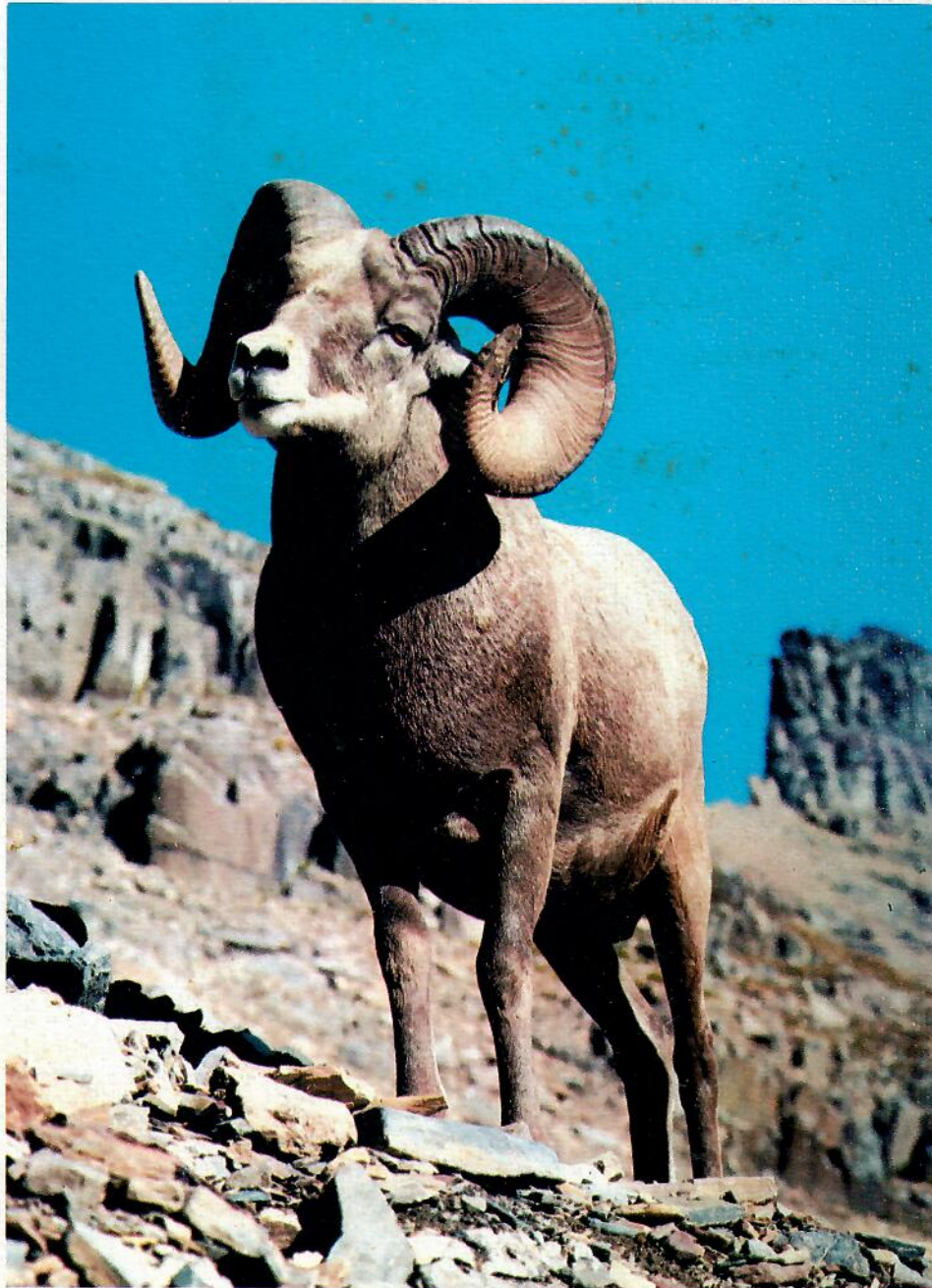
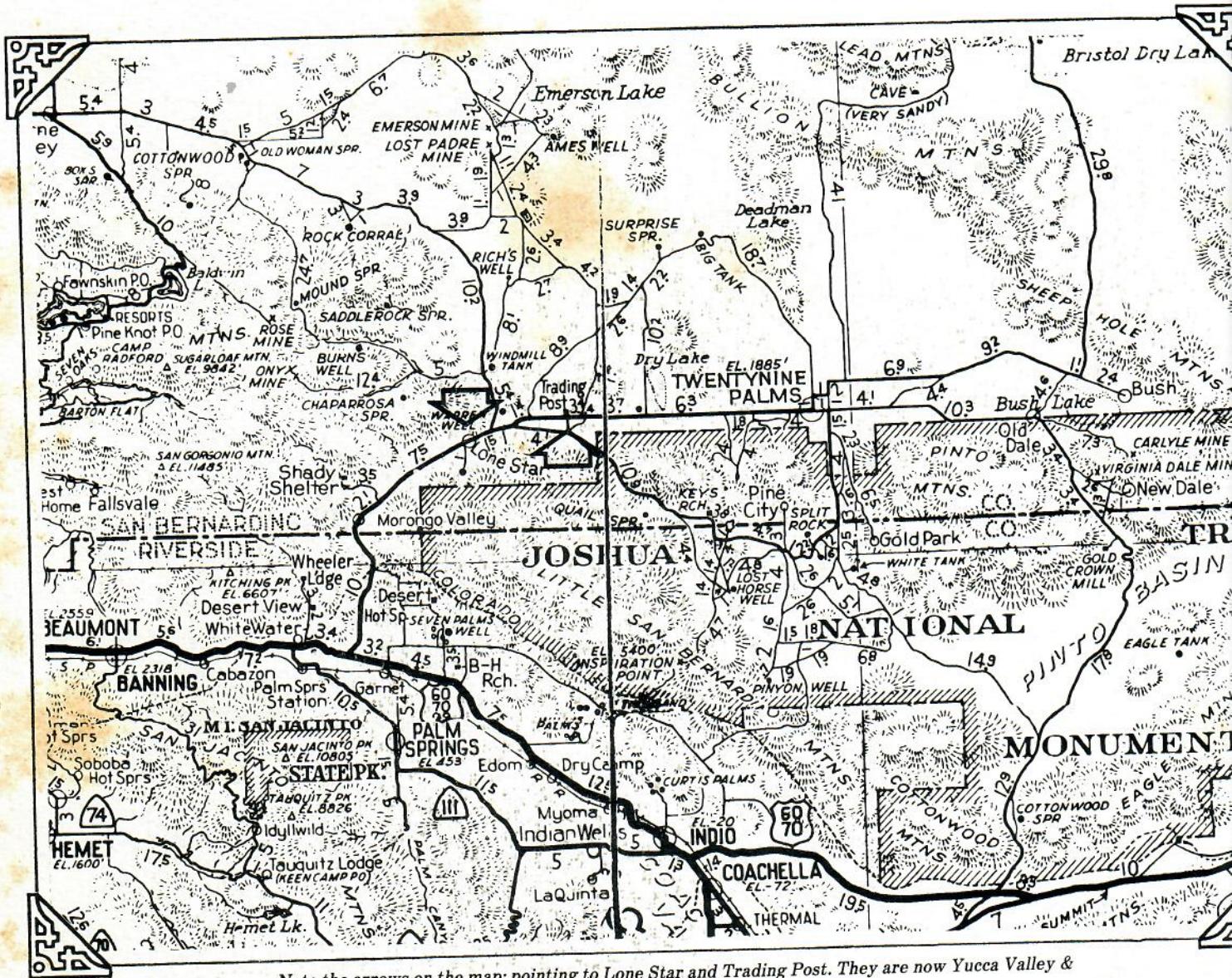


HI DESERT DREAMING

A HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITIES OF
MORONGO VALLEY • YUCCA VALLEY • JOSHUA TREE
29 PALMS • WHITEWATER • LANDERS





Note the arrows on the map; pointing to Lone Star and Trading Post. They are now Yucca Valley & Joshua Tree. The map is from the Automobile Club Edition Circa 1947.

The Morongo Basin in Historic Map & Photos



1910 - This now State Hy. 62 - no wonder it took days to go to Banning, Riverside and San Bernardino

Gene Seely

HI DESERT DREAMING

Introduction

The growth of this or any area is dependent on that handful of visionaries and/or entrepreneurs who saw possibilities in the area and took steps to bring about its development. Pioneers, are a special breed, no matter where they live. They are living history and almost without exception have their own sense of history.

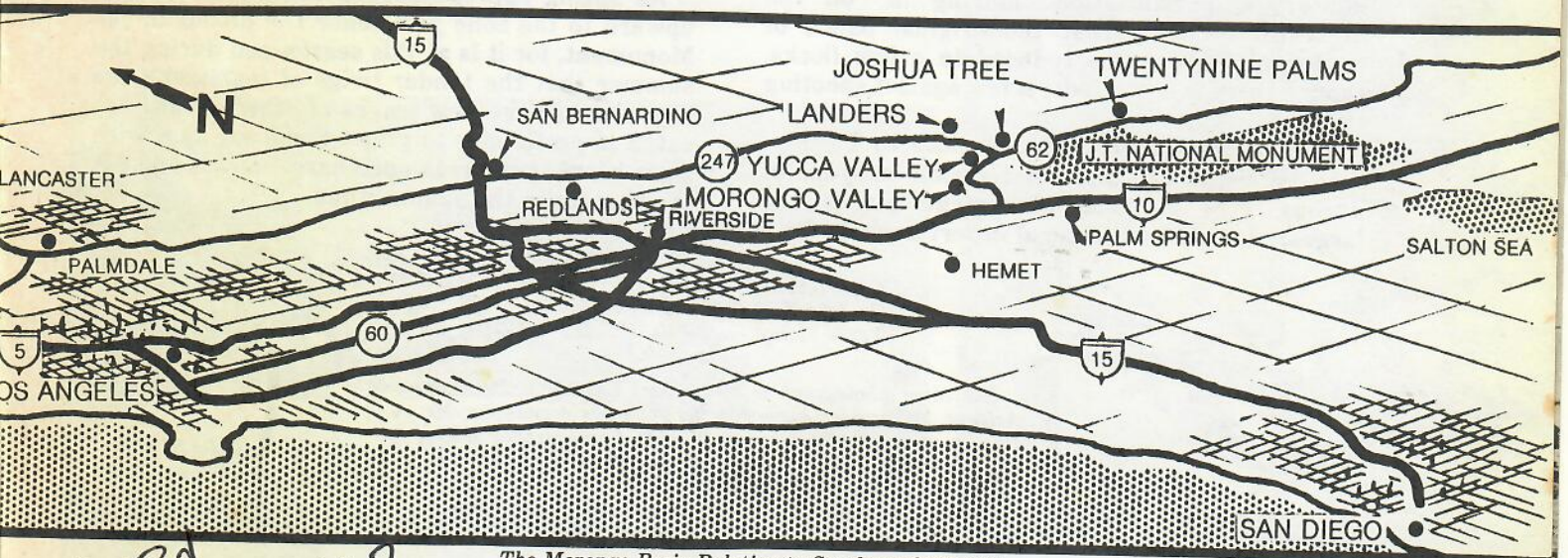
The history of the Morongo Basin goes back much further than this modest publication is able to trace. For the most part we have depended on early publications of the area as well as the photographic records of the Basin's early settlers. We have tried to maintain the highest possible quality in our reproductions. However, in many cases, the photographs are copies of copies, etc. In publishing photographs, each generation loses some of its original luster and sharpness. As a consequence it will prove obvious that some of our photographs lack the quality we would have preferred. It was the conclusion of the publisher that even a poor photographic record is superior to no record at all. In essence, we are not apologizing for the lack of quality. This is more an explanation of the reasons behind the lack of clear definition in some of our published photographs.

As stated, many of the area's pioneers seemed to have a sense of history, in that they made photographic records of their individual lives as well as the development and growth of the Morongo Basin. Many of the photographs published in this book have never been seen outside the personal collection of the persons loaning the pictures. To these people we own much thanks.

Without their help, publications of this nature would not be possible. While offering our thanks, it must be noted that the publishers of Hi-Desert Star and the Desert Trail were very helpful in making their files and records of past publications available to us. Again without their generous help, this publication might not have gone to press.

Wherever necessary, we have given credit for photos to the people who loaned, or took the photographs. We trust we have given credit where it is due. If we are guilty of errors of omission or commission, we offer our apology. It is never our intent to omit any deserving contributor. Should that occur please attribute it to a lapse of memory.

To those people who have lived in the Hi-Desert for the last twenty years, a phenomenal growth has been obvious. To the area's forty year inhabitants, the growth has been almost unbelievable. Imagine the reaction of the Basin's Pioneers if they were able to see the present day Morongo Basin. Yucca Valley has gone from Warren's Well to Lone Star to its present status. From a wide spot on a dusty desert road to a thriving fast growing desert community. Joshua Tree has developed into the Basin's Governmental seat. Landers and Morongo Valley are experiencing unprecedented growth while Twentynine Palms has become the Basin's first incorporated city. The Basin is, at last, on the map and growing at an exciting pace. A vision of the Morongo Basin in the next fifty years boggles the mind. ■



The Morongo Basin Relative to Southern California

Scanned
GHB 5-30-2020

George Oct 24/88 Jean Wilson

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THE DESERT BIGHORN

ONE of our noblest desert animals — the desert bighorn is gradually becoming extinct. And it's because of hunters and civilization "moving in" on the bighorn's territory that the original bands of desert wild sheep are reduced to a few flocks, though there is now a federal law against shooting them.

The desert bighorn is found close to Twentynine Palms, in the most inaccessible canyons of Joshua Tree National Monument. He is the largest and most majestic of desert animals.

Copyright 1988
By Joan Wilson & Charleen Grubb
Yucca Valley, California, U.S.A.

Our cover photograph is by Stewart Cassidy of Prescott, Arizona, and is used here with his generous permission. Mr. Cassidy is a world renowned Wildlife Photographer whose work is shown throughout the world in Museums and private collections. In the Morongo Basin, Mr. Cassidy's work may be seen, and is available through the Joshua Tree National Monument Headquarters in Twentynine Palms.

Will there be a book four??
You bet, working on it now!!

The area that the bighorn occupies in the Joshua Tree National Monument, to which Twentynine Palms is the northernmost entrance, is not without water, there are water holes and springs where they come to drink.

As spring approaches, the flocks will wander upward to the zone just below the pinons in the Monument, for it is at this season and during the summer that the tender twigs of teamster's tea (Epedra) and the new leaves of other shrubs are eaten in preference to grass. Some say that with their horns they break open barrel cactus and eat the centers in the summertime.

This Volume can
be obtained from
Joan Wilson
P.O. Box 186

Yucca Valley, Calif. 92286

A Man Before His Time - 1926-1988

Whitewater

Driving through the barren desert in the olden days of the 20's was not exciting to say the least. It's not much better today. However, to one man it presented a fantastic idea. The way the wind blew constantly through the pass in Banning had to be good for something. All that wind power going to waste. Why not harness it in some way? But how? Now this man, Dew R. Oliver, by name, was not a scientist, electrician, inventor or anything. But he had an avid imagination. And there were some who said he even had a taste for liquor and the ladies.

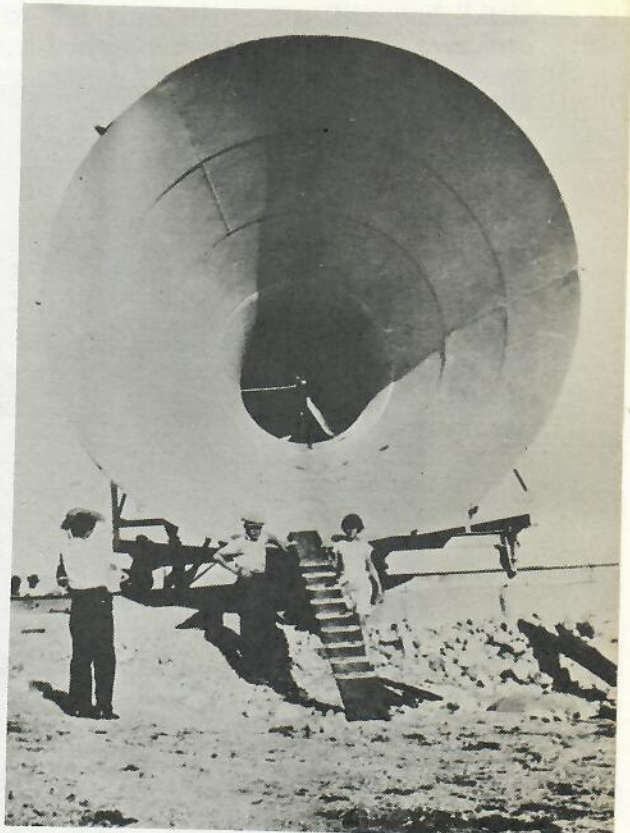
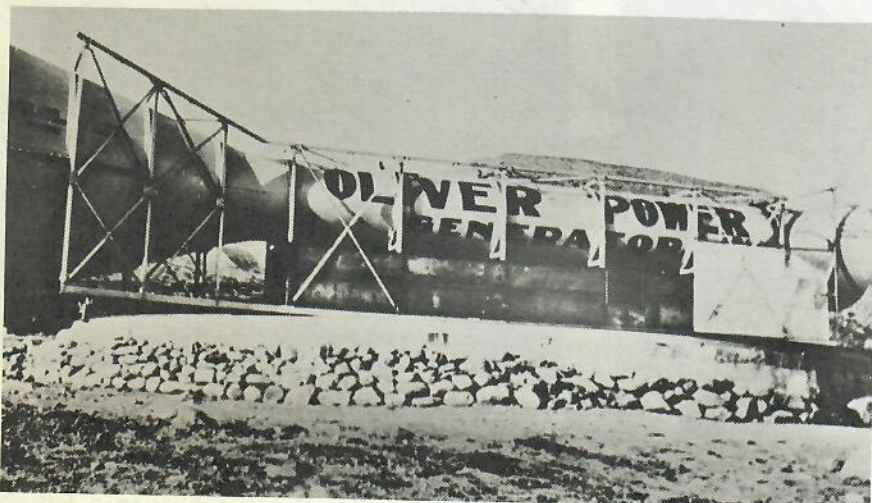
So he felt this wind pushing him down the road and an idea began forming. "I'll use this wind power for something," he thought. He remembered a trip he had made to the Middle West where he saw battery chargers powered by small windmills. And people were capitalizing on this experimental way to develop electric power.

