

THE MOHAHVE MUSE



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

Volume 27 Issue 2
February 2024

President: Marcy Taylor **VP:** Delvin Harbour **Treasurer:** Dennis Hom **Rec Secy:** Open **Corres Secy:** Stormie Reid
Directors: Scott Johnson, Meera Maheswaran, Eric Mandeson, Mike Phillips, Rick Schmidt.

President's Corner

Hello MHS members and supporters:

It's already February so the year is 1/12 over. Hopefully the first month was super and you haven't broken any resolutions yet. (I know, most of you quit making them long ago.) Last month's newsletter listed the annual members who had renewed for 2024. Quite a few others have done so since then, and some probably will after this letter has gone to print. So if you haven't already, please take care of it one way or another, either in person at a meeting or at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum, or by mail to the Post Office box.

So this month I have some new lists for you. First, I would like to acknowledge our sister museums that send monthly or quarterly newsletters our way. Consider visiting one if you are in the general area, send us a photo or two, and let us hear about your visit.

- Big Bear Historical Society "Tall Pines" monthly
- Mojave River Valley Museum, Barstow "Desert Tailings" monthly
- Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert, Ridgecrest "HSUMD News" monthly
- Daggett and Calico Historical Society "Daggett and Calico News" monthly
- Searles Valley Historical Society "Searles Valley Slate" quarterly
- Shoshone Museum Association "Shoshone Museum Reader" quarterly
- "San Bernardino and Pioneer Society News" quarterly
- Kern Antelope Historical Society "Antelope Horn" periodically

Upon occasion we also hear from Wrightwood, Lucerne Valley, and others.



The High Desert Jammers leading the sing-along at the Christmas party.



San Bernardino county celebrates Route 66.

Marcy

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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. 22 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Tony Winkel, Mojave Water Agency
- Feb. 24 **Field Trip.** 10:00am, High Desert Interpretive Center (Property of MWA)
- Mar. 24 **Field Trip.** 10:00am Overnight to Amboy, -25 Goffs, Needles
- Mar. 28 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Peter Walraven, "Walraven Family's Journey to America"
Speaker - Marcy Taylor, "History of VV United Methodist Church"
- Apr. 25 **MHS Mtg.** Speakers - MHS members, "History of MHS and Young Historians Desert Seekers"
- Apr. 26 **Field Trip.** Telephone Museum Tour
MHS 60 - Year Anniversary BBQ
- May 23 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Scott Johnson
"McDonald's Arches & Mid-Century Modern Architecture"
- May 25 **Field Trip.** Pioneer Town
- Jun. 27 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - TBD
- Jun. 28 **Field Trip.** TBD
- Aug. 23 **Field Trip.** Edwards AFB Museum, Yeager Park.
- Sep. 26 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Sid Hultquist, "Wildlife and Landscapes Photography"
- Sep. 28 **Field Trip.** Rainbow Basin/Barstovian Fossil Beds.
- Oct. 24 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Mark Landis, "Arrowhead Water Train"
- Oct. 26 **Field Trip.** Arrowhead Springs
- Nov. 21 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Lee Risler, "Risler's Rocks: Homesteading in Lucerne Valley", MHS Board Election
- Nov. 23 **Field Trip.** St. Joseph's Monastery in Lucerne Valley
- Dec. 19 **Christmas Celebration..**

Community Events

- Feb. 1 Green Book/Murray Ranch Presentation at CalRTA meeting, 11:30am, Trinity Lutheran Church, Victorville, Eloise Gibson, lunch at nominal charge
- Mar. 16 Apple Valley Legacy Museum 9-year Anniversary **
- Apr. 13 San Bernardino Railroad Museum Event **
- Apr. 20 Mojave River Valley Museum BBQ, Barstow **
- ** MHS booth at this event.



