

THE MOHAHVE MUSE



Mohave Historical Society

P.O. Box 21

Victorville, Ca 92393

Volume 23 Issue 9

October 2020

2020 Officers

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Marcy Taylor

Vice-President

Michelle Lovato

Past President

Mary Ruth Hughes

Treasurer

Elizabeth Ross

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Lorelei Kay Masuda

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Therese Moore

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Trudy Shoemaker

Directors

Mary Dutro

Jack Magro

Mike Phillips

Hello, MHS Members!

Welcome to the last quarter of 2020, the most unusual and somewhat frightening year imaginable. So to help us think about something besides COVID-19, wild-fires, hurricanes, riots, homeschool, and politics, MHS will attempt to provide some diversions.

In case you don't know me, let me introduce myself. I am Marcy Taylor, member since 2011, Board Member from 2012-2017 and VP for a few short months in 2020. I will be finishing out the 2020-2021 term of President Mary Hughes, who is resigning for personal reasons.

Many of you know I founded and operate two Legacy Museums, one in Old Town Victorville in the Santa Fe Trading Post complex, and the other at the Historic Apple Valley Inn, Cottage 153. Thanks to those members who have supported these two efforts with your time, your advice, your donations of displays, books, and artifacts; and by your attendance at our many events over the past 5 1/2 years. In particular, I would like to thank Fran Elgin, Mary Dutro, and Richard Thompson, as well as John Marnell and John Bascom for your extensive knowledge and continuing support of the Apple Valley Legacy Museum.

Although our larger events have all been cancelled, as well as the community events we participate in such as parades and street fairs, we continue to be busy with the occasional visitor and the many community and personal projects locals want help with. Our three-day porch sale at the museum, as well as our July and August booths at Town's End have been successful, and visitors continue to purchase MHS books from us. The Victor Valley Legacy Museum has not been as busy due to the shortage of Rte. 66 travelers, but the Santa Fe Trading Co. Crafts Fair was held on Saturday September 26 was quite successful.

Vacant 2021 Officers Positions

Recording Secretary

Treasurer

See Page 4

Nomination Reminder

The location is right across the street from the Veteran's statue on 7th Street and A Street in Victorville; our booth is, as always, right outside our museum door. Thanks to the 5 MHS members who worked the event and the several other MHS members who attended. We sold 4 of our booklets, promoted the two upcoming fieldtrips, and talked to potential new members.

Mark your calendars for the next three Crafts Fairs, where we will also have a booth and promote MHS:

Sat. Oct. 17, Nov. 21, and Dec. 5, all 10am - 4:00pm.

(Yes, Nov. 21 will overlap with our fieldtrip, but we will have staffing both places.)

The MHS Board will meet at the High Desert Community Foundations Office, 20601 Hwy 18 at the Historic Apple Valley Inn.

Contd,

My other civic involvements include CalRTA (California Retired Teachers), the AV and VV Chambers of Commerce, Friends of the AV Library, Happy Trails Children's Foundation, NAACP Branch 1082, and the newly reorganized AV Historic Advisory Committee. These are all great places to promote MHS.

The sad reality is San Bernardino is in the COVID-19 purple tier, and likely to remain there for the balance of the year. For that reason, the board will meet at the High Desert Community Foundation Office, Apple Valley Inn, 20601 Highway 18, Apple Valley, at 7:00pm on the first Tuesday of the month. All MHS members are permitted to attend, especially if you are considering joining the board or a committee. The Redeemer Church is closed to outside groups. However, we are able to enter to retrieve our books and supplies. The meeting room is being remodeled during the closure and was bare except for new carpet.

Our indoor meetings have, for the time being, been replaced by outdoor fieldtrips, close to the original meeting date. Thanks to those of you who joined us at El Ranchito Rakete, the "Dare Devils N Speed" outdoor museum. The trip was hosted by Waldo Stakes, new life MHS member, and attended by 13 MHS members, and 10 non-members. Inviting friends is a great way to introduce future members. I would like to thank Trudy Shoemaker,

Membership Chair; Lorelei Masuda, Secretary; and Mike Phillips, Director and Newsletter Publisher for their outstanding help that evening. Thankfully, the weather co-operated, and I'm sure all attendees were amazed by what they saw and heard.

On Thurs. Oct. 22 we will travel to Lucerne to learn about "The Last Battle at Chimney Rock," hosted by Chelsea LaGrange and the Lucerne Valley Historical Society. In Nov. we will travel in the opposite direction to Oro Grande, where the Honorary Mayor Joe Manners will share the small Route 66 town's storied history. Due to the Nov. time change, the trip will be held on Sat. Nov. 21. See details on page 3 of this newsletter. Our Christmas party and Installation of officers is traditionally held at the Lone Wolf Colony in December. We shall see!

