

THE MOHAHVE MUSE

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



Volume 25 Issue 7
July 2022

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

President's Corner

Greetings MHS members and friends,



It's supposed to be summer, the season to slow down and enjoy life, but it's also the season to participate in lots of community events, most of which seem to be accompanied by heat and gusty winds!

Six long days at the Fair went by fast, thanks to the many visitors to our "Celebrating 75 Years of the SBC Fair" display, and the reliable MHS members who were quite busy sharing history: Carol Johnson, Carol Wiley, Bryan Taylor, Delvin Harbour, Stormie Reid, and Jada Kaltenbach. Jada also made several trips transporting display items, and helping with set-up and break-down. (See story and photos page 4)

We could barely catch our breath before it was time for the Tortoise Rededication the following Wednesday at the Victor Valley Museum. Thanks again to the two Carols, as well as Patty, Mike, Mary, Mary Ann Christy, and Brent Gaddis for their help, and the other MHS members in attendance. (See story and photos page 6 & 7.)

Oh my goodness! No sooner was all of that unloaded, it was time to load up again for the Apple Valley Village Street Fair the following Saturday. It wouldn't have happened without the help of MHS members Bonnie and Jamie, Mike, Rick, and Bryan. (See photo page 3.)

Several of us were back at the Victor Valley Museum the following day for the opening of the Juneteenth Art and Quilting exhibit. Details of that exhibit and the "Bringing the Past Forward" exhibit, also on display there, were sent out in a prior email. (See photo on page 3.)

We are hoping for more donations for monument repairs. We need at least \$300 to cover our own renovations, with the tortoise still needing touch-up and sealing, and two plaques still needing to be attached. It's been a long process, but we are almost there. In addition, we are hoping to pay our fair share of the Camp Cajon kiosk project. (See story and donation form on page 5.)

Be sure to mark your calendar for upcoming events in July and August. (See the calendar on page 2.) The 4-8:00 P.M. July 8, 9, and 10th Collectibles Sale on the porch of the Apple Valley Legacy Museum will include a raffle of historic items and a silent auction of rare collectibles. Results will be announced Sunday at 6:00. (Need not be present.) Saturday evening July 9 another community event will be taking place on the parking lot of the Apple Valley Inn, right near the Museum, so why not come and enjoy both?

Due to the many events to report on this month, Part 2 of the Kate O'Rourke story will be postponed until a later Muse edition. And, by the way, if you have a friend who might be a potential new member, why not forward him/ her a copy of the Muse to stir up interest? Remember, although we will not meet at the Lone Wolf Colony the next two months, we will still offer activities during July and August.

Thank you for your continued support.

Marcy



MHS website: www.mohahve.org Email: Mohahve64@gmail.com (Stormie Reid - Webmaster)
[Facebook:](https://www.facebook.com/Mohahve-Historical-Society-2022-101844115718783) <https://www.facebook.com/Mohahve-Historical-Society-2022-101844115718783>

MHS Upcoming Events

- Jul. 28 **Driving Fieldtrip** Old Rt. 66, Victorville to Oro Grande to Helendale to Barstow
Meet at Emma Jeans at 5:30pm
- Aug. 27 **Fieldtrip:** 10am, Wrightwood Museum visit
- Sep. 22 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm, Lone Wolf Colony
Norman Bossom - "The Big Horn Mine"
- Sep. 24 **Fieldtrip:** 10am, Boron Museums - 20 Mule Team & Aerospace Museum
- Oct. 27 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm, Lone Wolf Colony
The Captain Joe McConnell Story
- Oct. 29 **Field Trip** 10am, Captain McConnell
Driving Tour, meet at AV Airport
- Nov. 17 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm, Lone Wolf Colony
Steve Brown - "Hadji Ali (Hi Jolly) Beale's Camel Expedition"
- Dec. 15 **MHS Christmas Party**

Community Upcoming Events

- Jul 8 4 - 8pm, Porch Sale, Bargain books,
9, 10 Collectibles, Apple Valley Legacy Museum
- Jul 12 11:30am, GreenBook/Murray Ranch
Presentation, Apple Valley Library
- Jul 14 6-9pm Apple Valley Sunset Concerts, Civic
21 Center Park
- Aug. 13 **8:00am-1:00pm, AV Flea Market,
Lions Park, Apple Valley
- Oct. 1 **10:00am-2:00pm, AV Village Parade, Car
Show and Pet Fair.

**** MHS booth at these events**

Welcome New Members!

