

THE MOHAHVE MUSE



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



Volume 26 Issue 2
February 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, Rick Schmidt

President's Corner

Greetings MHS members and supporters!

I hope that 2023 is treating you well so far, and that you are keeping all of your resolutions. February is Dental Health Month, Black History Month, and the month for LOVE (Valentine's Day) and patriotism (Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays.) The days are getting longer, and hopefully the nights will get a little warmer, the wind will calm down, and the much needed rain will not produce a huge crop of unwanted weeds!

For those members who do not receive Mike's monthly email reminders, I will repeat a few things:

Sat. Feb. 11 from 11-4:00 we will participate in the second annual Route 66 Festival at the Needles El Garces Harvey House. If you are able to help at our table, please call (760) 985-1918 ASAP. A few people who volunteered to go are now unable to make it, so we can use the help. If you just want to attend and enjoy the tours, booths, music, and presentations, come on down! There are lots of sights to see when driving the Rt. 66 from Barstow to Needles. Our own VP Delvin is a board member of the Route 66 Association East, which is sponsoring this event, and he would love to see you there!

On Tues. Feb. 14 at 11:30 AM MHS member Bruce Holtenbeck and I will present the History of the Apple Valley Library at the Friends of the Library meeting. The location is the community room of the Newton T. Bass Library on Dale Evans Parkway just north of Highway 18. Included will be a PowerPoint presentation, table displays, and time for Q and A. Everyone is welcome, and refreshments will be served. Several of our MHS members are

FAVL members as well, so you're sure to see familiar faces.

Also mark Sat. March 11 on your calendar if you would like to join the Wrightwood Historical Society for a fieldtrip to Camp Cajon on Wagon Train Rd. at the I-15 / 138 exit. If you missed the Jan. 2021 and Oct. 2022 tours, you will want to join this one. To sign up call Lauren at (805) 455-5580 or email Mark Landis at historyinca@yahoo.com. Be sure to say you are an MHS member.

Thanks to those of you who attended and helped out at Old West Days at the Victor Valley Museum Sat. Jan. 21. Partnering with other museums and historical societies is the key to keeping our name out there and attracting new members. Keep up the good work!

Marcy



The Queen Mary celebrates 30 years with MHS

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

- Feb. 23 **MHS Mtg.** Marcy Taylor "The Green Book and Two Apple Valley Ranches"
- Feb. 25 **Fieldtrip.** Bell Mountain / Sycamore Rocks
- Mar. 23 **MHS Mtg.** Dan Mitrovich "Preservation Ranch: Protecting the Desert Tortoise"
- Mar. 24 **Fieldtrip.** Rancho Verde Estates/Verde Ranch - Brent Gaddis
- Apr. 27 **MHS Mtg.** Eric Mandeson "Historical Landmarks of Lucerne Valley"
- Apr. 28 **Fieldtrip.** Lucerne Valley sites.
- May 24 **Fieldtrip.** Kemper Campbell Ranch. Peggy Shaughnessy.
- May 25 **MHS Mtg.** Gary Whiteside "The Whiteside Family and Flying Tigers"
- Jun. 22 **MHS Mtg.** Anne Roark "Doble, California"
- Jun. 24 **Fieldtrip.** Big Bear Museum
- Jul. 22 **Fieldtrip.** Cajon Pass Tour, Parts 1 and 2
- Aug 26 **Fieldtrip.** Wrightwood Driving Tour
- Sep 28 **MHS Mtg.** John Beyer "Beyer's Byways: Amboy, Ca"
- Sep 30 **Fieldtrip.** McDonald Museum, SB
- Oct. 26 **MHS Mtg.** Joe Manners & Marcy Taylor "Ghosts that Haunt the Desert"
- Oct. 27 **Fieldtrip.** 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**

Community Events

- Feb 11 9am-2pm, Route 66 Celebration, Harvey House in Needles CA, hosted by Rt. 66 Association.
- Feb. 14 11:30, Apple Valley Library, Dale Evans Parkway. Presentation "History of AV Library", Marcy Taylor & Bruce Hollenbeck.
- Mar. 11 11am, Camp Cajon Tour, compliments of Wrightwood Historical Society
- Apr. 30 10am, Clamper's Monument Dedication at Dead Man's Point, Apple Valley, CA
- Jun 23 Route 66 Festival, Tulsa OK, featuring -25 "Overground Railroad" by Candacy Taylor and Apple Valley Murray's Ranch.

