

THE MOHAHVE MUSE



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



Volume 27 Issue 1
January 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

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Dear Members and Friends,
Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2024, the year we will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Mohave Historical Society. Some of us remember the wonderful 50th Anniversary celebration hosted by then **President**

Jim Mustra at the Victor Valley Museum. Many members of other local historical societies were in attendance to join in the festivities. Mark your calendars for April the 25th and 26th, and stand by for further information.

Thanks to the members who filled out the MHS interest survey. It's not too late. Check your November Muse. A big thank you to the members who have helped fulfill our objectives by giving a presentation, leading a fieldtrip (or both), conducting or transcribing an interview, publishing an article or book, working at the Victor Valley College History room, bringing refreshments, working at a meeting, or any number of other things to help the society continue to thrive.

2023 gave our active members plenty to do, learn, and experience with 9 general meetings, 13 fieldtrips to local sites, and an awesome Christmas party. Never say there's nothing to do on the Mojave Desert! We have so much news to share with you this month that we better get started right now.

Marcy



MHS member Bonnie Ingram "Boni on the Keys," entertains at the Christmas dinner



MHS member Jada Kaltenbach with Santa and Mrs. Claus at Historic Rt. 66 Christmas event

MHS Upcoming Events

- Jan. 20 **Field Trip.** 9:30am, Palisades Ranch
Jan. 25 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Yani Galvan, "Mojave Desert Land Trust projects"
Feb. 22 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Tony Winkle, 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.** Speakers - Peter Walraven and Marcy Taylor, "Walraven's Journey to America" and "History of VV United Methodist Church"
Apr. 25 **MHS Mtg.** Speakers - MHS members
May 23 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Scott Johnson
Jun. 27 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Bruce Hollenbeck
Sep. 26 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Sid Hultquist
Oct. 24 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Mark Landis
Nov. 21 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker - Lee Risler, MHS Board Election.
Dec. 19 **Christmas Celebration.**

MHS Mtgs held at Lone Wolf Colony, doors open at 6:30pm unless otherwise stated.

Community Events

- Jan. 15 **10:00am, ML King, Jr. Peace March**
Civic Center Drive, Victorville
Jan. 27 **11:00 - 4:00pm, Old West Days, ****
Victor Valley Museum, Apple Valley
Mar. 16 Apple Valley Legacy Museum 9-year Anniversary

** MHS booth at this event.

Welcome New Members

Jimmie Brown
Curt & Val Emick
Laura, Jeff & Pete Peterson
Joyce & Cecil Peterson
Alice Sauls
Elena Torres

January Speaker and Field Trip by Marcy Taylor

Our subject this month is the Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) and the 100,000 acres they have preserved across the California desert, "weaving together National Parks, National Monuments, Wilderness Areas, and Wildlife Corridors." Based in Joshua Tree, the agency "collaborates with a range of partner organizations, agencies, neighbors, volunteers, and visitors who treasure the desert's unique qualities." The 1,600 acre Palisades Ranch, which was acquired by the MDLT in 2018, was previously owned by former 1st District Supervisor Bob Older, who made headlines by flying the largest American flag for the nation's bicentennial. It is also the location of the original burial of the MHS's 100-year Time Capsule, which has since been relocated to school property in Helendale.

Our Thursday Jan. 25 the speaker will be Yani Galvan, who will share with us the mission and accomplishments of the MDLT, and introduce us to the beautiful Palisades Ranch property. It has been described as "a prime example of one of our nation's rarest plant communities, an incredible mosaic of cattail marshes, flowing channels, and serene pools, downslope of a series of sandstone palisade cliffs and winding arroyos." It is also home to a large variety of species of birds and animals, all of which Yani will discuss in her presentation.

Our fieldtrip will actually precede the presentation. It was moved from Sat. Jan. 27 to Sat. Jan. 20 due to an invitation from the Victor



Valley Museum to participate in their second "Old West Days" on the 27th. We appreciate Yani's willingness to accommodate our schedule. Allow at least 30-40 minutes travel time to arrive at the ranch at 9:30am. Take National Trails Highway north through Oro Grande and Helendale. Make a left on Vista Road into Silver Lakes. Make another left on Helendale Road, which becomes a dirt road. Follow it to the entry gate. After the tour, plan to have lunch at a Silver Lakes restaurant or at the Cross-Eyed Cow Pizza in Oro Grande.

Please note:

If Google tells you to turn left on Bryman Road from National Trails Hwy, **DO NOT**. The bridge has been out for years. You can only access the ranch from National Trails or 395 by going through Silver Lakes.

