

THE MOHAHVE MUSE

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2019



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HISTORY OF MOVIE MAKING IN THE VICTOR VALLEY

Join the Mohave Historical Society on Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m. at Redeemer Church in Apple Valley for a lecture by award-winning journalist Matthew Cabe.

Cabe has been a reporter and columnist for the *Daily Press* newspaper in Victorville since 2015. His presentation will chronicle filmmaking in the High Desert from the Silent Era through today's biggest blockbusters. Along the way, Cabe will discuss the historical, cultural, and financial benefits that movie production crews bring to the High Desert.



Clark Gable at Yucca Loma Ranch, 1930s
[Photo courtesy the Local History Collection at VVC]



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Photo © 2019
by Mary DeSantis

The Mohahve Muse

is the official newsletter of the
Mohahve Historical Society

P.O. Box 21

Victorville, CA 92393

*The Mohahve Historical
Society is a non-profit
501(c)(3) organization.*

*Our organization meets the 4th
Thursday of each month
at 7:00 p.m. at*

*Redeemer Church
22434 Nisqually Road
Apple Valley, CA 92308*

Visit our website

www.mohahve.org

Our E-mail address is:

mohahve@verizon.net

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THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!

I'm on the lookout for history
stories & photos. You don't have
to be a writer to contribute. Just
write out the facts about the
topic and I'll turn them into an
article – and you'll get the
byline.

**Deadline for submissions is the last
day of each month.**

Send to Mary DeSantis at
MaryMinuteMaid@hotmail.com
or see me at our monthly
meeting.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

MEMBERS NOTE:

**December is our
renewal month**

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

LAWRENCE W. JOHNSON,
HESPERIA

GARY & DIANA HOBBS, APL VLY

GARY & DEBRA MENSER,
HESPERIA

CARRIE & TIM OTIS FAMILY,
HESPERIA

RENEWALS

BARBARA ALLAN, APPLE VALLEY

GENE & MARY ANN CHRISTY,
APPLE VALLEY

MARY DeSANTIS, HESPERIA

NELSON MILLER, APL VLY

AL VOGLER, HESPERIA

*Thank you for your
continued support!*

For membership questions call

Andrea M. Gutierrez

➡ (760) 961-2731 ⬅

or contact her at the meeting.

2019 CALENDAR

April 25

GENERAL MEETING

Speaker: Matthew Cabe

Topic: Movie Making in the High
Desert

May 23

GENERAL MEETING

Speaker: Bob Cambridge

Topic: History of the Cambridge family
in the Victor Valley

June 27

GENERAL MEETING

Speaker: Luis Fuerte

Topic: My Time With Huell Howser

July and August

VACATION

**There will be no meetings
during these two months due to
family vacations and the
excessive heat.**

September 26

GENERAL MEETING

A documentary will be shown.

Title: *Life and times of Pancho Barnes*

2019 FIELD TRIPS

All events and field trips will be posted to
our website as soon as they are planned:

www.mohahve.org

MARCH RECAP

Camp Cajon Project

Lecture by Mark Landis

by Mary DeSantis



Above: Opening ceremony at Camp Cajon, July 4, 1919.

Below: Posters sold by Landis Publications. 100% of the proceeds go towards the Camp Cajon Project.



This year's July Fourth coincides with the 100th anniversary of the opening of Camp Cajon. The famous rest stop in the Cajon Pass was built to cater to motorists along National Old Trails Road – the very first road to completely traverse the nation from east to west.

Then the Great Flood of 1938 wiped Camp Cajon off the map. A replica of the Camp Cajon monument will be unveiled on the original site this coming July Fourth during a centennial-sized wing-dinger of a celebration.

After a year of planning, research, permit applications, proposal preparation, and fund raising, a group of local historians finally broke ground for the new monument on March 28, 2019.

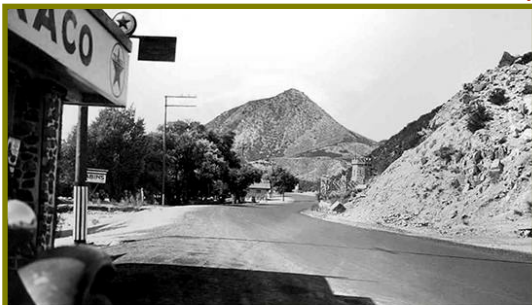
Camp Cajon's inauguration in 1919 was celebrated with

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MARCH RECAP

Camp Cajon Project

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'Then & now' views of Squaw Peak and Camp Cajon in the Cajon Pass. [Photos courtesy Mark Landis]



Mark Landis speaking at the Mohave Historical Society meeting on March 28, 2019.

tremendous patriotic ceremony and fanfare. Organizers plan to duplicate the event on the 100th anniversary dedication in July.

Our guest speaker, Mark Landis, delivered a thorough history of the many trails that converged at the Cajon Pass throughout time, and described the tapestry of humanity that passed through this vital Gateway to California, from Indian foot traffic, Spanish missionaries, Mountain Men, settlers, and the U.S. military, to today's traffic.