Mr. Oliver was excited over the prospect of providing a service to the people and a good thing to himself. He went back to Banning and built a wind tunnel through which the wind could generate power. After a few experimental tries, he and his newly-hired engineer, Sperry Knighton of Seal Beach, succeeded in generating electricity through his wind tunnel.

But lack of money and lack of faith were his downfall. Also the lack of today's laws that aid alternative energy projects. He incorporated the Oliver Electric Power Corp. in Reno, Nevada in 1926, and sold shares in this company for \$50.00. The state charged him with violating 11 counts of the State Corporate Securities Act and Grand Theft. He subsequently served 3 months in jail and probation for three years.



*These pictures show some of the foresight of Dew Oliver
Lower Left: The wind generator installed. Above: Some years later, only the foundation remains. Below persons unknown standing before generator intake.*



His dreams may have fizzled then, but his foresight has been proven in the desert area of San Gorgonio Pass and Palm Springs. Today it's big business. Dew Oliver may have been a little before his time, but there's no doubt he had hit upon a very real source of alternative energy.

Energy conservation is a topic of interest throughout the entire *nation* but it has only recently been recognized that nature's forces can actually be utilized.

Privately produced power has become big business in areas that afford this natural energy. In fact, federal law now requires that utilities buy it. Palm Springs is just one of many that are recognizing the potential. Windmills galore adorn the area from San Gorgonio Pass to beyond Palm Springs. The wind is due to the difference in barometric pressure between the coast and the desert which are separated here by the gash between the San Jacinto and San Gorgonio Peaks which create a natural funnel. Generators powered by this wind furnish electric power to thousands of businesses and residences in the area.

Maybe perpetual wind can be artificially produced. It's an idea worth considering. Chicago, for instance, has been called "the windiest city in the world". Perhaps the tall buildings create an artificial tunnel from Lake Michigan. Could this theory be utilized in other parts of the country? And maybe old Dew Oliver will be recognized as a pioneer, not an eccentric. ■

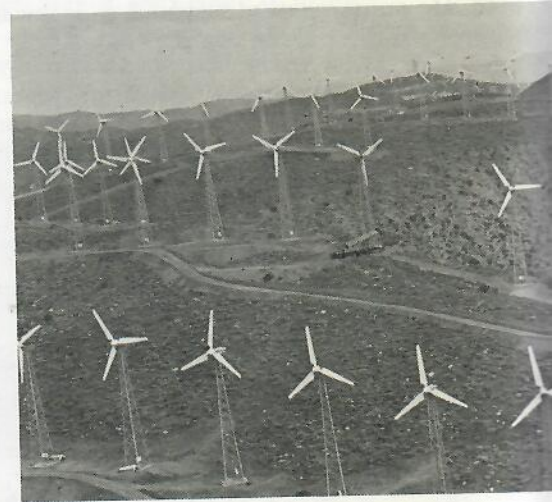


LANDMARK TURBINE COMPLETES TESTS — After nearly four years of operation, the Bendix Wind Generator (WTG) will be dismantled and removed from Southern California Edison Company's Wind Test Center, eight miles northwest of Palm Springs. The pioneer turbine began operation late in 1960. Experience gained is helping to improve design and reliability of newer WTGs.

JANU

Compared to the photos on the previous page, these modern wind powered generators are probably more sophisticated in structure, but in concept, Dew Oliver was a half century ahead of his time. The visual impact of wind generation of electricity is overpowering as one drives down through Devils Gate to Highway 10.

Photos by Ed



SCE
Southern California Edison

Morongo Valley

Elwyn Pollack

In a cold, gray, prehistoric dawn some two million years ago, a tiny landlocked lake glistened under the rays of a pale but enduring sun that would soon begin to exert a benign influence on one of its several circumnavigating bodies about to shake off the shackles of the last ice age.

(Not to be confused with the huge continental ice sheet, that massive glacier, more than a mile thick that stretched several thousand miles over the northern U.S. and most of Canada some 17,000 years ago).

This was planet earth, and our tiny landlocked lake began to absorb other influences besides the constant influx of glacial water emanating from two meandering canyons that traced their resource to a vast wilderness area at the base of the highest mountain in Southern California.

Today that pretty mountain lake is no longer with us, but in its place there exists a tiny elliptical bowl eight miles long and three to four miles wide completely surrounded by low mountains; the southeast portion of the ellipse — which sustains a declivity of about 50 feet in three miles — is known today as the Little San Bernardino Mountains.

By this time, everyone knows I am describing a valley first inhabited more than 100 years ago by a tribe of Indians known as Morongo.

At least it is known that a Captain Morongo and his followers camped in the vicinity of the area we know today as Covington Park. Two small streams flowed out of the two aforementioned canyons from the northwest and fed existing ponds at the base of the Little San Bernardinos where their overflow continued on into the parent canyons and finally into the vast Coachella Valley below.

I never tire of contemplating the geographic features of Morongo Valley, the contrasting shapes and contours which created the elliptical bowl in which I live. While many people are aware that Morongo Valley is blessed with an abundance of water, few realize its true source and future potential.

According to the late Dr. Walter Clay Lowdermilk, world authority on soil and water resources, Morongo Valley was once-upon-a-time a small, but exceedingly deep, lake which gradually filled with erosional material after the passing of the ice age.

In detailing the unique and perhaps unprecedented characteristics of the valley, the Doctor unfolded a fascinating story that few have been privileged to hear.

In a rare interview with Dr. Lowdermilk some 10 years ago, I was transported back to the age of ice when both Big and Little Morongo Creeks were sharply cut V-shaped canyons, created by the incessant year-round flow of ice and water.

With the gradual disappearance of the ice age, the canyons forsook their deeply cut V-shaped aspects and became subject to the annual rainfall from above the 4000 foot level in the San Gorgonio Mountains and began to fill with erosional debris such as decomposed granite, sand, rock and boulders.

This age-long process of fill carried through to the valley floor, filling the lake and pushing sand and rock against the base of the Little San Bernardino mountains, where, under tremendous pressure, it pulverized and became compressed into an impenetrable mass, creating a "gouged out" zone.

Dr. Lowdermilk explained this unique feature by terming it a rift valley, faulted down in the lower slope from the crest of San Gorgonio, altitude: 11,502 feet, to the Coachella Valley below.

The fault of the southeast flank of Morongo Valley is impervious to the movement of groundwater so that the water is impounded in the basin, rises to the rim, where the Big and Little Morongo lakes are located; and spills over into the two gorges beyond, continuing on through the Little San Bernardinos into the Coachella Valley, where these selfsame waters from the far reaches of San Gorgonio wilderness may still be tapped by well-drilling.

Morongo Valley is rich in natural resources, it is also an ecological region of great significance. Long an important flyway and resting grounds for migrating birds on their annual journey to northern climes, Big Morongo Canyon is also a regional park and wildlife preserve, joining the Joshua Tree National Monument to the east and creating an official conservancy for future generations to cherish and enjoy. ■

Editor's Note: The writer of this piece, Elwyn C. Pollock, has contributed several pieces to these pages on his favorite topic, his home town of Morongo Valley. Here he relates the unique geological history and setting of the community that prides itself as "Gateway to the Hi-Desert."

Fantastic fables dating back to the seventeenth century when the Morongo Indians inhabited this beautiful little valley, a veritable oasis in the desert with running streams of sparkling soft water from numerous springs. It was the happy hunting grounds of the Morongo Indian tribes, from which the valley derived its name, meaning in Indian language, "Valley of Many Waters," "Beautiful Valley" etc.

In the surrounding mountains, deer, antelope and buffalo abounded. Pinion nuts, corn and other food was plentiful. The Bucks with their sons would hike into the mountains for big game. When they were successful they would send one son home with a load of jerky on his back, then they would move on to other hunting grounds, and repeat the procedure until they ran out of sons. The Indian squaws did most of the work while the Bucks loafed, except for hunting occasionally. They were a peaceful and contented lot of people.



From Joan's Collection

Ben de Crevecoeur, first male child born in Morongo Valley, was one of the Willie Boy posse members in the fall of 1909, and for many years he was a lawman in the Banning area.

But their serenity could not last forever. Through jealousy the Paiute tribes of the Colorado River, who were not so fortunate, swooped across the Mojave desert and down over the mountains upon the Morongo Indians and many fierce battles were fought in this valley, as is



Mr. Harry Hess

Photo by Richard Hess

evidenced by the two large burial grounds. One on the Bobo ranch and the other one on the Bolster ranch. Many arrows and Indian relics have been found there. Digging in the ground from a foot to four feet or more, numerous human bones, arrows etc. have been uncovered and are still being uncovered by the white men who now completely occupy the valley.

There are many legends why the Morongo Indians left the valley. One was because of weird sounds, more imaginary than real. They thought that the valley was haunted and that the evil spirits would get them. Likewise in the Joshua Tree National Park, homesteaders noticed strange noises like dynamos running. The vibrations were caused by atmospheric conditions and can be heard yet among the Joshua trees in the monument. Later the Government created a reservation for the Indians near Banning and the Indians left Morongo Valley.

The first white man, of record, to ever set foot in Morongo Valley was during the winter of 1874 when Curtis Christiansen and family migrated here from Australia, settling in a wigwam in Little Morongo Canyon, where covered wagons finally passed their door in search of gold in the Pinto and Tahquitz mountains.

In the year 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt set aside Township 1 South, Range 4 East, as a water reserve for the miners and for a park.

The first adobe building in the Valley was built by Ben de Crevecoeur in 1875. A year later he moved away to work on the railroad, but returned spending about fifteen years in Morongo Valley. He passed away only a few years ago.

The first white baby to be born in Morongo Valley was Lela Warren, shortly after the turn of the Nineteenth century. She is married to Clyde Arnett and resides in Yucaipa, California. The two Warren brothers, who reside in Show Creeks nearby, are seen in Morongo Valley quite often. They have many interesting tales to relate about the early days in this valley.

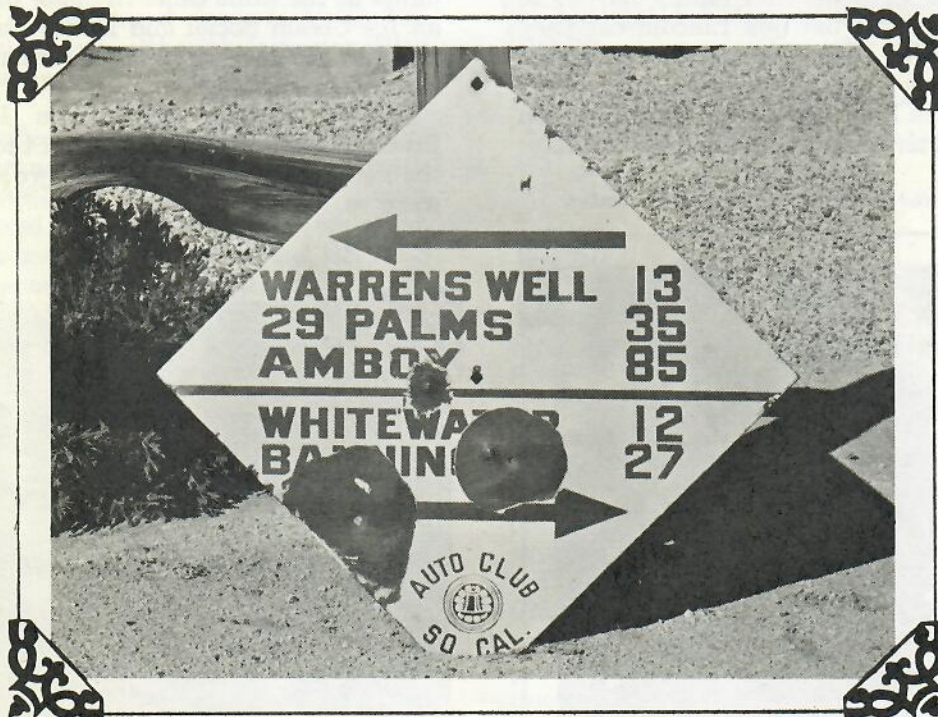
One episode that made Morongo Valley famous and whose name became a tradition here, was the murderous escapades of Indian Willie Boy which started when he fell desperately in love with an Indian Maiden near Whitewater, whose father objected to his attentions. He stole a gun from the Gilman ranch in Morongo Valley and proceeded to kill the father and kidnap the girl, and after days of tramping the hot desert sands without food or water and hiding in the mountains, they were surrounded by a posse. Rather than surrender, Willie Boy shot his sweetheart and then turned the gun on himself, ending his career.

By 1915 a number of hearty homesteaders had moved into Morongo Valley. They had a wonderful climate, beautiful scenery but needed water for irrigation. Plenty of water was running to waste from a large spring in Big Morongo Canyon, as well as other springs in the valley.

It was a big undertaking for a handful of settlers here to bore a tunnel through the mountain and put in a twelve inch pipeline for a distance of four miles into the valley, but they pooled their resources of about fifteen thousand dollars and the line became a reality through the able direction of Dr. Ryan. The Morongo Water Co. was formed in 1916 with Dr. Ryan as president and

his daughter-in-law Mrs. Katherine Ryan McGuire as Secretary and Treasurer. It served the settlers well. The sandy loam soil proved fertile and a number of orchards produced as fine a fruit of many varieties as could be found anywhere, as well as excellent vegetables and alfalfa. As time marched on many of the settlers moved away and the orchards were allowed to deteriorate. However to date, 1949, some of the pioneers are still here and have reaped a bountiful harvest in health and worldly possessions.

Having passed through Morongo Valley on numerous occasions enroute to his gold mine, the Virginia Dale, near Twentynine Palms, Harry Hess noticed how cool the summers were, how green the valley stayed the year round with green pastures and big trees bordering the streams. He decided it would be an ideal place for a desert resort, so in April 1937 he laid out his first subdivision. It was a tough struggle, and it was not until 1944 that Morongo started to grow. It is now a thriving little town with all utilities in modern homes where one can live and enjoy all the good things in life with an abundance of ultraviolet and penet rays in the continuous sunshine and exhilarating fresh air for good health thrown in. ■



The pictures of early Auto Club directional signs indicate they are of a type installed between 1915 and 1927. Some of these signs have been recovered in remarkably good conditions after more than 40 years of use in the desert areas. A majority located in remote areas, however, fell prey to the ravages of vandalism.

Talk of the Town - Morongo Valley

Morongo Valley Post Office

By Ruth McCracken Kelly

The undenominational Sunday School and Church were started in 1943 at Doc and Mrs. Crawford's Ranch. The charter members were: Valentine McCracken, her daughters Ruth McCracken, Charlotte J. McCracken and her son William J. McCracken. Also included were members of the Scott family: John C. Scott, Emeline Scott, daughter Patricia Scott, and Son Phillip Scott. Harry Hess's daughter Dorothy Munson, Doc. and Mrs. Crawford were members also. Services were held by John C. Scott.

In 1946 the Sunday School and Church were moved to Bobo's Ranch. The services were held in the chicken coop. The new members included Lester Bobo, his wife Opal Bobo, and their daughters Dora Bobo and Thena Bobo. The Geeson family was Reverend and Mrs. Geeson, daughter Ruth Geeson and sons John Geeson, Paul Geeson and Phil Geeson. Leading the services were John C. Scott and Reverend Geeson. Reverend would hold Baptismal Services in the creek that had been dammed up in the pasture belonging to Frank Sabathy then — today its now a State Park. A few years later the original Church became the current Baptist Church.

In 1942 John C. Scott and family moved to Morongo Valley. The old box Lincoln car they owned would over heat climbing the Morongo Grade. There was a spring running along side of the old 29 Palms Highway and they would stop and use this water to cool and fill their radiator.

1980 — Valentine McCrackin in front of her trailer.



Photo by Charlotte Alyea McCracken

Valentine McCracken and her family moved Morongo Valley in June 1943. There was no electricity, no swamp coolers or telephones. Ruth McCracken recalls that in 1943 it was so quiet that you could hear the train and its whistle coming from WHITEWATER through GARNET. There were no highway noises at that time, except maybe a car an hour traveling by.

In 1944-45 the NAVY would stop at Valentine McCracken's front yard which faced the 29 Palms highway. Their trucks would arrive up over top of the Morongo Grade hot and boiling over. The NAVY used her water to cool down their trucks. Many times Harry Hess would do a little soft shoe with a top hat and cane. Lola Scott would play her accordian and everyone including the NAVY joined in and sang.

In 1946 Valentine McCracken opened a variety store which she called the 5, 10 & 25 cent store in her living room. She also carried cold soft bottles, drinks & freshly squeezed orange juice in a Coca-Cola bin.

In 1945 an electric Substation was built on Park Ave. The electricity was turned on at 8:00 and all the residents were told to turn on their lights at the same time. In honor of the occasion an Ice Cream Social and Dance was held in the garage next door to Jimmy Freeman's Shell Station.

Once a month, starting in 1945, Jimmy Freeman would show movies on the back wall of the garage. It was a rare treat we all looked forward to.



Photo by Ruth C. Kelly

1946

Valentine McCracken, Jim Carman, in front of variety store

Charlie Butterbaugh opened the "No Palms Cafe" in 1945 which was located on the 29 Palm Highway across the street from Jimmy Freeman's Shell Station.

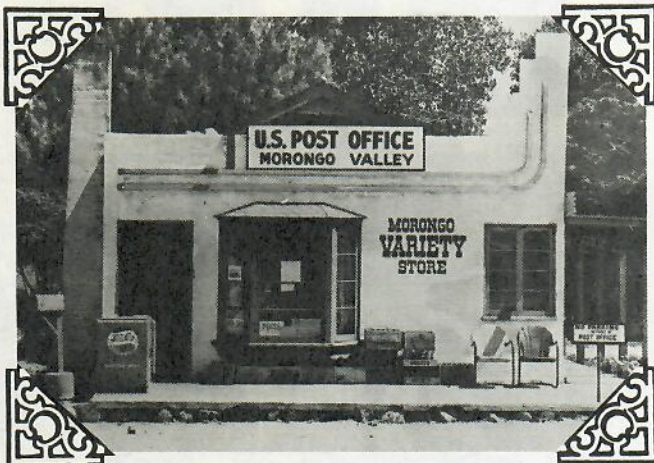
In 1947 Louise Hancock opened up her Ice Cream parlor on Park Avenue.

