



## Grizz!

By Jeff Ohlson, CVHS Historian



Roping a Grizzly on Carmel River Beach: A reproduction of this painting, a gift to the Carmel Valley Historical Society by western artist Jack Swanson, hangs in the History Center Museum.

The grizzly bear pelt on exhibit at the Museum sparks great conversations about how grizzlies once roamed freely in the Valley and that vaqueros on horseback roped them for bear and bull fight sporting events in Monterey. People often wonder about how a few vaqueros could have possibly roped a grizzly fiercely fighting to avoid capture. Much has been written about the grizzly and its place in California history, so it's no surprise that its image adorns the State's Great Seal and its iconic flag.

An adult grizzly could weigh up to 1,500 pounds or more and was at the top of the food chain. It stood about 4 feet high on all fours and towered 7 to 8 feet high on its hind legs, sporting 1½" canines, large 3½" claws, and famous

tempers! Although poorly-armed indigenous Indians would have feared the grizzly, they hunted them for their meat and fur while their shamans revered them as a powerful spiritual symbol.

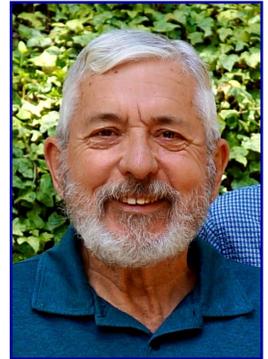
California ranchers, with thousands of cattle, considered grizzlies a threat to their herds. Not surprisingly, the bear hunt became a popular sport. A large number of grizzlies were killed during the Gold Rush years of 1840 to 1870. It's estimated that 10,000 grizzlies once roamed the hills and valleys of California. The last grizzly in California was said to have been taken in 1922 in Tulare County – about 200 miles east of Carmel Valley Village.

Since grizzlies often prowled Pacific

(See Grizz!, page 6)

## A Message from CVHS President Kim Williams

Preparation for the annual Carmel Valley Kiwanis Fiesta held the first full weekend each August is always a team effort at the History Center. This year 11 volunteers participated in the fun. They made sandwich board posters for the park announcing our expanded hours, organized supplies and materials, set up and took down the CVHS booth in the park, set out displays, and worked both in the park booth and History Center over the two days. There were great conversations, many book purchases, and generous contributions tucked into the dona-



*Kim Williams*

tion box. It was a banner weekend for visitors with 124 on Saturday and 107 on Sunday—our biggest count ever!



Docent Anna Williams welcomes visitors to the CVHS Fiesta Booth.

My sincere thanks to all who pitched in. Our board and volunteers are the best and I am truly grateful for so many givers-of-their-time on the History Society's behalf.

## Volunteers in Action



New volunteer Florence Buchenroth and Board Member Cherie Ohlson discuss the finer points of writing grants for the Historical Society. Florence recently volunteered to take on this important responsibility.

## The “Airway Stairway” Story

By Jeff Ohlson

The idea for the steps came after the March 2022 dedication ceremony for the Vintage Airfield historic marker located above the post office parking lot. During the reception at the History Center following the dedication, some attendees discussed the possibility of installing steps for an easier and safer access. Since a couple attendees were associated with the Boy Scouts and aware that Carmel High student Will Hand was looking for a project to qualify for Eagle Scout, his Eagle Scout project was born.

The project was overseen by the Historical Society’s Jeff Ohlson and Gary Tate. Funding for the project was generously provided by Jim Keefe and Lorna Lee,

owners of the post office property. After design approval by local and council-level leaders of the Boy Scouts and by the property owners, Will and his team obtained the tools and materials needed and started excavating the hard-packed dirt to construct the 13 steps needed. All told, the project took the determined efforts of ten different helpers logging about 200 hours over several days of work.



Carmel Valley Troop 127 Scout Will Hand (left) is shown orchestrating the final stages of his Eagle Scout project on the hillside above the Carmel Valley Post Office parking lot.

*Photos by Jeff Ohlson*



Yet to be installed is the ADA-approved handrail that will complete the final stairway design.

