



THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE CARMEL VALLEY TRAIL & SADDLE CLUB

1956 TO 1970

COMPILED BY JUDI LEAVELLE-KING

PREFACE

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Carmel Valley Trail and Saddle Club, the Board of Directors decided to hold a special celebration October 2006. They organized a special day with assorted horse and cattle games, a membership meeting, a barbeque by the Moveable Feast, music and dancing to the tunes of Bruce and Pam Foreman's Cow Bop Band and Mike Osgood's Hay Boys.

President Larry Bacon thought it might be an extra bonus to share some of the Club's history with the membership on that special day. Earlier in the year he had asked me if I would be willing to be Club Historian and I agreed. Little did I know what kind of project I was getting involved in... I had to come up with a plan, and quickly.

I began by interviewing previous board members, members and children of members all belonging to the Club in its early days. I also interviewed some current members that had belonged since the late 50s and early 60s. They had fond memories to share, as well as many interesting stories to tell about their Club.

Ruth Bishop was on the board when the Club's Articles of Incorporation were signed on November 14, 1956, during the presidency of Jack Hennesey. Interviewing Ruth was a sheer delight, she proved to be a fount of knowledge. She and her husband Hiram had been founding members and, as a board member, she had been secretary for many years.

By interviewing long-time member Jeanette Ayres, I found out that she and Allene Buchenroth had visited the property and recommended that the Club purchase it. According to the minutes, the Club secured a loan from Mrs. T. A. Work in February of 1959. On March 20, 1959, the property was purchased from Fredrick Godwin who owned the Pine Inn in Carmel at that time.

Long-time Club members Don and Lura Mae Sherman were more than willing to share their memories of the early 60s with me. They were the members who actually secured the loan from Barnett Segal of Carmel Savings for the construction of the Club House. Howard Carter and Doyt Early helped with the plans. Don Sherman and Dick Warmington spearheaded the building project as well as donating a great deal of their own time and labor to get it completed. M. J. Murphy's Lumber and Hardware provided much of the materials at a lower cost to help out.

Many other locals who gladly contributed to this research project were Ed and Dolores McGlochlin, Barbara Porter, Patricia Porter, Nancy Porter, Evelyn Zoellin, Bill Bradley, Kirk Gayman and Stu Clough.

I have a list of people I still want to interview as this has become an ongoing project. So far I've read every set of minutes, newsletter, horseshow program and newspaper clipping between the years of 1956 and 1970. It's all really marvelous reading about those early citizens of Carmel Valley with limited funds and great visions for the future. Check out the whole story on our Carmel Valley Trail and Saddle Club website www.cvtsc.org

Judi Leavelle-King
CVT&S Club Historian

CARMEL VALLEY TRAIL & SADDLE CLUB

PRESIDENTS

Jack Hennesy	1956	Stu Clough	1972 - 73
Len Buche	1957 - 58	Getty Fairchild	1974
		Joseph Tully	1975
Jack Loesel	1960	Dale Eberly	1976
Bill Sellers	1960 - 61	Dale Vandervort	1977
Bud Howard	1961 - 62	Ray Titus	1978 - 82
Dallas Pack	1963		
Ballard White	1964 - 65	Margaret Lidstrom	1984 - 86
Bob Angel	1966 - 67	Chuck Strathmeyer	1987
Richard Zoellin	1967 - 68	Russ Murray	1988
Bob Angel	1968 - 69	Dan Peterson	1989 - 91

The group that first started the Carmel Valley Trail and Saddle Club were families with children, who wanted a neighborhood place to meet, socialize and hold horse events.
(*Jeanette Ayres*)

In 1956, this group under the leadership of Jack Hennesy and his ten board members filed for incorporation on November 14. Jack and Ruth Bishop were authorized to execute the articles of incorporation and signed the document. (*Ruth Bishop*)

The specific and primary purposes for which it was formed are as follows:

“This organization is formed for the purpose of preserving, acquiring, building, maintaining and supervising, bridle paths and trails and the right-of-way therefore, suitable for public riding, hiking and cycling in Carmel Valley, Monterey County, California and elsewhere in the state of California; to give aid and support to every type of activity concerning horses and hiking; to assist and encourage the sponsorship of rodeos, horse shows, gymkhanas, parades, and any other activity which will further the firm purpose thereof; to sponsor in-state, county, municipal or local—all legislation that may be favorable to horsemen and pedestrians, and to be vigilant with respect to adverse legislation; and to do any and all things in furtherance of the interest of horses, horsemen, hikers or cyclists.”

