



Spring 2015

# Newsletter

632 Landers Lane, Landers 92285 • PO Box 2046, Yucca Valley 92286  
760-364-2000 • [www.MBHS.net](http://www.MBHS.net) • [morongobasinhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:morongobasinhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

### FEATURES

Page 1  
The 100 Year Project

Page 2  
The 100 Year Project

Page 3  
Impressions from the President

Page 4  
Lectures and Membership

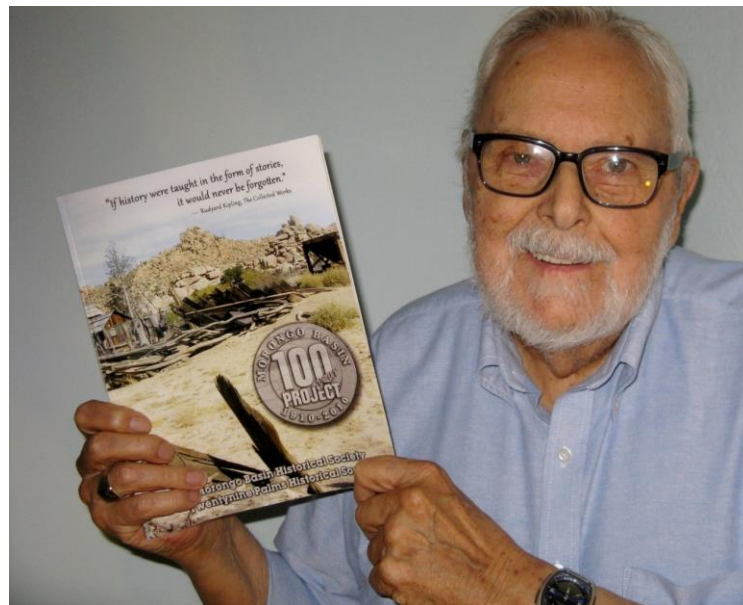
Page 5  
New Members and Field Trips

Page 6  
Market Place Oral Interviews Goals

Page 7  
Vice President's Message

Page 8  
Board Members Business Sponsors

## Tribute to the 100 Year Project Team



Kathleen McGlynn photo

*Project Director Bob Dockendorff shows the culmination of 2.5+ years of effort by more than 50 Morongo Basin residents*

In the Spring of 2012 I came across a copy of Palm Spring's 100 Year book published by the Hi-Desert Publishing Company. Its compelling contents encouraged me to read it cover-to-cover before I could put it down. I attributed my fascination to the fact that I was only vaguely familiar with a subject that was of high interest - the history of Palm Springs.

I then supposed that a similar history of Morongo Basin would hold the same interest for Basin residents. Sure, both Historical Societies had file drawers loaded with specifics about the Morongo Basin history. But an abbreviated compilation like Palm Spring's book didn't exist. A similar book about "us" could be of interest to

casual students of local history and serve as a primer for others. As with the Palm Springs book, each page would contain an essay about a single major local event in a given year along with a number of one-liners representing other events that took place both locally and around the world.

I met with Laurie Geeson and Bob Connors in late June to explore the possibility of taking on a similar project for the Morongo Basin. If we could get Hi-Desert Publishing to participate with its printing, binding and distribution processes, the project would become doable. We would take on the editorial part of the project that would span the years 1910 to and thru 2010.

A meeting with H-DP's Cindy Melland a few days later resulted in her enthusiastic agreement to participate.

Because there had always been an interest in sharing a project with the Twentynine Palms Historical Society, a presentation to their Board of Directors a month later resulted in their becoming the third party in what would become the *100 Year Project*.

The first order of business was to

identify the 101 events that would be featured in the publication.

That took much searching of local newspapers, magazines and photo archives together with exploring the works of local historians by volunteers from both organizations.

It was a daunting task, taking months and resulting in 22 pages of single spaced one-line event descriptors in 9.5 point type from which the 101 subjects were to be selected. The internet was used as reference for major events that took place around the world.

It was many additional months of work by enthusiastic authors of the 101 essays and Community Liaisons who recruited a number of individuals each of who was given the opportunity of donating \$100 for the privilege of sponsoring a year/page of their choice.

The 22-page list was perused by the Core Committee. MBHS chose 50 year/page subjects to work with and 29PHS, 51. In late July of 2014, all photos and copy from both organizations was turned over to Hi-Desert Publishing. They then began the task of composing the pages, sizing and cropping the photos, designing the covers, printing and binding the publication in preparation for distribution.

