

# THE MOHAHVE MUSE

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



Volume 25 Issue 6  
Jun 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

Hello MHS members:

To say May has been a busy month is an understatement. Lots of events are scheduled in May, hoping the weather will cooperate. It cooperated all right. One week we had 60's on Wednesday, 70's on Thursday, 80's on Friday, and 90's the Saturday some of us were at the Mojave River Valley Museum BBQ in Barstow, where it is usually a few degrees hotter! However, thankfully there was no wind that day after gale-like conditions Wed. and Thurs. Then the following day we got to witness a spectacular total lunar eclipse known as a blood moon!

Thanks to the following MHS members for attending and helping with May events: Jada Kaltenbach and Carol Johnson for the Victorville Crafts Fair; Patty Hedges for the Courtyard Concerts; Stormie Reid, Bryan Taylor, Delvin Harbor, Nelson Miller, and Brent Gaddis for the MRVM BBQ. Our efforts brought us some publicity, a few book sales, and some potential new members. Plus it's always fun to get out, socialize, share local history, and enjoy great music.

We will look forward to more outdoor community events in June: the Chayce Beckham concert Sat. June 4, the Tortoise Ribbon Cutting and Rededication Wed. the 8th, the Apple Valley Village Street Fair Sat. the 11th, local Juneteenth celebrations and Fathers Day Sunday the 19th, and Apple Valley Sunset Concerts Thursdays the 16th, 23rd, and 30th from 6-9 at Civic Center Park.

**Summer is here, so let's get active!**

*Marcy*



**Kay Whitecloud** is an amazing woman! She and her family have been preserving and celebrating their Native American heritage for many years. In fact, I first met Kay when she came down from Barstow on a "museum hopping" fieldtrip organized by Cliff Walker of the Mojave River Valley Museum to sites in Victorville and Apple Valley. I met them at their first stop, the Victor Valley Legacy Museum in Old Town. After a museum tour there, we proceeded to some other Victorville sites, before heading to Apple Valley. Along the way we stopped at some photo ops, at first the Trigger statue, and next at the Buffalo sign (recently

removed) in Apple Valley. There I learned that Kay's family members were the buffalo dancers at the Buffalo Trading Post opening in 1953. Sure enough, there was a young Kay on a vintage black and white photo in my scrapbook.

A few years ago Barstow's Main Street Murals project celebrated the unveiling of her very own mural, with, you guessed it, her relatives performing Native American dances. On our January Barstow fieldtrip, leader Steve Smith shared the history and meaning of his mural.

Kay and her family have certainly left their mark on the High Desert in too many ways to mention here. But I will share her latest accomplishment. On Saturday May 21 Kay Whitecloud, age 83, walked across the stage to receive her high school diploma, in her words, "sixty-five years late."

**Congrats Kay, and keep up the good work.**

*Marcy*

## MHS Upcoming Events

- Jun. 23 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm, Lone Wolf Colony  
Marcy Taylor "The Amazing Influence of Dale Evans". Doors open at 6:30pm
- Jun. 25 **"Saturday Night Bath in Apple Valley"**  
7:00pm. Movie at AVL M
- 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

- May 28 **\*\* San Bernardino County Fair, Bldg. #2**  
29, 30 Celebrating 75 years!
- Jun. 2 7pm San Bernardino Historical Society -  
A History of the swing Auditorium, 8th & D Street, SB at the CR Harris Memorial Hall
- Jun. 3 **\*\* San Bernardino County Fair, Bldg. #2**  
4,5 Celebrating 75 years!
- Jun. 4 4pm, American Idol Winner Chase Beckham Concert, Brewster Park- 21024 Otoa Rd, AV
- Jun. 8 3pm, Museum Tortoise Ribbon Cutting and Rededication, VV Museum, 11873 Apple Valley Rd, AV
- Jun. 11 **\*\*10:00am-2:00pm, AV Village Street Fair and Car Show, James Woody Park, Apple Valley.**
- Jun 16 6-9pm, Apple Valley Sunset Concerts, Civic
- 23, 30 Center Park, 14999 Dale Evans Pkwy, AV
- Jul 9 4 - 8pm, Bargain books / Collectibles
- 10 Sale, 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

