

THE MOHAHVE MUSE



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

Volume 25 Issue 3
March 2022

President: Marcy Taylor, **VP:** Delvin Harbour, **Treasurer:** Carol Wiley, **Rec Secy:** Julie Moffat, **Corres Secy:** Therese Moore
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President's Corner

Hello MHS members,

Happy almost spring (Mar. 20), and Happy St. Patrick's Day (Mar. 17) to all you Irishmen out there! And don't forget to "spring forward" Mar. 13. You will lose an hour of the day, or maybe night, but can appreciate the later sunsets. Here's the news:

I made the third trip to Pioneertown and picked up the last marble plaque to complete our monument repairs. As soon as the weather can be counted on to have two warm days and nights in a row so the epoxy will properly set, Dennis Parker and crew from E Clampus Vitus will attach the "Rivers" and "Bridges" plaques down on C. Street at the Victor Valley Memorial Park entrance. To continue my new obsession with finding and photographing Clampers monuments, I added "Pioneertown," which is in front of their little post office, and on the way back "Mitsubishi Cement Corporation, Cushenbury Plant" and "Billy Holcomb Chapter 1069 of the E Clampus Vitus 50th Anniversary," both in Lucerne. This was my second attempt to locate them after a first failure. Yes, the "local" monuments are quite spread out.

MHS has been a long-time member of the Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce. As you may know, the cities of Hesperia, Adelanto, and Victorville, and the Town of Apple Valley have combined their Chambers to form the Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce. There are two offices: 15428 Civic Drive #310, in Victorville, and the old Apple Valley Office at 16010 Apple Valley Road in the Spirit River Center. We have received the Jan. Feb. March "Insight Magazine" and an invitation to the 3rd annual "An Evening Affaire," previously hosted by the Victor Valley Chamber at the Mall of Victor Valley. The combined event will take place in a new location, at the Desert Valley Hospital Community Building at the Fairgrounds on 7th Street. Advanced tickets can be purchased at either office for \$50. There will

be no tickets sold at the door.

MHS has also been a long-time member of the Council of California Historical Societies. They host many yearly events, including large conventions, usually not local. We were asked two important questions: 1. Would we like to host a convention in our area? I responded with a resounding YES. We will see. This may be like a tiny country offering to host the Olympics. 2. Do we have someone we would like to nominate for a preserving history award. Again YES. The paperwork has been submitted. We will reveal the identity of the nominee if he/she is accepted. (Board members: Remember, this is top secret stuff, so please do not spill the beans ahead of time.)

All membership directories have either been picked up or mailed out. A reminder- You had to submit your information by filling out the form if you wished to be included in and receive the directory.

Remember to sign up for the upcoming fieldtrips. March through December sign-up sheets will be available at MHS meetings and fieldtrips, and at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum, along with a folder of information on each trip. Further information will be provided monthly in the Muse. See dates and times on page 2. You can also add your name to a trip by calling (760) 985-1918. Please, if you sign up, show up. Thankfully, we had a great group and very few "no shows." in Barstow.

Two years ago at "The Good Old Days in Apple Valley," Don Holland gave a presentation on Capt. Joseph McConnell, decorated Air Force pilot from Apple Valley. Upcoming events are planned for 2022, his Centennial Year. See page 5 for details.

Thanks to all of you for supporting local history.

Marcy

MHS Upcoming Events

- Mar. 24 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm Lone Wolf Colony
Rebecca Dougherty "Annie Rikert,
Calico's Lady Miner"
- Mar. 26 **Field Trip** 11:00am, Desert Springs Ranch
Mojave River Crossing,
- Apr. 28 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm, Lone Wolf Colony
Nelson Miller- "Black Mountain and
Inscription Canyon"
- Apr. 30 **Fieldtrip** 8:30am, Meet at MRVM
Black Mountain and Inscription Canyon
- May 26 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm, Lone Wolf Colony
Delvin Harbour "The History of Ham Radio
on the Desert"
- May 28 **Fieldtrip** 10:00am, Route 66 Museum
Victorville
- Jun. 23 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm, Lone Wolf Colony
Marcy Taylor "The Amazing Influence of
Dale Evans"
- Jun. 25 **"Saturday Night Bath"** 6:30pm
Movie at Apple Valley Legacy Museum
- Jul. Tbd **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:** 5:30pm, History and hike to
Hilltop House with refreshments at AVLM
- Oct. 27 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm, Lone Wolf Colony
- Oct. 29 **Field Trip** TBD
- Nov. 17 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm, Lone Wolf Colony
- Dec. 15 **MHS Christmas Party**

