

# THE CARMEL VALLEY HISTORIAN

CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## The Robert Schwarz Memorial Minipark

By Elizabeth Barratt, CVHS Historian

Many pass by the group of benches at the foot of the Bernardus building, but few may know who this petite spot was named for, or why it was placed in the heart of Carmel Valley Village. Intended as a restful minipark, the Robert Schwarz Memorial was first dedicated in 1963.

Originally from New York, Robert and Sylvia Weingart Schwarz moved to Carmel Valley in 1949 and spent the next fourteen years in their lovely home at 70 Ranch Road. Robert Schwarz, born in Brooklyn on April 7, 1888, was descended from several generations of European brewers. His grandfather, Anton Schwarz (1839-

1895), was born in the Czech Republic and studied chemistry and brewing science at the Polytechnic Institute of Prague. In 1861 Anton moved to Hungary and became manager of several Budapest breweries. He immigrated to the United States in 1868 and settled in New York, where he became one of the founders of modern brewing science in America. He helped introduce standardization, pasteurization, refrigeration and other scientific innovations to market brewing. Anton owned and edited a magazine, "The Modern Brewer," and in 1882 founded the United States Brewer's Academy in New York City. His son Max Schwarz (1863-1901) followed in his father's footsteps, assuming control of both the magazine

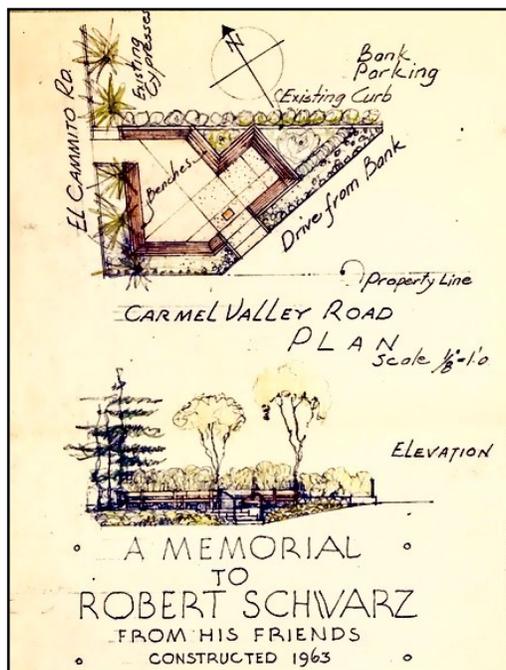
and the academy.

Robert Schwarz (1888-1963) like his father Max, and his grandfather Anton, also studied brewing science. He was a Chemical Engineer, the head of Schwarz Laboratories in New York City and worked as a brewing consultant and manufacturing chemist. He was age 61 when he and Sylvia moved to Carmel Valley.

In 1963, when Robert died unexpectedly, his friends decided to establish a memorial to him. The Schwarz family established a foundation to pay for a small minipark in the heart of the Village. A small triangular area in front of the Bank of America building was sought and approved. Tom Hefling, manager of the Bank of America (now the Bernardus building) gave permission for the park site and was at first appointed to serve as the memorial's trustee.

Local artist-architect Doyt Early was hired to

design the memorial. A plaque to be placed at the spot was created by the A.J. Bayer Company of Los Angeles, simply stating, "A Memorial to Robert Schwarz from his friends, 1963." Once the park was completed, the Kiwanis



The Schwarz Memorial Minipark is located at the corner of El Caminito and Carmel Valley Road, in front of the Bernardus wine-tasting building.

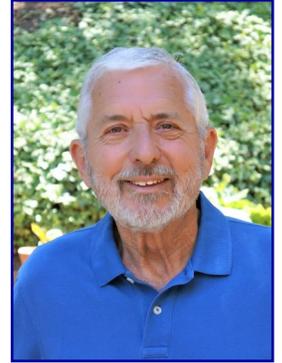
Club and the Carmel Valley Garden Club agreed to sponsor maintenance, keeping it tidy and overseeing the plantings. (See Schwarz, page 7)

## A Message from CVHS President Kim Williams

As this edition goes to press, I'd hoped to write that the History Center Museum was again open but, unfortunately, the county is still not allowing indoor museums to resume operation.