The Morongo Valley Post Office was started in 1948. Valentine McCracken was the first Post Mistress, but the title later was changed to *Postmaster*. Mrs. McCracken held the position of *Postmaster* for 17½ years. Her bedroom was converted and served as the Post Office. And as it grew it moved into her living room. As it expanded it was later moved to a small building on Paradise Avenue. This building was donated by John and Emeline Scott. It was moved again into a larger building and then into the present building on the 29 Palms Highway.

At the time of Mrs. McCracken's retirement, the Post Office had gone from 4th class to 3rd class and was ready for 2nd Class. Her beginning salary was \$16.00 bi-monthly.

As entertainment, the McCracken & Scott children played at Sabathy's pasture in the creek they had dammed up. They also held picnics there where they were surrounded by tall mesquite and cottonwood trees. The McCracken's and Scott's swam in the olympic sized pool which was located behind the old Morongo Lodge on the 29-Palms Highway, till it was closed down in 1945. The pool still exists today, although it is not filled with water, it is filled with a lot of happy memories.

Old timers called the road between old Hwy. 99 and the entrance to the Morongo Grade "DEVIL'S GARDEN". The wind blew almost continuously and the desert brush grew at an angle. It was sometimes referred to as "DEVILS KITCHEN" because of the Indian family named Kitchen who had formerly lived in Morongo Valley and then later moved to Mission Creek. Five of the Kitchen Family members were killed at one time in an automobile accident on the old Morongo Grade. ■



Morongo Valley's First Post Office



Photo by Ruth Kelly

1944 — (l-r) David Wm. McCracken, Ruth C. McCracken, Charlotte T. McCracken

A variety store was opened in 1949 by Val McCracken, in her living room. Navy stopped in front of Val McCracken's home on 29 Palms Hwy. to fill up their trucks with cold water. The trucks would come up over the hill, hot and steaming. Sometimes Harry Hess would perform for the troops, with top hat; doing a soft shoe dance, Lola Scott would play the accordion and every one would sing.

The Post Office was started in 1948. V. McCracken was first Postmistress and later her title was changed to Postmaster. She remained in that position fo 17½ years. The Post Office was conducted out of her former bedroom. As the business grew, it was then conducted out of her front room. She later moved to a small new building — on Paradise Ave.! The lot for the building was donated by John C. and Emeline Scott. She made one more move into a large building on Paradise Ave.. The Post Office was fourth class and was ready for second class when She retired. Her starting salary was \$16.00 bi-monthly. ■



Photo by Walter Hubbard

January 10, 1955 — Juniper Cafe. Note sign: Hamburgers 35 cents.

Morongo



Theil McKinney Eastabrook

1914 — (left to right) Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Fred Fishbeck, Rose McKinney and Mr. Pollard.

John & Babs Kobley. Babs is the author of two very fine books, "Guide of Morongo Valley Wild Flowers." Book 2 "What is an Indikin?"

Babs Kobaly



Photo by Ruth Kelly

1946 — Jim and Lola Carman celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.



Richard Hess

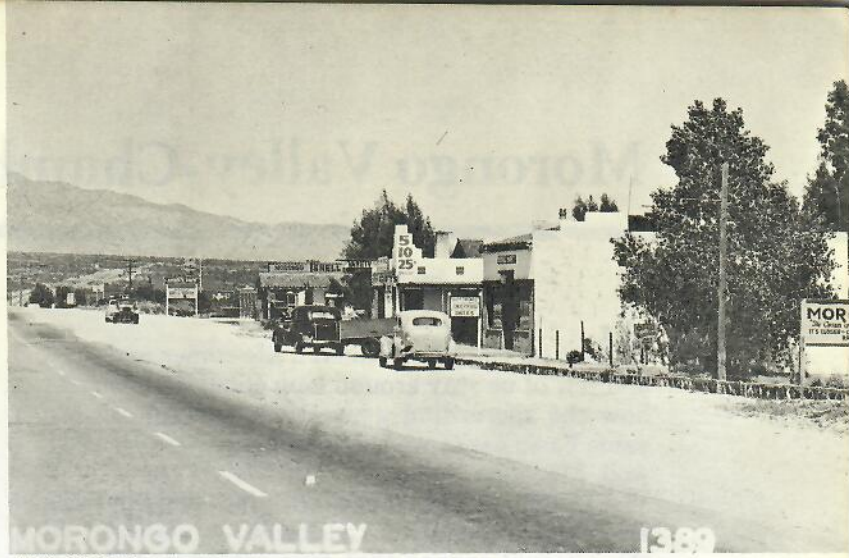
February 26, 1947 — Second day running of pumps. The depth was 207 feet and the suction pipe was down 116 feet with 60 feet left.

Mrs. Geil, Sylvia Timberlake, Fram Brown, Hazel Bybee, Evelyn Smith.





Ed Wruck and the flying machine he built.



Walter Hubbard Morongo Valley Main Street and the 5' 10' 15" store.

Valley Memories



Photo by Walter Hubbard

September 14, 1951 — Mrs. Walter at one time Patio Cafe.

MORONGO VALLEY SERVICE

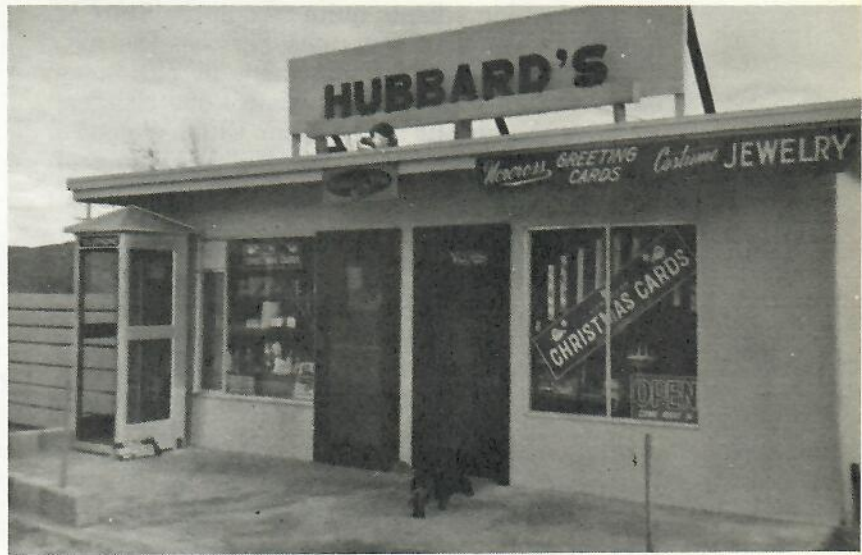


Photo by Walter Hubbard

1961 Christmas — Now it is a fruit stand.



Richard Hess

Jan. 1957 Hiway closed for 24 hrs. east of Morongo Valley.



Walter Hubbard



Paul Goakes

Notice prices.

About 1960: Mannequins with Elsie Cubit.
Photo by Gene Cubit



Morongo Valley-Chamber of Commerce

by Elwyn Pollock

Like all things ephemeral, life comes and goes and few of us stay around long enough to witness how the succeeding generations function in the same basic tasks we think we have performed so well. Morongo Valley — THE LAND OF MANY WATERS — like many thriving communities elsewhere in beautiful California — possesses all the internal organs that give credence, balance, and integrity, to a bona fide society, with the added political ingredients quite rare in the State of California, i.e., the Community Services District, (CSD), fully described elsewhere in our story book. With a population of some 4,000 citizens, we have the benefit of the Lions Club, Women's Club, Golden Age Club, City Hall, Chamber of Commerce, a Classic Library, and Fire Department, and Art Colony.

Contrary to our opening lines most of us tend to face the future and to forget the past. This inevitably results in the never-ending search and research of reporters who are compelled to delve into past history in order to present a balanced picture story of a particular area — like Morongo Valley.

While we have penetrated deeply into our interesting history, there is always the untold story, and others yet to tell. Through extensive files on Morongo Valley, and the good graces of Lucille Putman, Leona Eriksen, and Babs Kobaly, we have a detailed account of the Chamber of Commerce from its beginning, when "... on a winter night in 1946 a group of dedicated citizens who sensed the need of advertising their own town, gathered in front of the roaring fire place in the lobby of the Morongo Inn and there organized the Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce.

"Articles of incorporation were signed on Jan. 15, 1947 by the following: D.F. Giel, H.F. Silk, C. Millington, Bernard F. Arnold, Alexander H. Weir, Allen C. Livingstone, and Harry M. Hess. Mr. D.F. "Pappy" Giel, builder and owner of the Inn (1924-25) was chosen president, and Al Weir, first secretary."

The above quoted lines were written by Cal Crotenburg, a departed colleague, well known writer, poet, and highly esteemed friend. Meetings were held in the Inn until 1948, when the Chamber moved to the new community hall on land that was deeded as a gift to the Chamber by Jack McKenzie, then president of the Hollywood Race Track, and one time owner of a beautiful home in Morongo Valley. Fourteen years later, on Sept. 27, 1962, the Chamber deeded the Community Hall to the Morongo Valley Women's Social Club.



Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce logo

About this time the Chamber began publishing the "Chatter Box." It was the Hi-Desert's second newspaper, only the "Desert Trail" of 29 Palms preceded it. After several years the Chatter Box dissolved into the "Smoke Signal," reminiscent of the Morongo Indians in their camping days over 100 years ago in what is now Covington Park. The Smoke Signal was one of our best sources of news material from 1967 to 1982. It contained enough local lore, with persons and places and points of interest, along with Cal's column in the Progress, and the weekly Morongo Monograph in the Hi-Desert Star by your reporter, to produce enough local history to write another book on Morongo Valley.

Moving on into the 1960's we find the Chamber of Commerce meeting twice weekly in the Women's Club. New officers were (1967) Francis Callahan, president; Mimmi Wittstrom, vice president; Mary White, secretary; Clifford Stevens, treasurer; and directors: Don Davis, Paul Goakes, Dr. Dwight Rawson, and Cal Crotsenburg.

Entering the difficult decade of the 70's, we find Leona Eriksen presiding over a high caliber Chamber in 1974 featuring an installation dinner at the Mission Lakes Country Club in which Supervisor James Mayfield installs new officers, presenting the gavel to Leona; others at the dinner; John Kobaly, vice president; Laurie Geesen, secretary; Florence Goakes, corresponding secretary; Carl Mason, treasurer, noted for his expertise in handling Chamber finances for several years. Other members at the dinner: Jim Simpson, Paul Graber, and Don Hille.

Piercing through the maze of four decades of activity, we find one particular phase of Chamber life that seems unique and highly practical: various members of the board working their way up the ladder, finally to become presidents. This in itself shows an unusual propensity for reciprocal growth in Chamber activity.

Taking a number of them from past Chambers, we discovered that Leona Eriksen was a two-time president (1974-77), followed by Francis Callahan, Ernie Adams, Paul Goakes, John Kobaly, Charles Allen, Toni Kolbe, Bill Aber, Jack Driksen, Denice Hanson, Jack Francis, Freeman Sinclair and others, who have demonstrated the practicality of maintaining — to a remarkable degree — high quality of the Chamber of Commerce in Morongo Valley.

To further substantiate the remarkable business acumen which the Chamber has demonstrated in so many ways, we find it to be the back-bone of many enterprises in Morongo Valley, without which the community would be less firmly established than it is today.

Another outstanding example of the Chamber's forward vision: deeding Covington Park to Morongo Valley on April 26, 1949.

A final look for 1986 finds the Chamber sponsoring Morongo Valley Fiesta Days. Headed by president Joe Flihan, the Fiesta is designed to involve the entire community, a long standing Morongo Valley tradition held each Labor Day weekend.

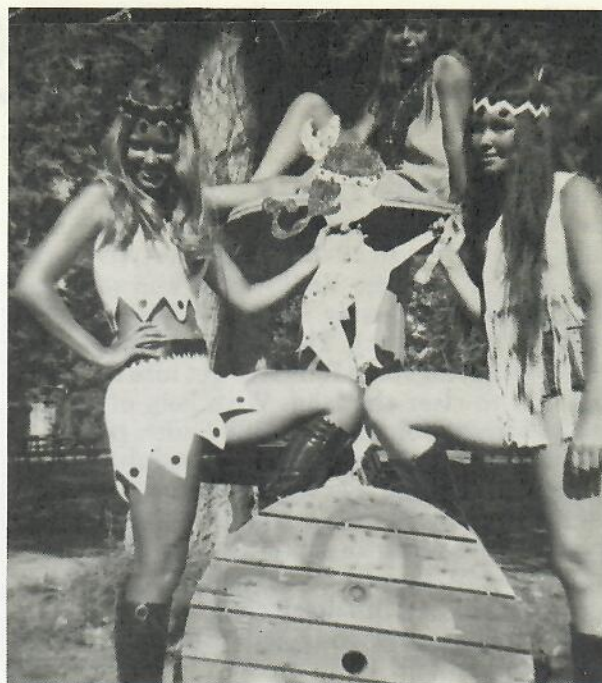
Residents are invited to submit ideas for the THEME of this year's celebration. The Chamber will award a \$50 Savings Bond for the winner. Some themes of past Fiesta Days include: LET FREEDOM RING; RED, WHITE AND BLUE EQUALS OLYMPIC GOLD; MORONGO VALLEY A PLACE FOR ALL SEASONS.

Labor Day weekend is THE DAY for the folks of Morongo Valley to get out and celebrate our pioneer and Indian heritage, to make these Fiesta Days one of the most memorable.

The LOGO for the day we celebrate our "Coming of Age" is our familiar "Indikin," girls between the age of 14 and 17. Their friendly face and winning smile has captured the friendly nature of Morongo Valley's citizens. But who are the Indikins and how did they come into being? Let Babs Kobaly tell the story in her own words:

INDIKIN is a word made from the joining of "Indian" with the suffix "kin," meaning *little* . . . The Morongo Valley INDIKIN was first conceived on paper in April of 1967 as the mascot of the then 2-month-old Chamber of Commerce newspaper the SMOKE SIGNAL. A contest was held, and in 1968 life was first breathed into the paper Indikin when the first Indikin Queen, Robin Kobaly — the co-creator of the little mascot — was chosen.

During the years of the Smoke Signal there were seven chosen Indikin Queens, and two honorary Indikin Queens. The chosen Indikin Queens were Robin Kobaly, Monica Woods, Terri Alyea, Debbie Thomas, Traci Edge, Kathy Russell and Tani Edge. Honorary Indikin Queens



Babs Kobley

1968 — Indikin Princess: Terri Alyea, Traci Edge, with Indikin, Queen Robin Kobaly

were Candy Martin "Miss Morongo Bicentennial" and Syd Haley, who, though she was from Morongo, was voted "Miss Yucca Valley in 1980." On the yearly coronation night Indikin Queen hopefuls deliver their speeches or interviews, model their own Indikin outfits and wait with their breaths-held-tight while the outgoing Queen enacts the traditional Ceremonial in Indian sign language, then passes the Golden Feather to the new Queen, selected by out-of-town judges. According to the Ceremonial, an Indikin vows to represent the Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce at all public functions, to defend native flora and fauna, to spread an infectious love of her hometown, and to be an example and an inspiration to all future Indikins. Indikins have a special place in the hearts of their homeowners; they remind us always of our special Indian Heritage! Babs Robaly — 1986. ■

This year's well run Chamber of Commerce is President Joe Flihan; Don Elliott, vice president; Betty Binney, recording secretary; Jeannie Lindberg, corresponding secretary; Penny Crotzburg, treasurer; Board members: Don Shiflett, Art Tilley, Shirley Hutchins, and Paul Goakes. ■

In 1944 a small newspaper was started called the Desert Rat.

1945 — Charter members were Clara Livingston, Valentine McCracken, Emiline Scott and Rosella Hess. ■

The Lannings & Smiths

John and Edna Lanning bought 5 acres of land that had been part of a 160 acre homestead from Harry Hess in 1946. The property is at the East end of Morongo Valley; land was surveyed into smaller sections by Mr. Hess. There was no road into the property. The Lannings had to use a trail from Livingstone Ranch to get into the property and to clear the land. With help of friends and relatives, Johnny and Bill Smith put up a nice tent where the two families lived during the winter of 1946 and 47. We had a few hardships but many enjoyable times. Hauled water for over 4 years, used kerosene stove for cooking and one for heating. Also used oil lamps.

The Smiths had two small children, Sandra and Ronnie. Sandra started in 3rd grade in the little school building near Pioneertown Road in Yucca Valley.

Bill Smith was a coal miner in Penn. When work was slow after World War II, we decided to move to Morongo Valley, with his sister and brother-in-law. Also our son's health was not good. The doctor said desert air would be better for him.

John Lanning had been in the C.B.'s during the war, and he later cut meat at a market in Long Beach. Edna's health was not too good so she decided the desert would be better for her.

After arriving in Morongo, Lanning soon got a job for So. Calif. Elec. Co. as a meter reader. He worked there until he retired.

Edna Lanning was very artistic; she did oil painting, pottery and made jewelry from rattlesnake backbones.

Bill Smith worked at any jobs available. Construction, block work, stone and cement mason, he even dug ditches, anything to provide for the family.

Years later, he got a job as a maintenance man for So. Cal. Water Co., and retired after 10 years (1975). Worked for a few years for Hacienda Water Co., that was started by Dr. and Dee Rawson.

Lanning heard that Palm Springs Water Co. was taking out old pipe lines. With help of neighbors, he hauled it to Lanning Lane. The road had been graded in by this time. The men cut and welded pipe, installed line and turned it over to Pacific Water Co. in 1949 and 1950. How wonderful to turn on a spigot and get fresh water.

After many years of hard work both families built nice homes. Many more folks moved in and built homes on Lanning Lane. Paul and Liz Tonsen, Daisy and Frank Dow, Grace and Harry Walters, Mrs. Dean Floyd and Mrs. Ward. Some had drilled wells but soon as the water line was in-

stalled, they got water from it. Later years, Cal. Water and Telephone came in 1959. Also So. Cal. Gas Co., in 1964. Property owners gave right of way. After all this progress, we no longer felt like Old Desert Rats.

How many old-timers remember the cattle guard in the middle of the road, about half-way down Yucca Hill? Cars went bump, bump, over the iron pipes.

Harry Steffenson built a Cafe, gas station and garage — Sam Hoffman had station and garage when we arrived in Morongo. Mr. and Mrs. Augel had the Cafe, and served wonderful food.

