

# THE MOHAHVE MUSE



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

Volume 24 Issue 9  
September 2021

## President's Corner

Hello, MHS members,

### 2021 Officers

#### President

Marcy Taylor

#### Vice-President

Delvin Harbour

#### Treasurer

Carol Wiley

#### Recording Secretary

(OPEN)

#### Corresponding Secretary

Therese Moore

#### Directors

Mary Dutro, Julia Jackson

Carol Johnson, Mike Phillips

Rick Schmidt

The end of summer (with its heat waves) is getting closer, and Fall will bring an interesting slate of education and historical activities. First an update on projects in progress:

1. Two monument plaques (Four Bridges and Lane's Crossing) are complete and ready to be installed. Another (Rivers) is in the proposal stage. We could still use a few more contributions to cover costs. (See form on page 2). Fortunately we have volunteers to do the installations.
2. We received permission from the Victor Valley Memorial Park to move the three monuments on 11th Street to a better and safer location on the property. Lee Graham, who installed four of our monuments initially, will again transport them.
3. We are waiting on a date when a representative of the current owner of the Palisades Ranch property, The Mojave Desert Land Trust, allows us on the property to check on the location of our 100-year time capsule. I recently found out that the Honorary Mayor of Oro Grande was present at the 1990 burial and contributed some items. Unfortunately, the monument that pointed the way, formerly located on National Trails Hwy. at Bryman Rd., is missing and reportedly stolen.
4. I have contacted the current President of the Victor Valley Women's Club about the condition of the tortoise statue, since it was their project. She was to check into it, but I have not heard back.

**MHS Board Elections.** Yes, it is getting close to that time of year again. According to our By-laws, we share the status of current terms of office and openings in Sept., nominate for open positions in October, vote in November, and swear-in at the holiday celebration in December. In case of a resignation mid-term, the By-Laws state that the board can appoint a replacement. Due to two resignations, Jack Magro as Director and Michelle Lovato as Vice-President, the board has appointed two very capable members to finish out their terms: Carol Johnson as Director, and Delvin Harbour as Vice-President.

**President** (2 years, 2022-23) **Marcy Taylor** is finishing out a prior term; is willing to continue in office, or you can nominate.

**Vice-President** (2 years, 2021-2022) not open until 2023.

**Recording Secretary** (2022) open for nomination.

**Corresponding Secretary** (2022) **Therese Moore** is willing to continue in position, or you can nominate.

**Treasurer** (2022) **Carol Wiley** is willing to continue in position, or you can nominate.

**Director 1** (2021-23) not open until 2024.

**Director 2** (2022-2024) **Carol Johnson** is finishing out this year. She can continue in position, or you can nominate.

**Director 3** (2020-2022) not open until 2023.

**Director 4** (2021-2023) not open until 2024.

**Director 5** (2022-2024) **Rick Schmidt** is willing to continue in position, or you can nominate.

**Juanita Riedell** will serve as Nominations Chair. She will accept nominations in October

**MHS Archive.** MHS members are once again able to return to the MHS archives room at VVC to get back to work. At this time board members **Julia Jackson** and **Rick Schmidt** are volunteering Wednesdays, under the guidance of MHS historian **Fran Elgin**. Thanks to the three of you for all you continue to do to keep local history alive and provide a research opportunity for local students and historians.

Please join us for the many activities we have planned for the fall months. Bring your friends and relatives. Guests and new members are always welcome. Thanks for your support.

*Marcy*

MHS website: [www.mohahve.org](http://www.mohahve.org) Email: [Mohahve64@gmail.com](mailto:Mohahve64@gmail.com) (Stormie Reid - Webmaster)

**Summer and Fall fieldtrips/excursions & Member Meetings:** Put these important dates on your calendars!

**Saturday Sept. 25 at 12 noon, "Dare Devils and Speed"** Museum, an outdoor museum in rural east Apple Valley hosted by **Waldo Stakes**, located at El Ranchito Rakete, at 26215 Desert View Road. Take Hwy 18 east towards Lucerne, turn right (South) on Milpas, then left (East) on Desert View. You will go a few blocks on the dirt and see the entrance on the right side. Host Waldo Stakes will amaze you with his knowledge of all things involving air speed, land speed, and water speed, with a separate museum honoring each. On the grounds attendees can see the rocket launcher used by "Mad Mike" Hughes, a rocket car under construction, a boat that broke the water speed record, and other contraptions involved in breaking or hoping to break speed records. You will learn something of the personality and character of a dare devil, and the real danger faced in the challenges they undertake.



