

THE MOHAHVE MUSE

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 6



JUNE 2019



[Photo courtesy of Luis Fuerte]

Luis Fuerte, the five-time Emmy award-winning cameraman for Huell Howser's TV show, "California's Gold," will be the guest speaker during the June meeting of the Mohave Historical Society.

This event is free and open to the public. Fuerte's talk will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Redeemer Church, 22434 Nisqually Road, Apple Valley.

Fuerte will discuss his years spent behind the camera as the unseen half of the partnership that created the

extremely popular public television show. His experiences traveling with Howser across California are relived in his 2017 memoir, *Louie, Take a Look at This! – My Time with Huell Howser*, which will be available to purchase at the meeting.

Howser's larger-than-life personality and down-home warmth was not faked for the camera. In his memoir, Fuerte wrote, "I came to realize that he was genuinely and deeply interested in the people he interviewed and their personal stories. He was truly fascinated with his discoveries, from the stupendous to the downright ordinary. They all mattered to him."

Fuerte was born in San Bernardino. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he became a camera operator and worked in television for 48 years. Fuerte is now retired and lives with his wife in Rialto, California.



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Mary DeSantis

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!

Deadline for submissions is the last day of each month.

Send submissions to
Mary DeSantis at

MaryMinuteMaid@hotmail.com
or see me at our monthly meeting.

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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Photo by Troy Bachtelle

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MEMBERSHIP CORNER

MEMBERS NOTE:

**December is our
renewal month**

NEW / RENEWING MEMBERS

HAZEL STEARNS, HESPERIA

*Thank you for your
continued support!*

DUES/MEMBERSHIPS

Lifetime Single: \$150.00

Lifetime Family: \$200.00

MID-TERM RATE

6-month dues for the
period June-Dec 2019

Family/Couple: Only \$15

Single: Only \$10

For membership questions call

Andrea M. Gutierrez

► (760) 961-2731 ◀

or contact her at the meeting.

2019 CALENDAR

June 14

FIELD TRIP

Roy Rogers Ranch, Oro Grande. Meet at the D Street train station in Victorville. Caravan departs 12:30 p.m. *sharp*.

June 27

GENERAL MEETING

Speaker: Luis Fuerte

Topic: My Time With Huell Howser

July 4

FIELD TRIP

Camp Cajon Monument 100th anniversary dedication ceremony in the Cajon Pass at 10:00 a.m.. End of Wagon Train Road, at the I-15 & Hwy 138 Junction (south of McDonald's).

July and August

VACATION

There will be no meetings during these two months.

September 26

GENERAL MEETING

A documentary will be shown.

Title: *Life and Times of Pancho Barnes*

October 27

GENERAL MEETING

Speaker: Marcy Taylor

Topic: Taking Advantage of Local Historical Points of Interest

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

www.mohahve.org

MAY RECAP

History of the Cambridge Family in the Victor Valley

Lecture by Bob Cambridge



Michelle and Bob Cambridge at the Mohahve Historical Society's meeting in Apple Valley, CA, on May 23, 2019, posing with earthenware *ollas* and a carved Kokopelli Kachina from the collection begun by Bob's great-grandfather, Carl Cambridge, Sr.

Story and photos by Mary DeSantis

In 1890, Lieutenant Alfonso Cambridge was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army after a serious horse accident in which he lost a kidney. He had been working the Indian Wars as a cavalryman in Wyoming and South Dakota.

Alfonso moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where he lived for a while. He got married and started a family there, but his old Army injuries forced him to seek a warmer climate. Alfonso took a job building

and repairing ice-making machines for the Army and was subsequently sent to Fort Grant, Arizona.

In 1904, he sent for his wife and two sons to join him and they crossed the country by train. The oldest son, Carl (born in 1892) was 12 years old at the time, and he described their travels being delayed for two days because of a huge storm and flooding that washed away some railroad bridges near White Sands, New Mexico.

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MAY RECAP

History of the Cambridge Family in the Victor Valley

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Young Carl was fascinated by the Indians he saw at Fort Grant. He befriended them and learned as much about them as he could. This developed into a lifelong study of Native American culture and heritage.

