



## Joe Hitchcock's Maternal Grandparents Antonio Victorine (1829-1914) and Maria Dutra Victorine (1822-1897) By Elizabeth Barratt, CVHS Historian

Carmel Valley Old-timer Joe Hitchcock's maternal grandparents, Antonio Victorine and Maria Dutra were Portuguese immigrants from Faial, Azores whose children were born in the Azores between 1851 and 1859. According to the United States Census, Antonio arrived in California in 1859. Between 1861 and 1880, he and a group of other whalers from the Azores operated the Carmel Whaling Company at Pt. Lobos. The whalers and their families lived in a cluster of cabins located in a meadow at the head of Whaler's Cove.

When Antonio arrived in California, he brought all his goods in a large green chest with dove-tailed corners. When he sent for his family, he shipped the chest back to the family to pack their possessions for the trip to California. "It just so happened that there was an American sailor in Faial who had deserted his ship," Joe wrote. "He lived in Faial and did odd jobs to earn his way. When my grandfather sent back the chest, he filled it with American newspapers, rather than send it empty. My grandmother papered the walls with the newspaper. This young American fellow used to do little chores for her, and she would feed him. After the walls were papered with American newspapers, he'd come around and spend every day reading the news. He had left the United States before the Civil War and had not heard from home, so he did not know there had been a war."



Joe Hitchcock's grandparents Antonio and Maria Victorine first lived in a whaler's cabin at Pt. Lobos and later ran a dairy near San Jose Creek.

Joe's memoirs state that his grandmother Maria and family arrived in Monterey on June 17, 1866 after a five-week voyage first to Boston, then by steamer to Panama, followed by a train trip across the Isthmus. They sailed by steamer up the coast to San Francisco and then to Monterey by the coastal steamer *Senator*. The well-traveled chest came along and remained in the family as a conversation piece.

Life was grueling for the band of men working in the whaling industry. As soon as a spout was sighted offshore, a white flag was run up at Whaler's Knoll, the highest point at Pt. Lobos. The men would proceed to the boats and head out to sea, either under sail or with oars, until they could get near enough to shoot with a harpoon gun. "Their equipment consisted of two boats with six rowers, a tiller man and the Captain at the bow of the boat with his harpoon gun

and a bomb gun mounted on a post at the bow. The harpoon was fastened to sixty fathoms of line and at the stern of the boat was another sixty fathoms of line neatly coiled in a tub so as to be fed quickly without kinking, if need arose," Joe explained. At times a harpooned whale would tow the boats for miles up or down the coast, sometimes as far as San Simeon, before it could be killed. Towing it back required twelve oarsmen in the two boats and many hours rowing back home, perhaps laboring

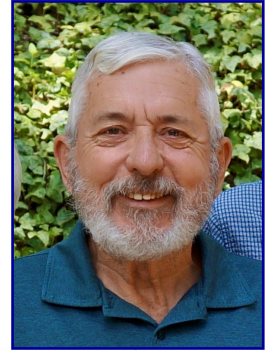
(See Hitchcock, Page 6)

## A Message from CVHS President Kim Williams

Another year has passed and we are now in the 37th year since the founding of the Society. This December will be the 10th anniversary since the opening of the museum! So much has been accomplished since 2013!

The annual meeting (and reception with light refreshments) is scheduled for Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:00 – 5:30. We'll review the financial report and accomplishments for 2022, as well as take a look at what we plan to achieve this year. Also, we are pleased to let you know Historian Elizabeth Barratt will give a talk on the Boronda Family, early settlers of Carmel Valley.

In addition, we are working on updating the bylaws, last updated in 2010, to reflect current operations and changes in non-profit law.



*Kim Williams*

(See President's Message, page 3.)

## Volunteers in Action 20 Years of the Carmel Valley Outlook Soon to be Online



After many years of work and waiting, we now have 20 years of the Carmel Valley Outlook newspapers digitized through the California Revealed project. Member Dick Barratt and volunteer Alan Crockett were the prime movers on this project.

One of the most significant accomplishments of the Society, it includes 868 editions and 17,084 pages of the newspaper, all researchable on the link that soon will be available on the Historical Society's website.