MEETING LOCATIONS

Before the group had club grounds or a clubhouse they held their meetings in many different places some of these were: Rancho del Monte, Cottage Inn Restaurant, Carmel Valley Community Center, Carmel Valley Inn, Tularcitos School Cafeteria, Paul Porter’s Realty Office, Los Laureles Lodge, Lou Eberts Snack Bar, and the homes of Ruth Hiram Bishop, Art Bennet, Frank Crispo, Elaine Riddel, Jack Loesel, Janet Ayers, Leon Fosters, Beverly Mueller, just to name a few.

EVENT VENUES

Early riding events were held in a variety of places all over the valley. Ruth Bishop said the first playday was held behind the Los Laureles Lodge and the electricity for the speaker was from an extension cord attached to Jack Hennesy’s camper. They rented flat areas or arenas from K.D. Mathiot, Rippling River, and Jack Cowan’s place near Rosie’s bridge. Janet Ayers said that one early group wanted to use Sam Morris River Ranch as a possible venue but found it not a good location after picking and hauling lots of rocks. They also used Mission Ranch and an area behind the Girl Scout Camp.

André Forzani said she and Elaine Riddell walked down the hill to the property that is now the Club grounds and decided that this property would never do because it was in the floodplain.

Later Jeanette Ayres took off from her job in the village and was wearing a skirt and nylons when she and Allene Buchenroth went to view the property in hopes of the Club purchasing it. She said she had a young boy, Mark, and a horse-crazy girl, Randi, and they needed a neighborhood place to meet and hold horse events.

After much discussion the Club members decided to purchase the property. It belonged to Fredrick Godwin who was also the owner of the Pine Inn in Carmel.

On February 23, 1959, Mrs. T.A. Work loaned the Club \$5,000 at seven percent interest for four years with \$500 being paid on the principal each year plus the interest in three payments yearly. This amounted to \$80 a month. The board recommended the loan and it was approved by a vote of the membership.

1959

As specified by our deed, the Trail and Saddle Club grounds were purchased March 20, 1959. According to various sets of minutes, 1959 was a very busy year and an exciting time for club members. The board was working on membership parameters as their membership was already at one hundred. For fun, they rented a Greyhound bus and took members to the Cow Palace in San Francisco for \$7 per person. They also scheduled a hayride for members.

That year they bought two loud speakers and amplifiers as they had been borrowing some previously.

Nancy and Patsy Porter recalled the evening their father came home and announced to his family that the Club had finally found a permanent location. Everybody was so thrilled!

After that, when the members got used to the idea of using and improving the grounds, every weekend the kids would ride down and pick up rocks and put them into burlap bags, then tying them by ropes to their saddle horns they would drag them to the river bed and dump them “over and over and over.”

1959

That year they began building the arena fences in conjunction with afternoon playdays. The work was done in the mornings and from 3:00 to 5:00 pm they held the playdays with awards given out to the hardest workers.

1960

After much discussion over several board meetings, the Club put in a set of gateposts with a chain and combination lock. The lock code was given to the members in the newsletter.

They decided to rent the grounds to the Carmel Valley Horsemen's Association. Four to five times each year for \$50 each occasion, plus breakage costs. This fee was increased from \$25 the previous year for the same deal. Other rental fees at that time were \$10 for the barbecue only, \$15 for the canteen and barbecue and \$25 for the entire facility. That year Paul Porter reported a \$50 loss on their dance and \$.56 profit on the Annual Show. By the end of 1960 they had \$698.96 cash on hand and ninety-one members. They wanted to start getting some plans for a clubhouse. That year they planted the lawns and started working on their biggest fundraiser ever, "The Cantique" for 1961.

1961

In this year they discussed needing a road down into the club grounds and how to arrange for it. They also started discussing a three-phase plan for the clubhouse and a pool. Stables and tennis courts were also discussed at that time.

At this point the club had an arena and a huge lumber wagon they used as a grandstand with two pieces of plywood on the ground for a dance floor. (*Ed and Dolores McGlochlin*)

1962

By this time the board members had voted to start getting some estimates for a clubhouse.

FUNDRAISING

They were always working to gather funds toward purchasing some property and enlarging their building funds. They held: breakfast and dinner rides, bake sales, dinner dances, barbecues, bingo with white elephant prizes, box suppers, and raffles. (In 1964 they purchased a painting from Jack Swanson for \$300 and sold raffle tickets for it. Shortly afterwards, Jack and Sally applied for membership and were warmly welcomed.) They held hay rides, trail rides, shows, schooling shows, gymkhanas and turkey raffles.

1963

There was much discussion about having a boarding stable on the grounds, or a riding academy or leasing it out to a trainer. They interviewed and got ideas from Ray Hackworth, End-O-Lane Stables, Marvin Roberts, Barbara Siino, Beauford Clark, Jack Swanson and K.D. Mathiot.

