

THE MOHAHVE MUSE

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



Volume 25 Issue 2
February 2022

President: Marcy Taylor, **VP:** Delvin Harbour, **Treasurer:** Carol Wiley, **Rec Secy:** Julie Moffat, **Corres Secy:** Therese Moore
Directors: Mary Dutro, Julia Jackson, Carol Johnson, Mike Phillips, Rick Schmidt

President's Corner

Greetings MHS members:

As we enter the month of February, the shortest month of the year with the most holidays, let us remind ourselves of the importance of some of them.

February 14, Valentines Day, gives us the opportunity to express our love for those who matter to us, be it a spouse, your children, grandchildren, parents, or friends. In this time of seemingly endless conflicts, maybe we can also show a little love for those we do not know well, but who are struggling and could use some compassion or a simple act of kindness. February 21, Presidents Day, reminds us that we are all Americans, regardless of race, age, or nationality, and once again, we should be thankful for what we have, as there is still a lot of good in this world, despite the challenges. Besides, too much anger is stressful on the mind and body, causing high blood pressure and strokes! For all the retired teachers out there, I'm sure you know that Feb. is Dental Health Month. Maybe the older folks should be more concerned about this than the kids! Lastly, February is Black History Month, when we celebrate the many contributions Black Americans have made to this country. We just lost a most influential man who made a lasting impression on many of us, Sidney Poitier. Think "To Sir, With Love," "Guess Whose Coming to Dinner?" and "In the Heat of the Night." He sure made an impact in both the entertainment world as well as the Civil Rights movement.

For those who you who still have actual paper calendars and pencil in important events, please note these changes: The February and March speakers are switching spots, so we will hear

about Hesperia history in February and Calico's Lady Miner in March. Also, I jumped the gun on scheduling the Clampers driving fieldtrip in February. Excitement got the best of me, as I marveled at the many monuments they have placed, the most recent being the Roy Rogers monument at Horseman's Center. Knowing the Billy Holcomb Chapter covers all of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, I had hoped to locate and make a round trip to some of the "local" sites. But after finding only one in Apple Valley, 3 in Victorville, and several in Barstow, Daggett, Calico, Newberry Springs, and Lucerne (that sounds kind of local, right?) further research revealed that some are on dirt roads "way out there"! The 3 in Lucerne are no where near each other, and Director Rick informed me that my plan would involve over 100 miles of driving. Whoops! So after consulting with my VP Delvin and several other board members, I realized the best plan would be to point out Clampers monuments periodically, when other fieldtrips take us to the vicinity. We have already seen the Chimney Rock monument and two in Daggett, and will see the two at the Harvey House this month. Sooooo - the February fieldtrip will be the Apple Valley Historic Points of Interest driving tour, which is all mapped out, with each site having a recently installed brand new marker. Details on page 3.

If you have not yet picked up your Membership Directory, please do so, at the Feb. meeting or fieldtrip, or at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum. If you really need it mailed, let me know. If you are reading this, then you are either a life member or have paid your dues for 2022. Thank you!

Marcy

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

MHS Upcoming Events

- Feb. 24 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm Lone Wolf Colony
Scott Johnson "Hesperia History"
- Feb. 26 **Field Trip** AV Pts. Of Interest Driving Tour
- Mar. 24 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm Lone Wolf Colony
Rebecca Dougherty "Annie Rikert,
Calico's Lady Miner"
- Mar. 26 **Field Trip** Desert Springs Ranch
Mojave River Crossing
- Apr. 28 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm Lone Wolf Colony
Nelson Miller- "Black Mountain and
Inscription Canyon"
- Apr. 30 **Fieldtrip**
Black Mountain and Inscription Canyon
- May 26 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm Lone Wolf Colony
Delvin Harbour "The History of Ham Radio
on the Desert"
- May 28 **Fieldtrip** Route 66 Museum, Victorville
- Jun. 23 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm Lone Wolf Colony
Marcy Taylor "The Amazing Influence of
Dale Evans"
- Jun. 25 **"Saturday Night Bath"** Movie
at Apple Valley Legacy Museum
- Jul. Tbd **Driving Fieldtrip** Old Rt. 66, Victorville to
Oro Grande to Helendale to Barstow
(Sagebrush Annie directions)
- Aug. 27 **Fieldtrip:** Wrightwood Museum visit.
- Sep. 22 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm Lone Wolf Colony
Norman Bossom - "The Big Horn Mine"
- Sep. 24 **Fieldtrip:** History and hike to Hilltop House
with refreshments at AVL M
- Oct. 27 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm Lone Wolf Colony
- Oct. 29 **Field Trip** TBD
- Nov. 17 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm Lone Wolf Colony
- Dec. 15 **MHS Christmas Party**

