

CARMEL VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November 2013

The President's Message

By Reggie Jones

While most Society members will be focusing on the arrival of Thanksgiving, your Board of Directors and some other members have also been diligently working, preparing for the December 7th Grand Opening and Holiday Party. And beyond. Event preparations, very ably spear-headed by Cherie Ohlson, are coming together well. The displays are also proceeding on schedule; one is complete and two more are approaching the finishing line.

We anticipate that there will be a large attendance at our Opening. It is our wish that all will have an enjoyable time and that you, our members, will be pleased with what has been accomplished.

Remember, this will be the beginning of operations. We are still a work in progress.

Best Wishes to all for a very happy and thankful Thanksgiving.

Website Up and Working!

In the last Newsletter, we mentioned the Website is now being set up by Jeff Ohlson. We failed to mention that Susan Bancroft has been instrumental in working with Jeff to include historical information and the links to other important sites. Our apologies to Susan, and also our thanks for her help.

We are also working on a link that will let our members renew their memberships, make donations to the Society, ask any questions or make comments. Be sure to check out the Website at:

<http://carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org>

For now, if you have questions or comments, you can contact us at:

www.cvhs3@att.net



You are cordially invited
to our Grand Opening
and
Christmas Party
Saturday
December 7, 2013
from 2:00 to 4:00
77 W. Carmel Valley Road.
Come and see the
newest addition to
Carmel Valley Village.
See our great new exhibits!
Meet our Board Members!
Refreshments will
be served.



How We Lived

By Elizabeth Barratt

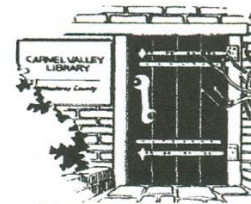
In May 1861, surveyor William H. Brewer visited Judge Fletcher m. Haight, who briefly owned part of Rancho Canada de la Segunda. Haight's son, Henry, became governor of California (1867-1871), and Haight Street in San Francisco was named for him. Following dinner, Brewer wrote, "We climbed a hill just above, and had a pretty view of the Carmelo Valley, the sea beyond and the mountains to the south. He has a fine ranch, keeps about twelve hundred sheep. We rode home by twilight. One dared not wait later for fear of grizzlies."

Watching out for grizzlies was a reality, but for residents, life in Carmel Valley was more. Parents sought education for their children, neighbors helped one another, and when the work week ended, the socializing began. Old-timer Joe Hitchcock, writing in his 1950s *Carmel Valley News* columns left poignant details of life in the valley where he grew up. It was a transitional time for the young lad, who saw the era of horse-drawn work wagons turn into the age of gasoline-run tractors. He wrote of his school days, of his family's ties with descendants of early valley settlers, of life at Los Laureles Ranch where he spent his childhood, and of the social occasions where folks brought potluck, danced through the night, and enjoyed the local camaraderie.

Back before there was a Carmel Valley Village, there was Robles del Rio, the first subdivision in Carmel Valley, built in the 1920s. In 1939, the realty office became a general store known as Rosie's Cracker Barrel. Social life began to shift in the 1940s because Carmel Valley had been "discovered." No longer just a summer spot, it became a place where a family could sink roots. The kids not only attended school together, but also rode horseback, caught fish, hunted, and swam in the river together.

The grizzlies are gone, but the Valley's ambience remains: oak-dotted hillsides, looming mountains, the running river, and the nearby sea, so poignantly captured by William Brewer, who came to visit and left a memory.

This is another excerpt from Elizabeth Barratt's book, "Images of America: Carmel Valley." Her book is filled with great pictures of the Valley the way it used to be and how it has evolved into the way it is today. It would be a wonderful Christmas gift for anyone who's ever visited the Valley and especially for anyone who lived here once but has moved away. You can get a copy by calling Elizabeth at 831-659-2751, or by email at: hrhandqe3@gmail.com.



News from the Carmel Valley Library

by Jennifer Smith

Back by Popular Demand! Friends of the Carmel Valley Library host the Ukulele Club of Monterey, sharing their joy of singing with the friendly ukulele. The Club's repertoire spans the 20th Century of popular music, including some hula dancing. Get ready for some sing-a-longs! The Ukulele Club of Monterey formed about 3 years ago to play together for the joy of making music. Free. Seating is first come, first served. It all starts at 10:15 AM. Refreshments served. For more information, call the Library at 659-2377.

