

# THE MOHAHVE MUSE

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 5



MAY 2019

## History of the Cambridge Family in the Victor Valley



Carl Cambridge, Sr., Circa 1962

Excerpt from Carl Cambridge Senior's "Boyhood Memories" – oral history recording dated November 19, 1970 in the VVC/MHS Local History Collection.

“ My dad was supposed to meet us at Shiprock or at Wilcox when the train pulled in, but as they had had a terrific storm along the White Sands in New Mexico, and the floods coming down out of the mountains, it washed out one of the bridges on the Southern Pacific Railway. Why, it had tied our train up for two days until they had the bridge fixed up again so we could move on. During this time, my dad had come to Shiprock to pick us up, but as we weren't there he had turned around and went back... Why, when we pulled into Wilcox, Dad wasn't there, and Mother was kind of dubious about the western country, hearing so many wild stories of it.

”

**Story and photos provided by Bob Cambridge**

Join the Mohave Historical Society on Thursday, May 23 at 7 p.m. at Redeemer Church in Apple Valley for a lecture by Bob Cambridge, great-

grandson of Victor Valley pioneer Carl Cambridge, Sr., who moved out West with his family in 1904.

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# 2019 OFFICERS

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## Newsletter Editor

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](http://www.mohahve.org)  
Our E-mail address is:  
[mohahve@verizon.net](mailto:mohahve@verizon.net)*

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## ***THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!***

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

*Send submissions to  
Mary DeSantis at  
[MaryMinuteMaid@hotmail.com](mailto:MaryMinuteMaid@hotmail.com)  
or see me at our monthly  
meeting.*

**Visit our Facebook page!**

[https://www.facebook.com/  
Mohahve-Historical-Society-  
402919469748460/](https://www.facebook.com/Mohahve-Historical-Society-402919469748460/)



# MEMBERSHIP CORNER

## MEMBERS NOTE:

**December is our  
renewal month**

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

THOMAS & INGRID MITCHELL,  
APPLE VALLEY

RITA WELLS, APPLE VALLEY

### RENEWALS

MARTHA RADER,  
LUCERNE VALLEY

Thank you  
for your  
continued  
support!

For membership questions call

**Andrea M. Gutierrez**

▶ (760) 961-2731 ◀

or contact her at the meeting.

# 2019 CALENDAR

### 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*

### October 27

#### GENERAL MEETING

**Speaker:** Marcy Taylor

**Topic:** Museum Hopping Tours

### 2019 FIELD TRIPS

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

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



# History of the Cambridge Family in the Victor Valley

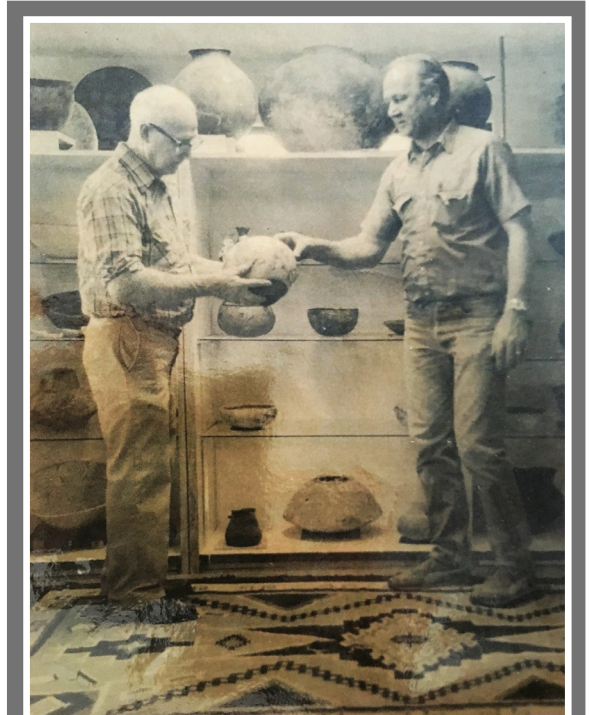
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Cambridge Sr. was one of the key founders of the Mohahve Historical Society (MHS) during it's early formation in 1963, and became the Charter President when it was officially established in 1964. He was an active and supportive member of the MHS until he passed away in 1971.

Cambridge Sr. was born in Boston, Massachusetts on February 15, 1892 and moved to Fort Grant, Arizona in 1904 when he was just a boy. He was intrigued by the Apache Scouts that worked at the fort and was able to gain their trust. They shared with him their rich culture and beliefs, and how they lived and survived.