Community Upcoming Events

- Apr. 2 4:30-8:00pm, AVLM honoring Centennial of
Capt. Joe McConnell, AV Inn
- Apr. 3 1:00pm, Ceremony Victor Valley Memorial
Park in honor of Capt. McConnell
- Apr. 9 10:00am-5:00pm, Oro Grande Days
- May. 7 10:00am-4:00pm, Santa Fe Trading
Company Crafts Fair, Victorville
- May.14 10:00am-4:00pm, Mojave River Valley
Museum BBQ, Barstow
- Jun. 11 10:00am-3:00pm, AV Village Street Fair
and Car Show, James Woody Park, Apple
Valley
- Aug. 13 8:00am-1:00pm, AV Flea Market,
Lions Park, Apple Valley
- Oct. 1 10:00am-3:00pm, AV Village Parade and
Car Show
- Oct. 8 AV Air Show, AV Airport



Rebecca Dougherty - March Speaker

The Thursday March 24 meeting at the Lone Wolf Colony will feature re-enactor Rebecca Dougherty, presenting "Annie Rikert: Calico's Lady Miner."

Rebecca should know a thing or two or three about Calico, as she is the owner of a shop known as "Odessa Red's Parlour Crafts and Curiosities," a member of the Calico Mountain Gunfighters, and a 2010 inductee into the Calico Hall of Fame. According to her bio, "Odessa Red is an award winning Living History performer and Southern California native



dedicated to preserving the Old West and Victorian ways of educating through entertainment. She can be found engaging in train robberies, Victorian fashion shows, parades, ... costume contests, and gun fight skits." Rebecca was also instrumental in creating the community event Oro Grande Days, of which we were a part last spring. So saddle up and come on over to see the show!

IN MEMORIAM

Mike DeJarnette
Diana Hobbs

*Our sincere and deepest condolences to
Ellen DeJarnette and Gary Hobbs
For the recent loss of their spouse.*



2022 MHS Annual Member Renewal

The Mohave Historical Society Board of Directors extend their thanks and appreciation to the annual members who renewed their membership for 2022. The membership funds received are used to pay the facility rental for the general meetings, liability insurance, Internet hosting, PO Box usage, MUSE mailing and a number of other essential expenses.

MARCH FIELD TRIP.

The Sat. March 26 fieldtrip will return us to the Turner Road in Victorville, the area known as Lane's Crossing. When you see a large archway at the entrance to Desert Springs Ranch, and two monuments, one placed by the Clampers, and the other recently refurbished monument placed by MHS, you will know you are in the right spot. (If you attended the June 2021 driving fieldtrip, you were there. See page 7 of the Monuments booklet.) At that time we talked about the importance of this ancient cross-roads of Indian and pioneer trails along the river, later followed by the railroad, and then the Route 66. Why was this spot so important? WATER. This spot originally known as Adelanto Springs, was a welcome sight for those traveling across the desert.



Several people on the prior trip marveled at the beautiful Desert Springs Ranch house beyond the arch, and the unusual pool down in front. Wouldn't it be nice if we could see that property? Well, the time has come! Kelly Osborne, who with her late husband purchased the property in 2008, has agreed to give us a tour along with a history lesson, some information gleaned from documents she inherited with the property. You won't want to miss this one!

Meet at 11:00 A.M. at the arch. Traveling west on D Street towards Oro Grande, pass the freeway, pass Air Expressway, and immediately turn left onto Turner Road. Continue about 1/2 mile to the meeting spot. The tour will be followed by snacks. If you are still hungry, might I recommend stopping at Emma Jeans, an old Route 66 gathering spot (with another Clampers monument) which you will probably have passed on the way out. It is open for breakfast and lunch daily.

To sign up for this trip or any future trip, stop by the AV Legacy Museum or call (760) 985-1918.

National Scenic ByWay Celebration by Marcy Taylor

The one-year anniversary of the National Scenic Byway, which stretches from Needles west to Barstow, was held in Needles Sat. Feb. 12. The El Garces, the Needles Harvey House train station, was full of excitement, as supporters set up Sat. morning. The outside grounds featured a car show, a rockin' DJ spinning vintage Rt. 66-era tunes, and delicious-smelling food cooking on the BBQ grill. Inside about 20 tables lined the walls, each representing a different museum or organization, with volunteers handing out brochures and maps, offering for-sale items, or both, and sharing information and interests. The Bureau of Land Management, the Mojave Desert Land Trust, the Needles Museum, Needles City Council, the Route 66 Association California East, the Goffs Museum, and Rt. 66 enthusiasts from as far away as Texas and Illinois were among those in attendance.