The first library was in a small building on Doc. and Myrtle Crawford's property. Next came Hancock's store. They sold groceries, served meals to the public, also lunches for school children at noon, the years may have been 1949 and 1950.

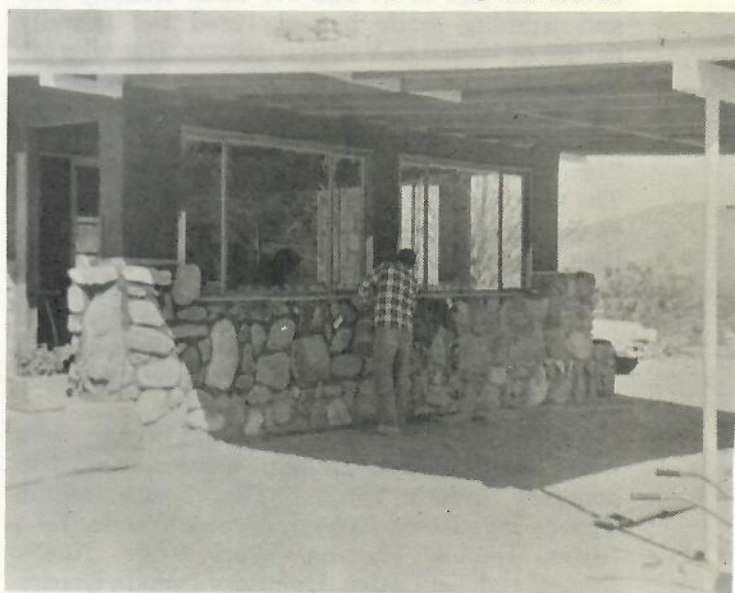
Men of the Valley donated labor and built a Community Hall, which was used as a school, church and for meetings. Also parties for fire department. The Women's Club owns the building now.

Market in Village was owned by R. E. Grines. Ownership changed hands many times.

Later, Gordon Brothers built a market beside Al Bieker's gas station on Twentynine Palms Hwy. Morongo was starting to grow and progress.

None of the first folks that built on Lanning Lane are alive, except Mrs. Smith. All new people own the properties. ■

1948 - John Lanning working on their home.



Morongo Valley Nature Conservancy

By Elwyn Pollack

Some 120 miles east of Los Angeles on Interstate 10, the long, low, sweeping off-ramp marked "Twenty Nine Palms" looms ahead: your invitation to adventure. In seconds you are driving through Devil's Garden, a hot, dry, windy place where people settle down to live with their tired joints, and find solace for arthritis, asthma, and like ailments. A few miles to the east, at the foot of the Little San Bernardino mountains, Desert Hot Springs emerges out of the shimmering heat wave of a bright summer day; a favorite spa that has attracted a multitude of health seekers to make Desert Hot Springs a permanent home in this attractive hot-mineral-water oasis.

Almost at once this not so barren desert gives way to a pleasant mountain pass, which, at the summit, reaches an altitude of some 2800 feet above sea level. Here, at the very edge of the Great Mojave Desert you get your first glimpse of a tiny valley barely 8 miles long, and three to four miles wide with a population of some 4000, and altitudes varying from 2600 feet at the village to exactly 3333 feet at the top of the grade leading into Yucca Valley.

This is Morongo Valley, the Gateway to the Hi-Desert, known for well over a century as the Valley of Many Beautiful Waters; a fitting interpretation of the Indian word Morongo.

Morong Valley is unique in many ways, but undoubtedly the most important single feature, certainly unique in this area, and known only to but a few, is to be found in our water supply. The fact is that we are blessed with two major canyons: Big Morongo and Little Morongo canyons which meander some 20 miles into the wilderness area of San Gorgonio, the highest mountain in Southern California at 11,502 feet above sea level. Since San Gorgonio receives on the average some 50 inches of rain and snow each year, a good percentage comes directly to Morongo Valley through these two canyons. The broad entrance area to Little Morongo Canyon is owned by the McKinney family who came to Morongo Valley shortly after the turn of the century. The high-water-table is as secure in their area as it is in The Nature Conservancy.

Big Morongo Canyon abounds in running water all through the extensive swamp areas with numerous ponds that attract the birds and small animals bringing an abundance of life and song into one of Nature's idyllic retreats. Even big-horn sheep, which live in the hidden recesses of the Little San Bernardino mountains, come down in the early morning hours to drink the waters from San Gorgonio, returning to their mountain

hide-outs before dawn, and are seldom seen in these parts. Big Morongo Canyon is one of the great fly-ways of Southern California. Its unique geographic position with its desert oases has made the valley a natural sanctuary for birds "funneling" through the canyons in their annual migrations. Over 300 species of birds and animals have been recorded and photographed here and the numbers are increasing.

Our picturesque park was donated to Morongo Valley by the Covington family in 1949 and is the focal point for hundreds of gatherings throughout these many years. In a way this is hallowed ground. Over one hundred years ago it was a camp ground for a tribe of Indians whose chief was a Captain John Morongo, commissioned by the U.S. Government as a Peace Officer, and who, among other things, is said to have helped establish the Morongo Indian Reservation in Banning. Another relative feature is that the plaque, located on the monument stone in the park, donated by the Sons of the Golden West, who came to Morongo Valley, from San Francisco, in 1963, to sponsor a beautiful commemoration ceremony honoring Capt. Morongo and his family, along with several Indians from the reservation.

Aside from the Art Colony in the park, the community building and the library, which is the single-minded project of our dedicated librarian, Mrs. Margaret Karcher, we must not forget the CSD (The Community Services District), the very back-bone of Morongo Valley. One could characterize the CSD as the most fundamental form of government in the U.S. In reality it is pure grass-roots government, about as close as one can get to real democracy. Mrs. Edith Nelson is the Secretary-manager of the Board of Directors, consisting of five members elected by the voters of Morongo Valley. We have our own city hall, chamber of commerce, fire department, a women's club and Lions Club, and other civic groups; a tax set-up of one dollar per 100 of assessed valuation, which cannot be raised except by the will of the voters in a regular election. We are responsible for street lighting, and the care and maintenance of Covington Park. Best of all is our power to call elections.

Looking to the east we see a stretch of land that was homesteaded by Mark Warren in 1876. The story of Warren's ranch, as well as that of Ben de Crevecoeur, and their families, are well told in Vol. 1., number 1, of "The Heritage of Yucca Valley," page 8. We can only add that all that is

left is the old barn, which can now be reached by following the trail from the manager's house in The Nature Conservancy.

When the Pollocks came to Morongo Valley in 1963, these 143 acres were owned by the entrepreneur Sam Levin, who also owned the Purple Lantern restaurant across the highway, as well as the Biltmore in Palm Springs. Sam ran cattle here in order to supply beef, or so it was said, for his restaurant.

About this same time the Audubon Society — who comes to Morongo Valley each spring for bird watching — became interested in creating a wild-life sanctuary and at the same time interested The Nature Conservancy who came and saw the great value of the area for its ecological preservation, and decided to become involved. Sam Levin too favored the idea. Here again the Covington's came into the picture. At that time they owned an eighty acre stretch of land bordering the canyon considered as part of the sanctuary. It was for sale for \$20,000.

Then things began to happen: The city of Morongo Valley, i.e., the CSD, organized a festival in the park which brought people from the entire Morongo Basin, and elsewhere as well. Through a pit-barbecue — prepared by one of our Indian friends from the reservation — and other money-raising activities, we netted \$1,000; The Nature Conservancy donated \$4,000, and the Covingtons reduced their price for the eighty acres by \$5,000, leaving a balance of \$10,000, which was paid off in a relatively short time.

But, while Sam Levin was in accord with the "idea," he still wasn't ready to vacate his home in the heart of the canyon. Since the only property the Conservancy owned outright was the 80 acres, everything was put on hold, to remain in abeyance for the unforeseeable future. So let us move on into the late 60's and early 70's, about the time that Sam Levin died and the County bought the 143 acres with the idea of continuing our plan for preserving the area for its ecological value, and hired ranger Doug Wilson to supervise it. Then came the 1978 flash flood, one of the biggest in this century, which completely devastated the area, wiping out the tiny oases, downing huge cotton-wood trees, and for some time, as far as any human activity was concerned, the canyon lay dormant; the house where Sam Levin lived gradually disintegrated, and finally the County itself lost all interest and fired Doug Wilson. Enter once again The Nature Conservancy, which is now in cooperative agreement with the County, having secured a long-term lease and a management agreement with the Bureau of Land Management.

We have come a long way through combined volunteer work groups from the Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy. Board walks and

bridges over pretty year-round streams have been completed in a concerted effort to restore the swamp areas. Other work ongoing: establishing trails and information signs in the entire area. The old dilapidated ranch house of Sam Levin has been beautifully restored by Elwood "Woody" Hengst, appointed by The Nature Conservancy as manager of the wild-life preserve, and also authorized to deal with the biological issues related to the area.

Woody and his wife Esther are well adapted to this kind of environment, and are highly pleased with the excellent progress in the restoration to date of our beautiful preserve.

On January 31, 1984, 11 conservationists met in the new home of Woody and Esther to discuss the issues and to organize a local committee to be made up of members of The Nature Conservancy and residents of the Morongo Basin. They are George Helmkamp, out moderator, and his wife Libby, Woody and Esther Hengst, Twila Couzens, Bruce Guthrie, Jack Huntsman, Elwyn Pollock, Gene and Leslie Rotstein, and Mary White. Eddie Compton joined the committee at a later date. With that opening round we found a growing and positive interest in our combined efforts to establish an area of great potential value for Hi-Desert residents to come and enjoy.

Those who find our efforts worthy of support are invited to join The Nature Conservancy and become a part of our long-term commitment. The Nature Conservancy is a nationwide organization committed to the protection of rare and endangered native plants, animals and natural communities, to save the best of what is left *and to stop the loss of genetic and species diversity brought about by the destruction of our natural habitats.*

In California alone, the Conservancy now owns 33 preserves throughout the entire state, designed to protect and restore native species and for public and educational use. Here too, in the Hi-Desert, the Conservancy, through the cooperation of BLM, has brought 3700 acres of federal lands of critical environmental concern under its protection as an integral ecosystem joining our wild-life preserve. One of our long term projects to see the light of day begins at the new Kiosk, built by "Woody" Hengst, and funded by the Bureau of Land Management. The kiosk supports eight glass covered frames for the display of all aspects of the sanctuary. Prepared by Geographics of Riverside — a group of young artists who prefer to remain anonymous — and supported by local Southern California Audubon Societies, they have arranged a brand-new display of the Conservancy's many accomplishments, showing many phases of the varied wild-life living in the swamp areas; important articles, photographs,

and geological maps, explaining the aims and long-term goals of continued expansion in the sanctuary. The "light of day," as we put it, begins at the kiosk in the form of a 4-foot wide asphalt walk-way, leading, in a gradually sustained incline, to the swamp area where a similar 4-foot wide board-walk takes over and continues to a large viewing platform built to hold a number of *handicapped bird-watchers* who may now indulge their passion within sight of the year-long stream and surrounded by a beautiful growth of cotton-woods and many enticing nesting places, a living paradise for bird-watchers, or, one may simply enjoy the lush setting as an expression of wild nature. The 800 foot pathway and board-walk supports a protective curb at both edges of the walk to prevent wheelchairs from accidentally slipping over the edge; a job "well done" by Woody Hengst, Jack Huntsman, Jan Stockton, George Helmkamp, Gene May, Bruce Guthrie, Robert Beigie, Dave Hatch, Sam Zusmer, and financially supported by the Yucca Valley Rotary Club, and Dr. C.E. Dilley. Here is an invitation to make our sanctuary a welcome haven for all who love Nature's hand-work, with a little help from caring individuals. The sanctuary is open daily to all visitors on foot from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Work goes on incessantly within the confines of The Nature Conservancy. Woody Hengst and Jack Huntsman, a dedicated conservationist, are in the process of finishing various sections of board-walk access to the interior of the swamp

area, otherwise near impossible to penetrate. One of the most enjoyable activities — for your reporter — is in the meeting of first-time visitors, who come from other states, as well as California, and beyond. They come on the advice of friends who tell them: "While you are in this part of the country you must visit the Big Morongo Wild-Life Preserve in Morongo Valley."

George Helmkamp has recorded some 400 plants within the area, and is always in search of new species, and often finding them. His expertise in the fields of biology, ornithology, and other fields of scientific interest, remains unsurpassed, and is a tremendous asset to The Nature Conservancy.

Also in the same category botanists Doris Hoover and Mary Toscayk added their own expertise in recording plant life in the same area, updating the list to around 450.

To sum up, here are some excerpts from a recent issue of The Nature Conservancy News:

"The Nature Conservancy holds a unique position among the many public and private agencies that protect and manage land. We are the only organization whose primary mission is the preservation of natural diversity . . . Nature Conservancy Preserves throughout the United States are the best register of our success and an inspiration as we pursue our goal of preserving the remarkable diversity of our natural world. WELCOME." ■

George and Margaret Hicks- 1916

Gorge R. Hicks and Margaret E. Hicks came to Morongo Valley in 1916. In 1917 he built a three mile cement pipe line from Upper Little Morongo to his 160 acres of Desert Entry land on the 29 Palms Highway.

When his wife and five children moved from Oregon they settled in Banning because at that time there were no schools in Morongo — so Allen, Catherine, Ethelyn, Barbara, and Georgene were educated there and other nearby communities for higher education.

Later, about in 1932, George homesteaded another 160 acres at the foot of the Yucca Hill, where he, his son, Allen, and daughter Barbara, built a house and a reservoir so that they could plant an orchard, grow alfalfa and grain. Mr. Hicks lived there until his death in 1947. After Mr. Hicks' passing, the property was divided up between the children. Allen and Bea Hicks still live in the Valley. Barbara Hostetter also lives in Morongo. The other girls are frequent visitors.

Charles Hostetter came to Morongo Valley in 1935 where he homesteaded 40 acres in Dry Morongo Canyon. His 40 acre parcel of land was in the original Joshua Monument and was the first property of less than 160 acres to be released for health purposes, probably the beginning of the 5 acre homesteads. ■

Barbara Hicks



Mr. Hicks pouring water into cup.

Elwyn Pollack

By Elwyn Pollack

Coming into the Hi-Desert some 24 years ago after a successful career building ships for the Navy in San Diego, while at the same time writing a weekly column for a Navy paper called the *Barometer*, and free-lancing music as a regular weekly side line, all adds up to more than can be accomplished normally in one fell swoop of 12 years, but we did it and it helped to bring us to Morongo Valley where we longed to retire, 10 years before the dream came to fruition. We came filled with community spirit and almost at once (after Lucille Putman saw us safely lodged in our new home in Little Morongo Creek) we joined the community: the CSD in particular, and others along the way. Seems no one was reporting the CSD meetings — it looked like a good opportunity and we pitched in. Early in 1963 I was writing a weekly column for the Hi-Desert Star called the Morongo Monograph, and for the first time in my life I became a paid reporter (the Navy *Barometer* was just part of my job) at the going rate of 14 cents per inch. That added up to around \$5 a week. Big money! Since 1982 I have become a world traveler, attending world congresses of the International Language Esperanto (see the Hi-Desert Star, Oct. 15, 1985). This year, 1986, will see us to Peking, China. Among other things to fill us with wonder, we will be strolling along the Great Wall, thought to be impregnable to foreign invasions, but we remember when Genghis Kahn broke through the barrier in 700 A.D. with his hordes of huns and conquered most of China. A nine day tour through mainland China after the Congress will give us a first-hand idea of how the people live and work on the other side of the world.



Elwyn Pollock

Elwyn Pollock

In the meantime THE BOOK takes precedence, and we have given our best time and effort to help make it the most thorough historic rendering of our tiny elliptical bowl that contains more facets of past history than any other place in the entire Morongo Basin. We hope it will be a book that Morongo Valley citizens will treasure, and take pleasure in reading as well as showing it on every possible occasion.

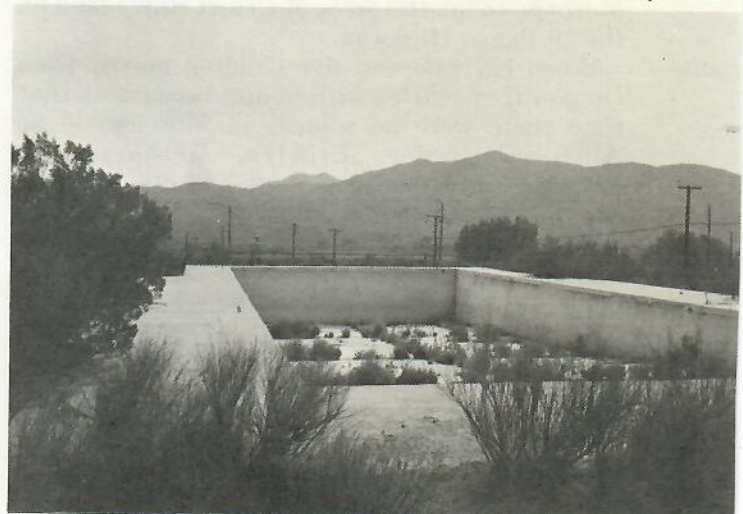


Elwyn Pollock

Bobo Ranch, built in the 40's. When the foundation was dug, Indian bones were unearthed.

1930 - Swimming pool for everyone, kids and adults, water from the stream flowed in at one end and out the low end.

Elwyn Pollock



Wood Carving-John Carr

By Elwyn Pollack

John Carr, who was a member of the Art Colony and a wood carver since his childhood days, carved toys from anything at hand; cars airplanes, and guns, using only his mother's paring knife.

John's home in Morongo Valley, is a veritable show-place; a depository of the pure art of wood carving and sculptured figures of great diversity. Horses are a favorite subject — a beautiful white stallion patterned after one that John rode as a boy of 6 years. Still another that commands our attention, that of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perces, the greatest military chieftain in American history. His horse is superb, carved in bass wood, but with the polished effect of burnt ivory. Behold the CUTTY SARK in full sail with flying jib in action all fashioned from walnut, and every thing to scale. In another exhibit: the FLYING CLOUD — the hull in walnut, sails in Alaska Cedar.