Community Upcoming Events

- Apr. 2 AVL M honoring Centennial of
Capt. Joe McConnell, AV Inn
- Apr. 3 Ceremony Victor Valley Memorial Park in
honor of Capt. McConnell
- Apr. 9 Oro Grande Days
- May. 7 Santa Fe Trading Company Crafts Fair,
Victorville
- May. 14 Mojave River Valley Museum BBQ, Barstow
- Jun. 11 AV Village Street Fair and Car Show,
James Woody Park, Apple Valley
- Aug. 13 AV Flea Market, Lions Park, Apple Valley
- Oct. 1 AV Village Parade and Car Show
- Oct. 8 AV Air Show, AV Airport

Welcome New Members

Toni Clegg
Brent Gaddis
Jeff & Julie Moffat

Yogi Collier
Lori King
Dina Perez

Scott Johnson — February Guest Speaker

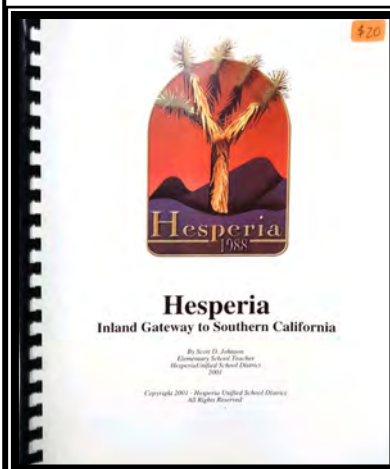
Retired teacher and local historian, Scott Johnson, will present to us "The History of Hesperia" at our Feb. 24 meeting at the Lone Wolf Colony. He is the author of "Hesperia: Inland Gateway to Southern California," published in 2001 by



the Hesperia Unified School District. It includes not only the history of the city, but also studies of the desert topography, geology, plant life, and animal species, as well as a study of the people, both Native Americans and later settlers, who brought the area to life. In this book you will meet heavy-weight boxing champion Jack

Dempsey, as well as developer M. Penn Phillips. Many of the markers we stopped at on the Hesperia driving tour last May, as well as other markers placed by other organizations are in Johnson's book.

Johnson's book, as well as "Images of America: Hesperia," by Griz Drylie, who hosted our 2021 fieldtrip to the Hesperia Museum, will be available for purchase.



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

Marcy Taylor Reports

Apple Valley Points of Interests Driving Tour.

Our Sat. Feb. 26 driving fieldtrip will take us to the Apple Valley Historic Points of Interest sites, easily recognized by the newly replaced markers. We will meet at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum at 10am. At this time each group will receive a booklet, developed by Marcy Taylor and Michelle Lovato, discussing the history and importance of each site, including "then and now"



photos. You will also receive a set of driving directions. The booklet is a draft that needs to be RETURNED at the conclusion of the trip. The final copy will be printed by the Town of Apple Valley and ready for distribution soon. You may keep the driving directions and flyer provided by the Town.

Cars can be safely left on the Inn parking lot. Please try to work out carpooling ahead of time. The trip will make a loop around town, and end up back at the Apple Valley Inn. If you choose to stop for lunch after the tour, we will eat at the Courtyard on Dale Evans Parkway just north of Hwy 18 and across from the Apple Valley Inn. There are a number of restaurants there and a nice outside seating area. You can purchase or bring your lunch. We will hope for nice weather and a fun and educational trip.

Please be sure to sign up ahead of time at (a) the General Meeting on Feb. 24 or (b) call 760-975-1918 to be placed on the list.

Apple Valley Inn "Then and Now" event a big success.

Old timers reminisced, and newcomers got to experience the rich history of the famous Apple Valley Inn, the town's "hot spot" during the 1960's, 1970's decades and beyond. The Inn lobby was full of displays, vintage for-sale items, one-of-a-kind silent auction collectibles, and a check-in desk where guests could pick up their room key and "little Newt" apples. Attendees could get into the spirit of an old western town, while also supporting the cause, by stopping by Delvin's "Rent-a-Hat" or Irene's raffle table.

The main events were the scripted Inn tours. The outside grounds tour was led by member Bob Cambridge and his daughter Felisha Cullum, while the inside tour guide was Marcy Taylor. Easels with vintage photos of the rooms gave a taste of the Inn's past "glory days". A highlight was a new replica mural matching the original on the wall. Lunch was served in the main dining room where a CD of Roy and Dale performing there live in the late 1960's played in the background.