President's Corner (Cont'd from Page 1)

Next, I would like to thank the members who have presented at a meeting, led a fieldtrip, or both, some more than once over the years, some on more than one subject or area of interest. According to the surveys received, more of our members are stepping up to the plate and working on presentations and fieldtrips. In fact, three of our board members spent New Years Day scouting out bombing circles! So if you want to join the fun and educate your fellow members, please let us know.

Thanks to: Past board members Mary Dutro, Fran Elgin, John Marnell, Jim Mustra, Doug Shumway, Larry Reece, and probably more I haven't listed; current board members Delvin Harbour, Eric Mandeson, Dennis Hom, Marcy Taylor, Scott Johnson, Stormie Reid; members Bob Cambridge, Joe Manners, Nick Cataldo, Mark Landis, Brent Gaddis. Some members have presented to other groups or historical societies, some have hosted school-aged kids, some volunteer at various museums, and others work community events. Where do you fit in? (P.S. Let me know who I failed to list)

My third list is of books written and published by MHS members, most of which we sell. You will note that within the past three years we have published several informational booklets, but our last book in the Mohahve series was 2011, and the last member's book, "Rancho Yucca Loma" by Fran Elgin was published in 2014. So guess what? We're gearing up for another book in the M series, Mohahve 7. We hope to put into paragraph form the numerous interviews in our files, to reach a wider audience than the select few who use the MHS History Room at the Victor Valley College for research purposes.

Mohahve Series:

#1 (1963), #2 (1965), #3 (1966), #4 (1984), #5 (1991), Index to #1-5 (2001), #6 (2011).

Other books:

It Looked Like Eden (1996), Treasured Recipes Cookbook (1998), The Saga of Turtle Valley (2006), History of Victor Valley (2010), and Rancho Yucca Loma (2014).

Booklets:

MHS Monuments (3 editions) 2021, 2022, 2024
Lucerne Valley Driving Tour (2 editions) April and Oct. 2023
Membership directories (Buzz Books) yearly since 2012.

If you have some writing skills and patience, and would like to help put Mohahve #7 together, don't hesitate to speak up!

Now get out your 2024 calendar and start filling it up with all of the upcoming events listed in this edition of the Muse. If you filled out the form to have your contact information included in the Buzz Book, remember that you are entitled to a copy created by our current Corresponding Secretary Stormie Reid.

All of this information should give both new and long-time members a review of what this organization is all about!

Marcy

Survival Depends Upon Water by Marcy Taylor

Established in 1960 to participate in the State Water Project, the Mojave Water Agency has the difficult job of managing groundwater basins, importing water, and addressing the risks to keeping the water flowing in our taps. To supply 50,000 residents within its 4900 square mile service area, MWA regularly imports water from Northern California to replenish our groundwater supply, which is released periodically from strategic locations. So the water you may occasionally see rushing under the Bear Valley Road bridge is not a mirage.



On February 22 Tony Winkel, Principal Hydrogeologist of the Mojave Water Agency, will give us the details of the process of supplying the High Desert region with the water the ever-growing population requires. The meeting at the Lone Wolf Colony is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 for the 7:00 program.

The Saturday February 24 fieldtrip will take us to the High Desert Interpretive Center, under the jurisdiction of the Mojave Water Agency. The center is located between the Mojave River and Deep Creek Rd. in Apple Valley, with the entrance at 7620 Deep Creek Road. We will meet at 10 AM at the covered amphitheater, and then walk the 1000 foot instructional paths with interpretive kiosks, to increase our knowledge of the Mojave's natural and cultural history. We will learn about our region's biological resources and water history, as well as the Serrano and Vanyume Native Americans who lived on the land.



High Desert Interpretive Center

You can sign up for this trip at the Thursday night meeting, at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum during open hours, or by calling (760) 985-1918.

The trip is free to members; non-members pay a \$10 fee, or are more than welcome to join for the annual fee of \$20.