Thanks for sticking it out, and hope to see some more of you in person soon.

Marcy

El Ranchito Rakete Tour

By Marcy Taylor

Thursday Sept. 24 was a beautiful warm evening in rural Apple Valley for the Mohave Historical Society's first outdoor field trip in lieu of the usual September monthly meeting. The location was El Ranchito Rakete; the host Waldo Stakes, an expert in his subject "Dare Devils and Speed." About two dozen participants, MHS members and their guests, sat in a semi-circle of

lawn chairs, entranced by the presentation and the amazing wealth of information they were treated to, while surrounded by an actual rocket launcher, rocket car, speed boat, and other contraptions involved in breaking or hoping to break speed records. Stakes emphasized the type of personality of a dare devil, and the real danger faced in the challenges they undertake. His graphic description of the Feb. 22 failed rocket launch undertaken by "Mad" Mike Hughes was frightening.



Part two of the evening was a journey through the "Museum of Speed," housed in four large separate containers, aptly called: Dare Devils and Speed, Land Speed, Air Speed, and Water Speed. Amazing displays filled every inch of space inside, presenting way too much information to see and absorb in such a short time. Every member of the group truly appreciated this rare opportunity afforded by Stakes and his assistants to visit this site, as it is not open to the public.

Thursday Oct. 22, 2020 (In lieu of indoor meeting)

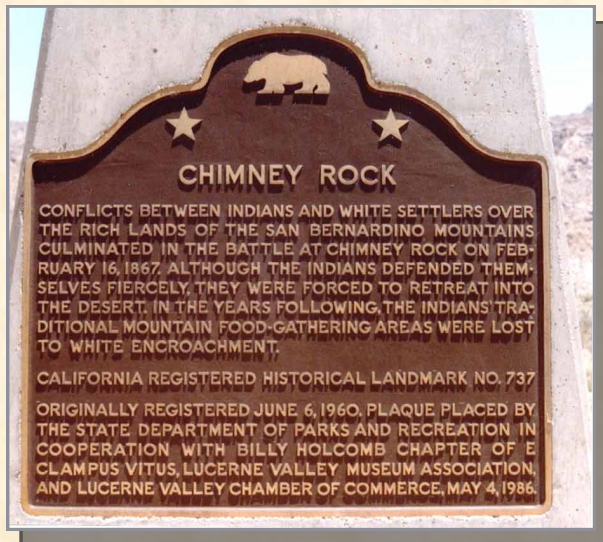
"The Last Battle at Chimney Rock"

Presenter: Chelsea LaGrange and the Lucerne Valley Museum Association

Itinerary:

5:00PM First stop - Meet at Chimney Rock

Take Hwy 18 East towards Lucerne. Just before reaching Lucerne Valley, pull off on the left side of the road just past Joshua to view the actual formation of Chimney Rock, California State Historic Landmark #737.



5:15PM Second Stop- Historic markers

Continue east on Hwy 18 for 1/2 mile. Pull off on the left side of the road just past Rabbit Springs at the Lucerne Valley Welcome Sign to view the two markers commemorating the battle and the rock formation.

5:30PM Third Stop- Lucerne Valley Open Air Museum

Continue east on Hwy 18 two blocks past the Hwy 247 intersection. Turn right into the park, our final destination. Here you will **check in, get a raffle ticket, turn in nomination forms**, and be treated to a short tour of the outdoor museum, followed by a twilight PowerPoint presentation on "The Last Battle at Chimney Rock."

Cost: free for MHS members; \$2 non-members (but of course you may choose to join instead); donations accepted for our hosts, as well as an opportunity to become their supporter. A limited number of Lucerne Valley books will be available for purchase. The raffle will follow the presentation.

**PLEASE CALL
(760) 985-1918
TO REGISTER FOR THESE TOURS!**

Saturday Nov. 21, 2020 (In lieu of Nov. 19 meeting)

"Oro Grande: A Route 66 Town"

Presenter: The Honorable Joe Manners, Official (Honorary) Mayor of Oro Grande

Itinerary:

3:00PM. First stop- Cross-Eyed Cow Pizza.



