.*

## A Message from the President, Kim Williams

The lazy days of summer are past, and here we are into another busy fall season. The Society has a couple of events coming up that we are very excited about.

October is Archeology Month and on Thursday, October 26 we will have our annual **Archeology Talk by Dr. Gary Breschini.**

Saturday, **November 4** is our annual fundraiser **Party in the Village!** which benefits CVHS and CVVIC (Carmel Valley Village Improvement Committee). For his year's event we are moving away from a big name band concert format in favor of a dinner-dance and auction fundraiser. We will have a great meal prepared by Jerome's Carmel Valley Market, and no-host beverages by our own Carmel Valley Kiwanis. And, yes, there will be music (Mike Beck and the Bohemian Saints). Please plan on coming.



*Kim Williams*

And while it may be a little early, mark your calendar for our annual Christmas Party on December 2.

~~~~~  
**Speaking of volunteers...**

*We are looking for people to serve as **docents** to welcome visitors to the History Center (no experience needed): one 3-hour shift per month. If you have an interest in serving as a **board member** (one meeting a month plus work with a committee), or if you are fluent with QuickBooks, we are in need of a **bookkeeper**. For more information, drop me an email ([cvhspresident@gmail.com](mailto:cvhspresident@gmail.com)) or give me a call (659.1307).*

## Volunteers in Action

Change is one of those constants in life. Recently two of our dedicated volunteers, Donna Zahn and Andy Case, have found it necessary to resign from their positions with the Society.

Donna's passionate work on the Indian Exhibit and development of the Collections Committee processes that are so important to a history center will serve the Society well into the future. Andy's creative guidance as Chair of the Exhibit Committee will be missed as will his unfailing willingness to lend an extra pair of hands involving our many activities and projects.

We appreciate all the work both have done on behalf of the Society and thank both Donna and Andy for the time and dedication they've shown. We wish them well as they move onto their next venture-or adventure as the case may be!



Docent Donna Zahn explains an exhibit to a group of 3rd grade students from All Saints School



Donna Zahn and Andy Case, wearing their docent badges, welcome visitors to the History Center.

# CARMEL VALLEY VILLAGE, THEN & NOW

## Giuseppe's Work Bench

By Jeff Ohlson

Born in Brooklyn and raised in northern Italy, Joseph (Giuseppe) Ricupero fled the Mussolini regime and returned to New York in the late 1920s where he then worked as a welder. During WWII, he worked at the Brooklyn Naval Shipyard as a welding foreman and after the war he opened his first jewelry shop in New York. Years later he and his wife Aphrodite decided to move west.



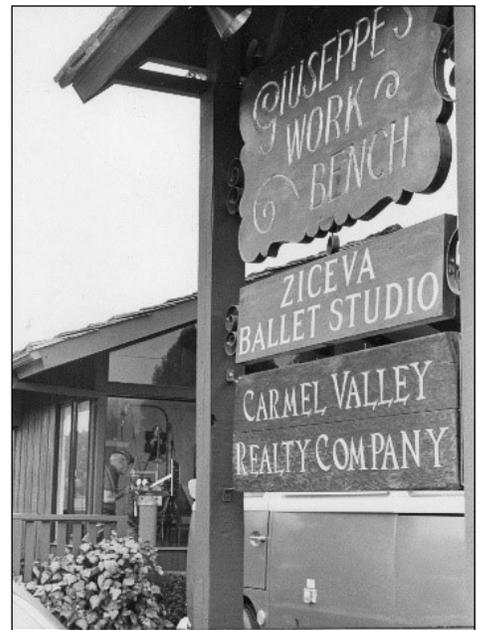
13 Carmel Valley Road

After moving to Carmel Valley in 1958 he opened Giuseppe's Work Bench jewelry shop in the building across from Uzzell's Texaco Station (now the Carmel Valley Garage) in the suite next to Kathy's Little Kitchen, where Carmel Valley Computer & Phone Repair is today. (See photo above).



40 West Carmel Valley Road

Photos courtesy the Recupero Family Archives



Giuseppe Ricupero 1909—1996

Soon afterward, he secured a loan and in 1962 built a new building at 40 West Carmel Valley Road next to today's Chevron - its current tenants are Mercy Vineyard's Tasting Room, and Face Forward Carmel - Skincare and Bridal Styling.

With his gregarious cheerful personality, Mr. Ricupero continued to make friends, and his jewelry business flourished at the new location. His many friends often would visit the jewelry shop to discuss the happenings of the day on their way through the Village. His good friend, Joe Hitchcock, regularly dropped off his mail to him on horseback. A longtime member of the Carmel Valley Kiwanis, Mr. Ricupero served as Treasurer, Secretary, and then its President.

*Note:* the Carmel Valley Historian regularly features "Then & Now" articles to chronicle how Carmel Valley has changed over the years. Change is constant and it is both interesting and nostalgic to look back on how the face our community has changed over time.

## Sally and Betty Remember When...

by Jeff Ohlson



Betty

In keeping with our mission to record the life experiences of longtime residents, an interview with Sally Swanson and Betty Wilson was conducted in 2015. Both ladies enjoyed reminiscing about bygone days.