The Scout team named the steps “Airway Stairway” as a throw-back to Byington Ford’s “Airway Village” of the 1940s, now the familiar Carmel Valley Village.

Many residents access the old airfield property at this location to view the historical marker or take leisurely walks around the old airfield. They will find a much-improved access up the once slippery hillside.

# Carmel Valley's Disaster Preparedness -1960s Style

By Elizabeth Barratt, CVHS Historian

*"When the warning sounds a steady blast of 3 to 5 minutes, an attack is probable. Take action as directed by the government, tune in to radio stations 640 or 1240, don't use the telephone and wait for official information to be broadcast."* CONELRAD leaflet, 1960

tions. Government booklets such as "Survival Under Attack," "Fallout Protection," and "Nuclear War Survival Skills" were distributed, along with radio messages offering civil defense advice.

On the greater Monterey Peninsula, plans called for local aircraft warning stations, an air raid alert system and hypothetical evacuation scenarios that simulated nuclear attack. Besides evacuee planning, articles in local newspapers featured how to stock emergency food supplies and build underground family bomb shelters. Fears arose locally over how to accommodate escaping refugees pouring into the Monterey Peninsula from the greater Bay Area.



Navy CDR Robert P. Brewer, a flight instructor at the Naval Postgraduate School 1959-1962, helped his Upper Circle neighborhood prepare for potential nuclear threat.

*Photo courtesy Donna Brewer*

It was a scary time across the nation, and none the less so for residents of the still-rural, underpopulated Carmel Valley. But at least one individual was at the helm, organizing measures to help his neighborhood prepare for a potential nuclear threat. From 1959 until 1962, Navy Commander Robert P. Brewer (1915-2007), a flight instructor at the Naval Postgraduate School, lived with his family at 18 Upper Circle. He quickly became acquainted with his neighbors, including the Antoncich and Crockett families as well as Major General Jens Doe, a distinguished World War II veteran. With an eye toward public safety, Commander Brewer drew up a residential map of the street and sent out a questionnaire to each head of household on Upper Circle. The form asked occupants to list emergency contact information, names and ages of family members, and whether each home

MONTEREY COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE AND DISASTER COUNCIL

## ALERT PROCEDURES

**ALERT SIGNAL** — Enemy Attack Probable.  
 3 - 5 Minute Steady Sound of Sirens, Whistles or Horns.

**LISTEN TO YOUR RADIO (640 or 1240 kc)**  
**IF YOU ARE DOWNTOWN:** Go to your Home or to your Emergency Assignment.  
**IF YOU DRIVE YOUR CAR:** Obey traffic instructions, observe safe driving practices.  
**IF YOU ARE AT HOME:**  
 Listen to your Radio for Civil Defense Instructions—DO NOT use your telephone—Keep your family together—Shut-off your irons, Toasters, Stoves and other appliances, EXCEPT RADIOS as though you were going out for the day—DO NOT SHUT OFF YOUR GAS, ELECTRIC OR WATER SERVICE TO YOUR HOUSE.

**TAKE COVER SIGNAL** — Enemy Attack Imminent.  
 3 - Minute intermittent sound of Sirens, Whistles or Horns.

**LISTEN TO YOUR RADIO (640 or 1240 kc)**  
**AT HOME:** Shut all outside doors and windows and take cover in basement, an interior room or hallway, or prepared shelter.  
**IF IN A CAR:** Pull to side of road, lower windows, drop to floor, protect face and head.  
**DO NOT ABANDON CAR ON ROADWAY**  
**IF OUTDOORS:** Seek best available cover.

**REMAIN WHERE YOU ARE, UNTIL YOU GET WORD TO COME OUT**  
 If a great blinding flash occurs, a nuclear bomb has exploded — you may still have time to protect yourself before the blast wave reaches you — don't start running aimlessly — get to side of a building away from the flash — even a cement curb offers some protection — lie face down, cover back of neck with hands.

