

THE CARMEL VALLEY HISTORIAN

CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Carmel Valley's Pioneer José Manuel Boronda

By Elizabeth Barratt, CVHS Historian

In 1839, four years after the sweeping 6,625 acre Los Laureles parcel was granted to José Antonio Romero, it was re-granted, this time to three individuals: José Manuel Boronda, his son Juan de Mata Boronda, and Vicente Blas Martinez. The following year, the Borondas settled on the rancho. The family, which eventually numbered 15 children, became the Valley's first permanent European settlers.

Life must have been crowded at the Boronda adobe, a sparse three-rooms with packed dirt floors and a thatched roof tied on with rawhide strips. The adobe may have been enlarged from a smaller dwelling used by an Indian family that once oversaw Mission cattle.

José Manuel Boronda (1803-1878) was the son of Manuel Boronda (1750-1826) who had accompanied Padre Junipero Serra's second California expedition. José Manuel's birth locale is unclear since records indicate he was born either at Santa Clara or Santa Barbara. He married Juana Cota (1805-1894) on May 2, 1821 at San Carlos Cathedral in Monterey.

The Rancho los Laureles grant was said to have been named for a large bay laurel that grew near Carmel Valley Road close to the present Los



Photo of José Manuel Boronda courtesy Monterey County Historical Society. Photo of Juana Cota Boronda courtesy Monterey Public Library California Archives Room

Laureles Lodge. In today's terms, the rancho's vast north-south boundaries stretched from the top of Laureles Grade, spreading across the valley floor to the top of Sniveley's Ridge. To the east it was bounded by the Los Tularcitos Rancho, just past the present Carmel Valley Village, with the western side ending at the James Meadows Tract, near today's Garland Ranch Park.

Besides farming at their ranch, the Borondas raised cattle and horses. José Manuel was also recognized as an expert horseman, although on one colt-breaking occasion his skills were overwhelmed. The horse bolted, darting through a tight space between two forked trees, nearly snapping off one of his legs. With no doctor and only home remedies for a cure, a

neighbor was called in to saw off his leg. Herbs and poultices stanchd the bloody stump. For the rest of his life he limped around on a homemade wooden leg.

During the early years, the Boronda's only neighbors were Juan Onesimo, his daughter Loretta and her husband, Domingo Peralta who lived to the west. Following Domingo's death, Loretta married James Meadows and the property became known as the Meadows Tract.

In 1851, the Borondas bought out the ranch co-owners, Vicente Blas Martinez and his wife, Maria Josefa Mesquita. The selling price was "for and in consideration of eight horses, one mare, four tame milch cows, and two tame milch cows with calves."
(See Boronda, page 6)

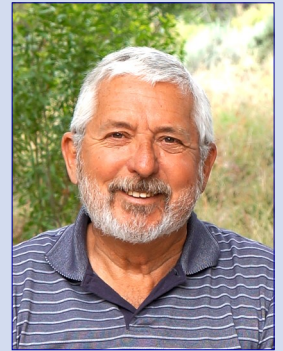
A Message from the President, Kim Williams

Please join us on Saturday, September 22 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm for the unveiling of our exhibit on the geology of Carmel Valley. Seth Williams (yes, my son) has presented a very complex subject in an interesting and understandable way. Seth is a graduate of Carmel High and the University of California at Santa Cruz. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in geomorphology at the University of Washington in Seattle.

As always, plan to enjoy light bites & a beverage as we walk through yet another slice of Valley history!

And while you are checking your calendar, make a note for our annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 1.

As we gear up for the fall season we have one pressing need. That is for a few more volunteers to act as welcoming hosts when the History Center Museum is open. Being a host involves a 3-hour shift on a Saturday from 1-4, or on a Sunday from 11-2. Most of our volunteers serve just once a month. Give our volunteer coordinator, Maxine Callinan, a call (659.4925) or drop her an email at manddcallinan@comcast.net to help out.