At a board meeting in Paul Porter's office they established a new rental scale for ground use and set up a building fund. At a later board meeting in Paul's office they discussed getting bids for a clubhouse and asked Doyt Early to draw up some plans. When he was a board member in the early 60s Ed McGlochlin said he voted against including tennis courts because he thought they might get flooded out.

1964

Don and Lura Mae Sherman joined the club in 1964. They went in to Carmel to see Barnet "Barney" Segal at Carmel Savings and Loan. Segal established Carmel's first bank in 1923 and is credited with providing loans for many of the towns early businesses and commercial construction projects (*The Herald 10/05/06*)

Don said Barney was single and a noted "lady's man" so he took Lura Mae with him when they went in to apply for the loan. Of course they got it!

They ended up securing a \$30,000 loan at a very low interest rate. The Clubhouse was to be built at the same time as the tennis courts with \$15,000 allocated toward each project.

1965

This year the arena was enlarged and Ruth Bishop and Ruth Angel began running the Club's horseshows. During this time also Ballard White was the president and Ed McGlochlin recalls when Ballard was driving his truck that had a tall, aluminum, box-type bed on it. Well, Ballard had gone up Garzas Road to the Club, but on his return down the road he hit a tree limb which removed the entire top of his truck. It was one of those three trees growing in the middle of the road.

1965 is also the year that Richard and Evelyn Zoellin joined the Club as they were encouraged by Bob Angel to do so. Many members were from the Garzas Road area, a neighborhood, developed by Paul Porter.

The Club hosted lots of family trail rides and the club continued to work on the trail systems throughout the valley. They contacted property owners asking for access, requesting a "horse-crossing" sign for Carmel Valley Road intersections, and encouraging "Valleyites" to participate in their trail rides.

For horse education activities the board invited a series of guest speakers and clinicians: Nancy Bottero, George McMahan, Vic Silva, Rastey Manero, Ray Hackworth and Andre Forzani.

1967

The Club had 109 members at that time: 71 seniors and 38 juniors

1968

Bob Angel was the president during this exciting year. The membership voted to construct a clubhouse and tennis courts. They also put in a full-length seat all along the northside/ riverside of the large arena. On 10/30/68 the board approved Jack Swanson's drawing for the official stationary and emblem for the Carmel Valley Trail and Saddle Club.

1968

April "The quarterly meeting of the Carmel Valley Trail and Saddle Club was held at the bar of the Carmel Valley Inn, due to lack of a clubhouse!" (*Nancy Rushmer, secretary*)

"Our water bill was \$20 last month, are we using too much?"

"We are now receiving bids on the clubhouse and Leo Kohler is getting some bids for us on the tennis courts."

Let the building begin! Bob Angel was the Club president at that time and he supervised the tennis court project. Howard Carter drew up the plans and did the engineering for the clubhouse. (*Don Sherman*)

Don Sherman oversaw the building of the clubhouse. He approached many sub-contractors he had worked with previously and received low bids for the project phases. Murphy's Lumber provided much of the materials at a lower cost to help out. Dick Warmington was also helpful in overseeing this project. A great deal of labor and time were donated, especially by Don and Dick. (*Don Sherman*)

Some members wanted a different type of flooring to be put into the clubhouse but finally they agreed upon the exposed aggregate, which is still holding up fine today. (*Don Sherman*)

Bob Angel was president during all of the building phases and Don Sherman was his vice president. Don never wanted to actually be the club president. (*Don Sherman*)

1970

Richard and Evelyn Zoellin lived on Garzas Road and were very active members. Evelyn remembers that they put on seven playdays the first year they were in the club. She remembers that Nancy Rushmer took over her husband Jack's position on the board because he was away so often. (*Evelyn Zoellin*)

Ruth Angel was wonderful at soliciting sponsorships for the horse shows and was vice-president of California State Horseman's Association. The club had also formed a large Club Colorguard with flags and matching shirts.

TO BE CONTINUED

The Carmel Valley Trail and Saddle Club History from 1970 to the present day is Phase II of this research project. It will be posted on this website as soon as it is completed.

CURRENT AND PAST MEMBERS INTERVIEWED

Don and Lura Mae Sherman

Ed and Dolores McGlochlin

Ruth Bishop (Hiram deceased)

Jeanette Ayers

Barbara Porter (Paul deceased)

Patricia Porter

Nancy Porter

Evelyn Zoellin (Richard deceased)

Bill Bradley (parents Mignon and Arnold deceased)

Kirk Gaymen (brothers David and Richard were on board during Incorporation days.

Richard Gayman passed away 9/06)

Bryan Riddel — Founding member deceased —(parents Ed and Elaine Riddel)

Stu Clough, past president — Redding, CA