Until we are able to welcome visitors again, we hope you will take the time to enjoy the new **Virtual Tour** of the inside exhibits & our **Signs of Times Past Exhibit** on the outside of the building. Remember, too, that the selection of **books** about Carmel Valley history make great reading-and great gifts, as does a (memorial?) tile. Visit [www.carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org) for details about the Virtual Tour and ordering books.

Even though the History Center Museum remains closed, there are recurring expenses, and we hope you will think of the Historical Society in making a year-end donation. Please see the back page for information about the "Carmel Valley Historical Society's Christmas Non-Party & Fundraiser." It's our twist in accommodating this year's challenging times. Thanks for all your support.



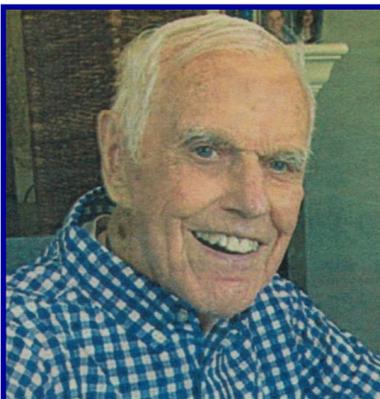
*Kim Williams*

## Volunteers in Action



Left: the Exhibit Committee is always looking for ways to upgrade exhibits for our visitors. Volunteer Jane Chaney (left) offered to "skirt" our exhibit tables and tailored coverings for 6 of them. She is shown here with volunteer Cherie Ohlson as they began work on the tule boat table. Right: Cherie Ohlson changes the bulletin board to reflect the change in seasons. We can hardly wait until we can have a grand re-opening once the Covid restrictions are lifted. Stay tuned for updates!

## In Memoriam: Roy Kaminske April 16, 1923—October 22, 2020



With the passing of Roy Kaminske the Carmel Valley Historical Society has lost a great friend and benefactor. Roy made major contributions to the building of the History Center and the establishment of the museum. He is survived by his two daughters and a son. Visit [www.thepaulmortuary.com](http://www.thepaulmortuary.com) to sign Roy's guest book and leave messages for his family.

## The Cartooned Walls of Rosie's Cracker Barrel

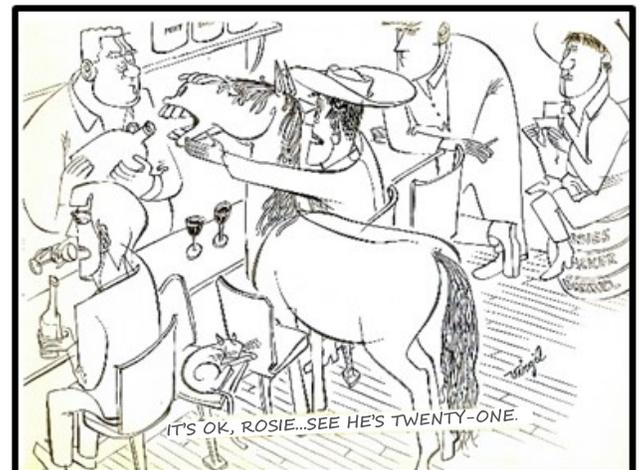
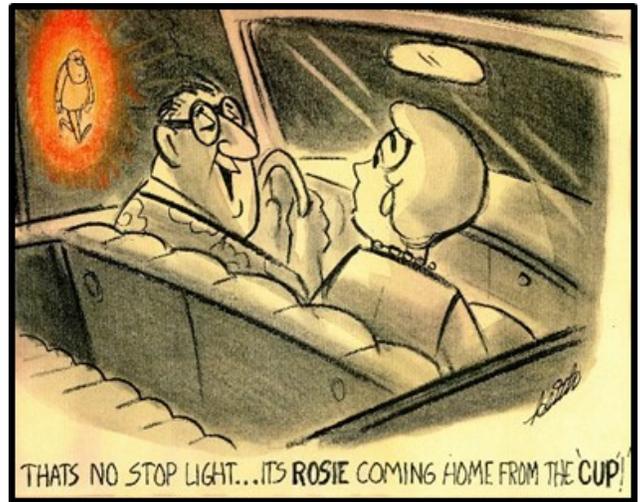
By Cherie Ohlson

There is a long history of talented artists who have called Carmel Valley home or who came to simply enjoy the laid-back atmosphere of the area.