Before telephone lines were strung east past The Bucket Tavern, families had to improvise to communicate with their neighbors. Betty recalled that her future husband Bob Wilson had to go down to Rosie's Cracker Barrel to call her to make a date. In later years people would sometimes leave a note on their Rancho Chupinos gate for one another.



Sally

Sally recalled the time when the Swanson's ran their own local "Pony Express" before telephone lines came to their Whiffletree Ranch that was located a few miles

east of the Wilson's ranch. Sally's daughter Kris and neighbor Fred Nason Jr. constituted the "Pony Express," and when Sally needed something, such as eggs or sugar from her neighbor Ann Nason, she'd dispatch Kris on her fast horse "Roanie" to fetch it. Fred in turn was sent to fetch something from the Swanson's on the Nason's great roping horse "Old Tom." Their local "Pony Express" was made obsolete by telephone lines just as the real Pony Express was made obsolete by telegraph lines a century earlier. A typical 1950s-1960s rotary telephone is pictured at right.

Early telephone service was set up as party lines where several families would be on the same line with different ring codes, but it was common for party-line neighbors to listen in on each other's conversations. Sally recalled the time when she and her husband Jack were to go to a Carmel Art Association's gallery party in Carmel. Since Sally was already in Carmel, she called Jack to get dressed and somebody would come to get him. Jack said that he couldn't possibly make it, but a neighbor who had been listening to their phone conversation said: "Oh, Jack, I'm going into town and can take you!" Jack, however, was not happy with the neighbor's eavesdropping!



**(Tularcitos, from page 1)** "The school was modern and a place for social gatherings. It had a nice kitchen and while it was a one-room school, it had a library in a small annex and a fireplace in the main room," Ruth noted. According to a 1934 county school inventory, the site had athletic facilities that included "soft baseball, horseshoes, horizontal bars and ladders." The report also noted, "Playground used for community recreation during the year."

In class, the teacher spent much of her time at a large table working with the students from grades one through four. The fifth through eighth graders studied assigned lessons at their desks. The older students were expected to help the younger ones. On days when weather permitted, everyone carried desks outside and had class on the long covered porch. "Incidentally, if there were tarantulas or the occasional rattlesnake on the playground, Dean Wolter was sent to dispatch them all," Ruth wrote.

At noon, some of the students would walk a quarter-

mile down a twisting road to a little store run by K.D. Mathiot, where they could buy candies. "Walking in the road was no problem since there were no cars, or if one did come by during the day, everyone knew who it was," Ruth noted.

By early 1949, with more families moving to Carmel Valley, the little one-room schoolhouse was overcrowded. Following a successful bond drive, funds were available to build a larger school at a new location. In 1953 the third Tularcitos School was inaugurated on Ford Road, where it stands today.

Over time, the modest stucco "second" Tularcitos School underwent several incarnations. Before eventually becoming a private residence, the building was variously a "So Help Me Hannah" poison oak remedy factory, a retreat center for spiritual seekers, and the Sunshine Day Care Center. The little school's main claim to fame, however, occurred during the years 1965-1969, when folk singer Joan Baez conducted her Institute for the Study of Nonviolence on the premises.

## Financial Contributions (May, June, July)

**General Fund:** Carmel River Watershed Conversancy, Donna Dormody, Maryanne Gawain, Thomas Gladney, Holman Ranch Tavern, Hunter Lowder, Jack McKay, Questers Adobe Chapter 375

**30th Anniversary Celebration:** Maxine Callinan, Reggie & Anne Jones, Ellsworth & Trudy Gregory, Jeff and Cherie Ohlson, Sue Pius

**Grants:** Carmel Valley Women's Club Foundation

**In Honor of Sue Pius:** Barbara Babcock

## Donations: Documents, Photos, Artifacts, Library Materials (May, June, July)

**Tom Augustitus:** Robles del Rio Water Co. sign taken down from Meadow in 2008-2009 by T.A. & Jim McCammon, similar sign also posted by Lower Circle Park

**Michael Capetti:** Installation of 5 engraved plates with names & service dates of local firefighters made to C.V. Fire Department Firefighter Plaque

**Tim Condon:** Vintage Mexican/Spanish metate used for grinding corn, etc.