When done, H-DP delivered copies of the book to each of its direct-delivery subscribers; left copies at its standard pick-up locations and provided each of the historical societies with 600+ copies that could be used as extended fund raisers. Here at the Morongo Basin Historical Society, they're available for \$8.00 per copy. The price to members is \$5.00 each.

In addition to getting numerous word-of-mouth accolades, a professor of local history at CMC has expressed interest in using the book in some of his classes.

Taking into account both Historical Society's revenues from sponsorships and from the sale of some 1200+ books together with Hi-Desert Publishing Company's earnings from the sale of advertising space - and from the Project's cultural contribution to the Morongo Basin - one Core Committee member was prompted to observe that, "There's something in this for everyone." Indeed!

*Bob Dockendorff*

Bob Dockendorff - Director  
The 100 Year Project

**ProVideo**  
Professional Video Service  
**BOB STEPHENSON**  
Owner  
PO Box 17  
Yucca Valley, CA 92286  
760-365-5869  
Fax 760-228-0066  
Cell 760-408-2389  
rispv@msn.com

**Morongo Basin Historical Society Group Page**  
morongo@groups.facebook.com · Open Group

Share: Post Link Photo Video Event Doc

# Impressions from the President

It's hard to believe that we are already 2 months into 2015! Things are really moving along out at the MBHS. We are getting the Post Office ready to open up to the public. The windows have been taken out, paint scraped off, and broken glass replaced, thanks to Bob Connors. Paul Geeson pounded in 3 boxes of nails to the outside wood before it was power washed and sprayed with much needed water sealant. The inside displays have been renewed, the floor cleaned, a picnic table bought for the kids to sit on when their school classes come to visit.

We will have projects for them to do to learn about what Mrs. Landers did to make sure the citizens of Landers had their mail delivered locally.

As soon as we get the Post Office finished we will start on what is called the "Cat House" where Mrs. Landers kept the cats that she was crossbreeding with bobcats to make them domesticated.

If anyone has a story about the cats we sure would like to hear it.

We are open Tuesdays 10:30 am till 3:00 pm and Fridays and Saturdays 11:00 am till 4:00 pm. Drop by for a visit and see what we are accomplishing. We're a friendly bunch and will greet you with a smile and handshake.

**Laurie Geeson**, President  
Morongo Basin Historical Society

## Displays

We are proud to announce that Vanessa Cantú, who currently works for the Town of Yucca Valley Hi-Desert



Nature Museum, has agreed to help us with our displays at the Morongo Basin Historical Society Museum and Research Center in Landers. Vanessa holds a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and a Master's Degree in Museum Studies from John

F. Kennedy University located in Berkeley, California. Much of her professional experience was obtained from working and volunteering for several Bay Area museums and archives, including the National Park Service's Point Reyes National Seashore and the Marin Museum of the American Indian. We feel very fortunate to have her on board and are looking forward to having her youthful outlook on our local history.

## The Marines have Landed

The Marines are coming!!! We have arranged for their help working on our grounds and some of our outdoor projects. If you have some time on March 21<sup>st</sup>, please join us. We need help weeding, taking down fencing, moving rocks, and feeding the young men. It should be a nice day to spend on worthwhile projects. Call 760-364-2000 to get more info.

## Bob Barker Day

Mark Saturday, May 16th as "Bob Barker Day" at the MBHS. This will be the second annual celebration for our official greeter dog, Bob Barker. We will also be sharing some of the history of Mrs. Landers' pet animals, such as her raven, cats, tortoises and more. Watch our website [www.MBHS.net](http://www.MBHS.net) for more info.



**Come see what we've been up to ... Tuesdays from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm  
And NOW Fridays and Saturdays from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**Morongo Basin Historical Society  
Museum & Research Center**

**632 Landers Lane, Landers, CA 92285**

From Hwy 62 go 10 miles north on Old Woman Springs Rd (Hwy.247). Turn right on Reche Rd, turn right on Landers Lane. MBHS is 3/10s of a mile south of the Post Office, on the right. Call ahead to 760-364-2000.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Lecture Series 2015

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Lecture Series - 5:30 pm at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum

## Wednesday, March 11, 2015

“Nevada! Meet Your Neighbor.” Stephenie Slahor, Ph.D. will discuss Nevada's 150 year history.

## Wednesday, April 8, 2015

“Flora of the Morongo Basin and Joshua Tree National Park.” Darrell Shade, botanist.

## Wednesday, May 13, 2015

“Flint Knapping, Bows & Arrows and Atlatls” Tony Soares, potter and artisan.