Kim Williams

Volunteers in Action

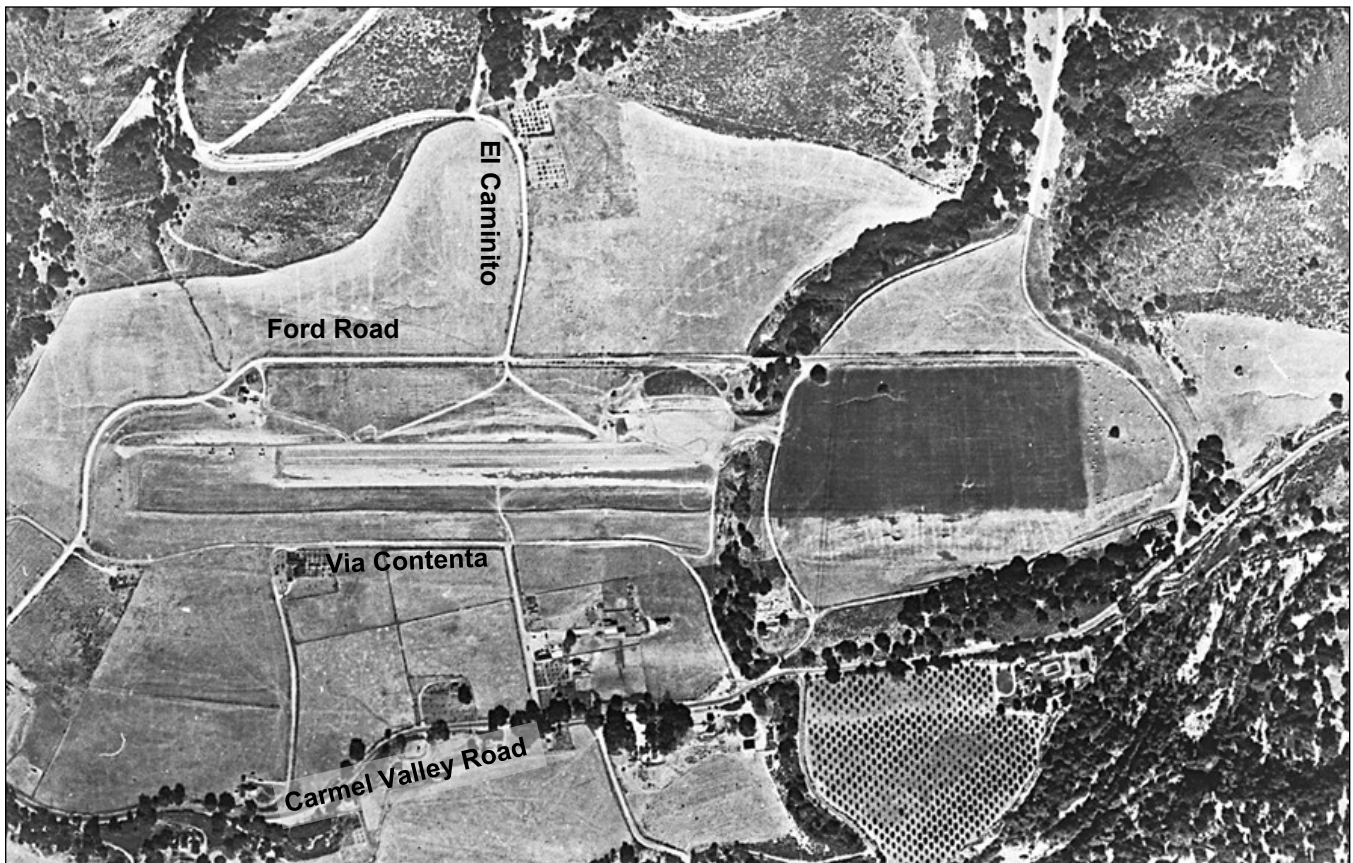


Dick and Elizabeth Barratt have been working quietly behind the scenes each week, plowing through years of collected newspapers and clippings. Dick has been inventorying and filing newspapers (Carmel Valley News, Carmel Valley Outlook, and Carmel Valley Sun) and Elizabeth is organizing and updating our vertical files, which contain all our historical documents. Thanks to both for their ongoing commitment in preserving Carmel Valley history!

A big THANK YOU to all of the Volunteers who worked the Carmel Valley Fiesta booth: Patty Armstrong, Reggie Jones, Krissy Huston, Brenda Mellinger, Cherie & Jeff Ohlson, Gary Tate, Kim Williams, and Diane Woods. And especially to Maxine Callinan who single-handedly greeted and answered the questions from over 100 visitors to the History Center Museum that weekend!

Carmel Valley's Airfield in the News

By Jeff Ohlson



The Carmel Valley Vintage Airfield and the community that surrounds it have coexisted since the 1940s. Originally developed by Byington Ford and his brother Tirey in 1941, the airfield was purchased by Peter Delfino in 1952.