As we moved in wonderment around the parlor we spied a lovely ballerina all in walnut, doing a precision toe dance, and ready for that pas de deux with her charming partner. An exquisite carving with flaired skirts and an unusual pretty face, a rare feature in the art of carving. Standing out in striking contrast — with wings spread ready to swoop down on its prey, an intricately carved Bald Eagle — all in red wood, and very life-like. All of these objects of art are blue ribbon winners. Going from the front room into John's place of creative art, is a contrast in the facility of the work bench — here we see the tools of the trade. In the present case the bench shows a scattering of tiny animal caricatures; squirrels, horned goats, rearing horses, all being prepared for John's grandchildren, to be ready for Christmas of 1986.

But what struck the eye almost at once is a merry-go-round, a true Carrousel, complete with 27 carved horses and a chariot, all in typical carnival color; 32 inches in diameter, and 34 inches to top of flag pole, the whole covered al la circus with a colorful cloth dome made by John's wife Louise.

The carrousel is for real with an 1885 Belgian Band Organ. When John pressed a button the result was music and action come alive. Horses galloped, and the first song I could name was "Over the Waves," followed by "You Can't Be True Dear!" Then came a Sousa march with the Washington Post, featuring the slide trombones. Here fantasy, spiced with reality in miniature, reigns supreme.

At Bill & Betty Binney's Gateway Escrow, Inc., in Morongo Valley, across from the post office, one may see John's Stage Coach drawn by six lively horses, a marvelous example of precise carving showing the stage coach coming through a mountain pass at full gallop. Another Stage Coach drawn by four horses at the museum in Yucca Valley is of the same fine craftsmanship.

John Carr is one of the founding fathers of the California Carver's Guild, established in Oct. 1973, with chapters well distributed throughout California.

Here we have presented a true artist, living in our own home town, an asset to the community, adding to the prestige of the several artists that make up the Art Colony of Morongo Valley. ■

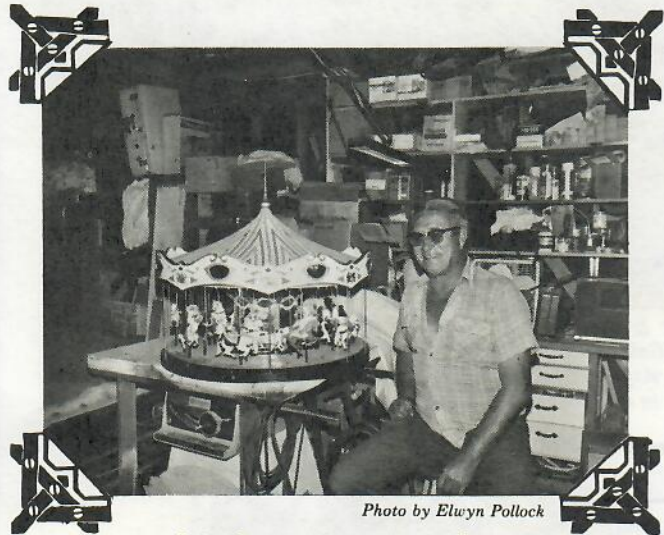
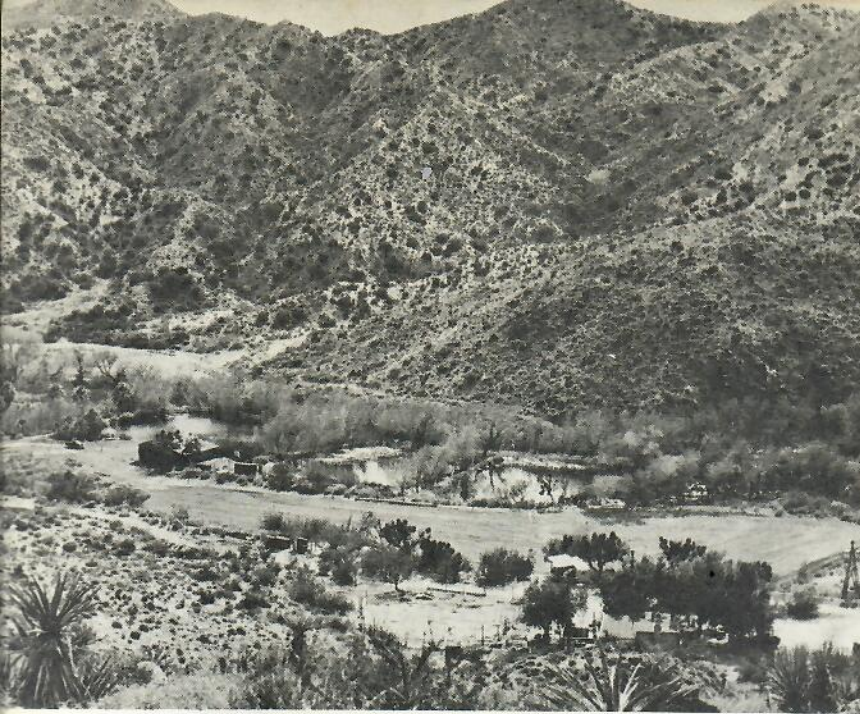


Photo by Elwyn Pollock

John Carr — Master Wood Carver

ECHOS FROM THE PAST

In 1944 the Olympic sized pool located behind the Lodge on 29 Palms Hwy. was opened to the public. In 1946, another Sub Station was built on Park Ave. The electricity was turned on in the summer at 8:00 p.m. Everyone was instructed to turn lights on at the same time. An ice cream social and dance was held in honor of the occasion in the garage next door to Freeman's Gas Station on 29 Palms Hwy. ■



McKinney's Ranch and a beautiful lake.

McKinney



1943 — Barbara Elizabeth McKinney Moore at Morongo Valley Homestead

Barbara McKinney Moore

The McKinneys

All Photos by the McKinney Family



Oliver & Rose McKinney 30th Anniversary
1933 Front Gate to Ranch house - Uncle Milt Thomas, playing guitar.
The people stayed all night camping out. This is breakfast next morning out in front of the old house.

McKinney

Left - Eldon, Arol, Mrs. McKinney, Glenn, Thiel.

Theil McKinney Eastabrook



1915 McKinney children - Arol, Glenn, Thiel, Eldon, Willard.

Theil McKinney Eastabrook



Rose McKinney and Martha Pollard

McKinney



The McKinneys of Morongo

By Elwyn Pollack

The McKinney family moved from their homestead to nearby Palm Springs. In 1915 the stagecoach came up through the Big Morongo Canyon, down the present street named Senilis, through the bog near the old dump containing dangerous quick-sand deposits, and stopped at the Pollard place. One road also ran west, passing Doc Crawford's and the Lodge. Mr. McKinney and wife returned to Morongo in 1946 and constructed the present lakes, and brought into the valley the first palm trees.

Returning to the year 1911, living in Morongo besides the aforesaid parties was a Colonel Works, who acquired 680 acres of Government land. This acreage passed from him to a Mr. McCormack, and later became the first subdivision belonging to Harry Hess. At this same period Fred Fishbeck filed on 160 acres and his brother Charles filed on a like amount nearby. Also acquiring 160 acres of Government land were Mr. Pollack and "Daddy" Kiler. Kiler filed on the site that is now the Morongo Lodge. "Daddy" built the first lodge, a rock reservoir, and a few rental cabins, surrounding the property with fruit trees and alfalfa and fenced the orchard against rabbits. The orchard produced the finest fruits the valley had ever seen. In 1920 Mr. Kiler gave the lodge to his daughter, Alice Pollard and her husband, Fred. The Pollards later left and took over the Whitewater Ranch.

In November of this same year the Misses Obenshein, Estelle and Myrtle (Crawford) took over the management of the Lodge, catering to health seekers from the city. At this point in Morongo's history there were few people in town among which were Bill Covington and his wife and four children, Vaden, Sarah, Leonard and Lloyd. Among the visitors at the Lodge were the Steads and the Budlingers who used to stop by on their way to their gold mine claim beyond the Bill Keys place above Warren's Well Valley, or Yucca Valley as it is called today.

The year 1923 brought the DeFaus Geils to the valley and they became the next lessors of the Lodge. To cite the peace and quiet of that era, only one car a week would pass through Morongo Valley. This same year a sheriff's posse came through on the trail of a crippled moonshiner reputed to be the maker of the best grape squeezin's in San Bernardino County. Accompanying the sheriff was famous "Pussyfoot Johnson", a Prohibitionist of that period who ordered a glass of milk at Geir's Lodge, while the sheriff and his men drank "near beer".

The Morongo Inn was built by Helen and DeFaus Geil themselves, bringing in the rock from different parts of the desert, with only the help of an occasional carpenter and Ray Bolster, who lived where the Bohannon place is today. Geil also had the Tully Mine, bought from Bill Keys, a mine that produced gold running \$18 to the ounce. In 1936 the Government took over that land as part of the Joshua Tree Monument and the mine was lost to the owners. In 1925 the Geils leased the Lodge to the Charles Steads and it was at this time that Zane Grey's "Desert Gold" was filmed at the old Warren Ranch.

After ten years the Steads gave up the lease of the Lodge and Ducky Irwin bought the place, built the room that is now called the Desert Room, a swimming pool, a retaining wall and tiled roof cabins. An artist by the name of Welch spent a lingering summer somewhere around 1935 painting the western murals that adorn the walls and ceiling of the Desert Room. Some of the paintings have been classified as masterpieces by the art critics, and have been acclaimed by artists around the world.

Scarcely had Irwin finished building when the sheriff was hot on his trail, and shortly afterward he was murdered while he sat in his car on a busy street in Hollywood, so ended a very exciting page in Morongo history.

The first modern convenience came to the town in 1931. The Geils had the first telephone for the entire Hi-Desert. As yet the main thoroughfare from the cut-off below Devil's Garden was a washboard dirt road. There were no electric lights, but Mrs. Harry Hess entered the picture with a water survey crew, and Flora Carter, a Seventh Day Adventist, and a friend of Judge Reese had leased the Inn with great plans for the valley, but again history records that the venture failed and Geil repossessed the Inn after a record short period and several clever maneuvers.

As an added attraction Mrs. Carter, had brought Countess Matzene from San Francisco, and it will be noted that Morongo Valley has a Matzene Street.

With only a slab of concrete remaining after a quarter of a century, the old timers still talk about the "Quandary", a \$25,000 hotel that was built in 1935 by Mrs. Tupper and her son Greg. Near the Heaton place, it ran into so many building problems that the owners dubbed it the "Quandary", and though it enjoyed a short period of success from patrons coming from Palm Springs for its Casino, it burned to the ground

one bright moonlit night just after a heavy snow storm while under the management of a gambler who had leased from the Tupper and built watch-towers containing peep-holes to insure privacy.

During the depression of 1933 Frank Smith sold his ranch in Big Morongo Canyon to the Shermans, Maude and Billy, who later homesteaded the land containing the Big Morongo Springs, and subsequently bought the home that Ray Bolster built for his wife and family which adjoined the Smith place. Calling their ranch Sherman Shady Springs, they were genuine pioneers who helped build the hospitality tradition around Morongo's early pioneers.

Coal-oil and candles provided lighting for the residents as a whole, with Geil's Lodge having an efficient home power plant, and the Inn a smaller one until 1947, at which time California Electric Corporation erected poles in various spots throughout the area. Life in Morongo was indeed a more pleasant experience as the black-top had been added to the 29 Palms Highway since 1935, bringing more tourist trade and people seeking homes. Telephones added to the social possibilities and during this period Mrs. Rosella Hess organized the Valley Women's Social Club, a group that were destined to back many later achievements.

Heading the need of a church for Morongo's people, Mr. Jack MacKenzie donated a lot with the stipulation that a church be started within a given period. Time ran out and the church did not take advantage of the offer, and the lot reverted to the community in care of the Chamber of Commerce. Donated labor from the citizens, with most of the lumber brought in from the aqueduct resulted in Morongo's Community Hall. The first to use its facilities was the Baptist Sunday School and the minister, Don Chunn, who used the Hall for about four years until the valley's dream of a church came true.

Stimulating the ambition for a kitchen in addition to the Hall, the Women's Social Club gave potluck dinners, bake sales, etc. which resulted in enough money for an up-to-date electric kitchen open to all civic organizations. The Community Hall, dedicated in 1957 is a monument to the hundreds of people, working together in harmony for a common purpose.

There are about six two-story buildings in Morongo Valley, and higher than these is the steeple of the American Baptist Church that burnt its mortgage in 1959. The beginning of the dream come true, the church was first the lot that it sits upon, (donated with loving kindness by Helen and DeFaus Geil of the Morongo Inn) and then zealous church members joined hands with their minister, Don Chunn, in applying to the Southern

California Baptist Convention for a church building, prayed and found the answer to be on the way. With plans drawn up by architects and building under the supervision of the Convention foreman, work began in October, 1956. With a memorial organ donated by the citizens the dream of a church became a reality in April, 1957.

On a knoll near the center of the town sits a tiny building flanked by an ancient windmill. Within these walls is the County Branch Library, known far and wide as one of the smallest libraries in the largest county in the entire United States. The library has not always been here for during the Pollard's lease at the Morongo Lodge it was first established there in the corner of the dining room forty years ago, moved to Twentynine Palms in 1924, and returned to Morongo Valley in 1950 where it is now housed on the Crawford property. Librarians who donated their time that period were Mesdames Spray, Martin, Steffenson, Shearer, Runyan and Mrs. Myrtle Crawford.

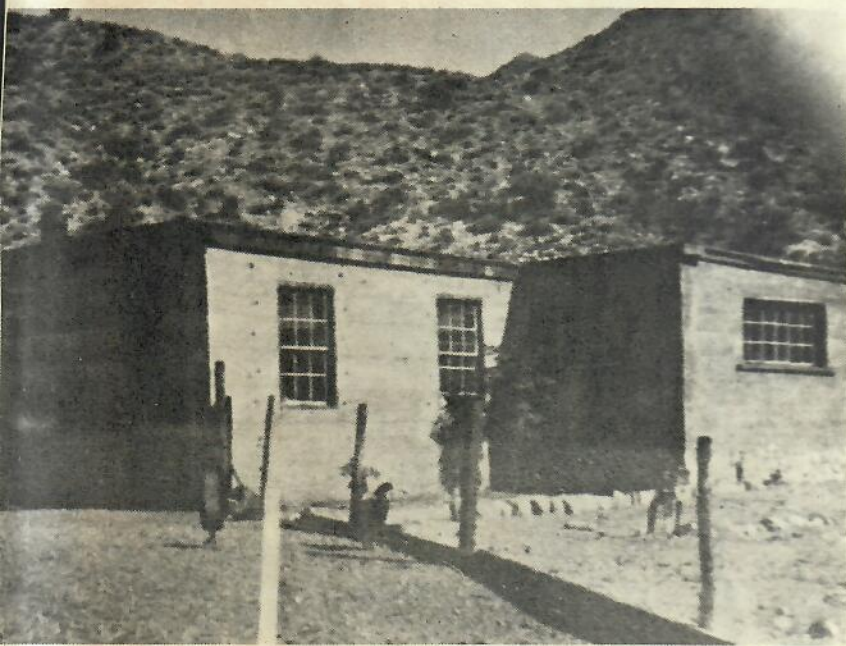
Life can be and is beautiful in the little valley of "many waters". But the story of Morongo Valley interspersed with tragedy and history would not be complete without the saga of "Willie Boy" the renegade killer Indian who terrorized the pioneers of 1909. The few settlers of that day barred their cabin doors and sat in total darkness with loaded rifles while Willie Boy dragged his kidnapped sweetheart through the valley and into the rugged mountains near Pioneertown, where he finally killed her in a senseless fit of jealous rage. Then there was good old Chuck Warren, whose ranch was noted for its jovial hospitality. Chuck's beautiful daughter Lela was murdered by a jealous suitor in the town of Banning some three years later. Chuck, who believed the automobile to be the work of the Devil, met death in the crash of a car driven by a friend.

Time and progress have brought a Property Owners Association and a Community Services District to Morongo Valley. A forward looking Chamber of Commerce is on the alert to promote the town's welfare. The Golden Age Club has become an integral part of our community, serving those of our senior citizens in the sunset years of their lives who have played a vital role in the history of this era. Volumes are yet to be written, but surely none more colorful than this brief chapter spot-lighting the picture frame of the Valley of Many Waters. ■



Barbara McKinney Moore

1910 - Oliver Stow McKinney's well drilling rig & camp.



McKinney Ranch

McKinney

1915
Morongo Homestead - L-R Eldon, Theil, Willard, Arol, Glenn, Rose, Oliver McKinney.
Theil McKinney Eastabrook

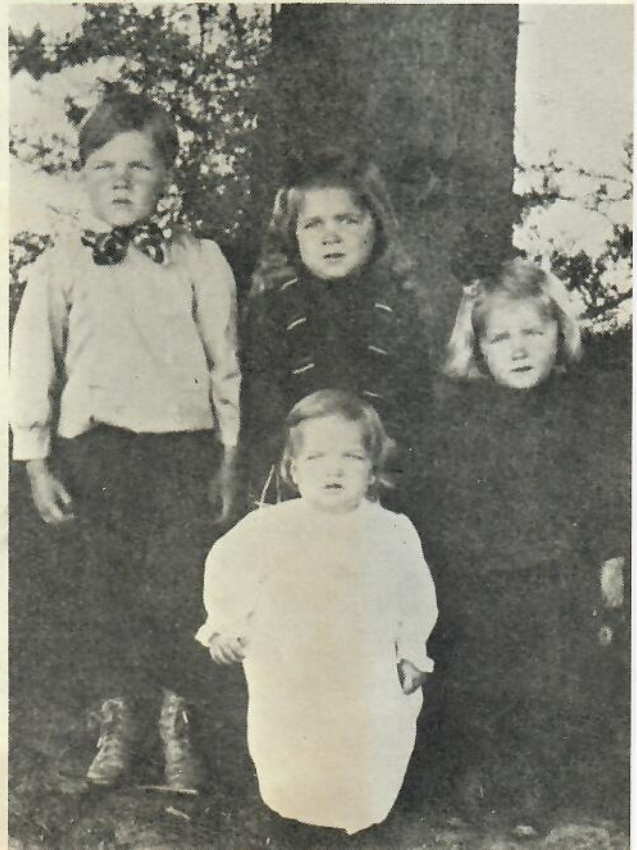


Barbara McKinney Moore

Wedding Day of Mrs. Rose and Oliver McKinney

Front - Baby Eldon.
Back Row - Glenn, Erol and Theil McKinney.

