

THE MOHAHVE MUSE



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

Volume 26 Issue 12
December 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

Dear Members and Friends,

Well, here we are, already in the midst of the holiday season. I hope you had a nice Thanksgiving. We all have a lot to be thankful for, as we are not living in fear in a war-torn country. To many the holidays mean good food, nice gifts, family time, bright decorations, and lots of fun holiday events. And to some it means lots of calories and bills, but gotta buy lots of gifts to keep the kids happy, right? Or do we? How about some thoughtful homemade gifts, or just some peace and love?

Now on the subject of gifts, you can do your shopping with us. Don't forget logo-wear caps and t-shirts, buttons and decals, as well as a great selection of books. What could be better than giving a friend or loved one (or yourself) a quality gift while supporting a non-profit?

The outstanding delicious food, great entertainment, and good company at the MHS Christmas party will really put you in the holiday spirit. And let's not forget the Installation of the 2024 Board of Directors. So buy your dinner ticket, dig out your holiday-themed clothes, and if you're one of our talented entertainers, maybe we better think about rehearsing. (Just sayin') Hope to see all of you Dec. 14 at 5:00 PM when the doors open.

Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!

Marcy

Murray Ranch still on the Road

An October, 2020, Daily Press article by Matthew Cabe, entitled "The Murray Ranch Hits the Road," marked the opening of the Smithsonian Traveling Green Book Exhibit. And yes, as a part of this exhibit, curated by Candacy Taylor, author of "The Overground Railroad," the Murray's Overall Wearing Dude Ranch is now known all over the country. Our items on loan from the Mohave Historical Society Research Room and the Apple Valley Legacy Museum make up one of the largest displays, as the Murrays was an unusual and exciting place to visit. The 1947 Life Magazine, a vintage postcard, horseshoes, barbed wire, news articles and more, all from the Murray's Overall Wearing Dude Ranch, formerly located right here in Apple Valley, at that time known as the "outskirts of Victorville," have been viewed by millions of people. So those of us here on the desert should certainly know about this important part of our local history. Listed in the Green Book, the Murray's was the only safe stopping place for some travelers between Needles and Los Angeles, and that's a long way across the desert and down a mountain pass.

So now's your chance to travel to Los Angeles to the **Peterson Auto Museum, located at 6060 Wilshire**, to view the exhibit,



which runs from **December 16 to March 10**, open daily from 10-5:00. You may sign up for the fieldtrip taking place **Thursday Dec. 21** and benefit from the group rate, or go on your own at your convenience. However, reservations must be made in advance. So please call (760) 985-1918 or stop by the Apple Valley Legacy Museum during open hours to sign up.

You won't want to miss this one!

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

- Dec. 14 **Christmas Celebration**, Lone Wolf Colony
23200 Bear Valley Road, Apple Valley
5pm: Doors Open
5:30: Entertainment
6:00: Dinner followed by Installation of
2024 Board Officers and
Entertainment.

Community Events

- Dec. 2 **Christmas Parade, 10am**, Old Town
Victorville
Dec. 5 **AV Tree Lighting, 5-7pm**, Civic Center Park
Dec. 9 **Santa Fe Trading Co. Crafts Show,
10am - 4pm**, Old Town Victorville **
Dec 12 **Apple Valley Town Council Christmas Tea
5-6:30pm**

** MHS booth at these locations

Boni at the Barn by Marcy Taylor

"The Barn" in Newberry Springs is the site of a 2012 Route 66 Clampers monument tracing the history of the area, once known as "Water," back more than 20,000 years. It was once covered by the prehistoric Lake Manix, and later swamps and marshes. The abundance of water, and therefore food, in the region made it attractive to Native Americans and explorers, and then settlers. But like most Route 66 towns that grew up along the Railroad, which followed the river, the I-40 bypass was the beginning of its downfall. The two-lane historic route, too narrow to handle modern traffic, was decommissioned in 1985.



