

THE MOHAHVE MUSE



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



Volume 26 Issue 5
May 2023

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

President's Corner

Marcy

Hello, MHS members and supporters,
The only thing I really want to say this month is that I am truly grateful for these April success stories: The Apple Valley Legacy Museum's 8th Anniversary weekend and the April Fool's Day Ho Down, the April 5th retrieval of the Time Capsule from the Palisades Ranch, and the April 7th arrival of the priceless collection of Terri Lee dolls at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum. Read the details in this issue. Thanks for your continued support of the MHS and local history.



AVLM 8th year Anniversary Hoe Down Celebration



Marcy Taylor and Rick Schmidt retrieving time capsule 4/5/2023



New Terri Lee Dolls

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

- May 24 **Fieldtrip. Wednesday 10am**, Kemper Campbell Ranch, Peggy Shaughnessy.
- May 25 **MHS Mtg.** LWC, 7pm, Gary Whiteside "The Whiteside Family and Flying Tigers"
- 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**

Community Events

- May 4 6-8pm, **Apple Valley Concerts in the Courtyard**, Hwy 18 & Dale Evans Pkwy, Free
- May 6 8am-1pm, AV Flea Market, Lions Park, AV
- May 11 6-8pm, **Apple Valley Concerts** (see above)
- May 13 10-4pm, **Crafts Fair**, Santa Fe Trading Co. 7th Street Old Town Victorville.
- May 18 6-8pm, **Apple Valley Concerts** (see above)
- May 20 10:30am, **Victorville Green Tree Extension Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.**
- May 20 6-9pm, **Happy Trails Children's Foundation Banquet**, Hilton Garden Inn
Info - 760-240-3330 for tickets
- May 25 6-8pm, **Apple Valley Concerts** (see above)
- May 27 Points of Interest Field Trip 760-646-2660
- Jun 10 10am-2pm, **Village Street Fair**, James Woody Park
- Jun 23 **Route 66 Festival**, Tulsa OK, featuring -25 "Overground Railroad" by Candacy Taylor and Apple Valley Murray's Ranch.
- Jun 24 **Lucerne Valley Museum Mitsubishi Tour**,
Info - 760-646-2660
- Jul 4 **Freedom Festival**, Brewster Park, AV
- Aug 12 8-1pm, **Apple Valley Flea Market**
Lions Park, AV
- Sep 7 **Apple Valley Concerts** (see above)
- Sep 14 **Apple Valley Concerts** (see above)
- Sep 21 **Apple Valley Concerts** (see above)
- Sep 28 **Apple Valley Concerts** (see above)
- Oct 7 **Happy Trails Parade**, Street Fair, Car Show
- Oct. 21 **AV Pet Fair**
- Nov. 11 **Veteran's Day Parade**, Old Town Victorville
- Dec. 2 **Christmas Parade**, Old Town Victorville