Theil McKinney Eastabrook



Yucca Valley The First-Yucca Valley Inn

By Lorena Humphreville

The oldest original building in Yucca (now Din-Ho) was at one time the gathering place for conversation and good food or a cold beer.

Vi and Tom Humphreville were not newcomers to the high desert, having owned a cabin in Morongo Valley for several years and when it burned down, bought the "Yucca Valley Inn" from George and Jenny Squires, late in 1943. New Years Even 1944 was a celebration as Vi and Tom were taking over the business and "Yucca Valley Inn" became well known for hospitality, a good story, laughs, cold beer or Vi's chili, the "Come On Ice Cream" type. People who had tasted Vi's chili claimed they could not get their cars to pass, some claimed there was a big magnet that pulled cars to the doors.

"Yucca Valley Inn" had an atmosphere all its own, relics from days past hanging all over the walls. It was a museum of branding irons, sharks mouth, bullets, even a pistol used by Deputy Riche on the Willie Boy hunt.

Tom and Vi played a big part in the history of Yucca Valley. Tom was a past president of the Lions Club (picture at Golden Stallion — he was tail twister) Tom rode in a Navy Rescue Helicopter to look for people stranded in the back country in the big snow of Jan. 1949 (3 feet here in Yucca). The Navy was in 29 back then. Tom also helped lay out the road from Yucca Valley to Pioneertown that we now use. In those days to get to where Pioneertown is now you used Victorville Road to Skyline Ranch Road. Tom flew in a County helicopter with Art Strickler (head of hwy. in this area) and showed him the route through the canyon mapping out the road we use today. (famed horse back riding club)

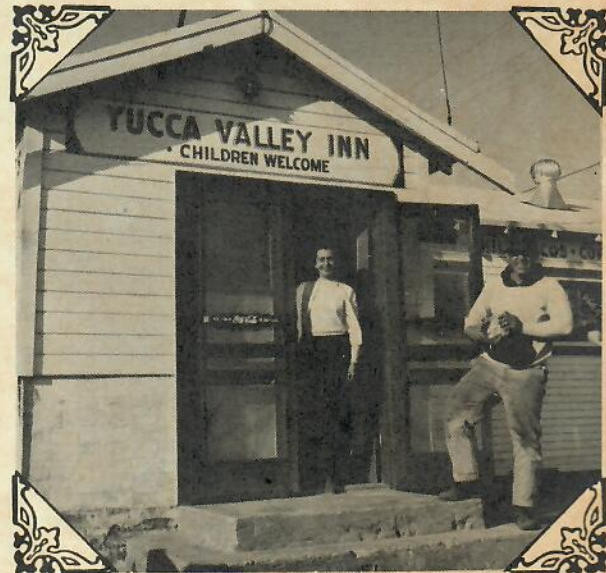
Vi and Tom, along with Nora and Joe Lopez, Rex and John Hamilton, Jean and Frenchy Lewis (owners of the Texico Station) and the Goodwins (parents of Jean and Frenchy) formed a riding club. They rode all over the desert including the route through the canyon that is now the Pioneertown road.

Vi was very proud of a Grubstake Days Honorable Mention Trophy, the largest family participation including herself — children and grandchildren. 12-15 all together, babies pulled in wagons, others older pulling them along, long dresses, bonnets and all. Always a family float, especially in the beginning.

Dennis and Bea Lilley owned the grocery store and gas station just west of the "Yucca Valley Inn." Bea and Vi were popular helpers at the U.S.O. — always ready to serve food, dance with

or just give good conversation to the boys in service. It was not unusual for Navy Caravans to stop by for a quick meal on the way back to base, if there were too many for Vi and Tom to handle, an Officer would get behind the bar and serve while Vi and Tom were back in the kitchen "cookin."

There was a time Vi raised her own chickens; every Thursday, killed and skinned them and served half a chicken in a basket — deep fried, melt in your mouth flavor. This delicious delicacy was only 75 cents. People came from 29 Palms, Morongo and even Banning early on Saturday night to have Vi's chicken before going to the square dance at the school house. (Later to become Scout quarters at Yucca Trail and Wamego).

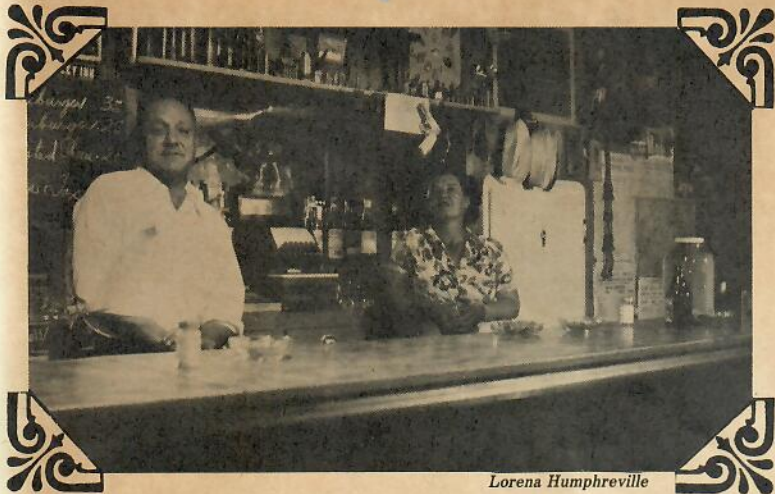


Lorena Humphreville

1958 — Vi and Tom Humphreville

After Vi and Tom were settled, Vi's brother, Ed and Al Hardesty, and her father, Ed Hardesty Sr. brought the store from Lilley's making it kind of a family town. Hilda later officially named our town Yucca Valley.

Tom passed away in 1959 leaving Vi to run the place alone. She had intermediate help during the ownership by her daughter Shirley, occasionally her daughter-in-law Lorena and when her son Tom returned from the service he helped some, but the last years her sister Marge moved up and helped until Vi sold out and retired with her sister on the river in Blythe where they still live today. ■



Lorena Humphreville

1944 — Tom and Vi at the bar.

YUCCA VALLEY INN
 FEATURING
 DRAUGHT BEER
 AND SANDWICHES
 BEER AND WINE OF ALL KINDS
 ON AND OFF SALE
 VI & TOM HUMPHREVILLE YUCCA VALLEY, CALIF.



Lorena Humphreville

**NOTICE OF SALE OF STOCK
 IN BULK**

VIOLA MAE HUMPHREVILLE,
 Mortgagor.
 GEORGE E. SQUIRES,
 JENNIE SQUIRES,
 Mortgagee.

(Pub. Dec. 10, 1943)

(Notice Mailing Address)
 "YUCCA VALLEY INN" belonging
 to said Jennie Squires and located
 at Yucca Valley, Whitewater, County
 of San Bernardino, State of Califor-
 nia,



Lorena Humphreville

Respirator donated to Yucca Valley Fire Department
 in memory of Tom Humphreville



Lorena Humphreville

1945 — Tom and Lorena's house on 29 Palms Highway
 which is now Nelson's Motors.

Yucca Valley Heart Ball

By Betty Babcock

A rose is a rose. A fund-raiser is a fund-raiser. But not always. Not when you're referring to Yucca Valley's Annual Heart Ball.

Originally the idea of Evelyn Bendall, it seemed like a much more exciting way for Yucca Valley to contribute to the County's yearly drive. It also seemed a much more logical and feasible way. In those days, the houses were few and far between, the streets and roads were rather dark and there were few, if any, sidewalks. That was 1963.

This was truly a "dress" affair. The social event of the year.



The late Lera Edmondson

A group of volunteers met, formulated the Hearts of Yucca Valley By-Laws and set out to plan a gala event whose prime purpose was to raise money. And they have. Over the years, thousands of dollars have been raised. One important life-saving piece of equipment, The Jaws of Life, was donated to the Yucca Valley Fire Department.

Mrs. Bendall's idea seems to have more than proven itself. After two decades, it continues to be the annual social "doing" of the Hi-Desert. Many years, including the first, there are two Balls — to accommodate the many reservations. These were either held simultaneously at different locations or on successive evenings using the same location.

Mrs. John Bendall organized the Yucca Valley Hearts in 1963, and presented the First Annual Hearts Ball. Overnight it became the social highlight of the winter season. Evelyn Bendall was the chairman for a number of years.

Those who have worked many hours in the early years to make each ball a shining success include Robert Schoenleber, William Edmondson, Alma Katje, ElMarie Essig, Elsie Howell, Ken Tornborg, Jean Arch, Vonda Carlson, Dorothy Bahr, Lois Buck, Betty Claus Babcock, Kay Pack, Marian Collins, Kathleen McAhren, Harold Lawson, Art Miller, Mac McCulloch, Robert Potter, William Hanson and Darlene Roberts.

All Ball proceeds and other contributions go to the San Bernardino County Heart Association.

Other fund-raising events are held throughout the year adding to the time and talent required of the already busy Ball volunteers. But these events also add to the total donation from the Morongo Basin and therefore, receive the necessary attention. Their goal is to supplement the Heart Ball — not replace it.

Even though the Hearts of Yucca Valley is a formal organization, the only requirements for membership are nominal annual dues — and a desire to do something worthwhile for your fellowman.

1963 — A portion of the first Heart Ball Committee members in 1963.
Left to right: Ruth Lawson, Hazel Miller, Evelyn Bendall, Chairman, El Marie Essig, Clara Wheeler, the late Margaret Schoenleber, Dorothy MacCullough, Vera Potter and Dottie Hanson.



These women, and men, some who have been involved for years, have donated thousands of hours. Hours of talent and dedication. Hours with no reward other than the gratifying knowledge that they are doing something for others.

The first Heart Ball was as elegant as the last and all those in between. The excitement, suspense and realization may have been greater that first year however, as the various committees brought all the loose ends together for the final production. A final production without the aid of a dress rehearsal.

The years when two Balls were held were even more involved. This was the case that first year. Everything had to be done twice. Little things, big things, things the guests often were totally unaware of, things that must have been important — judging from the continuing success through the years.

And everyone has fun. In fact, they have a Ball. The ladies in their very, very prettiest and the handsome men. All that finery. A world far from the normal, casual, loved Yucca Valley of the early 1960's.

Though there are many sighs of relaxation "after the Ball is over", the "memory lingers on" and in no time, the volunteers are meeting again; re-thinking the event just passed and making plans for the next one.

Two outstanding women should be given special recognition: Evelyn (Mrs. John A.) Bendall and the late Lera (Mrs. W.W.) Edmondson.

1964 - l-r: Robert & Margart Schoenleber, Honor, Chairman, Mr. & Mrs. George Osborn,



Early stage Planners - Far Left, Bernice Buchanan
Far Right, Freda Holmes
Center Figures, Unknown.

Evelyn, as the originator of the Heart Ball idea, was chairman of the Balls for three consecutive years. She took an active part in various ways for numerous years following her chairmanship. Lera was largely responsible for putting the Morongo Basin on the map with the San Bernardino County Heart Association. With her loyalty and expertise, she served several years on the Board of this Assoc., attending meetings "down-the-hill", spear-heading the Hi-Desert area "drive", following through on each and every detail. Her dedication, along with the help and support of the others who pitched in, was specifically, publically recognized at the 1966 Awards Banquet of the SBCO Heart Assoc. The Morongo Basin, as a whole, received special tributes and awards, as well, for the outstanding contributions made. The Heart Ball always being the main source of donations.

The years since that specific recognition by the County Board continue to be successful. As though professionally planned, it is brought to completion each year under the chairmanship of various local volunteers. The large number of outstanding citizens who give their thought, time, effort, material, all the necessary and various details needed to accomplish their goal should receive special recognition and thanks. Thanks from each of us for the research and equipment made possible which is for the benefit of everyone of us. The thousands of dollars donated from the annual Heart Balls has made an impression! Acorns to oaks. ■

Morongo Basin Humane Society

By Mimi Mitz

The original concept of forming a local chapter of the Humane Society in the Morongo Basin is attributed to three local women who were concerned about the growing problem of strayed and abandoned animals in the Hi-Desert area. Claudia Slack, Dora Baker, and Gertrude Shanklin had seen enough animal abuse in this area to feel that a local organization dedicated to the humane treatment of animals was a real necessity. On August 27, 1973, these women invited some friends to meet at Mrs. Baker's house to discuss the growing animal problems and to work towards solutions to these problems. This meeting resulted in the eventual formation of what became known as the Morongo Basin Humane Society. Within the year, meetings and membership were opened to the public. The members of the MBHS came from all parts of the Morongo Basin and Joshua Tree was chosen as the most appropriate meeting site to serve the basin area. The early meetings were held at the Joshua Tree Community Hall. From the inception of the society, the goal was to build a shelter for the homeless animals of the area. Towards this end, the society filed incorporation papers as a non-profit corporation. Ked Lynch of 29 Palms is credited with compiling and presenting all necessary papers to grant the MBHS its incorporated status. Other incorporators of the MBHS included: Mildred Hurd, James Miller, Dorothy McFarland, Barbara Culpepper, Kenneth McFarland, Ellen Pierce, Howard Pierce, Jessie Palander, Georgia Van Order, Claudia Slack, Helen Miller; Mary Meader, Helen Riordan, Ramon Sorensen, Paul Baker, James Merrill, Floyd Shockley, Agnes Allard and Lillian Jones.

The Society received its incorporated non-profit status on January 7, 1975. Ahead of the society lay the difficult task of fund raising for the creation of the animal shelter. Money was raised through membership dues, individual donations, and from the proceeds of the Humane Society Thrift Shop. The original thrift shop opened in Yucca Valley in January 1974. Gertrude Shanklin managed it for six years. On April 2, 1979 the thrift shop was relocated to its present location, a Quonset hut at 55290 Twentynine Palms Highway in Yucca Valley. After Ms. Shanklin retired, the shop was managed by Jim and June Miller until August of 1982.

Irene Greer managed the thrift shop through 1983 and Margie Cloe was the last volunteer manager from 1984-85. In 1985 thrift shop management was contracted. Augie and Carolyn DeBlicke managed for one year and the present managers are Don and Dottie Martin.



Hi-Desert Star

Herb Watts and Mimi Mitz

The thrift shop was really the mainstay of revenue for the society in the early days.

The animal shelter dream came a step closer to reality when 3.08 acres of land was donated by Kay Baker for the shelter site. Building plans were drawn up and the ground breaking ceremony took place on October 1976. It would be another six years of hard work before the shelter would be operational. In the meantime, the Humane Society tried to perform its appointed function, that is to shelter the homeless animals of the area. Volunteers would pick up animals that were found in the area and take them to temporary homes where they would stay until someone was able to transport them to a humane society in another area that had an animal shelter in operation. Dr. Mersh, a local veterinarian who ran Northridge Veterinarian Hospital would also board the stray animals for the society until they could be transported to a shelter.

During the six years between ground breaking and actual completion of the shelter, one man must be especially recognized for his invaluable contribution. Jim Miller volunteered his time and expertise to almost single-handedly complete the building once the outside structure was erected. The society owes him a debt of gratitude for his unselfish dedication to the cause.

The animal shelter was finally completed and opened in February, 1982. It had a capacity to house approximately 75 animals. Unfortunately the shelter opening was short-lived. The San Bernardino animal control contract, which was necessary to defray expenses, had not been awarded to the MBHS and a dispute arose amongst the directors as to the qualifications of the shelter manager, Shelli Middleton. The board of directors voted to close the shelter on April 30, 1982. The closing of the shelter brought about a great deal of criticism, especially when numerous committees were formed by society directors to study the situations for three months before a decision was to be made on reopening the shelter. The situation came to a head during the July 15 general membership meeting when a group advocating the swift reopening of the shelter effected a complete turnabout in the internal policy of the MBHS. It was voted to rehire Shelli Middleton as shelter manager and to move to reopen the shelter as soon as possible. This change in policy brought about the resignation of some long-timed and valued members, such as Jim and June Miller, Ked Lynch, Dorothy McFarland, and Kay Baker. But true to its word, the new board of directors, lead by Irl Greer, had the shelter reopened on October 15, 1982 and the MBHS has not looked back since.

The last three years have been one of expansion

and consolidation of goals. The shelter, named the Animal Oasis, has doubled in size, accommodating 150 animals comfortably. An animal rescue truck has been added and the shelter continues to be well managed by Shelli Middleton and a capable staff of three assistants. The society's most proud achievement is the establishment of a low-cost spay and neuter program that has made the altering of pets an affordable reality for the Morongo Basin residents. All this has taken place because of aggressive and creative fund raising. The thrift shop continues to be an important source of income but the establishment of a consistent revenue base in a weekly bingo game night established by Irl Greer had made most of the present day programs possible.

Membership participation has always been varied. Membership has been as low as 44 in 1978 and as high as 800 in 1984. It has been the good fortune for the society that it has had the right people at the right time in its ranks. One wonders if the society would have survived if each one of its supporters and directors had not brought their unique gifts to it. The Morongo Basin Humane Society is a thriving organization that owes everything to those directors and members who believed in the same cause of humane treatment of animals, but better yet, acted on those beliefs with the donation of their times and talents to make the dream a reality. ■

Any one that has been through Yucca Valley, or keeps up with World and National Championships within the horse world has probably heard of Art Miller. He is one of the most prominent cutting horse competitors and one of the very few men in entire history who made it a constant habit of switching back and forth between a silver-laden parade saddle and the scuffed working rig of the cutting horse arena. He has won at least 10 percent of the parade classes he has entered.

Serving as Parade Marshall in 16 consecutive Tournament of Roses in Pasadena atop "Peavine Golden Major" a classic Palomino, American Saddlebred parade horse, Peavine was a nine time World and National Champion. "Major" was proclaimed "King" of Parade Horses when he was retired at an elaborate American Royal Ceremony. Today the once statuesque palomino is buried on Miller's ranch.

Besides his love of horses Miller has built a very successful real estate business in Yucca Valley, and is largely responsible for helping change a small little community into one of the last desert boom towns.

Miller no longer competes in the horse world.

Art Miller

Most of the real estate business is being passed on to his son, Art Jr., who also has a great love of equine traditions.