## Membership Information

Total Active Membership 117  
Life Members 31 Annual Members 86

## The amazing Influence of Dale Evans by Marcy Taylor

Dale Evans was well-known as an actress, a dancer, a singer, and a



TV and movie star. That is all true. But to many of us in Apple Valley and the Victor Valley area that she called home, and to her many admirers all over the United States and the world, she was so much more. Dale was a prolific author, penning 27 books, most written while she resided right here in Apple Valley. She was not shy about discussing her feelings, her accomplishments as well as her mistakes and failures, or about sharing her Christian witness. She detailed the trag-

edies of losing three young children, about her teenage pregnancy, several failed marriages, the trials of being thrust into the role of stepmother to three young children who had suddenly and expectantly lost their dear mother. She shared the stresses of the Hollywood life, always being in the spotlight, and the pleasures of living in the desert where she and Roy could be treated like "regular people," shopping, going to church, and getting together with friends and neighbors.



On Thursday June 23, MHS member Marcy Taylor, who shares both Dale's birthday and street address, will present "The Amazing Influence of Dale Evans." The doors will open at 6:30 for the 7:00 presentation, which will include a slide show and displays of Dale's books, photographs, and memorabilia.

The Sat. June 25 fieldtrip will take us to the Apple Valley Inn, at one time known as the Roy Rogers Apple Valley Inn, for a showing of "Saturday Night Bath in Apple Valley." This 1965 comedy is shot entirely at the Apple Valley Inn, the beautiful (at that time) Hilltop House, and the Western Village at Deadman's Point. Despite the ridiculous and somewhat confusing plot, locals cannot help but enjoy the on-location shots, while sitting in the exact spot where the scenes were filmed. So come on over to the Apple Valley Legacy Museum about 7:00 to get your raffle ticket, check out the museum, and grab a bite to eat. The show will start about 7:30 when the sun starts to set behind the Hilltop House hill. The Apple Valley Inn is located at 20601 Highway 18 at Dale Evans Parkway. To reach Cottage #153 drive straight in until you can't go any farther, look to your right and you are there!



## Black Mountain Presentation and Field Trip by Marcy Taylor

**Nelson Miller's** April 28 Thursday night's presentation on Black Mountain and Inscription Canyon Petroglyphs gave us more information than most of us could digest. He projected a number of slides listing the locations, categories, and ages of various types of



petroglyphs, before sharing photos of the ones we could expect to see on the Saturday fieldtrip. These included the famous Birdman petroglyph, as well as the Big Horn Sheep, the pineapple, the tortoise, the snake, and various human forms. Many are document-

ed by Wilson G. Turner in "The Black Canyon Project of the Mojave Desert." Bill Mann's "Guide to 50 Interesting and Mysterious Sites in the Mojave" Volume 1 pages 29-32 also covers the Black Mountain and Inscription Canyon sites.



An enthusiastic group set out from Mojave River Valley Museum on Sat. April 30 in two four-wheel drive vehicles. A highlight of the trip out there was seeing a group of desert-dwelling burros, who graciously posed for several photos. At the entrance to Inscription Canyon, a sign posted by BLM and the California Native American Heritage Commission reminded visitors of the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, protecting historic sites and artifacts. Upon entering the canyon, filled with ancient art and symbols, the MHS explorers could almost feel the presence and hear the prayers of the shamans of old, experiencing visions and visitation fueled by fasting and sacred drugs. While some pictographs were of easily identifiable forms, most were left open to the interpretation of the viewer, who could only imagine what the shaman could have felt or seen in his transcendental state. Our thanks to MHS member Nelson Miller for a great and educational adventure.



## MRVM 55th Annual BBQ by Marcy Taylor



The Mojave River Valley Museum's 55th Annual BBQ and Open House fundraiser was a huge success!



