

THE MOHAHVE MUSE



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



Volume 26 Issue 8
August 2023

President: Marcy Taylor, **VP:** Delvin Harbour, **Treasurer:** Carol Wiley, **Rec Secy:** Meera Maheswaran, **Corres Secy:** Stormie Reid
Directors: Mary Dutro, Dennis Hom, Eric Mandeson, Mike Phillips (MUSE Editor), Rick Schmidt

President's Corner

Hello MHS members and supporters,

I hope you are enjoying our nice hot summer. We were wondering when it would finally warm up. Now you know!

I want to take this opportunity to explain the relationship of the MHS and the Apple Valley Historical Advisory Committee (HAC). Each of the five Council members chooses a personal representative to sit on the committee. I represent Councilwoman Kari Leon. The other community representatives are Barbara Davisson, Tom Hoegerman, and Pat Orr, as Rick Piercy, founder of the Lewis Center for Educational Research and our former Chairman, passed away last Saturday. Besides the five chosen representatives, several other entities such as the school district, the MHS, and at one time the Victor Valley Museum among others all had representatives. Fran Elgin represented the MHS on this committee for years, and asked me to substitute for her upon occasion.

This summer the AV HAC has had a presence at all 7 Thursday night Sunset Concerts. I would like to thank MHS Board members Delvin Harbour, Stormie Reid, and Eric Mandeson, as well as Pat Orr of the AV HAC for assisting with greeting concert-goers and sharing our history. Other MHS members have also been supportive, as have several of our Town Council members, Park and Recreation staff, and



20 featuring home-town band Southern Spirit (all AVHS graduates.) Earlier that day we also partnered with the Town for the Museum Hop. (More about that in the Sept. edition)

Collaboration is the key to success.



other Town employees. In addition, the Apple Valley Legacy Museum was again an event sponsor, with recognition at the Concert Thurs. July



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 26 **Fieldtrip. 10am**, Wrightwood Driving Tour
- Sep 28 **MHS Mtg.** John Beyer "Beyer's Byways: Amboy, Ca"
- Sep 30 **Fieldtrip. 10am**, McDonald Museum, SB
- Oct. 26 **MHS Mtg.** Joe Manners & Marcy Taylor "Ghosts that Haunt the Desert"
- Oct. 27 **Fieldtrip. 10am**, Tour Oro Grande Town and Cemetery.
- Nov.16 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker Dennis Hom "Growing Up in Old Town Victorville", Election of 2024 Board officers.
- Dec. 14 **Christmas Celebration**, Installation of 2024 Board Officers

Community Events

- Aug 12 8-1pm, **Apple Valley Flea Market** Lions Park, AV **
- Aug 19 7pm, **Movie Night at AVL**M, See Page 4
- Aug 23 6:00pm **Taste of the Town**, AV Conference Center, Town Hall, Display **
- Sept 9 10am, **Apple Valley Village Street Fair, Car Show and Parade** **
- Sept 16 10-4pm, **Santa Fe Trading Co. Crafts Show**, Old Town Victorville **
- Sept 17 **Hesperia Days Rodeo** - Details to follow
- Oct. 7 **San Bernardino County Air Show**, Apple Valley Airport
- Oct. 14 10-4pm, **Santa Fe Trading Co. Crafts Show**, Old Town Victorville **
- Oct. 21 **AV Pet Fair** **
- Nov. 11 **Veteran's Day Parade**, Old Town Victorville
- Dec. 2 **Christmas Parade**, Old Town Victorville
- Dec. 9 10-4pm, **Santa Fe Trading Co. Crafts Show**, Old Town Victorville **

** MHS booth at these locations

Membership Summary

Life Members	Family Single	15 18
Annual Members	Family Single	21 53
Total Active		107

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**John & Jaylyn Earl
Donna Knoch**

Trip to the Big Bear Frontier Town and History Museum

By Marcy Taylor

We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day for a drive up to the mountains to the spectacular Big Bear History Museum and Frontier Town.



Our docent **Jonni Vindiola**, (also the curator of the museum displays and out-buildings, the historical society secretary, the scholarship/ education coordinator, and the publicity chairperson - that should be enough to keep her busy!) was a wealth of knowledge with a gift for recreating the past.

Our first stop was the Camp Juniper Point Store and Minnelusa Post Office, where for a mere \$250 you can purchase your own P.O. box. Think of that You would never have to pay your yearly box rent again!