**Saturday Oct. 30 - Daggett Museum**, blacksmith shop, hotel, and garage hosted by Daryl Schendel. Meet at **10am** with optional trip following to Newberry Springs Bagdad Cafe for lunch, and Huell Howser Volcano House (outside only).

**Regular Member Meetings.** As of September, our regular member meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday at 7pm at the **Lone Wolf Colony**, 23200 Bear Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308, the site of our yearly Holiday celebration. Doors open at 6:30pm.

**Thursday Sept. 23** - Mark Landis - "The Camp Cajon Table Homecoming Project." He will discuss the history of the tables, from their construction and placement at the popular rest stop on the Cajon Pass to accommodate early motorists from 1919-1938, to their relocation to two San Bernardino area parks, Lytle Creek and Perris Hill following the great flood of 1938. He will conclude with the project that recently brought one of the original tables back to its home in the Cajon Pass, near the former site of Camp Cajon.



**Thursday Oct. 28** - John Grasson presenting on Lost Ship of the Desert (Salton Sea). Board of Directors nominations.

**Thursday Nov. 18** - (3rd Thurs. due to Thanksgiving) Nick Cataldo presenting the Wyatt Earp family. Election of Board of Directors. Purchase celebration Dinner tickets (\$20).

**Friday Dec. 17** - Christmas celebration Dinner at Lone Wolf Colony. Board of Directors Oath of Office Ceremony.

**Additional dates:**

**Saturday Sept. 11-** The AV Inn and AV Lions Cub have invited us to host a booth at their Patriotic event and car show on the Inn grounds from 9am-1pm. The AV Legacy Museum will be open during this event.

**Saturday Sept. 18** - Sante Fe Crafts Fair, 10am - 4pm, 15492 7th Street, Old Town Victorville.

**Saturday Oct. 9** - Apple Valley Parade, Street Fair and Car Show, 9am - 2pm. (Details to follow).

**Sunday Oct. 10** at 10am. at Horseman's Center 24320 Highway 18, Apple Valley- The Billy Holcomb Chapter 1069 of E. Clampus Vitus (AKA as the Clampers) will have a formal dedication of their newest historical monument. According to their invitation, "The plaque will outline the history and life story of Apple Valley's own Roy Rogers and Dale Evans." The dedication is open to the public and any and all are welcome to attend.

**Sunday Oct. 24** - The Lone Wolf Colony has invited us to share a booth at their open house event. (Details to follow)

**2022 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!**

**Annual (Non-Lifetime) Memberships will expire 12/31/2021.**

Please renew your membership at the October or November members meetings  
Or by mail

MHS, P.O. Box 21, Victorville, CA 92393  
(see Page 6 for Application/Renewal Form)

Single (\$20), Family (\$30), Student (\$10), Business (\$35)

Protect your MUSE Newsletter and renew soon!

**MHS MONUMENTS TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION**

(Restoration and continued maintenance)

Immediate Repairs:

- #2 Mojave River Crossing
- #4 Historic Bridges of the Mojave
- #5, #6, #7 Touch-ups
- #2 - #9 Sealant to prevent further damage

Ongoing:

Maintenance of monuments/sites (weeds, trash, graffiti)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount donated \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt needed? \_\_\_\_\_

Checks must be made out to MHS, submitted in person, or mailed to MHS PO Box 21, Victorville, Ca. 92393

**Lone Wolf Colony - Our New Home** by Marcy Taylor

Starting with the Sept. 23, 2021 meeting, we will call the Lone Wolf Colony Health Ranch our home base. MHS has held our holiday parties there for many years. It is a good place for our organization to meet, as we are both non-profits, and we are definitely both history-related.