But the town has not been forgotten. Our own **Bonnie Ingram**, better known as Boni on the Keys, along with her partner **Dano** on the Strings, were right there rockin' out at the Barn on Sunday Oct. 29. The gig gave Bonnie a chance to reminisce about playing there with the "Harmony Brothers," a 4-piece band, "back in the day" when the town was still a respite for Route 66 travelers, boasting 5 gas stations, 4 motels, 4 garages, 5 cafes, 3 bars, 2 stores, and even a public swimming pool. So the next time you're headed east on the I-40, take a little detour through this historic Route 66 town and stop in at the Barn at 44560 National Trails Highway. Check out the plaque in front and you just may learn a little something.

A Fence for the Ages by Marcy Taylor

Over two years ago, October of 2021, 4 MHS members (Rick, Delvin, Carol, and Marcy) went to the old Palisades Ranch in Helendale looking for the site of the MHS Time Capsule buried in 1990, to be opened in 2020. Instead they found the Palisades monument (that once stood on the Route 66, AKA National Trails Highway, pointing the way to the Time Capsule) lying abandoned under a bush. Ten months later, in August of 2022, we, with the assistance of Rick's neighbor, were able to retrieve the monument and move it to another location.

Nine months after that, in April of 2023, 5 MHS members (Dennis, Eric, Delvin, Rick, and Marcy) and 5 members of the Helendale CSD were finally able to locate and remove the Time Capsule. Just one month later, right before the end of the school year, we were able to get it resealed and reburied at the Helendale Elementary School campus, at a ceremony attended by students, school staff, community members, and 11 MHS members. This was a great milestone, but we weren't finished yet! Several weeks later, Brent, assisted by Marcy and Jimmy, constructed a concrete base to hold the new plaque. Three booklets (unfinished) were then created to outline the history of the project, started by MHS members in 1990, to fill the Time Capsule to be dug up in 2090. Included in each booklet was a map of the location and instructions to be followed in 67 years. When finished, one each will go to the Helendale School District, the MHS History Room at Victor Valley College, and the current MHS Board of Directors.

The final step in the project was a real joint effort of several MHS members. Rick acquired some used fencing. In October Eric hired a local welder to assemble the pieces. Eric and Delvin went to work sanding off the rust and imperfections. Eric primed and then painted the steel, making the fence look brand new! On Sunday Nov. 5, Eric and Jimmy concreted it in at the school site, while I did nothing but supervise and snap photos, thinking about how lucky our organization is to have such dedicated and hardworking volunteers.

Did I say that was the final step? Oops, not quite. We still have to complete the 3 booklets and finish updating the monuments booklet AGAIN. So keep your eyes peeled for "Mohahve Historical Society Monuments" edition 3, coming out soon. Could this mean another driving fieldtrip is on the horizon?



A Walk thru Old Town Victorville by Marcy Taylor

Our Nov. 16 Mohave Historical Society meeting turned out to be a big Victorville Old Timers gathering, with the local "Jackrabbits" reminiscing about the good old days. Board member Dennis Hom certainly held the crowd's attention with a good dose of history and a lot of laughs. Who knew that Dennis and his friends were such mischievous youngsters and wild teenagers? Well, he admitted it all as he shared his story, Victorville history from HIS point of view, with a few disclaimers.

The story began with his father's trip from China to the U.S. as a "paper son" under the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882-1943. But with hard work and a bit of gambling luck, he was able to free himself from servitude and move on with his life in America. Next Dennis shared his mom's story, of being born in San Francisco and then moving to China with her family, and getting out just in time before the Communists took over and closed the border Dennis was very thankful his mom and some family members made it back to the states, where his parents met and married in 1950, or he wouldn't be here. Unfortunately, his grandmother was not so lucky.