Visit the Camp Cajon Facebook page for project updates and to donate or volunteer:

<https://www.facebook.com/campcajonmonument/>.

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MARCH RECAP

Camp Cajon Project

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Left: Stacy Landis of Landis Publications selling vintage posters and photos to raise money for the Camp Cajon Project.

Center: MHS President, Jim Mustra, donates \$200 to the Camp Cajon Project on behalf of the Mohave Historical Society.

Bottom: Membership Chair Andrea Gutierrez and Corresponding Secretary Fran Elgin make guests feel welcome at our March general meeting.



[Photos by Mary DeSantis]



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST



Website
<http://www.mohahve.org>
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mohahve@verizon.net

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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EMAIL: _____



**NEW
MEMBER**



**RENEWING
MEMBER**



MEMBERSHIP TYPE

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

LIFETIME: **FAMILY \$200** ☐ **SINGLE \$150** ☐



Please make your check out to: Mohave Historical Society

Mail the completed form and your payment to:

Membership
Mohave Historical Society
P.O. Box 21, Victorville, CA 92393



**WELCOME TO THE
MOHAVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**


**and THANK YOU for supporting
this great organization.**



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

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Tishomingo



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Hesperia, California 92345
David (760) 553-0743
Dee Dee (760) 403-1756
rumsenama@gmail.com

UNSUNG HEROES OF THE MONTH

Kathy & Richard Thompson



Kathryn and Richard Thompson
in a December 2000 *Press Dispatch* staff photo by Casey Luksch

by Fran Elgin

We haven't seen power-couple Kathy and Richard Thompson at our monthly meetings very often lately. However, they are still very much involved with researching and writing our local history. The Thompsons lived in San Bernardino County all their lives, and moved to Apple Valley in 1990.

Richard is retired from his job as a civil engineer with the San Bernardino County Transportation Department, but was researching history long before he retired. Richard has a Master's degree in history.

Kathy worked as a secretary for many years before opening and running Thompson's Used Book

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UNSUNG HEROES OF THE MONTH

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Shop in Victorville, where local history buffs can find treasures not found elsewhere in the Victor Valley.

The couple worked together on researching and writing a book about Aaron Lane, the first known permanent white settler on the High Desert. They started a website <http://mojavehistory.com/> where their book *Pioneer of the Mojave: The Life and Times of Aaron G. Lane* can be found.

Some of the smaller books, *Sagebrush Annie, Murray's Ranch*, and others are also available online, including interviews with several of the old-timers in the area about their memories of places such as Helendale, Oro Grande, and Apple Valley. The texts of most of the interviews are also on the website.

Richard is a past president of the Mohahve Historical Society. He has also spoken at some of our meetings. We miss you, Kathy and Richard, but we appreciate your constant dedication to teaching us about our rich heritage here in the High Desert.



Artwork by Mary DeSantis

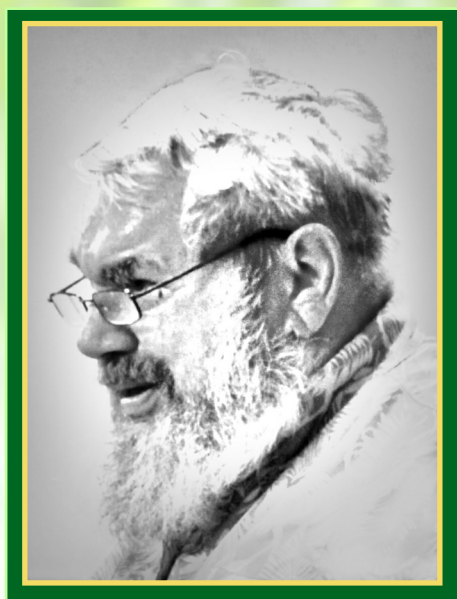


A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The attendance for the March meeting exceeded our expectations, with approximately 108 people. There were so many visitors that we ran out of refreshments, but thanks to Mary Hughes, who made a quick run to the store, we had something at the end of the meeting.

One good thing about having a big attendance was that we got some new members. Welcome to all those who joined.

Again, I would like to thank those who helped clean up and put chairs back after such a big turn out. The help was, and is, very much appreciated.



—Jim Mustra—

I would like to add a special thank you to our new member Carrie Otis for stopping by the college library and helping Fran Elgin sort and file newly donated items in the local history room.



Happy Easter!

Artwork by Mary DeSantis

[Easter Lily clip art courtesy of www.magment.com.]

VOLUNTEER FOCUS

Thanks to Rita Wells for bringing hummingbird cake, lemonade, and a cookie platter, and for decorating the table for our March 2019 meeting.



Rita Wells

Mary Ruth Hughes

Mary Ruth Hughes baked delicious strawberry cupcakes, and ran out to the store to buy more cakes when we ran out before the meeting started!



Jerry Hutchinson supplied us with a variety of juice to drink, and Jim Mustra made the coffee.