The ranch was established in 1922 by Sam Coldwell (whose Indian name was Lone Wolf) as a retreat for tuberculous patients and World War I veterans recovering from mustard gas. In 1923, with 250 volunteers from Pacific Bell Telephone, the colony was developed at its present location. The living quarters consisted of six tent houses, ten one-room cabins, and a 6,000 square foot ranch house. Food was grown on the colony's twenty acres, and fundraisers such as boxing matches supported the mission financially.

When Sam died of tuberculous in 1934, the ranch was sold to Pacific Bell for one dollar. They, in turn, sold it to their employees in 1967, also for one dollar. United Way funded the non-profit from 1967-1983. Today the ranch is still used for recuperative purposes, free of charge to those who qualify with a doctor's letter. It is also home to over 100 permanent residents, winter "snowbirds," as well as weekend campers. Various groups and organizations rent the facility for meetings and other functions. The site boasts a wonderful and educational telephone museum, a highlight of our February fieldtrip. LWC is listed in the Apple Valley Historical Points of Interest booklet, recently revised by board members Marcy and Michelle, as a project of the Apple Valley Historical Advisory Committee. The historic marker out front will soon be replaced by the Town with a newer model, just in time for the 100th anniversary celebration next year.

We look forward to meeting at this beautiful historic place. Board members Marcy and Mary met with the new director Shannon Irwin Tues. Aug. 17 to work out the details.

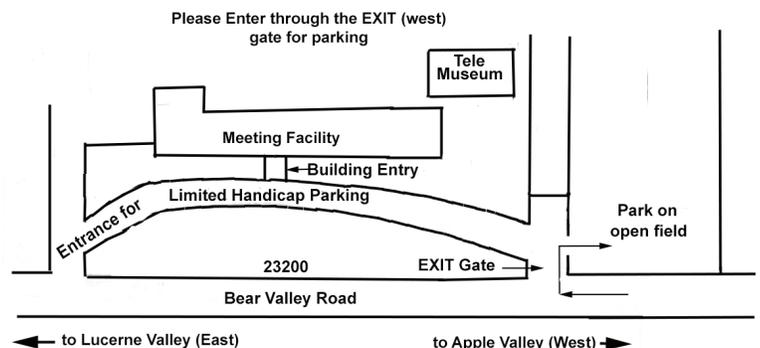
**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY:**

Due to the COVID delta variant and state guidelines regarding indoor meetings, masks will be required unless you are eating. Please co-operate with this directive.

They have now marked the East side drive way as the ENTRANCE and the West side driveway as the EXIT as a safety measure for large RVs and other vehicles. However, due to limited parking in front of the ranch house, on meeting days we will be directed to enter through the EXIT gate and park near the trees.

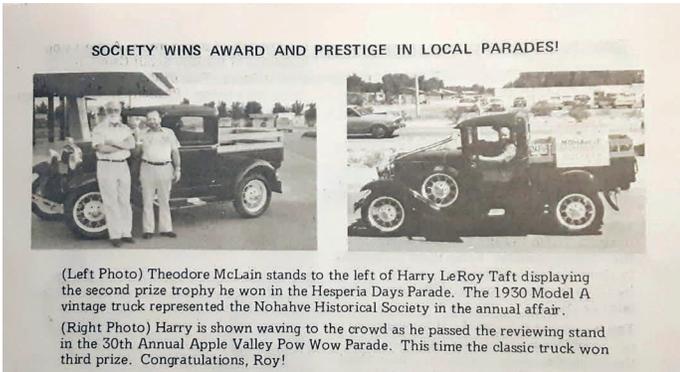
Doors will open at 6:30pm. Please do not arrive early unless you are a scheduled helper, as we will have lots to set up in a limited amount of time. Upon entering guests and visitors will sign in on two separate sheets and get a raffle ticket. There is no \$2.00 charge for non-members as with the off-site fieldtrips. During the Oct. and Nov. meetings please be prepared to take care of membership renewals for 2022, turn in nomination papers and/or vote for 2022 board positions, and pay for your holiday dinner ticket (\$20) if desired. Read the Muse, know what to expect, and don't hold up the line! That way we will be able to get started on time. Books will be available for purchase at a separate table, and light refreshments will be served before and after each meeting, just inside the main dining room. Often speakers will have a table of display items and books for sale.

