

THE CARMEL VALLEY HISTORIAN

CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 34, ISSUE 3 * SEPTEMBER 2020

Carmel Valley's Natural Amphitheater

By Jeff Ohlson, CVHS Historian



Most Valleyites unknowingly drive by this old amphitheater every day while traversing the Farm Center Hill on Carmel Valley Road just east of the Mid Valley Shopping Center and up the road from the old Farm Center. The amphitheater was located on the Holt Ranch where Edison Holt and his wife Beatrice sponsored many concerts and thousands attended each concert. The amphitheater was relatively short-lived, lasting just a few years in the 1950s.

The old amphitheater's location was on what is now the Carmel Valley Ranch Golf Course's 11th fairway. Its location was chosen because the slope of the topography featured a natural acoustic amphitheater well suited for musical performances. In the early 1950s Edison Holt built a large stage surrounded by a "U-shaped" rockery that enhanced the projection of sound from the stage (see photo). Interestingly, Edison Holt had also proposed developing the ranch property into an automobile race course.

Holt brought in contemporary musical entertainment such as the 37-piece Carmen Dragon Orchestra and Chorus, San Francisco Ballet, Hollywood Bowl (See Holt, page 6)

EDISON HOLT
Presents IN PERSON
Dorothy Warenskjold and Robert Weede
in
"HITS FROM THE AMERICAN STAGE"
with
Carmen Dragon Orchestra and Chorus
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th
8:30 P. M.
HOLT VALLEY RANCH BOWL
CARMEL VALLEY
Proceeds to Monterey Peninsula Catholic Youth Activity
Reserved Seats: \$3.60
General Admission: \$1.50
Children under 12: 50c
Tickets available at Abinante's, Monterey; Browse-Around,
Carmel; members of the Junipero Serra Men's Club
or at the Bowl.

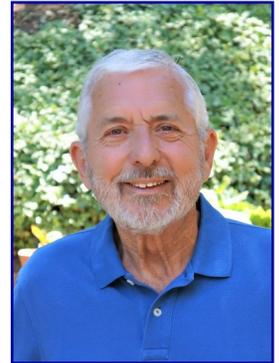
A Message from CVHS President Kim Williams

As this edition of the Carmel Valley Historian goes to press, we still do not have a date-certain for the reopening of the History Center Museum.

Frustrating! Meanwhile much has been happening: members are renewing and new people are joining the Society; financial donations are trickling in; books are being purchased on our website; exhibits are being refreshed; bills are being paid; documents, photos and artifacts are being donated and processed for the archives. In other words, everything about the Historical Society is continuing as usual, except we are unable to welcome visitors to the Museum.

All this means that our expenses have continued at their historic level, while our income has dropped considerably. January through July our expenses totaled \$14,174.75, while income dropped to \$10,845.19. That income figure was bolstered by a \$5,000 donation from a faithful CVHS family. [Thank you so much! We really appreciate your extra generous support.] See the financial reports below, and consider sending in a generous donation. In 2019 we ended in the black!

While you are sheltering at home and perhaps using the time to clean out attics, garages, and storage spaces, **please save photos, documents and other artifacts pertaining to Carmel Valley for the Society.** Email or call me to arrange a time to deliver the items to the History Center or to have them picked up. [cvhspresident@gmail.com, or 831.659.1307]



Kim Williams

Carmel Valley Historical Society Financial Reports

	<u>Jan - Jul 2020</u>
Income	
Donations	5,466.26
Dues	4,710.00
Fundraising Income	668.93
Grants	0.00
Interest Income	0.00
Total Income	<u>10,845.19</u>
Expense	
Events	0.00
Facilities	4,041.66
Fundraising Expenses	506.93
Marketing	250.00
Museum Collection	866.79
Newsletter (Historian)	1,862.68
Operations	4,423.98
Payroll Expenses	2,222.71
Total Expense	<u>14,174.75</u>
Net Income	<u>-3,329.56</u>

