

THE MOHAHVE MUSE



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

Volume 26 Issue 7
July 2023

President: Marcy Taylor, **VP:** Delvin Harbour, **Treasurer:** Carol Wiley, **Rec Secy:** Meera Maheswaran, **Corres Secy:** Stormie Reid
Directors: Mary Dutro, Dennis Hom, Eric Mandeson, Mike Phillips (MUSE Editor), Rick Schmidt

President's Corner

Greetings MHS members, friends, and supporters:

Well, summer is definitely here and with it lots of desert heat and wind. We will not be holding monthly meetings at the Lone Wolf Colony until September, but still have many things planned for July and August.

Join us the weekend of July 7, 8, and 9 for a weekend porch sale, raffle, silent auction and entertainment at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum. The featured film on Saturday night at dusk will be the 1955 "Tarantula," much of which was filmed in Apple Valley, particularly at Dead Man's Point, where the new monument "Miners at Movies" was erected in April. (See flyer on page 5 for details.)

A few weeks later on the Town of Apple Valley's July 20 "Throwback Thursday," we will visit several local sites on a Museum Hop (actually a monument to museum hop). Starting off at the Dead Man's Point monument (where Hwy 18 meets Bear Valley) at 9:30 A.M. we will proceed to Horseman's Center and the Roy Rogers monument, also the site of Beyonce's filming of "Spirit" for "The Lion King," as well as the location of Chayce Beckham's American Idol concert. Our 10:30 appointment is at the Town's Heritage room, where we will view displays and a video / slide show. Last stop will be the Apple Valley Legacy Museum right across the highway, where we will enjoy displays and refreshments. This trip will be your chance to meet our 32 Terri Lee dolls, most made at the Terri Lee Doll Factory right here in Apple Valley. Seven reside at the Heritage Room, and 25 at the museum. Several have been to the Doll Hospital, two even in Intensive Care. But now they are all put back together, seams and buttons sewn, fully dressed, hair combed, and ready to greet you.

Please check the upcoming events list on page 2, as some dates have been added and/or changed. And be sure to mark your calendar for Sept. 9, the day of the Apple Valley Village

parade, street fair, and car show. Volunteers are needed at several events, so call (760) 985-1918 if you are interested.

Last important item of business: We had a contest to see who, of those members who went on the March fieldtrip to Brent Gaddis's home at Rancho Verde Estates, came the closest to estimating the number of hand carved sculptures are on the property. The guesses ranging from 39-112 were all low. The actual number according to Brent is 137. Rick with 112, Carol Johnson with 102, Marcy with 99, and Delvin with 95 came the closest. Now that's a lot of work, years of work, not to mention the time and effort that has gone into all of the stone structures over the years. Maybe we need to schedule another trip down there for all the art lovers to focus on those 137 stone sculptures!

Thank you for your continued support.

Marcy



MHS Upcoming Events

- July 20 **Fieldtrip. 9:30am**, Museum Hop with Town of Apple Valley. Meet at Deadman's Point (Junction of Hwy 18 and Bear Valley Road)
- Aug 26 **Fieldtrip. 10am**, Wrightwood Driving Tour
- Sep 28 **MHS Mtg.** John Beyer "Beyer's Byways: Amboy, Ca"
- Sep 30 **Fieldtrip. 10am**, McDonald Museum, SB
- Oct. 26 **MHS Mtg.** Joe Manners & Marcy Taylor "Ghosts that Haunt the Desert"
- Oct. 27 **Fieldtrip. 10am**, Tour Oro Grande Town and Cemetery.
- Nov.16 **MHS Mtg.** Speaker Dennis Hom "Growing Up in Old Town Victorville", Election of 2024 Board officers.
- Dec. 14 **Christmas Celebration**, Installation of 2024 Board Officers

