



From Carmel Valley to Hawaii The Stonepine to Westin Kauai Draft Horse Story by Jeff Ohlson, CVHS Historian



The 6-horse team photo was taken during a training session at Stonepine's oval track in Carmel Valley.

The idea to have horse-drawn carriages escorting hotel guests around the grounds of a resort hotel was the brainchild of Christopher B. Hemmeter, then famous for developing lavish, world class hotels. His plan included a specially designed stable to house draft horses, carriages, and all the necessary outfitting and feed - this was indeed a grandiose idea! Hemmeter's destination resort hotel was developed on a 580-acre property located on Kauai, Hawaii and would be managed by Westin Hotels. His famous Westin Kauai Resort on Kalapaki Beach opened in the fall of 1987.

Veteran horsemen with specialized knowledge and experience were required to accomplish the selection and training of all draft horse breeds to safely pull various styles of car-

riages either by one horse or by 2, 4, or 6-horse teams. This daunting job was taken on by Tom and Debby Harris and Denzel Cameron. Tom and Debby were then Equestrian Directors at the Stonepine Estate Resort and owners and operators of Harris Stage Lines, their independent carriage tour business in Paso Robles. Denzel Cameron, a veteran horse trainer specializing in training horses for use in motion pictures, assisted the Harris family in this major undertaking. Denzel was also a consultant to Stonepine Equestrian at the time.

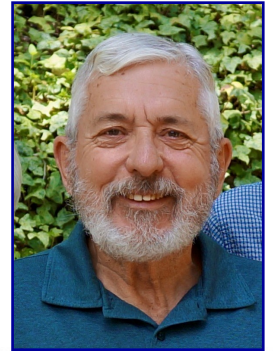
In the spring and summer of 1987, Tom and Denzel and scoured the U.S. to find the best Belgians, Percherons, and Clydesdales available and then had them trucked to Stonepine where

(See Horses, page 7)

A MESSAGE FROM CVHS PRESIDENT KIM WILLIAMS

On December 9th, we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of the History Center in conjunction with our Annual Christmas Party. It's been an amazing decade of learning about the interesting people and events of the Valley and turning our research into exhibits for the local community and beyond. Details about the event are on the back page of this edition of the Historian.

This fall, we appealed to non-members on The Historian mailing list to support the Society by becoming a member. The result was over 80 new memberships, a wonderful response. Membership dues are the backbone of Society operations and make it possible to continue preservation of artifacts and memorabilia and develop exhibits that portray the history of our unique Valley. Thank you to all members for your generous support. (See next page.)



Kim Williams



Looking for a Unique Gift?

Here are several ideas to consider for yourself and others:

- *A popular option is the CVHS investment account for those who wish to make a donation of shares and avoid capital gains taxes. Contact Treasurer Dave Terdy at dave@daveterdy.com for the information you will need for the transaction.
- *Dedicate a recognition tile to a friend, family member, business, or even a cherished pet. These tiles are affixed to the outside wall of the building so can be viewed any time.
- *Make a donation to the Historical Society in honor of someone special.
- *Buy a set of Carmel Valley history books written by our historians who have brought alive the many events and interesting stories that have made our Valley unique.

10 Years Ago - Our First Museum Visitor!

After the History Center's Museum's grand opening on December 7th, 2013 it first opened to the public on Friday, December 13. The museum's first visitor was Navajo Indian descendant artist Leon Roe, who was on lunch break from his job in the Village.

Leon was greeted by Jeff Ohlson, our first docent, and given a tour of the three opening exhibits that occupied a mostly unfilled space.



Leon Roe, our first visitor 10 years ago on December 13, 2013

Today, the museum is filled with dozens of exhibits and there are now 17 docents to welcome our many visitors that have numbered over 11,000 during the past decade.

Consider joining our volunteer docent corps. Previous experience is not necessary, training is provided, and the minimum time commitment is three to four hours/month depending on the day you choose to volunteer. If you enjoy talking with people and continuous learning, being a docent is an interesting, enjoyable, and rewarding way to give back to the community.

To explore volunteering, contact Cherie Ohlson at cherieo@blarg.net. Our docents have a lot of fun!

