

THE MOHAHVE MUSE



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



Volume 24 Issue 8
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(OPEN)

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President's Corner

Hello, MHS members, long-time and new, and friends:

Our organization has remained active holding events in the summer, which in the past has been our usual downtime, due to the heat and vacations. I'm sorry to say, with COVID's new Delta variant now in the mix, and LA reinstating the mask requirement, it's probably not a good time to travel very far from the good old desert. So let's stay close to home and enjoy our local history.

First, a few thank-yous to past board members are in order. During her tenure as treasurer, Elizabeth Ross enrolled the MHS in the Amazon Smile program to bring more money into our treasury. If you order on Amazon, which many people started doing during the pandemic, it's easy to direct part of the funds our way. See pg. 6 for details.

Past President Mary Hughes was once again able to get us some gift cards from Costco to help with purchases of needed supplies. This year the amount was double last years! Thanks, Mary.

On a sad note, one of our past supporters, Missy Marcussen, the daughter-in-law of Mary Hughes, was in a very serious head-on car crash in Lucerne Valley last month. She is in rehab, facing a long recovery. Mary and her family need your support.

Please read the article on page 2 concerning MHS projects that need attention. If any of you have concrete information on #5, please call me at (760) 985-1918.

Two exciting and very visible historical pieces have appeared during the last month. The Camp Cajon group has successfully moved one of the original concrete tables back to the proximity of its first location on Wagon Train Road beside the two monuments. And Don Holland, in cooperation with the Lewis Center for Educational Research, has installed a tribute to Capt. Joseph McConnell right at the entrance to Apple Valley on Highway 18. Thanks to these local historians for their continued efforts to preserve our heritage. See pages 4 and 5 for the full stories.

- Please join us a Lions Park in Apple Valley for the Flea Market Aug. 14 from 8am - 1pm. MHS will have a booth.
- Please consider donating to the Monuments Repair Fund to preserve our past history for the future. (See Page 2)

Summer and Fall fieldtrips/excursions:

Thursday Aug. 26 - Hesperia Monuments Driving Tour, 6 - 8pm. Meet at Lime Street Park at 5:45pm.

Saturday Sept. 25 - Museum of Speed in SE Apple Valley at 12 noon hosted by Waldo Stakes.

Saturday Oct. 30 - Daggett Museum, blacksmith shop, hotel, and garage hosted by Daryl Schendel. Meet at 10am with optional trip following to Newberry Springs Bagdad Cafe for lunch, and Huell Howser Volcano House (outside only). **Date change due to Happy Trails Parade Oct. 9.**

As of September, our regular meetings will be held on the **fourth Thursday** at 7pm at the Lone Wolf Colony:

Thursday Sept. 23 - Mark Landis - Camp Cajon - history; monument and table update.

Thursday Oct. 28 - John Grasson presenting on Lost Ship of the Desert (Salton Sea).

Thursday Nov. 18 - (3rd Thurs. due to Thanksgiving) Nick Cataldo presenting the Wyatt Earp family

Friday Dec. 17 - Christmas celebration at Lone Wolf Colony.

See page 6 how to
direct funds to MHS
when you use
Amazon

amazonsmile

Marcy

MHS website: www.mohahve.org Email: Mohahve64@gmail.com (Stormie Reid - Webmaster)

Village Street Fair by Marcy Taylor.

July 3 was a great day in the neighborhood at the Apple Valley Village Summer Street Fair. Guests could enjoy the classic car show, stop at multiple food vendors, rock out to the music of Southern Spirit, and visit a large variety of booths hosted by businesses and other organizations. Three history-related non-profits, the Victor Valley Legacy Museum, Apple Valley Legacy Museum, and Mohave Historical Society, shared an informative and successful booth. Volunteers from all three groups were busy all day selling historic items and col-

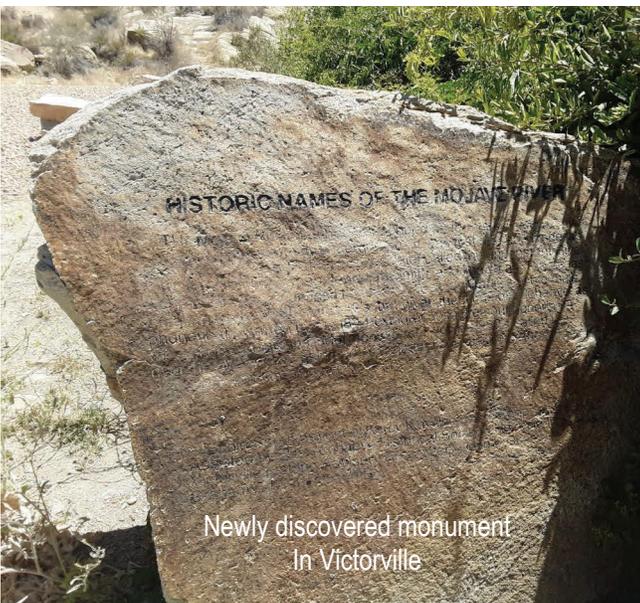


lectibles, answering questions, and inviting people to the July 10 Shindig to take place the following weekend. Our thanks to the hardworking Village employees and volunteers for hosting this event, and bringing the residents of the Town of Apple Valley and surrounding communities back out into the sunshine and fresh air for a memorable experience.

