

# THE MOHAHVE MUSE

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



*Volume 25 Issue 5*  
*May 2022*

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

## *President's Corner*

Hello, loyal MHS members, and welcome to our new members:

Not a month has gone by that we haven't increased our membership, this month adding another 8 to our roles. And it's great to have a new monthly paper, "**The Pulse**," to highlight community events. I will have monthly issues for you to pick up at MHS meetings or at the AV Legacy Museum. The paper is being published by Jim Conkle of Route 66 fame, a true historian, and the first two issues, March and April, are full of both local events and fascinating stories about local history. Their slogan TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) sure describes the MHS.

We have over the past few years taken fieldtrips to locations in most of the Victor Valley cities, as well as trips to Barstow and the Mojave River Valley area and Camp Cañon, and have outings planned to Wrightwood, Big Bear, and Boron. We have partnered with the Lone Wolf Colony, Apple Valley Historic Advisory Committee, Apple Valley and Victor Valley Legacy Museums, the Town of Apple Valley, Santa Fe Trading Company, Victor Valley Memorial Park, the Village in Apple Valley, the town of Oro Grande, and other area museums to participate in public events and to provide educational experiences to our membership.

Projects in progress: "Mohahve Historical Society Monuments" second edition is in the works, currently being updated by Julie and Marcy. We still have a very few copies of the first edition available. Apple Valley Historic Advisory Committee has sent the second edition of "Apple Valley Historic Points of Interest" Book 1 to the printer. (As a reminder, the loaner drafts given out on the driving field trip do need to be returned.) "Apple Valley Historic Points of Interest" Book 2 is being formatted by Tom Hoegerman and will be in print soon. "The Apple Valley Airport" booklet, also in the editing stage, is the project of Marcy and Lena Quiñonez from the Town. Meanwhile, Rick Piercy is working on the script and narration for a local driving tour, being pro-

duced at the Lewis Center.

The MHS Events schedule has been updated, and a few events have been added to the Community Events Calendar. Be sure to mark your calendars.

I would like to present member Maryann Christy with 2 awards: "The Most Excited Researcher" award, and "The Most Frequent Book Buyer" award. Actually these awards don't exist, but if they did, she would certainly deserve them. She also had kind words to say that I would like to share with you:



"Thanks 2-fold. Gene and I did find and took a photo of Seals and Turner Road. I was so excited! A little more of the "Seals Bros. Garage" mystery solved. Joe Manners added some information about what "Durant and Star" meant. "Durant" was a make of car in 1924, and "Star" was a truck type. ...I've read more than half of the book Stormie sent home with me! I jumped to the back and was so thrilled to see a picture of some of the early MHS people who made the Mohahve book series possible. My mom

had one of the Mohahves signed by some of them years and years ago. Now I have some of their faces. Thanks for organizing Sat. fieldtrip. It was one of the best trips of the ones I've been able to go to."

I might add that Maryann is also very excited to finally have the Tortoise sculpture repaired, thanks to Brent Gaddis, as her mom's name (Beverly Dudley) is on the plaque. Now the happy creature is just waiting for a fresh coat of paint! (Note: The book referred to is Leo Lyman's "Story of the Victor Valley," and the trip referred to was to Lane's Crossing and the home on Turner Road currently owned by Kelly Osborne.) Thank you, Maryann. You make it all worthwhile.

## MHS Upcoming Events

- May 26 **MHS Mtg.** 7:00pm, Lone Wolf Colony  
Delvin Harbour "The History of Ham Radio  
on the Desert". Doors open at 6:30pm
- 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". Doors open at 6:30pm
- Jun. 25 **"Saturday Night Bath in Apple Valley"**  
6:30pm. Movie at AVL
- 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:** 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** Captain McConnell Driving Tour
- 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.5 6-8pm, AV "Concerts in the Courtyard"  
12,19,26 Dale Evans Pkwy and Hwy 18.
- May. 7 **\*\*10:00am-4:00pm**, Santa Fe Trading  
Company Crafts Fair, Victorville
- May 12 12-2pm, VV Animal Protection League  
Open House, 21779 Zuni Rd. Apple Valley
- May.14 **\*\*9:00am-5:00pm**, Mojave River Valley  
Museum BBQ, 270 Virginia Way, Barstow
- Jun. 11 **\*\*10:00am-2:00pm**, 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-2:00pm**, AV Village Parade and  
Car Show.