Our next stop was the blacksmith shop, where we met Flatlander Jim (I'd heard about this guy) who entertained us with tall tales, some possibly believable. Meanwhile, three other blacksmiths tended the fires and worked on various creations.



Martha Rader, the "birthday girl," was serenaded with a banjo-accompanied birthday song, and received a gift of a hot-off-the-fire souvenir, even though her real birthday was actually June 6.



(Cont'd Page 3)

Trip to the Big Bear Frontier Town and History Museum



Then we were off to the 1880's era working five-stamp mill, which Flatlander Jim fired up to crush some ore, as children enthusiastically panned for gold nearby. There was no shortage of stories at this stop either.

Our tour continued through the Pioneer Town, with a stop at the Carriage Shed. Here we encountered several breath-taking beautiful horse-drawn vehicles and gorgeous vintage clothing displays. Have you ever seen a real "Surrey with the Fringe on Top" or a "One horse open sleigh"?



Next we climbed the steps to the original 1928 Big Bear City Community Market building, which now serves as the main museum. It houses a variety of displays, including one on local movie making, and another on the famous Burro Races of the Old Miners Days, that started in Apple Valley, and continued



through Lucerne Valley, and on up to Big Bear Lake. Member Bruce Hollenbeck has fond memories of that three-day race, as his dad Ken and his ornery burro represented Apple Valley Lumber Company. It just so happens that Bruce recently donated to the Apple Valley Legacy Museum the very canteen that Ken used to quench his thirst through that rough three-day ordeal Oh, and let's not forget the doblo players entertaining on the porch.

But we weren't finished yet. We toured the 1875 hunting cabin, the oldest known building in the Big Bear Valley. Then we stepped inside the recreated Doble School House building, which we had learned about during our Thursday night presentation. The group was happy to reach the 1916 Shay bunkhouse, which has been repurposed as display area. It houses a vintage



barber shop, a family's living quarters, and best of all an old-time saloon, where folks can relax and enjoy a cool (non-alcoholic) drink served by a friendly barmaid.



Field trippers with time and energy left could check out the Mule Barn, which instead of mules now houses an antique Studebaker wagon; the Serrano Indian Village (still under construction); the adjoining park; and finally the Gift Shop. Well, to tell you the truth, this place needs a second or third visit to take it all in. Their open hours are Wed., Fri., and Sat. from 10-4:00 from Memorial Day until the second weekend in October. Call (909) 585-8100 for further information.

Nothing like a trip to the mountains during the hot summer months. You won't be disappointed.

Anne Roark's "Doble" Presentation by Marcy Taylor

We sure learned a lot from our June speaker, Anne Roark, about "Doble, the Forgotten Ghost Town and Mine Near Big Bear." The town may be forgotten, with only a few remnants left to mark the



location, but the history is still alive! Anne took it upon herself to complete the many years of research started by her parents and other family members after their deaths. The results are two detailed books of interviews and a great presentation!

One lingering question about Doble was the location of the original schoolhouse. Was it by the cemetery? Was that it on the map, or was that just a tree? Did people have their facts mixed up? Well, it turns out the school was started in a tent near the cemetery, and later moved to a real building across the way, which caused the confusion. Now, another thing, I have definitely heard of borrowing a student to make the required six to hold classes, as I know early Apple Valley borrowed a child from Long Beach. But I had never heard of an adult who needed to attend school to learn English counting as one and a half

students! Two days later on our Big Bear Museum fieldtrip we toured a recreation of the 1901 Doble schoolhouse, complete with a chalkboard and inkwell desks, with Martha Rader posing as the school teacher.

So the next time you drive up the 18% grade with the hairpin curves to Big Bear Lake, just as you get to the top, with Baldwin Lake to your left, look to your right and think about this early mining town and the hardy pioneers who eeked out a living there. Thanks, Anne, for a great history lesson and making your books available for those of us who want to learn more.