MHS Vice-President Delvin Harbour, also a board member of the Ca. Route 66 Association, and a volunteer at the Victorville Route 66 Museum, was a busy man. He was working several booths, taking photos, and assisting where needed, wearing both his MHS cap and Rt. 66 Association t-shirt. My table, registered as the Victor Valley Legacy Museum, also included for-sale items from the Apple Valley Legacy Museum and Mohave Historical Society. There was a lot of interest, some sales of books, decals, and other items, and a great chance to spread the word.

The event included tours of the Harvey House and visits to the Needles Museum, located directly across the street. The drive out gave me a chance to stop at and photograph 5 more Clampers monuments: the Slash X Ranch and Stoddard Wells Road (both at the same location,) Newberry Springs, and finally Army Camp at Goffs Desert Training Center and Goffs Schoolhouse (also both at the same location.) What a great and educational two-day excursion!



Smithsonian Traveling Green Book Display by Marcy Taylor

After a two-week closure, the California Museum in Sacramento, located at 10th and "O" Street, just two blocks from the Capitol and not far from the Riverfront, re-opened Feb 3.

The "Smithsonian Traveling Green Book Exhibit" has been extended until March 3, so you still have time to make it. The Museum offered glimpses of periods of California history, of which most of us are not proud, including the treatment of the Native Americans, the Japanese, the Chinese, and other minorities.



Candacy Taylor, curator of the exhibit and author of the best-selling "Overground Railroad," just completed a young adult version of the book, intended for ages 12

and older, dedicated to her mom, who instilled in her a love for reading and writing at a young age. The expansive Green Book display introduces guests to Victor Hugo Green, author of the series of travel guides that intended to safely guide minorities



through parts of the country where they clearly weren't welcome, with the preface: "Carry your Green Book with you. You may need it." Not only in the Jim Crow South, but all across the country, travelers could encounter signs such as "Whites Only," "Colored Entrance," and the threatening "This is Ku Klux Klan

Country."

Green's guide was printed and updated from 1936 until the mid-1960's, with Mr. Green's comment: "Hopefully there will come a day when this guide is not needed anymore." And then Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated.

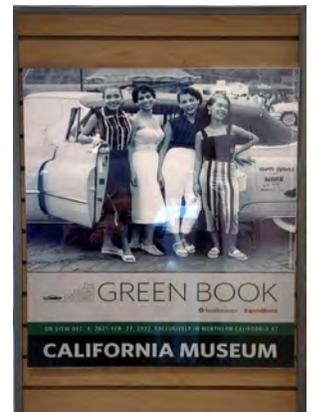
It is hard for me to describe the emotion I experienced when



seeing a huge photo of Bell Mountain, and beside it our Murray's Overall Wearing Dude Ranch display, complete with the pages of the Feb. 1947 issue of Ebony Magazine, the barbed wire, horseshoes, postcard, and other artifacts of the ranch that I sent to Washington, D.C. It brought back a flood of memories of my husband and I being denied service in the Texas panhandle even in the 1970's, as well as his childhood stories of going in the back door of stores and sitting in the balcony of movie theatres when visiting family in Floyd, Virginia. It triggered thoughts of two cousins, both of mixed race, and seven other students being integrated into a white school, which made front-page news in the Jan. 18, 1960 edition of the "Floyd Press." It was a peaceful small-town transition, unlike what was happening in Little Rock and other places.

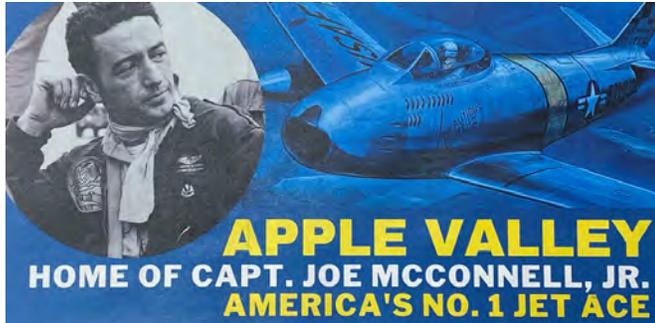
So let's hear it for the Murrays (and later ranch owners Louis Bellson and Pearl Bailey) for their forward thinking and welcoming spirit. When Victorville was a "sundown town," and the CC&Rs of Apple Valley real estate documents restricted who could own property or even live there, the Murray's Ranch welcomed everyone. Their Easter Sunday Sunrise services, their swimming pool, horses, and jukebox, their Little League ball-games, as well as the celebrities who frequented the ranch, are well remembered by the long-time locals here in Apple Valley.