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS (Aug, Sept, Oct)

General Fund: James & Jane Asher, Michael Bell, Marvin Biasotti, Bill & Patti Bradley, Kathy Cosaert, Gwyn DeAmaral, David & Frances Delfino, Thomas & Sally Dietrich, David Fairhurst, Desiree Gillingham, Alfred & Kathy Herbermann, Don Leach, Scot & Donna Leisy, Sal Lucido, Joseph MacDonald, Michael Mahoney, Christopher Manke, Anna Marshall, Ellen McGrath, Susan Michelson, Toni Moulaison, M.J. Murphy, Constance Murray, Terrence Pershall & Anderson Nygard, Charles Osborne, Karl Pallastrini, Leon & Sylvia Panetta, Laurie & Graham Pike, Dave & Janine Potter, Dale McCauley & Chris Roberts, Sal Rombi & Kathleen Baker, Wm. & Kathleen Tarp, Kim Roberts & Patricia Taylor, Michael & Cindy Thatcher, Steve Hoch & Judy Tschirgi, Judy Verlenden, Anthony Walker, Ridge Watson, Kathleen Wertheimer, Anna Williams, Lucy Zarazua

Grants: Carmel Valley Kiwanis

Tiles: Diane Douglas, Suzanne Taunt, Anthony Walker

DONATIONS: DOCUMENTS, PHOTOS, ARTIFACTS, LIBRARY MATERIALS (Aug, Sept, Oct)

Sandy Schachter: Various magazine and newspaper articles on Carmel Valley events and history

Charles & Prober: 3 copies of 1989 Centennial Newspaper

Trulee Ricketts: Flyers from Rancho Carmelo and Tantamount Theater, CV Outlook 8/24/61 and 11/30/61 editions

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! (AUG, SEPT, OCT)

Mary Adams, Jim & Jane Asher, Michael & Pamela Bell, Marvin Biasotti & Ann Hudacek, Jean Boeddiker, Fred Bohlander, Bill & Patty Bradley, Merritt Bruce & Stephanie Sayler, Paul & Kristen Calcaterra, Mike Chamberlin, Meg Clovis, Tim Condon, Bob & Phyllis Conlan, Luana Conley, Boyd & Sandee Cope, Kathy Cosaert, Charlie & Nancy Costanza, Davie & Frances Delfino, Peter & Lois Dew, Tom & Sally Dietrich, Pat & Trudy Dowd, Capt. Eugene Erner, David Fairhurst, Douglas & Nancie Ferguson, Roger & Allison Gardner, Desiree Gillingham, Thomas Gladney, Robert & Susan Gulate, Kay Heath, Hennessy, Hennessy, Kathy & Alfred Herbermann, Barbara Higuera, Stephen Hoch & Judy Tschirgi, John Heyl & Katherine Greewald, Annette Jankosky, Adrienne Jensen, Conall Jones, Vala Johnson, Martha Karstens, Tom & Valerie Lassiter, Donna Lawson & Scott Leisy, Don Leach & Robin Anderson, Walter Loeliger, Cynthia Lott, Sal & Ada Lucido, Joseph & Pamela MacDonald, Ellen McGrath, Michael Mahoney, Anna Marshall, Susan Michaelson, Toni Moulaison, Kenny Murray & Dave Buckingham, Diane Nelson, Charles Osborne, Karl Pallistrini, Leon & Sylvia Panetta, Terrence Pershall & Anderson Nygard, Graham & Laurie Pike, Anna Rheim, Dale McCauley & Chris Roberts, Salvatore & Kathleen Rombi, Martin & Joan Rosen, Mark & Elaine Schlegel, Mark & Bettina Schwartz, Doris Senger, James & Brenda Shakal, Everett Singer, Tom Tanner, Bill & Kathleen Tarp, Michael & Cindy Thatcher, Greg Thompson, Barbara Van Hagen, William & Judy Verlender, Anthony Walker, Ridge Watson, Jeffrey & Nancy Watts, Kit Wertheimer, Rich & Sandy Wise, Dianne Woods, Martin & Becky Woodward, Lucy Zarazua (If somehow we missed you, please let us know.)