Art Miller Sr., however, will probably never give up his interest in horses and as one prominent horseman stated, "Art Miller"? Why, he's as well known on the horse circuit as Coca Cola. ■

50th Wedding Anniversary (l-r) — Art Miller, Mrs. Rahel, Hazel Miller



Highway Patrol

The California Highway Patrol is a principal criminal justice agency whose purpose is the safe, convenient and efficient transportation of people and goods on our highway system. Statewide the Highway Patrol is an organization of over 5000 uniformed personnel and over 2000 non-uniformed support personnel. The Patrol has 98 area offices, 9 inspection facilities, 11 administrative and communication command centers and own training facility. The Patrol provides the following services to the people of the State of California: traffic law enforcement services, accident investigation, services to the motoring public, bus and truck inspection services, and many other traffic related functions.

The Morongo Basin area (formerly 29 Palms) is one of the many area offices. It is presently staffed by 18 uniformed officers and supervisors and 4 non-uniformed support personnel. The experience of the uniformed personnel ranges from 1½ years on the job to over 30 years. The Area Commander is Lt. Terry Hunt, a 24 year veteran of the Patrol. He originally reported to 29 Palms as a Traffic Officer in 1964, when the office was operated as a resident post out of the Indio area office of the CHP. He ultimately was promoted to Sergeant and then Lieutenant and in February of 1986, returned to this area and assumed command.

In 1964 the Patrol operated from a converted broom closet in the former county building in 29 Palms. Back in those days they didn't need a lot of office space as all administrative work was handled in the Indio office, and with only one Sergeant and three Traffic Officers, surely nothing larger than a broom closet was necessary for a daily briefing.

Back then Sgt. Woody Woods was in charge of the local area. He was a legend in his own time, somewhat like Matt Dillon and Wyatt Earp. Woody, as he was affectionately called, always got the job done no matter what the odds. For example: in 1961 a small group of concerned Yucca Valley citizens headed by Norm Granger, Chamber President, decided over a few drinks, that they were no longer happy with the name of the local State Highway. The name 29 Palms Highway did not sit well with them. After all 29 Palms was 20 miles to the east, so why give them publicity in Yucca Valley. So, with a little paint and some stencils they proceeded to change the highway name signs to "Yucca Blvd.". Well, can you imagine what the local sergeant thought



about that when he saw the signs the next morning. As for the state road dept., you never saw them move so fast as they went around changing the signs back to 29 Palms Hwy.

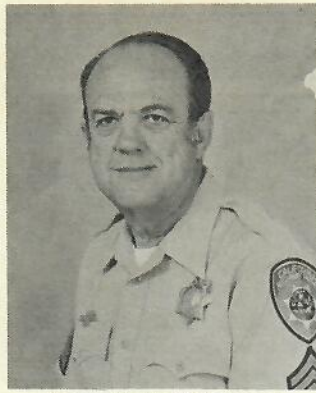
Woody and the citizens group had words over this not so little episode. The citizens vowed they would change the signs again. Woody threatened jail, the citizens counter charged with a commitment of 50-100 people would go. But, eventually the lone CHP Sergeant prevailed. The citizens backed down not wanting to test the temper of the law and, 29 Palms Highway has remained 29 Palms Highway to this date. Woody eventually retired from the CHP and became the local Judge. He served the community in that capacity until his death in 1975.

It was in 1974 that the 29 Palms resident post was elevated to area status. Under the command of Lt. Chuck Meridith, the 29 Palms area moved into a new "old" residence. The 11 officers, 3 supervisors, and 2 non-uniformed support personnel moved into the Edison building in 29 Palms and shared the facility with, who else, the Edison Co.

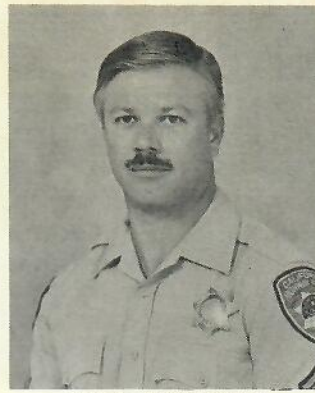
For the next 10 years the office grew in size, adding 4 more officers. Lt. Glenn Crichton took command in 1975. He originally came to 29 Palms as a Traffic Officer in 1965 and also served here as a Sergeant prior to being promoted to Lieutenant. He was the catalyst in planning and implementing a new office facility for the CHP in Joshua Tree. In 1984 his dream was realized. The Morongo Basin Area as it is now called is capable of accommodating a full complement of uniformed, clerical, and service personnel, and its fleet of 11 patrol cars. The new office is also capable of refueling helicopters both CHP and others.



Lieutenant Terry Hunt



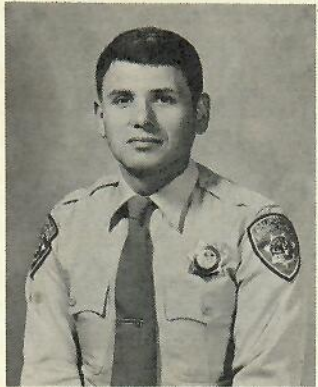
Sergeant Gary Bowman



Sergeant Bill Miller



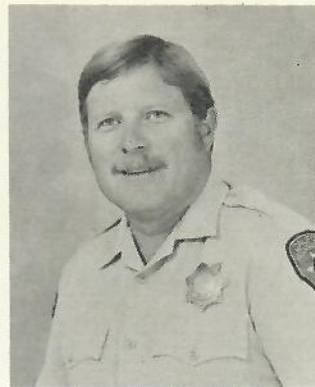
*State Traffic Officer
Elaine Bernal*



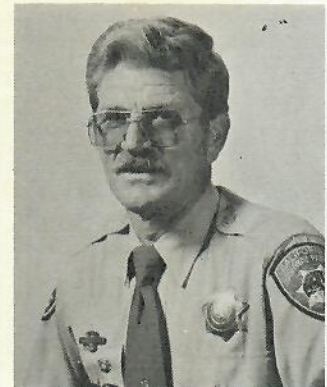
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Larry Jaramillo*



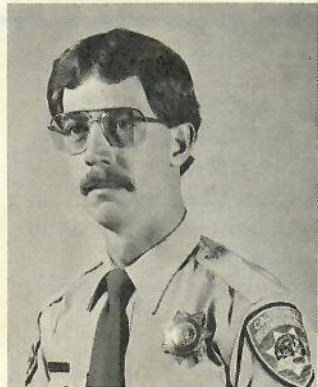
*State Traffic Officer
Daniel Kelley*



*State Traffic Officer
Gene Wilkinson*



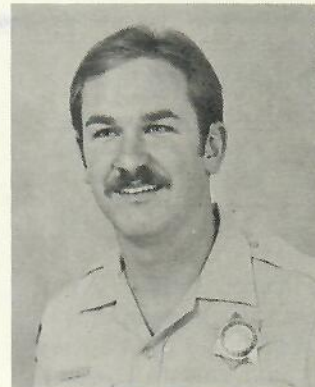
*State Traffic Officer
Frank Doherty*



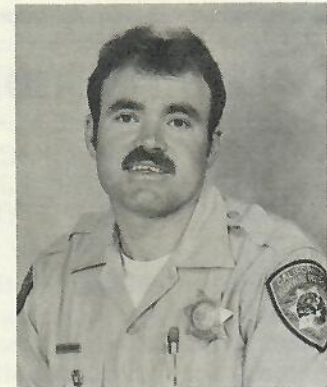
*State Traffic Officer
Jerry Stites*



*State Traffic Officer
Susan Garvin*



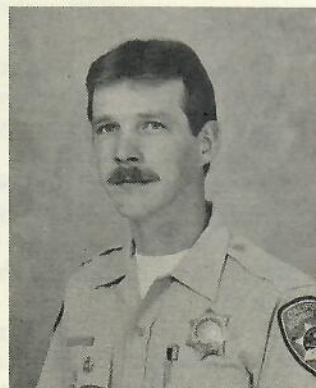
*State Traffic Officer
Lance Erickson*



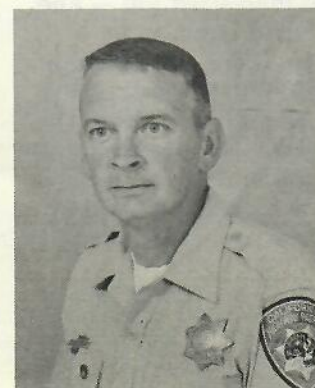
*State Traffic Officer
Mark McCormack*



*State Traffic Officer
Fernando Contreras*



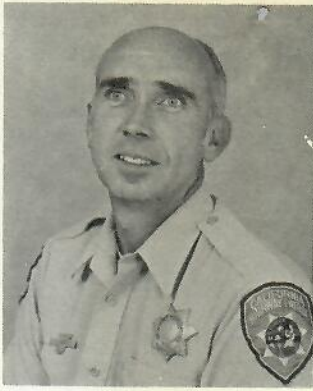
*State Traffic Officer
Everett Sapp*



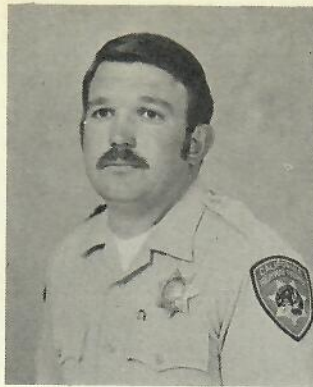
*State Traffic Officer
Dean Hirst*



*State Traffic Officer
Mark Peterson*



State Traffic Officer
Randall Kelley



State Traffic Officer
Daniel Bywater



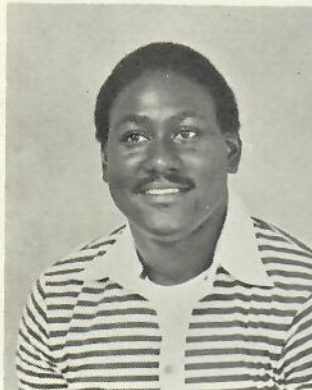
State Traffic Officer
John Pecorella



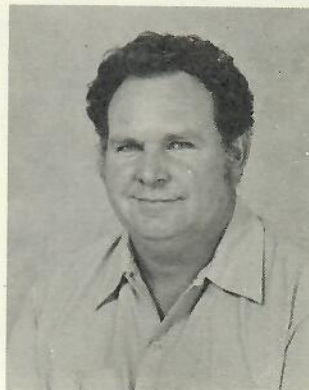
Office Assistant
Sandra Hannon



Senior Stenographer
Linda Ross



Janitor Dwayne Byrd



Automotive Technician
Ed Crotts



ECHOS FROM THE PAST

YUCCA VALLEY SCHOOL CRUSADERS DO MAN-SIZED JOB IN SALVAGE DRIVE; STRIVE FOR STATE RECORD

October 16, 1942

Thirteen children in the Yucca Valley school have a goal set — two tons of salvage per pupil — and if they reach it (and there's no doubt they won't) they'll undoubtedly make the state record in the school scrap drive they're striving for. These patriotic youngsters in the neighboring community are doing a real man-sized job — and a job other communities should envy.

At their little schoolhouse, there's a mound of metal and rubber that would put other places to shame. With their teacher Miss Hazel Barker the propelling factor, the children have gotten the whole community behind them and they've used their own tires and gasoline to get in the scrap, says Chairman Jim Cole of the committee for this district.

WPA trucks were in Twentynine Palms Friday and took five truck loads — 19,350 pounds of the scrap and 798 pounds of rubber — from the two official scrap depots. In addition, the local elementary school turned in 5,687 pounds of

scrap metal and 238 pounds of rubber. When the next trucks come out from San Bernardino, they will pick up more salvage from the depots at four corners and the plaza and from the high school. Local high and elementary school students have responded remarkably, states Cole.

There will be no end to the salvage campaign — bring yours in now! ■

YUCCA SCHOOL WINS

December 4, 1942

Honor of winning first place in the state school scrap metals collection contest goes to the neighboring community's little school, Yucca Valley, WPB Salvage Representative Horace Brown announced this week. The pupils covered themselves with glory by collecting 50 tons during the contest, judges on the per capita basis. Miss Hazel Barker is the teacher of the winning school.

Bieber High School in Lassen county was second and Posey elementary in Tulare county was third. The Posey student body of two pupils collected five tons. ■



Boys & Girls Club

In the late summer of 1977, F. Roy Greenleaf, Jr., and his wife, Beverlie, moved to Yucca Valley, from Orange County, to make their home here.

A quiet, unassuming gentleman, Roy's appearance does not reveal his past accomplishments, his vision, and his purpose. As a man of years, and of experience, he had a self-styled ability to observe the needs of a community, and to organize community leaders for the purpose of creating facility to meet those needs. The Bank of Yucca Valley is evidence of this ability.

Roy began to notice, as he went about his day to day activities, that many of this town's young people seem to congregate, in small groups, at various places, and seemed bored with life.

Roy discussed this with a few young people, and discovered that there was not much for young people to do, unless being involved with sports or scouting. He also discovered that some of our young people indulged in the use of drugs, mostly marijuana. In late 1980, Roy approached school officials, and discussed these findings. Some of the officials agreed that the situation needed attention. Some did not feel it was a serious need.

Roy has been a member of Rotary, for most of his business years, and most of these years with the Rotary Club of Santa Ana. This club was an active supporter of a local youth center, and Roy knew that the center has been successful in deterring social problems among youth, in that community.

Roy had become a member of the Rotary Club of Yucca Valley, and in early 1981, the Rotary Club membership was searching for a community project to undertake, that year. Roy explained his discussions with the young people, and the school officials, and suggested that the Rotary Club undertake a project to determine the need of a youth center. The Club voted this to be the project.

A committee of Rotarians was formed, including Roy, to begin a feasibility study. Among the first steps the committee took was to find out how the young people, in this community, felt about the need for a youth center. A questionnaire was designed and submitted to the students at school. The response was very positive, and gave reason to proceed with the study.

An interim Board of Directors was formed, consisting of Rotarians, and two members of the Lions Club of Yucca Valley. This board contacted youth centers in the Coachella Valley. These contacts proved of value, and produced a considerable amount of useful information, and included one common factor; all the low desert youth centers are chartered by the Boys Clubs of America.

This national organization, with member clubs throughout the nation, demands high standards of their member clubs. Our interim Board of Directors agreed that these standards would provide the guidelines needed to establish, and maintain the quality of youth center this community deserves, and demands.

In March 1982, the interim Board of Directors invited other leading citizens of this community to a meeting, conducted one evening, at Burnt Mountain Ranch. This meeting led to the structure of the initial Board of Directors needed to organize and govern. This Board of Directors elected, and installed the first officers, in April 1982.

The Board of Directors then structured, and adopted the by-laws, and constitution, and established the mission, and purpose of the Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Desert. The organizational structure was completed with incorporation, in August 1982, and recognition by the State of California, and the Internal Revenue Service, as a charitable non-profit entity in January 1983.

Through a carefully selected Personnel committee, the Board of Directors sought out, and engaged Al Mackin as the Club's first Executive Director, February 16, 1983. The Club's doors were opened for business March 1, 1983 and accepted the first application for membership.

The Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Desert held grand opening ceremonies on April 7, 1983, and was recognized by an impressive showing of our local citizens. The key speaker was Floyd Tidwell, Sheriff of San Bernardino County. The Club's first American flag, and flagpole, was donated by our American Legion Post 469 and presented by the U.S. Marine Color Guard from the 29 Palms Marine base. Awards were presented by Ray Bogden, Regional Director of the Boys Clubs of America, significantly recognizing the Rotary Club of Yucca Valley.

The Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Desert applied for a Boys Clubs of America charter. A charter was granted in September 1983, and physically presented by the Regional Director, Ray Bogden, at the Club's first annual dinner, January 1984.

In the Fall of 1983, the Boys & Girls Club became a member agency of the Morongo Basin United Way. The United Way provides significantly to the Boys & Girls Club annual budget through an annual allocation of funds the United Way receives in contributions from this community.

In the summer of 1984, our first Executive Director, Al Mackin, resigned to accept the position of organizing and directing a kids club, in Joshua Tree. Al performed commendably for the Boys and Girls Club. A few weeks later the Board of Directors engaged a fine young man, Rob Parker, to assume the duties of Executive Director. He came to us with experience as Executive Director of the Boys Club of Burleson, Texas.

The Boys and Girls Club's current revenue raising activities are an ongoing bingo game, held each week, and four annual events. The Auction, held each May, has tripled in revenue since the first one held in 1984. The Radiothon began in 1986, and is held the first weekend of August. The Reverse Raffle and Golf Tournament are held in September, and have been progressively successful, each year, since 1982.

All events are popular community activities, and except for the Radiothon, raise the funds needed to operate the club, throughout the year, and fund its projects. The Radiothon is a special fundraiser for a badly needed new, and larger facility. As further indication of the need for a youth center, the Club swiftly outgrew the facility made conveniently available by the Club's benefactor, Roy Greenleaf. This facility is located at Deer and Yucca Trails. The Radiothon is made possible by the generosity, and professional expertise of the staff of KSES Radio.

The Club's new facility will be constructed on a two and one-half acre parcel of land next to the Tri-Valley Little League Park, on Little League Drive. This land was purchased with funds donated by the Hi-Desert Memorial Hospital, Inc., from the Elsinore Machris Trust Fund, which it administers. This new facility could be in use by late 1987 or early 1988.

The Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Desert's Program Philosophy is to:

- Assure and enhance the quality of life for young people as participating members of a richly diverse society.
- Help young people realize their potential for growth and development.

Achieve the health, social, educational, vocational, character, and leadership development of our membership.

- Develop a sense of usefulness.
- Develop a sense of belonging.
- Develop a sense of competitiveness.
- Develop leadership.

Membership is available to all youth, in the Morongo Basin, ages seven to seventeen years, regardless of race, creed, religious convictions, and economic status for just pennies a day.

To name each and every person who has served the Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Desert as a director, program volunteer, project supporter, and financial supporter would fill several pages. All you have to do is look about you, and you will see, and maybe talk to a person whose unselfish effort has contributed to this very worthy cause, and helped to make the Club what it is today. Most of them continue to support the Club every day.

The Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Desert is a creation of, and is maintained, perpetuated, and enriched by our Hi-Desert community. It stands as a monument to those who are dedicated to a purpose, and the unselfish will to serve others. ■

ECHOS FROM THE PAST

COMMUNITY BLDG. FOR YUCCA VALLEY

Morongo Park District has made application, through the agent of the county supervisors, for P.W.A. funds to build a community assembly building. The building as planned will be 40 feet by 56 feet in a Spanish style. Construction will be of rock and cement.