**\*\* MHS booth at all these events**

## Welcome New Members!

Jamie Cordova, Terry Freedman  
Leslie Haynes, Maria Norman  
Kelly Osborne & Family  
Tami Smart, Maria Stroup  
Tracey Thompson

## Membership Information

Total Active Membership 116  
Life Members 31 Annual Members 85

## Delvin Harbour - May Speaker and Field Trip Leader

Our May 26 speaker and May 28 fieldtrip host is none other than our VP **Delvin Harbour**. Here's a little bit about Delvin: He was born and raised in Southern Cal, living in the Ontario and Cucamonga areas. He moved to the Victor Valley in 1985, currently residing in Apple Valley. He's always had an interest in all things historical, including his own family history, local history, and Route 66 history. He serves on the board of the California Route 66 Association, and has been volunteering at the Victorville Route 66 Museum for the past ten years.



Delvin's Thursday evening presentation at the Lone Wolf Colony will cover the history of Amateur Radio in America. Ten years ago he took the test and received his Technician level license for Amateur Radio. Since then he's been active with the Victor Valley Amateur Radio Club, which was established in 1956. His talk will include a brief history of both Amateur Radio in America and the Victor Valley Amateur Radio Club. The local club is active in community events, including the annual June Field Day; Route 66 on the Air, which takes place in September; Jamboree on the Air, a Scouting event held in October; and the January Winter Field Day.

On Saturday we will meet at the Route 66 Museum in Old Town Victorville, on D Street, at 10:00 AM. Parking is in the rear. The tour will start in the local history room, around the corner in the back, a room some people never get to. Its amazing displays include old photographs, telephone books, artifacts, a video loop, and more, all highlighting the history of Victorville, the hub of the Victor Valley, named after the railroad man Jacob Nash Victor. Afterwards, you will have plenty of time to explore the rest of the museum, and of course, put on a hippie wig and snap a photo in the VW bus.

Please call (760) 985-1918 or stop by the AV Legacy Museum to sign up for this trip if you are unable to make the Thursday meeting where sign-ups will also take place.





## Captain McConnell Centennial Celebration by Marcy Taylor



The weekend of April 2nd and 3rd, the Town of Apple Valley's Historical Advisory Committee members, Apple Valley Legacy Museum volunteers, and Mohave Historical Society members partnered to put on two events honoring the Centennial year of Capt. Joseph McConnell, Triple Jet Ace of the Korean War.

In the words of McConnell's daughter Trish McConnell, "During the war Dad made sixteen kills in a short period of time. President Eisenhower sent him back home. Because he was the first Triple Jet Ace and a hero, the town of Apple Valley, then population 1000, built us a house known as Appreciation House in 1953. They were all amazing people. Unfortunately one year later my dad was assigned to Edwards Air Force Base to test the new F-86H, and he lost his life."



McConnell Appreciation House

During the Sat. evening event MHS VP Delvin narrated the historical hayride, which took riders to both the Appreciation House, built for the family in a record-breaking 45 hours, as well as the Weekender, only a few houses down, where "The McConnell Story" movie was made.

Guests were also treated to music by 'Boni on the



Keys' and 'The High Desert Jammers,' fine food served as usual by Roy Rogers nephew and his wife, and for those who stayed until dusk, movie clips from the film starring Alan Ladd as McConnell and June Alyson as his wife Pearl. Many attendees visited the museum, some for the first time, and some lucky souls won raffle prizes.

The following afternoon, the tribute continued at the gravesite at Victor Valley Memorial Park. Three members of the AV Historic



Advisory Committee shared the Town part of the story, while

three military veterans, including our own Mike Phillips, shared the details of Capt. McConnell's military career. The ceremony included the presentation of the colors by the Sultana Air Force Jr. ROTC, and a touching tribute by Trish McConnell. An interesting coincidence was shared by Mike: All of McConnell's sixteen kills were made during the exact time period that he was in boot camp.

We will again honor Capt. McConnell in October, with a presentation at Lone Wolf Colony on Thursday night the 27th, and a driving tour to seven important McConnell sites to follow on Saturday the 29th.