Movie Night AT The AVLm Porch



8 ON THE LAM

Bob Hope, Phyllis Diller and Jonathan Winters

Saturday August 19

Special Feature at 8:15pm

Live Music
7-8pm

\$3 Donation
Includes
Refreshments
And
Raffle Ticket



Apple Valley Legacy Museum
20601 HWY 18, Ste 153,
Apple Valley, 92307, 760-985-1918



This 1967 movie was
filmed at
Apple Valley Inn
and
Highway 18
locations



MHS Fieldtrip Reminder

- Please if you sign up, show up or give us a call if you can't make it.
- Leave a cell phone number, not your home phone number.
- Also, kindly stay with the group, especially on a trip with more than one stop, as we are technically liable for your welfare while participating in an MHS sponsored activity.
- Let someone know if you have to leave, or we will be worried and looking for you.
- Thank you for your understanding.

Helendale Monuments Mystery by Marcy Taylor

Who said relocating and refurbishing Mohave Historical Society monuments would be easy? We've been at it for over two years now and are still not done! Most of our monuments are created in conjunction with a neighboring city or historical society. Of the three MHS monuments erected in cooperation with the Helendale folks in the early 1990's, two of them vanished into thin air! Well, not exactly.

You all know the Palisades Ranch monument story. After ten years or more of lying on its back under a bush at what used to be Bob Older's property, now a part of the Mojave Desert Land Trust holdings, it was discovered in Oct. of 2021 by MHS members and successfully relocated. The Time Capsule it refers to was also found and relocated this past spring. Done!? Nope!



The Helendale folks spoke of two more monuments placed in conjunction with MHS. Well, whadaya know? There's one on Vista Road right across from the waterfall that says MHS right on the bottom. It commemorates Helendale's original name "Point of Rocks." The words are a little hard to read, but it's in good shape, well taken care of, and surrounded by a nice little brick wall- a good photo op.

Now, on to #3. Dr. Jim Brown, a man who knows things, insisted one was right there near the old post office building (now an ice cream shop) on the old Route 66. Why there? Because it commemorates the Mother Road, the good old Route 66, that runs right by the town originally known as Point of Rocks, then Helen, and now Helendale. Makes sense. So where is the monument? I looked high and low and asked around. One old timer remarked, "I don't remember a monument there." Another speculated, "Maybe it was removed when they resurfaced the parking lot."



Another mystery. Time for more detective work.

Board member Rick Schmidt, who volunteers weekly at the MHS History Room at Victor Valley College Library, searched through the files and lo and behold! He came upon the wording for the monument plaque. A Helendale local who knows said, "Yes, that's what it said all right." Hmmmm, a piece of evidence but still no photo. Next in order, I, Marcy, made a visit to the Silver Lakes Market and met with two old-timers who were present during the five Helendale Rendezvous events and the placement of the three monuments. After our meeting, Greg Pearring, the brother-in-law of the late Jesse Malone, went through a lot of old scrapbooks and boxes of photos and there it was: a photo of the mysterious missing monument. (Second piece of evidence.) But still no monument. More detective work needed.




Soon another clue, #3. Someone remembered the poor monument was run over by a truck! Ouch, that hurts! Clue #4: Someone remembered a local man salvaged the bronze plaque and pledged to rebuild the monument. But that didn't happen.

So it's MHS to the rescue. Armed with the wording found by Rick and the photos of the original monument, we now have another task. Partnering again with the community of Helendale, start from scratch and rebuild the monument. With about \$60 remaining in the monument fund, and a \$100 pledge from a Helendale man, we have a start. If any of you could

find it in your heart to give a donation, large or small, to our monuments fund, it will be appreciated.

The society's work is never done!

**MHS MONUMENTS
TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION**



The Mohave Historical Society is strongly committed to its on-going preservation of all its historical monuments and markers. The task includes repairs and the removal of trash, weeds and graffiti. The financial support of the community is needed. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Name _____ Phone _____

Amount _____ Receipt needed? _____

*Please make checks to: Mohave Historical Society.
Submit in person or mail to:
MHS, PO Box 21, Victorville, CA 92393*

The Weekend Sale and Movie Night by Marcy Taylor

There were more laughs than screams the evening of July 8 when the 100 foot tall mechanical Tarantula terrorized Apple Valley. After being injected with the growth formula by the mad sci-



entist doctor, breaking free of his enclosure, and growing to giant proportions, Mr. T was only looking for a few tasty meals. Feasting on horses, cattle, and unfortunate humans, and leaving behind only piles of bones and mounds of white venom, the beast was able to mystify and outsmart the humans. Not bullets nor dynamite could stop him, so who or what could? None other than an unknown named Clint Eastwood piloting a plane out of the old George AFB, loaded with napalm.