The First Saturday presentations will continue into the new year, so plan to join us on:

January 4: Learn About Recent Mars Exploration Progress, from Brian Jacobson.

February 1: Lessons from Our Year in Beer, by Chris and Merideth Canham-Nelson.

We're Looking for You!

By Cherie Ohlson

With the History Center Grand Opening to the public on December 7th, there will be an on-going need for volunteer docents to welcome visitors, answer questions about current exhibits and provide other information about our programs.

If you have specific knowledge of the area, such as Esselen or Rumsen Indian residents, ranches and their owners, or Valley businesses, we especially would like to talk with you, even if you are unable to volunteer. Should you decide to become a docent, education and training will be provided as well as on-going support. This is an exciting time for the History Center and we're delighted to learn of your interest in helping residents and visitors discover the rich history of our valley.

If you are interested in talking to a Board member about volunteering, please send us your name and contact information so we can get in touch with you.

Either email cvhs3@live.com or drop a note to the Historical Society at, P.O. Box 1612, Carmel Valley, CA 93924-1612. We forward to talking with you!

Party in the Village!



On October 26th, at Hidden Valley Seminars, the music was playing, the guests were dancing and the silent Auction was in full swing! The second annual Party in the Village, sponsored by the Carmel Valley Village Improvement Committee, the Carmel Valley Historical Society and the Carmel Valley Kiwanis Club brought out residents to enjoy an evening of excellent country-western music and a chance to get out there and dance! Local musician Casey Frazier started the evening off with his unique musical style. Then the California Cowboys came on to bring the crowd to their feet and show off their dancing skills.

The Kiwanis Club lured the guests in with their great barbecued tri-tips, hamburgers and chicken. Plus they manned the Silent Auction featured gift certificates from local restaurants, wineries and a few other one-of-a-kind offerings. Although the attendance this year was about 25% down from the first Party, those who came said they had a good time.

Marj Ingram of Carmel Valley Design and President of CVVIC, and Reggie Jones were chairmen of the event and they are due a great deal of thanks. The committee put together a notable evening of first-rate entertainment and food. A big Thank You also goes to Peter Meckel of Hidden Valley for the use of the Seminar building. This is one of the ways the Historical Society can join with other local organizations to work together for the community. CVVIC and CVHS each realized \$3200 from the Party and we hear plans for a third Party are already beginning. We'll keep you posted.

Enthusiasm is contagious. Be a carrier!

Susan Robin & Parbara Lagowski

Laughter is by definition healthy.

Doris Lessing

*Happiness held is the seed; Happiness shared
is the flower.*

Birdies for Charity

Where can your tax deductible donation to a non-profit organization earn a return of 20%? By going through the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, sponsor of the AT&T National Pro-Am Golf Tournament. And it is as easy as simply writing the check.

Make your check out to the Foundation, (minimum donation is \$20) but write in the lower left-hand corner the donation is for the Historical Society. Mail the check to CVHS at P. O. Box 1612, Carmel Valley, CA 93924-1612 and we will enter it for you. We will send you an acknowledgement of your donation. You can also make your donation by credit card online by going to www.atpbgolf.com/charity/birdies-for-charity -just be sure to designate the Society as your chosen charity

If you want to make a pledge of a certain amount per birdie, this can also be done online, or by notifying the Society. Birdies during the past few Tournaments have totaled about 1800.

The Tournament will be held February 6-9, 2014, and each donation made to the Foundation between November 1, 2013 and February 28, 2014, will earn an additional 20% for the Historical Society. We join with many other charitable organizations in participating in this community event. In the past, the return for us has been over \$12,000. If you are planning any donations for tax purposes this year, we would encourage you to consider donating through the Monterey Peninsula Foundation and having your contribution earn an additional 20% for the Society.

If you have any questions, please contact Treasurer Kim Williams at 659-1307, or by email at cvhstreasurer@gmail.com.

Memorial Tiles

Do we have your personal tile on our great tile walls? You might be surprised to see how many people who stop in the park to walk the paths or exercise their dogs saunter by the tile walls and smile when they see the tile for someone they know. We would be very happy to have all the Valley residents be remembered by having their own tile.

The tile frames are another way of preserving the history of the Valley and we want to be sure you will be a part of that history. For your own tile, or to remember someone close to you, call Reggie Jones at 659-4338, and he will send you an order form. Or pick one up at our Christmas party.