Community Events

- July 7-9 4-8pm, **MHS/AV Legacy Museum Books and Collectibles Sale**, Raffle, silent auction results Sunday at 6pm **
- July 8 **Movie Night at AV Legacy Museum** 6-7pm Live Entertainment 1955 "Tarantula" at dusk
- July 13 6-9pm, **Apple Valley Summer Concert Series**, Civic Center Park **
- 20
27
- Aug 12 8-1pm, **Apple Valley Flea Market** Lions Park, AV **
- Aug 16 6:00pm **Taste of the Town**, AV Conference Center, Town Hall, Display **
- Sept 9 10am, **Apple Valley Village Street Fair, Car Show and Parade** **
- Sept 16 10-4pm, **Santa Fe Trading Co. Crafts Show**, Old Town Victorville **
- Sept 17 **Hesperia Days Rodeo** - Details to follow
- Oct. 7 **San Bernardino County Air Show**, Apple Valley Airport
- Oct. 14 10-4pm, **Santa Fe Trading Co. Crafts Show**, Old Town Victorville **
- Oct. 21 **AV Pet Fair** **
- Nov. 11 **Veteran's Day Parade**, Old Town Victorville
- Dec. 2 **Christmas Parade**, Old Town Victorville
- Dec. 9 10-4pm, **Santa Fe Trading Co. Crafts Show**, Old Town Victorville **

** MHS booth at these locations

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Rusty LaGrange
Angela Lloyd
Laurence Merrill
Stephanie Webster
Gary Whiteside

The Hom's Arabian Nights by Marcy Taylor

One of the missions of Mohave Historical Society is for its members to give interesting and informative presentations to other local organizations. Members Dennis and Stephanie Hom did just that on June 13 when they shared their experiences living in Saudi Arabia with the Friends of the Apple Valley Library group and at least 9 MHS members in attendance. The Homs were on a medical mission to work first at the King Fahad Hospital during 1989-90, and later at the Prince Sultan Military Hospital during 1993-94, Dennis as a pharmacist, and Stephanie as a nurse.



Dennis, hailing from good old Victorville, faced a major culture shock when first stepping off the plane in 1989, and was a bit hesitant about bringing his wife and two young children to the Middle East. However, their two stints living and working there proved to be some of the best years of their lives, with experiences, memories, and friendships no one can ever take away.

Well, that is not exactly local history. However, it seemed that many people in attendance seemed to know little or nothing about the customs, religion, required clothing (especially for females), and societal restrictions of the Middle East. Stephanie modeled the required female dress, including full face coverings, and the beautiful jewelry she had purchased, while Dennis showed a few of the letters he had to write giving his lovely wife his permission to visit a friend in another city, when unaccompanied by him, as women could not venture out without a male escort. Even two year-old males had more rights than their own mothers. So I think some in the audience came away with a new appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy in the good old USA, so that is local history at its finest.



100 Year Time Capsule Reburial by Marcy Taylor

Believe it or not, MHS projects are slowly moving from the "old business" to the "accomplished" list. The Palisades Ranch 100 Year Time Capsule, which was dug up April 5, 2023, after 33 years at the floor of a proposed museum at Palisades Ranch, is now safely back in the ground at the corner of Strawberry Ln and Peach Tree Ln near Helendale Elementary School. There it will lie peacefully for another 67 years until 2090, when hopefully someone will remember to dig it up and remove the treasures, to see what life was like way back in 1990.



MHS Members. From L to R: Mike Phillips, Bruce Hollenbeck Eric Mandeson, Joe Manners, Carol Wiley, Delvin Harbour, Marcy Taylor Superintendent Ross Swearingen, Dennis Hom, Rick Schmidt, Brent Gaddis Mary Dutro

Eleven Mohahve Historical Society members, three classes of fifth graders, Helendale Elementary School teachers and staff, as well as representatives of the Helendale Community Services District, were all in attendance for the historic event May 19, 2023, at the Helendale Elementary School campus.



The School District Band played several songs to kick it off, followed by Superintendent Ross Swearingen leading the Pledge of Allegiance and welcoming the crowd. MHS President Marcy Taylor briefly outlined the history of the society's monument projects, the original Time Capsule burial in 1990 at

Bob Older's Palisades Ranch, and the original monument placement on National Trails Highway in 1991. Additional information was provided by Past Principal Dr. Jim Brown, who was present at the 1990 burial and 1991 monument placement.