MHS LATE BREAKING NEWS

Amazon has discontinued **AmazonSmile** effective February 20, 2023!!!!

MHS MEMBERSHIP ALERT

Annual Members who did not RENEW by 1/26/23 will **no longer** receive the MUSE or event reminders! You can be reinstated by submitting an application and appropriate membership dues by mail:
MHS, Post Office Box 21, Victorville, CA 92393
Or in person at
Members Meeting or AVLMM

Membership Information

Total Active Membership 123
Life Members 32, Annual Members 91

Feb. 23 General Meeting - "Cruising with the Green Book."

Speaker - Marcy Taylor.

In February we celebrate Black History Month and the numerous contributions African Americans have made to our society, overcoming many struggles along the way. The Victor Valley has an interesting history of racial relations. Despite Victorville's classification as a Sun-down Town, children of different races played together, most people learned to get along, and many longtime interracial marriages and friendships were formed. Victorville may have had the E Street and D Street sides of the tracks, but by seventh grade all students attended Victor Valley Jr. High and then High School, as there were no other schools to be attended! All families patronized the same businesses. Chinese railroad workers finished their jobs in the West and settled here. The cement plants employed many Hispanics. African American homesteaders arrived after the end of the Civil War. And the many soldiers and airmen who rotated through the military bases, and the intermarrying that resulted, had a lot to do with acceptance.

Even though Apple Valley had its many housing restrictions written into the real estate CCRs, it was the location of the Terri Lee Doll Factory that produced a Hispanic doll named Guadalupe, an Eskimo doll named Nanook, a Native American doll, four African American dolls, as well as dolls from the Caribbean Islands and European countries. And also remember the Murray's Overall Wearing Dude Ranch that welcomed everyone.

The February 23 presentation by MHS member Marcy Taylor will bring to life the "Green Book" travelers of the Route 66, which stretched from Chicago to Los Angeles, crossing eight states along the way. Of all the listings in these guides, published by Victor Green from 1936-1966, directing minorities to "safe spots" in the way of hotels, rooming houses, restaurants, barber and beauty shops, service stations, and auto repair shops, only one place listed welcoming guest ranches. Both were right here in Apple Valley, at that time known as the "outskirts of Victorville." Nolie and Lela Murray put Apple Valley on the map, before there even was an Apple Valley. The second owners, drummer Louie Belson and his actress wife Pearl Bailey, continued the hospitality.

Some of you may be aware that our local magazines and artifacts from the ranch are on the Smithsonian Traveling Green Book exhibit, which made its way to Sacramento Dec. of 2021 through Jan. of 2022. It will be back in California at the end of this year from Dec. 16 through March 10 at the Peterson Automotive Museum in Los Angeles on Wilshire Blvd. You will be able to enjoy the many recognizable display items provided by the Mohave Historical Society and the Apple Valley Legacy Museum.

Plan to attend the meeting at the Lone Wolf Colony Feb. 23. Doors open at 6:30 for the 7:00 presentation, which will include a PowerPoint and table displays.



February Field Trip - Bell Mountain, Sycamore Rocks

Our Feb. 25 fieldtrip will explore the Bell Mountain area of northeast Apple Valley, originally a Black homesteading community. One of its first residents was Carrie Story, born into slavery, who homesteaded 160 acres without the help of a husband.

We will meet at the service station at the southeast corner of Dale Evans Parkway (formerly Bell Mountain Road) and Waalew



at 10:00, directly across from the southern border of the Murray's

Overall Wearing Dude Ranch.

Following a walking tour of the remains of the ranch, and a driving tour to the Raglan Ranch and other Bell Mountain sites, we will head to the airport, the location of the former McCarthy and Corwin ranches. After a short break there, our last stop will be Sycamore Rocks, an early movie location, where the ending scenes of Herb Jeffries's "The Bronze Buckaroo" and "Harlem Rides the Range" were shot.



Please be sure to wear good walking shoes, and bring a drink, and a snack or sack lunch if you so desire. You may sign up for this trip at the Feb. 23 meeting, at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum, or by calling (760) 985-1918.