Give Peace a Chance by Marcy Taylor

Mohave Historical Society members made their first appearance as a group at the 16th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Peace March that took place January 15, 2024, with the theme "Living the Dream: It Starts With Me - Spreading Hope, Courage, and Unity."



I'm sure Dr. King would have been more than happy to see the marchers of various races, ages, nationalities, and religions, representing a number of churches, organizations, and non-profits, come together for a common cause, to celebrate diversity, and work to make Dr. King's dream a reality, even in this time of political and social turmoil in our country.

Our thanks to the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority High Desert Alumnae Chapter for hosting this important march and celebration once again. From the Victor Valley High School Air Force Jr. ROTC. to the three speakers (Rabbi Robert Bloch, Phillis Morris-Green, Esq., and Iman Yousef Farha), to the dynamic Burning Bush Church T and T Youth Choir, to the presentation by the Delta G.E.M.S., to the beautiful musical numbers led by LaMarche Mosley, the event was awe-inspiring.

One more plaque, number 10, was added to the Civil Rights Memorial near City Hall on Civic Drive, honoring NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, the subject of the winning essay by Discovery School of the Arts 5th grade student Sophia Burciaga.

Please take the time to visit the Civil Rights Memorial and read the ten commemorative bronze plaques dedicated to America's Civil Rights leaders.



Marcy Taylor and her granddaughter Jada Kaltenbach, Delvin Harbour, Eric Mandeson and Mike Phillips representing the Mohave Historical Society.

2024 Membership Renewals.

The membership dues of Annual Members were due by the end of December 2023. Annual Members are those who did not join as "Life Members" having paid the one-time dues. During the Christmas holidays we received a number of membership renewals. The Mohave Historical Society appreciates your financial support in our effort to carry on our mission to research, record, teach, and publish the history of the people and communities of the Mojave Desert area. We are very thankful for the renewal of the following Annual Members:

Jim ALBIN, Linda BORUFF, Judie & Norman BOSSOM, Diane & Bill CADENHEAD, Sofia CHASE, Toni CLEGG, Yogi COLLIER, Jeff COOPER, Jamie CORDOVA, Ellen DeJARNETTE, Estelle DELGADO, David FORREST, Mike GUIFFREDO, Delvin HARBOUR, Jeff HARDY, Patty HEDGES, Bruce HOLLENBECK, Jerry W HUTCHINSON, Bonnie INGRAM, Carol JOHNSON, Scott JOHNSON, Lawrence W JOHNSTON, Robert & Lynae KILPATRICK, Kari & Paul LEON, Cyndy MANDELL, Eric MANDESON, Joe MANNERS, Gary & Debra MENSER, Thomas & Ingrid MITCHELL, Maria NORMAN, Lois PAPNER, Clara PETROSKY, Mike & Yvonne PHILLIPS, Martha RADER, Stormie REID, Juanita RIEDELL, Alice SAULS, Rick SCHMIDT, Karen SCOTT, Barbara SMITH, Marcy TAYLOR, Linda TITUS, Elena TORRES, Joseph & Paula VAIL, Gary WHITESIDE, Carol WILEY, Bonnie YOUNG & Elizabeth ZOZAYA.

This list does not include the new members who joined within the last 2 months of 2023 whose membership would expire 12/31/24. If your name is missing on this list and you are sure you renewed, please contact Marcy at 760-985-1918 with the details of your renewal. To renew, please use the form on page 8 and submit with appropriate dues either by mail, at the February meeting, or at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum during open hours.

Victorville Lions Club Celebrates 98 Years by Marcy Taylor

You might think that nothing much went on a century ago in Victorville, then known as the town of Victor, a small railroad town near the Mojave River. But some local citizens banded together and formed the Lions Club in the charter year of 1926 to improve the lives of residents. I was privileged to attend the 98th Anniversary Celebration and Open house of the Victorville Lions Club January 13 at the invitation of current President Linda Titus, also a Mohave Historical Society member.