A great big Thank You goes out to the Apple Valley Legacy Museum and the Mohave Historical Society volunteers for

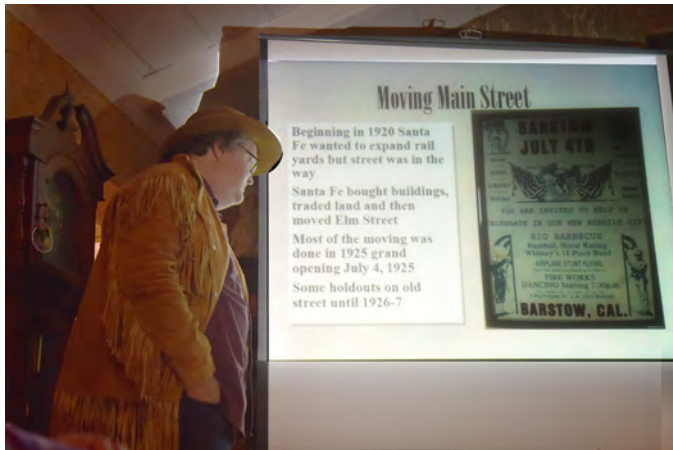
making the event a success, and to the Inn office for allowing us the opportunity.



"Barstow Main Street" Presentation by Mojave River Valley Museum volunteer Steve Smith.

Last minute changes do cause stress, but we pulled together and saved the January General meeting from cancellation. I'm hoping that all the email recipients all got the Monday update, and the active US Mail folks got a phone call. I apologize to the two ladies who ended up at the Lone Wolf Colony in the dark, but got the directions and came on over to the rescheduled location. I hope that there were not too many who turned around and went home. Hopefully this will not happen again. I thank the 23 members 3 guests, and 1 dog who attended.

Now to the positive: Steve Smith, former Mojave River Valley Museum President and long-time active volunteer, gave an



awesome presentation on the history of Barstow Main Street, also known as the Mother Road or Route 66. His slide show, accompanied by interesting and somewhat unusual stories, sure kept our attention. Who knew that Barstow had double roof buildings, hidden tunnels, or fighting chipmunks. Brent Gaddis, current president of MRVM, not only assisted Steve, but paid his dues and joined MHS!

Seven MHS board members handled the rest: Parking, photos, check-in, refreshments, raffles and sales. Did I mention we now have our own MHS hats (caps) for sale at only \$15! Get yours soon to promote our organization.

"Barstow Field Trip" hosted by Steve Smith , Pat Scoffstall and Katie Boyd - By Marcy Taylor

Wow! What a fieldtrip! On Saturday January 29, 24 MHS members, 7 guests, and one service dog were treated to some real Barstow hospitality and a wealth of knowledge by Mojave River Valley Museum docents Pat Schoffstall, Katie Boyd, and our Thursday night speaker and main tour guide, Steve Smith. After a welcome, some MHS business and raffle, and a late morning pick-me-up of donuts and coffee (compliments of our hosts), the group split in two. Inside, Katie gave an introduction of the museum history and displays, including the Cambridge Indian exhibit, compliments of our own Bob Cambridge and family, then turned the group loose to explore the fascinating exhibits, reminding us to also look up, as the ceiling is full of hanging artifacts. Pat was at the ready at the sales desk to answer questions and take our money, even getting a new membership from an MHS member.



Meanwhile Steve was treating the outside group to a tour of the grounds. (See their detailed 6-page brochure for all the displays.) Highlights included the reconstructed arrastre; the Santa Fe Drover car, one of the few in existence; and the Gaddis Blacksmith Shop, dating from the 1880's at Lake Baldwin, and moved and reassembled piece by piece by our newest MHS member and President of the MRVM, Brent Gaddis. Another MHS member, Nelson Miller, is responsible for the 2019 installation of the 5 large steel cutouts of mules and riders, honoring travel on the Old Spanish Trail. (Nelson, by the way, will be our April speaker and fieldtrip guide.)

Next stop was the original Barstow Del Taco, opened in 1964



by resident Ed Hackbarth, whose daughter gave a presentation to MHS at the Victor Valley Museum a number of years ago. The wall mural outlines the restaurant's history and progression. Then



it was off to the Harvey House, by a round-about route since the First Street Bridge (actually a viaduct) is currently closed due to an accident. After Marcy reviewed the two E Clampus Vitus monuments, "Harvey House" and "Riding the Rails," Steve gave a tour of the inside of the famous Casa del Desierto," along with a good dose of its history.