My thanks to Mohave Historical Society's Fran Elgin for providing the 1947 Ebony Magazine, and to Candacy Taylor, curator of the exhibit, for visiting Apple Valley and bringing this important part of local history to light. The drive to Sacramento to the California Museum to see the Green Book exhibit, as well as the many other informative and thought-provoking displays, is well worth the trip.



Capt. Joe McConnell Centennial by Marcy Taylor

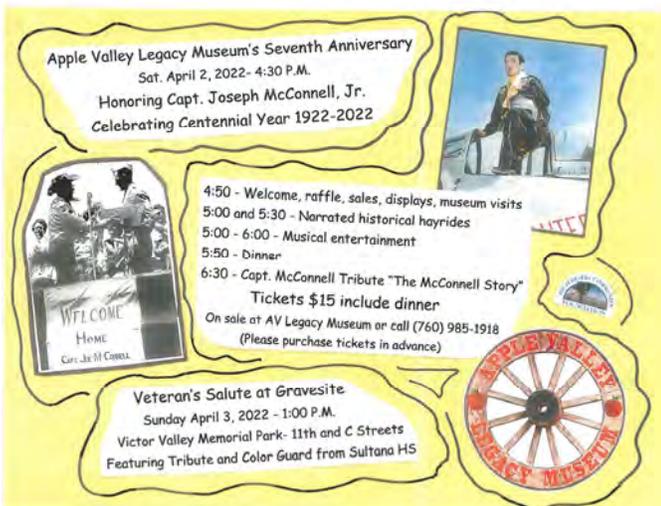
The High Desert Community is preparing to celebrate the Centennial of Captain Joseph McConnell, Jr., Triple Jet Ace Pilot of the Korean War. During his career, he was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, and the Air Medal for his aerial combat successes, being honored at the White House by President Eisenhower.



A native of Delaware, McConnell eventually settled in Apple Valley when stationed at George Air Force Base. To honor their hometown hero, the residents of Apple Valley built the family a home, known as the Appreciation House, in only 45 hours, breaking the speed record for home construction.

During the month of April several events and activities have been planned to honor Capt. McConnell's centennial year. These include a display at Town hall, a map of local McConnell sites courtesy of the AV Legacy Museum, a Sat. April 2 event at the AVLM, a ceremony at the Victor Valley Cemetery Sunday April 3, as well as permanent exhibits at the AV Airport and Victor Valley Museum.

Tickets for the Sat. event will be on sale at the AV Legacy Museum or by calling (760) 985-1918. If you plan to attend, please buy your ticket in advance. Thank you.



Editor's note: During a dog fight with a MiG-15, Joe's F86 Sabre sustained severe wing and engine damage, but before bailing out, he barrel rolled, came in below and behind, opened fire with the Sabre's six Browning AN-M3 .50-caliber (12.7 x 99 NATO) machine gun and shot down the MiG-15. Joe was rescued from the Yellow Sea within 2 minutes of entering the water. Joe later remarked, "I barely got wet."

The Cambridge Family's Continuing Work Preserving Local History by Marcy Taylor

You may remember reading in the December issue of the Muse about MHS member Bob Cambridge being elected the first president of the Apple Valley branch of the Desert Seekers, a junior organization dedicated to studying and preserving local history. You might also remember that same article mentioning Bob's donation of Native American artifacts from his great grandfather's Indian Museum to the Mohave River Valley Museum in Barstow. So let me bring you up to date.



On Sat. Jan. 22 Bob and his daughter Felisha Collum handled the outside grounds tours of the Apple Valley Inn. In his younger days Bob had some first-hand experience with the "goings-on" at the Inn, as a teenager working in the kitchen and assisting with the weekly steakfries. It was fun to hear him share some of those stories.



The following Saturday, Jan. 29, a group of MHS field-trippers to Barstow were treated to a tour of the Mojave River Valley Museum. The inside tour included a glass display case of beautiful Native American artifacts, part of the collection from his family's Indian museum. In addition, Bob donated a large number of manos Y metates to the Apple Valley Museum. Visitors can try their hand at grinding corn into flour the Indian way, finding out it's not as easy as it looks.



MOHAHVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Email address: mohahve64@gmail.com Website: www.mohahve.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

ANNUAL: FAMILY/COUPLE \$30 SINGLE \$20

STUDENT AGE: STUDENT \$10 BUSINESS \$35

LIFETIME: FAMILY/COUPLE \$200 SINGLE \$150

RENEWAL NEW MEMBER

Questions? Call (760) 985-1918

Please make your check out to:
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Mail the completed form and your payment 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)



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 is not.



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