Linda Titus, President
Victorville Lions Club

The service projects of today's organization may be quite different than those of 98 years ago, but their goals are the same. The anniversary event, which was held at the Victorville Senior Citizens Club Center, included a nice luncheon, a presentation on the dangers of youth vaping, and an overview of the many worthwhile projects of the local branch. With the state of the environment as one of the club's concerns, two benches made of recycled water bottles were presented to the Victorville Senior Citizens Center. In addition, a "Happy Dollars"

collection was taken to support a local Scout's upcoming trip to England. And the program concluded with a blood-pumping drum lesson by Chazz, a well-known San Bernardino County Fair staple who hosts his yearly popular drum circles.

If you're looking for a satisfying volunteer opportunity,
the Victorville Lions Club
could be the place for you!

Victor Valley High School Administration Building Gets a New Name by Marcy Taylor

On January 6, 2024, the City of Victorville and Victor Valley Union High School district were proud to honor the late Felix Diaz with a named building at the high school from which he graduated in 1953.



The newest campus building now bears the name Lt. Col. Felix G. Diaz Administration Building. It was quite a celebration, with performances by the Victor Valley High School Cheer Squad, the Victor Valley High School Drum Corps, the California Cadet Corps, and a Mariachi band, with school board members, local dignitaries, administrators, teachers, and school support staff, military, and a host of local residents and supporters all in attendance.

Lt. Col. Diaz's wide influence was clearly on display, as I looked around and saw attendees of various ages, races, and walks of life.



The ceremony ended with a barely visible sheet of canvas suspended from the roof being lifted to reveal the new signage at the top of the building. Following the unveiling, the crowd was invited to tour the building, enjoy refreshments, and share memories of this influential Veteran, community leader, and educator.

To get more insight into the life and work of Felix Diaz, pick up a copy of his autobiography "Footsteps From the Barrio." It presents the history of mid-century Victorville, the issues, customs, and laws of the time, and the unlikely chance that a boy from E Street should have a beautiful building on the D Street side of town named after him.

On the Road to the Murray Ranch by Marcy Taylor

On Thursday December 21, eleven High Desert residents, including six MHS members, braved the rain and the freeways for an educational and enlightening trip to the Peterson Auto Museum on Los Angeles's Museum Row. Robert E. Peterson, publisher of "Hotrod Magazine," who founded the Peterson in 1994, traces his roots to the High Desert, specifically Barstow where he grew up and graduated from high school. And yes, Barstow is a Route 66 town. So it only makes sense that the Smithsonian Traveling Green Book exhibit would make a three-month stop at the Peterson, from Dec. 16 through March 10.



Of course, our group was mainly there to see our very own Murray's Overall Wearing Dude Ranch display, with information and artifacts provided by two MHS members: Fran Elgin from the Mohave Historical Society's History Room at the Victor Valley College Library, and Marcy Taylor from the Apple Valley Legacy Museum. Exhibit curator Candacy Taylor, also author of "The Overground Railroad," spent several days here on the desert, researching the Murray's history, exploring the former ranch property in the Bell Mountain area, and photographing the remains of the structures, reservoir, windmill, and cypress trees that define the property.



After meeting in the lobby area, the group's first stop was the Green Book exhibit entrance, where we were welcomed by friendly docents who were happy to take a group photo. Marcy Taylor gave a brief overview of Victor Green's travelers guides, the ranch history, her 10-year involvement in the Bell Mountain research project focusing on the homesteading families and the two-black-owned ranches, numerous presentations on the subject, meeting with Candacy, and the culmination in the creation of this traveling exhibit.