	<u>Jan - Dec 2019</u>
Income	
Donations	9,878.08
Dues	7,835.00
Fundraising Income	8,849.88
Grants	3,250.00
Interest Income	0.27
Total Income	<u>29,813.23</u>
Expenses	
Events	164.68
Facilities	8,192.67
Fundraising Expenses	2,408.37
Marketing	840.56
Museum Collection	2,031.92
Newsletter (Historian)	4,005.23
Operations	6,258.73
Payroll Expenses	4,185.63
Total Expenses	<u>28,087.79</u>
Net Income	<u>1,725.44</u>

News Around The Barn—Reflecting Back 2019 Accomplishments and State of the Society

By Cherie Ohlson

With the COVID-19 virus forcing closure of the History Center Museum, we were unable to hold the annual meeting in April. And, since it is uncertain as to when reopening might be possible, we decided to take the opportunity in this issue to talk about 2019 accomplishments and the State of the Society that would have been presented had the annual meeting taken place.

2019 WAS A REALLY GOOD YEAR!

New Historian Jeff Ohlson was officially named a Society Historian joining Elizabeth Barratt with that designation. Elizabeth and husband Richard returned to the Board of Directors.

Newspaper Collection The cataloging of our entire newspaper collection was finalized by Dick Barratt. This was a multi-year project and precursor to the collection's digitization that will be online and in a searchable database when the project is completed in approximately 3 years. The digitization portion is being spearheaded by member Alan Crockett who obtained the initial grant from the California State Library Revealed Project. The CV Centennial Newspaper was digitized as well.

Exhibits The character of the History Center was forever changed with the introduction of the "Signs of Times Past" exhibit of 22 historic signs with captions affixed to the outside of the building. Stop by; it's a very nice walk down memory lane. The Vintage Typewriter Exhibit proved popular, especially with young adult visitors who love to tap on the keys. The Roads and Transportation Exhibit depicts the evolution of the Valley's transportation routes from initial pathways to the development of CV Road that we take for granted today. It is quite an amazing story. The exhibit titled "The Carmel Valley 1989 Centennial...or Was It?" brought back fond memories for many old timers who attended this community event. And, we again provided exhibits for the Palo Corona Discovery Center and the CV Library.

Grants, Fundraising Activities and Contributions Grants were given to the Society by the California Upjohn Fund, Community Foundation for Monterey County, CV Garden Club, and

CV Women's Foundation. We partnered with the CV Kiwanis for a very successful "Better Than Rummage Sale," and with the CV Friends of the Library in a book sale. Generous contributions to the General Fund (includes memberships), Tile Program, and In Memorias were greatly appreciated, enabling the Society to continue its preservation and promotion of the Valley's history and heritage.



The original "fainting couch" and Annie Hatton's dress have been added to the Hatton Family Victorian Parlor exhibit.

(Photo by Jeff Ohlson)

Community Talks Elizabeth Barratt gave a presentation about Robert Lewis Stevenson's time in Carmel Valley. Jeff Ohlson gave talks about the ranching history of the Valley, the Vintage Airfield, and with Reggie Jones about the Jamesburg Earth Station and 50th Anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing.

Books A republished book, *Rosie and His Cracker Barrel*, by the late Marilyn Sanders, a longtime Valley resident, brought the number of books and booklets for sale to 12. All are now available for purchase online, which has been a long-planned objective. All proceeds are donated by the authors. An online purchase is another great way to support the Society while the History Center remains closed.

(See Reflecting, page 7)

Carmel Valley Artist Doyt Early

By Elizabeth Barratt, CVHS Historian

Doyt Early (1900-1992) liked to tell the story of his arrival in California in a Model T Ford. The year was 1925 and he and a college roommate were celebrating their graduation from Ohio State University with a trip out West.

An Ohio native, Doyt was born in the town of Van Wert on March 20, 1900 to Carl and Effie Jagger Early. The family sprang from a long line of farmers that stretched back to Doyt's grandfather, Earl Early, who in 1830 with his five brothers, migrated from the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia to Allen County, Ohio. Doyt's father had studied agriculture at Ohio Northern University and in adulthood owned and operated a 16-acre dairy. He and Effie had married at age 20 and soon had a family of three: two sons, Doyt and Hoyt, and a daughter, Lenore. Effie died when Doyt was four and several years later his father remarried, in time adding two daughters, Mary and Margaret, to the family.