MHS Treasurer offers "Carol's Collectibles"



MHS VP tasting homemade adult beverages

Many MHS members were in attendance, some working the event. Our VP Delvin joined that day, and one of our members won the \$500 cash raffle prize. That covered her gas to Barstow and back! In addition to gold panning, rope making, blacksmith and weaving demos, live music, and Dover car self-guided tours, guests could indulge in the always popular homemade moonshine and campfire sourdough biscuits. Who knew past

president Jim Mustra could churn out such delicious butter?

MHS member Carol Wiley offered "Carol's Collectibles" for sale, while Marcy, Stormie, Bryan, and Delvin manned the combined Apple Valley Legacy Museum, Victor Valley Legacy Museum, MHS booth. J and J Catering provided an awesome lunch, books were discounted, people were friendly, history was shared, and the wind stayed away. What a perfect day! Our thanks to all the hard-working MRVM board members and volunteers for hosting this great annual event, and to Pat for always listing our events in their "Desert Tailings" newsletter. We love working with you guys!



Kay Whitecloud visiting with MHS members Stormie and Bryan

Stormie and Marcy manning the MHS and combined Museums booth





## MRVM BBQ (Cont.)



Klaus Deubbert and Ken Kuhn share and demonstrate their craft of blacksmithing at the Gaddis Blacksmith shop.

## Mohave Historical Society by Marcy Taylor, Part 1

In her book "History of Apple Valley," local author Kate O'Rourke gives us a good overview of the history of the Mohave Historical Society, and our close and long-term relationship to the Victor Valley College and Victor Valley Museum. I will take the liberty of reprinting parts of pages 109-111 for the benefit of new members and those who may have forgotten or never understood these important relationships:

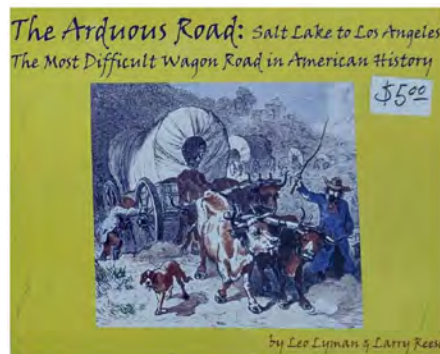
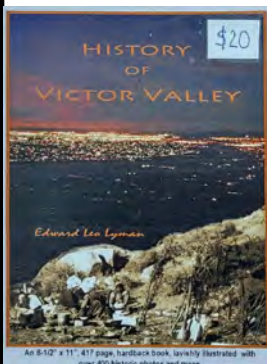
Dr. Lawrence Davenport invited the Victor Valley's early residents to a college level class he was teaching on local history, on January 30, 1963. The following week the class held an old-timers meeting with residents from Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Daggett, Helendale, Hesperia, Lucerne Valley, Oro Grande, Phelan, San Bernardino, and Victorville. They all showed up with historical photographs and data, and began to sort out a picture of the High Desert's history.

Priceless photos and documents were copied, and personal stories were related. As a result of this cooperative effort, Mohave I, a 200-page book, was printed. The 500 copies quickly sold out at \$10 each. About a dozen students were adamant about carrying on the work started. Mohave Association was formed in October 1963; then the name changed to Mohave Historical Society (MHS) in 1964. The spelling of Mohave was the original spelling John C. Fremont used in recounting his 1844 expedition, when he met the Indians who traveled through this area. ...

That first meeting of the MHS took place at the Carl Cambridge Museum on Bear Valley Road in Apple Valley. Cambridge became the first President; Ellsworth Sylvester, Vice-President; and Mrs. Arthur Taylor, Secretary Treasurer. The group would study local archaeology, plants, animals, and, of course, history.

The MHS printed an additional four books in 1964, 1966, 1984, and 1991. Through the years the society has enhanced the public's knowledge of regional history. MHS was one of the first contributors of cash and artifacts to the Victor Valley Museum. They have campaigned to sanction noteworthy points of interest and placements of historical markers to the California Resources Agency, and have established a central archival location of their collection at the Victor Valley College Library's Local History Center.