The fieldtrip PRECEDES the general membership meeting.

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, Estelle DELGADO, David FORREST, Mike GUIFFREDO, Delvin HARBOUR, Patty HEDGES, Bruce HOLLENBECK, Jerry W HUTCHINSON, Bonnie INGRAM, Carol JOHNSON, Scott JOHNSON, Lawrence W JOHNSTON, Kari & Paul LEON, Cyndy and Lois Papner MANDELL, Eric MANDESON, Joe MANNERS, Gary & Debra MENSER, Thomas & Ingrid MITCHELL, Maria NORMAN, Clara PETROSKY, Mike & Yvonne PHILLIPS, Martha RADER, Stormie REID, Juanita RIEDELL, Rick SCHMIDT, Karen SCOTT, Barbara SMITH, Marcy TAYLOR, Linda TITUS, Joseph & Paula VAIL, Gary WHITESIDE, Carol WILEY.

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 January meeting, or at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum during open hours.

How many miles from Camp Cajon by Marcy Taylor



The "Camp Cajon Team" is at it again! On Wednesday, December 13, member Mark Landis and his very strong son, armed with a generator, a jackhammer, and some shovels, dug a hole to prepare for the placing of the new Route 66 signpost on Wagon Train Road in the Cajon Pass. "Why the jackhammer?" you may ask. Being the knowledgeable historian that Mark is, he was sure they'd hit a layer of asphalt from an

earlier Route 66 alignment. And he was right!

Then on Saturday, December 16, a team consisting of Mark, John Lenau, Nick Cataldo, Gary Smith, Roy Applewhite, and a few other volunteers, arrived to finish the job of concreting the post. After a long leisurely lunch break to let the concrete set up, they returned to attach the directional signs with mileage indicated.



As many of you know, the Camp Cajon project started back in 2019 with the construction of the replica 1919 original Camp Cajon monument. The 100 year milestone called for a

big Fourth of July celebration. That effort was followed by the addition of one of the original concrete picnic tables, the construction of a four panel information kiosk, and the erection of an original mileage marker. Who knows what they'll think of next?



So take a drive down the I-15, get off at the Wrightwood/Silverwood 138 exit, drive down Wagon Train Road past the modern-day McDonalds, and take a trip back in time at Camp Cajon.



MHS Christmas Extravaganza by Marcy Taylor

The Lone Wolf Colony was packed the night of December 14 as the Mohave Historical Society hosted their annual Christ-

There was more to come. MHS member Bonnie Ingram, also known as "Boni on the Keys," entertained until it was time to



The 2024 Mohave Historical Society Board of Directors
(L/R) Pres: Marcy Taylor, VP: Delvin Harbour, Corr Secy: Stormie Reid, Treas: Dennis Hom, Directors: Scott Johnson, Meera Maheswaran, Mike Phillips, Eric Mandeson and Rick Schmidt

mas party and Installation of the 2024 Board of Directors. The excitement was high as the creatures performing in the "Genuine Desert Animals" skit took the stage for a reprise of a catchy song, first introduced last September on our prize-winning float in the Apple Valley Happy Trails Parade. The dairy cow, the racing burro, the pigeon telephone, and the Jess Ranch turkey represent real live animals, important to the area in the late 1940's -

1950's era and beyond. However, the children of the pioneering families had their own breed of animals, such as the Apple Valley DeeGee Bunny and the Lucerne Valley Bunny-Duck. And

let's not forget the influence of the Roy Rogers and Dale Evans family, represented by Trigger (Jr.), Buttermilk, and Bullet, all of whom lived out their lives right here. Though not technically animals, the significance of the huge tarantula, featured in the 1955 sci-fi thriller, and the now endangered Desert Tortoise, could not be left out. After a short history lesson - you know we ARE the Mohave HISTORICAL Society - the audience members joined in for a rousing rendition of the song.

enter the dining room for a traditional Christmas dinner served by the Lone Wolf Colony staff. The meal was followed by the Installation of the 2024 Board of Directors by Shannon Irwin, Director and CEO of the Lone Wolf Colony. Two outgoing officers, Mary Dutro and Carol Wiley, were also recognized. Next came the introduction of two AV Town Council members, Kari Leon and Curt Emich, who attended along with their spouses.

The raffle of 10 surprise donated gifts followed. Of course, the evening ended with the traditional sing-along led by the "High Desert



Jammers," a group consisting of five MHS members and three other musicians who continue to volunteer their talents year after year to spread the holiday joy.