Among those in the 1950s-70s were cartoonists Lee Holley (Ponytail), Hank Ketcham (Dennis the Menace), Frank O'Neal (Short Ribs), and Virgil Partch (VIP) who presented Rosie with their cartoons.

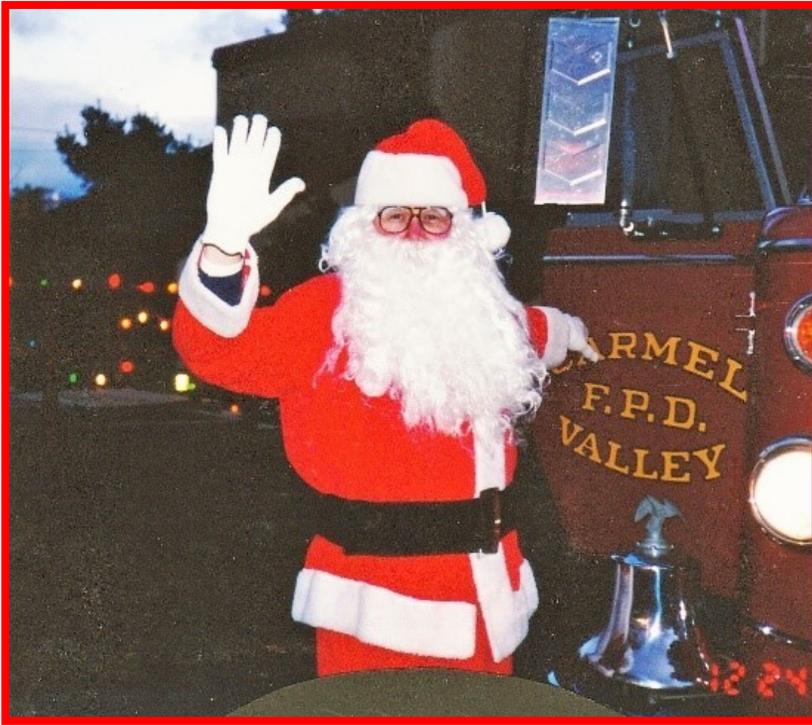
Another cartoonist was local resident Jack Keith (contributor to Rogue Magazine, a competitor of Playboy), but little is known about him.

Whether famous or lesser known, these sketches were proudly displayed on the walls of Rosie's Cracker Barrel. They humorously captured goings-on during that time from the eyes of these very creative artists and were enjoyed for decades by those who frequented Rosie's bar, then known as "The Robles del Rio Country Club."



Note: These cartoons and others can be seen in the historical writings: [A History of Carmel Valley's Robles Del Rio Subdivision](#) by historian Jeff Ohlson, and in [Rosie and His Cracker Barrel](#) by local resident Marilyn Sanders.

# Santa is on the Way! Courtesy



Many Valleyites fondly recall when Santa delivered gifts to Carmel Valley children by fire engines with flashing lights and blaring sirens. Initiated by the Carmel Valley Fire Department around 1970, its volunteer firefighters provided their Christmas Eve Santa gift delivery service until 2012. Two other participating fire companies were the Cachagua and Mid Carmel Valley Fire Departments. The combined areas of all three districts covered the Valley from San Carlos Road west of Mid Valley to Tassajara Road east of Cachagua. Cachagua Fire still continues this Valley tradition.

Children highly anticipated this Christmas Eve tradition and it made for fond lifelong memories. Now parents themselves, they likely tell their children about it at Christmastime. The gift delivering process also made wonderful memories for the volunteer firefighters and their helpers.

The Santas in the photos above and at right are delivering gifts while

addressing the children by name. Two of Santa's elves are looking on at right.

Gift deliveries were of course the main event, but the story behind the scenes of how the volunteers assured its success is even more impressive. These events took a lot of coordination and organization by the fire departments as well as the communities involved.



## of Carmel Valley's Fire Departments

By Jeff Ohlson,  
CVHS Historian

The parents in each of the fire districts were asked to drop their gift packages at the fire station with the child's name, address and phone # on the package. The fire station volunteers then arranged and divided the gifts into delivery zones, assigning one or more fire engines with escorts to each zone. The gifts were arranged and loaded in reverse order so that the gift was delivered along each route at correct home address. The delivery process would start around 5:00 pm and finish before midnight.