Welcome New Members
Karen Scott
Jimmy Yarrow

May General Meeting by Marcy Taylor



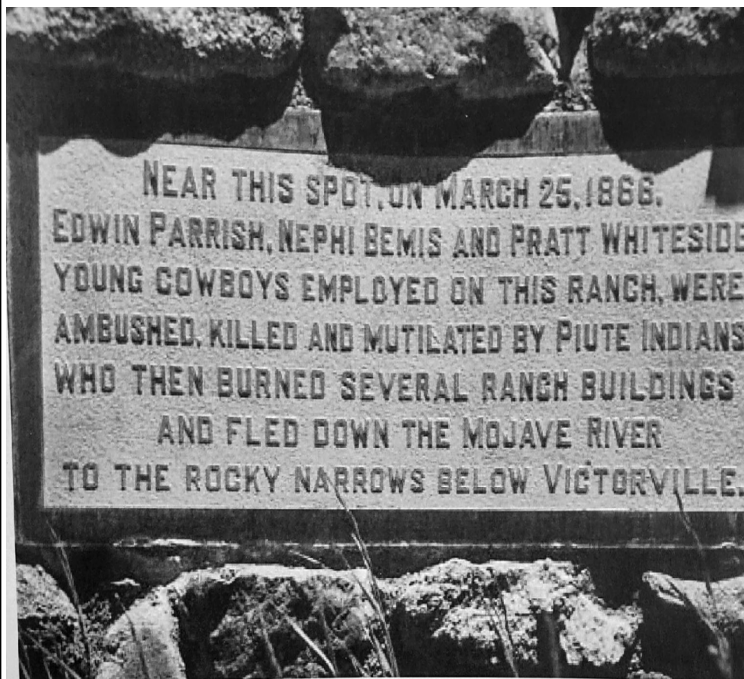
Gary Whiteside

The May 25 presentation will feature Apple Valley resident Gary Whiteside (owner of Gary's Drum Studio) speaking on his interesting family history. You can spot Gary keeping the rhythm for many local bands at venues such as Civic Center Park, the Apple Valley Courtyard, Calico Ghost Town, and even the Apple Valley Legacy Museum. He also has a history of playing on the road with some well-known artists that you may hear more about in his talk. Gary took time out from his busy schedule to cruise down Highway 18 with us last October, wearing his father's Korean War

flight suit, playing the role of Capt. Joseph McConnell on our float in the Happy Trails Parade. Then he rushed off to his paying gig at Calico!

Gary may have inherited some of his talent from his mother, Fran Drew Whiteside, or her identical twin sister, June Drew Ebensteiner, who both started performing at an early age. Fran became a top model, as well as one of the legendary dancers at Earl Carroll's, with her picture gracing a large billboard in Hollywood. She went on to become a singing flight attendant and clothes designer for the famous Flying Tigers Airline, traveling around the world in the early 1950's. Along with her husband, Carl Wayne Whiteside, whom she married in 1956 in Las Vegas's Little Brown Chapel, she wrote the historical fiction book "Tale of the Tiger," based on her exploits during the Korean War period. I was privileged to receive an autographed copy a few weeks before she passed away.

Gary will fill you in on himself, his dad, and other family members, one of whom is Pratt Whiteside. His name is memorialized on the Clampers' first ever monument, placed at Las Flores Ranch October 5, 1969, thus their Chapter's number 1069. The story will tie in with what we've learned about the trouble between the settlers and the Indians, and the last battle at Chimney Rock.



LAS FLORES RANCH

NEAR THIS SPOT ON MARCH 25, 1866, EDWIN PARRISH, NEPHI BEMIS AND PRATT WHITESIDE, YOUNG COWBOYS EMPLOYED ON THIS RANCH, WERE AMBUSHED, KILLED AND MUTILATED BY PIUTE INDIANS, WHO THEN BURNED SEVERAL RANCH BUILDINGS AND FLED DOWN THE MOJAVE RIVER TO THE ROCKY NARROWS BELOW VICTORVILLE.

DEDICATED OCTOBER 5, 1969

PLATRIX CHAPTER NO. 2 AND BILLY HOLCOMB CHAPTER NO. 1069
E CLAMPUS VITUS

Rancho Verde Estates Field Trip by Marcy Taylor



The 17 MHS members and 3 guests who attended the March 24 fieldtrip to Rancho Verde Estates (i.e. the Brent Gaddis property) were pretty amazed at what they saw, as I knew they would be. Mother Nature added her touch, as the elusive Mojave River, which mysteriously flows underground much of the time, was raging and beautiful.

After a short check-in and welcome out front, and a look at Brent's numerous sculptures all over the yard, we stepped



through the entry hall and into the pool area. Here attendees heard a brief history of the original 4000 acre Brown Ranch, which became the Verde Ranch, and was later divided into the North and South Verde,



with the Campbell family retaining the northern section with the buildings. Further divisions split it into the properties now occupied by Spring Valley Lake, Mojave Narrows Regional Park, the Fish Hatchery, Victor Valley College, the Victor Valley Hospital, and the Kemper Campbell Ranch. The part on which we stood was acquired by Apple Valley developer Newton Bass to create the beautiful Apple Valley Ranchos subdivision known as the Rancho Verde Estates.

