

THE MOHAHVE MUSE



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

Volume 26 Issue 9
September 2023

President: Marcy Taylor, **VP:** Delvin Harbour, **Treasurer:** Carol Wiley, **Rec Secy:** Meera Maheswaran, **Corres Secy:** Stormie Reid
Directors: Mary Dutro, Dennis Hom, Eric Mandeson, Mike Phillips (MUSE Editor), Rick Schmidt

President's Corner

Dear MHS members and supporters,

Summer's not over yet, and people are traveling, sightseeing, and visiting area museums. Saturday Aug. 5 brought a couple from Australia to the Apple Valley Legacy Museum, along with some "local yokels" and a return visitor from Big Bear. Meanwhile that same day the Victor Valley Legacy Museum welcomed visitors from Italy, who were driving the Route 66. The previous two weeks brought travelers from Brazil, Riverside, Sacramento, more from Brazil, and also Argentina, along with local residents and return visitors. And that's nothing compared to all the international travelers Vice President Delvin greets at the Victorville Route 66 every Sunday. Drop by and see him between 11am and 3pm and he'll teach you a little something.

If you take an end-of-the-summer vacation, have a great time and stay safe. But if you prefer to stay here on the desert, you won't be bored Movie night featuring "8 on the Lam" has been rescheduled to Sept 2. Join us the following weekend Sept. 9 in Apple Valley, for the Happy Trails Parade that starts at 10:00 at Central and goes west on Highway 18 down to Mollies Restaurant. You will love our float "Genuine Desert Animals." Then move on down to James Woody Park for the Street Fair and Car Show that runs from 10:30 until 3:00. Show your support by stopping by our booth.

The following week you'll find us at the Santa Fe Trading Company Crafts Fair in Old Town Victorville from 10-4:00. Our booth will be right outside the Victor Valley Legacy Museum on 7th Street just north of A Street.

We will end the month with a Sept. 30 fieldtrip to two San Bernardino museums, the McDonald Museum and the Military Museum, by way of some interesting Cajon Pass sites on the way down. Meet at Camp Cajon on Wagon Train Road at 10:00 AM to start the adventure. (See page 3)

Thank you for your continued support.

Marcy



Movie Night At The AVLm Porch

8 ON THE LAM

Bob Hope, Phyllis Diller and Jonathan Winters

Saturday September 2

Special Feature at 7:45pm

Live Music
Boni on the Keys
and
Dano on the Strings
6:30 - 7:30pm

\$3 nation
includes
Refreshments
And
Raffle Ticket



Apple Valley Legacy Museum
20601 HWY 18, Ste 153,
Apple Valley, 92307, 760-985-1918

This 1967 movie was
filmed at
Apple Valley Inn
and
Highway 18
locations



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

- Sep 28 **MHS Mtg.** John Beyer, "Amboy Crater and Route 66 Town"
- 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,** Installation of 2024 Board Officers

Community Events

- Sept 2 6:30pm, "**8 on the Lam**" **Movie Night,** Apple Valley Legacy Museum, (see flyer page 1)
- Sept 9 10am, **Happy Trails Parade,** Hwy 18 & Central, 10:30—3:pm **Village Street Fair, Car Show,** James Woody Park. **
- Sept 12 11:45am, **Friends of Apple Valley Library,** Newton T Bass Library, Dale Evans Pwky, "History of Hilltop House and Legacy Trail Project", Speaker Marcy Taylor
- 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
Victor Valley Legacy Museum open **
- 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

Membership Summary

Life Members	Family Single	18 15
Annual Members	Family Single	21 57
Total Active		111



Apple Valley Flea Market by Marcy Taylor

Saturday August 12 was a great day at the Apple Valley Flea Market in Lions Park. It was hot, but not scorching, with a slight breeze, a good crowd, great volunteers, and a lot of history shared at the Mohave Historical Society / Apple Valley Legacy Museum / Victor Valley Legacy Museum combined booth.



Thanks to MHS members Delvin, Patty, Jimmy, and Dennis for working the booth, and Stormie for running the museum and receiving the visitors we sent her way. A big thank you to Bruce for his donation of for-sale items, and another big thank-you to Friends of the AV Library for their monthly donation of books. All the support is appreciated.

MHS t-shirts, hats, buttons, and decals are now on sale!



Check out Delvin and Dennis sporting "MHS bling."

To show your spirit at our September meeting, come by the Apple Valley Legacy Museum and pick up your shirt for \$20, and a cap for \$15 if you don't already have one. You can also order a personal name badge for \$10.

Be a proud MHS member and support the organization, soon to celebrate a 60 year anniversary.

