



## *Henry Miller*

Henry Miller arrived penniless in Big Sur in 1944, showing up at the cabin before Orson Wells and Rita Hayworth bought it. He spent his first couple months sleeping on the floor, sharing the space with novelist Lynda Sargent, who lived and wrote at the cabin for several years. Evidently they didn't take kindly to each other at first, but soon enough they could be found tap, tapping away far into the night on their respective typewriters.

He wrote of his situation in *Big Sur and the Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch*, "What the budding artist needs is the privilege of wrestling with his problems in solitude—and now and then a piece of red meat."

A fixture at Nepenthe in the early days, he wrote about Nepenthe and the Fassetts in that same book:

*There is another family I cannot pass over without a word or two, since here, once again, the children dominate the scene. I mean the Fassett family whose abode is "Nepenthe," one of the show places along the Coast. Lolly and Bill, the parents, are busy seven months of the year running the establishment, which specializes in food, drink, and dancing. The kids—up until recently, at any rate—specialized in raising hell. All five of them.*

*... The parents, of course, are sometimes puzzled by the various problems this brood presents. Particularly Bill, the provider, who, before he hit on the brilliant idea of opening "Nepenthe," used to sit up nights wondering how to feed and clothe such a tribe. But those days are past. His chief problem now is: should Griff, the oldest one, be sent to Europe to have his fling or should he be permitted to stay in Big Sur and become a Jack of all trades. The major problem is—where will they all go to live, what part of the world, when Bill has made his pile?*

*A rather pleasant problem, I should say. Why not Capri?*