

THE MOHAHVE MUSE

Mohahve Historical Society
P.O. Box 21, Victorville, Ca 92393



Volume 25 Issue 8
August 2022

President: Marcy Taylor, **VP:** Delvin Harbour, **Treasurer:** Carol Wiley, **Rec Secy:** Open, **Corres Secy:** Therese Moore
Directors: Mary Dutro, Julia Jackson, Carol Johnson, Mike Phillips, Rick Schmidt

President's Corner

Hello, loyal MHS members and Muse readers,

I hope you are all surviving the heat, high gas prices, and political turmoil. Let's try to focus on the positive: If you are reading this, you must be alive and well and ready to hear about past and upcoming MHS and community events!

First of all, I would like to acknowledge some members who are working behind the scenes. Director Rick Schmidt has completed and transcribed an interesting interview with local Hank McGill, a resident of Sterling Inn with an interesting history in the High Desert. It is available to anyone who wants to read it. Past president Mary Hughes continues to work with the Victorville Costco to get us several hundred dollars worth of gift cards each year. They come in handy to cover office supplies, computer ink, and other expenses. Member Eric Mandeson has enthusiastically provided help when needed, greeting people at the Lone Wolf Colony, directing parking on fieldtrips and at the AV Inn, helping with set-up and clean-up at meetings, and even providing delicious refreshments a few months ago. VP Delvin Harbour continues to keep our Facebook page active and interesting; Stormie Reid updates the website; Julie Moffat is busy formatting the final draft of the revised MHS Monuments booklet; Secretary Therese Moore keeps up with the thank-you notes and other needed correspondence. Directors Rick Schmidt and Julia Jackson volunteer weekly at the VVC / MHS local history room, and along with VVC Librarian Leslie Huiner, made a trip on May 11 to the Apple Valley Heritage Room at Town Hall. Lena Quinonez, Town representative on the Apple Valley Historical Advisory Committee, treated them to both a tour of the research room, as well as the storeroom, full of items still to be processed and either filed or displayed. MHS member and serious historian Mary Ann Christy also paid a visit to the Heritage Room, and recommends it to other members.

Other board members work hard monthly to keep up with their various duties. Director Mike Phillips is always on time with the Muse publication; Treasurer Carol Wiley handles the bank account, the sales tax, and the many forms that have to be filed

and updated with the state. You see board members Mary Dutro and Carol Johnson busy at meetings and community events, keeping the ball rolling. Thank you all for continuing to support the organization.

I have had some interesting visitors, encounters, and donations this past month. MHS member Barbara Betterly of Apple Valley surprised me with a Golden Land Farms silk jockey shirt, with "Newton Bass" embroidered on the seam, and a large silk AV symbol on the back., a great reminder of the era of horse-racing and the Apple Valley stables. Ron Clark of Helendale brought over the promised pair of Jeanne Godshall cowgirl boots, along with five additional pairs, used by the world famous Apple Valley trick rider. In addition, he handed me a large 12 x18 inch overhead photo of the Ihmsen Ranch apple orchards. (Who says Apple Valley had no apples??) This adds to the extension collection of Godshall photos and memorabilia donated previously. While manning the 75 years of the San Bernardino County fair booth, a lady surprised me with a large collection of Bear Valley framed photos dating back to the early 1900's. What a treasure!

While at the Historic Apple Valley Inn (HAVI) event Sat. July 9, Delvin and I met an interesting character from Arizona. He claims to have been the truck driver who delivered Jess Ranch turkeys to locations in Arizona and Texas. Two days later a Sterling Inn resident gave me a history lesson on the Hilltop House. He was the electrician who had installed all the wiring. He had a lot of stories to tell. He is now on my interview list. (And I still need to combine and transcribe the several interviews I conducted with Trish McConnell, Capt. Joe McConnell's daughter, over the last several years). I need more hours in the day! Please let me know if you are able to help with future events, or even volunteer for a three-hour weekly shift at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum. Help is always appreciated.

Remember to mark your calendars for upcoming MHS and community events. Hope to see you there!