## Two New Place Names in Unincorporated Apple Valley

By Marcy Taylor

Let me introduce Apple Valley Legacy Museum Wednesday morning volunteer Jason Schmidt. He and his family operate Oak Springs Ranch east of Bowen Ranch Rd. on the road to Big Bear. A true country boy, he was born in the Rock Springs Bee Keepers Cabin, and is raising his six boys in the Oak Springs Ranch House in the area of Coxey and Oak Springs Rd. Jason has great knowledge of the desert and trails, and a love of history, which is why he approached me and volunteered to do a weekly shift at the museum about two years ago. He is also Captain of the Rattlesnake Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, helping to protect the remote area prone to wildfires.



Besides finding and preserving all kinds of artifacts, Jason has an interest in geographic sites. Within the last few years he has succeeded in adding two names onto the map. In June of 2015 he received a letter addressed to Capt. Schmidt that stated:

"We are pleased to inform you that the U.S. Board on Geographic Names approved your proposal to make official the name **Butt Rock** for a pillar in San Bernardino County. The name has been entered into the Geographic

Names Information System, the nation's official geographic names repository, which is available and searchable online at

<http://geonames.usgs.gov>."

Now there's a place everyone should want to visit!

Location: 5,550 feet elevation; San Bernardino National Forest 0.8 miles NW of Rattlesnake Mountain, 1.9 miles NE of Luna Mountain. The correspondence then notes:

"The name is descriptive."

More recently Jason received another letter dated Feb. 15, 2022, informing him that the name **Oak Springs**, population 37, has been approved for an unincorporated community in San Bernardino County. Its description is "a populated place located 1.3 mi. WNW of Rattlesnake Mountain, 10 miles SSE of Apple Valley, named for the live oaks and natural water springs in the area." Check it out at:

<http://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/search/names>.

So after living there for all of his 44 years, Jason finally has a real place to call home.

For information on Oak Springs Ranch horse rentals, equestrian camping, or events venue, contact his dad, Glenn, at (760) 953-9299.

## Oro Grande Day - by Marcy Taylor

It was a hot and sometimes windy day Sat. April 9 for the 2022 "Oro Grande Round-up" and Car Show. Shiny antique and classic cars lined the street, and DJ Kev spun the vintage tunes we all love. Thanks to Mohave Historical Society members Patty Hedges, Carol



Johnson, Jada Kaltenbach, and Delvin Harbour for working the event, and especially Jada for the early morning set-up, and Delvin for the late afternoon breakdown of the booth. Besides selling books, collectibles, brochures, Route 66 caps, and postcards, we also signed up two new MHS members, met a lot of nice folks, and heard some interesting stories. The Route 66 tourists seem to be coming around again, as we had visitors from as far away as Tennessee and Brazil. Thanks to MHS members Sofia Chase, Yogi Collier, Mike Phillips, and Jeff Hardy for coming out to support us, as well as our last pre-



senter Rebecca Dougherty AKA Odessa Red. Thanks also to Joe Manners, who got us a complimentary booth in a prime location. Patty Hedges, all decked out in a gorgeous ruffy lavender outfit, outdid us all in the costume department.

I hope to see some of you at our next two community events: The May 7 Crafts Fair in Old Town Victorville, and the May 14 Mojave River Valley Museum BBQ in Barstow.

MHS members were well represented at the BBQ last year, and many are members of their museum and vice versa. Our speaker this month, Nelson Miller, who is also involved with the Old Spanish Trail, is responsible for the mule team cutouts near the road, and our member Brent Gaddis, their current president and acting blacksmith, is actually responsible for moving the blacksmith shop from its former Big Bear location and reconstructing it at the museum. Come on out and support our booth which will hopefully be in our usual spot under the trees across from the blacksmith shop.



### March General Meeting by Marcy Taylor.

Appropriate for Women's History Month, our two March hostesses were outstanding female historians and presenters. The Thursday March 24 speaker was Rebecca Dougherty, sometimes referred to as Odessa Red, which is the name of her boutique at Calico Ghost Town. A historical re-enactor, she came in full late 1800's era costume to present to us the character of



