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before anyone in the desert ever considered having a personal washing machine at their cabin. Homesteads with wells or other ready, steady water supplies could do their laundry at their residence, using the wash tub, wash board and clothes line method. Those who staked their claims in areas devoid of a natural water source often found it more efficient to take their laundry to the water supply rather than the other way around. So the tanks became a natural gathering place where early residents and travelers gathered to water their animals, wash clothes and bathe.

Joan Jackson, who has lived in the Morongo Basin for 55 years, visited the tanks as a teenager in the mid-50s. In addition to the long troughs, Jackson recalls a fish pond-like vessel that could be used for bathing. Water flowed from a nearby mine shaft. The legend is, miners digging for gold found water instead and justified their discovery by saying, "Well, this is almost as good as gold." The spring fed three rectangular tanks made of concrete and an additional trough of rougher construction of rocks.

A Hi-Desert Star story seven years ago reported that Yucca Valley pioneer Walter Warren built the tanks to provide water for the Talmadge family's IS Ranch in Big Bear for winter grazing their cattle in the Yucca Valley area. A U.S. government map shows the tanks in place by 1903 with the notation "good water."

A few years ago Morongo Basin Historical Society officials wrote the owners of the two, 1.25 acre parcels where the tanks are located to find out if they had any plans for the properties, but no reply was received. The tanks are still there, at least for now, surrounded by a chain link fence, silent sentries to Morongo Basin's spirited early days.

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DELAY FOR PART II OF THE MYSTERY OF THE JAPANESE CAMP

By Ken Jones, MBHS Staff Writer

Part two of our article The Mystery of the Japanese Camp in Landers will have to wait until our next issue. Of course, this delay requires an explanation: Our hope when we published part I was that someone who had firsthand knowledge of the site in 1942 would come forward. Well, that hasn't happened yet, but the good news is that part I of our article caught the attention of the BLM Regional Headquarters in Barstow. Mr. Jim Shearer, who is the archeologist for the BLM, and his team are planning a two day trip in the near future to the Landers site.

Although we do not yet know that forty or fewer Japanese Americans occupied the Landers site in 1942, the BLM will be the voice of authority in providing the proof regarding the camp that we in the MBHS have been looking for.

Part II, albeit delayed, will not only tell of our first contact with the Japanese American Citizens League Headquartered in San Francisco, but also will have the complete story of our exhaustive search to find the truth about the Landers site, and now, most importantly, the findings of the BLM team.

It makes me happy to say that the BLM team has invited this author to join them, and authorized me to share with you, the reader, in what they discover.

One request, please do not contact the BLM with questions regarding the camp as they have assured me that no information regarding this site will be forthcoming from them.

UPDATE ON THE LANDERS ESTATE

The members of the Morongo Basin Historical Society express their deepest thanks and appreciation to the following people for all their time and attention in seeing that the Estate of Vernetta T. Landers, bequeathed to the Morongo Basin Historical Society, was handled in a timely and professional manner. Court approval was received April 3, 2007, at 8:43 a.m.

Our Gratitude to

Agnazio Ficara
Probate Attorney of Record

Paul F. Smith
Attorney/Special Counsel

Owen Gillick
Special Administrator

Lloyd Noel
Executor



Tom in the Kitchen



The old Landers Post Office behind the property



Driveway to the Estate



Bob & Ken in Yard Viewing the work ahead of them

Looking for FUN?

MBHS OFFERS YOU...

- Sense of community and opportunity to understand the history of Morongo Basin.
- Opportunities to meet new people, visit historic places and participate in fun events.
- An opportunity to serve the Morongo Basin by working with other members to think of creative ways to share the history of our Basin.
- Excitement of being a part of history by making a difference for the future and being around enthusiastic people.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As of April 3, 2007, our MBHS officially became the proud owners of the Landers Estate. Our new home means lots of work facing us in the coming months, as well as



additional expenses for repairs and clean up to get it ready for our Annual Meeting scheduled for June 3, 2007. In addition, our plans are to move our ÖstuffÓ from storage to the Landers Estate, thus eliminating our \$170 a month storage fee that can be put to better use.