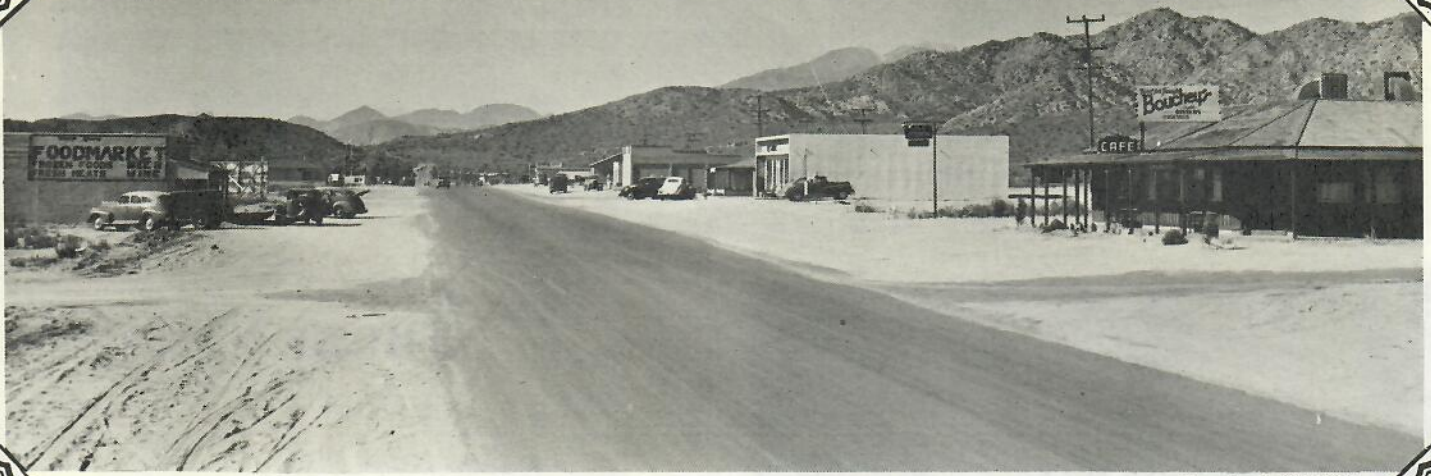
There will be a large community hall with hardwood floor, kitchen, dressing rooms, and lockers, all with cement floors. It is also hoped to have a well, pumping plant, lighting system and to have the grounds parked and fenced.

Three suitable sites of good location have been offered but none have been decided on as yet.

This project will put every idle man in the district to work; their monthly pay will range from \$45.00 to \$77.00 per month, according to classification. ■

1935

Yucca Valley's first graduation class of 1935 had five graduates — Otto William Bobo, Wilber F. Hammond, Lloyd Gullick, J. Howard Minter, and David Sall. The teacher was Miss Ina N.O. Nichols. ■



From Joan's Collection

Note: Pioneertown Road in distance, no curbs, and no building next door to Boucheys's Restaurant.

ECHOS FROM THE PAST

Photo by Mr. and Mrs. L.W. Buchanan



1947 — Middle store room of Buchanan's Dry Goods Store in the Vance Building at 29 Palms Highway.

1948 — Front row, (left to right) Ethel Buchanan, Bruce Craig, and Ruth Craig. Back row, (left to right) Lawrence Buchanan, Barbara Buchanan Yost and Joe Craig. Mr. & Mrs. L.W. Buchanan



1946 — Alma Katje and Melvin Rich drilling for oil.

1946-48 - Second Grade, Yucca Valley School. Left front: Eddie Hardesty, Stephen Heard right. Girls in back row: Vicki, Jean, Zora.





Joan's Collection

1960 — The first businesses in the Evanoff Building

From Joan's Collection



— Good Students... Phil Flickinger, Keith Robbins, and Dan Nolan, prove apt students as Rebecca Leilani Hetue teaches South Pacific dances.

Yucca Valley

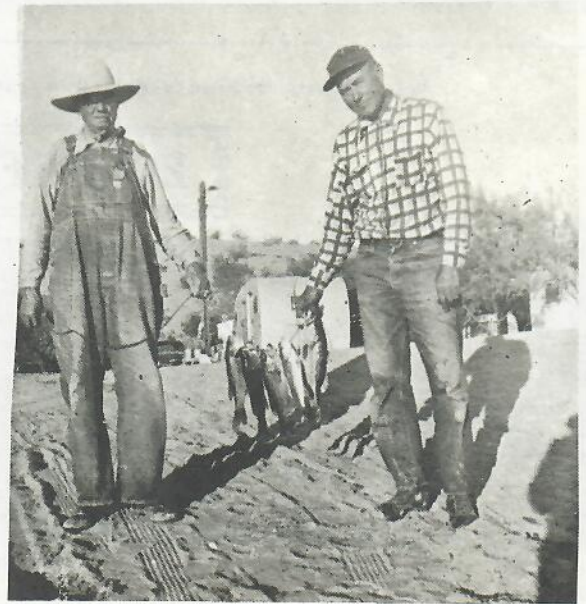


Photo by Kay Hamilton

1950 — Charlie Heard and Rex Hamilton.

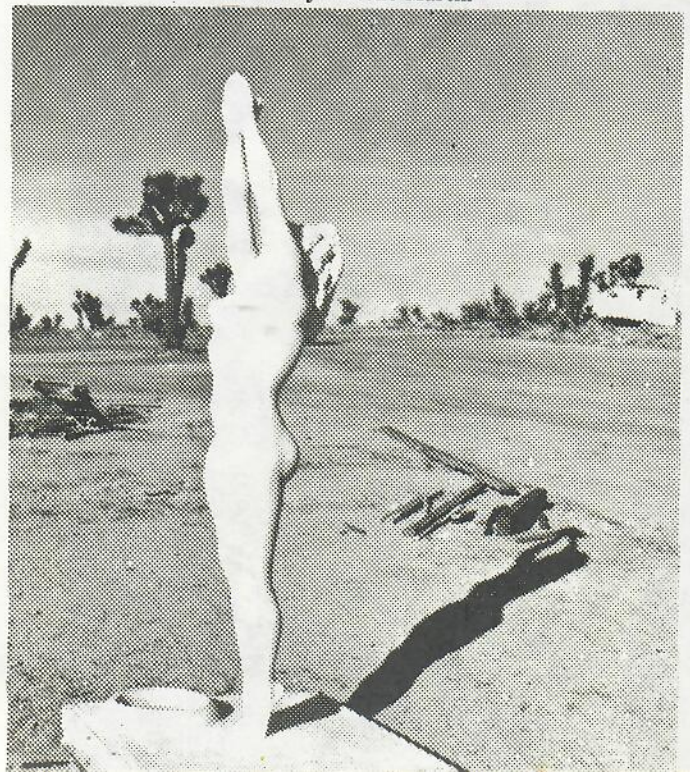
Statue by Antone Martin



1946 — Joe Craigs Station at Yucca Valley 29 Palms Highway.

From Joan's Collection

WATER, LIGHTS AND STREETS ARE INSTALLED
 Full Acres \$400.00 up Down payment \$40.00 Monthly Payment \$12.50
 Yucca Corral Acres where water, lights and streets are installed.





Joan's Collection

Remember when these businesses were here? Al Peters, Chamber of Commerce, Sheriffs, Hi Desert Star, Dress Shop, Bakery, etc.

Flashback



Photo by courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Frank (Barbara) Yost

1949 - Street signs. Ole Hanson Real Estates Agenes.

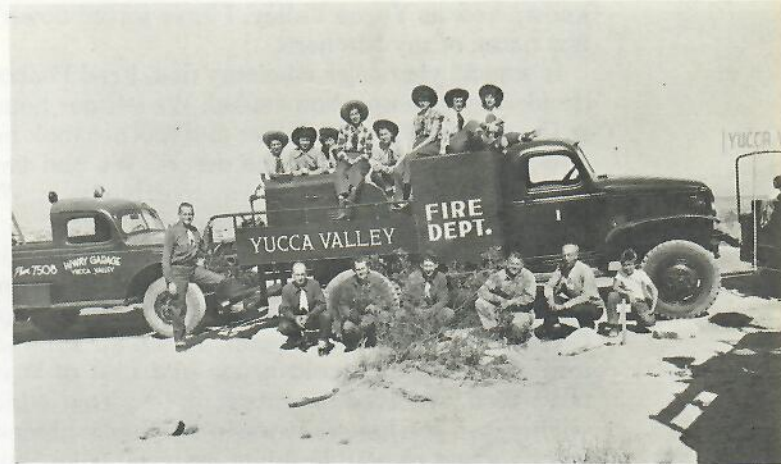


Photo by Mr. and Mrs. L.W. Buchanan

1948 Yucca Valley Fire Department at the 1949 parade in Twentynine Palms. From left to right top row are: 4 unidentified people, Ruth Craig, Opal Horton, Joan Richardson and Barbara Buchanan. From left to right, bottom row are: Joe Craig, Lawrence Buchanan, unknown, Woody Vance and 3 unidentified people.



1946 - Alma Katje in the snow. The quonset hut still stands at Kickapoo Tr. & Twentynine Palms Hwy.

1949 Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce - Jeep at 29 Palms for getting in parade. L-R: Lawrence Buchanan, ? Levee, Woody Vance, John Headley, ??, Maybelle Royal.

Mr. & Mrs. L.W. Buchanan

Lawrence, Ethel and Barbara Buchanan

Photo by Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Buchanan



The Pearce Family

by KEITH PEARCE

As one of the first settlers in the Hi-Desert known now as Yucca Valley, I have jotted down a few notes of my life here.

It was 51 years ago when my dad, Fred Pearce, decided to take up a homestead. We left our home in Corona in 1912. My father and mother took me and my three sisters to the desert. We had two milk cows. I walked all the way to drive them. We were eight days making the trip.

At this time it was impossible for a car to get over the desert from Whitewater. We camped one night at Mission Creek on the way out. Mission Creek then was a nice dream. It ran all summer long. We lived in an old house just east of Warren's Well. We lived in tents for a long time while we finished the house. It was a very slow process since we had to haul building material from Banning with the team and wagon.

Watching the Wagon

Mother, my sisters and I were out there alone for months at a time. We never saw anyone except the cowboy, who at that time was Walter Warren. Once in a while we could see the freight wagon go to and from the Dale mine which was operating then.

One of the old timers we would see once in a while was Bill Keys. He would stop overnight at our place. He had four burros and a wagon. He had a mine out near Quail Springs. Recently, I was out to visit and talk with him.

My father worked in Fullerton. He would ship our food by train to Palm Springs station. I would go once a month with team and wagon to get the supplies, and it would take me three days to make the trip. I recall that on one of these trips, mother and my sisters went with me. On the way home we camped all night at Mission Creek. The wind was blowing so hard when we made the beds on the ground that I had to anchor the covers with large rocks to keep the covers on the beds. Next morning we went up in the canyon to cook our breakfast.

I had a very good burro to ride. He wasn't just a common burro but was larger and had longer legs. He could travel like a horse. I would ride him from the valley to Palm Springs station and back in one day to get the mail. I would go by trail going over and take the road on the way back. The trail I used started back of the tunnel which is a little west and south of Yucca. It would enter the Devil's Garden north of Desert Hot Springs.

Tricky Little Burro

This is a good time to tell about the trick this means of transportation played on me. I was coming back with the mail one day and was about a half mile west of the summit going into Yucca. I thought the mule acted as though he were very tired, and so I got off to walk and let him rest. I had to walk all the rest of the way. The burro took off at a gallop and beat me home.

I remember times when our food was very low. Once there was a bad storm which washed out the railroad tracks, and we were about two weeks late getting our supplies. There were plenty of rabbits there then, and I had a double barreled 10 gauge shotgun. It kicked so hard mother made a pad for my shoulder, but it still made my shoulder black and blue. One of my daily chores was to find our two milk cows as they got their feed on the open range. Sometimes I would find them three or four miles from home. I killed so many rattlesnakes on those trips that there were times when a branch or stick hitting me would be a real shock.

I recall a bad electric storm while we were living in the tents. The lightning flashes came so close together it was light as day in the tents. We looked out and could see Yucca trees on fire all over the valley. One of them was quite close to the house. I think the electric storms were the most frightening for our mother. Every time a storm came she would ask me if I thought it would be another electric storm.

I think I should tell a little about my dear little mother. She was out there so long. Just mother and we children . . . she never complained; she seemed so happy. I know now there must have been times when she was lonely and frightened. John Cariker homesteaded at the same time that my father did. He got his house built after we did and moved his family out. After that it wasn't so lonely for us.

Good Wells

Cariker and my father located many people out there on good spots for homesteads. They bought a water well rig, drilled a well on Cariker's place and got a very nice one.

In the fall, when the cattlemen had the roundup, I would haul supplies to the various locations and make a little money to help out. I worked some for Fred Pollard over in Little Morongo Valley. I would ride my burro over in the morning, work all day, and ride back at night. I wish we'd had a camera then, but we didn't run much to "luxuries" those days.

After about two years there were enough children to have a school. The Carikers let us use one room in their house for the school. The teacher, Grace Snelling, had two younger brothers who also went to school there. Those pupils whose names I recall were Royal and John Snelling; Helen and Ester Robertson; Juanita Evans; Pansy, Pearl, Bess and Leo Cariker; Dorothy and Paul Duttons; Eilla, Nettie and Ruth Pearce.

At about this time my brother, Simon, and older sister, Emma, with her husband, Walter Gehres came out to stay. We had about twenty acres cleared of all the brush and trees, and the one hundred sixty was all fenced. Later we got a deed to our place and sometime after that moved to Banning where more advanced schooling was available.

Sometime about 1924, father and I went out to the place for a couple of days. We were at the barn when we heard a noise. We looked toward the house and it was a solid blaze. Both house and furnishings were a total loss. The foundation is there now, just south of the Yucca Valley Junior High School. The original homestead is bounded by Onaga Tr., Amador Ave., and Sage Ave.

Some years later my father and mother and the Gehres settled at the Pipes. Later on dad and mother started a convalescent home. Besides the main house, they built small individual cabins for the guests. They stayed out there a long time, until his health made it necessary for them to move in close to the family.

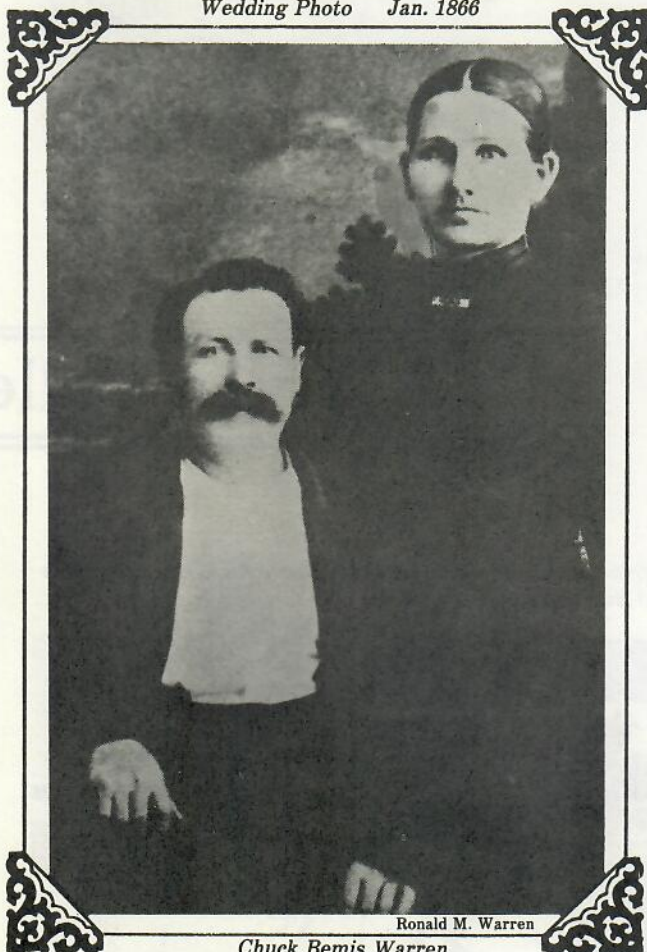
Later

I recall one time my wife and I with our two children left Long Beach on the 30th of December in what was probably the early nineteen thirties to visit them over New Year's. It was raining when we left Long Beach and snowing when we arrived at the Pipes. Next morning there was two feet of snow. We were out there seven days before we could get out. I walked about seven miles to get out of the snow. Then a neighbor took me to Little Morongo to telephone San Bernardino County to send out a snow plow. They thought I was "loco." The man I talked to said I had called just in time as he was loading the last snow plow to send to Big Bear Valley. It arrived about noon the next day. The driver said the boss told him he thought it was a wild goose chase. The driver took some pictures after he got the road cleared to show him it was real. ■

HIGH DESERT STAR

The Warrens

Wedding Photo Jan. 1866



Ronald M. Warren
 Chuck Bemis Warren
 and Silva E. Warren

Wedding Photo Aug. 1908



Ronald M. Warren
 Edwin Merrol Warren
 and Mattie B. Brown

Ronald M. Warren



Yucca Valley Emblem No. 411 4th Installation - 1968-1969

1st row: Augusta Meredith, Evelyn Perry, Supreme Installing President Clara Miller, Betty Freese, Supreme Installing Marshall Bess Fredenhagen, Lil Battison, Barbara Dietrich, and Louise McHale. 2nd row: Mary Christensen, Ruth Radike, Dorothy Larsen, Dolly Serber, Ruth Shaw, Gladys Hayney, and Mary Bull. 3rd row: Agnes Rhead. Hilda Hardesty, Mabel LaVelle, Mary Huff and Catherine Pokorny.

Aug. 2, 1945

LONE STAR LANDMARK, REMOVED, REPLACED

The large arch at the west entrance of the Lone Star Ranch, the first old landmark in that section of Yucca Valley, has been cut off about five feet from the ground, and the remainder of the large posts are topped each with a huge barrel cactus.

The east arch will also be removed and placed in the large cactus garden of its owners, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Harrell and will serve as a landmark and remembrance of the early days of their pioneering.

Don Swan — lives in Yucca Valley. He wrote the music, "Dream a Little Dream of Me". Now Don, how about a song about Yucca Valley?



Ronald M. Warren

Teamster Chuck Warren



Photo by courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Frank (Barbara) Yost

1948 — Bruce in pith helmet carrying his Bible to Eddie Garver's vacation class.

Yucca Valley

Pictured from left to right in the early 1950's are Alex Bencsik, unidentified, and Bud Sorden.