19242 National Trails Hwy (which is the continuation of Hwy 18, D Street, and Rt. 66 so technically the same road as the Oct. trip in the opposite direction.) Take D St. west from Victorville, go under the I-15 freeway, across the old iron bridge, and approximately 5 miles to the restaurant, which is easy to spot with the colorful cow on top. Just past the restaurant turn in to the parking area. (Although the smells will tempt you, we will return to dine AFTER the tour, got that?) Here you will **sign in and get your raffle ticket and vote for 2021 Board members**. MHS members are free; \$2 non-members, but with the opportunity to join. Mayor Joe will take us on a short walking tour of the old town of Oro Grande.

4:00PM Depart - Cross-Eyed Cow Pizza

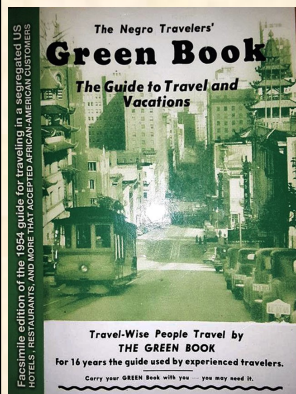
Depart for the historic cemetery, a few blocks away on the north side of the railroad tracks. At the Mohawk Mini-mart (now closed) cross the street and drive under the tracks. Immediately turn right, then left on Olive, which will take you to the cemetery. The raffle will follow the tour. Donations will be accepted for our host.

5:00PM Return to the Cross-Eyed Cow Pizza

Dinner and socializing. Outside seating is available.



Smithsonian's "Green Book" Exhibit



The "Green Book" Exhibit now in Memphis TN, will reach Sacramento in December 2021 at the California Museum. MHS member *Clara Petrosky* is planning one of her famous bus trips for a February 2022 viewing. Expect more information to follow closer to the date.

Nomination Reminder

Nominations for:

Recording Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

Please submit to Director Jack Magro via:

Mail: PO Box 21, Victorville, CA 92393 or,

Email: MohahveJack@aol.com or,

Phone: 760-885-9027

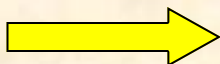
Or in person at the October Lucerne Valley Trip/Outdoor meeting on October 22.

Please ensure that your nominee is willing to serve.

New Wall Mural decorates

Old Town Victorville

7th and D Streets

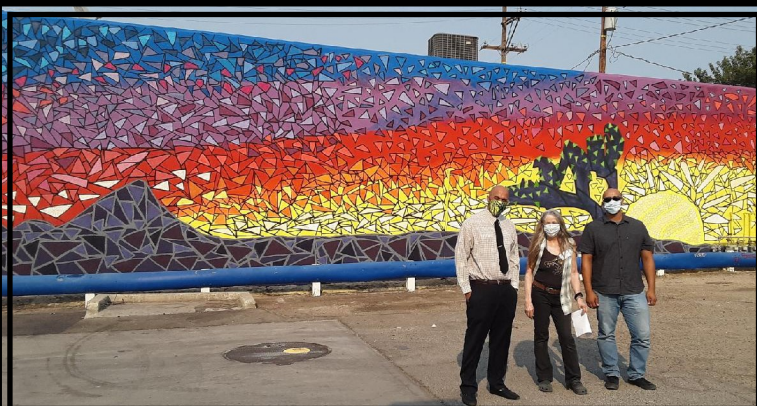


Status of Local History Collection at VV College

By Fran Elgin

Although I think we can safely say that although the valuable collection is safe from harm right now, we are in a difficult situation until the corona virus statistics are brought down to a level that is relatively safe in the general population. The latest I've heard is that the college probably won't open until fall semester next year. So far, I've been allowed to spend a few hours a week there, but I'm not allowed to bring anyone to help. I've brought files home to work on, and I've been able to provide help for those who are researching certain subjects, but a shakeup in the college departments has meant disruptions in our space. We were already too crowded and had used an unused office downstairs to store larger items, but at least for now, the entire Printing Department has moved into that space. Oh yes, this room already shares a space with Leslie, the librarian. As of now she is working and teaching from home.

When I mentioned this concern previously, our newsletter editor Mike asked if the collection could be digitized. It seems impossible; however, if anyone has experience with that method could let me know if it could be done, I would be glad to do what I could. There are thousands of subject file items in the file cabinets. (By the way, one whole file cabinet contains past newsletters, minutes, photos, and Mohave Historical Society materials, going back to the 1960s.) If they could be scanned in a way that would allow easy access for research, we would still have many larger items, but that would be a big help.



MHS provided with new Board Meeting Location.

A very grateful Thank You to **Deanna Wilson**, CEO of High Desert Community Foundation for offering a place for MHS Board meetings. Much to the delight and convenience of the Board officers, the indoor board room offers adequate social distancing and other conveniences.