MHS Monuments that need Attention by Marcy Taylor

During the last year the MHS board has identified several projects that need immediate attention, and others that need on-going attention. Those of you that went on the monuments tour or bought the booklet already know that some sites are in need of repair:

1. Historic Names of the Mojave River - newly discovered monument on 11th just south of D. Needs repair as only the title and a few other words here and there are legible. It is an Eagle Scout project from the 1990's. Board discussion of repairing and moving monument to a more accessible location.
2. Bridges of the Mojave River - 11th Street- Plaque is done and needs to be installed. Board discussion of moving monument to a more accessible location.
3. John Brown monument on 11th - Has been repaired. Discussion of moving to a more accessible location.
4. Lane's Crossing - Granite plaque is in the works. Two Turner Rd. property owners contributed to cost.
5. MHS Time Capsule located on old Palisades Ranch- Property is now under the jurisdiction of the Mojave Desert Land Trust. Monument on Rt. 66 (National Trails Hwy) north of Bryman Rd. pointing the way to the time capsule is missing. Board members are looking into this matter.
6. The Desert Tortoise plaque at the Victor Valley Museum is in tact. However, the tortoise sculpture needs repair.
7. When repairs are complete, many of the monuments will be professionally sealed to prevent further damage.
8. Monthly maintenance (weeds, trash, check for damage) needs to be coordinated on all monuments sites that bear the MHS name. (Hesperia Lakes, Victor Valley Museum, and Hesperia Rec and Park District thankfully take care of 5 of them.)



Newly discovered monument
In Victorville

Is there a member that lives near Sterling Inn on Ridgcrest that could periodically check on that site? Repairs have been made. Call Marcy (760-985-1918) if you can help. Thank you.

<p>MHS MONUMENTS TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION (Restoration and continued maintenance)</p> <p>Immediate Repairs: #2 Mojave River Crossing #4 Historic Bridges of the Mojave #5, #6, #7 Touch-ups #2 - #9 Sealant to prevent further damage</p> <p>Ongoing: Maintenance of monuments/sites (weeds, trash, graffiti)</p> <p>Name _____ Phone _____</p> <p>Amount donated _____ Receipt needed? _____</p>	
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Apple Valley Legacy Museum Shindig by Marcy Taylor

It was a "HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN" (of Apple Valley) Sat. July 10 for the delayed Apple Valley Legacy Museum's Sixth Anniversary Shindig (that was supposed to be the Fifth Anniversary Shindig back in March of 2020!) **Mojave Nights Band** belted out some familiar tunes, with many in the audience humming or singing along.



Some tourists from Kansas came lookin' for Apple Valley apples, and found a big one! The haywagon was packed with people (and lots of history) during all three popular rides.



Two corny poems drew some laughs, and a skit provided lots of useless knowledge about "real" Apple Valley desert critters. The Apple Valley Legacy Museum volunteers (most of



whom are MHS members themselves) truly appreciate the support of the nineteen MHS members who attended, and assisted, to make this exciting event a success.



Yes, the Mojave Desert gave us a good dose of its notorious 100 plus degree heat,

some refreshing gentle breezes, and a few occasional wind gusts, but more than seventy hearty souls lived to tell about it! (P.S. The folks that came from Barstow and Las Vegas found the weather to be quite cool and refreshing!). The delicious meal from **Old Town Dogs** was more than most people could finish



Thanks once again to the attendees and those who offered financial support for your interest in keeping local history alive.



Camp Cajon Table returns to its Roots by Marcy Taylor

July 4, 2019 marked the 100th Anniversary of the 1919 unveiling and dedication of the original Camp Cajon Monument. A grand ceremony took place in 2019 on Wagon Trail Road in the Cajon Pass to unveil and dedicate the replica monument, placed by local historians of the Wrightwood, San Bernardino, Highland, and Mohahve Historical Societies, in memory of William M. Bristol, the founder of Camp Cajon.

Another exciting event occurred on June 23, 2021, when one of the original 100-year-old concrete picnic tables from the famous Route 66 rest stop was returned to its first home in the pass, after spending eighty years in Lytle Creek Park. So why would anyone want to go to the trouble and expense to move a 1,700 pound concrete table with



four solid concrete benches? Because the table and 62 others were the sole survivors of the Great Flood of 1938, that severely damaged the camp and all of its structures, effectively marking its demise.