Meeting Members of the 2023 MHS Board



"Desert Lily", our very own MHS Treasurer for the past 2 years, long time resident of Victorville and great-grandmother, **Carol Wiley**, is a very important asset of MHS and the Victorville community. Not only is she our treasurer, but a hard-working member of various community organizations of the high desert who is often seen voluntarily supporting many community events. Carol grew up in Bloomington CA, graduated from Riverside City College and CSU San Bernardino, and spent most of her life in the high desert. After retiring from Victor Valley College where she worked for many years, Carol dedicated herself to support the local community. She is a long-time member of the Sierra Club, enjoys travelling, camping, music and plays.

Thank you Desert Lily for your support to MHS as its Treasurer and your support to the community at large.



Delvin Harbour is a true Californian, born and raised in the Southern California community of Cucamonga, has lived in the Victor Valley since 1985, and worked for the City of Rancho Cucamonga for 27 years in Facilities Maintenance. Delvin has been a Volunteer Docent at the California Route 66 Museum for 11 years, and is also Vice President East on the Board of the California Historic Route 66 Association for 6 years. Delvin has 2 sons both married and 3 grandchildren. One of his hobbies is Amateur Radio, callsign KJ6QYP, and is a member of the Victor Valley Amateur Radio Club. Delvin joined MHS in 2020 and immediately took on the difficult task of being Vice President.

Thank you Delvin for your support to MHS as Vice-President and your support to the community at large.



I've been a prospector for the last 20 years. I specialize in Crystal Quartz and 200 million year old fossils. I also collect watches, with over 100, and Disneyana. I even have an original sign from space mountain at Disneyland. 4 years ago I moved myself and my two Weimaraners to my desert oasis in Lucerne Valley. I even have my own personal quartz quarry on my land. I left LA county having lived in chaos for almost 60 years, sold my family home from 1960 and never looked back.

A good friend led me to MHS and I discovered a wonderful and exciting history in my new stomping grounds. The tales, structures, and people of the past, are what lead us to a brighter and richer future.

Thank you **Eric Mandeson** for your support to MHS as a Director and your support to the community.

2023 Victorville MLK Peace March by Marcy Taylor

The 15th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Peace March, hosted by the High Desert Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was back in all its glory after a two year hiatus. Chartered on Sept. 17, 2006, the High Desert Chapter serves the local cities of San Bernardino County



through scholarships, blood drives, voter registration events, and many other necessary services and activities. The march and ceremony that followed near Victorville City Hall thankfully escaped the rain on a brisk Monday January morning. Large banners representing Dr. King, the Deltas, the Tuskegee Airmen, and NAACP Branch 1082, as well as signs held by the Delta Gems Youth Group, were prominently displayed.

The program included a welcome by Deltas President Frances Lewis, opening and closing prayers by local pastors, and the Presentation of the Colors by Riverside Preparatory School California Cadet Corps 380th Battalion. "The National Anthem" and a rousing rendition of "What's Going On?" were among the musical selections. Keynote speaker Regina Weatherspoon-Bell, speaking on the theme "Moving Forward," encouraged those in attendance to progress and give back to their community, while at the same time giving thanks to the many leaders that came before in the often dangerous struggle for civil rights.



Civil Rights Memorial essay winner, sixth grader **Natalia Jackson** of Irwin Academy School of Performing Arts, seemed well beyond her years as she read her essay and posed for photos with her newly constructed plaque honoring **Frances E. W. Harper**, who fought for women's rights and suffrage. The unveiling marked the ninth yearly plaque to be erected at the Victorville Civil Rights Memorial, "dedicated to those who changed our nation for the benefit of all people."



Thanks goes out to the Deltas Sorority, the Delta Gems, the City of Victorville, CalRTA (Retired Teachers), Victor Valley's Women Club, NAACP Branch

1082, NCNW, the Tuskegee Airmen, as well as the other organizations, churches, and individuals who supported and continue to support the event every year.