Today the MHS continues to make history a living legend. Past President Richard Thompson has written extensively on local history. His books are "Murray's Ranch: Apple Valley's African-American Dude Ranch," "The Story of Sagebrush Annie and the Sagebrush Route," "Elmore and Harriet Corwin and the Corwin Ranch of Apple Valley," "Pioneer of the Mojave: the Life and Times of Aaron Lane."



The last four Presidents of the MHS have written books on our local history. Dr. Leo Lyman is a prolific writer ... and has written "The History of Victor Valley," "The Story of the Victory Valley," co-authored "Arduous Road," and also written "San Bernardino, the Rise and Fall of a California Community." Arlene Kallenberger has written: "A Desert Scrapbook," a history of local bridges, and John M. Swisher has written three books; "Bits 'N Pieces," "Mojave Rendezvous," and "The Mojave Desert."

(The next paragraph in the book lists the then current board members, which includes some familiar names: Jim Mustra, Mary Dutro, and Andrea Gutierrez.) To be continued in the July MUSE.

## Spring 2022 Tortoise Report by Marcy Taylor

Yes, it's spring and the tortoises are awake! Here's the update from MHS Director #1 Mary Dutro, Adoption Chairperson for the California Turtle and Tortoise Club, High Desert Chapter:

Her excuse for missing the Mojave River Valley Museum's May 14 annual BBQ was a scheduled work party at the Tortoise Terraces at the Lewis Center for Educational Research in Apple Valley. Originally consisting of only four paddocks, it has now expanded to ten, each three concrete blocks high. One important job was to secure each set of three with two vertical pieces of rebar, to keep them from sliding due to rain, erosion, and possible earthquakes. In the past, several tortoises have gotten trapped under shifting concrete blocks; several others escaped onto the Lewis Center campus.

A second important job was to mark and separate the males from the females. Then there was the usual cleaning and weeding. George's Landscaping assisted by trimming the fast-growing 16-year-old trees according to Mary's instructions. Each paddock needs some shade, but not too much, as Vitamin D from sunlight is important to keep the tortoises' shells hard.

Here's the procedure for a stray tortoise: If one is turned into an animal shelter, whether it be in Barstow, Hesperia, Apple Valley, or further out, the shelter holds the tortoise for one week to see if anyone claims it. If not, Nurse Mary picks it up and examines it. If it is in good health, it goes to the Lewis Center for adoption. If not, she takes it to the Dutro Tortoise Hospital, located at her Apple Valley residence for treatment.

One of Mary's latest adventures involved a trip to the Palmdale Animal Shelter to pick up a rescue. Apparently the poor thing's owner had been murdered! The family took it to the Palmdale Police Dept., who transferred it to Palmdale Animal Control, who called You-Know-Who!

Dutro Tortoise Hospital (Mary's den) currently has two patients. One is a nearly-drowned adolescent found upside down in a large water dish, by a student volunteer who was sure it was dead. Mary knew what to do, so it is now in rehab. The second patient is Tripod #3.

In case you haven't read the Tortoise updates in the Spring 2020 and 2021 Muse editions and aren't familiar with the term, I will fill you in. These are three-legged creatures left crippled by predator attacks. Mary's not quite sure why the left front leg seems to be the one that always gets chewed off. If the animal is lucky enough to be rescued and taken to a vet, the first step is to amputate the remains of the chewed-up limb. When the wound has healed, a golf ball is cut in half, then epoxied to the shell, to both cover the wound and provide balance. Now the tortoise can walk on its remaining three legs, while sliding along on the golf ball. Ingenious!

So Tripod #1, the first to undergo this procedure, still resides with Mary, who understandably became attached to him. Tripod #2 was successfully adopted out. Tripod #3 will remain in Mary's den for now. He's just waiting for his golf ball to be cut in half and attached to become adoptable. If you want to become a foster parent to Tripod #3 or any other tortoise, Mary will walk you through the steps and tell you what's necessary to qualify. There are currently about fifty adoptable tortoises ranging in age from six or seven to "senior citizens." Don't forget, many tortoises outlive their owners, so depending upon your age, you may want to consider making future arrangements for your adopted tortoise in your will.