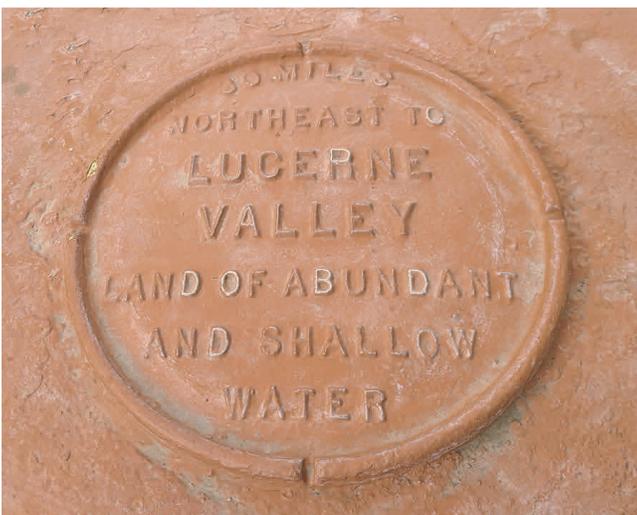
Donors of the early 20th century had funded the construction of each picnic table with a \$50 contribution, entitling them to have a cast-iron plaque inscribed with a text of their choosing, inlaid in one of the tables. The relocated table plaque reads:

"30 MILES NORTHEAST TO LUCERNE VALLEY LAND OF ABUNDANT AND SHALLOW WATER."

The volunteers of the Camp Cajon team (John Lenau, Mark Landis, Nick Cataldo, Gary Smith, Roy Applewhite, Garry and Steve Devlin) along with Borden's Heavy Haul, Brown's Backhoe Service of Phelan, and Mountain Hardware of Wrightwood made the carefully planned and articulated move possible.

As a result, an important place and period in history, the site of the crossing of the old Santa Fe and Salt Lake Trails, the original National Old Trails Road, which later became the Route 66 in

1928, and the very important rest stop, Camp Cajon, are now well-marked and preserved for posterity.



Korean War Jet Ace - Capt. Joe McConnell Jr. By Marcy Taylor.



As drivers pass over the river from Victorville into Apple Valley, they are greeted by a new welcome sign on the south side of Highway 18.

Designed by Don Holland and constructed on Lewis Center property, America's number one Korean War jet ace Captain Joseph McConnell has finally gotten his due recognition.

When the decorated pilot based at George Air Force Base returned home to Apple Valley in 1953, he was honored by the townsfolk with a new home, amazingly built in less than 48 hours with all volunteer labor, and donated materials and equipment. Dubbed "The Appreciation House," it still stands on the north side of Highway 18 east of Dale Evans Parkway, and is currently being renovated.

Unfortunately the year after moving his family into their new home, Captain McConnell was killed during a test flight outside of Edwards Air Force Base. He and his wife Pearl, known as "Beauteous Butch," are both laid to rest at Victor Valley Memorial Park Cemetery.

A movie starring Alan Ladd as McConnell and June Allyson as Pearl is a Hollywood version of "The Joe McConnell Story." It was filmed in Newton Bass's rental house "The Weekender," just a few doors west of the Appreciation House.



Don Holland (right) presenting the Capt. Joe McConnell Jr. Banner



For more information visit the

"Military in the Mojave" exhibit at the Victor Valley Museum
11873 Apple Valley Road
Apple Valley
Wednesday - Sunday
10am - 4pm.

HESPERIA POINTS OF INTEREST DRIVING TOUR

Thursday August 26, 5:45pm
Lime Street Park
16292 Lime Street, Hesperia, CA 92345

- Sign up: Call (760) 985-1918 or stop by Apple Valley Legacy Museum during open hours.
- Bring your Trails Map if you attended the MHS Monument Tour
- Tour starts and ends at the park
- Vehicles can be left at park
- Consider carpooling

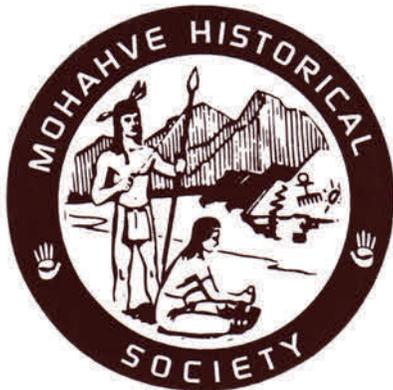

Welcome New Members!!
 JOHNSON, Scott- Single
 SACHS, Arthur - Family Lifetime
 STEDMAN, Linda & David - Family


Remember!
September 23 Meeting
Lone Wolf Colony
7:00pm



If you already shop on Amazon, consider switching to AmazonSmile. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate **0.5%** of the purchase price to the customer’s selected charitable organization. This way, you can score great deals while giving back, and you can do it in 3 easy steps!

1. Visit **smile.amazon.com**. It’s the same as Amazon, but with the option for a portion of your purchase price to go to a charitable organization. Be sure to bookmark the page, so you never forget to shop without giving back!
2. Create or sign into your account. Once you’ve logged in, Amazon will ask you to choose your charity of choice. Search and select "**Mohahve Historical Society**"
3. Shop away! Most items qualify for an Amazon Smile donation, but they will let you know if they don’t.



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