Unfortunately the monument disappeared from its location on National Trails Highway and Bryman Road, and its whereabouts were unknown for over ten years. But by a lucky coincidence, it was rediscovered in October of 2021, and was retrieved and relocated in August of 2022 with a rededication ribbon cutting. Mission #1 accomplished! On to Mission #2: to locate, remove, and rebury the Time Capsule. With the help of some old photos and local newspaper documentation, along with Helendale Community Service District personnel and machinery, it was located and dug up April 5, 2023. Then, less than two months later, there we were at Helendale Elementary School, gathered near a new freshly dug hole, to receive the precious cargo, over 500 items from 1990 and three new 2023 posters made by 5th grade classes: Life in 1990, Life in 2023, and predictions for 2090.

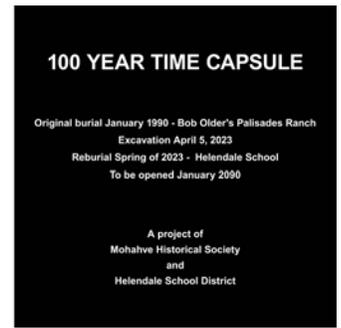
A highlight for the students was when MHS member Joe Manners (Honorary Mayor of Oro Grande), accompanied by his loyal companion Randy, shared his experience at the 1990 event. He related how he had gone around to area car dealerships gathering brochures to drop in, to let folks know in 2090 what transportation was like in 1990: the styles, the features, the prices. While most of the adults in attendance realize they may not be in this world in 67 years, the students promised to make sure the time capsule will be dug up and its contents shared with area residents. By then our modern cell phones and laptops, our cable TVs and self-driving cars, will have been replaced by things that haven't been thought of yet! All in all, a job well done, and rest in peace One Hundred Year Time Capsule.



Helendale Elementary 5th grade teachers sharing the "Life in 1990", "Life in 2023" and "Predictions for 2090" posters which were designed by the current 5th Graders to be placed in the time capsule.



MHS members: Front: Mary Dutro, Carol Wiley, Marcy Taylor, Dennis Hom
 Back: Delvin Harbour, Eric Mandeson, Brent Gaddis, Bruce Hollenbeck
 Mike Phillips, Rick Schmidt, and Ron Clark



Helendale Elementary 5th grade teachers placing the posters which were designed by the current 5th Graders into the Time Capsule.



Helendale Elementary 5th grade classes



MHS members and Helendale locals in the company of CSD President Ron Clark and his wife who was a past principal of Helendale Middle School.



Helendale USD staff sealing and lowering the time capsule into its resting place. MHS President Marcy Taylor placing plaque to mark the time capsule location.



New Time Capsule Plaque by Marcy Taylor

Mohavve Historical Society member Brent Gaddis, with a little assistance from members Jimmy Yarrow and Marcy Taylor, worked his magic in constructing a base for the new plaque, marking the current location of the 1990-2090 100-Year Time Capsule.

Hopefully in 67 years, locals who see the plaque just a few feet from the corner of Strawberry and Peach Tree Lane on the Helendale Elementary School campus, will dig up the Time Capsule, with the aid of directions and a map, one copy on file in the school office, and a second one in the Mohavve Historical Society Research Room at the Victor Valley College Library. A job well done!



"Whitesides Family" Presentation by Marcy Taylor

Gary and Linda Whitesides, son and daughter of Carl Wayne Whitesides and Fran Drew, presented a bit of their family history at



the May 25 Mohavve Historical Society meeting at the Lone Wolf Colony. Gary is best known as the owner of Gary's Drum Studio, and as a talented drummer who has played with many bands over the years. His sister was crowned Miss Apple Valley back in her younger days.

Gary started off by sharing the unfortunate story of the demise of his relative Pratt Whitesides and two other young cowboys at the hands of Native Americans near the Las Flores Ranch in 1866. An E Clampus Vitus monument marks the spot on Highway 138 in Hesperia. The problems between the Native Americans and white settlers continued until the following year when "The Last Battle of Chimney Rock" was believed to end the conflicts. Additional monuments mark this location on Highway 18 in Lucerne Valley.

Next Gary shared a bit about his talented mom, a dancer and entertainer, who performed with the Stan Keaton Big Band in USO shows during World War II. She went on to perform in Hollywood and on radio shows of the era. Her book entitled "Tale of the Tiger," a fictional account of her experiences with the "Flying Tigers" Airline during World War II, was on sale at the event.



Movie Night at AVLm
Featuring
Tarantula!