Barstow Harvey House 2022



Then the group proceeded to the other side of the building, where we were greeted by three docents of the WARM, or the Railroad Museum. In addition to the main display room and gift shop, the museum goes on and on down a long hallway, with several other rooms, each dedicated to one aspect of railroad history.

Next the group caravanned down the Old Hwy. 58 to Steve's surprise, "Toms Welding." You'd have to see it to believe it! I'll leave it at that.



Last but not least, we took a trip a trip down Route 66 to view a section of the Main Street Murals project, stretching from 7th to 1st Street and beyond. This will be a future trip in itself, as there are over 30 murals and counting, with an additional 20 or so not a part of this project.

Our sincere thanks to Steve Smith and the MRVM docents. The attendees from Wrightwood, Rialto, Los Angeles and Las Vegas, I'm sure found the drive well worth it, to experience 5 hours plus of local Route 66 and Barstow area history.



Barstow Murals



A Tramp Across the Desert, Part 2 of 2

By John Marnell

These mountains [at Calico] are very vigorous in outline, and, at certain stages of the daylight, very beautiful in color. Nearly all, too, are rich in mineral, and will pay if the water problem is ever solved – as it is not too likely to be.

Charles Lummis and companion Albert Munier continued their journey toward Los Angeles, now in the heart of the Mojave Desert. Though winter, they endured terrible conditions as they walked. Hoping for relief, they approached a shanty at Stoddard's Well. Lummis continues:

And just at sunset we came, more dead than alive, to Stoddard's Wells, the only water in fifty miles. A miserable 'house' of split shakes, inhabited by the two only absolute curs* I met in nearly five months. They would not let us sleep in the house. They said they did not keep a house for tramps. They stood in the door berating us in the vilest of language. Our blood boiled, they were wretched, hacking consumptives, here to stave off death, and even a cripple could not strike them. At last weariness overcame me, and I dropped off. A grim night we passed by our little camp-fire of greasewood twigs. The next day's painful tramp was mostly down hill, we at last looked down from a high ridge to a green ribbon of a valley with noble cotton-woods and a broad, clear river – the Mojave. We stopped at a pleasant little ranch where gray-headed Rogers had his 2000 Angora goats.

Roger's ranch, or Roger's Station, belonged to Samuel Rogers and by

this time had gone through a number of owners since about 1870. According to historian Richard Thompson, it had served as a blacksmithing shop, serving meals, and as a trading post supplying "provisions and ammunition." It was more commonly known as Huntington's Station through several successive owners.

Next day, crossing the river where the little railroad town of Victor has since been built, we plodded up the long, sandy slope toward the noble range which shuts off the grimmest of deserts from the Eden of the world. It was another hard



day, but now there was the scant shade of junipers and thirty-foot yucca plants under which to rest.

Up the long, smooth slope we came with the afternoon, paused on the brink of the sudden 'jumping-off place' and plunged down into the steep depths of the strange Cajon (box pass, pronounced Cah-hone) Pass. We came to a little house beside a tender green where the sands of the arroyo thanked a tiny spring.

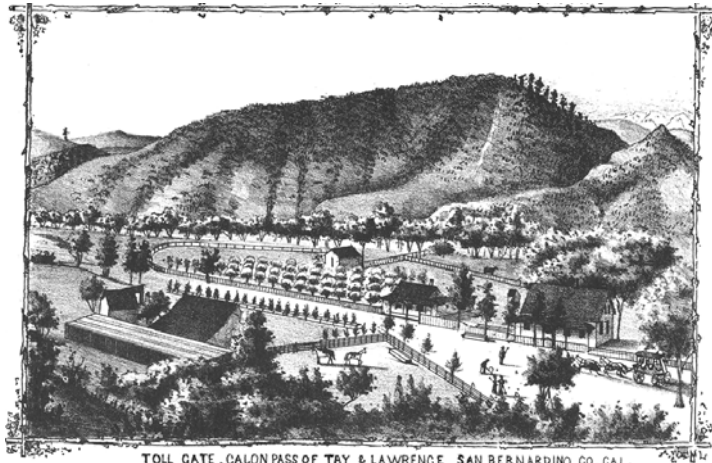
For a few years, even after the departure of James Fears and family, the stopping place Lummis describes was known as Fears' Station. It was at or very near the location of what had been the Upper Toll Gate. A newspaper article said of Fears' Station 'Accommodations at the hotel are very good for man and beast; meals 50¢, hay and grain per head, 75¢'.

And here poor Munier fell, unable to move another step. I made arrangements at the house for him and with a hearty hand-clasp left the brave fellow and hurried on down the canon. Soon a wee thread of water trickled along the wet sand and grew in volume as we sped down the deepening gorge.