The next part of the presentation concerned life in a small California desert town, school days, the family restaurants, and local "entertainment." What could be more exciting than shopping at the Army Surplus store, playing army at the Mojave River, riding bikes all over town, or attending movies in a theatre with a "cry room" for babies? But on the serious side, the example of his hardworking determined parents, the compassion shown by his father feeding the homeless out the back door of the restaurant, and the effort his mother put into waiting on customers and sewing clothes for her three children, Dennis learned about values and ambition. When everyone in a small town respects and looks up to your parents, you have a lot to appreciate and live up to.



Long time Victorville residents (L/R) Bruce Hollenbeck, Carol Wiley and Dennis Hom (all MHS Members).



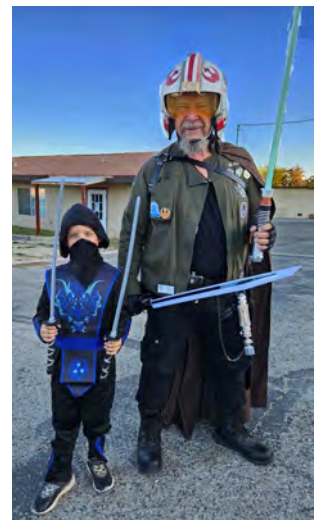
Long time Victor Valley Jackrabbits (L/R), Bruce Hollenbeck, Thomas Mitchell, Lorraine Moffat, Ingrid Mitchell, Pete Peterson, Dennis Hom)

Thank you for sharing your story, Dennis, and thanks also to your wife Stephanie for her support in creating this presentation and her great skill at advancing the slides.



Trunk (or Truck) or Treat by Marcy Taylor

The Friday October 27 Apple Valley Lions Club Trunk or Treat event at the Historic Apple Valley Inn was absolutely packed with costumed characters: young and old, individuals, families, themed groups, a few scary, mostly funny and cute, as this was advertised as good "child friendly" entertainment. My favorite was the "Wizard of Oz" family: the tiny Dorothy, the Scarecrow dad, the Tin Man (Woman) mom, and the Glenda the Good Witch baby sister. Eric the dancing "Star Wars Jedi Fighter Pilot" attracted trick-or-treaters with his glowing light sabers, even challenging a much shorter Ninja to a friendly duel. Stormie, with her Jack Skellington "Nightmare Before Christmas" get-up, and Marcy "the Red Devil," couldn't hand out the treats fast enough, when the 500 plus trick-or-treaters passed "GO" and were off at exactly 5:00 PM.



Fortunately the Lions Club provided the hundreds of dollars worth of candy given out, as well as the Disneyland tickets for the lucky raffle winner. The DJ got the party started and kept the party going with spooky tunes and dance contests. The weather cooperated, and we enjoyed our third year of supporting another Lions Club worthwhile family event. They're already making plans for Easter.



Very Very Scary October Happenings by Marcy Taylor



Some of the local ghosts and goblins and other creatures were out in full force to learn the hidden secrets of the haunted Mojave Desert at our October Mohave Historical Society meeting and fieldtrip. Joe and Marcy told "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing



but the truth" about the many haunted sites along the old Route 66 starting with Goffs

and heading on west through Amboy and Ludlow, with some side trips down the 247 to Giant Rock and Lucerne Valley. The Barstow area also seems to have a large number of resident ghosts, haunting such places as Area 51, Calico Ghost Town, and the Harvey House train station. No one would want to hang out at any of these places after dark.



The trip continued down the Route 66 to Helendale and Oro



Grande. Did you know that the blue bottles at Elmer's Bottle Tree Ranch actually catch the pesky ghosts and keep them from haunting the surrounding area? But that didn't seem to help the places farther south like the old George Air Force Base Hospital, the Eighth Street Theater in Victorville, or the Marilyn Monroe Cottage over in Apple Valley.