It has been suggested that those members who are able to give us a hand consider working together in teams, each team selecting an area or room they might want to be responsible for. Hopefully this idea will help us to put the estate in order in a timely manner. Give us a call and we will arrange for you to get started on a team of your choice.

If you haven't done so, please plan to stop by the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and see our wonderful display of how water got to the Morongo Basin, starting with Warren's Well and eventually the construction of the California Aqueduct pipeline. We are very fortunate to have Barbara & Rob Harris as new members to our society, bringing with them 25 years experience in the graphic art business. They are credited with giving our display a professional look and one to be proud of. It is a display you must see to appreciate.

ÖOpportunity is missed by most people because it comes in overalls and looks like work.Ó
ÑThomas Edison

Bob Connors

President 2002-2006



MUSINGS FROM THE EDITOR

By Sallie Brown

Vernette Landers not only loved history but strongly supported the MBHS from its inception until bequeathing her Landers property to us. She knew that what our organization needed the most was a "home." With her magnanimous gift now comes our need to roll up our sleeves to "do her proud" as well as do our MBHS proud. Will the task be easy? Absolutely not! Can we accomplish creating a charming home and headquarters for the MBHS? Absolutely yes!

There's so much to do, how do we start? First, we need to access what needs to be repaired, replaced, and remodeled. Then we can break into work teams based on what each of us can do in an area of our expertise and interest. An efficient procedure is for us to sign up to be on an Adopt-a-Room or Area. For example, I plan to be on the Adopt-the-Kitchen team and look forward to working and laughing with others (males as well as females) to focus on creating an organized, charming kitchen.

What room or area would you be willing to adopt? The future Tea Room? Living Room? Yard Landscaping? These are just three possible adoptions. You may think of a room or area that we won't even think of. Go ahead, be creative!

We need to accomplish many tasks in time to host the June 3rd Annual MBHS Meeting. To get on an Adopt-a-Room or Area team, call Bob Connors at 365-6163 or email him mrc5029@verizon.net. He's waiting to hear from you!

I'd like to hear from the Adopt-the-Kitchen enthusiasts so we can meet to look over our kitchen and plan our cleanup and decorating strategies. Call me at 364-4461 or email me salliebrown@earthlink.net. I'm waiting to hear from you!

Our membership count as of April 2nd is:

73 Individual members

48 Family

11 Business/Organization

62 Lifetime members

New members are Martin and Mary Brhel, Ernest and Betty Brown, Richard and Lynette Harlan, Virginia Lilly and Betty Stirratt, all of Yuca Valley; Al and Marion Gartner of 29 Palms, William McCauley of Landers, and Larry Turner of Yucaipa. Anna Hilburn of Yucca Valley has been a member for many years and just changed to a Lifetime member and also donated \$50.00.

MBHS thanks the following businesses. They said "yes" to the MBHS, now please say "yes" to them with your business:

Adset Art Services: 365-3266; Amsbury Ceramics: 228-2179; Roger Duran & Co.: 365-6358; the Integratron: 364-3126; Old Town Mercantile Antique Mall: 228-2077; Plaza Art and Frame: 365-3396, and Swella Chiropractic: 365-1933

See you at our June 3rd Annual Meeting !

Bernice Falltrick, Membership Chair

IN MEMORIAM

Violet (Peggy) Mehle

Charter Member

June 30, 1915 - March 5, 2007

HAVE YOU DONATED TO THE Bakeless Bake Sale
If not, it's not to late!

DUES ARE DUE JULY 1st EXCEPT FOR LIFETIME MEMBERS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! GET INVOLVED, SHARE YOUR TALENTS!

CALL or EMAIL BOB CONNORS ☎ 760-365-6163 ✉ mrc5029@verizon.net

GOAL 1

Make ready the Landers Estate for our MBHS Headquarters/Museum

GOAL 3

Apply for grants to further our efforts in preserving our Morongo Basin History

GOAL 2

Increase our membership and volunteer team by 20%

GOAL 4

Continue to file CA Historical Site Resources, provide and place historical site plaques, and produce Historical DVD's

Need help in researching a topic about the Morongo Basin?