We have gained quite a few new members since we last held an indoor meeting with a speaker back in February of 2020, so some may not be familiar with monthly meeting procedures. Let's get back in the "swing of things" and learn some history!! Can't wait to see you all (especially those of you who said you would not return until we had a REAL place to meet again.) Thanks for reading if you got this far.



## Everyone Loves a Parade by Marcy Taylor

The Mohave Historical Society has a history of participating in Apple Valley parades. A 1977 MHS newsletter includes a photo of Harry LeRoy Taft in his 1930 Model A participating in the 30th Annual PowWow Days Parade. His classic truck, which earned 3rd place in the Apple Valley parade, also earned a second place in the Hesperia Days Parade that same year.



(Left Photo) Theodore McLain stands to the left of Harry LeRoy Taft displaying the second prize trophy he won in the Hesperia Days Parade. The 1930 Model A vintage truck represented the Nohahve Historical Society in the annual affair.  
 (Right Photo) Harry is shown waving to the crowd as he passed the reviewing stand in the 30th Annual Apple Valley Pow Wow Parade. This time the classic truck won third prize. Congratulations, Roy!

After the PowWow Parade became the Frontier Parade, then the Round-up Parade (this was, of course, after the name PowWow was determined to be politically incorrect) there were no parades from 2007-2014. But as luck would have it, the year the Apple Valley Museum opened in 2015, the Town re-instated the popular parade, now known as the Happy Trails Parade.



So I thought we should all participate.

That year the museum entered our first western-themed musical float, complete with a live band singing three Apple Valley songs, one of which was, naturally, "Happy Trails." We didn't win, but we had a lot of fun. We've improved yearly, winning a



second place prize in 2018 and a first place in 2019.

Mohave Historical Society members didn't need much encouragement to participate that first year. When the idea was brought up at the Sept. meeting, past board members Gary and Linda offered to represent the MHS with a classic 1960's convertible, to much applause. To top that, Jim Jacobs raised his hand, offering to drive his vintage Model A. Fran Elgin had some magnetic signs made up, and they were off. The first year passengers included Stormie Reid, Fran Elgin, and jr. member Dey'nelle Kaltenbach. The following year, both cars were entered again, this time with Mel Marks riding shot-gun with Jim, and Barbara Smith and her friend Pat, all dolled up in vintage dresses and hats, in the back seat, earning a third place. To top that, the following year, Jim and Mel were joined by Peggy Raybourne and Jim Antonson, both decked out in their 1920's finery. Marcy was happy to accompany Mel and Jim Jacobs to



the Town Council meeting to accept the 2nd place award and a \$50 check for MHS.

This year the Apple Valley Legacy Museum will again be entering in the float category, with the theme "Roy and Dale Say Apple Valley is For Fun." Based on a 1960's era brochure advertising the Roy Rogers Apple Valley Inn, each rider will represent a different sport or activity that was included with an Inn stay: swimming, horseback riding, golf, tennis, fishing, steak fries, sing-alongs, croquet, and archery. The museum volunteers would like to invite MHS members to join us. To participate you (1) choose your activity, (2) plan a costume (we have all the needed props or you can provide your own), (3) sign a waiver that you will not fall off the float and sue the Town of Apple Valley, (4) arrive by 9:30 Sat. Oct. 9 to the area of Hwy 18 and Central ready to rumble, and (5) find the float and hop on!

In addition, we will have a booth at James Woody Park or John Glenn Blvd. (wherever the street fair and car show will be held this year) that needs to be staffed from 9am-2pm the same day. We also have experience with this, as in 2016 Fran, Mary Dutro, and Marcy set up the booth before the parade, and Mary stayed to hold down the fort until the float-riders could arrive to help out. In fact, the museum has split its staff in order to accomplish this every year since then. So, if you prefer to work the booth from 9-11:30am or 11:30am - 2:00pm, that is also a possibility. Minimal training is needed. If you want to enter a classic or antique car to represent the MHS, that would be great.