Rebecca Dougherty Presentation  
MHS General Meeting 3/24/22

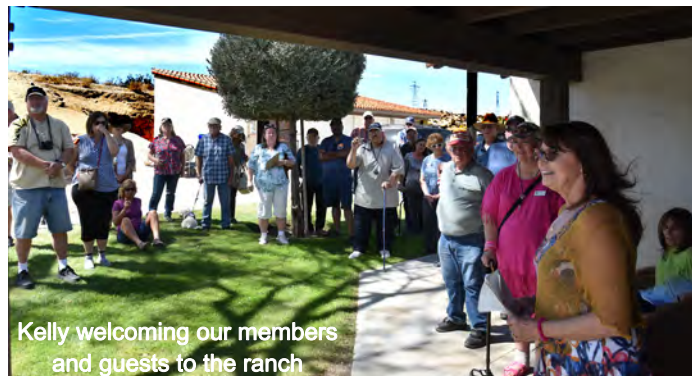
Calico's Lady Miner Annie Rickert. Life was not easy back then, especially for a lady in a man's world. Dougherty told a number of interesting and somewhat unusual stories, surrounded by her displays of period photos and objects to enhance her tales. The members and guests in attendance certainly learned a lot. Next time you go to Calico, please visit her shop, just as you start down the main street on the left-hand side. You won't be disappointed. My thanks to the reliable board members who worked at the meeting, and member Eric Mandeson, who greeted people with western music and provided some delicious and fattening refreshments.

### Desert Springs Ranch Field Trip by Marcy Taylor.

The following Saturday we were welcomed to Desert Springs Ranch by the current owner and new MHS life member, **Kelly Osborne**. Following a short history lesson at the two historic markers placed at the entrance, (our shiny newly refurbished marker, as well as the Clampers' monument), we drove through



the beautiful entry gates and up to the gorgeous early 1920's era house for an inside look. Wow! The unusual architecture, the antiques and nicknacks that filled every room, and the pipe organ that graced the main living room were sights to behold! Guide Kelly shared the story of the home, built by Chester



Kelly welcoming our members  
and guests to the ranch

Williams and his wife Elizabeth, intended for a vacation getaway on property was once owned by E.H Richardson, inventor of the steam iron. (You might recognize his name from Richardson Park in Adelanto. One of the Mohave series books has the full story.) We proceeded to the yard to view the



once spring-fed swimming pool and the beautiful grounds, looking across the street to the area once covered by water from the many springs, and still wet in spots. It was a beautiful warm day to sit outside and enjoy the complimentary pizza and drinks provided by our hostesses. Our sincere thanks to Kelly, her sister **Christi Berg**, also an MHS member, and to Lindy, the granddaughter of Robert Williams, (Chester and Elizabeth's son), for sharing so much information, as well as photos and newspaper articles of this important location of old Indian trails, Lane's Crossing, the Pony Express, and the railroad. This was one for the record books! You go, GIRLS!



Christi Berg (Kelly's sister)



Kelly Osborne



## One Happy Tortoise by Marcy Taylor

Quite a few years ago the local Women's Club and some talented area artists placed a giant tortoise sculpture in front of the Victor Valley Museum with an accompanying plaque. Unfortunately the desert heat and wind, and people sitting or standing on the poor fellow for a photo op, started to take its toll. His paint was chipping off. His legs were detached, with the front ones facing in the wrong direction. His head and long neck were lying on the concrete. Several sections of shell were missing entirely. So you can see why he was a sad, sad creature.



The Mohave Historical Society, in the process of repairing all of their own damaged or faded monuments, thought it was time to come to the rescue. Member Brett Gaddis, local sculptor and mason, dedicated a few days of hard work, fighting with the wind, to put the tortoise back together. He reattached the legs and head in their correct positions, and recreated the decorative parts that were damaged or missing. What a difference already!



Next member Marcy Taylor, wielding her paintbrushes and several cans of earth-tone colors, got to work. Slowly but surely, one shade and one pattern at a time, the shell, like a giant mosaic, started to come back to life. Curious onlookers began to stop by to check the progress, one stating he had never even noticed the larger-than-life creature before!

The tortoise, as well as the Joshua tree, are probably the most iconic symbols of the Mojave Desert. Both species are well-worth preservation and respect, whether they be the live versions, or the Art Deco style concrete replica that sits in front of the Victor Valley Museum.

Stop by and take a look when you are in the neighborhood. And thanks to Brent and Marcy for your contribution to saving a piece of our desert heritage.