CALL or EMAIL

Ruth Long ☎ 760-365-3573

HSVL27Z@bhsblue.net

Need general information about the MBHS?

CALL or EMAIL

Bob Connors ☎ 760-365-6163

mrc5029@verizon.net

MBHS MISSION STATEMENT

The specific purpose of this nonprofit corporation is to collect, conserve and exhibit artifacts; to collect, display, interpret and publish memorabilia relating to the history of the Morongo Basin; to locate identify and preserve historic sites; to promote the research and study of local history; and to share the rich heritage of the Morongo Basin with all the communities within and surrounding it.

MBHS Program News

Your MBHS board and the program chairs have decided to change the venue for our MBHS Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 3, 2007. Instead of meeting at the Pope's home, we'll meet at our new "home," the Landers estate, bequeathed to MBHS by Vernetta Landers and now officially ours. This meeting is for MBHS members and their guests only.

This event will provide a chance for our members to visit the property left to us by our generous benefactor. We hope that you will give us ideas to help us decide how best to utilize and remodel this amazing gift!

We will have a catered lunch at 1 PM, followed by a tour of our new home and property plus a Silent Auction - including several items from Mrs. Landers' estate. At 2:30 PM we'll hold a short business meeting that will include the election of officers for the coming year. The original Landers Post Office, which is now ours and on our new property, will be open for tours.

Please call Laurie at 363-6681 if you plan to enjoy the catered lunch: \$20 per person. You can also E-mail Laurie: pg85pp94@yahoo.com. **Deadline for lunch reservation is May 25th.** Make check payable to Morongo Basin Historical Society.

Directions: Drive north on Old Woman Springs Road to Reche Road. Turn right and drive 3 miles to the Landers Post Office, turn right on Landers Lane, and drive less than _ mile to first home on right - look for the huge yard of cacti



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY JUNE 3, 2007
MBHS ANNUAL MEETING

PLACE

TIME

COST

CALL

Email: pg85pp94@yahoo.com

NOMINATED SLATE OF MBHS OFFICERS FOR 2007-08

President
Bob Connors
Vice President
Lloyd Noel
Treasurer
Tom Granger
Recording Secretary
Carol Post
Corresponding Secretary
Sallie Brown



Exalted leader Bob Connors, starts the process

MAKING THE WARREN'S WELL MUSEUM DISPLAY



Rob Harris hanging display



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

The Hi-Desert Nature Museum
For donating the space
Signs By Wanda
For donating signage in display

Bob Connors
For preparation, painting & display arrangement

Rob & Barbara Harris
For designing and hanging display

Barbara Harris adds finishing touches



Homemade Cow Chips as part of the display

MUESUM HOURS
Tuesday-Sunday
10:00am-5:00pm

MBHS Cookbook Supplement Recipe:



Bev's Peanut Butter Pie

Donna Davies,
Yucca Valley, CA

Crust:

14 Nutter Butter cookies, crumbled
5 T. melted butter

Filling:

1 (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1 c. creamy peanut butter
1/2 c. sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
8 oz. Cool Whip

Mix crust ingredients together and press onto bottom of 9 x 13" baking dish. Mix filling ingredients, smooth on top of crust. Freeze overnight.

LIFE MEMBERS

Helen Dotts*	Mona Lowe*
Les Long*	Bob Connors*
Ruth Long*	Twilla Couzens*
Evelyn Conklin	Betty Diederich+
Dorothy Granger*	William Reifel
Norm Granger*	Chalyne Connors*
George Falltrick* +	Betty Bilyeu*
Bernice Falltrick*	Lee Roy Arnett
Sallie Brown	Mildred Arnett
LynAnne Felts*	Cindy Costello
Kenneth Eschmann	Cheryl Nankervis*
John Ristaino	Shirlene Doten*
Marcia Pealstrom*	Merry L'Esperance
Billy Holcomb	Chris Long
Chapter of ECV	Tim Long
Robert Leone*	David Williams*
Peter Wild	Sandra Williams*
Robert Green	Carole Kester*
Leota Bell*	Llyod Noel*
Laurie Geeson*	Mary Gaffney
Vernette Landers*†	Swella Chiropractic
Pauline Hanson*	Jeannette Webster
Harvey Legrone*	Todd Swain
Monika Legrone*	R. Lee Johnson
James P. Brock*	Bob Stadum
Donna Davies*	Wanda Stadum
Bruce Miller*	Roxanne Guez
Marion Arnett	Old Town
Fred Kramer	Mercantile Antique
Lois S. Johnson*	Mall
Dale Noel*	William R. Hilburn †
Taylor Jordon*	Leona Erksen
	Anna Hilburn*