Live Music
7-8pm
"Boni on the Keys"
And Dano

Movie starts at 8:15pm
\$3 Donation includes refreshment
and raffle ticket.

*****1955 Movie filmed at Deadman's Point
and other Apple Valley locations*****

Historic Kemper Campbell Ranch Fieldtrip by Marcy Taylor

A large and excited group of 25 MHS members and 11 guests descended upon the historic Kemper Campbell Ranch May 24, 2023 for a rare opportunity to learn some of its storied history while on location. The group split in two, with half touring the inside of the beautifully decorated 1929 4300 square foot Main



House. Tour guides Peggy and Emma shared the house's history as attendees admired the period architecture, furnishings, and knickknacks in its many rooms: living room, den, main dining room, family dining room, third dining room, sitting room, kitchen, four downstairs bedrooms, two upstairs bedrooms, as well as five bathrooms.

Meanwhile, the second group enjoyed the shaded patio with its incredible view of the pasture and grazing cattle, and the train passing by in the distance, as they learned the history of the ranch. The 1858 Verde Ranch, was eventually divided into North and South Verde, with part of the northern half renamed as the Kemper Campbell Ranch, in memory of a son killed during World War II. A virtual oasis in the desert where several

well-traveled trails crossed, the area attracted Native Americans and early explorers.

Following the second tour, attendees got a peak inside some



of the guest rooms, including the larger "Papa's Room," adjacent to the Main House. In addition, everyone received a copy of "A Brief History of the Ranch," written by daughter Jean DeBlasis, a more detailed "Ranch History" written by nephew Scott Campbell, as well as a list of the ranch buildings with an accompanying location map, taken from granddaughter Celeste DeBlasis's book "Graveyard Peaches."

As guests departed, some stopped at the Victor Valley Memorial Park just over the hill, to visit the Kemper Campbell family graves, and to view the four Mohave Historical Society monuments at the entrance to the cemetery. Other notable locals buried there are Maria Chapuli (Indian Maria), Nolie Murray of the Murray's Overall Wearing Dude Ranch, and Capt. Joseph McConnell, Jr. The parents of two MHS members in attendance also rest in peace at this beautiful location.

Party on the Bridge by Marcy Taylor



Valley Road) without having to fight the traffic on Highway 18 or Bear Valley Road ever again!

May 20, 2023, was a big important day in the Victor Valley. Starting at 9:00 A.M. the City of Victorville staged a Party on the Bridge, to celebrate the Green Tree Extension and bridge over the BNSF railroad tracks finally meeting up with the Yucca Loma Bridge over the raging Mojave River!

Now you can zoom in your car or peddle on your bike all the way from Apple Valley Road to Hesperia Road (or from Hesperia Road to Apple

GREEN TREE EXTENSION FUN FACTS

27,000 TONS OF ASPHALT & 1 MILLION TONS OF DIRT

WERE USED IN THE BRIDGE AND ROADWAY COMBINED

So a good idea from the 1970's took only 50 years to come to fruition. This accomplishment rivals the meeting of the two sides of the transcontinental railroad at Promontory, Utah, on May 10, 1869!! Now that's progress!

Memorial Day at Oro Grande Cemetery by Marcy Taylor

The Oro Grande Cemetery, the resting place of many Oro Grande residents, miners, railroad and cement workers, merchants, and townfolk buried there between the 1860's and 1958, is the oldest cemetery in the county of San Bernardino. Despite its official closure in 1958, a few unofficial funerals and burials have been held there after that date. MHS member Joe Manners, who is known as the Honorary Mayor of Oro Grande, has been maintaining the property for years, and sometimes hosts cemetery tours, which are virtually a history lesson of the gold and silver boomtown days of Oro Grande (thus the name.)

Each Memorial Day the unincorporated town of Oro Grande holds a tribute there, and this year was no exception. Unfortunately some of us missed the 8:00 AM ceremony, which was previously scheduled at 10:00. But it was not too late to pay our respects. A formal tour is scheduled for Friday Oct. 27, which will serve as



our monthly fieldtrip, following the Thursday Oct. 26 presentation of "Haunted Route 66." For a preview pick up a copy of the book, with a photo of "Haunted" Oro Grande on the cover. Only \$20 on sale at MHS meetings at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum.