As if all of this wasn't frightening enough, Mayor Joe (and First Dog Randy) guaranteed that the next day's fieldtrip to the haunted town of Oro Grande would tell "the rest of the story." An educational stroll down Route 66 to the Antique Station and Shelley's Place, and another up Olive Street past three haunted houses to the cemetery, convinced most of us that we may not want to come back after dark. The closest we got to any real ghosts was on a visit to the grave sites of teenagers Matilde Rodriguez, age 13 (5/10/26- 5/24/39) and her brother Antonio Rodriguez, age 14 (7/6/24- 5/24/39) who had their lives cut short by a passing train. To meet their spirits, just come back at night and wait for the next train to pass by.



Our thanks to all the historians and ghost busters who made this presentation possible: Authors Brian Clune, Claudia and Allen Heller, John Beyer, Steve Smith, and John Swisher; as well as MHS members Nick Lamb and Stormie Reid; and Honorable Mayor and caretaker of the Oro Grande Cemetery, Joe Manners, also an MHS member.

The following is a list of accomplishments and on-going projects that the MHS Executive Board would like to share with the membership, as we continue to strive to fulfill our mission of preserving and sharing the history of the Mojave Desert area.

Monuments Restoration and Relocation (partially funded by MHS members donations)

100-Year Time Capsule

- Excavated the Time Capsule with help of Helendale CSD from the original Palisades Ranch location.
- Reburied the Time Capsule at the Helendale Elementary School site and hosted reburial ceremony.
- Constructed a concrete base and provided a 12x12 granite Time Capsule plaque.
- Constructed and installed a fence surrounding the plaque at the new site.
- Created 3 booklets with the history of the Time Capsule, monument, and its relocation for Helendale School District, MHS files at VV College, and MHS board records file.

Route 66 Monument – National Trails Highway

- Worked with Helendale residents to replace the original Route 66 monument that stood on National Trails Highway near Vista at the "Gables" before it was destroyed by a runaway truck.
- Ordered and delivered to Helendale CSD a new plaque and 2 Route 66 Helendale custom road signs for the soon-to-be recreated Route 66 monument.

Palisades Monument

- Provided a new 12x12 granite plaque.

Miners to Movies Monument

- Attended E Clampus Vitus Greybeards Dinner and dedication of monuments "Miners to Movies" placed at Dead Man's Point.

MHS Monuments booklet (Revised)

- Added the 3 Helendale locations, updated the map and driving tour directions.

Monthly Fieldtrips:

- Jan. 3 San Bernardino Museums- San Bernardino History and Pioneer Society History House and Harris Hall, Railroad Museum.
- Feb. Bell Mountain area- Murray Ranch, Sycamore Rocks, Herb Jeffries movie sites.
- Mar. Rancho Verde Estates (part of the original North Verde Ranch).
- Apr. Lucerne Valley historic sites driving tour.
- May Kemper Campbell Ranch main house and grounds tour.
- June Big Bear Frontier Town and History Museum.
- July Apple Valley Museum Hop-2 monuments, Apple Valley Legacy Museum, Apple Valley Heritage Room.
- Aug. Wrightwood historic sites driving tour
- Sept. Camp Cajon tour through Cajon Pass, old Route 66 to San Bernardino, McDonalds Museum, Military Museum.
- Oct. Haunted Oro Grande town and cemetery tour.
- Nov. Museum Hop with Victor Valley Museum .

Bonus fieldtrips:

- Railroad grade fieldtrip to West Cajon Valley with Camp Cajon group.
- Ft. Irwin Military Museum with Mojave River Valley Museum.
- Fort Irwin Box Tour
- Camp Cajon tour with Wrightwood Historical Society

Speakers at MHS meetings:

- Jan. Nick Cataldo - San Bernardino history
- Feb. Marcy Taylor - The Green Book and 2 Apple Valley Ranches
- Mar. Dan Mitrovich - Preservation Ranch and Protecting the Desert Tortoise
- Apr. Eric Mandesson - Lucerne Valley Historical Sites
- May Gary Whiteside - History of Whiteside family
- June Anne Roark - Doble, The Forgotten Ghost Town
- Sept. John Beyers - Town of Amboy
- Oct. Joe Manners & Marcy Taylor - Ghosts that Haunt the Desert
- Nov. Dennis Hom - Growing up in Old Town Victorville

