

MONTEREY COUNTY PLACE NAMES

about the name of Margaret Hayes “(90 years old) who was born, raised and lived” in the Pajaro area.

Now as to Corn Cob Canyon, Margaet Hayes had the story that when she passed by the entrance to Corn Cob Canyon...on her way to Watsonville from Castroville sometimes she could smell the odor from the liquor stills that were operating back up that road. And, that nearly behind each “barn” was a large pile of corn cobs. This was before prohibition ended. Isn't that a likely story?

Ref: p.c. Alzora Snyder September 23, 1990

Map: Orr 1964:12, 1980WAE, 1986CSW as **Corncob Canyon**; 1970MET as **Corn Cobb** [sic] **Canyon**

Cornell Park This triangular shaped mini-park (0.25-acre) in Salinas is bounded by Front, Abbott, and Summer Streets.

Ref: Salinas 1988:23

Map: 1986CSA, Thomas 1987:G, Salinas 1988:23 as **Cornell Park**; Orr 1964:23D as **Park**

Corral Canyon This canyon heads near the 1800-ft level in SWQ Sec.5 T19S R5E and trends S to open onto Piney Creek in the extreme NEQ Sec.18. Probably named for the presence of a corral.

Map: 1984SYC

Corral de Tierra 1. A community located just off the Monterey-Salinas Highway in Corral de Tierra Valley (q.v.). The area took its name from Rancho Corral de Tierra (q.v.), which, in turn, took its name from an earthen corral. Through decades of usage, the name has come to include the El Toro area and Calera Canyon.

Ref: Sanchez 1922:158-159; *Salinas Californian*, August 10, 1946 as **Corral de Tierra**

Map: 1910REC, 1912SAL, 1920HIG, 1926CRC, 1984COM, 1986JOH as **Corral de Tierra**

2. The original *corral de tierra* described under the heading Rancho Corral de Tierra (q.v.).

Map: Howard 1977:21 shows **corral**

Corral de Tierra Country Club This 18-hole golf course, designed by Robert Baldock, is located 10 m SW of Salinas at 81 Corral de Tierra Road off Highway 68. A locative name.

Ref: Great 1990:29-30

Map: Thomas 1987:253; Great 1990:21

Corral de Tierra Post Office This post office operated from May 6, 1912, until May 29, 1931. The application for an office, dated February 10, 1910 (!), indicated it would be located in NWQ Sec.19 T16S R3E. In 1918 it was moved 1 mile W, and again in 1929 it was moved 2 m N when Mrs. Bessie Bell McCoy was in charge. Its first postmaster was Mrs. Rosa A. Lambert.

Ref: Record 1832-1971; Frickstad 1955:106; *Monterey Peninsula Herald*, August 15, 1967; Wilkerson 1968:59; Salley 1977:50; Wilkerson 1984:7

Map: Site Location 1837-1950 (as of 1912, 1918 and 1929), 1936CSA, Wilkerson 1984:6

Corral de Tierra Valley This valley begins in the NWQ Sec.16 T16S R3E. In a sense it forms a great crescent from the slopes of Mount Toro as it swerves S, SW, W, NW and finally N to open onto the upper reaches of El Toro Valley near the intersection of Corral de Tierra Road and the Monterey-Salinas Highway (Highway 68). The valley was the setting for John Steinbeck's first short-story sequence, “The Pastures of Heaven.” The opening scene is set at “some time around 1776.” One of the soldiers assigned to Mission Carmel accidentally stumbles onto a superb view.

In a few minutes he arrived at the top of the ridge, and there he stopped, stricken with wonder at what he saw — a long valley floored with green pasturage on which a herd of deer browsed. Perfect live oaks grew in the meadows of the lovely place, and the hills hugged it jealously against the fog and the wind....

“Holy Mother! he whispered. “Here are the green pastures of Heaven to which our Lord leadeth us.”

The valley was named for the rancho through which it trends, Rancho Corral de Tierra. Turn to that entry for a full explanation of the origin of the name.

Ref: Deed Book D January 4, 1859:61 as **Arroyo of the Corral de Tierra**; Writers' 1946:167; Steinbeck 1932:2; Cox 1975:52; Pearson 1984:10; Wyatt 1986:135-137