"Rockin' Out with the Sons of the Pioneers" by Marcy Taylor

The Happy Trails Children's Foundation Banquet, a staple in the Victor Valley for many years, returned the evening of May 20, 2023, to the Hilton Garden Inn, after a 3-year hiatus. The cowboys and cowgirls in their best Western attire were back to enjoy photo ops, to browse the one-of-a-kind collectible items to be auctioned off later in the program, and to enjoy a delicious down-home-cooked dinner. Following the meal and live auction, which raised thousands of dollars for the boys housed at the Cooper Home in Apple Valley,

Local Vandals Lack Respect by Marcy Taylor

Sometimes you feel like you're taking one step forward, then two steps back. After the excitement of the Sunday April 30 dedication of the E Clampus Vitus group's second Apple Valley monument, "Miners to Movies" at Dead Man's Point, some disrespectful locals didn't wait very long to make their mark. A few days later, some wannabe artist thought some bright red paint would look nice on the concrete. That was no sooner painted over, than someone stated attempting to saw off a few of the legs. Next



they went after the spider web base, bending it in an attempt to pry it off. What the vandals weren't realizing, was that the metal sculpture was attached by rebar deep down in the concrete. But after a little more effort, one leg was successful detached. I got a call one morning to that effect, so I went down to retrieve the leg before it disappeared altogether.



Dennis Parker, the Noble Grand Humbug who had worked so hard to construct this masterpiece, complete with booklets of the history, and commemorative patches and t-shirts, had no choice but to send a sheet-metal worker to remove the Tarantula before further damage was done. Sad, sad, sad! The current plan is to create a new tarantula with sturdier thicker materials and reattach it, while repairing the original sculpture to be placed in a safer location for respectful people to appreciate.

"The Sons of the Pioneers" took the stage. Having gotten its start as the O-Bar-O Cowboys, which became the Pioneer Trio with Tim Spencer, Bob Nolan, and Roy Rogers, the name was changed and additional members added to become what we know as the Sons of the Pioneers. Over the years the members may have changed, but the traditional songs and Western music have remained the same. Past member Rusty Richards (along with his wife) was in the audience singing along, as were many of the others in attendance. I hadn't seen Rusty since the Dale Evans Centennial Celebration in Apple Valley in 2012 when he sang on my patio!

This event, the first since the passing of Mimi Rogers Swift, daughter of Roy and Dale and long-time President of the Board of the Happy Trails Children's Foundation, was bitter sweet. But as Dusty Rogers reminded us the day after his father's funeral when he opened for Willie Nelson at Maverick's Stadium, Roy would say, "The show must go on!" So "Happy Trails, y'all, and may the Good Lord take a likin' to you!"

MOHAHVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Founded 1964 Website: www.mohahve.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

ANNUAL: FAMILY/COUPLE \$30 SINGLE \$20
LIFETIME: FAMILY/COUPLE \$200 SINGLE \$150

MEMBERSHIP DATE: ____/____/____

Newsletter (MUSE) delivery option:
 Email USPS

RENEWAL NEW MEMBER

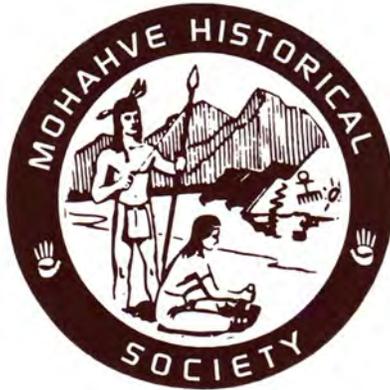
Questions? Call (760) 985-1918
 Please make your check out to:
 Mohahve Historical Society

Mail the completed form and your payment to:
 Membership
 Mohahve Historical Society
 P.O. Box 21, Victorville, CA 92393

PLEASE USE THIS FORM TO RENEW OR CHANGE YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 (Name, Address, Phone, Email) and submit by USPS, Email or in person at a general meeting)

MHS GENERAL MEETING

Lone Wolf Colony
 23200 Bear Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308
 7:00pm - doors open at 6:30pm



Mohahve Historical Society
 Post Office Box 21
 Victorville, CA 92393

The **MUSE** is the
 Monthly newsletter
 of the
 Mohahve Historical Society

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