## Tortoise Ribbon Cutting by Marcy Taylor

You'll want to mark your calendars for this one! After 28 years basking in the hot desert sun, the Desert Tortoise "Symbol of Desert Wildlife," a 1994 C.I.P. project of the Victor Valley Women's Club, has been restored by two MHS members, Brent Gaddis and Marcy Taylor. At 3:00 PM on Wednesday June 8 we will gather on the parking lot of the Victor Valley Museum, 11873 Apple Valley Road, for a ribbon cutting and rededication of the tortoise sculpture to the Victor Valley Museum and Victor Valley Women's Club. One of the artists listed on the plaque is long-time MHS member, the late Beverly Dudley. Light refreshments will follow the ceremony. (The museum closes at 4:00, so if you want to pay admission and go inside, plan to do that prior to the 3:00 PM event).



Mother's Day visitors giving Marcy their support and admiration of the tortoise restoration project!





## Ribbon Chewing by Marcy Taylor

On Thursday May 12 at 12:00 noon a fantastic reopening event was held at the Victor Valley Animal Protective League. (VVAPL) Public Relations spokesperson Terry Sainz welcomed the crowd, and gave a brief history of the organization started by Apple Valley pioneer Dorothy Thomas in 1962. A five dollar yearly membership donation would entitle the donor to a "Living Memorial" 33 1/3 LP on the life of her husband, John Charles Thomas, an opera singer who started the KAVR radio station, which broadcast out of the Apple Valley Inn, 960 on your radio dial. The record, now a collectible, was produced by his staff.



The two hour celebration included music, presentations by local dignitaries, the Steve and Lindy Meyers Cattery dedication, tours of the facility, adoption specials, and "light refreshments" (actually a filling lunch of sandwiches, desserts, and drinks). The main event was the ribbon chewing and historical sign designation unveiling. Apple Valley Historical Advisory Committee members Tom Hoegerman, Rick Piercy, Pat Orr, Marcy Taylor, and Lena Quinonez; Town Council members Larry Cusack and Scott Nassif; Mayor Kari Leon; and Town Manager Doug Robertson did the honors. Marcy Taylor, who represents MHS on the committee, had recommended VVAPL for the historic designation about four years ago, so she was happy to see the new sign and its addition to the Apple Valley Historic Points of Interest booklet. After the ceremony, she greeted visitors and shared a display including the 33 1/3 RPM record, a letter and donor envelope from 1962, and an authentic original four-page VVAPL brochure.

Another display included two gigantic scrapbooks dating from 1958, the very same that Terry had shared with MHS members at her presentation at the Victor Valley Museum several years ago. You might remember having met her canine sidekick Millie, who was also in attendance at the ribbon chewing. A highlight for Marcy was finding in Scrapbook #1 a vintage photo of a young Diane Irwin, an original and current VVAPL supporter, holding a scared-looking kitten. Diane was happy to pose with the gigantic scrapbook, pointing the photo out. And that was not the only photo of her we found.



Thanks to the MHS members who attended the event. Folks like you supporting local history are greatly appreciated!



SBC Fair is located at  
14800 "7th" Street  
Victorville, CA 92395

Your **2022 SBC Fair** is **BACK** in its Traditional Way!  
Celebrating 75 years of Family, Food, Farm and Fun!

Visit the large display **"Celebrating 75 years of the SBC Fair"** in Building #2  
sponsored by

Mohave Historical Society, Apple Valley Legacy Museum & Victor Valley Legacy Museum.  
View

Vintage Scrapbooks, Artifacts, Posters, Signs, Memorabilia!



**BINGO is Back!**

May 28th-30th  
June 3rd-5th  
Gates open at 2:00pm  
everyday

**MOHAHVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 Founded 1964  
 Website: [www.mohahve.org](http://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](https://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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