Dennis and Stephanie Hom
Doug Myers

Membership Information

Total Active Membership 117
Life Members 31 Annual Members 86

Tribute to Richard Thompson by Marcy Taylor



Richard Thompson, long time MHS member and past President, passed away May 18 at age 80. His historical works of the High Desert area include "Pioneer of the Mojave: the Life and Times of Aaron G. Lane," with his wife Kathy as co-author; and several pamphlets: "Sagebrush Annie and the Sagebrush Route," "Murray's Ranch: Apple Valley's African American Dude Ranch," "The Corwin Ranch," and "The Brown Ranch, Predecessor of the Rancho Verde." He left his footprint on San Bernardino area history as well, serving as librarian for the

Heritage Library of the City of San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society, and both President and Grand Historian of the Native Sons of the Golden West. He authored and edited numerous articles for the Daily Press and other publications. Richard and his wife, also an MHS member, operated Thompson Books in Victorville, after relocating from the San Bernardino area in 1991.

When I opened the Apple Valley Legacy Museum in 2015, Richard was right there, donating books, pamphlets, and a detailed history of the movies filmed, or partly filmed locally. He included a collection of VHS tapes, ranging from the 1925 films "Clash of the Wolves" and William S. Hart's "Tumbleweeds," to Ron Howard's 1977 "Grand Theft Auto" and 1997's "Breakdown." When I served as VP for the Friends of the AV Library in charge of programming, Richard enthusiastically agreed to speak about some of his favorite local history books. I could count on his wisdom, only a phone call away, always taking the time to respond to my questions and lend his advice to many projects over the years. Richard will certainly be missed, but his large body of research lives on. Our condolences to Kathy and family.



Bingo by Marcy Taylor

Bingo, the donkey, was the Fair Mascot for over 50 years. Each summer he would stand by the Fair entrance on 7th street, reminding people the Fair was coming. There are many photos of cute girls, the Queen of this or that, posing with Bingo. When one Bingo became too old to do his job, the paper would announce a new Bingo would be taking over.

Left Photo: Marcy with Guy Burnett, a member of the 2015-16 Fair Board, responsible for giving me the job of salvaging Fair memorabilia from the top of the Grandstand. Pictured are the Bingo cut-outs that adorned Entrance Gates #4 and #6.



Bingo returns to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the SBC Fair.

Local Sculptor by Marcy Taylor

MHS member Brent Gaddis, who recently reconstructed the giant



tortoise statue at the Victor Valley Museum, is very modest when it comes to his talents. But when I saw three of his sculptures at the Fair with first, second, and third place ribbons in the sculpture category, I thought his efforts should be celebrated. I asked Brent how many sculptures he had carved, and how many awards he had won, and he couldn't tell me. So we spread out his Fair ribbons for a photo op.

In addition to Brent's small, median, and some very large and heavy sculptures, he has produced other massive stone creations- wells, saunas, stairways, walls, an amphitheater, various buildings and a horse stable. He recently repaired the original Newton Bass Golden Land Farms adobe building, still used as the headquarters of the Bass Charitable Foundation on Chamber Way. Barbara Davisson, who has run the Foundation for many decades, thought she'd never find someone who could repair the old crumbling adobe structures and walls to close to their original condition. She was thrilled with the results. And did I mention that the Gaddis Blacksmith Shop at the Mojave River Valley Museum, which was originally located in Big Bear, was dismantled, moved, and reassembled by Brent at its present location in Barstow.

So thanks, Brent, for sharing your artistic and masonry talents. We will hopefully be scheduling an upcoming fieldtrip to see some of these masterpieces up close in the near future.



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The Newest Supercentenarian by Marcy Taylor



The Victor Valley's newest (and maybe only) Supercentenarian, **Beatrice Pruitt** of Hesperia, celebrated her **110** years at the Golden Corral restaurant May 22, 2022, surrounded by family members. She was born in Hope, Arkansas, on May 22, 1912, the same year the Titanic sank in the Atlantic Ocean, and five months before Dale Evans was born. I am proud and happy to have spent most of Beatrice's past ten birthdays with her, starting with her appearing at Herb Jeffries' 100th birthday party at age 101. I treasure all of our time together, at banquets, restaurants, the park, Apple Valley Legacy Museum events, and a family dinner at my home a few Christmases ago.

Always beautifully dressed, talkative, very mobile, and ready to eat and pose for photos, Beatrice is truly amazing and a joy to be around! Thanks for sharing your beautiful self and your life. You are truly an inspiration to all of us MHS members who are interested in history. You ARE history!



Mike Phillips working the booth at the Apple Valley Village Street Fair, on a windy Saturday June 11.



MHS Board members Marcy Taylor and Carol Wiley at the Sunday June 12 opening of the "Bringing the Past Forward" exhibit at the Victor Valley Museum.