Next Brent led us down the trail to the river, pointing out along the way the serpent stairway, mining cars on a track, more sculptures,



wells, a stone dock, amazing stone horse stables, and much more. It's one of those "you have to see it to believe it" things.

We then proceeded through a narrow entryway leading to the stone amphitheater to take in the view and a little more history of the area, a most important location on the river where the four trails met before



heading down what we now know as the Cajon Pass. We could easily picture the Native Americans who settled here, and the early explorers who passed through the area, at that time full of orchards, cattle ranches, and most importantly water.

This lesson will be continued on our Wed. May 24 fieldtrip to Kemper Campbell Ranch, the northernmost section of the old Rancho Verde, where trains still roar by, cattle still graze, and guests still



occupy the rooms of the main house as well as many of the outlying houses and cottages. Our thanks to MHS member Brent Gaddis for the enlightening tour of his beautiful property, and to his assistant Jimmy Yarrow, who became a new MHS member the following week.

Assignment for tour attendees: Email me (mltaylor@gmx.com) or text me (760) 985-1918 your name along with your guess as to how many of Brent's sculptures you think can be found on the property. Assignment for Brent and Jimmy: Count them and let us know who came the closest.



Brent's stone sculptures during his teen-ager era.

Our Beloved Desert Tortoises by Marcy Taylor

Spring has sprung, or has it? This time of year the desert tortoises should be coming out of their burrows to enjoy the sunshine and a few good meals after a long winter's nap. But according to our tortoise expert, Mary Dutro, they seem to be confused by the recent strange weather, emerging, then retreating back into their burrows, and not eating much of anything, despite all of the purple filavia and other flowers that are suddenly blooming all over the desert.

Our Thursday March 23 presentation by Dan Mitrovich and Heidi Brannon of Solutions Strategies painted a frightening picture of the plight of the tortoise population and other wildlife species. The 2016 passage of Proposition 64, which legalized marijuana use and reduced criminal penalties, has created unfortunate consequences. While the legal marijuana market suffers from high operational and regulatory costs, the illegal market is flourishing all over the desert, at a huge



environmental cost to both human and animal populations. Despite the efforts of caring individuals and organizations, much more work is

needed to eradicate these grows and clean up the huge piles of garbage and gallons of harmful chemicals left behind, threatening our desert plants and animals.

On a brighter note, two days later, Saturday March 25, Mary Dutro and over 100 other people attended the 50th Anniversary of the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area in California City. The fenced-off safe



March 25, 2023 | California City, California

space encompassing five square miles, has restricted entry, with no cars, motorcycles, or any other motorized vehicles allowed. The first of several speakers was founder and charter member Dr. Kristin Berry, who started the project with just a small section of land. It took an actual act of Congress to get permission to fence off the area, now cared for by civilian volunteers and a small full-time paid staff. Thanks to this group working in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management and California Fish and Wildlife, the numbers of desert tortoise and other wildlife species in this five-mile area are steadily increasing. And there is no longer a need to shoot predatory ravens, as simply oiling their eggs prevents hatching.

A sincere thank-you goes out to Dan, Heide, and associates, and to Mary and other members of the High Desert Chapter of the Turtle and Tortoise Club, for helping to protect a beloved endangered species. Expect Mary's annual spring report in an upcoming edition of the Muse, as soon as the tortoises figure out when it is really spring.



Kemper Campbell Ranch Tour By Marcy Taylor

The Wednesday May 24, 2023 fieldtrip to the Historic Kemper Campbell Ranch is really Part 2, following the March fieldtrip to Brent Gaddis's property in the Rancho Verde Estates. At one time both locations were part of the North Verde Ranch, the northern section of the 4000 acre



Verde Ranch, also known as the Brown Ranch, established in 1860. The oldest building at Kemper Campbell, the Red House, was built in 1870 as a hotel and stop-over for Mormon travelers heading from Salt Lake City to San Bernardino. The building has been divided into three rental units, which are still occupied today. Originally a ranch to raise cattle, horses and alfalfa, the Kemper Campbell became a popular guest ranch during the 1930's. Some of the rooms in the main house, as well as many other buildings on the property, still serve as long-term rentals or guest ranch lodging.