As Alfonso's work dictated, the Cambridge family moved from fort to fort throughout Arizona and New Mexico. Carl befriended local Indians everywhere he went, and they would give him gifts when he had to move on to the next fort. These gifts were the beginnings of the vast collection

that he eventually turned into a museum as an adult.

When he grew up, Carl began working in construction. In the early 1930s, Carl was hired to supervise construction of the Desert View Watchtower on the rim of the Grand Canyon. The tower and kiva complex was designed in 1932 by a good friend of his – the Fred Harvey Company's architect, Mary Colter. Since women were not allowed to be licensed architects in those days, all her plans had to be approved by a man who worked for the Santa Fe Railroad.

Carl headed up a crew of all Native Americans. Because they trusted him, he was invited to attend several ceremonial dances that non-Indians are rarely privy to.

The Local History Collection at Victor Valley College (VVC) Library has

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Construction of the Desert View Watchtower in the Grand Canyon. Date: August 15, 1932.

[NPS photo, used with permission.]

MAY RECAP

History of the Cambridge Family in the Victor Valley

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many hours of recorded interviews in which Carl, in his later years, described those adventures.

Transcripts of the oral histories are available to the public.

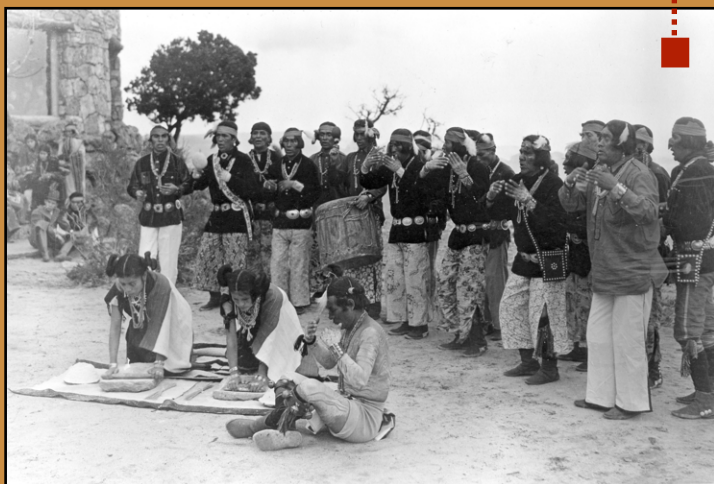
A really good National Park Service (NPS) video featuring the Watchtower and kiva can be viewed at

<https://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/photos/multimedia/gcid-05-dvwt.htm>.

In 1940, Carl and his wife, Gladys (*nee* White, born 1895), moved to Apple Valley with their seven children, where he became a dairy and alfalfa farmer. His seven children are nowadays referred to as “The Elders” by their many descendents.

When he retired in 1961, Carl dedicated his time to archaeology and turned his home on Bear Valley Road into a museum which he called the Apple Valley Museum. All that remains of that building now is the

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Hopi chanters at the Desert View Watchtower dedication ceremony, May 13, 1933.

[Photo from the Fred Harvey Company collection. Used with permission.]



**Indian headdress,
Cambridge collection**

MAY RECAP

History of the Cambridge Family in the Victor Valley

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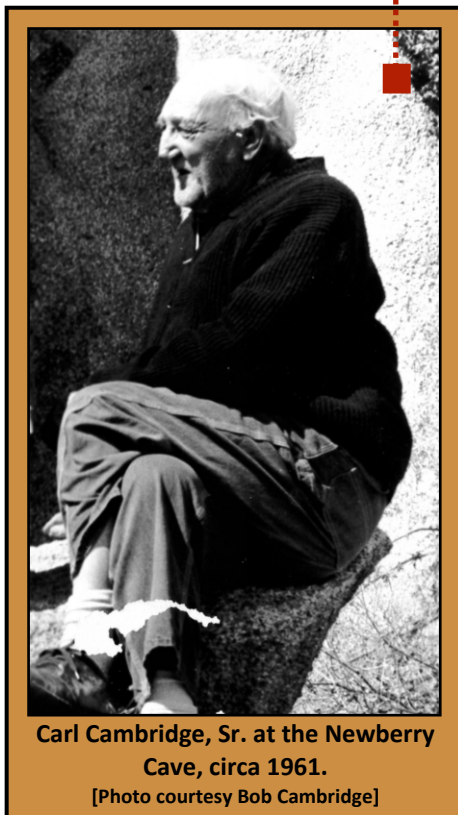
foundation and a few broken stone walls, which can be seen just east of Apple Valley Road, in the field opposite Sonic Burger.