In Carmel Valley Fire Department's case, up to five fire engines had a driver, a Santa, and Elves who had a master list of names and addresses along with maps of the fire district with all residents listed. They delivered up to 500 gifts throughout the Carmel Valley Village area and to Sleepy Hollow east of the Village. This process was also a good drill for volunteer firefighters to see firsthand how accessible the roads were and how their maps corresponded with the home addresses.

One year the Post Office provided the fire department with letters written by children and addressed to Santa that were then matched to the gift delivery addresses. Knowing what that child had written, Santa would acknowledge it when delivering the gift – causing many children as well as their parents to be greatly surprised!

Today, the Cachagua Fire Department still honors this unique Valley tradition for the Cachagua community and surrounding area. While the small community of Cachagua has fewer gifts to deliver, the enthusiasm, process, and logistics of the volunteers are the same. Planning starts about a month prior to Christmas Eve by putting up flyers and posts on Facebook to let people know about the event.

Planning starts about a month prior to Christmas Eve by putting up flyers and posts on Facebook to let people know about the event. Parents are told to drop gifts off at the Cachagua

firehouse on Nason Road or other gift drop locations with proper identification on the packages. There are generally around ten volunteers who organize about 100 gifts from the parents. Extra gifts are always available in the event that unexpected children are encountered.

Deliveries are made with two Santas and fire engines – emergency lights and horns and sirens blaring – one to the Prince's Camp area and one to the outlying areas. Santas are pictured in the photos below with Cachagua fire vehicles in the background.



The author thanks the following people for helping with this story: Janice Caoili, Dave and Jane Chaney, Bruce and Stacie Crane, Heather Curry, Pat and Trudy Dowd, Felicia Fisher, and Roger Gardner.

## The Bucket

By Ken Downs,  
Long-ago Resident

In the early 1950s, when I was about 12 years old, my mother and I had a cabin in Camp Steffani. It was down the hill directly behind The Bucket. My friends and I used to visit The Bucket for soft drinks and to play games. In 1995, I submitted a prose poem called "The Bucket" and was awarded First Prize by the Wyoming Poetry Society. It was posted at the Stirrup Cup for a while but is no longer there. My wife and I now live in Wickenburg, AZ, and have fond memories of growing up in Pacific Grove. The Robert H. Down elementary school is named in honor of my grandfather.

The Bucket was a saloon which is long gone. The swimming hole in the Carmel River below is still known as The Bucket.

### The Bucket

An old saloon called "The Bucket" on Carmel Valley Road boards and battens Painted tan with an old squeaky screened door full of holes that let flies in and Kept them there to give the owner who tended bar something to worry about on Slow summer days when often his only customers were kids too young to drink Booze but old enough to want to drop nickels in the antique hand-cranked Movies that let them see ladies take their clothes off as hundreds of Progressively revealing paper cards flipped past creating a sense of moving

### Pictures

Empty long-necked beer bottles and mostly green wine bottles lined the exposed Two-by-four stud walls and on a hot day the smell of stale beer and sour wine Permeated stagnant air in contrast to the outdoor redolence of sweet gigantic

### Sycamores

Every summer there seemed to be a new owner behind the bar who wondered About those kids who on hot afternoons came in there with wet bathing suits And muddy feet always wanting quarters changed into nickels with an Occasional Coke purchased and shared among a few

### Friends

Once in a while a dusty-hatted cowboy would be sitting at the bar drinking Straight whiskey with a water chaser and smoking Lucky Strikes lit with Wooden matches he struck on the thigh of his dirty Levis which were held up by a Rose-stamped leather belt the buckle made of silver with a gold buckin' horse in The center won the past summer at the Salinas Rodeo and which the cowboy was Proud to have admired by dolled-up ladies who once stopped by the bar to call The AAA to come change a flat on the pickup their uncle up the road had loaned Them to drive to fisherman's wharf in Monterey to pick up some fresh