When Carl got older he began working in construction where he was in charge of hiring and managing native Indian workers. Again, he was respected and trusted by them and invited to attend some of their private ceremonies. Indian culture fascinated him and he began collecting artifacts and researching their history.

In 1940, Carl, his wife Gladys, and their seven children moved to Apple Valley where he became a dairy and alfalfa farmer. In his spare time he



Carl (Bud) Cambridge Jr. and Jim Cambridge at the family's Apple Valley museum in 1985

pursued his passion of investigating Southern California and High Desert Native American Indians. After retiring in 1961, Cambridge Sr. devoted the rest of his life to developing his private collection. He turned his home into a museum and made his collection available to the public. The museum was located on Bear Valley Road just east of Apple Valley Road.

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APRIL RECAP

HISTORY OF MOVIE MAKING  
IN THE  
VICTOR VALLEY



© 2019 by Mary DeSantis

Lecture by  
Matthew Cabe

Story and photos by Mary DeSantis



Our April 25, 2019 general meeting featured Daily Press writer Matt Cabe as our guest speaker. Cabe is an award-winning journalist and Victor Valley resident whose easy-reading conversational style has endeared him to readers of his regular column, *This Desert Life*.

Cabe's presentation chronicled filmmaking in the High Desert from the Silent Era through today's biggest blockbusters, and detailed how the local economy has benefited, both culturally and financially, from movie production in the region.

In 1910, Dr. Harris Garcelon began homesteading in Apple Valley on the future site of Jess Ranch.

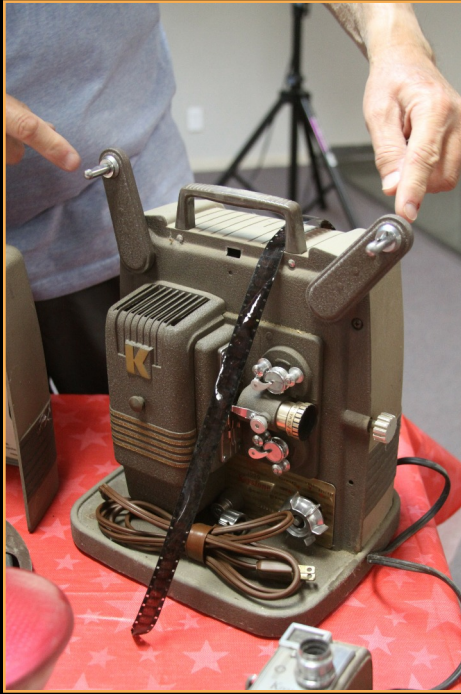


© 2019 by Mary DeSantis

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## APRIL RECAP

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HISTORY OF MOVIE MAKING  
IN THE  
VICTOR VALLEY

Mark Lantz demonstrating an antique movie projector on display at the meeting.



16 mm film reel on display at the meeting, courtesy of the Apple Valley Legacy Museum.

The ranch hosted many celebrity guests of the era, most notably Tom Mix and William S. Hart, who “battled for the title of Greatest Movie Cowboy at that time,” said Cabe.

Hollywood’s relationship with the High Desert has endured ever since those early days of silent film. The continuous filming of movies in the High Desert over the past century offers snapshots of our local communities at different stages of development.

“When you watch these movies back to back, you really get a sense of the High Desert’s evolution,” Cabe said in a recent Daily Press interview.

“Victorville is a perfect example. In the 1920s, you see this sleepy desert town, and a Mojave River full of water. By the time you get to the 1970s and beyond, that rural atmosphere has been replaced by something that’s increasingly urban. And it’s all part of our shared history.”

Cabe singled out *Saturday Night Bath in Apple Valley* as one of the greatest snapshots of what Apple Valley’s historic landmarks looked like at a certain point in time, while at the

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# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST



Website  
<http://www.mohahve.org>  
Email address:  
[mohahve@verizon.net](mailto:mohahve@verizon.net)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mary Ruth Hughes

## Tishomingo



818 259-5998  
www.MaryRuthHughes.com

### CALIF. TURTLE & TORTOISE CLUB HIGH DESERT CHAPTER



P.O. BOX 163  
VICTORVILLE CA 92393  
PRESIDENT  
Dave Zantiny (760) 792-3753  
ADOPTIONS  
Mary Dutro (760)247-2364  
www.tortoise.org/highdesert

### Apple Valley Legacy Museum

Apple Valley Inn #153  
Marcy Taylor  
(760) 985-1918

OPEN  
7 Days a Week  
Hours vary  
by season




20601 Highway 18, Apple Valley, CA 92307

### Victor Valley Legacy Museum

Old Town Victorville  
Marcy Taylor  
(760) 985-1918

Open Monday  
through  
Saturday




15492 7th St, Ste A • Victorville, CA 92395


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14671 Farmington Street  
Hesperia, California 92345

David (760)553-0743  
Dee Dee (760)403-1756

rumsenalma@gmail.com

# History of the Cambridge Family in the Victor Valley

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Carl hosted students and educators from around the world at his museum. By lecturing at the Victor Valley College he received the degree of Honorary Associate of Arts. Students of history were often privileged to go on field trips and hear him lecture on local history.

