

THE MOHAHVE MUSE



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



Volume 26 Issue 6
June 2023

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Directors: Mary Dutro, Dennis Hom, Eric Mandeson, Mike Phillips (MUSE Editor), Rick Schmidt

President's Corner

Greetings MHS members and supporters:

Once again I just want to give a big thank-you to all of you who have supported the April and May community events, either by volunteering or attending. The April 15 Oro Grande Round-up was a success thanks to good weather, the Cross-Eyed Cow folks, and our own Joe Manners, who was in charge of the car show. A string of events followed: The May 6 Apple Valley Flea Market in Lions Park, the Santa Fe Trading Company Crafts Fair in Old Town Victorville, and the Mojave River Valley Museum BBQ in Barstow, both May 13, as well as the Thursday night Concerts in the Courtyard during the month of May. Thanks to Mary Dutro, Patty Hedges, Carol Johnson, Karen Scott, Mike Phillips, Jimmy Yarrow, Dennis Hom, Delvin Harbour, Stormie Reid, and Eric Mandeson for working one or more of these events. It's a lot of work, that's for sure, but we make some bucks, meet new and interesting folks, and keep our name out there. Read this issue and you will see just how active we've been! And please be sure to check the Community Events calendar on page 2, as some dates have changed.



Promoting MHS and the new monument at AV Concerts in the Courtyard



Jimmy and Mary at the Apple Valley Flea Market in Lions Park with our new MHS banner

Marcy

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

MHS Upcoming Events

- Jun. 22 **MHS Mtg.** Anne Roark "Doble, the Forgotten Ghost Town and Mine near Big Bear"
- Jun. 24 **Fieldtrip. 10am**, Big Bear Museum
- Jul. 22 **Fieldtrip. 10am**, Cajon Pass Tour, Parts 1 and 2
- 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**

June General Meeting by Marcy Taylor



Doble Schoolhouse 1908

May was Lucerne month. June will be Big Bear month. Our Thurs. June 22 speaker at the Lone Wolf Colony will be the knowledgeable **Anne Roark**, whose topic will be "Doble, the Forgotten Ghost Town and Mine Near Big Bear." She is the author of

two books, and a popular speaker, with more than one presentation ready to go, so I am sure we will all learn a lot about this little known community in the mountains. As usual, doors open at 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start time.

The following Saturday, June 24, we will meet at the Big Bear Frontier Town and History Museum (their new name) at 10:00am at 800 B Greenway Drive, Big Bear, 92314. Take Highway 18 east through Lucerne Valley (about 16 miles from Apple Valley or Hesperia), and stay to your right at the split to continue on Highway 18. You will be going up the 18% grade about 20 more miles to Big Bear. Turn left on Greenway and you will reach the museum in less than half a mile. Allow 45 minutes to an hour driving time. This is a trip you won't want to miss! Sign up at the Lone Wolf Colony meeting, at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum, or by calling (760) 985-1918.

Community Events

Apple Valley Summer Concert Series,

Civic Center Park

June 8,15,22,29 July 13,20,27

6-9pm **

- Jun 13 11:30, **Friends of Apple Valley Library Mtg** Newton T Bass Library, Presenters MHS Members Dennis and Stephanie Hom, "Life in Saudi Arabia"
- 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 **
- 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



MHS members tended the booth and enjoyed the annual MVRM BBQ.

Ex MHS President Jim Mustra (on the right front) relaxing with friends in the shade.

April Meeting by Marcy Taylor

It was a full house Thursday April 27 at the Lone Wolf Colony to hear board member Eric Mandeson present "Lucerne Valley- In the Middle of Everywhere!" focusing on Lucerne's monuments and the rest of Lucerne's "monumental history." Each of the 34 members and 3 guests in attendance received a ten-page color booklet highlighting 8 of the 10 stops scheduled for the following day's fieldtrip. The beautiful photos and the snippets of history on each page made for a great souvenir, which could be either purchased for \$5 or borrowed and returned. Of course, if you missed the presentation and fieldtrip, or forgot your cash, the booklet will be available at future meetings and at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum.



In addition to Eric's informative and entertaining talk, attendees were treated to tables full of books, with sections highlighting Lucerne Valley, vintage Lucerne Valley photographs, and interesting artifacts such as the famous "Bunny Duck" sold at a local motel, and the large section of a Greco-Roman arch, confiscated from the Nelson Studios prop site. Best of all, long-time MHS member and Lucerne Valley pioneer Martha Rader was in attendance, to add some details to the presentation and answer questions. You can find her contributions all through the book



"Lucerne Valley: A Wild West Town of Character (s)," and on page 142 of Mohave 6, where she is pictured in 1956 with her tall handsome late husband Chuck, a resident of Lucerne since 1953. Thanks, Eric, for introducing this interesting town to the many people who said they only zipped through it on the way to Big Bear.