**Christine Factor/TLC Liquidations:** Framed full color 9" x 25" photo: overview of C.V. looking south over airfield

**Cal & Shirley Garner:** Various editions of the Carmel Pine Cone and Carmel Valley Sun

**Desiree Gillingham:** Gas Rationing "Appointment Card" for Mike Rohan's Carmel Valley Texaco "Good Only On Date: June 14th, 1979 - Maximum 20 gallons

**Mark Guthrie:** Photograph: 3 Chinese military aircraft flying in formation. Airplane in foreground is owned by Mark Guthrie, tail end Charlie belongs to Ray O'Neal. These two of the three operated out of Carmel Valley Airfield.

**Julia Harvey:** Packet of original artwork & photos used in the design of the CVHS logo, 1987: 2 polaroid photos and various drawn images including one

"stained with tea", one reduced size, and #1 to #7 design sketches done on animation paper

**Joe Hertlein:** Various volumes of "Adventures in Dining" Magazine, dating from 1997 to 2001

**Gael Himmah:** Digital copies of 2 photos taken at Robles del Rio Lodge pool 7/25/1933: Gael Himmah, his brother Alan and parents & aunt

**Judi Lavelle-King:** Monterey County Report: Carmel Valley Village Development Criteria and book: History of Monterey County 1882

**Del & Myrna Meyer:** Digital copy (downloaded to computer) of Youth Group from C.V. Chapel, 1950

**Jeff & Cherie Ohlson:** Book: "Up & Down California"

**Art & June Taylor:** Los Laureles Lodge dinner menu from Grand Opening, dated September 1st, 1956

**Kim & Christine Williams:** 2 books: "Viejo Monterey - Official Bicentennial Publication"; "Where California Began" and CD: "A Flute Pilgrimage to the California Missions" by Carmel Valley Flautist Joe Ortman

**Lisa Williams via Dave Terdy:** Wooden rustic hewn "Farm Center Store" sign with brass letters

**Yellow Brick Road Benefit Shop:** 2 plates originally used in dining room at The Ridge restaurant at Robles Del Rio Lodge in the 1990's

*THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT*

### Newsletter by Email?

If you would prefer receiving your newsletter via email, please drop us a line at [cvhspresident@gmail.com](mailto:cvhspresident@gmail.com).



#### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

| Individual   | Family |
|--------------|--------|
| \$40         | \$60   |
| \$60         | \$80   |
| \$80         | \$100  |
| \$100        | \$250  |
| \$200        | \$500  |
| Other        | Other  |
| \$20 Student |        |



Choose a membership level. Then clip or photocopy and mail with your check to:  
**CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 PO Box 1612, Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(If different than mailing address) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*(Your information will only be used for CVHS business and news.)*

**Upcoming Events**

**Carmel Valley Historical Society**

WEB | [carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org)  
 EMAIL | [cvhs3@live.com](mailto:cvhs3@live.com)  
 CALL | (831) 659-5715  
 WRITE | PO Box 1612  
 Carmel Valley, CA 93924-1612  
 VISIT | 77 West Carmel Valley Road  
 History Center Hours:  
 Saturdays: 1-4  
 Sundays: 11-2  
 Library: By Appointment

**Board of Directors**

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Kim Williams      | President       |
| Gary Tate         | Vice President  |
| Dave Terdy        | Treasurer       |
| Cherie Ohlson     | Secretary       |
| Maxine Callinan   | Member          |
| Ellsworth Gregory | Member Emeritus |
| Sharon Waller     | Clerk Pro tem   |

Thursday, October 26, 2017  
**Archeology Talk: Gary Breschini**  
 7-8:30 pm at the History Center

Saturday, November 4, 2017  
**Party in the Village! Fundraiser**  
 7-11 pm at Hidden Valley  
 Tickets at [partyinthevillage.org](http://partyinthevillage.org)

Saturday, December 2, 2017  
**CVHS's 2017 Christmas Party**  
 3-6 pm at the History Center

Note: The opening of the geology exhibit, *Carmel Valley Rocks!* originally scheduled for September has been postponed.

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 PERMIT # 10  
 CARMEL VALLEY, CA 93924

*6th Annual*

# PARTY in the VILLAGE!




## A Fundraiser Dinner-Dance & Auction

**Saturday, November 4, 2017**  
**7:00-11:00 (Doors Open at 6:30)**  
**Hidden Valley \* 88 W Carmel Valley Road \* Carmel Valley**

**Info and tickets at [partyinthevillage.org](http://partyinthevillage.org)**

Music by \* *Mike Beck & the Bohemian Saints*  
 Dinner by \* *Jerome's Carmel Valley Market*  
 No-host bar by the \* *Carmel Valley Kiwanis*