After six decades of public-use flying, its operating certificate was surrendered in 2002. The 30-acre property has been for sale by the Delfino Family Trust for several years.

In June a group of concerned residents came together to save the airfield property from development. Their stated mission is to purchase it to guarantee its future use as open space and for emergency uses such as Cal Fire's wildfire fighting operations.

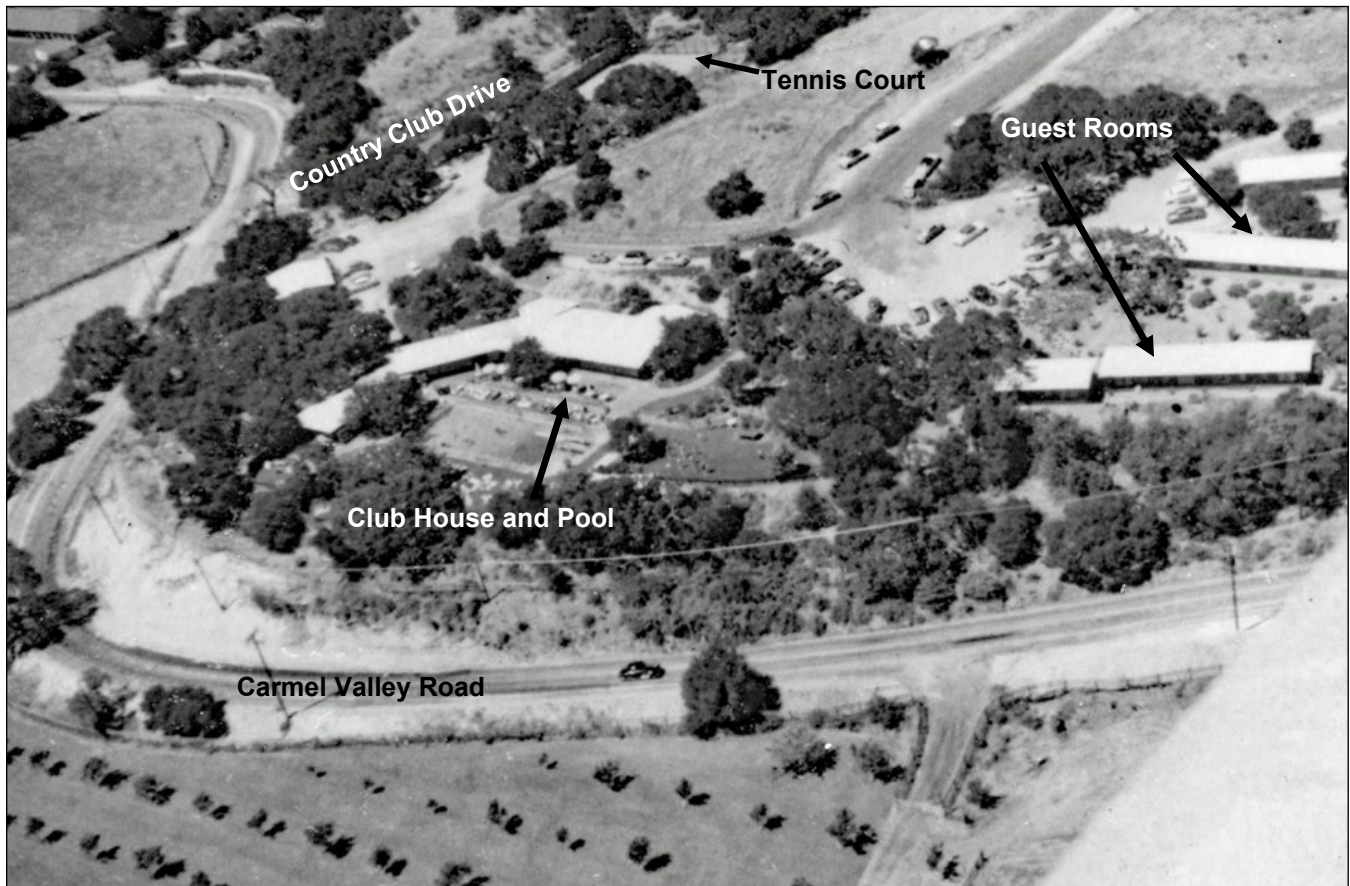
This community effort is in the process of becoming a non-profit organization called *Carmel Valley Save Open Space* (www.CVSOS.org) and is actively soliciting members, donations, and suggested community uses.