Joe Hitchcock's Parents Joseph and Anna Hitchcock

By Elizabeth Barratt, CVHS Historian



Joseph Hitchcock, Sr. and Anna Victorine Hitchcock were parents of Carmel Valley old-timer Joe Hitchcock, Jr.

Joe Hitchcock's father, Joseph Hitchcock, Sr. (1856-1937) was born in Carmel Valley, the only child of Isaac Hitchcock and Magdalena Peralta. He grew up "in the saddle", helping his father on the family ranch as a vaquero.

He married Anna Victorine on April 3, 1880 and in time the couple had five children: Joseph Jr. (1881-1969), Isaac (1882-1945), James (1886-1908), Henry (1887-1963), and Mary (1889-1908).

Joe, Jr. was two years old when his father went to work at Rancho los Laureles under the supervision of dairy manager William Hatton, for whom he had worked in the Hatton Lower Dairy (today's Barnyard Shopping Village). His job at Rancho los Laureles was to stock the ranch with cattle for the Pacific Improvement Company. "Mr. Hatton, being a thorough cattleman and knowing how to choose the proper kind of men, was easy to work for," Joe wrote. His father worked as a foreman at the ranch for the next ten years. As Joe described it, "Most of the land south of the Valley road and down to the river bank was planted in alfalfa where the dairy cows were pastured. My father used to do the irrigating, beside his other duties of riding the range to keep the fences in repair, raising cattle and general ranch work.

"In 1886 Mr. Hatton had my father move down to the house that was east of Los Laureles Lodge but has since been torn down. In those days, work was hard for all, and the working day was a

long one. By the time the evening chores were done, the men were ready for sleep, especially during plowing and haying season. Much hay had to be cut and stacked after the barns were full, to feed the dairy stock and also the range stock that were thin and needed extra feed during the lean winter months. The only amusement was playing cards: Euchre, Casino, Pedro or Poker but no one played for money, it was only to pass the time before hitting the hay. Life was simple, and everyone was happy as there was always plenty to eat, also wild game such as deer, rabbit, quail, wild duck, and sometimes a domestic hog that had gone wild, were plentiful," Joe wrote, in his weekly Carmel Valley News column.

In 1894 the Pacific Improvement Company transferred Joe Hitchcock, Sr. to work as a foreman at the El Pescadero Ranch (the present Pebble Beach) where he worked until 1912. At the time there were buffalo grazing at the ranch alongside domestic cattle and buffalo half-breeds.

During this period Joe, Sr. bought a house in Carmel for his family, located on Mission Street between Seventh and Eighth Streets. After leaving his job at El Pescadero Ranch, he worked on various large ranches in Monterey County as well as for the enormous Miller and Lux ranching

(See next page)



Joseph Hitchcock, Sr. worked for William Hatton and the Pacific Improvement Company at Rancho los Laureles. He is seen here in 1886, second from left, in front of the stables wearing a serape. The stables were across Carmel Valley Road from the present Los Laureles Lodge.

(From previous page)

enterprise in the San Joaquin Valley, returning to the family home when work allowed.

When he died at his Carmel home, the March 26, 1937 Carmel Pine Cone eulogized him as "The last of the vaqueros."

Joe's mother, Anna Victorine Hitchcock (1856-1943), began her workday at 5:00 AM when she started a fire in the kitchen stove and put on the cast iron kettle to make coffee.

While the men went out to begin their daily chores, she prepared breakfast to be ready by 6:00 AM. As Joe described it, "My mother's tools consisted of a cast iron black stove, many pots and pans, a primitive sewing machine, a wash board and a large wash tub which played double duty as a laundry tub and bath tub."

During peak season when hired help had to be fed, Anna baked 16 to 24 loaves of bread a day, churned butter and made "Queso del Pais" cheese (today's Monterey Jack) from the extra milk. "The only mechanical device in my mother's kitchen was the coffee mill fastened to the kitchen wall. Each

morning the welcoming sound of coffee being ground told a new day was being born." Joe wrote.

On rainy days, with a busy household of children, Joe's mother had a problem on her hands. Her favorite saying was "Dia de lluvia es dia de bofetadas" (a rainy day is spanking day). Joe added, "When kids are corralled in the house there is surely quarreling going on. Fortunately for my mother, the rainy days were fewer than the sunny ones."