Celebrating 75 Years of the SBC Fair by Marcy Taylor

Our large display in Building #2 was the title exhibit of the 2022 Fair "Celebrating 75 Years." Did you know our fair is the last and only fair



still operating on the Historic Route 66? Did you know that Bingo the Donkey, the mascot for over 50 years, was standing right outside in the petting zoo? Did you realize that our own Mary Dutro won a prize for her salsa in 1976? And did you know that in 1951 Carl Cambridge,



MHS's first President, won a trophy for "Best Feature Exhibit Illustrating a Theme" for his display of Indian artifacts. Thanks to his great grandson, MHS member Bob Cambridge, that trophy was once again on display.

Two of our display cases celebrated the Route 66, where you can still "Get Your Kicks." The other two were dedicated to the 75 year

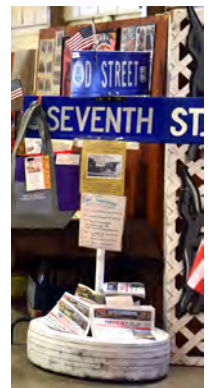


history of the fair, from the original 1954 hand-drawn Fair poster, to Indian artifacts, bowls, plates, baskets, and tools, actually displayed there in the past, as well as vintage office equipment recovered from the top of the grandstand. More recent posters, buttons, and programs were displayed along side scrapbooks dating from 1949 to 2002. Thrilled guests turned the large pages, searching for family members,



their grandma's prize-winning quilt, or themselves showing a goat or pig back in their younger days. (Many visitors commented that they'd sure like to have a large scrapbook and a detailed colorful program this year, rather than scanning a QR code on a smart phone!) The original Building #2 sign, several large cut-out metal and wooden Bingos, and the street signs marking 7th and D Street (the original location of the first several fairs) were perfect photo ops.

From old-timers reminiscing, to young folks learning about what a true County Fair was like (showcasing farm animals, jelly, and quilts rather than carnival rides,) to the folks that went out and got their friends and family to bring back, the excitement was evident! Thanks to Clifford Moon for taking out the incorporation papers in 1947, insuring that the SBC Fair will never leave Victorville and 7th Street (the old Route 66)!!



Camp Cajon Kiosk Project by Marcy Taylor

You probably remember that four historical societies (San Bernardino, Wrightwood, Highland, and Mohave Historical Society) banded together to erect the Camp Cajon monument on Wagon Train Road in the pass. It was dedicated at a fantastic ceremony July 4, 2019, exactly 100 years after the dedication of the first Camp Cajon monument July 4, 1919. A few years later the team took on another monumental task: relocating one of the original concrete picnic tables back to the site. Mark Landis of Wrightwood made presentations to the MHS on both projects, while at the same time soliciting construction funding. So now it's time for Phase 3, the construction of the Camp Cajon informational kiosk, recently approved by the US Forest Service. The purpose of the project is, according to Landis, "to tie the existing relics at Camp Cajon together, and provide visitors with historic information, photos, and maps of the area" on four large 44 x 44 inch panels.



Our board has voted to contribute \$200 from our bank account, half of our share of the goal of \$1600 from the four historical societies. Since we are still a bit short of covering the costs of our own monument restoration projects, we are hoping that some of our members might personally contribute towards the remaining \$200. If you are able to help, please fill out the tax deductible donation form below, and submit either at a meeting, fieldtrip, drop off at the AV Legacy Museum during open hours or mail directly to MHS. Please make checks payable to "Mohave Historical Society." If donations exceed \$200, we will put the excess funds towards our own monument repairs, which, by the way, are close to being finished. And I would like to thank Daniel Mitrovich and his colleagues at the Preservation Ranch for their generous \$100 contribution to the tortoise restoration, which covered paint and printing expenses.

MHS TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

Camp Cajon Kiosk Project & Monument Fund



Name _____ Phone _____

Amount _____ Receipt? _____

Comments _____

*Please make checks payable to Mohave Historical Society
Submit in person (meeting, field trip, AVL) or mail to:
MHS, PO Box 21, Victorville, CA 92393*

May Presentation by Marcy Taylor



Our speaker at the May 26 meeting at the Lone Wolf Colony was our own VP **Delvin Harbour**. In his PowerPoint presentation, "The History of Amateur Radio on the Desert," he shared a wealth of information on the Victor Valley Club, established in 1956, including licensing requirements, community events participation, and the important role of

members during emergencies, when other utilities are disabled due to wind, snow, or fires. His example of the Wrightwood crew stepping up during an electrical outage, to assist with police calls and ski slope rescues, really hit home, as they may well have helped during the recent raging wildfire. Table displays of club magazines and equipment enhanced his presentation.