Marcy

MHS website: www.mohahve.org **Email:** Mohahve64@gmail.com (Stormie Reid - Webmaster)
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mohahve-Historical-Society-2022-101844115718783>

MHS Upcoming Events

- Aug. 27 **Fieldtrip:** 10am, Wrightwood Museum visit
6036 Cedar Street, Wrightwood
- Sep. 22 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm, Lone Wolf Colony
Norman Bossom - "The Big Horn Mine"
- Sep. 24 **Fieldtrip:** 10am, Boron Museums - 20 Mule
Team & Aerospace Museum
26962 20 Mule Team Rd, Boron, Ca
- Oct 8 **Fieldtrip:** Walking tour of Camp Cajon
with Rt. 66 Association.
- Oct. 27 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm, Lone Wolf Colony
The Captain Joe McConnell Story
- Oct. 29 **Field Trip** 10am, Captain McConnell
Driving Tour, meet at AV Airport
- Nov. 17 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm, Lone Wolf Colony
Steve Brown - "Hadji Ali (Hi Jolly) Beale's
Camel Expedition"
- Dec. 15 **MHS Christmas Party**

Community Upcoming Events

- Aug.13 ****8:00am-1:00pm, AV Flea Market,**
Lions Park, 20701 Hwy 18, Apple Valley
- Aug 17 6:30pm, **State of the Town of Apple
Valley,** AV Town Hall Conference Center,
14975 Dale Evans Parkway, MHS display
tables, free and open to public.
- Sep. 17 ****10am-4:00pm Santa Fe Trading Co
Crafts Fair**—theme Rockabilly. Booth
located at 15492 7th Street, Victorville
- Oct. 1 ****10:00am-2:00pm, AV Village Parade, Car
Show and Pet Fair.**

**** MHS booth at these events**



Membership Information

Total Active Membership 119
Life Members 31 Annual Members 88

Luis Fuerte at California Writers Club by Delvin Harbour

Being a fan of Huell Howser, I finally bought the book, "Louie, Take a Look at This!" by Luis Fuerte at one of our MHS meetings. I really enjoyed it!



Luis Fuerte addressing the California Writers Club—High Desert Branch

When I found out that Luis was going to speak at the July meeting of the California Writers Club, High Desert Branch, I jumped at the chance to attend the meeting. Luis gave a great presentation and answered questions from the attendees after autographing his book.

Well, I wasn't the only MHS Member in attendance, there were many others including:



**MHS members
Linda Boruff and Carol Wiley**

Camp Cajon Kiosk by Marcy Taylor.



The July Muse provided an update on the most recent Camp Cajon project, a four-panel kiosk with a map and the history of Camp Cajon. We are still seeking monument donations towards this project and the completion of our own monument restorations. Mark Landis sent an email thanking us for donations received and our continuing support. The team has completed the construction of the kiosk and the placement of the first panel-three to go. Ten colorful and historically-accurate road signs will be added to the top, which will be an eye-catching display, hopefully visible from the I-15 freeway.

There are four historical societies who have contributed to these projects: Wrightwood, San Bernardino, Highland, and MHS. Past president John Marnell was instrumental in the fundraising effort and construction of the 2019 replica Camp Cajon monument. Since then, one of the original tables has been relocated, and the kiosk is quickly coming along. Two upcoming celebrations are in the planning stages, first a celebration of the four historical societies upon completion of the kiosk, with a picnic or bar-be-que, reminiscent of the original rest stop. Then mark your calendar for Oct. 8 when we can join a walking tour of Camp Cajon, sponsored by the Ca. Route 66 Association. More details will follow.

If you happen to be driving down the pass, why not take a detour to Wagon Train Road off the 138 and check on the kiosk progress.

June Meeting Presentation by Marcy Taylor

On June 23 Marcy Taylor presented "The Amazing Influence of Dale Evans" at the Lone Wolf Colony.

Attendees were treated to a PowerPoint presentation which covered some lesser known facets of the personality and

accomplishments of this long-time Apple Valley resident. To learn more consider purchasing a copy of "The Touch of Roy and Dale" Volume 1 (one used copy still available), or Volume 2 (3 new copies available.) See Marcy's contribution on pages 212 -216, Past President John Bascom's story on page 255, and grandchildren's contributions throughout the book.



Attendees browsing fieldtrip signups and Dale Evans displays



Carol Johnson welcoming the Maheswaran family to MHS general meeting at the Dale Evans presentation.

Apple Valley Legacy Museum Events by Marcy Taylor

Thanks to the MHS members who once again came over to the Apple Valley Inn to attend and help with community events.

Our June 25 "fieldtrip" was to the Bob Hope Cottage to pay tribute to an important Apple Valley landmark, the Historic Hilltop House. Due to publicity by the Apple Valley Inn office staff and members of the Apple Valley Historic Advisory Committee, MHS members were joined by a large number of locals who enjoyed a warm and only slightly breezy night celebrating local history.