## Wednesday, June 10, 2015

“Myth in the Mojave” Catherine Svehla, Ph.D, mythologist and storyteller.



Programs of community interest held at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum in Yucca Valley on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Presentations normally begin at 5:30 p.m. but we recommend calling ahead. A \$5 donation is suggested.



## MORONGO BASIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preserving Our Past For Our Future

P.O. Box 2046 • Yucca Valley, CA 92286

760-364-2000

Email: morongobasinhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

[www.mbhs.net](http://www.mbhs.net)

### MISSION STATEMENT

The specific purpose of this (non-profit) 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.

### MEMBER INTERESTS:

#### I would be interested in volunteering for:

- Docent tours of MBHS Museum & Research Center.
- Help maintain the grounds or house at MBHS Museum & Research Center.
- I would be interested in serving as an officer (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- I would be interested in serving on a committee: (circle)  
Programs   Membership   Auditing   Budgeting   Fundraising   Hostess/Server   Other
- Telephone committee or liaison representative for my community
- Research land records; member inquiries; requests from public.
- I can file/transcribe/do registrar or archive work.
- I could do video/oral interviews with people within the communities.
- I could help with events and programs / marketing / sales / advertising / newsletter.

### FOR MBHS USE ONLY

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check: # \_\_\_\_\_

Date received by Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Newsletter sent: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP (Please check one)  New  Renewal

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (Please check one)

Students & Active Military (age 18+ with I.D.)	\$ 10 per year
Individual	\$ 20 per year
Family (1 address)	\$ 35 per year
Organization	\$ 40 per year
Business	\$ 45 per year
Lifetime (1 individual/Business/Organization)	\$ 300 per person

Please make checks payable to:  
**MORONGO BASIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST M.I.

Additional Name (Family Membership only): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
P.O. BOX or STREET

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

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  Check here for paperless Newsletter

NOTES:  
(Revised 3/09)

## New Members

### 29 Palms

Hardin, Zander

### Billings, MT

Bush, Gale

### Cat City

Holmstrom, John

### Essex

Brown, Hugh & Carol

### Flamingo Heights

Davis, Carla

McKean, David

Fredenburg, Dale & Shelly

Plowman, Sampatti

### Hemet

Riedel, Laurie

### Johnson Valley

Johnston, Tor

### Joshua Tree

Danza, Michael & Jonah

Glover, Patti

Jorgensen, Bob & Barbara

Joshua Tree Retreat Center

McNamara, Mindy

Paez, Jerry & Laura

Rubenstein, Estelle

Segura, Danielle

### Landers

Coulombe, Larry & Mary

Sorenson, Jim

Urban, Miro & Jarmila

Vencill, Ruby

### Lincoln, MA

Bossert, Laura

King, Terry

### Los Angeles

Baer, Linda

Buck, Paul & Melanie

Forman, Jacob

Jackson, Kristen

Lerew, Todd

Molina, Feliz

Segal, Ben

### Lucerne Valley

Fitzpatrick, Tim

### Morongo Valley

Olen, Maria

### Pioneertown

Gunkel, Marilyn

Magub, Donald

### Sugarloaf

Bose, Dennis

### Thousand Oaks

Adelman, Rochelle

### Yucca Valley

Burns, Dan

Bush, Reva

Cantu, Vanessa

Clewell, Fred & Kathy

Currie, Shelly

Dobson, Forrest

Evans, Jeff

Foy, John

Guinn, Kenneth & Nancy

Hawkins, Steve

Hightower, Clair

Johnson, David

Kroeze, Bruce

Magee, Doug & Peggy

Marks, Michael

Mayron, Barry

Muir, Elizabeth

Murphy, John & Keri

Oasis Office Supply

Rippke, Susan

Roberts, Deborah

Simpson, Irene

Slaton, C.V.

Spitz, Adam

Wysong, Crystal

## Field Trips 2015

Members \$10 unless otherwise noted  
Contact Claudia [jrcs7599@roadrunner.com](mailto:jrcs7599@roadrunner.com)

### March 7, 2015

#### Saturday

Jim Wharff all day field trip to Dale Mining District. \$20

### March 14, 2015

#### Saturday

Spend a day at Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association in Goffs. Visit the schoolhouse,

court house, nature trail, "Boulevard of Dreams" and more.

### April 16, 2015

Site visit led by Site Chair, Steve Hanson. Sites tour to Burns Canyon Rock House, Spanish kiln, Rose Mine, an Arrastra and possibly Vaughn & Mound Springs.

### May 16, 2015

#### Saturday

"Joshua Tree Architectural Tour- Harrison House and Bonita Domes."