You won't want to miss this rare opportunity to tour the ranch, courtesy of Ranch Manager Peggy Shaughnessy. We will meet at 10:00 AM on the patio of the main house. Driving directions: Take Highway 18 or D Street to 11th Street, near the crossing over the river between Victorville and Apple Valley. Go one block to C Street, turn left, drive up the hill and follow the road around to the right and down to the gate. The main house is ahead on the right. You will be directed to parking. You can sign up for this trip at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum or by calling (760) 985-1918.

(Please note: The trip is on Wednesday, so it precedes our monthly meeting.)

Apple Valley Famous Terri Lee Dolls

By Marcy Taylor

Boy, was I one happy lady when I heard the news! First, the librarian at the Apple Valley Library (whose third location was actually the old Terri Lee Doll Factory building) said he didn't have display space for a collection of dolls. Next, the person who answered the phone at the Victor Valley Museum said she had never heard of Terri Lee dolls. So the third time's a charm. When I got the call I answered with an emphatic "Yes!" I do know what Terri Lee dolls are. "Yes!" We do have our own display in the Bob Hope Cottage's former fireplace. And "Yes, yes, yes!!!" We'll gladly take them.

So the following day, April 7, just as I was opening the museum and setting the books on the porch, a car backed in with a trunkful of boxes of valuable treasures: 29 Terri Lees, many made right here in Apple Valley at the Terri Lee Doll Factory on Wakita. The building may have been recently demolished, but the dolls live on.

As their previous mother, Teresa Hunt, and her soon-to-be daughter-in-law opened box after box, I couldn't believe my eyes--six Terri Lees, three Jerri Lees, two Connie Lynns, three Linda Babies, two Sleepy Times in a hanging basket, two Tiny Terri Lees, and two Tiny Jerri Lees. Best of all, the collection included all of the rare ethnic dolls: two Patty Jos, one Bonnie Lou, two Benjis (all African American dolls), Nanook (an Eskimo doll with a Jerri Lee dressed to match), a Guadalupe (a Hispanic doll), one Tiny Benji, and one Tiny Patty Jo. Most had stands and were in good condition, just maybe needing a button replaced or a patch or two. But several will need to be admitted to the Terri Lee Doll Hospital, including two with cracked heads, two with loose arms, and two with popped rubber bands just being held together by their clothing. Fortunately one doctor still lives in the Apple Valley Marianas and will hopefully

be available for a house call.

The collection also includes two tiny scrapbooks, three Terri Lee story books (one including the hospital admission form), two newspaper articles by Paisley Taylor, one 33.3 RPM record "Terri Time" #2, and the 1988 encyclopedia of all things Terri Lee, entitled "Fashionable Terri Lee Dolls." This valuable detailed book includes the impact the production of ethnic dolls had on the civil rights movement.

It was hard for me to decide which children to part with to send across the highway to the Town of Apple Valley's Heritage Room, but I can't be selfish. Town employee Sarah Kreig will be the new adoptive mother of seven: a Terri Lee, a Jerri Lee, a Patty Jo, a Linda Baby, a Connie Lynn, and a Tiny Terri and Tiny Jerri. She promises to take good care of them and give me visitation rights!



Railroad Grades Fieldtrip to West Cajon Valley by Marcy Taylor

The Sat., March 25 fieldtrip to the LA and Independence railroad grades in the West Cajon Valley was hosted by the incredible Camp Cajon team. We met at the Mormon Rocks parking area on the 138, where quite a large group gathered for the introduction. Past MHS President John Marnell, also a former member of the Camp Cajon team, and myself, current MHS President, represented our organization. Gary Smith, Mark Landis, and Nick Cataldo, as usual, did an outstanding job organizing the adventure, complete with maps, directions to each stop, a handout outlining the history, as well as instructions to follow and what to expect along the way, i.e. steep trails filled with rocks and gullies!