### Fish

It was always dark and smoky in the bar and when the kids came out through The squeaky screen door they would have to squint their eyes until they could Make it to the shade of the old oak trees that lined the narrow winding road Along with poison oak which in the summer had red oily leaves that infected Almost everyone who touched it though some bragged about being immune to the Oil that produced watery and itchy welts on arms and legs and caused endless Scratching and sessions with chalky pink calamine lotion being applied Most often by an understanding mom who herself had suffered in past

### Summers

Now "The Bucket" has been replaced by a manicured vineyard a step back from The place where the wine used to be drunk after being harvested and crushed And fermented and bottled and

### Aged



## Financial Contributions (Aug, Sept, Oct)

**General Fund:** Christian Darken, Scot and Donna Leisy, Ellen McGrath, J.J. Murphy, Tom Oliver, Jimmy Panetta, Sue Pius, Nancy Pryer, Fred & Cynthia Riede, Suzanne Taunt, Reid & Karen Woodward

## Thank you all for your generous support!

### Donations: Documents, Photos, Artifacts, Library Materials (Aug, Sept, Oct)

**Anonymous:** Vintage postcard from Robles del Rio Lodge

**Elizabeth Barratt:** 4 books: "The Prairie Traveler", "The Emigrant's Guide to Oregon & California", "The California Trail" and "What I Saw in California"

**Nancy Burnett:** Approx. 500 old slides from 1970's featuring CV: river & flooding, CV Ranch Construction, etc.

**Ken Downs:** Prose poem of "The Bucket" with note from the author, Ken Downs

**Marj Ingram:** Various items from family archives: Photos, postcards, copies of CV Sun & CV News, 20"x22" B&W aerial photo of CV Airfield and surrounding areas, copy of 1976 Cachagua Master Plan

**Sidney Slade:** Wooden carved & painted sign: T. Frank Quilty, CPA

**(Schwarz, from page 1)** The minipark was meant to be of benefit to the public, a spot for people to stop and rest while comfortably seated on artfully designed wooden benches surrounded by attractive landscaping. According to Doyt Early's notes, Charles Strathmeyer was hired to build the memorial. When completed, it was dedicated on September 15, 1963.

Over time maintenance of the park was taken over by the Chamber of Commerce and then oversight eventually passed to its designer, Doyt Early. Doyt was a friend of the Schwarz family and always took a special interest in the small park, caring for the landscaping and keeping the area clean. He kept in regular contact with Robert's son David Schwarz, who lived in New York.

Robert's widow Sylvia (1891-1982) remained at the couple's Rancho Road home for several years following his death before moving to Del Mesa. She eventually returned to New York to be close to her family. She and Robert are both buried at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Hawthorne, Westchester County, New York.

By the 1970s the park was becoming neglected. Vandals chipped away at the wood benches and destroyed parts of the landscaping. Some benches

were torn out and disappeared. The park fell into disuse.

In January 1980 a renewal effort began when Doyt Early met with Schwarz family members and Bank of America manager, Jo Lomanto, to begin the planning process for a scaled-down park. Doyt was again hired to redesign a more permanent, damage-proof memorial, this time with concrete benches and enhanced with easy to maintain landscaping. He was also retained by the Schwarz Foundation to keep an eye on the park and report regularly to the Schwarz family in New York state. The Carmel Valley Village Improvement Committee (CVVIC) agreed to maintain the park in safe and sanitary condition. The renewed Robert Schwarz Memorial dedication ceremony was held October 14, 1983.



Today, thirty-seven years later, the park's left handrail is missing and a corner of the concrete bottom step holding the rail is broken off. Once more in need of some TLC, the tiny space might be a good project for a local organization to adopt, help repair and maintain. Doing so would ensure the mini-park remains true to its original intention, a pleasant place to stop and relax in the heart of the Village.

**Carmel Valley Historical Society**

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**History Center Museum :**  
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**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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**Upcoming Events**

**December:** Christmas Non-Party and Fundraiser. See the invitation below.

Virtual Tour of the History Center Museum at [carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org)



Like us (❤️ us) on our Facebook page:  
 Carmel Valley History Center

You are cordially invited to the

***Carmel Valley Historical Society's  
 Christmas Non-Party  
 And Fundraiser***



Any day in December is fine.

Stay at home and enjoy a finger-food hors d'oeuvre or dessert,  
 or a glass of cider or wine provided by yourself.

And, go to our website (or write a check)  
 and make a donation to the Society.

[carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org)