After Cambridge Sr. died in 1971, his son Bud and



The Desert Seekers, the first Young Historian group in the High Desert, was founded by Jim Cambridge. Their motto was: "Preserve for tomorrow, live and enjoy today, by understanding and protecting yesterday."

MHS May 2019 Guest Speaker,  
Bob Cambridge



grandson Jim carried on the tradition as curators of the museum, which was subsequently moved to Jim Cambridge's Apple Valley home.

In 2004 the Cambridge family was no longer able to continue the family museum. The decision was made to sell the museum and donate portions to the Victorville and Barstow Museums.

Now Robert Cambridge is working to document the family history and catalog his father's personal collection. He hopes to continue the family's tradition of gathering and sharing knowledge with his children and future generations to come.





## APRIL RECAP

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HISTORY OF MOVIE MAKING  
IN THE  
VICTOR VALLEY

Many thanks to Mark Lantz and Marcy Taylor of the Apple Valley Legacy Museum, who displayed memorabilia from Victor Valley's movie-making past. These artifacts and many more antiques can be viewed at the museum which is located in the Historic Apple Valley Inn on Hwy 18. Call Marcy at (760) 985-1918 for information and hours of operation.

same time labeling the comedy the worst film he has ever seen.

*"Saturday Night Bath in Apple Valley is essentially an advertisement for the town. Newt Bass was very astute...and was very intelligent when it came to business and advertising,"* said Cabe. Bass was a real estate developer and one of the founders of Apple Valley, and was an instrumental backer of that film.

Approximately 200 silent films were shot in locations such as Old Town Victorville, Lucerne Valley, and Mojave Narrows. Thousands of films have been shot in the region since the Silent Era.

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## APRIL RECAP

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HISTORY OF MOVIE MAKING  
IN THE  
VICTOR VALLEY

“How can you tell that a movie is made in the High Desert?” asked Cabe. “The Joshua trees.”

Hollywood icon John Ford directed several films here, including *The Grapes of Wrath* (1942).

Ford looked to the desert to film another classic, *Stagecoach*, in 1939. “*Stagecoach* is essentially the film that made John Wayne a star,” said Cabe. The famous stagecoach chase was filmed in Rabbit Dry Lake in Lucerne Valley.

Inland Empire Film Services, a San Bernardino County government department, tracks the amount of movie production money that goes into local communities. In 1993, local businesses saw \$3.5 million in income. In 2016, that amount was \$33.8 million. From 1995 to 2013, movie companies had a \$1.4 billion impact in both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties combined.

Matthew Cabe is a fount of movie history knowledge. I can’t wait for Matt to combine all his research into a comprehensive book on the History of Movie Making in the Victor Valley.

“I’m honored that Mohave Historical Society President Jim Mustra invited me back for another chat,” Cabe said. “What the society has done since 1964 to document the High Desert’s past and people is astonishing. Their work really opened my eyes to our rich history, and I can’t thank them enough for their dedication to preserving it.”

-Matthew Cabe



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had another good turn out at our April meeting and I would again like to thank those that helped with the setup before the meeting and cleanup afterwards. There were also some very good snacks provided.

All MHS members need to start thinking about nominations for next year's officers, and a good start would be the early selection of a Nominating Committee. This committee must be put together by the general membership, and should consist of a minimum of three members who are not currently serving on the Board of Directors. There are only three more general meetings before nominations start due to our break during the months of July and August, so starting now would allow us to hit the ground running in time for our elections in November. Please step up and participate by organizing the Nominating Committee.

During our summer break I will be talking to the Lone Wolf Colony about our Christmas dinner and confirming the number of guests



## JIM MUSTRA

they can accommodate. The price is going to be \$10 per person which we will probably start collecting at the September meeting. Reservations will be necessary for the catered dinner, although members are free to participate in the Christmas party without reserving a seat for the dinner. Members may also bring their own food, as we have done in the past.

The Board has voted to give away one local history book from our inventory as a door prize at the end of each monthly general meeting. Be sure you and your guests sign in and stick around for the drawing after the lecture!





VOLUNTEER  
FOCUS



Marcy Taylor


Thanks to the following people for providing refreshments for the people who attended our April 2019 meeting.