During his university years, Doyt supported himself with several jobs, among them coloring oil exploration maps for the Ohio Fuel Supply Company, waiting table at his fraternity house, acting as a messenger for a local professional, and most importantly, working as a draftsman for three local architects.

Armed with a degree in Architecture, Doyt and

his friend headed for California. After some sight-seeing, his friend headed off to see some relatives. Doyt proceeded to Los Angeles, where he ran into



1921 Freshman year at Ohio State where he majored in architecture

Ross Montgomery, an architect friend from Ohio. At the time, Montgomery was working on the redesign of earthquake-damaged Mission Santa Barbara. On June 19, 1925, just prior to Doyt's arrival, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake had shaken the city to its roots. Much of Santa Barbara's historic center had been destroyed and the temblor had partially crumbled the venerable mission's facade. Montgomery offered Doyt a job working on the mission rebuilding project. After the undertaking was finished, Doyt found work as a structural engineer for the California branch of the Portland Cement Company.



In 1929 Doyt moved to Sacramento, where he was hired by the architectural firm of Coffman, Sahlberg and Stafford. His life career then began in earnest when he was hired by the California Education Department's Bureau of Schoolhouse Planning, a job he held until his retirement in 1960.

Doyt's architectural career was interrupted in April 1943 when he was drafted into the Army and sent to Europe with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He served in Northern France, Central Europe and the Rhineland. He was eventually commissioned and in

(Continued next page)

(Continued from previous page) February 1946 was discharged as a Captain. Returning to Sacramento and to his wife Blanche Culton (1903-1983) and their baby son, Alan, he resumed his job



Army Service in Europe
WW II photo, 1945

as a chief architect with the State of California. During his long career, Doyt designed over 100 one-room schoolhouses all over rural California, receiving awards and recognition for his work. In addition he designed and built a modern home for his family, with innovative elements that were featured in the May 6, 1950 edition of the Sacramen-

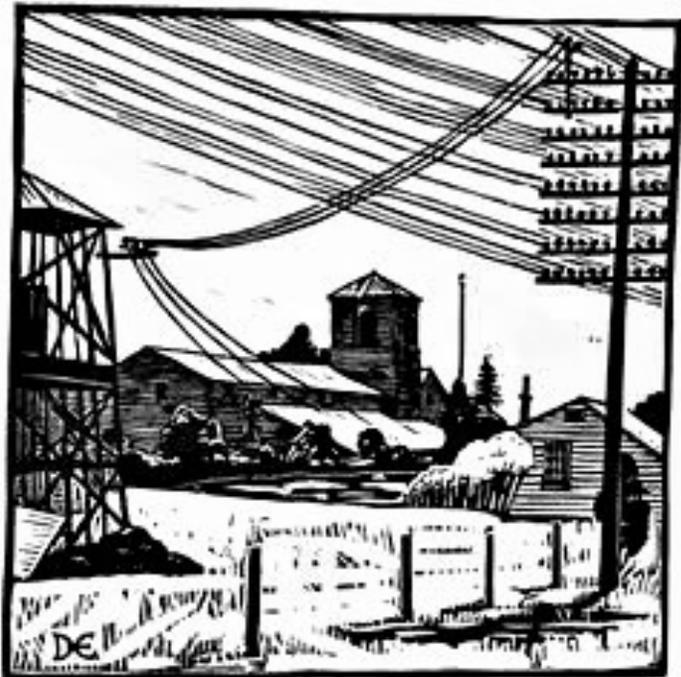
to Bee.

Like many artist-architects, Doyt and was drawn to Carmel Valley by its sunny climate and inspiring ambiance. He and Blanche purchased a home on 6.5 acres on Panetta Road that would be their retirement residence for the next several decades. Before long, he was immersed in Village life, serving on the planning board of the Carmel Valley Community Center, assisting in the design of its swimming pool, and serving on the Upper Valley Advisory Committee. He designed the Schwartz Memorial in the center of the Village.

