

**Author Shelley Alden Brooks to explore Big Sur's past and future.**  
**Jan 27, 4 pm at the Big Sur Grange and Jan 28, 4 pm at the Lab in Carmel.**

<https://henrymiller.org/big-sur-history/>  
<https://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520294424>

On Saturday, January 6th, a food truck was parked on a turnout just north of Bixby Bridge. Tourists happily queued up, eventually spilling over the highway fog line. Meanwhile, cars kept coming, some trying to park while dangerously backing up into oncoming traffic.

This isn't a story from the Onion. It's true, and illustrates one of the many challenges facing Big Sur as it grapples with ever more visitors.

If you are interested in Big Sur's past and concerned about its future, we encourage you to attend one of the following two book signings with Shelley Alden Brooks, author of "Big Sur: The Making of a Prized California Landscape" (University of California Press).

- Saturday, January 27 at 4 pm at the Big Sur Grange
- Sunday, January 28 @ 4 pm at the Lab, 3728 The Barnyard, Suite G-23, in Carmel

Each event is by donation.

#### About the Book

Big Sur's prized coastline is the product of the pioneering efforts of artists, residents, and Monterey County officials who forged a collaborative public/private preservation model for Big Sur that foreshadowed the shape of California coastal preservation in the twenty-first century. Big Sur's well-preserved vistas and high-end real estate situate this coastline between American ideals of development and the wild. It is a space that challenges the way most Americans think of nature, of people's relationship to nature, and of what in fact makes a place "wild."

Why aren't there more houses, turn-lanes, billboards, hotels, lights on at night, walkways down to the beaches, parking lots, interpretive signs, traffic lights, bathrooms, etc. in Big Sur? How likely are these developments in the future? And how does Big Sur's experience compare to that of other prime California destinations?"

You will find some answers to these and other important questions in Dr. Brooks' book, which highlights today's intricate and ambiguous intersections of class, the environment, and economic development through the lens of an iconic California landscape.

Shelley Brooks works for the California History-Social Science Project and teaches twentieth-century U.S., California, and environmental history at the University of California, Davis.

Questions? Want to interview Shelly? Contact her at [shebrooks@ucdavis.edu](mailto:shebrooks@ucdavis.edu)

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