A complete history of the airfield is available at the History Center.



Remembering Carmel Valley's Rancho Del Monte Country Club

By Jeff Ohlson

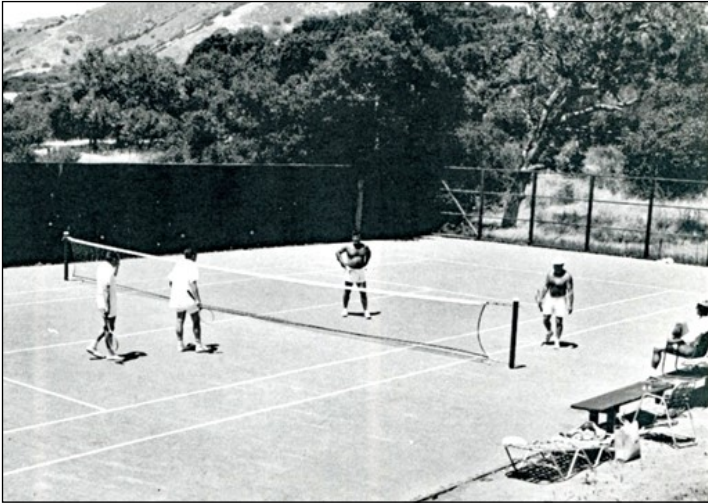


The Rancho Del Monte Country Club and Hotel (most recently called the Portofino Inn) comprised a portion of the Rancho Del Monte Subdivision that in turn was part of the Rancho Los Laureles Land Grant. It was located one mile west of Carmel Valley Village just off Country Club Drive. Similar in concept to the Robles del Rio Lodge, developers Peggy Porter-Marquard and Paul Porter with contractor Ed Mayfield began its construction in 1949, completing it in 1951

The Club, shown in the mid-1950s aerial photo above, became the “hottest social spot around” frequented by visitors from Salinas, Carmel-by-the-Sea, and Carmel Valley who came to socialize and enjoy the sunshine. The Club had guest rooms separated from the club building, employee accommodations, kitchen, bar & lounge, and a lunch/dinner restaurant with a take-out lunch bar if guests preferred to dine at the poolside umbrella tables. There was a children’s pool and a large 33 by 75 foot heated main pool with 1- and 3-meter diving boards. Changing rooms were available and a poolside snack bar offered sodas and candy. Shuffleboard, tennis, horse-shoes, movies, and ping pong also beckoned the guests.

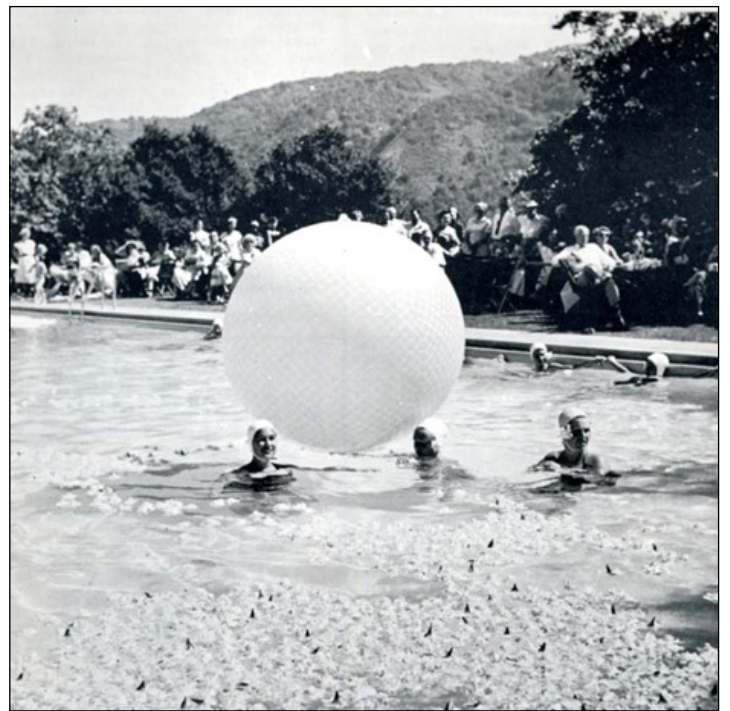


Activities revolved around the pool with many special events, such as “Gardenia Days” when the pool was filled with the fragrant flowers. It was also a popular meeting place for community events such as the annual Fireman’s Benefit Ball hosted by the firemen of The Valley Volunteers. Resort guests had full membership privileges. Non-members or non-registered guests could use the facilities for a modest fee.