A devoted gardener, he was often in his greenhouse tending cymbidium orchids and lilies. He was an early member of the Carmel Valley Garden Association, where he assisted at the club's early flower shows, which continue to this day. In 1987 he became one of the founding members of the Carmel Valley Historical Society and was instrumental in its early planning stages.

Throughout his adult life, Doyt was an active

watercolor artist and printmaker. He studied abstract expressionism under modernist artist Molla Archer Moss and watercolor technique under teacher-artist Nancy Johnson. He was a member



of the California Watercolor Society, the Carmel Art Association, and his works were exhibited in Sacramento, Santa Cruz and in 1939 at the Golden Gate International Exhibition. Several of his prints are archived at the deYoung Museum in San Francisco. For being so trained and talented all his adult life, he nonetheless continued to participate in art classes at the Carmel Foundation and the Carmel Valley Community Center where he studied "Drawing from the Artist Within" until nearly the end of his life.



Doyt at early CVHS meeting at Rosie's Cracker Barrel, 1987

The Carmel Valley Historical Society archives are fortunate to have many of Doyt's prints and watercolors. Several pieces of his charming artwork are displayed in our reference library.

The Berta Ranch Remembered

By Jeff Ohlson, CVHS Historian



Roundup on the Berta Ranch 2019

Photo by Jeff Ohlson

In the late 1880s, John and Attilio Berta purchased the property that became the family’s Berta Ranch. The family ran it for over a century until it was sold in 1999 and developed into today’s Village Ranches community just east of Carmel Valley Village.

Thus, like so many family ranches, the Berta Ranch faded into history, right? Not entirely so, as family descendant Ray Berta and his business partner Chris Harrold still lease a portion of the old ranch for running a small herd of cattle for their cow-calf operation.

More historically interesting is the fact that their Hereford-Angus cross cattle are descendants of the original Berta Ranch herd. Berta Ranch cattle therefore still roam the hills and eat the grasses that their forebears did so many decades before.

The October 2019 photo above pictures Ray and Chris gathering up cattle to tend to them in the corral also shown in the photo. A squeeze chute was used for this operation and only the cows were vaccinated, while the calves stood by and watched with curious interest. Their “Rocking HB” brand is shown at right.

Author’s Note: Even having written the history of the Berta Ranch some years ago, I had never stepped on the ranch until observing this roundup. How proud Lawrence and Leo Berta would be!



(Holt, from page 1) Symphony Orchestra, the 60-piece Monterey County Symphony Orchestra, opera star Dorothy Warendkjold, famous singers John Boles and Lucille Norman, and a pops concert. It was known locally as the “Holt Valley Ranch Bowl” or the “Carmel Valley Bowl.” The entire area resounded with melody on concert nights, and it is said that many onlookers **(See Holt, next page)**

Financial Contributions (May, June, July)

General Fund: Bernard Czaja, David & Frances Delfino, John & Sheryl Dodsworth, Donna Dormody, Jack McKay, Craig & Julia Painter, Art & June Taylor, Mary Trotter, Warren & Penny Wood

Thank you all for your generous support!

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

Elizabeth Barratt: (1) Chinese bamboo fruit picker's basket, such as used by Chinese fruit picker's at the Schulte pear orchard, circa 1920's.
(2) Book: *The Indians of Monterey County* by Gary Breschini

Andree Forzani: 2"x3" western engraved sterling silver badge or *Life Credential Medal: "Monterey County Fair, National Horse Show, Andree Forzani (misspelled as "Forzoni")

Vaquera, Life Credential"

Jeff Ohlson: 3 books: *Cowboy Culture*, *In the Days of the Vaqueros – America's First True Cowboys* and *A History of the Thoroughbred in California*

Diane Mackenzie: Poetry books, two copies: *Carmel Valley is a Pilgrim*, copies of Paisano & CV Outlook newspapers

(Reflecting, from page 3)

Visitors and Docents Docents welcomed over 1600 visitors in 2019. A half day training session brought new and longtime docents up to speed about recent History Center activities and other changes. A monthly update titled "News Around The Barn" was introduced to help keep docents more fully informed about the activities of the Society.