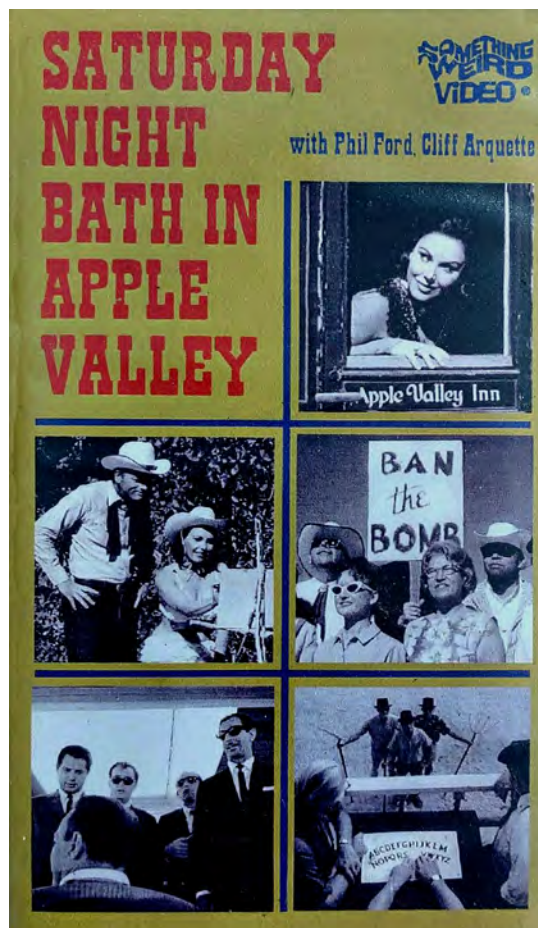
Everyone was taken care of with Eric supervising parking, Delvin handing out raffle tickets, Mary handling sales, Bryan welcoming guests to the museum, Apple Valley Legacy Museum volunteer Peggy sharing of displays, and 3 members of the Inn staff providing and serving refreshments. Guests visited the museum, and browsed porch displays of the Hilltop House construction, the showplace of Apple Val-



ley Ranchos, photos of its current condition, news articles over the years, photos of the teenagers being arrested for the destructive fire, architectural plans of the Apple Valley Legacy Trail committee, and more. A 2014 slide show presented the history and future of the site, including the structure and the hiking trails.



The main event was a showing of "Saturday Night Bath in Apple Valley," which first debuted in 1965 at the El Rancho Theatre in Victorville.



We had a superstar in our midst, (See photo left, the man standing with Marcy), an Apple Valley man named Barry Bryan, who was in the movie as a fourth grader attending Mariana School. His classroom and classmates were chosen for the school scenes. He was a good sport who brought his family members to enjoy his celebrity status, pointing himself out as "the kid in the plaid shirt."

Despite the ridiculous plot of the movie, the warm night, good company, and every scene filmed in a recognizable place (The Apple Valley Inn, the Hilltop House in all its glory, the Western village at Dead Man's Point, St. Joan of Arc Church on 6th Street in Victorville, and George Air Force Base) the audience members thoroughly enjoyed themselves



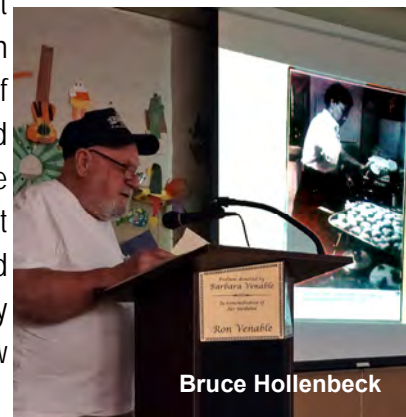
Recent Presentations by Marcy Taylor

July 12 at the Friends of the Apple Valley Library regular monthly meeting her topic was "The Green Book" highlighting



Dennis & Stephanie Hom, J Myers

Apple Valley's Murray and Raglan Ranches. It is interesting that along the whole Route 66 from Chicago to Los Angeles the only guest ranches available for minority travelers were both in what was at that time known as "the outskirts of Victorville." MHS member Bruce Hollenbeck added to the presentation with his tale of riding his bike (with his dog in the basket) over to the Murrys, at that time owned by Pearl Bailey and her husband Louie Belson. After frequent visits, he was hired by Pearl to take care of the plants and animals whenever they were out of town. Now that's quite a job for a little small-town kid!