September Speaker – John Beyer

Our Sept. 28 speaker is none other than the talented actor who played the Tarantula in our skit at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum 8th Anniversary celebration last April. He was well prepared to tackle the part after performing in numerous Western reenactments with the Santa Fe Drifters and other groups. You might also recognize him as the author of various articles in the monthly "Pulse" magazines, and the humorous but educational

travel columns known as "Beyer's Byways" that some of us look forward to reading in the "Daily Press" each Sunday. And did you know that some of his columns have been published in book format that will be available for a \$20 purchase at the meeting?

John gave me the opportunity to choose a topic out of the ten in his "Beyer's Byways" book. It wasn't that easy, as they are all so interesting. We field trippers have already visited several sites such as Daggett, Lucerne, and Oro Grande, so I went for a place farther away (but not that far away), the old Route 66 town of Amboy and "The Amboy Crater, a Sight to Behold and Explore." The crater, a designated "National Natural Landmark," sits 2 1/2 miles west of the small (very small) town of Amboy. But it is clearly visible from the main road.

Now about the town of Amboy. Some of you probably know that in 2005 Albert Okura, also known as "The Chicken Man" of the Juan Pollo Chicken restaurants, bought the whole town of Amboy. Now why would anyone want to buy a whole town? Well, it wasn't very expensive, there are only a few buildings, and someone needed to save it from the fate of other forgotten Route 66 towns, like Bagdad for example. (There's a Bagdad Cafe in Newberry Springs, but where's Bagdad? Gone, gone, gone!) So because of Albert

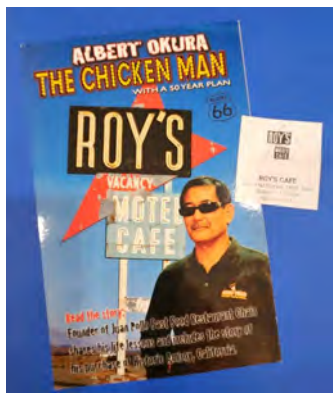
Okura the town still has a post office that has been open since 1951, a gas station, a store, a church, a school with no students, and a line of porta-pots for the tourists who stop and take a photo of the "Roy's Cafe" sign. Not only that, Amboy was the site of Mad Mike's March 2018 rocket launch, a SUCCESSFUL rocket launch I might add, unlike the Feb. 2020 launch near the Slash X Cafe that ended his daredevil life.

So that brings me to our fieldtrip the following Saturday Sept 30 to the McDonald's Museum in San Bernardino. What does this have to do with Amboy? Well, the same entrepreneur, Albert Okura, in 1998 bought the site of the original 1948 San Bernardino McDonalds, and made it into a museum. He held a grand opening exactly 50 years after the first one on Dec. 12, 1998. So that's the connection

On the day of the trip we will meet at Camp Cajon, on Wagon Train Road in the Cajon Pass, right past the modern and currently open and usually crowded McDonalds. We will



see a few Route 66 and Cajon sites on our way to San Bernardino. After our McDonald's Museum visit, we will venture next door to the Military Museum. After that, attendees are free to head back up the hill or to a local restaurant for lunch, as there are no hamburgers served at the McDonald's Museum.



As usual, you need to sign up for this trip so we know how many people to expect.

To make your reservation, please call (760) 985-1918 or stop by the:

Apple Valley Legacy Museum
20601 Hwy 18, Ste. #153
Apple Valley, CA, 92307
Mon-Sat: 10am—4pm, Sun Noon—6pm

Museum Hop by Marcy Taylor

Our July 20 Museum Hopping trip, in conjunction with the Town of Apple Valley, was a great success. The 23 participants included 13 Mohave Historical Society members, 8 community members, as well as 2 Town employees who hosted the last stop. We all enjoyed the 104 degree temperatures thanks to an early start, a slight breeze, a few shady spots, and some squirt bottles full of refreshing water. It really didn't surprise me that some locals said they were unaware of the two new Clampers monuments in our town, but I wasn't expecting more than half of the group to admit they'd never been to our beautiful Horseman's Center Park. Most had never visited Town Hall's Heritage Room, and a few had never been to Apple Valley Legacy Museum, all right on our main street Highway 18, otherwise known as Happy Trails Highway.

Stop #1- Since the Tarantula statue that proudly stood on top of the "Miners to Movies" monument for a few weeks in April of this year is temporarily out of commission, we had to add our own version for the group photo. We then looked straight down Bear



Valley Road, imagining it was still dirt with the giant Tarantula heading right for us! Scary!! Also no shade, so on to the next stop.

Stop #2- After viewing the location where Beyonce and her entourage in gorgeous yellow costumes filmed the dance "Spirit" for "The Lion King" in Aug. of 2021, the same spot where American Idol winner Chayce Beckham performed his Hometown tour in 2022, we headed over to the Roy Rogers monument, placed in Oct. of 2021. A short drive around the park brought us to some shaded picnic tables, where we



learned more about the two monuments and the long history of movie making in the desert.