Besides gaining an appreciation for early special effects (think King Kong climbing the Empire State Building), and learning a bit of science (about etymology and arachnids), it was exciting to us locals in the audience to see Bell Mountain and Catholic Hill on the big screen, and then to turn around and see the sun setting behind the actual Bell Mountain and Catholic Hill. It was also exciting for us to see the tarantula climbing over the giant rock formations of Dead Man's Point, and making his way down a two-lane Bear Valley Road, as the folks in the movie run for their lives! And none of us could be tricked into believing that the setting was Desert Rock, Arizona. We locals know that those Joshua trees, mountains, and rock formations had Apple Valley written all over them!



I would like to sincerely thank MHS members Mary, Stormie, Dennis, and Delvin for volunteering to work the event, with a special thanks to Eric the tech guy and Jeff the Tarantula cookie/popcorn guy. "Boni on the Keys" and "Dano on the Strings" provided some great pre-movie entertainment. The main



comments I heard afterwards were "That was a lot of fun," "That was a cheap date night," and "When's the next movie night?" One couple said they received an award from their friends for suggesting "The most unusual Sat night activity in Apple Valley, Ca." So guess what? We're going to do it again Sat. August 19 by featuring Bob Hope and Phyllis Diller in "Eight on the Lam." After all, we were sitting on the porch of the Bob Hope Cottage. So mark your calendars.

In addition to movie night, the weekend sale was quite successful, with people taking home books, silent auction items, and



raffle prizes. Some folks returned the following day, Sunday, and throughout the week to pick up some more books or collectibles. Your generosity keeps us afloat so we can continue to share our interesting local history.

Jeff Hardy's
Tarantula popcorn
and cookies
refreshment
----->



The Caboose gets a New Home by Marcy Taylor

Since water is necessary to the survival of the human race and all species of animals, it is no coincidence that the Mighty Mojave was of great importance to the development of the town of Victor, later Victorville, the hub of the Victor Valley. First the old Native American and pioneer trails, then the railroad, and finally the Mother Road (Route 66) all followed the river from the Mojave River Valley (Barstow and surrounding area) through the Victor Valley, and on "down the hill" to the San Bernardino area.

The importance of the railroad and the Route 66 to the early development of the Victor Valley cannot be overstated. So to celebrate the relationship of these two modes of transportation, the bright orange ATSF (Atchison Topeka Santa Fe) caboose left its long-time home at 6th and E Streets and traveled across the old 66 (D Street) to a new set of tracks beside the mural on the wall of the Victorville Route 66 Museum.

A crowd of onlookers (including five MHS members, some Route 66 volunteers, the property owners, and a number of wide-eyed tourists and locals who just happened to be in the right place at the right time), watched in amazement. It's not everyday that you get to witness a giant crane hoist a full-sized orange caboose off of a flatbed truck, and skillfully lower it to a small set of tracks placed a few days prior in anticipation of its arrival.

The welcoming of the caboose is just the beginning of this new and exciting tourist attraction, compliments of property owners Brendan O'Brien and Leila Aquino. Their plan is to turn this historic piece of Route 66 corner property, once the home of

the 1918 First National Bank building, into an out door event center with a stage, live entertainment, and food trucks. The bright orange train car makes the perfect centerpiece, considering Victorville was an early railroad town named after railroad pioneer Jacob Nash Victor.



Long-time Victorville Route 66 Museum volunteers Lucious Tyson and Delvin Harbour are happy to welcome the caboose to their parking lot. After all, Victorville was a railroad town before it became a bustling Route 66 stop.

of 7th and A Streets across the street from the Victor Valley Legacy Museum. Its cornerstone is displayed right inside the Route 66 Museum.

So a big thank-you to all involved in this two-year long process to give the old caboose (whose prior important job is now deemed unnecessary) a new purpose, greeting locals and tourists at the Route 66 Museum in Old Town Victorville, just one block from the recently revamped archway on 7th Street. Stop by and say hello!



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)

MHS GENERAL MEETING

Lone Wolf Colony
 23200 Bear Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308
 7:00pm - doors open at 6:30pm



Mohahve Historical Society
 Post Office Box 21
 Victorville, CA 92393

The **MUSE** is the
 Monthly newsletter
 of the
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www.mohahve.org
Mohahve64@gmail.com

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