### Photos

#1 It all began with Dick Barratt sorting through piles of old papers, organizing them into files and creating a database. (September 2018)

#2 (L to R) Dave Terdy, Cherie Ohlson, Alan Crockett and Kim Williams open files, ascertain the number of pages in the edition and enter the number into the database. (2019)

#3 (L to R) Cherie Ohlson, website coordinator Susan Bancroft, volunteer Alan Crockett, and Jeff Ohlson discuss the details of how the link will be implemented. (December 2022)

(Photos by Jeff Ohlson)



## Financial Contributions (Nov, Dec, Jan)

**General Fund:** Jane Chaney, Steven & Leslie Dorrance, Larry & Rheta Downs, Chris Harrold, Reggie & Ann Jones, Luc Messier & Julie Fette, Peter Neumeier, Jeff & Cherie Ohlson, Sue Pecciavitti, Sue Pius, Ken Poppovich, Karin Strasser Kauffman, Richard Wheat

**Grants:** Carmel Valley Kiwanis Foundation, Community Foundation for the Monterey Peninsula—The Malcom and Joan Millard Fund

**Thank you all for your generous support!**

### (President's Message, from page 2.)

Both the current and revised bylaws will be available on our website: [carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org), as soon as they are ready. We'll let you know by email when you can access them. If you prefer to receive a copy of the proposed bylaws by email or US Postal Service call the History Center [659-5715] or drop me an email me at [CVHSPresident@gmail.com](mailto:CVHSPresident@gmail.com).

## Is This a Circus Act?

No circus act, but an improvised fly remedy used on Carmel Valley's Piazzoni Ranch. In the 1860s Luigi Piazzoni and his brothers obtained eucalyptus tree seeds from Australia while prospecting there for gold. When homesteading their Piazzoni Ranch they planted the seeds that are now full-grown eucalyptus trees.

The family has long known that the aroma from eucalyptus tree leaves is a natural insect repellent. Dean Forzani's horse *Louie*, pictured in this photo, was smart enough to take refuge under the eucalyptus trees "no fly zone." That is, until a bull shooed



him out to make way for him and his harem.

So, Louie was forced out under the hot sun with the ever-present pesky flies. Since Dean was out of fly spray, he wrapped eucalyptus twigs around his legs and head to give him relief from flies. Louie, an accommodating and gentle horse, accepted the remedy and enjoyed a "fly-free" day.

Note: This story was related to Jeff Ohlson by Andree Forzani, Dean Forzani's mother. It was put in writing to relate to our readers how a clever rancher improvised to solve a problem on his ranch.

Photo by Dean Forzani



## Beverley Brownell 1925-2022



Beverley was a lifetime member of the Carmel Valley Historical Society joining when the Society was beginning to discuss a building concept. She was a trusted volunteer, cashiering with her friend Gloria Radda at our many rummage sales that helped to build and complete the History Center Museum.





# 1925 Panorama of Tassajara Hot Springs

By Jeff Ohlson, CVHS Historian

Frozen in time, Tassajara Hot Springs guests are pictured in this photo waiting for a transport home. This panorama was taken at the Hot Springs in 1925 by photographer A. C. Heidrick who captured many such scenes in the 1920s and 1930s, working out of his photo lab on Alvarado Street in Monterey. Iconic panoramas like this were very popular in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



The lens of Heidrick’s panorama camera was unique in that it rotated 180° from left to right by a wind-up clock spring mechanism. Film was pulled past a slit in the back of the camera by the same gears that rotated the lens. Heidrick is shown in the photo at right using his camera while perched on a high tripod. A film canister attached to the camera carried ultra-large format film that could be many feet long. A.C.’s camera used film 10 inches wide as Pat Hathaway of California Views Photo Archives demonstrated in 2019 at the History Center in the left photo. Our digital cameras of today are a lot easier to use than the cameras of A. C.’s time!