Stop #3- The highlight of the day at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum was a cool drink and a brief overview of the history of the famous Terri Lee dolls, their family members and friends. Our collection had reached 42, all repaired and beautifully dressed, but the doll house (fireplace) had become way too



crowded. So 7 of them decided to move across the highway to the Heritage Room where they were happily adopted by Sara Kreig. After looking around the museum and perhaps buying a souvenir or two, it was time for all of us to head over to Town Hall.

Stop #4- This was a great place to end our tour for several reasons: bathrooms, air conditioning, lunch, and another dose of local history. Our hostesses Sara and Shannon entertained us with a video of film clips, historic photos, and snippets from the Town Council and community members. We were invited to watch clips of "The Bronze Buckaroo" (with our own Herb Jeffries in the audience) and to count how many times we saw the famous Bell Mountain appear. Lots! We sure learned a bundle of facts of Apple Valley history, including about the once abundant apple orchards and how our town got its name. So, "how about them apples?"



Last it was off to the Heritage Room, a place packed with scrapbooks, photos, and displays of what else? Apple Valley history.

Once again, collaboration is the key. We look forward to working together with other groups and organizations who share of mission of preserving and celebrating local history.

Water Woes by Marcy Taylor

Other than construction in the pass (sometimes referred to as "A Pain in the Pass,") slowing down traffic in both directions, Thursday Aug. 3 was an ideal night to make a trip to the San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society meeting.



The speaker was Suzie Earp, Director of the Cal State San Bernardino Water Research Institute, and boy did she know a lot about water! Most important facts: Too little is a big problem. Too much is a bigger problem!

I learned that the city of San Bernardino is located on an alluvial fan where rivers and creeks connect to flow into the Santa Ana River. Translation: 10 million people live in a watershed between mountains prone to serious flooding. Documented



"great floods" occurred in 1825, 1851, 1861-2 (one of the biggest), 1867, 1884, 1889, 1891, 1909, and 1916, times when the population was still fairly low. But by the 1930's, when San Bernardino was a bustling railroad town with a booming citrus industry, the constant flooding had become a HUGE problem.

The gigantic flood of 1938 affected a population of 48,000. Over 12 inches of rain in 3 days washed out the railroad tracks, obliterated the orchards, and swept houses away like toy boats. When 30 inches of rain fell in the foothills, the raging Santa Ana River grew to over a mile wide. This flood ushered in the era of atmospheric rivers, referred to as the Pineapple Express. Lives were in grave danger. People tried to ride to safety on mattresses, while horses floated down the city creek. Sound like fun? NO! The valley was in big trouble. Gas and electrical infrastructure was obliterated. The sewage plant was destroyed. Bridges were washed out. 200 miles of railroad track and 700 miles of highways were suddenly gone. There was no mail or telegraph service. No stores were open. Anything still standing was buried in 3-6 feet of mud. In the midst of all this suffering, sightseers on horseback rode in to see the spectacle!

This flood of unimaginable magnitude affected more than the San Bernardino valley. Further north in the Cajon Pass the beautiful Camp Cajon was destroyed, with some of the concrete picnic tables actually floating downstream. Route 66 was washed out, as were the train tracks. Further north on the desert the usually quiet Mojave River flooded Helendale and washed out more of the Route 66. Early Victorville photos show the train track hanging precariously over the Mojave River. Caskets from the old cemetery floated down 11th Street, causing the cemetery to be relocated at the bottom of the hill.

If there is an upside to this story, it might be that the Works Progress Administration (WPA) put a lot of people to work. The need for flood control was finally taken seriously, with tax dollars going towards the construction of dams. However, recovery from the flood of 1938 lasted 3 decades, well into the 1960's. In interviews of old Victorville residents, I noticed the phrases "before the flood" and "after the flood" frequently used to describe how life suddenly changed.

Our speaker concluded her talk by explaining that, in Southern California, flood control versus drought management will always be a concern. Man needs water to survive. The question is, "Just how much water is enough but not too much?" and how do we control that? Thank you, Suzie Earp for a great presentation with hundreds of unbelievable photos, and to Nick Cataldo and the San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society for hosting another great educational evening.

Support and advertise the Mohahve Historical Society!

Purchase and proudly wear these items:

T-shirts S, M, L, XL \$20.00, 2XL \$25.00

Hats \$15.00

Buttons \$2.00

Decals \$1.00

Name Badges \$10.00

(personalized, name as you want it to appear, magnet or pin back)

All available at General Meeting or AVLM



MHS Fieldtrip Issues by Marcy Taylor

Mohahve Historical Society is a membership organization. We do welcome guests to our fieldtrips and monthly membership meetings, currently taking place at the Lone Wolf Colony, January through June and September through November. Our Christmas celebration is a ticketed event which includes entertainment and dinner.