We carpoled to the second stop, the Mormon Pioneer Monument, where the history of both the monument and Sanford Road were presented. Then it was off to the third stop, the site of the railroad grade cut crossing Hwy 138, from where we could also see a second cut just across the highway. After proceeding down a dirt road to the last stop, we took a hike (marked with bright orange ribbons) up a rough trail to the main railroad cut, then to the actual tunnel site.

Continued on Page 6

(Continued from page 5), **Railroad Grades Fieldtrip to West Cajon Valley**

At this location Dan McMaster, an active tunnel engineer, explained what it would have been like to dig a 325 foot railroad tunnel in the late 1800's. Working in teams of two, miners pounded holes into the rock by hand, then used black powder to blast out anywhere from 3/4 to 2 1/2 tons of rock at a time. This dangerous and tiring procedure was repeated 8 to 10 times a day by each team. The black powder method was later replaced by dynamite, and hand chiseling by new pneumatic machine drills. While this new technique was faster, it was not without a horrible side effect: the disease of silicosis. Miners' life spans were drastically shortened after breathing in clouds of razor-sharp microscopic silica dust all day long. After the deaths of many early hard rock miners, a better machine drill was invented, which is still in use today.

After driving to these sites in our modern cars and trucks, and hiking one half mile or so with our water bottles, and some with their backpacks and walking sticks, it was hard for me to imagine what the lives of these early railroad workers would have been like, chipping and blasting away in all kinds of weather in a sometimes unforgiving climate, to prepare the way for future transportation connecting the upper desert with the San Bernardino valley. Thanks guys, for a great experience. If anyone is interested, I would be happy to share the materials provided.



Hidden Treasure by Marcy Taylor

April 5th was a happy day for five MHS board members, who anxiously watched as four Helendale CSD (Community Service District) employees successfully dug up the Time Capsule buried in 1990 at what was at that time Bob Older's Palisades Ranch. As you've undoubtedly read in past issues of "The Mohave Muse," four MHS board members stumbled upon the long-lost Palisades Ranch

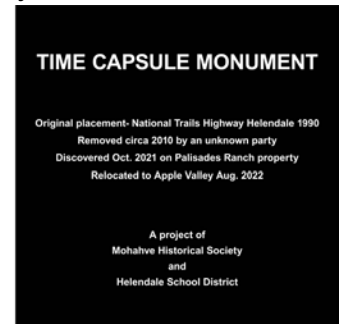
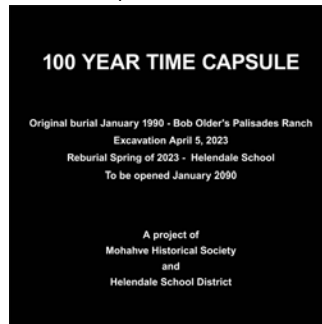


5000 pieces of memorabilia placed by Helendale students and local adults saved!

This day marked a major step towards the (almost) completion of the MHS monuments restoration project that started with an idea back in the fall of 2020. Three new plaques have been attached, four monuments have been relocated, the tortoise has been refurbished and rededicated, and all monuments have been sealed. "MHS Monuments" booklet edition #1, published in 2021 was updated with "MHS Monuments" booklet edition #2 in 2022, and it looks like another update will be needed this year.

Museum monument in October of 2021, and it was successfully retrieved and relocated in July of 2022. But one important question remained: Where exactly was the Time Capsule buried, and was it still there??

Thanks to Ron Clark, Board Member of the Helendale CSD, (whose dad worked at the Palisades Ranch), news articles about the time capsule burial and monument dedication, and some up-close photos of the burial from the Bill Bender collection, the exact location was marked. Lee Graham, the very same man who previously used his equipment to relocate three of our monuments, went up and re-graded the washed-out road into the ranch for easy access. And it didn't take long for expert back-hoe driver Craig Carlton to hit the lid of the neoprene drum, and for three strong guys with shovels, John Escobar, Brian Jeffries, and Richard Latour, to dig it out! Hallelujah!



The next event will be hosted by the Helendale School District: the rededication and reburial of the 100 year Time Capsule, originally buried in January of 1990, to take place in the near future on the Helendale School District campus. Fortunately thanks to two recent generous donors, we have enough money in the monuments account to pay for two more plaques, one for the time capsule, and another for the relocated Palisades Monument. Details to follow! Thanks to all who have been involved in this important project, which fulfills one of the missions of the MHS, placing monuments at important historic sites.