The following Saturday a number of MHS members and a few guests were treated to a wonderful tour of the Victorville Route 66 Museum's history room. Delvin, the regular 11-3:00 Sunday volunteer, and his cohort Lew shared their knowledge of the Victor Valley area, referring to several panoramic photos of Old Town Victorville, D Street between 5th and 7th, the center of town on the main drag, the Route 66. The room is full of photos, newspaper articles, Jackrabbit yearbooks, and display cases full of artifacts. Every time I visit I see something I never noticed before - this time the April 26, 1925 cornerstone of the I.O.O.F. Victor Lodge #429, one of the oldest buildings in town on the corner of 7th and A, whose plaque high up on the wall still says "Victor," before the name was changed to Victorville. A narrated film loop provided additional information.

The museum is truly fascinating. After our local history lesson, there was still plenty of time to explore the rest of the museum, purchase souvenirs, and pose for photos with the gas pumps, antique vehicles, and the ever popular Volkswagen "Love Bus," bringing back memories of the late 1960's era. Thanks, Delvin and Lew, for the memories.



The Desert Tortoise Rededication by Marcy Taylor

The afternoon of Wed. June 8 was hot and windy- perfect weather for the desert tortoise. (But not so much for humans trying to hold an event.) However, the well attended celebration attracted a number of people with an interest or investment in the indisputable symbol of the Mojave Desert, the good old tortoise.



MHS member, Mary Dutro, Adoption Chairperson of the California Turtle and Tortoise Club, High Desert Branch, posing with the newly renovated tortoise "Sherman".

Speakers included Victor Valley Women's Club President Peggy Moore, and Past President Anna Maria English, as the tortoise sculpture was a 1994 Women's Club C.I.P. project. MHS member Mary Dutro the California Turtle and Tortoise Club Adoption Chairperson, High Desert Branch, and Daniel Mitrovich of the Preservation Ranch, shared their involvement. MHS member Mary Ann Christy, whose mother Beverly Dudley was the innovator of the project and painter of the original tortoise, and Dan Casady, whose grandfather Bill Bascom served as the original sculptor, told touching and sometimes emotional stories of their family members' contributions.

MHS members Marcy Taylor and Brent Gaddis shared the idea for needed improvement, and detailed the renovation process. Apple Valley Mayor Kari Leon, representing the Town, and Sam Shoup representing County Supervisor Col. Paul Cook (Ret.), presented certificates to commemorate the occasion. Lena Quinonez, also representing the Town, handled the official ribbon cutting.



Marcy and Brent of MHS, Peggy Moore of the Victor Valley Women's Club and Tiffany Talavera of the Victor Valley Museum posing with Certificates presented by Apple Valley Mayor Karri Leon, center.

Thanks as always to our MHS members for hosting the event. We couldn't have done it without volunteers Carol Wiley, Carol Johnson, Patty Hedges, and Mike Phillips for handling refreshments, programs,

sales, and photography; and Brent Gaddis, Mary Ann Christy, and Mary Dutro for speaking. Thanks also to all of the members and representatives of the Women's Club, Preservation Ranch, Turtle and Tortoise Club, County of San Bernardino, Victor Valley Museum, Town of Apple Valley, and other supporters in attendance.



MHS President Marcy Taylor receiving Certificate of Recognition from Sam Shoup representing County Supervisor Col. Paul Cook (Ret.).

The final steps to be completed include a little touch-up paint and a clear seal for protection against the elements, neighborhood birds, and graffiti bandits. Stop by, say hello to Sherman, and read the plaque honoring the original artists and sponsors. Notebooks of vintage photos, plans, and documentation will be available for viewing at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum or future MHS meetings.



From L to R, Dan Casady, grandson of tortoise sculptor Bill Bascom; Mary Ann Christy, daughter of artist Beverly Dudley; MHS member Patty Hedges; Barbara Casady, daughter of Bill Bascom; and in front Bill's great grandson, Caden Casady, holding ribbon.



SHERMAN

TORTOISE REDEDICATION SPEAKERS



Peggy Moore,
Victor Valley Women's Club President



Anna Maria English,
Past VV Women's Club President



Mary Dutro, Adoption Chairperson,
California Turtle and Tortoise Club



Brent Gaddis, Sculptor,
Tortoise reconstruction



Marcy Taylor, MHS President
Repainted tortoise sculpture



Daniel Mitrovich, Preservation
Ranch protecting the desert tortoise.



Mary Ann Christy daughter of
Beverly Dudley creator of tortoise
sculpture



Dan Casady,
Bill Bascom's grandson



Brent Gaddis, surrounded by excited supporters, completes the official ribbon cutting.



Audience enjoying the
presentation in the shade!

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)



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 the item does not.



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