Roy Rogers paid Carl a visit one day and asked him to change the name of the museum. Rogers planned on opening his own museum and wanted to call it 'the Apple Valley Museum.' Carl obligingly renamed his establishment 'the Cambridge Museum.'

The Newberry Cave was discovered in 1957 and Carl dedicated a lot of his spare time on this archaeological dig which was headed by Dr. Gerald Smith. As well as conducting excavations, Carl would teach groups of visiting students about the history and significance of the location and finds. Dating of artifacts at the site place human occupation of the area as far back as 15,000 years.

"Pack rats had taken over the cave and they seemed to take delight in chewing just the pieces that we were interested in," said Carl on an audio recording

Native
American
Mortar and
pestle from
the
Cambridge
Collection.



Carl Cambridge, Sr. at the Newberry Cave, circa 1961.

[Photo courtesy Bob Cambridge]

which his great-grandson Bob played during his lecture in May. But bat guano had encased other artifacts in cement-like cocoons, which preserved a great many items that would otherwise have decayed over time.

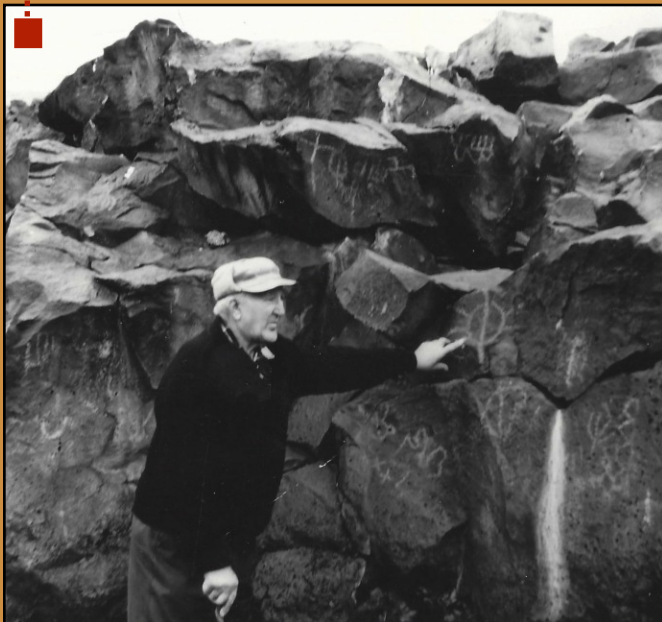
The family has 19 hours of taped interviews of their patriarch, most of which were conducted by the Local

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MAY RECAP

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History of the Cambridge Family in the Victor Valley



Carl Cambridge, Sr. pointing to petroglyphs at the entrance to Newberry Cave, which he helped excavate during the 1960s. The petroglyphs are painted with green and red paint, a very rare coloration which indicates that special cleansing ceremonies were held at the location.

[Photo courtesy Bob Cambridge]

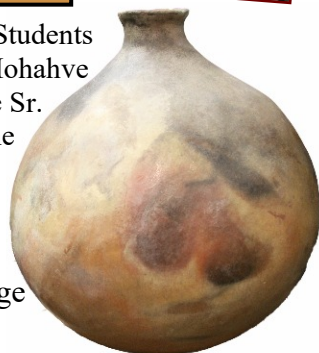
Artifacts in the
Cambridge collection



History class at VVC, led by the teacher, Paul Smith. Students from Smith's first class in 1963 went on to form the Mohave Historical Society (MHS) a year later. Carl Cambridge Sr. was a founding member and the charter president of the MHS.