**FAMILY ACTION PLAN**  
 (1) Designate best shelter area in or near your home (2) Keep Emergency supplies readily available (3) Be sure each member of your family knows what to do when an "Alert" is sounded and have practice sessions. (4) Learn First Aid and proper diets Call the Red Cross to find nearest class and schedules (5) Working mothers should plan with neighbors for care of children until parents arrive home (6) Arrangements should be made for persons unable to care for themselves (7) Know and cooperate with your school authorities (8) Keep your car in good operating condition with no less than 1/2 tank of gas at all times.

**EMERGENCY SUPPLIES**  
**FOOD** — Choose food that can be prepared without water — enough of a supply for several days. Stored food should be rotated to prevent spoiling. Include paper plates and cooking and eating utensils.  
**WATER** — Bottled water. Also, remember water is available in toilet tank and water heater.  
**NECESSARY MEDICINE** — First Aid Kit, water purifier or household bleach.  
**CLOTHING** — Blankets, sturdy clothing and shoes.  
**PORTABLE RADIO (Battery)** — Flashlight, Extra Batteries.

**WHEN TO LEAVE SHELTER AREA**  
 There is no Siren "All-Clear" signal. After a bomb burst, the radioactive fallout pattern will determine "Safe" areas. You will receive instructions over radio and other civil defense communications whether or not this area is safe. If you do not have a portable battery operated radio, listen to the one in your car.

**640 — REMEMBER CONELRAD IS THE KEY — 1240**  
 Radioactive fallout caused by the bomb's explosion can be deadly. If you should be outdoors at the time of explosion, or be exposed to fallout, dust and other matter, you can reduce the amount of radiation you will receive by washing or brushing the dust from your hair, clothes and exposed parts of your body. Proceed immediately to any available cover shelter. Change clothes, if possible, and wait for information from your civil defense officials. Get to any available cover shelter immediately. Get to any available cover shelter immediately. Get to any available cover shelter immediately.

**CIVIL DEFENSE IS YOUR BUSINESS**

REMEMBER: LOCAL STATE AND FEDERAL CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCIES, THROUGH RESEARCH, ARE CONSTANTLY SEEKING WAYS TO INCREASE YOUR CHANCES FOR SURVIVAL IN THE EVENT OF DISASTER. THIS PLAN IS SUBMITTED TO ASSIST YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN PREPARING FOR YOUR SURVIVAL.

FEBRUARY 1957

Originally established in 1951, the emergency broadcasting system CONELRAD (*Control of Electromagnetic Radiation*) was intended to warn the public of an impending enemy attack during the Cold War. The system's radio signals were to render the broadcasts incompatible with homing-in Soviet bombers by speedily switching to transmitter sta-

had a stock of emergency supplies. Besides a first aid kit, canned food and water, household supply suggestions included a battery radio, firearms and a list of any contacts outside the area. He distributed lists of suggested emergency survival food supplies and where to buy them and urged families to prepare a backup evacuation plan in case of nuclear attack. The helpful literature included a list of deadly biological agents and ways to detect a spread of chemical warfare materials.

Local preparedness in Carmel Valley also came from another disaster planner, Lieutenant Colonel Harold Stirling, USMC, a specialist on nuclear weapons and security at the Naval Postgraduate School. In October 1961 he came to speak to the parents at Tularcitos School on the topic, "If Nuclear Attack Should Come to Carmel Valley." Civil defense education during the era included children's booklets titled "Duck and Cover" and "Bert the Turtle" that instructed children to duck and cover when they saw the "flash," presumably of an exploding nuclear bomb.

CDR Brewer's family included children Cathy, Robin and Donna, who attended Tularcitos School. Donna's friend, Chris von Drachenfels, described her



Booklets and leaflets of the era instructed citizens on safety preparedness in case of nuclear attack.

recollections of the era, "My first reaction to the question of preparation for nuclear threat is to remember how my parents had plans to build a bomb shelter in our horse corral area, below our house on Laurel Drive. My father was a contractor so I'm sure he had designed all the plans...I do remember drills we practiced at Tularcitos. We would duck under desks, but just like everyone else, I believed it was for earthquake protection, it couldn't have been for bombs!" Chris also had sunnier recollections of her childhood days when she noted, "Growing up in the Valley in the 50s and 60s was magical...We had a lot of freedom and a lot of outdoor play...we were protected from the reality or harshness of the world, we grew up happy and our parents shielded us from ideas of war...my father had lived through so many wars, he just wanted peace for us. My father was born in Vladivostok, Russia, escaped to and grew up in Shanghai, worked in the Middle East and immigrated to the U.S. during World War II with my mother.