The panoramic was donated to the Historical Society in 2022 by Sidney Slade, who with her husband Frank Quilty, owned Will’s Fargo in the mid-1990s. In 1989 the photo was given to Will Faye, who at that time was owner of the restaurant, by Steve and Leslie Dorrance of the Dorrance Ranch. Steve Dorrance’s great uncle, Iver “Red” Cornett, was manager of Tassajara Hot Springs in the 1930s, so it’s likely that this panoramic came into his possession at that time. Steve Dorrance’s grandfather, S. C. “Smoke” Cornett, Iver’s brother, acquired the old Towt Ranch on Mt. Toro in the mid-1940s that eventually was renamed the Dorrance Ranch. Years thereafter, this panorama ended up in a storeroom on the Dorrance Ranch until given to Will Faye – a circuitous route indeed! 🏠



Note: The author took high-resolution photos of the original print and digitally “stitched” them together to produce the panoramic image above.



(Hitchcock from Page 1) well into the night. "Families and ship keepers were concerned [at those times] and huge bonfires were kept burning on the high peak at Pt. Lobos until the crews arrived home," Joe wrote.

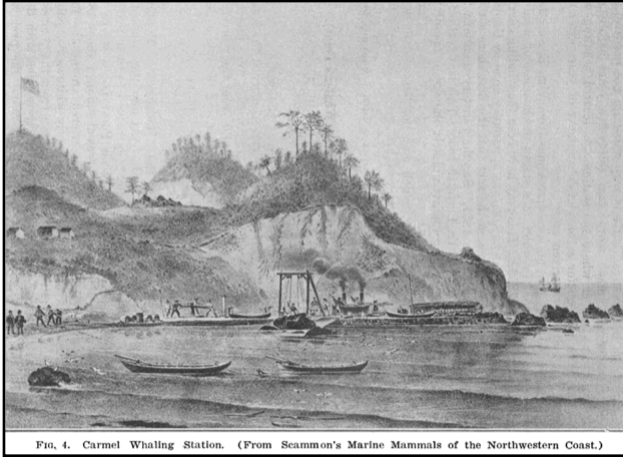


FIG. 4. Carmel Whaling Station. (From Scammon's Marine Mammals of the Northwestern Coast.)

The final whaling years were lean ones for the pioneering Portuguese after cheaper coal oil replaced the whale oil used to light lamps, "My grandfather used to tell us that when their dividends were divided after one year's operations, and the bills all paid, each member received two and a half dollars for the year's work. It was then that my grandfather turned to dairying and farming." United States Census figures show that, whereas in 1870 Antonio Victorine's work was listed as "whaling," by 1880 his stated occupation was "dairyman."

Among his other talents, Joe's grandfather was also a stone mason and carpenter and was called on to make coffins for the Indians who had died. Antonio built the Victorine family home, located in a grove just back of the Bay School, as well as several other area houses. According to grandson Joe, this included the wooden Machado-Tevis House located just east of Mission Carmel. "The rafters are round, as they were made from pine saplings cut by my grandfather." Christiano Machado had also been a whaler from the Azores who later became orchardist and caretaker for Mission Carmel.

The Victorine dairy was located south of the Carmel River near the mouth of San Jose Creek. In an interview, Antonio's great-grandson Avelino Victorine told how the family came to make what we now know as Monterey Jack Cheese. The neighboring Vierra family had brought the recipe from their native Azores and marketed the product in local stores. Planning to move to Salinas, they sold

the recipe to the Victorines for five dollars. Antonio Victorine hired Juan and Pancho, two Spanish-American war veterans, to make the cheese. But when he tried to ship it via coastal steamer to the San Francisco markets, it spoiled enroute. Juan and Pancho went on to work for David Jacks, making the same cheese. Jacks shipped the cheese to San Francisco via train, a faster method, and no spoilage occurred. This became one of the many legends surrounding the origins of our local Monterey Jack Cheese.



The Victorine family arrived in Monterey in 1866 aboard the Senator.

The old chest Antonio Victorine brought with him to America in 1859 remained in the family as a treasured heirloom. In a 1956 column in the *Carmel Valley News*, Joe described its origins and wrote, "You can imagine how much that chest means to me. It is way over a hundred years old and has weathered three trips across the Atlantic Ocean. My grandmother gave it to my mother and now I have it as one of my most prized possessions." 🏠



Whalers Cove today is a popular Pt. Lobos locale.