Community Events Supported by MHS:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace March
- Second Annual Needles Rt. 66 Celebration
- Old West Days at Victor Valley Museum
- Oro Grande Round-up Days
- Apple Valley Legacy Museum porch sales and movie nights
- Victorville Route 66 Museum caboose arrival
- San Bernardino Historical Society meetings
- High Desert Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration
- Victorville Christmas parade and other Holiday events
- Apple Valley Legacy Museum 8 year celebration
- Apple Valley Village Street Fairs, Flea Markets and Happy Trails Parade
- Concerts in the Courtyard and Civic Center Park
- Victorville Crafts Fairs
- Victor Valley Museum sales
- Mojave River Valley Museum Spring and Fall BBQs
- Apple Valley Pet Fair
- Victorville Veterans Parade and reception

Community Relations:

- Reinstated membership with California Council of Historic Societies
- Member of Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce
- Supported Chamber events (Evening Affaire, Kemper Campbell Ranch Mixer, State of the Town)
- Represent MHS on Apple Valley Historic Advisory Committee
- Supported Town of Apple Events (Taste of the Town, Christmas Tea, 35th Anniversary)
- Event Sponsor for Apple Valley Concerts in the Park
- Participated in:
 - Lions Club Trunk or Treat
 - Cross-Eyed Cow 10-year ribbon cutting
 - Lt. Manuel Rodriguez WWII medals presentation to Victor Valley Museum
- Presentation given by MHS members Dennis and Stephanie Hom to Friends of the Apple Valley Library
- Presentation given by member Marcy Taylor to Friends of the Apple Valley Library
- Presentation given by member Marcy Taylor at NAACP banquet
- Assisted the Hesperia Museum Director with a tri-fold brochure with map identifying many local museums.

2023 MHS Board Accomplishments.

2023 MHS Directors



- Introduced new members in first 3 editions of 2023 Muse newsletters
- Updated Policies and Procedures document to reflect new fieldtrip requirements
- Updated the monthly to-do list to assist current and future board members with required tasks
- Addressed the issue of VVC / MHS responsibilities at History Room at the VVC Library
- Located information on 3 Helendale monuments, not previously included in MHS Monuments booklet
- Ordered for sale logo-wear items: hats, t-shirts, buttons, and decals
- Produced monthly Muse newsletters with stories, photos, and event calendars
- Provided speakers for monthly membership meetings
- Organized and led monthly fieldtrips to historic sites
- Sent out monthly reminders to members
- Provided monthly event calendar and stories to Pulse and Mojave River Valley Museum newsletter
- Produced a membership directory (Buzz Book) with contact information and schedule of events
- Produced 2 new booklets: Lucerne Driving Tour Edition #2, MHS Monuments Edition #3
- Surveyed members for self-evaluation in fulfilling mission and goals of MHS and volunteer opportunities
- Members continue to volunteer to work community events and monthly MHS meetings
- Continue to post and update info on the MHS Facebook and website
- Held elections and installation of 2024 Executive Board
- Continued to increase membership through outreach at local museums and community events
- Continue to order and sell books of historic significance, many published by MHS

**BUZZ BOOK Submission Deadline
DECEMBER 14**

**Contact Stormie Reid: 760-885-2562
faerieblueone1@gmail.com**

Genuine Desert Animals Reprise by Marcy Taylor

The somewhat unusual, but nevertheless "Genuine Desert Animals" of Apple Valley and Lucerne Valley, made two more appearances after earning first place in the float division at the Apple Valley Happy Trails Parade Saturday September 9. They were a big hit at the Apple Valley Pet Fair with the theme "Wild Wild West Pets" that took place in Civic Center Park October 21. Our booth was right next to the California Turtle and Tortoise Club folks, who attracted a lot of visitors our way with their 4 very large live tortoises.