E Clampus Vitus Greybeards Dinner by Marcy Taylor

I have something to add to my resume. I was informed that I may be the only female to ever attend not one, but two E Clampus Vitus Billy Holcomb Chapter 1069 Greybeards dinners. My first experience was in October of 2021, when I attended with Councilman Art Bishop, at the invitation of Noble Grand Humbug (NGH) Eric "Pirate" Peterson. He presided over the placement of their first monument in Apple Valley, a tribute to Roy Rogers, which stands at Horseman's Center Park beside the flag pole. I represented the Apple Valley Legacy Museum and MHS, while Art represented the Town of Apple Valley. Quite a few MHS members and a slew of Rogers relatives were at the dedication of this monument the following Sunday.

Friday April 28, I attended my second dinner at the invitation of NGH Dennis Parker of Hesperia. I had to do triple duty this year, as Councilman Bishop was on a previously planned camping trip with his grandchildren. These extravagant dinners, served in the open air, are attended by the current NGH (That's the guy who is sponsoring the monument) and lots of past NGHs, all of whom have placed monuments in historic sites of their choice, dating back to Oct. 1969 when their first monument was placed at Las Flores Ranch in Hesperia.

The Friday night dinners kick off the Clampout (that is not a typo) weekend, which culminates with the monument dedication on Sunday morning. Clampouts are held twice yearly, in April and October. Every six months a new Noble Grand Humbug is in charge, placing a monument of his choice at the site of his choice (or course with permission of the property owner.) The Sunday ceremonies, which are open to the public, are complete with speakers, a detailed booklet of the history of the site, t-shirts, and a lot of ceremony.

My thanks go out to NGH Dennis Parker of Hesperia. Providing him with a bit of history of Deadman's Point, the Western Village, the race track, the rock sitter, and the movies made there, was a small thank-you for the tremendous amount of help he and his fellow Clampers have given to MHS over the past few years. They voluntarily attached 3

new plaques to damaged monuments, and sealed another five against the elements, providing the materials and manpower to get the job done.

Well, I'll say this. Those Clampers do know how to have a good time, prepare and serve a gourmet meal, and treat a lady right, all in the name of preserving local history. The highlight of the evening was the screening of the 1955 movie "Tarantula" on a picture perfect evening at Horseman's Center. In addition to recognizable scenes at Dead-



man's Point, it was easy to spot cars racing down a nearly deserted Highway 18, with Bell Mountain and Catholic Hill clearly visible in the background. This early attempt at special effects, in the era of giant creature films, was somewhat corny, but nevertheless entertaining, frightening, and almost believable. There were even reports of frantic locals making calls to the Victorville Sheriff's Office of a giant creature roaming the desert! (I am not making this up!) And our desert was definitely the ideal place to shoot this period film, and Horseman's Center was the perfect place to enjoy it.

Mary's Spring 2023 Tortoise Report by Marcy Taylor

On Monday April 17, Mary Dutro, otherwise known as "The Tortoise Lady," made a quick stop at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum where Mike and Marcy were hard at work on the May "Muse." She handed us a carton of "boxed water" and said she had to rush off to check on seven desert tortoises, whose "mother" had been hospitalized.

"What's so great about boxed water?" Mike asked.

"Oh, it's not just the water that's so great," Marcy replied. "It cuts down on litter. The box just evaporates into thin air if someone tosses it."

Well, of course, Mary didn't like my sense of humor. So she explained to Mike how she learned that "Boxed Water is Better" when she attended the 50th Anniversary of the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area held in California City last March. (If you have a good memory, you read about that excursion in the May "Muse.") The packaging of Boxed Water is made of 52% renewable materials, mostly paper, and its contents are pure pH neutral water with no additives, a great alternative to the bottled water sold in plastic containers and the many drinks that come in aluminum cans. If a careless person disposes of a Boxed Water container in the great outdoors, the box is guaranteed to disintegrate on its own, thus not ending up in a landfill.



And Mary was off! As it turns out, an elderly lady, who had suffered a spinal injury, was being admitted to the hospital, and from there would be sent to rehab. Her four female and three male tortoises, the first adopted in 1958 and the last in 1998, were all healthy and well-taken care of, but their home was in Blythe. Domestic tortoises cannot just be released into the wild, as 95% of them have a respiratory illness that, if passed onto their relatives in the wild, could decimate the local population. Since tortoises greet each other by sniffing noses, and wild tortoises have no immunity to the disease, domestic tortoises need someone to adopt them. The seven were all wide awake and needing to be fed, and the kindly neighbor who reported the problem could not take care of them indefinitely. Fortunately Mary's partner in Lucerne Valley, Regene Fonville, agreed to meet the lady half way and bring them back home to temporary

housing in Lucerne.