"The women were hardy in those days, at home as well as in the fields," he wrote. Besides all the other work, they took time to help a neighbor kill a beef or hog for winter dinners.

"Neighbors always pitched in to help neighbors. Butchering was always a time of neighborly help. I can still remember seeing my parents going up to John Berta's to help make salami, corn beef, or perhaps jerky. Friendships lasted through the years. You can well see why a visit from a neighbor who lived five or ten miles away, or a trip to Monterey or Salinas, was a big event and why the friendships lasted through the years."

Joseph and Anna Hitchcock are buried at San Carlos Cemetery in Monterey. 🏠



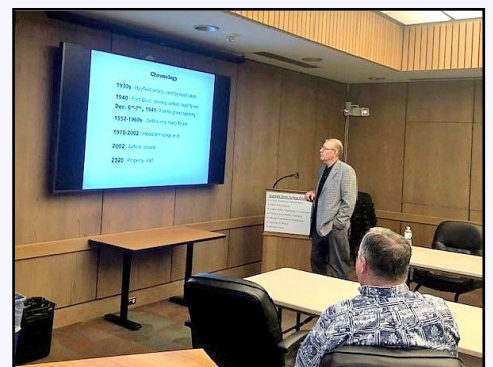
Vaqueros at the Hatton Lower Dairy pose ready for milking. Joseph Hitchcock, Sr. worked for William Hatton.

Talking about the Vintage Airfield...

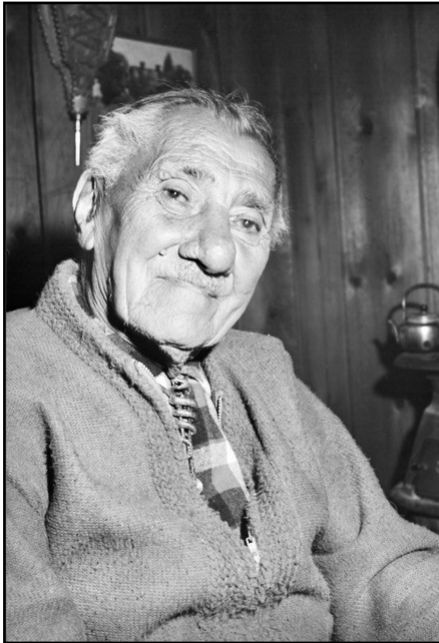
CVHS historian Jeff Ohlson is shown giving a presentation on the history of Carmel Valley's Vintage Airfield at the Monterey Airport Board Room last October. The Monterey Vintage Pilot Squadron group hosted the event. Talks such as these not only are of interest to attendees but also highlight the historical mission of our Society and its excellent museum.

Jeff covered the airfield's early years, its leasing era, its closure, and its current ownership.

Those wishing to learn more about the old airfield can obtain a copy of its complete history either on our website or at the History Center.



Joe Hitchcock, Carmel Valley Old-Timer His Stories are Online in the *Outlook* Elizabeth Barratt, CVHS Historian

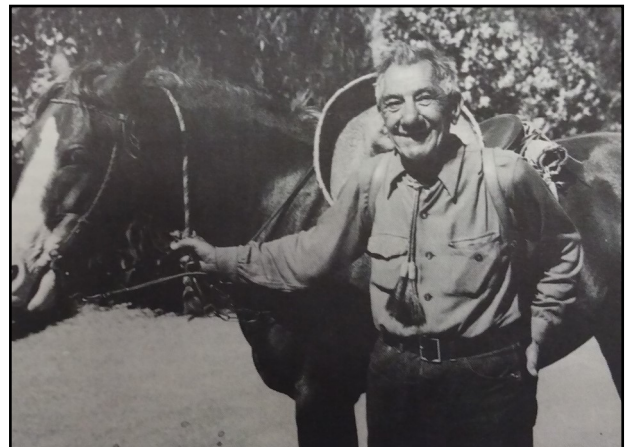


With the recent digitization of our collection of the former *Carmel Valley Outlook* (1962-1981), the public will be able to read on-line not only about life in Carmel Valley as it was lived several decades ago, but will also have access to portions of the popular columns written by Carmel Valley Old-Timer Joe Hitchcock, Jr.