The Murray Ranch, located in what is now known as Apple Valley, formerly referred to as "the outskirts of Victorville," was the only ranch in the display. There were many other exhibit sites to explore: service stations, hotels, rooming houses, barber and beauty shops, restaurants, and more, all welcoming minority travelers along the route. However, in some parts of the country, notably the unforgiving desert regions of Arizona and California, safe places were few and far between. So it's no wonder that travelers were relieved to pull into the Murray's, the only listing between Needles and the one site in Pasadena. That's a long jaunt across the desert and down a mountain on the old Route 66. Some members of our group well remembered their parents carefully choosing destinations and stopping places for meals and overnight stays. Prepared travelers carried food, water, bedding, tools, maybe a chauffer's hat, and most importantly the "Green Book."

To learn more, a lot more, purchase your own copy of the well-researched and detailed "Overground Railroad" by Candacy Taylor. You won't find a better history of minority travelers during the Jim Crow years, their trials and tribulations, and ultimate successes-- finding freedom on the road with the invention of the automobile.

Copies are available at the Apple valley Legacy Museum. (760) 985-1918 for more information.



Lt. Col. Yates and Family viewing the interactive display

A Memorable Trip to Palisades Ranch by Marcy Taylor

Rain was predicted, but that did not deter a group of hardy Mohave History Society members from enjoying a scenic and educational fieldtrip to the historic Palisades Ranch in Helendale on Saturday Jan. 20. As we gathered near one of the original ranch houses for the check-in and introduction, our trip leader, Yani Galvan from the Mojave Desert Land Trust, pointed out a hawk circling overhead. "That's a good sign," she said. "It's going to be a beautiful day!" And sure enough, the first raindrops didn't fall until about noon at the conclusion of our trip.

With board members Rick and Delvin stationed along Helendale Road south of Silver Lakes pointing the way, all 19 MHS members and our 2 hostesses, Sarah Bliss, Director of Land Conservation, and Yani Galvan, Projects Coordinator (Lands), arrived safely.



Sara Bliss and Yani Galvan listening to MHS President Marcy Taylor's introductory remarks on the history of Palisades Ranch.

As an introduction, President Marcy presented a bit of ranch history, starting with the cattle drives through what was at one time known as the Silver Valley Ranch, where the cowboys sheltered at the adobe lineman's shack, still standing on the property. Nearby was a landing strip, with the large letters "L" and "R" still visible, used decades later by small planes. Member Jimmy recalled, as a child, flying in with his grandfather, and being met by a cowboy from the Roy Rogers Ranch just south of the property, driving none other than Roy's jeep Nellybelle!



The history lesson timeline included the 1976 July 4th Bicentennial Celebration, with the raising of Bob Older's record-breaking 67 x 102 foot 6,834 square foot American flag. Though the flag was officially retired July 4, 1990 and burned in a traditional ceremony, the

Guinness Book record for the largest American flag still stands, as do the two 100 foot tall flagpoles. (See photo at bottom). Also mentioned were the 1990 burial of the MHS 100-year Time Capsule in the building that housed Older's antique car and tractor museum, our 2022 retrieval of the monument that pointed the way to the museum, the 2023 unearthing of the Time Capsule and its reburial at Helendale Elementary School, as well as the placing of the new plaque and surrounding fence. Whoever's still alive in 2090 will be sure to find our hidden treasure and see what life was like in 1990. As we stood outside of the former museum building, member Jeff shared his experience at the auction of Bob Older's amazing possessions.

The main focus of the fieldtrip was to learn about the rare plants and animals of the Palisades Ranch ecosystem, known as "The Transition Zone," one of only three places where the unusual Mojave River flows above ground year-round. Yani Galvan and Sarah Bliss continued the tour of the property, pointing out both native and invasive plant species, explaining their conservation and clean-up projects, and describing the devastation of the March 2022 fire, which damaged a 3.5 mile long conservation area along the river. On our hike we also saw the giant flagpoles, wells, foundations, the airplane port, and the various structures on the property.



Viewing the March 2022 fire damage.

It was also emphasized that the Palisades Ranch property, once in danger of becoming a 1,300 home community with a golf course, is home to 40 wildlife species that are either threatened or endangered, including the western yellow-billed cuckoo.