I should mention that this year's float idea was conceived for the 2020 parade, and 80% of the preparations were made before its cancellation. Our very reliable volunteers, Craig and Irene, provide the truck and flatbed, and the float is constructed in their yard. So now all we need are enthusiastic participants. If you are one of them, let Marcy know ASAP, as paperwork must be submitted.

## The Hollywood Stars of Hesperia by Marcy Taylor

Back in the glory days of the 1920's through the 1960's, the High Desert was the playground of numerous Hollywood legends who frequented the local guest ranches. Since the beginning of the 20th century, the area has been used for on-location filming. Though William S. Hart, Tom Mix, John Wayne and the like may be long gone, a number of stars of movies, TV shows, and commercials still reside right here. Members of the Mohave Historical Society got a rare glimpse into their lives Thursday July 29 on a fieldtrip to the Hesperia Zoo.



Comments from members included these: "Wow!" "Fantastic!" "Unbelievable!" The most frequent "I never knew this was here!" and the most welcome, "Where can I make a donation?" One attendee commented he had seen a capybara, the world's largest rodent, on TV, but never expected to encounter one in real life. But there he was--a rescue from a past owner who had neither the permit nor the zoning to keep him.

**Donnell**, our tour guide, was vibrant, funny, enthusiastic, and a wealth of knowledge. One MHS member remarked



that she amazingly seemed to know the idiosyncrasies of each and every animal, getting a big cat to come out and greet his guests, and asking a baboon to smile widely, which he did on command, showing all of his teeth. Another member loved that she started off the trip by giving the attendees, all adults, critter food to feed a variety of animals in the first enclosure. From the excitement you would have thought that we were all kids at the Fair

## Petting Zoo.



MHS members developing new friendships!

Did you know a dromedary camel has only one hump, but that he can go for three months on the desert without a drop of food or water? Have you ever seen a huge tortoise with a spikey shell? Did you know a spider monkey has five appendages which grip like hands to swing from tree to tree or vine to vine? (Yes, that includes his tail that ends in little fingers.)



Marcy recruiting a new MHS member!

Do you know how to make yourself appear tall and threatening if approached by a dangerous predator? And do you know what might happen if you make sudden eye contact with the beast? Did you know that a ferocious jaguar's favorite toy is a refrigerator box?

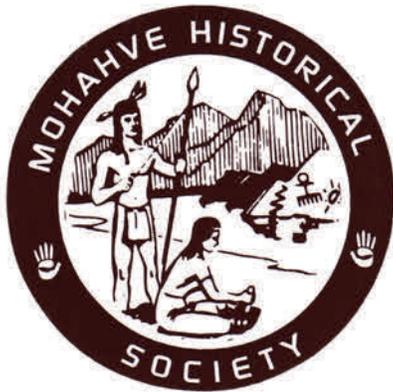
Many attendees agreed this had to have been one of the all time great MHS trips, right up there with Camp Cajon and Daredevils and Speed. The movie actors and actresses put on a great show.

If you missed the trip, check out the Hesperia Zoo website and make a reservation for a tour. Or you can plan a party and they will even bring the animals to you.

A great big thank you to owners Stephanie and Judy and tour guide Donnell for all you do to take care of these special animal superstars.



Now that we have all been introduced, I'm sure we'll spot them on shows or commercials, and maybe come back for an autograph.



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The **MUSE** is the  
 Monthly newsletter  
 of the  
 Mohahve  
 Historical Society

[www.mohahve.org](http://www.mohahve.org)

[Mohahve64@gmail.com](mailto:Mohahve64@gmail.com)

Label

**MOHAHVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 Email address: [mohahve@verizon.net](mailto:mohahve@verizon.net) Website: [www.mohahve.org](http://www.mohahve.org)  
 MOHAHVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY SINCE 1964

**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:  
 Mohahve Historical Society

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