Our sincere thanks to all of the MHS members and other volunteers who contributed to make the evening memorable!



President Marcy Taylor recognizing outgoing Board members Carol Wiley and Mary Dutro for their service to MHS.



Marcy Taylor introducing AV Town Council member and new MHS member Curt Emick and wife Val, and MHS member and AV Town Council member Kari Leon and husband Paul.

Celebrating Apple Valley History by Marcy Taylor

The Town of Apple Valley has lots of history to celebrate. For example, did you know that the Apple Valley Inn turned 75 years old on Nov. 27? That's right! The Inn opened its doors Thanksgiving day 1948. However, it wasn't until 40 years later that the Town officially incorporated.



Apple Valley Legacy Museum volunteers recognize AV Inn Anniversary.

On Tuesday November 28, to honor the Town's 35th Anniversary, residents were invited to "Apple Valley Through the Eras." Every town department and several town committees participated, filling the Conference Center with information tables, displays, flyers, and some very cool give-aways. Guests were treated to delicious sandwiches and snacks, a continuous slide show of Town events and activities, and even a chance to show off their golf skills by trying for a hole in one, which was rewarded with a genuine Apple Valley golf ball. Wonderful banners, each depicting a decade of the Town's history from the



1920's through the 1990's, hung in the entry way. (If you missed this event, stop by the Building and Development office to view the displays.)

Two weeks later, Tuesday Dec. 12, the Town Council sponsored their annual Christmas Tea. Guests entering the beautifully decorated Town Hall were met with a feast of tasty food, an excellent performance by the Granite Hills High School Choir, and another chance to learn a bit of history. The Apple Valley Legacy Museum display in the lobby featured several Terri Lee

dolls, made by hand right here in Apple Valley at the Terri Lee Doll Factory. Guests met cowboy Gene Autry, the only adult



Apple Valley Historic Advisory Committee Chairman Tom Hoegerman and Vice-Chair Marcy Taylor welcome visitors.

doll and the only celebrity doll ever made, complete with his original box, button, and photograph. A second display showcased a little known, but very famous Apple Valley Ranch, the Ihmsen Apple Ranch, which produced world famous apples. It later became the Godshall Dude Ranch, home of the first local non-professional rodeo, attended by locals and celebrities alike. Our own Jeanne Godshall Abbott, number #1 female trick rider, from Little ol' Apple Valley, performed all over the United States and Europe, promoting the Western way of life and rodeo entertainment. The Apple Valley Heritage Room, home to more Terri Lee dolls, and plenty of historic displays and scrapbooks, was also open to visitors.

To learn more, come to the Apple Valley Legacy Museum at the Apple Valley Inn Cottage #153 during daily open hours, or make an appointment to browse through the Town of Apple Valley Heritage Room. Remember to check out more local history on "Throwback Thursdays" on the Town website.



Apple Valley Town Council Member and MHS member Kari Leon posing with Marcy Taylor at the Terri Lee dolls exhibit.

MHS Member Bob Cambridge Continues the Family Tradition

By Marcy Taylor

Carl Cambridge, the first President of Mohave Historical Society, opened the Cambridge Indian Museum at his home on Bear Valley Road just east of Apple Valley Road in 1961, when he retired from dairy farming. Besides being open to the public, he hosted many school groups and school field trips to teach the students about the lives of local Native Americans and their customs.

On Thursday November 9, great grandson Bob and his wife Michelle carried on the family tradition by hosting 28 home-schoolers and 11 adults from the Planted Christian Co-op at their home in Apple Valley. Bob gave a history lesson on



local Native Americans, just as his great-grandfather had done decades ago. Michelle taught students how to grind corn using metates / flat mortars and grinding stones. From



this experience they learned that it was a lot of work just to prepare daily meals, without a supermarket right down the street. In closing, the group gathered together on a large Navajo rug, to hear a story and enjoy homemade Native American frybread.

These two MHS life members are definitely carrying on the society's mission of preserving and sharing local history, piquing the interest of youth, the next generation of Mojave Desert historians.

Victorville pays Tribute to Route 66 by Marcy Taylor

With a theme of "Christmas on Route 66," it was only fitting that the Route 66 Museum volunteers would serve as Grand Marshalls. Mohave Historical Society Vice President Delvin Harbour and member Bill Cadenhead were on opposite sides of the big red Olsons vintage flatbed



truck, happily waving at the huge crowd lining both sides of Seventh Street, which is, of course, Route 66. The Grand Marshall's entry included a 1950's Ford hay-loader and six classic cars, two belonging to Brian and Shawna Gentry, owners of the popular Route 66 Restaurant Emma Jean's Holland Burger Cafe.