(See Disaster, page 8)

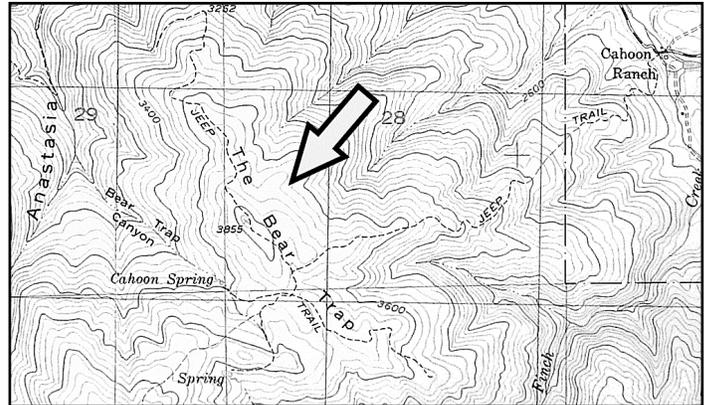


(Grizz! from page 1)

Ocean beaches to feed on carcasses of whales and other marine species that washed ashore, Carmel Beach would have been a good place to find them. But that was the easy part. The hard part was roping an angry and agile grizzly – a most dangerous and deadly sport.

Apart from having expert ropers with 70 to 80-foot rawhide lariats, any horse naturally would bolt at the mere scent of a grizzly – so it took special training to produce a “bear-broke” horse. So, how was this done?

A horse first was tied and hobbled in a corral together with a bear hide. Over time the bear hide was flapped around his legs and tossed on its back and rubbed all over until the horse ignored it. After this training, the horse was then paired with proven bear-broke horses. When it did not give in to fear and run from the smell of a live grizzly, it was bear-proof and ready for a live hunt!



or to a cart for transport into Monterey for a bear & bull fight. Fight spectators would place bets on which animal would be victorious and then view the bloody fight to the death.

Roping grizzlies wasn’t the only way to capture them. As difficult as roping or hunting them was, trapping them was comparatively less dangerous and bear traps made of logs were also used. One such bear trap is known to have existed near the Cahoon Ranch, about 20 miles south-east of Carmel Valley Village. That area is still identified on the map above as the “The Bear Trap” and “Bear Trap Canyon.”

Bear & bull fights staged in Monterey were a popular form of Sunday family entertainment. The following quote from the old *Monterey Trader* newspaper attests to its popularity:

“And the next day a great bull was brought down from the Meadows ranch, and the grizzly and El Toro put on the best remembered fight held in Monterey in all the 1860s.”

Once called “barbaric” by Humane Societies, many nevertheless gained wealth by promoting these fights. Due to negative public opinion and a diminishing number of grizzlies, laws were eventually passed and the old Spanish custom eventually came to an end.

Grizzly bears are now long gone from the hills and valleys of Carmel Valley, and bear and bull fights are an almost forgotten chapter in California history. Today’s stock market investors, however, are well aware that (See Grizz!, next page)



Roping a grizzly was not unlike ropers throwing “headers” and “heelers” in today’s cattle branding corral. Once a grizzly was cornered, reata loops would find its head and hind legs, allowing the horses to drag it to a nearby fight site

(Grizz!, from previous page)

the market fluctuates between a “bull market”, or upward stock prices and a “bear market”, or downward prices. This comparison is based on the fact that a bull fights with “upward” horn thrusts while a bear fights with “downward” thrusts of its powerful claws. So, the old tradition of bear and bull fights still lives on in our society!