The tennis court is shown at left and the pool (below) is shown filled with thousands of gardenias during one of the “Gardenia Days” events.

Guests were also treated to fashion shows and synchronized swimming demonstrations.



Arnold Bradley purchased the Club from Paul Porter in 1953 and operated it until the late 1960s. He continued the tradition of filling the pool with thousands of gardenias, a fragrance that was said to engulf the entire area surrounding the Club.

Interestingly, in the mid-1950s the Club was leased by “Major” Jack Cowan’s Carmel Valley Country Day School during the winter months before his school was relocated to the Rippling River Ranch site just east of Carmel Valley Village. The children were housed and classes were held in the Club’s guest rooms. Harry Gillette was the next owner of the Club which has had several owners since then, including Dolores Williams and Win Deadrich two enterprising women, who owned it in the mid-1960s. The property has most recently been known as the Carmel Country Spa and The Portofino Inn. Its current group of owner-partners are said to be considering a revitalization of the now deteriorated property.

The Historical Society thanks the Porter-Marquard family, Bill Bradley, and Robb Talbott for their assistance with this article.

Tours of San Clemente Dam Site Start at the History Center

Each summer the Historical Society partners with the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy and Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District in hosting tours of the site of the former San Clemente Dam. The “Tour That Dam Site” tours are one of the popular activities of the MPRPD’s “Let’s Go Outdoors” program.

The History Center serves as the rendezvous point for the tour before the group heads out to the former dam site. Watershed Conservancy or MPRPD docents give a brief overview of the Valley’s geology and watershed, using the History Center’s 3-D topographic map. Participants also have an opportunity to peruse the History Center.

Carmel River Watershed Conservancy’s docent Kit Armstrong briefing a June tour group.



(Boronda, from page 1)

With the Boronda’s home located so far from Monterey transportation was tedious, and visitors often stayed for weeks. Hospitable family meals consisted of tortillas, soups and many kinds of stews made from meat slaughtered and cured on the premises. The family kept a small dairy, providing butter, eggs and milk, and chickens were plentiful. Homegrown vegetables for the rich stews included tomatoes, chiles and various types of squash. Dishes were flavored with herbs such as cilantro, oregano, thyme and parsley. For fun, guests and family members entertained themselves by singing and playing games, with all generations joining in the fun.

Illnesses were treated with herbs and barks, using healing lore learned from the Carmel Valley natives. The compounds were used for pain, snakebite, stomachache, coughs, colds, fever and wounds. Some remedies were made from chamomile, manzanilla, sassafras, horehound, bearberry and yerba buena.

Mrs. Juana Boronda was known for producing a local cheese, called *queso casera*, better known today as Monterey Jack Cheese. The pale semisoft cheese was said to be pressed with a common house jack, thus the name “jack.” She

reputedly sold her cheese to local natives and to the Carmel Mission padres.

After California became a state in 1850, many Mexican land grant holders were forced to either prove their claims, or lose their property. In 1853 José Manuel and Juan de Mata Boronda applied for a United States patent on the rancho. During the lengthy process to prove their claim, several well-known Monterey personalities testified on their behalf. Both David Spence and Walter Colton acknowledged receipt of the claim documents, with William Hartnell swearing that he knew the rancho and the Boronda family. It took until 1866, following much bureaucratic red tape, before ownership was finally granted to the Borondas. President Andrew Johnson signed the legal papers.

In 1868, only two years after the claim was patented, the Borondas sold the Rancho los Laureles for \$12,000 and moved to the new community of Castroville.

José Manuel Boronda died of a heart attack in Castroville, at age 77, on July 24, 1878. He was survived by 12 children at the time of his death. His widow, Juana Cota, outlived him and died in Castroville on May 22, 1894.

Financial Contributions (May, June, July)

General Fund: Carmel Magazine, Maxine Callinan, Roger & Nancy Cannon, Carmel River Watershed Conservancy, Ruth Prior Hardisty, Paul Lanman, Michael Miller, Sally Swanson

Grants: Carmel Valley Women's Club Foundation

In Memory of Betty Wilson: Marc Bordonaro, Andree Forzani, David & Susan Gill, Nicole Nedeff, Joanne Nissen, John N. Nunes, Mike & Mary Orradre, Joyce Violini-Secundo, Eileen Whisler, John Williams

Thank you all for your generous support!