The Route 66 Museum float was actually the fourth in line, preceded by the Sheriff's Posse, the City Council members, and the ROTC. The Jr. Fair Board float did a great job of representing one of the last fairs still on Route 66. The City of Victorville's float, "The Route 66 to the Magical Land of Seussville," deviated from the original route to make their own "by-pass" to a place populated by the Cat in the Hat, the Grinch, and Thing 1 and Thing 2 among others. The almost two hour parade with 110 entries, the most ever, included plenty of school bands, cheerleaders, dancers, antique and classic cars, motorcycles, floats, and horses. Its traditional ending, with Santa Claus riding in the vintage convertible fire engine, ushered in the holiday season in grand style.



MHS VP Delvin Harbour (middle) atop of the Olson's big red vintage flatbed truck along with the Rt.66 Museum volunteers all serving as 2023 Parade Grand Marshalls

Following the parade, which ended at Forrest, attendees could cross the street and stop off at the Victor Valley Legacy Museum to learn a bit of local history, then continue three blocks farther north and go under the magnificent Route 66 arch, then turn left and go two blocks to the Victorville Route 66 Museum to get the full Route 66 experience.

Thanks, City of Victorville, for recognizing and honoring the historic Route 66, right in our own backyard!



MHS Correspondence Secretary Stormie Reid inviting MHS members Bob and Michele Cambridge to browse the Victor Valley Museum.

Crafts Fair Brightens Up 7th Street Route 66

By Marcy Taylor

On December 9, one week after the Christmas Parade, the old Route 66 was very much alive again, with the Santa Fe Trading Company's annual Holiday Crafts Fair. Crafts vendors and food vendors sold their wares, and the sounds of Christmas music filled the air. The Victor Valley Legacy Museum attracted a crowd of history buffs, some reminiscing, some browsing displays and thumbing through scrapbooks of local history, and others looking for that special gift. Santa and Mrs. Claus made their rounds, handing out candy canes and posing for photos. Thanks to Mohahve Historical Society members Jada, Carol, Patty, and Stormie for manning the booth, staffing the museum, and sharing Christmas cheer.



MHS members Carol Johnson and Patty Hedges brighten Crafts Fair.

High Desert Faith Groups Come Together to Promote Peace by Marcy Taylor

The 23rd Annual Thanksgiving Celebration of the Interfaith Council of the High Desert, with the theme "Sowing the Harvest in Love; Let Peace Begin With Us," took place Tuesday November 21, at the High Desert Center for Spiritual Living in Apple Valley. The beautiful music of the Trinity Lutheran Church Bell Choir set the mood. Following the welcome by Tina Arredondo from the hosting church, and Anita Holmes, President of the Interfaith Council (IFC), two Apple Valley Town Council members, Kari Leon and Art Bishop, welcomed everyone and made remarks.

The traditional back and forth "Call to Prayer" by David Rib blowing his Jewish shofar horn, and Iman Yousef Farha of the Victor



Valley Islamic Society chanting prayers, had particular meaning this year, in light of the current war in the Middle East. The lighting of the Flames of Faith and two rousing songs by the High Desert Center for Spiritual Living members, were followed by Baha'i prayers, a song, and wise words from Dr. Nirmala Murthy of the Art of Living Foundation. Other presentations included songs from the Victor Valley Threshold Singers, the Jewish Congregation Bamidbar Shel Ma'alah prayer, words from the Trinity Lutheran Church pastor, music from the Unitarian Universalist Society of the High Desert, words from the Victor Valley Islamic Society, prayers from the youth of Krishna Valley Temple, and a song from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Following closing comments and a closing song by the Bell Choir, everyone in attendance was asked to join hands and sing, with sincerity, "Let There Be Peace on Earth." According to their program, the purpose of the Interfaith Council of the High Desert shall be: "To promote mutual understanding, respect, and education among the member religious traditions, and to deal with issues and concerns for the problems of the community, the nation, and finally the world." Attendees were asked to start with themselves and their families and associates, and then spread the love to the greater community and onward. Since we live in a multi-ethnic community including citizens of various religions, races, and ethnicities, with various languages and customs, we are all better off when we learn about and accept one another. Thank you to the Interfaith Council for bringing us together every year with your important message.

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
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