**Note from Marcy:** Working out in the community (especially on a busy street with a huge tortoise) gets you noticed. Besides the people honking and waving or circling the parking lot to take a look, my first real visitor was the President of the California Writers Club, Dwight Norris, who happened to come at the right time to snap some photos of me and Brent and our work in progress. He was actually kind enough to bring me a taco the very next day. And then a few days later I had a visitor who is involved in relocating and protecting the tortoise population in the area of the Marine Base in 29 Palms. He thanked me for my volunteer work, took an MHS ap, and said he would send a contribution check from his organization to ours. Just when I was thinking that it's not as easy as it used to be to battle the sun and the wind, and that my knees aren't what they used to be either, a pick-me-up like that makes it all worthwhile.



## Victor Valley Animal Protective League

By Marcy Taylor

The sign ceremony and open house at the Victor Valley Animal Protective League, the newest site to be added to the Apple Valley Historic Points of Interest booklet, will take place Thurs. May 12 from noon until 2:00. The public is invited to see this historic building, and learn about the worthwhile non-profit organization started in 1965 by Dorothy Thomas, the wife of opera singer John Charles Thomas. Thomas operated the KAVR radio station, which broadcast out of the Apple Valley Inn.

Original contributors to the VVAPL, who pledged either \$5 per year or made a \$100 lifetime membership donation, received a genuine 12 inch long-



playing Hi Fidelity John Charles Thomas collectors record, a "fine masterpiece of favorite songs and music" The May 12 ceremony will include refreshments and tours of the facility located at 21779 Zuni Road, Apple Valley 92307.

## You've been Invited!

Mojave River Valley Museum 55th Annual BBQ  
May 14, 9am - 5pm  
270 Virginia Way, Barstow



Dinner - \$9.00 / person, Noon - 4pm  
(BBQ Beef, Cowboy Beans, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Dinner rolls and Cobbler)

### Attractions:

Blacksmith demos, bootleg samplings  
Carding and weaving demos, rope making  
Gold panning, Drover Car tours  
MHS/AVLM Booth

### Directions:

I15 North to Barstow Rd  
North on Barstow Rd 1/3 mile to Virginia  
Left on Virginia, Park where you can!

## RESEARCH RESOURCES

Persons interested in researching local history can obtain valuable information from two outstanding facilities in the Victor Valley area. The Victor Valley College Local History Room was established in 1992 with an agreement to house and maintain MHS historical records, documents and other items and to share in the preservation of the Mojave Desert history. MHS life member and now retired VVC librarian Fran Elgin, is almost solely responsible for organizing the Local History room. Historical items have been stored there since 1998. Additionally, MHS directors Rick Schmidt and Julia Jackson volunteer their time weekly to catalog and preserve the historical items.

The second facility is the Heritage Room located at the Apple Valley Town Hall which also contains many historical items and documents. The requirements to use these facilities for research are listed below:

## Victor Valley College Local History Room



**Location:** Victor Valley College Library  
18422 Bear Valley Road  
Victorville, CA 92395



**Content:** Photos, Newspaper articles, Magazine and promotional literature, recorded and transcribed interviews, maps, manuscripts, MHS activities and newsletters, and miscellaneous items.

Some content is available on website.

**Contact:** Librarian, Phone 760-245-4271 ext. 2262 or on website.  
Website: [www.Library.VVC.Edu/LHR](http://www.Library.VVC.Edu/LHR)

Parking: Behind the Library. Metered or \$2 Daily Permit

## BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

## The Town of Apple Valley Heritage Room



**Location:** Apple Valley Town Hall, 14955 Dale Evans Pkwy  
Apple Valley, CA 92307

**Content:** Artifacts, photo albums, wall displays, and tons of information, much of it from the Maggie Cramer collection. It is a great place to do research, or just learn about the Town's history.

**Contact:** Lena Quinonez, Town liaison to the Apple Valley Historical Advisory Committee, at (760) 240-7000 x7051 or [lquinonez@applevalley.org](mailto:lquinonez@applevalley.org) for further information or to schedule a visit.

## BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

# Wanted!

Even though the primary purpose of MUSE is to disseminate to MHS membership information that is pertinent to the organization's activities, articles that reflect Mojave Desert history are always welcomed for publication in the MUSE. This is an open invitation to share your interests and research with your fellow members. You can submit your articles to the MUSE editor via email at [gwmikephillips@frontier.com](mailto:gwmikephillips@frontier.com).



**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:  
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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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The **MUSE** is the  
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