AVLM 8th Year Celebration by Marcy Taylor

The Apple Valley Legacy Museum's 8th Anniversary weekend, including the Saturday night Hoe Down, was a great success, largely due to the support of so many MHS members. From the ticket takers, the raffle ticket sellers, the museum docents, parking attendant, rent-a-hat salesman, odd job ladies, prize hand-ousters, and actors and actresses, all worked together to pull it off. In addition, I'd like to acknowledge some folks who worked behind the scenes: Patty for selling tickets around town, and Eric and Delvin for handling the exciting jobs of painting picnic tables and moving the all-important outhouse in and out! Another thank-you to all of you who bought tickets and brought your friends and family members.



All volunteer entertainment included an opening set by Boni on the Keys and Dano, the Thunderbird Square Dancers organized by caller Eric Arthurton (that included an audience participation number,) and the Sweet Tidings Gospel Jam, who provided music during dinner, and closed out the show with a sing-along. Of course, the Western skit was the highlight of the show, with community participation by Marina Kranz (Gunslinger #1), Mike Johnston (Sky King), Laureen Byer (Jane Russell), and John Byer (the Tarantula.) You should be able to recognize the rest of the cast members. (See photo Page 1).

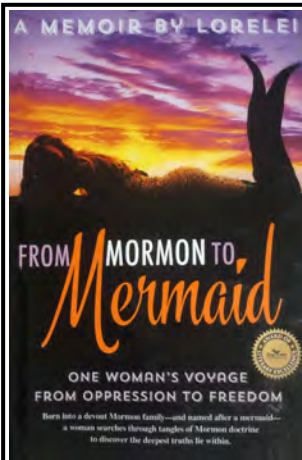
Personally I am thankful for many things, including eight fun-filled years of the AV Legacy Museum volunteers sharing

history, and hosting and participating in memorable events. I appreciate (more than you know) the many people, both locals and out-of-towners, who continue to support our local history by visiting, attending meetings and fieldtrips, purchasing items, giving monetary contributions, and donating the most unbelievable items for display or auction. Many people participated in the raffle of vintage items, and bid on silent auction items, some returning the following day to pick up more bargains or claim



their treasures. I also thank the Lord for blessing us with beautiful weather after a few months of anything but.

I am most thankful for the movie stars, who showed up right on time to keep me from getting shot by two dangerous gunslingers, and especially for the Tarantula who scared them off. (Actually I am also thankful for the gunslingers, who played their bad-guy parts well.) With all of the negativity going on in the world right now, it is nice to come together for some good old-fashioned camaraderie and entertainment



By Marcy Taylor. We have a celebrity in our midst, past Recording Secretary Lorelei Kay. The Sunday March 12 Daily Press headline proclaims, "Hesperia author's 'From Mormon to Mermaid' garners top prize." That refers to a first place in the Winning Writers' Eighth Annual North Street Book Competition in the creative non-fiction and memoir category, #1 out of 368 entries. And that is just the latest award her autobiography has won.

Let me tell you, the award is well deserved. I dug out my copy of the book and reread my critique of April 2020, and realized just how much I could identify with this detailed soul-searching account. Part 1 of my review was 5 pages worth of my connection with sections of the book to people and events I know from personal experience. Part 2, the next 8 pages, was the actual review of the book, which presents "an honest lesson in Mormonism for non-Mormons." The book is at some times hilarious, but all the while addressing a quite serious subject, with constant references to the sea.

I find it fascinating to get to know and learn from people of different races, cultures, and religions. I'd put this book in the "must read" category. You will discover why Lorelei was named after a mermaid, which she refers to as "a half-naked fish," and why she eventually "swam away." I agree with the Daily Press article in that it is unusual for a memoir to include an appendix, documented with references to actual scripture, to make a point. Congrats to Lorelei for your terrific work, a labor of love for ten years of your life!

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:
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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)

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



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