After his passing in 1971, Carl Cambridge Jr. "Bud" and his son Jim Cambridge carried on the tradition as curators of the museum. Jim Cambridge

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MAY RECAP

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History of the Cambridge Family in the Victor Valley



Bob Cambridge, speaking at the May 2019 meeting of the Mohahve Historical Society in Apple Valley.

was instrumental in organizing the first Young Historian group in the High Desert in 1978. Known as the Desert Seekers, this group became very active in the High Desert. The Desert Seekers Motto was "Preserve for tomorrow, live and enjoy today, by understanding and protecting yesterday." ♦♦♦



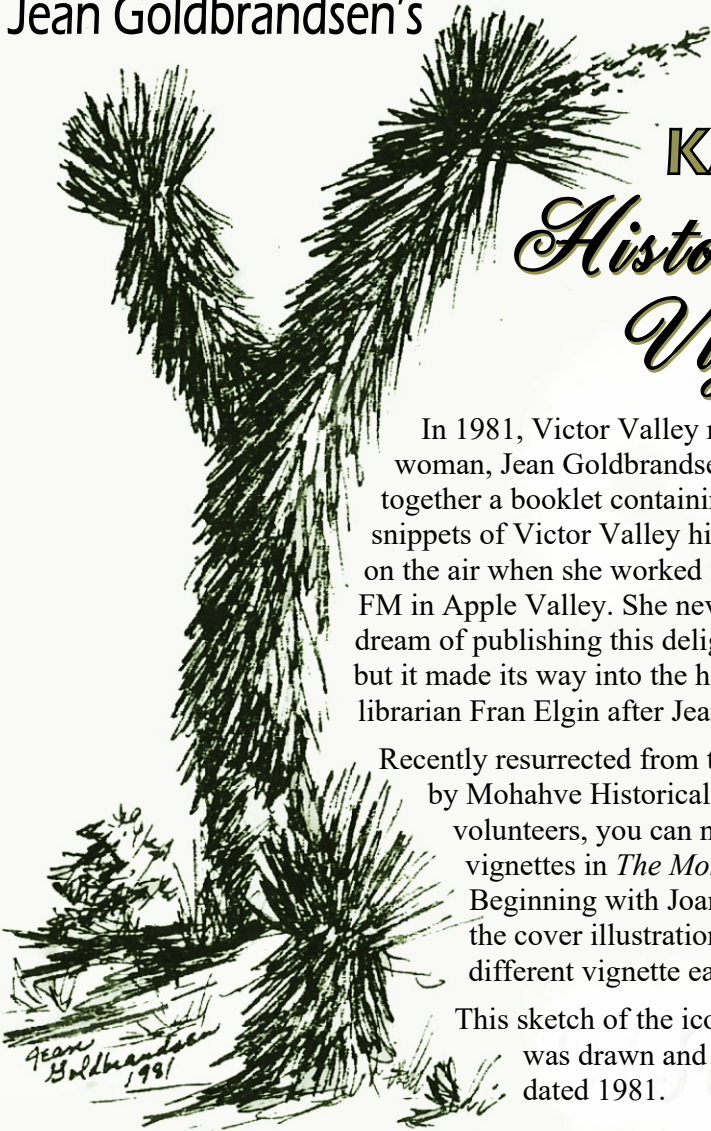
Handmade Navajo rug.

Yucca fiber sandal.



Kokopelli Kachina flute player.

Jean Goldbrandsen's

KAVR
*Historical
Vignettes*

In 1981, Victor Valley renaissance woman, Jean Goldbrandsen, stitched together a booklet containing scores of snippets of Victor Valley history that she read on the air when she worked for KAVR 102 FM in Apple Valley. She never realized her dream of publishing this delightful manuscript, but it made its way into the hands of VVC librarian Fran Elgin after Jean died.

Recently resurrected from the dusty archives by Mohahve Historical Society volunteers, you can now read Jean's vignettes in *The Mohahve Muse*. Beginning with Joan's description of the cover illustration, we will print a different vignette each month.

This sketch of the iconic Joshua tree was drawn and signed by Jean, dated 1981.