When Mary was relating this story to me, I wondered if there are not other people who can help with the tortoise rescue operation. What, I asked, are the boundaries of her territory, or is there is such a thing? Well, the answer is NO. There are no boundaries. The only other chapter in this area is in Lancaster, but Fish and Wildlife first call Mary, as she is the Adoption Chairperson, who has the authorization to keep and transport the tortoises. In addition, Fish and Wildlife policy requires the males and females in captivity to be kept separated, and to leave it up to the "wild ones" to act wild and reproduce. Interesting!

Here are the current problems: #1-The tortoise habitats are overloaded. The Lewis Center habitat, for which Mary is responsible, was intended to have no more than 4 tortoises in each of the 10 paddocks, but 66 tortoises currently reside there, all wide awake and needing to be fed. The Lucerne site is also over capacity. So far this spring Mary has had 5 calls with concerns or questions, but no adoptions. She is taking care of three six-month old babies born Oct. 19, now about 1 1/2 inches long, at her house, along with the hospital patients that live there permanently. #2- The great California Exodus to Texas, Florida, and other non-desert states, has compounded the problem. Either people turn the animals in like they are supposed to when they leave California, or they take the tortoises along, where they die in an unfriendly climate. Our state reptile needs a desert habitat! #3- People adopt cute baby African spur tortoises, not realizing they are going to grow VERY BIG (as in 170 pounds) so many are turned in.

Solution: Call Mary Dutro at (760) 247-2364 or Regene Fonville at (760) 248-9264 and they will inform you of your rights and responsibilities re. our beloved tortoises. Adoptive parents, who meet certain requirements, are greatly needed, and these two ladies will be happy to get you started down the right path.



\$15
MINER'S TO MOVIES
T-SHIRT SALE

Size
XL

Get yours today!
AVLM
760-985-1918



Pocketed T-shirt with pocket, sleeve and back designs!

Rick, Delvin, Marcy and Eric sporting their "Miner's to Movies" Tarantula T-shirts!

"Miners to Movie" Monument at Dead Man's Point

By Marcy Taylor

Of the eight MHS members in attendance at the dedication of the second E Clampus Vitus monument placed in the Town of Apple Valley, for five of them it was their first experience. The members of the Billy Holcomb Chapter 1069 were out in full force in their signature red shirts and black leather vests, many covered with decals of past events. Also front and center were



the large group wearing the blue PBC (Poor Blind Candidate) vests, anxious to complete their initiation and become full-fledged members of the chapter.

To start things off, Dennis Parker welcomed everyone and introduced Paul Renner, who read the detailed history of the site and the purpose of the monument. As Dead Man's Point is half-way between Lucerne Valley and Apple Valley, and claimed by both, author Doc Johnson provided a brief history of both towns. This was followed by sections on the naming of Dead Man's Point, the Western town often used as a filming site, the go-cart track, the "rock sitter" story, as well as the history of mining and movie making, thus explaining the monument's title "Miners to Movies."

The next speaker was MHS President Marcy Taylor, who thanked the group for placing Apple Valley's second monument, and for the invite to the Greybeard's dinner and screening of the 1955 "Tarantula" movie. She also expressed her appreciation to NGH Dennis Parker and crew, who gave of their time and expertise to refurbish and seal a number of Mohave Historical Society monuments in need of tender loving care.

Next Marcy shared a bit about the history of movie making at Dead Man's Point, in particular "Tarantula." Of special historic interest were two items from Past MHS President Richard Thompson's research. The six-page "Universal International Summary of Production Budget" covers the dates of June 1-16, 1955, with 14 days of studio work and four days of on-site shoot-

ing in Apple Valley. (It doesn't say Lucerne!) Included are a complete list of itemized costs such as wardrobe, hotel, meals, sets, crew, and extras totaling \$346,625, not including cast. The



second document dated June 9, 1955, is a Sheriff's report, citing a large number of hysterical locals calling about a monstrous spider terrorizing the town. They were apparently disappointed to find out that it was only a movie and not some creature from outer space descending upon the desert!

If you have not seen the "Miners to Movies" monument, complete with Tarantula on top, take a drive to Dead Man's Point. The site is just outside the town limits of Apple Valley, where Bear Valley Road and Highway 18 meet. Park, walk on



over to the monument, look around, and just imagine that there are no cars and trucks speeding by. What a great spot for filming, with a backdrop of these spectacular rock formations in our beautiful Mojave Desert.