Lummis is in the gorge at Coyote Canyon – today's Crowder Canyon, just a few yards up from the recently established Camp Cajon Monument and table; he is on what had been the John Brown toll road.

I began to cross musical brooklets, that flashed down the canon's walls to the central stream. The deep-green manzanito bushes, with their red-satin bark and their tiny snow-white blossoms were all about. Then came the Toll-Gate, a lovely little villa framed in orchards, a trout-pond under its big cotton-woods.

By this time – late January 1885 – the collection of tolls had been end-



ed, and ownership of the toll gate property had been transferred to Jesse Tay & Charles Lawrence who then expanded the ranch and renamed it Cozy Dell. Continuing on his journey down Cajon Canyon,

Lummis penned:

In the soft, sweet evening, I came to the first fence I had seen in five-hundred miles, and an orchard in fragrant bloom of peach and apricot, and to the hospitable little farmhouse that used to be 'Vincent's.' Ah, such luxury! When kindly Mrs. Vincent knew me, she spread such a supper my long-abused stomach had lost all memory of; and for that I had no fruit in so long, she gave me fourteen kinds of delicious home-made preserves! I was able to revel in a glorious bath and a spotless bed.

Next day I trotted gayly down the canon, climbed over the western wall, and struck out along the foothills. Now I was truly in 'God's Country' the real Southern California, which is peerless.

The approximate site of Vincent's ranch is easy to locate. Heading south on the I-15 as you near the Kenwood offramp at Devore, Route 66 parallels the freeway to your right about one-quarter mile. The ranch was just north of Kenwood on the west side of current Route 66.

Lummis continued to the San Gabriel Mission where he was met by Harrison Gray Otis and the two completed Lummis' 3507 mile walk to Los Angeles and the beginning of Lummis' City of Angels adventures.

In the December issue of the MUSE, Marcy wrote: To let our newer members know that the members of our organization have worked together for many years to accomplish our mission statement: "to record and publish local history."

This story has been put together using complimentary information from the very books and articles Marcy referred to. However, the one book that initiated my interest in Charles F. Lummis was California Classics by Lawrence Clark Powell; this book highlights what Powell believes to be the 31 best books and authors of early California literature. That prompted me to find Lummis' Tramp Across the Continent. As far as Mohave Historical Society authors, Richard & Kathy Thompson's Pioneer of the Mojave provided much detailed help; so also, was the Mohave series, particularly Vols. 1, 2, 4, and 5; Leo Lyman's History of Victor Valley; other sources included John Robinson's Gateways to Southern California; American Character – The Curious Life of Charles F. Lummis, 2001, Mark Thompson; History of San Bernardino County, 1883, Wallace W. Elliot; and the Los Angeles Times historical archives all provided other Lummis material.

*Cur...a person whose behavior is offensive to others - as in 'only a cur would abandon friends in their time of need'

Smithsonian Greenbook Display Update by Marcy Taylor

Michelle at the California Museum in Sacramento informed me that the Museum will reopen Thursday Feb. 3 and extend the Greenbook display to March 3. The display contains items from the MHS History Room and Apple Valley Legacy Museum highlighting the "Murray's Overall-Wearing Dude Ranch" once owned by Pearl Bailey and her husband Louie Belson, in what is now Apple Valley. Michelle assured me that, though the website may still list the Feb. 27 date, the stay has been extended. Candacy Taylor, author of "The Overground Railroad" and curator of the exhibit, will be there for the previously planned closing event Saturday Feb. 26. Hours are Thursday through Sun. 10-5:00. The location is 1020 "O" Street, Sacramento. Contact info: (916) 653-0650 or (916) 653-7524, museuminfo@californiamuseums.org.

Admission: \$10, \$8 for seniors. You must reserve your ticket in advance. Masks and proof of vaccination are required.

Kay Whitecloud

well deserves to be honored with her own mural in Barstow.

Her relatives were the buffalo dancers at the opening of the Buffalo Trading Post in Apple Valley in 1955. The family continues to give back to the community on a regular basis. Recently Kay participated in the "Mask Up" campaign, a joint project of DVL and St. Mary Hospital.

More on Kay in a later issue.



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 Since 1984

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STUDENT AGE: ☐ \$10 ☐ BUSINESS \$35

LIFETIME: FAMILY/COUPLE ☐ \$200
 SINGLE ☐ \$150

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Remember to shop at smile.amazon.com which donates 0.5% of your purchase to MHS. Most items qualify, but you will be told if is not.



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