## Volunteers in Action: Exhibiting

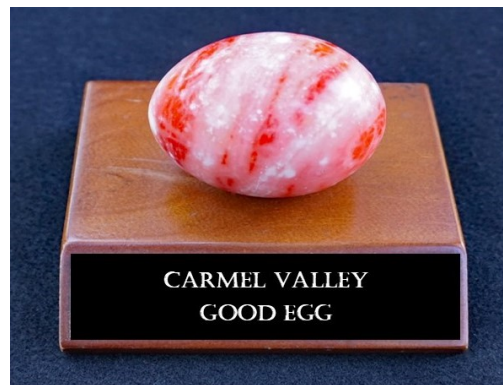


Exhibits reflect the ideas and creativity of the curator(s) in bringing them from concept to final display. All exhibits require serious sleuthing of information sources, making exhibiting a fun and interesting learning experience.

Jane Chaney-Board and Exhibit Committee member and Barbara Van Hagen- Exhibit Committee member, are co-curators of the Society's most recent exhibit, "Good Eggs of Carmel Valley: Honoring Over 70 Years of Community Volunteers." They are shown above proudly standing next to the exhibit that was introduced at the Society's 2022 Christmas Party. Many present "Good Eggs" as well as other party goers, enjoyed reading about the amazing benefits to this Community these volunteers made, to help shape the Valley as we know it.

Jane first volunteered to curate the Good Egg project in February 2022 and quickly found she needed help, so asked her good friend Barbara Van Hagen to join the project. They then went to work to learn all they could about the 175 "Good Egg" awardees between 1953 and 2023.

For months they combed old newspapers and social media, sent letters to recent awardees and families of deceased recipients, tracked down Valley old-timers, and culled memorabilia from the Carmel Valley Kiwanis and Valley Volunteer Fire Department for all possible facts and photographs. To make the presentation colorful and even more interesting, they also asked for loans of actual Good Egg Awards.



Jane entered their collected data into her computer and in November 2022, she and Barbara presented their findings to Exhibit Committee members who then jumped in to help with further research for missing data and photos, computing, and editing. After several iterations, a final copy was printed into the booklet that is shown in the photo.

Jane and Barbara give credit to the exhibit team and everyone from the community who helped make this exhibit possible. You too can work on an exhibit and be part of a team that has fun and makes a difference. Call our message line: 831.659.5715 and we'll get back with you to discuss possibilities.



## Carmel Valley Historical Society

WEB | [carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org)  
 f | Carmel Valley History Center  
 EMAIL | [cvhs3@live.com](mailto:cvhs3@live.com)  
 CALL | (831) 659-5715  
 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
Gary Tate	Vice President
Dave Terdy	Treasurer
Cherie Ohlson	Secretary
Elizabeth Barratt	Recording Secretary
Jane Chaney	Member
Jeff Ohlson	Member
Ellsworth Gregory	Member Emeritus
Historians	Elizabeth Barratt
Newsletter Production	Jeff Ohlson
	Kim Williams

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## Upcoming Event

Saturday, April 1, 2023 **Annual Meeting and Reception**  
 and a talk by Elizabeth Barratt on the Borondas  
 4:00 - 5:30 PM at the History Center

## The Opening of the Good Eggs of Carmel Valley Exhibit and the 2022 Christmas Party a Huge Success

*100+ people came on a rainy, windy evening and found fine wine  
 and good food, old friends, and time to reminisce.*



Reggie & Ann Jones, Debbie Terdy



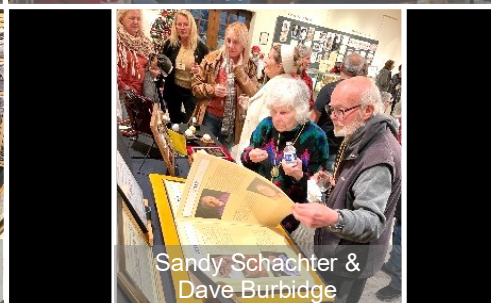
Teresa Goldberg introduces our newest  
 CV Good Egg, Jesse Reimer



Larry Busick, Joe Hertlein



Harriet Busick, Karin Strasser  
 Kaufmann, Barbara Van Hagen



Sandy Schachter &  
 Dave Burbidge



Kim & Christine Williams, Ann Jones



Jeff Ohlson, Seth Goldberg



Ellsworth Gregory, Annie Conneau,  
 Trudy Hart Gregory



Annie Conneau, Krissy Huston