Marcy Taylor brought a tasty variety of healthy and delicious snacks, including a selection of fresh fruit and vegetables, and a platter of cookies.

Mary Ruth Hughes brought a huge basket of chocolate truffles.

Rita Wells decorated the table beautifully.

Fran Elgin supplied juice to drink, and Jim Mustra made the coffee.

Thanks to all of you who dropped a donation into the box to help pay for the refreshments. You are greatly appreciated. 







**PRESERVING THE PAST  
BY EMBRACING THE FUTURE**

The MHS Board of Directors has decided to embrace Social Media more fully going into the future, in an attempt to make our organization more accessible to younger people.

The 15- to 35-year-old demographic of society today is so dependent upon electronic devices to interact with the world around them, that the only way to get their attention is to make ourselves very visible online, through a more vibrant and interactive website and via social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

At their May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board voted to create the position of Webmaster. The Webmaster's first job will be to design a new website. The current website is too static and is very limited with regard to function. For example, our current website does not have much storage capacity and we are unable to upload our newsletters and photos.

Our new website will have online

membership application forms and payment capability through PayPal. We also foresee the ability to sell our books online. Visitors to our site will be able to peruse our vast collection of photos and will be able to view all our newsletters and documentation such as our by-laws and constitution.

The Webmaster will also be responsible for regularly posting current news and photos on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Mohahve-Historical-Society-402919469748460/>.

Newsletter Editor Mary DeSantis has volunteered to become the first Webmaster until such time as another member with more experience in that arena steps forward.

If social media is your thing and you would like to become involved with our new venture, please email Mary DeSantis at [MaryMinuteMaid@hotmail.com](mailto:MaryMinuteMaid@hotmail.com) or Jim Mustra at [Mohahve@verizon.net](mailto:Mohahve@verizon.net), or speak to us at our regular meeting.



# Local History Collection at Victor Valley College Library

by *Mary DeSantis*

Fran Elgin has been the life and breath of the Local History Room (LHR) at the Victor Valley College (VVC) Library for many decades and is ready to retire. But first, she needs to find a replacement – others who share her passion for archiving and preserving the vast collection of journals, maps, oral histories, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, memorabilia, letters, microfiche film, and other media housed in the collection.

The Local History Collection is a collaboration between the Mohahve Historical Society (MHS) and VVC, and it is imperative that other MHS members continue to manage the collection. Otherwise, it could pass out of our hands.

Elgin invited the Board of Directors to participate in a special tour of the



VVC librarian emeritus, Fran Elgin, showing MHS Board members a valuable book recently donated to the LHC. L-R: Jemma DeSantis, Rick Schmidt, Pal Bevilacqua, Fran Elgin, and Mary DeSantis.

Photo by Jim Mustra. April 9, 2019

collection on April 9, 2019. She explained how the collection is archived, where everything is stored, and what work still needs to be done.

Although a tremendous amount of historical information has already been catalogued and filed, there is a continuous need to file new items.

For example, Richard and Kathy Thompson recently donated the Rancho Yucca Loma Guest Book that has been signed by celebrities

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# Local History Collection

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L-R: Mary DeSantis, Rick Schmidt, and Jemma DeSantis working in the Local History Room at the Victor Valley College Library. Photo by Fran Elgin. April 2019.

such as Clark Gable and David Manners, and famous Victor Valley residents like John Barry. This extremely rare and valuable find is one of many items that people generously donate to the collection, and these items need to be properly preserved and made available for all to see.

Because history is an ongoing process, the LHC gathers current news items and artifacts about major events and the movers-and-shakers of the Mojave Desert.

Two MHS members – Rick Schmidt and myself – and my 11-year-old daughter Jemma, agreed to

work with Elgin for four hours every Tuesday, and we began on April 16. So far, this team has accomplished a great deal. We have been sorting and filing documents and photos; digitizing and formatting transcriptions of oral histories that were typed out prior to computers; clipping newspaper articles; conducting research for people who request specific information from the LHC archives; thinning files that have duplicates of documents; and updating the library catalog.

There will always be something to

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# Local History Collection - Continued from Page 16 -

do, so we three volunteers are committed to taking the baton and running the next leg of the race.

It is a lot of fun, to tell the truth. We each love the Victor Valley and are fascinated by the colorful history of the region. What better way to spend our time?



Photos by Fran Elgin. April 2019.

There is a lot more that Fran has to teach us before retiring from the Local History Room completely. Won't you join us? Many hands make light work. It isn't too late to be a part of the relay team. Down the line, you might regret having sat it out on the sidelines. 