“

Cover:

According to legend, Elisha Hunt, a Mormon colonist in the Mormon wagon train in 1851, named the Joshua trees. He said, "The trees are lifting their arms to heaven in supplication. We shall call them Joshua trees."

”

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST



Website
<http://www.mohahve.org>
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**NEW
MEMBER**



MEMBERSHIP TYPE

**RENEWING
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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.**



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congratulations to Hazel Stearns, who won the door prize at our May meeting. She won Luis Fuerte's memoir, *Louie, Take a Look at This!*—*My Time With Huell Howser*.

Only one person so far, Marcy Taylor, has stepped forward to help with nominations for our Board of Directors Election in November. **We still need at least two more people to volunteer for the Nominating Committee.** If you are interested in helping our organization preserve and disseminate Mojave Desert history, please consider becoming a Board member.

Quite a few Board members have been serving in one way or another for 35+ years, and it is time to get some new ideas in order to keep our organization moving forward.

Positions to be voted on in November are President (two-year term), Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Membership Chair (all one-year terms), and one Director (three year term). Any member in good standing can run for one of these positions. President and Membership Chair are



JIM MUSTRA

being vacated and will need to be replaced.

Contact Marcy at (760) 985-1918 or talk to her at the meeting for updates on openings and information on what is required for each position.

The Camp Cajon dedication is still scheduled for July 4th at 10:00 a.m.. I checked on a bus to transport members wishing to go, but the price was prohibitive. If you wish to go, be aware that parking is limited at the monument so you may have to walk a bit.

I hope everybody has a good summer break, and I hope to see you back in September for a video on the life and times of Pancho Barnes. ♦♦♦

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

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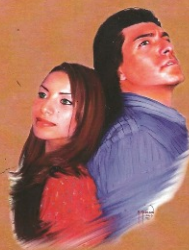


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Hours vary
by season



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Hesperia, California 92345

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

rumsenama@gmail.com

UPCOMING MHS ACTIVITIES

FIELD TRIP TO ROY ROGERS RANCH

Date: Friday, June 14, 2019. Meet at the D Street train station in Victorville. The caravan leaves at 12:30 p.m. *sharp*.



CAMP CAJON'S 100th BIRTHDAY PARTY JULY 4TH 2019



1919



2019



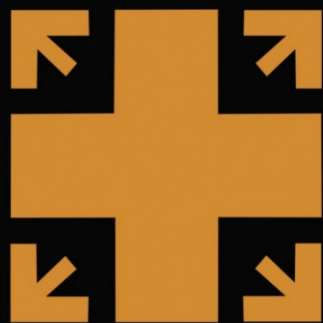
Free 10 AM – 1 PM - Wagon Train Road, at the I-15 & Hwy 138 Junction (south of McDonald's)

www.facebook.com/campcajonmonument

www.HighlandHistory.org

GRATEFUL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Redeemer Church of Apple Valley and Sterling Inn of Victorville graciously permit us to use their facilities free of charge for Mohahve Historical Society meetings. Please support these wonderful organizations.



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**OLD FASHIONED
STEAK FRY!**

at the

**Apple Valley
Legacy Museum**
in the
**Historic
Apple Valley Inn**



**Saturday,
AUGUST 3, 2019**
**Doors open at
4:30 p.m.**

Tickets \$25

**For more
information
call
(760) 985-1918**

VOLUNTEER FOCUS

Many grateful thanks to the following people who provided refreshments for the people who attended our May 2019 meeting.



Mary
Ruth
Hughes

Michelle Cambridge made brownies and cookies, and brought chips and homemade dip. She also built a *ginormous* tower of gorgeous and delicious strawberries!

Jemma DeSantis (age 11) made several dozen multi-colored meringues in Home Economics and brought them in to share.

Mary Ruth Hughes brought chocolate truffles and provided the table decorations.

Jerry Hutchinson and Fran Elgin provided a variety of juice drinks, and Jim Mustra made the coffee.



Jerry
Hutchinson

Fran
Elgin



Michelle
Cambridge

Jemma
DeSantis