† Deceased
* Charter Member

* * * * *

As a history lover, you know the infinite ways that history enriches our lives. As a member of the MBHS, we want to let you know that there is another way for you to preserve history far into the future. Most people know how important it is to have a will. Once you have provided for the people you love, we hope you will consider making a bequest to the MBHS. Bequests of any size will insure that we can continue our work to preserve Morongo Basin history.

FOLLOW-UP TO: CATTLEMEN OF MORONGO BASIN

Members of the MBHS and guests gathered at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum on March 4, 2007 for a presentation on the Cattlemen of the Morongo Basin. Dale Noel and (Don't know his name) presented a PowerPoint Demonstration with dialogue depicting the journey into the creation of Warren's Well.

As a highlight to the gathering, about 20 members of the Warren family attended as honor guest.

The festivities included a light lunch buffet filled with sandwiches, "cowboy salsa" and many of goodies for the sweet tooth.

The fundraising event featured a Silent Auction organized by Carole Kester and an Opportunity Drawing. Our gratitude goes out to many of the

local businesses who donated items for the Auction and Drawing.

The event was also honored to have Richard Brewer, a professional square dance caller, lead a group of hardy volunteers in a few rounds of square dancing.

Many of our members added to the ambience of the event by dressing in costume representing the Old West.

Our thanks goes out to the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, for donating the space for the event. We also express our gratitude to all the people and businesses who donated their time, food, and other merchandises. With the support of our members and the communities of the Morongo Basin, Cattlemen of the Morongo Basin was a complete success



Square Dancin'



Richard Brewer



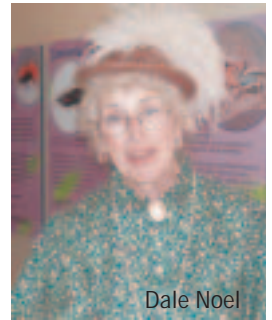
"THE FEAST"



Thomas & Michelle



Wayne & Linda Darnell



Dale Noel



Welcome...



Honored Guests



WHAT'S NEW IN THE MBHS GIFT SHOP

Located in Old Town Mercantile Antique Mall
 55727 Twenty-Nine Palms Hwy.
 Yucca Valley
365-1877
OPEN

7 Days a Week • 10:00am- 5:00pm daily
 By Wayne & Linda Darnell, Sales Chairs

The Morongo Basin Historical Society Gift Shop is featuring Willie Boy. This is the story that has intrigued all ages since early last century. On exhibit will be promotional items used by the movie industry to promote Robert Redford's movie titled, Tell Them Willie Boy Is Here.

Several books have been published about Willie Boy and the following books reference his story and are available at the gift shop.

Willie Boy, A Desert Manhunt

By Harry Lawton
 Available in cloth or paperback

The Chemehuevi Indians of Southern California

By Ronald and Peggy Miller

Gateway to the Hi-Desert

By Cal and Maxine Crotsenburg

Guide to the Beautiful and Historic Lucerne Valley

By Bill Mann

Out of print and available at the gift shop in very limited quantity are:

The Hunt for Willie Boy

By James Sandos and Larry Burgess

A Peculiar Piece of Desert

By Lulu Rasmussen O'Neal

Along with the Willie Boy feature we will continue to bring in new and exciting products. If you have not been in the gift shop recently plan to stop by and find something special for you or a friend.

Our newsletter is supported through advertising sponsorship. It is published and mailed to members four times a year, and distributed throughout the Basin during many of the local events. It's a great way for you to advertise your business. To learn how you can advertise in this newsletter contact Bob Connors at: 760-365-6163

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