Bruce Hollenbeck

Thanks to the MHS members in attendance, of course FAVL members Mary Dutro, Carol Johnson, Bruce Hollenbeck, Dennis and Stephanie Hom, Jan Myers, and Tricia Douglas, as well as visitors Mary Ann and Gene Christy, Patty Hedges, and Josh Sweet. There have been some requests for Candacy Taylor's "Overground Railroad" book, on which this presentation was based, so I may order some more in the near future.

Porch Sale at AVLM by Marcy Taylor



Thanks to those of you who attended and volunteered at the weekend porch sale July 8, 9, and 10, in particular Bryan, Delvin, Therese, Bonnie, Jamie, Rick and Pal. MHS member Jeff Hardy went home with a nice raffle prize full of vintage Apple Valley items as well as other purchases. Rick and Delvin (and quite a few others) bid on silent auction treasures; Therese picked up a few original Bill Bender sketches in oil. The last large limited edition Roy and Trigger print (of the series previously sold at the Roy and Dale Victorville Museum, that found its way back from Branson, courtesy of Dusty Rogers) will soon adorn a wall at Happy Trails Automotive, located on, where else, Happy Trails Highway!

Other happy customers left with books, including MHS titles, postcards, vintage photos, newspaper articles, Route 66 caps and keychains, Apple Valley Points of Interest Edition 2 (now on sale for \$5), Apple Valley gift packs, Jess Ranch turkey boxes and postcards, and more. If you missed the sale, come by and check out the museum and sale items, which of course include our MHS books.



Mohahve Historical Society Part 2

by Marcy Taylor.

In the June "Muse" I shared parts of pages 109-110 of Kate O'Rourke's "History of Apple Valley." I intended to continue in the July issue, but I was informed there was no space. So I will continue with pages 109-110 to help new members and remind long-term (notice I didn't say "old") members of the role the MHS played in establishing the Victor Valley Museum:

"On May 2, 1992, the Victor Valley Museum in Apple Valley opened its doors to the public. The museum was born of more than 16 years of hard work, fundraising, and collecting by founder and original curator, Roy Tate, and his wife, Marion. The Mohahve Historical Society and numerous volunteers helped to make the museum a reality. The museum's original home was at the courthouse in Victorville, occupying one small room in the beginning, then moved to the hallway to make room for an additional sitting judge. The first board of directors were: Roy Tate, Hal Harden, Pearl Pettis, Ray Fine, Alice Hagner, Ken Hollenbeck, Mary Kay, Wallace Long, Hal Warner, Paul Miller, and Ellsworth Sylvester." (Ken Hollenbeck's son Bruce is a current MHS member.)

"A valuable plot of land on the freeway had been donated to the museum by local realtor John Keller in 1977. That parcel was sold and a less expensive lot purchased in Apple Valley, near the retirement community of Jess Ranch. When the museum was relocated to its Apple Valley Road address, the new building had 13,000 square feet, with an additional 11,000 to expand if more room should be needed. Michael Rounds became the executive director at that time. Everything related to the museum had been donated by High Desert residents and businesses, including 38 tempered glass doors and shelves from AFG Industries in Victorville" (better known as the Glass Plant on Industrial Blvd).

"The majority of the displays focus on local history, with memorabilia donated by Bass and Westlund, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, and famous rodeo rider and sculptor Earl Bascom.

There is also an American Indian section, a wild animals display donated by the Bruster family, and a local mineral display. The museum gift shop and art

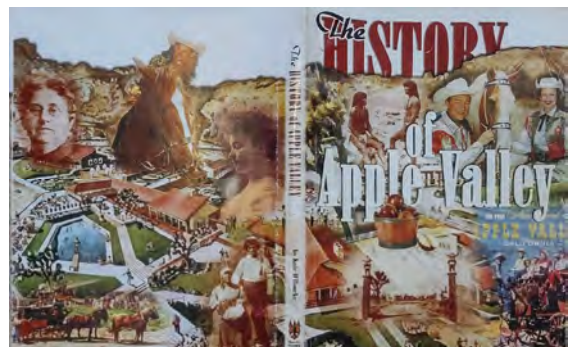
gallery sell paintings and books on local history.

Carl Mason is the current curator of this award winning museum. In 2002 the Victor Valley Museum won first place for preserving and sharing local history in competition with 800 other members of the Conference of California Historical Society. The current board of directors are Mike Jasberg, Cal Camera, Jim Roy, and Feliz Diaz."