However, the Board finds it necessary to change our fieldtrip procedures for the enjoyment and safety of our members. On several recent trips we have had some unexpected last minute attendees, which raised our attendance count above our hosts' expectation. Even though the attendees are adults, the organization is ultimately responsible for the welfare of everyone on a trip we sponsor. Therefore, we also ask that if anyone has to leave a trip early, especially a trip with multiple stops, that you let your plans be known, rather than members worrying, wondering what happened to you, searching for you, and attempting to make phone contact. This has happened on two 2023 trips.

Please list your cell phone number on the sign-up sheet, and carry your cell with you on the trip in case communication is necessary.

For many years, the non-member fieldtrip fee has been \$2, which in some cases encourages people not to join and have the member benefits of the Muse newsletter which spells out our monthly events and activities. Therefore, starting in January 2024, the non-member fee to participate in a fieldtrip, will be \$10 with a prior reservation. Or, guests are more than welcome to join for \$20 single, or \$30 couple or family. For the price of 2 fieldtrips one could pay a membership. The membership price has remained constant for many years, despite our room rent and most everything else going up. Of course, a one-time attendee or out-of-town guest(s) would be the exception to joining as a member.

Since this change in fieldtrip procedures and costs will involve a By-Laws amendment, we will address the issue and vote at the Sept. 28 meeting at the Lone Wolf Colony. Thank you for your understanding.

*Looking for that special gift?
How about a year's subscription to
Mohahve Historical Society!*



Mohahve Historical Society Gift Membership



**MHS
Will Notify
Recipient!**

Recipient's Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Phone: Home: _____

Cell: _____

Email: _____

Membership Type: Single Annual () \$20, Single Life () \$150
Family Annual () \$30, Family Life () \$200

Gift Giver's Name: _____

(Your gift payment is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law)

**Please remit
completed form
with payment at
General Meeting
or
mail to the
address below.**

**Mohahve Historical Society
Post Office Box 21, Victorville, CA 92393**

Taste of the Town by Marcy Taylor

The Town of Apple Valley's second annual "Taste of the Town" the evening of Wednesday Aug. 23, following the Greater High Desert Chamber of Commerce's sold-out "State of the Town" luncheon, was even bigger and better than last year's event. Starting at 5:30, outside vendors and food trucks were ready to welcome guests. Inside the lobby various departments and organizations set up booths and displays around the theme "Shop Local."



The "Vintage Shop Local" displays, courtesy of the Apple Valley Historic Advisory Committee, the Apple Valley Legacy Museum, and the Mohave Historical Society, highlighted four 1950's/1960's era businesses: the well-known Terri Lee Doll Factory, and the Jess Ranch Turkey and Trout Farm, as well as two



lesser known Apple Valley Village enterprises. Sims Ceramics created traditional items such as plates and coffee cups, most with a Western theme, a favorite of early Apple Valley Ranchos. The 1950's era business called itself "Mid-century Modern." Apple Valley Creations, which



operated out of the Green Door on Osage in the Village area, produced plates,

bowls, and coins out of organic materials,



using a giant press. Popular materials were orange peels, apples, potatoes, wedding cake, peanut shells, corn cobs, plants, and horse poop. (Horse Poop?) John Westman, the creator, even sent Queen Elizabeth an Apple Valley horse-poop coin for her Silver Jubilee, and received a note from Buckingham Palace thanking him for the "most unusual gift."



Regina Bell of DVL (Dreamers, Visionaries and Leaders) meets the Teri Lee dolls for the first time.



Chamber Ambassadors Welcoming luncheon guests.



Apple Valley Town Council attending luncheon.

The slide show touting Town departments and businesses was awesome; the various food offerings were delicious.



J.C. and Keisha Campbell and Marcy Taylor, Board members of NAACP, Branch 1082.



Lewis Center (AAE) students learn about local history.



MHS member Stormie Reid showing some history at the evening "Taste of the Town" event.

The friendly Town Council and staff members went out of their way to make sure Town residents and folks from other communities all felt welcome and had an enjoyable evening.

After all, it's a "Better Way of Life" in "The Golden Land of Apple Valley."

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:
 Mohahve Historical Society

Mail the completed form and your payment to:
 Membership
 Mohahve Historical Society
 P.O. Box 21, Victorville, CA 92393

PLEASE USE THIS FORM TO RENEW OR CHANGE YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 (Name, Address, Phone, Email) and submit by USPS, Email or in person at a general meeting)

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
 Victorville, CA 92393

The **MUSE** is the
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