And more...86 documents, photos, artifacts and library materials were approved for accession into the archives. Once again, four San Clemente Dam Site Tours kicked off from the History Center. The tours began with a look at the 3-D Model of the Valley that orients visitors to the location of the dam and flow of the river. Students at CV High School visited as part of a class project. The Society again hosted the Monterey County Regional Roundtable, a group of history-minded organizations from around the Peninsula. A large "selfie

photo frame" with the tag line: "Carmel Valley Historical Society: Wish You Were Here" was built.

As in past years, "The Carmel Valley Historian" was published four times bringing you great stories of the past. A Facebook presence was initiated with member Christine Williams as the administrator. Marketing flyers were provided to Village tasting rooms and other businesses by member Marj Ingram. The Society again participated in the CV Chamber of Commerce Chili Cookoff at CV Ranch with smoked turkey chili made by member Krissy Huston with an assist from her friend Susan DeFloria.

Producing interesting exhibits and publications, reaching out to the community in ways large and small, and keeping the History Center in good working order takes a great deal of time, effort, dedication, and financial support. Hats off to all the volunteers and other contributors who made it happen in 2019. We really appreciate you.

(Holt, from previous page) parked on Carmel Valley Road and enjoyed the performances from the comfort of their automobiles while those nearest the amphitheater just sat on the grass. The Bowl could accommodate up to 15,000 with ample parking.

Well known socialites of the 1950s, the Holt's held lavish cocktail parties at their home, one with over 200 prominent guests to celebrate the completion of two new ranch houses on the property. Gala receptions at Edison Holt's home would follow the outdoor concerts, where the invitees would gather around the piano with the concert stars leading the singing.

Today's Community Park just west of Carmel Valley Village has a similar amphitheater-like venue used by musicians during community events such as the Kiwani's annual Carmel Valley Fiesta.

Carmel Valley Historical Society

WEB | carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org
 f | Carmel Valley History Center
 EMAIL | cvhs3@live.com
 CALL | (831) 659-5715
 WRITE | PO Box 1612
 Carmel Valley, CA 93924-1612
 VISIT | Carmel Valley History Center
 77 West Carmel Valley Road

History Center Museum :
CLOSED BY GOVERNMENT ORDER
DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Board of Directors

Kim Williams	President
Gary Tate	Vice President
Dave Terdy	Treasurer
Cherie Ohlson	Secretary
Elizabeth Barratt	Recording Secretary
Dick Barratt	Member
Jeff Ohlson	Member
Ellsworth Gregory	Member Emeritus

Newsletter Production: Kim Williams

CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 PO BOX 1612
 CARMEL VALLEY, CA 93924-1612
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 SALINAS, CA
 PERMIT NO. 164

Upcoming Events

While under Covid-19 restrictions we have not scheduled any in-person events.

However, Jeff Ohlson is scheduled to give a talk at the Carmel Valley Library's First Saturdays Series on **Saturday, September 5** on *The History of the Cachagua Fire Protection District*. The talk will be online via ZOOM.

Around September 1st, we will email information about how to access Jeff's talk. So please send us your email if you haven't been receiving our email updates: cvhsresident@gmail.com.

Virtual Tour of CVHS History Center Museum

Thanks to CVHS Volunteer Jeff Ohlson and Master Cinematographer Mark Basse, a History Center Museum virtual tour is in development. Currently posted on our website, improvements are still coming. If you have suggestions or questions, contact me at cvhsresident@gmail.com.

This comes at a good time considering that our museum is closed while we socially distance from each other. Just visit our website and enjoy the tour! Click-hold-&-drag to rotate any frame.

carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.com



Images are from our website.

Virtual Tour Now Available

We are happy to share with you the results of our latest endeavor—a Virtual Tour of the History Center.



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