We are grateful to the Mojave Desert Land Trust employees and volunteers who work hard to preserve this beautiful area and many other properties, for the plants and animals that call them home, and for future generations of human beings to explore and enjoy.



Attendees posing with the 2 100-ft tall flagpoles in the background

Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Honored at Cowboy Christmas Celebration by Marcy Taylor



Church of the Valley, Apple Valley's first real church, that got its start in 1947 in the Branding Iron Bar (of all places), took its members and guests on a walk back in time on Christmas Eve, with a Cowboy Christmas service honoring the Town's most famous residents. Yes, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans themselves hosted Christmas Eve services there starting in the 1960's. This year the "cover charge" was to show up wearing a cowboy or cowgirl hat. Yahoo! However, for those newcomers and city slickers who came without, the generous church members had a large number of bandanas and hats on hand.

Excitement filled the air as attendees posed for photos sitting on haystacks, enjoyed a ride on horseback, joined in the sing-along of traditional Christmas carols, feasted on donuts and hot chocolate, and enjoyed the fellowship in the worship tent and around the campfire. The spirit of Roy and Dale was certainly in the air on a beautiful still crisp desert evening, with a perfect view of the sun setting over Bell Mountain in the distance. MHS members Jada Kaltenbach and Marcy Taylor loved having the opportunity to include out-of-town relatives from Wyoming and Utah in a real good old-fashioned Apple Valley Cowboy Christmas. A big thank you to the Church of the Valley congregation for keeping local history alive.

Valley Cowboy Christmas. A big thank you to the Church of the Valley congregation for keeping local history alive.

Our Desert Through the Camera Lens by Marcy Taylor

There was no shortage of exciting history-related community events to attend this past month. The Jan. 9 Friends of the Apple Valley Library (FAVL) speaker, retired Apple Valley Fire Chief Sid Hultquist, shared his hundreds of breath-taking photos of desert landscapes and wildlife.

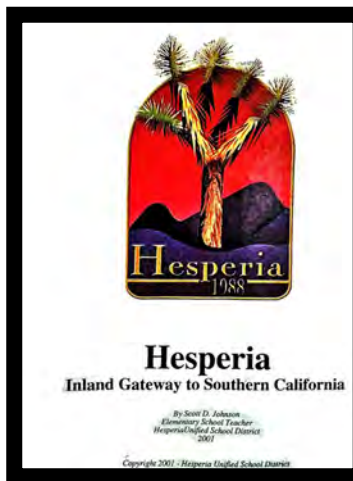


A self-proclaimed desert explorer, hiker, photographer, and fearless adventurer, Sid is definitely enjoying his second retirement, and sharing his travels with local groups. Mohave Historical Society was fortunate to host Sid as a speaker a number of years ago, and we will look forward to his return at our September meeting.

Retired Apple Valley Fire Chief Sid Hultquist's is introduced by Life-time MHS member Barbara Betterley, FAVL VP in charge of Programming.

Introducing 2024 MHS Director 2, Scott Johnson

Scott Johnson, teacher, author and columnist, has been a resident of the High Desert for the past 34 years, 27 of which were spent as a teacher in the Hesperia Unified School District where he wrote a local history book, "Hesperia: Gateway To Southern California" for the fourth grade curriculum.



Scott also wrote a bi-weekly column for the Daily Press based on the book. He has given book presentations to MHS, SWIM and CalRTA (Ca. Retired Teachers Association.)

Scott is now retired and an active member of MHS who looks forward to being a contributing Director of the Mohave Historical Society.

Welcome aboard.

HOT NEW ITEM FOR SALE



Embroidered Patch for your cap or jacket!

\$6.00

MHS Caps Available



\$15.00

**T-shirts
Caps
Buttons
Patches**

**All available at the meeting
Get yours now!**

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
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The **MUSE** is the
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