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

Anonymous Donor: Copy of CV Country Day School "Cowan School" informational booklet from 1960

Tom Augustitus: Men's T-Shirt made for CV Firefighters' 1983-'84 "Run in the Sun" event

Dave & Gale Barish: 2 Relief maps: California and Monterey County

Elizabeth Barratt: 5 books, including *Monterey's Motherlode*, various vintage California text/music books and vintage copy of *Pepito at Capistrano*

Carmel Valley Trail & Saddle Club: Poster: 1st Year of CV Rodeo, past copies of "CV Historian" and multi-purpose easel

Frank Keith: 4 books pertaining to Robert Louis Stevenson: *Dead Man's Chest - Travels After Robert Louis Stevenson*, *The Mind of Robert Louis Stevenson - Selected Essays, Letters and Prayers*, *Myself and the Other Fellow - A Life of Robert Louis Stevenson*, *An Apology for Idlers*

Kevin Kreyenhagen: Preserved deer hide from deer shot in upper Carmel Valley, along with a written detail of the preservation process used (on loan)

Cheryl Urquidez: Wooden Mallet (pictured in "History of the Bucket") which originally belonged to Cookie Meadows, the aunt of donor Cheryl Urquidez; Various items pertaining to "The Bucket": paper currency which hung from the ceiling, unsigned painting of John Barch, Alcohol and Health Department permits, matchbook, napkins and rifle bag that belonged to Cookie Meadows

Martin R. McAulay: 2 vintage wicker baskets: picnic and laundry style, Acquired by donor (who is the great-grandson of William Hatton) from his father, Howard Martin McAulay. Their family were the last of the Hatton's to live at the Hatton Ranch, from 1954 to 1960 and the basket was part of the home's furnishings and had belonged to their ancestors.

Monterey History & Art Association c/o Tim Thomas: Sketch book with hand-painted watercolor renditions *California Wildflowers* by Florence Porter, 1883 (on loan)

Cherie Ohlson: Paper menus and business cards: Athena Café, Lokal and dessert/beverages for Will's Fargo

Jeff Ohlson: Book: *Frances Simes Hastings Natural History Reservation - The History of a Biological Field Station in Carmel Valley*

Nancy & Patricia Porter: Large box of family archives, articles, documents and memorabilia

Robert Talbott: Wooden wagon wheel brake, found at Diamond "T" Ranch in Carmel Valley

Kim & Christine Williams: Vintage Smith Corona Sterling typewriter with case; Book: *River in Ruin - The Story of the Carmel River*

Kevin & Mary Wilson: Handmade cowhide vest with fringe and rolled leather toggle buttons

TAX FREE GIVING TO THE CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Did you know that people older than 70½ can transfer up to \$100,000 per year from their traditional IRAs to charity, which can count as their required minimum distribution (RMD) but is not taxable if they follow the rules for a qualified charitable distribution (QCD)? (This doesn't apply to a Roth IRA, which has tax-free withdrawals and no required distributions.) The gift stays out of your adjusted gross income only if you make a direct transfer from your IRA to the charity. It doesn't count as a tax-free transfer if you withdraw the money first and then make a donation to the charity. Ask your IRA administrator what steps you need to take, because the procedures can vary from firm to firm. (Source: kiplinger.com)

Carmel Valley Historical Society

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Sundays: 11-2
 Library: By Appointment

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Newsletter Production: Kim Williams

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 22, 2018
**Geology of Carmel Valley
 Grand Opening**
 4-6 pm at the History Center

Saturday, December 1, 2018
CVHS's 2018 Christmas Party
 3-5 pm at the History Center

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**Remembering
 Herbert Stewart Clough**

June 3, 1938 — May 24, 2018

"Stew" and his wife Sandy were founders and strong supporters of CVHS in the early years. Stew served several years as president, and together they hosted numerous events at the old Cracker Barrel. They moved to Redding in their later years.



Stew Clough at his wildlife display in 1992, CVHS File Photo

Carmel Valley Geology Comes Alive on September 22!

Have you ever thought about how and when Carmel Valley was formed? What comprises the hillsides you see every day when you drive Carmel Valley Road? What part does our beautiful river play in all of this? Did you know that the geological forces that led to the formation of the Carmel Valley are still active today? Get the answers from our newest exhibit that will debut on Saturday, September 22 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

As always, enjoy light bites & a beverage as you walk through yet another slice of Valley history!