Can you believe that most locals, in particular the young ones or folks new to the area, had never even heard of a Bunny Duck, a D e e G e e Monkey, or

an Apple Valley Inn pigeon telephone? Only a few old timers actually remembered the dairy cows, the racing burrows, and the Jess Ranch turkeys. And very very few people even realized that Trigger, Jr., Buttermilk, and Bullet the Wonder Dog all lived out their lives here in Apple Valley. Our stuffed toys wearing cowboy hats sure taught people a thing or two about local history. It's a good thing we were there! Thanks to the MHS members Jada, Karen, Eric, Mike, and Carol J. for helping out.

Three days later, Tuesday Oct. 24, these "Genuine Desert Animals" made another appearance at the Town Council meeting



(along with ten of their human counterparts) to receive their well-deserved Happy Trails Parade float award certificate, and a monetary contribution towards the Apple Valley Legacy Museum's November rent.

If for some reason you missed both the Happy Trails Parade and the Wild Wild West Pet Fair, you have one more chance coming up to meet these adorable critters. They're planning to crash the MHS Christmas Party on Thursday December 14 with a surprise performance. So better buy your dinner ticket ASAP, at the November MHS meeting, at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum during open hours, or by calling (760) 985-1918.

Honoring Our Local Veterans by Marcy Taylor

On Saturday November 11, Seventh Street in Old Town Victorville was awash with red, white, and blue and military uniforms as the 27th Annual Veterans Day Parade made its



way down to the Veterans statue at Forrest. The large crowd lining both sides of the street cheered on the participants led by the equestrian Honor Guard. The youth were out in full force with the Adelanto High School Saints Color Guard Team, the Academy of Careers and Exploration students, the California



Cadets Corps 18th Brigade, several groups of local JROTC, and the University Prep Marching Band all participating. All branches of the military, the American Legion, the Hero Society, the Royal Rangers, the Orenda Veterans Project, and the Tuskegee Airmen were all represented. Horses, dogs, motorcycles, classic cars, and floats wowed the crowd on a beautiful warm windless November day.

The ceremony that followed at the Veterans Memorial, placed by the late Colonel Felix Diaz, honored 44 local Veterans representing four military branches. According to the event program, their combined years of service to our country totaled 470, spanning several generations from World War II Veterans to the current active military. 32 Veterans' photos were included in the program. Following the Invocation, Flag Raising and National Anthem, the five Victorville City Council members and the Town Manager each narrated a part of the history, which was followed by a musical tribute by the University Prep Marching Band, and then a slideshow highlighting the accomplishments of the honorees.

The Victor Valley Legacy Museum, located just across the street, hosted its 8th annual reception following the ceremony. Attendees could enjoy patriotic music and snacks, and view displays both inside and outside the museum, which played tribute to those who served and are still serving in the Armed Forces.



Among the many Veterans celebrations taking place around the High Desert, was an evening banquet at Emmanuel Temple CME Church to honor their own. The first honoree was active



church member Chief Master Sgt. Ray Gray, who served overseas during the Vietnam years. His final stateside assignment was George Air Force Base. The second honoree was active church member Chief Master Sgt. Jack Brown, who served during both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. His final destination was again George Air Force Base. Also sitting at the head table was Lieutenant Colonel Tony Marshall, a highly decorated Air Force Pilot, who was held as a Prisoner of War in Southeast Asia during the early 1970's. He continued his service in Europe and here at George Air Force Base. After his retirement he worked as an airline pilot and a teacher, and currently serves as a volunteer with many local organizations, continuing to make a difference in the lives of many High Desert youth and citizens. Tony is featured in the 2023 Apple Valley Town calendar. The man that got the most applause was a 96-year-old World War II Veteran Clifford Johnson, who had no trouble walking up to the mic and addressing the crowd.

Our hats off to all the High Desert Veterans who have served our country, and a sincere thanks to our active military members and their families, with best wishes for a safe holiday season.

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
 Mohahve Historical Society

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Mohahve64@gmail.com

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