Danger! Danger!! Tarantula suspected of roaming Apple Valley !



The "Miner's to Movies" monument with the Tarantula on top was dedicated April 30. The E Clampus Vitus crowd departed. But the Tarantula still seems to be roaming around Apple Valley! When Delvin and Marcy returned to check on the monument, the Tarantula appeared and scared the life out of them! He reappeared at the May 11 Courtyard Concert when Marcy and Patty were trying to do a promo and sell some t-shirts. Who knows, he's probably lurking around somewhere near you.



Better Beware!

Exploring the Historic Sites in Lucerne Valley by Marcy Taylor

We once again got lucky on the weather Friday April 28, the day 19 MHS members met at the Chimney Rock monument on Highway 18 and Rabbit Springs Road to begin the Lucerne Valley historic sites tour, hosted by board member Eric Mandeson. Stop #1, the site of the 1867 last battle between the local Indians and white settlers, actually has two monuments that



discuss the ongoing conflicts over land. One was erected by the E Clampus Vitus group, and the second is Ca. State Historical Marker #737. On top is a peephole directing your eye to the actual chimney rock formation, a short distance away.

Stops #2, #3, and #4 were all right up the road. We were fascinated by Nelson Studios, a prop house specializing in ancient Greco and Roman artifacts. A return trip to this site may be in order, as there are quite a large number of interesting objects still on the property. Next we were off to the Lucerne Valley Memorial Park, where we stopped at the pioneer section, to observe a whole area of gravestones bearing the names of early settlers. Right across the highway we found the remains of the Box S Ranch, the site that was the beginning of what was to become Lucerne Valley in 1905. "Lucerne," the French word for alfalfa, reflects the agricultural roots of the area.

After a short rest stop at Pioneer Park, adjacent to the Lucerne Valley Historical Society (outdoor) Museum, it was off to stop #5, Old Woman's Springs Ranch east of town. It got its name in 1856 when a group of Native American women were found camping at the water source. Two fairly recent Clampers monuments placed in 2019 can be found at Stop #6 on Camp Rock Road north of the highway. One is dedicated to the Mitsubishi Cement Company's Cushenbury Plant, and the



second honors the 50th Anniversary of ECV Billy Holcomb Chapter 1069, which was established in October of 1969 (get it?) Both monuments have tubes on top that direct your eye to the hills above the cement plant, where limestone was once mined for steel production, and is still processed and distributed world-



wide. On our way to Stop #7, we pulled over in front of the third Lucerne Valley school house, which has been meticulously preserved and is still in use as an event center. Martha Rader related how she and her husband of many years had met at a dance there, and the rest is history!

Further down the road we came to Rabbit Springs, full of clear water, where we took advantage of a perfect group photo op



under the famous hanging tree.

(Cont'd on page 7)

(Cont'd from page 6)

Many thieves and rustlers met their end right there. A short walk down the road took us to Stop #8, the gravesite of Uncle Pete Davidson, who is considered to be the "Father of Lucerne Valley." Although his grave marker is on the side of the road, his actual grave site is said to be safe and sound under the asphalt.

We weren't quite finished yet. Most field-trippers liked the last stop best of all, where they were treated to a delicious



lunch and tour of Eric's beautiful hacienda in the hills above Lucerne Valley. Eric was not only a great guide and booklet-maker, but an outstanding host as well. What a beautiful day to kick back and enjoy the plants and birds and gorgeous desert scenery!



Now who says Lucerne Valley isn't a great place to visit and a tour...

Read all about the reburial of the 1990 Time Capsule in the July MUSE!



Oro Grande Roundup by Marcy Taylor

The Route 66 in Oro Grande was the place to be April 15 as the cowboys and cowgirls, a couple of horses, custom cars



enthusiasts, food vendors, and all kinds of folks came out to enjoy the beautiful weather and rock and roll music courtesy of DJ Ken Dog. Visitors could browse the antique stores, check out



the booths showcasing all kinds of things to see or purchase, try their luck spinning the prize wheel or buying a raffle ticket or two, watch the shoot-out, enter the costume contest, order a pizza, or just have some good old fashion fun. One popular booth was shared by three non-profits: the Apple Valley Legacy Museum, the Victor Valley Legacy Museum, and the Mohave Historical Society, all offering loads of vintage items for sale. A

big shout-out goes to the sponsors, Cross-Eyed Cow Pizza and Southwest Portland Cement, for putting on such a great family event and showcasing the old Route 66 and Railroad town of Oro Grande!



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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____
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 CITY: _____
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 EMAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

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

MEMBERSHIP DATE: ____/____/____

Newsletter (MUSE) delivery option:
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RENEWAL NEW MEMBER

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 Please make your check out to:
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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
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