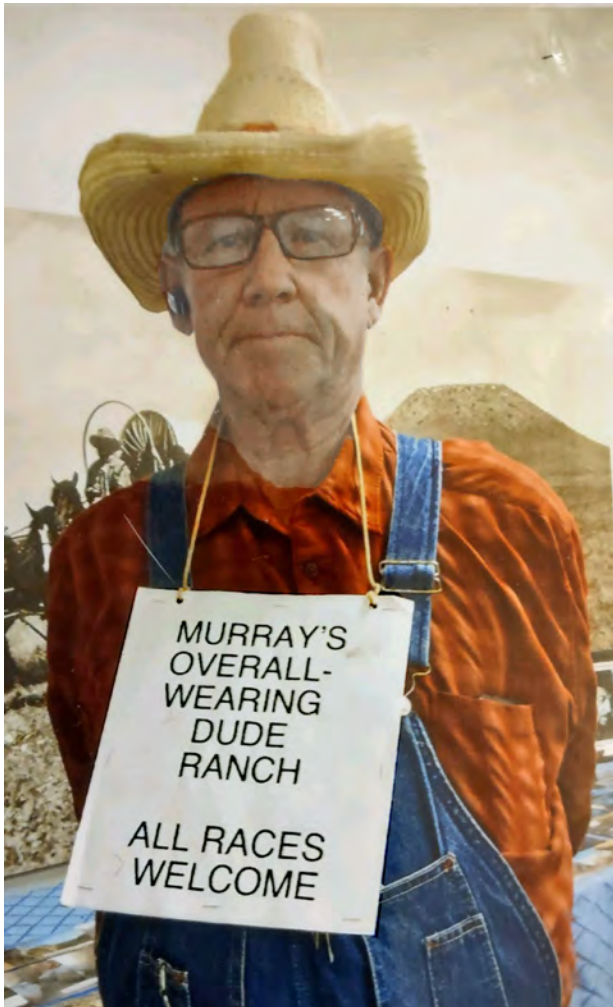


Thanks also to the MHS Board members who attended: Director Mike Phillips, long-time supporter Treasurer Carol Wiley, and President and NAACP member Marcy Taylor. We appreciate all of you.



IN MEMORIAM

Monday January the 9th, 2023, was the day two MHS supporters left this earthly existence behind.



Lifetime member **Dez Simcoe** passed in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, at the age of 79. He and his wife Dorothy joined the MHS in 2014 after learning about the organization at one of my presentations at CalRTA (California Retired Teachers Association.) When I developed the "Green Book and the Murray's Overall Wearing Dude Ranch" program, Dez agreed to be our Mr. Murray. He didn't need a costume, since bib overalls were his normal everyday attire. My two granddaughters, Dey'nelle and Jada Kaltenbach, and a neighbor boy named Logan played the ranch children. "Mr. Murray" wore a sign around his neck stating "Murray Ranch: all races welcome." He also served as the tech guy and set up the projector.

Before relocating to be closer to family, Dez and Dorothy were active MHS and CalRTA members. Before moving they donated items to the Apple Valley Legacy Museum, including Roy and Dale memorabilia and a DeeGee Bunny. Dez was an Air Force Veteran who ended his career at George. A number of GAFFB mementos were donated to the Victor Valley Legacy Museum. We will miss you, Dez.

Frank (Francis) Fiore, AKA Frankie Flash, AKA the Italian Cowboy, passed away at St. Mary's Hospital in Apple Valley at the age of 93. As a Korean War Veteran, a history lover, a talented musician, a champion bowler, and the Trail Boss of the Roy Rogers Fan Club in the late 1940's and 50's, Frankie



led an interesting life. You probably remember when he and his wife Jean and daughter Theresa, AKA Tessi the Singing Cowgirl, entertained at the 2019 MHS Christmas party at the Lone Wolf Colony. Frankie and Theresa had made several previous appearances playing with the High Desert Jammers, Frankie on the harmonica and accordion, and Theresa on the flute and vocals.

You might also remember Frankie performing at the senior talent shows at the college, and both he and his daughter performing at Calico Ghost Town, at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum steak fries, on Apple Valley Village parade floats, at Cowboy Church at the Roy Rogers Ranch and the Apple Valley house, and after the Veterans Parade at the Victor Valley Legacy Museum. His last gig was an impromptu set after the parade last November 11. Frankie always made sure to have a harmonica in his pocket. Thank you for your many contributions to the Victor Valley and Mojave River Valley communities. You will certainly be missed.

By Marcy Taylor

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

www.mohahve.org
Mohahve64@gmail.com

Label