Joe Hitchcock, Jr. (1881-1969) was a Carmel Valley institution, with local roots stretching back into the annals of California history. Thanks to his published personal and historical recollections, we know a great deal about both his life and early events in Carmel Valley and the greater Monterey Peninsula. Joe's pithy and humorous observations appeared between 1948-1962 in a weekly newspaper column, "Joe Hitchcock Remembers," first published in the former *Carmel Valley News* between 1949-1959 and continued in the former *Carmel Valley Outlook* between 1962-1968. Joe's nostalgic columns about Carmel Valley life during his early years have provided local history buffs with a colorful view of a bygone era. Many of his recollections were precise down to the exact date of an event, or site of a locale. He could recall and quote the wording on a vanished child's tombstone located on the Los Laureles ranch and recount the

story of who planted the eucalyptus tree row on Boronda Road. His columns offered witty recollections of life on the ranch and range, eccentric weather patterns, famous faces, family celebrations, old school days and lively histories of the people, places and events recalled from his childhood.

Joe Hitchcock's roots went far back into Monterey County history on both sides of his family. His paternal grandfather, Isaac Hitchcock, born in New York state, was an early American settler in Monterey, having arrived following the 1846 military invasion that resulted in California's statehood. His paternal grandmother, Magdalena Peralta, was descended from the native Onesimo family who were present in the Carmel Valley area centuries before Vizcaino discovered and named the Carmel River, near whose banks Father Junipero Serra established Mission San Carlos Borromeo. Joe's maternal grandfather, Antonio Victorine, arrived from the Azores in 1859, soon joining a band of Portuguese men who founded the Carmel Whaling Company at Point Lobos. Joe's maternal grandmother, Maria Dutra Victorine, followed her husband after the end of the Civil War. Together they established a well-known dairy on the coast south of Carmel. Many descendants of these early pioneers still live in the area.



Often adding his memorable family lore for backdrop to his accounts, Joe's columns were a treasure store of local legends for his loyal readership.

Joe's Columns for the *Outlook* are available by visiting the Carmel Valley Historical Society website at carmelvalleyhistoricalsociety.org. Click on "News and Events" and then scroll down to "20 Years of Historical Newspapers Now Available." When funds are available for more digitization, our collection of the *Outlook's* predecessor, the former *Carmel Valley News*, will provide access to the remainder of Joe's columns. 🏠

(Horses from page 1)

they were stabled and trained. The job also required the purchasing of over three dozen Landau carriages and the purchasing, harnessing including collars, and training of over 100 draft horses and then air-freighting them to Kauai. 🏠



The horses were then transported by truck from Stonepine to Oakland for air transport to Kauai's Lihue Airport.



Off they go! This photo shows the horses loading into an Interstate Cargo DC-8 freighter for the 2,500-mile flight to Kauai - five flights in all were needed.

A horse caging system, handlers, equipment, a veterinarian, plus hay and water were on board to safely transport the horses. Pilots accommodated horse transport by longer ascents and descents and avoiding turbulence wherever possible.



The horses are shown above at the Westin Kauai Resort. The well-trained and gentle draft horses safely took hotel guests on tours or other resort destinations. At the time, it was said to be the largest single collection of draft horses since the U.S. Army's Cavalry days prior to WWII – all trained at Stonepine's Equestrian Center, the old Double H Ranch.

Note: The author is grateful for having access to Stonepine Estate's photo archives and to Tom and Debby Harris of Harris Stage Lines for their passionate and expert assistance in the telling of this story.

**Carmel
Valley
Historical
Society**



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You are invited to our annual
Christmas Party
and
10th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, December 9, 2023
from 3:00 to 6:00 PM
at the Carmel Valley History Center
77 West Carmel Valley Road

**Come visit with old friends, meet some new friends,
greet your board members, and see our newest
exhibit, *Carmel Valley History: An Unfolding Story*.**

**If you can, please bring a finger-food hors d'oeuvre
or dessert, or a bottle of white wine.**

**For more information, email Kim at
CVHSPresident@gmail.com.
Or call the History Center - 659-5715.**