That was then; this is now. At some point the museum got into some financial trouble. In January 2010 Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt thought it would be a good idea to put it under the jurisdiction of the County of San Bernardino. After a long shutdown, the museum reopened in March 2011 with a very different look. Most of the local displays, such as those dedicated to pioneers and homesteaders, George Air Force Base, farm machinery and gold mining equipment, and the like were gone. It resembled the County Museum in Redlands on a smaller scale. Donors had been given the choice of removing their displays that were on loan, or donating them to the County. Unfortunately, many items were retrieved by locals.

The museum today still has a section of local historical displays, as well as exhibits dedicated to different subject matters such as archaeology, geography, plant and animal life, anthropology, and geology. There are constant rotating displays, most recently trains, quilts, and Lanfair Valley homesteaders. There is a nice permanent military display area, as well as activities for kids who visit.

We thank the Mohahve Historical Society for their early dedication to helping the Victor Valley Museum get its start. Remember to stop by and visit the refurbished tortoise and plaque, for which the MHS is partially responsible, and Temple Rock and plaque, an Eagle Scout project sponsored by the MHS. Both are outside the museum and can be enjoyed from the parking lot.



We are not meeting at the Lone Wolf Colony during the summer, but the Apple Valley Legacy Museum is open daily for your historical shopping needs.

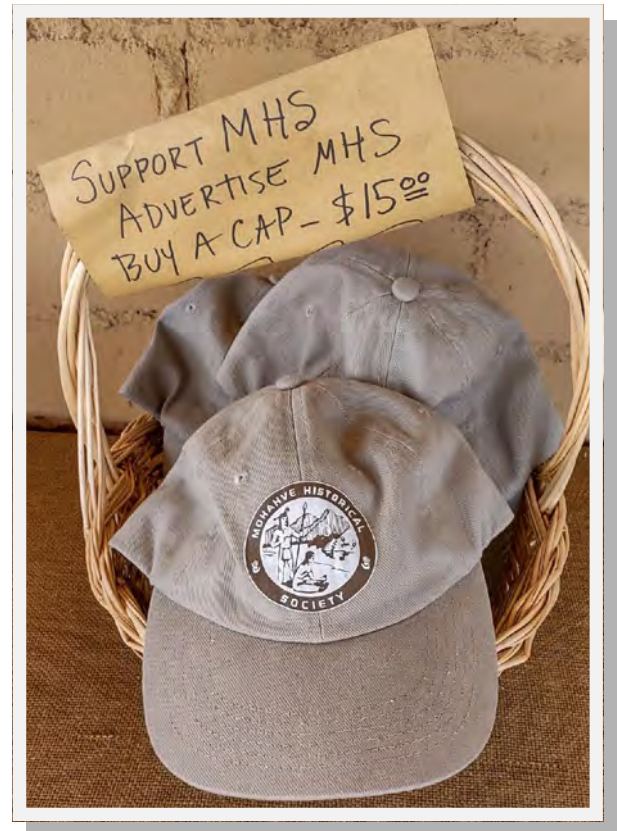
In addition to the items pictured, we offer many more MHS titles, bargain books and much more!



Local history books by local authors

Photos on every page

Make great gifts!



Only 7 MHS hats left!!

Protect your head.

Advertise our organization.



Town of Apple Valley Points of Interest Book 2 with revised map.

Produced by AV Historic Advisory Committee.



Coming soon! Mohave Historical Society Monuments 2nd edition with updated photos and map! \$5.00

MOHAHVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Founded 1964 Website: www.mohahve.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE: _____
 EMAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

ANNUAL: ☐ FAMILY/COUPLE \$30 ☐ SINGLE \$20
LIFETIME: ☐ FAMILY/COUPLE \$200 ☐ SINGLE \$150

MEMBERSHIP DATE: ____/____/____

Newsletter (MUSE) delivery option:
☐ Email ☐ USPS

☐ RENEWAL ☐ NEW MEMBER

Questions? Call (760) 985-1918
 Please make your check out to:
 Mohahve Historical Society

Mail the completed form and your payment to:
Membership
 Mohahve Historical Society
 P.O. Box 21, Victorville, CA 92393

PLEASE USE THIS FORM TO RENEW OR CHANGE YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 (Name, Address, Phone, Email) and submit by USPS, Email or in person at a general meeting)



Remember to shop at smile.amazon.com which donates 0.5% of your purchase to MHS. Most items qualify, but you will be told if the item does not.



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The **MUSE** is the
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 of the
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