Note: The provenance of the museum’s grizzly bear pelt is not known; it either came from Montana, Oregon, or California. It is on long-term loan to the museum by Valleyite Dave Lyon.



Docent Patty Armstrong and a visitor check out the grizzly pelt.

### Financial Contributions (May, June, July)

**General Fund:** Bradley Cox, Sheryl & John Dodsworth, Donna Dormody, Marianne Gawain, Dean Hatfield & Karolyn Stone, Peter Neumeier, Philanthropic Educational Organization, Elaine Taylor

**Grants:** Carmel Valley Garden Club

## Thank you all for your generous support!

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

**Martin McAulay:** Vintage Hatton family tea set from original family ranch at the mouth of Carmel Valley

**Tom Nix:** 2 copies of 30 x 22 print of "No School Today" by Tom Nix of Bell Ranch, which on occasion served as a location where classes were held for Carmel Valley schoolchildren during the late 19th Century (but never was a schoolhouse).

**Barbara Van Hagen:** 20 x 30 color photo of Will Fay receiving “Honorary Membership” to Carmel Valley Fire Department at Will’s Fargo Restaurant; 19 x 25 b/w photo of Carmel Valley Fire Department families

**Carmel Valley Historical Society**

WEB | [carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org)  
 Carmel Valley History Center

EMAIL | [cvhs3@live.com](mailto:cvhs3@live.com)

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WRITE | PO Box 1612  
Carmel Valley, CA 93924-1612

VISIT | 77 West Carmel Valley Road

Virtual Tour | [carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org)

**History Center Museum**

**SATURDAYS 1-4**

**SUNDAYS 11-2**

**Board of Directors**

Kim Williams	President
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**Upcoming Events**

**December 3 (Saturday) CVHS Christmas Party:**  
3:00-6:00 PM at the History Center

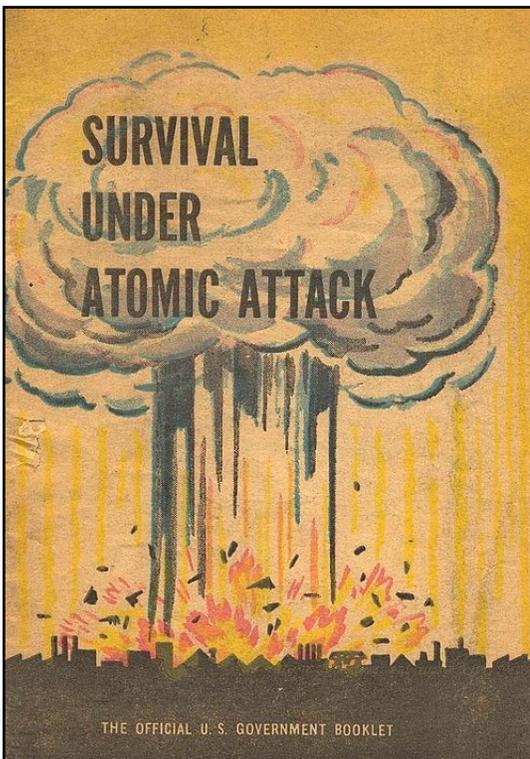
**December 3 (Saturday) Christmas Tree Lighting:**  
5:00-6:00 PM in the Park

**December 10 (Saturday) Santa Fly-In:**  
11:00 AM—East of Griggs Nursery at the old Carmel Valley Airfield



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Carmel Valley History Center

(Disaster, from page 7) They were great examples of reaching for the 'American Dream.' "



The scary times of nuclear preparedness seem far away now, but Valleyites can be grateful for citizens like CDR Brewer who took good care of his neighbors in a national time of fear and need. When he received a fresh set of orders, the family left Carmel Valley behind, moving on in 1962 to his next tour of duty at Naples, Italy. For the next two years, as a Plans and Operations Officer, he developed emergency preparations for the safe evacuation of American dependents living in Italy. Doubtless the disaster planning he and the neighborhood committee worked on in Upper Circle helped provide framework for the much bigger picture in Europe at the time.