### June 14, 2015

#### Sunday

Roughley Manor "Behind the Scenes at the Campbell House."



We continue to have our Museum Market Place on the first Saturday of each month from 9 am to 2 pm, rain or shine.

Our new cement portico makes having it outside such a pleasure when the weather cooperates but if it is cold or windy we just move it inside.

With the spring weather, folks are cleaning house and donating, so we have lots of new items.

If you want to fence off your new garden, we have 5' and 6' chain link fence with gates.

*Karen Ford*

Marketplace Chairperson

## Morongo Basin Historical Society Oral Interviews

“The purpose of the Morongo Basin Historical Society’s Oral Interview Project is to preserve the voices and memories of people with a firsthand knowledge of the way of life and/or the events that influenced the people of the Morongo Basin, so that future generations will understand the daily lives of our pioneers. We do this by making audio/video recordings of interviews.”

–from Morongo Basin Historical Society Oral History Project Interview Guide, January 2007

I am Cheryl Nankervis - the chair of the Oral Interview Project. I am very excited to be a part of this Project, but need the help of our members. I am looking for your suggestions of the pioneers you think should be interviewed.

Please send me the names and contact information for prospects to interview to my email address at: [cnankervis@att.net](mailto:cnankervis@att.net) or call me on my cell phone (760) 401-0016 (please leave a message if I don’t answer).

*Cheryl Nankervis* - Oral Interview Chairperson

The Board of Directors met and established these goals for this year.

- Have Bob Barker Day on May 16<sup>th</sup>
- Finish Post Office refurbishment and schedule official dedication day ceremony
- Put up permanent displays which will include:
  - Pioneertown, Earth Quake in Landers, Giant Rock & Integratron, Willie Boy and descriptions and history of "towns" in the Landers area
- Identify plants & rocks in the MBHS yard with markers & booklet
- Participate in Joshua Basin Water District water event in March
- Partner again with Rotary on the Pi Pass Golf Challenge
- Have a booth at Gublers Orchid Festival
- Expand our website
- Put out another historical calendar
- Encourage more businesses to join
- Get the Marketeer golf cart ready to participate in parades

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## **FROM THE CORNER OF THE 1ST Vice President**

**Greetings fellow members of the MBHS and best wishes to all. Yes, I am back after being your president for over six years, 2002 – 2008, and very pleased to see that the MBHS is moving forward and getting things done by informing the community of who we are and receiving people who stop by to see what the MBHS has to offer. Quite a few nonmembers who have stopped in to inquire are very impressed and end up joining our society.**

**A lot of improvements have been made in the past months by a dedicated group of over twelve members who are very interested in, as they say, “Git Er-Done”.**

**Improvements we have made and works in progress include:**

- 1. Refurbishing the Post office adding new paint and windows.**
- 2. New paint on the house and garage Fascia boards.**
- 3. Upgrading 2,500 of the historical files.**
- 4. Upgrading the Landers Garden**

**The list goes on with over thirty-nine projects in our “to do” log.**

**We are very pleased with all our accomplishments and can see the MBHS is moving forward but we really can use extra volunteer help, so give it some thought and consider lending a hand. The MBHS Research Center is always open every Tuesday from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm, so if you have a hankering for getting involved...come on down, we will find something for you to do.**

**Sincerely,**

***Robert (Bob) Connors* – 1st VP & Past President.**

## Board Members and Chairpersons

### Officers

President	Laurie Geeson
1st VP	Bob Connors
2nd VP	Karen Ford
Treasurer	Jim Spotts
Secretary	Kim Abramson

### Chairpersons

Sites	Steve Hanson
Membership	Kim Abramson
Accessions	Carla Davis
Photographer	Glenn Isaacs
Webmaster	Rob Harris
Displays	Vanessa Cantu & Barbara Harris
MBHS "Slave"	Paul Geeson
Programs	Claudia Spotts
Newsletter	Mike Lipsitz & Bob Troyer
Oral Histories	Cheryl Nankervis
100 Year Project	Bob Dockendorff
Landscaping	Jim Krob & Eve Vkykdall

## Business Sponsors

John Holmstrom - Community Distressing  
 Acupuncture Clinics  
 Steve Hawkins - Desert Pacific Exterminators, LLC  
 Stanley Zarakov - Gateway Pawns  
 Joshua Tree Retreat - Institute of Mentalphysics  
 Joanne, Nancy & Patty Karl - Integratron  
 Danielle Segura - Mojave Desert Land Trust  
 Melissa Sabol - Oasis Office Supply

Phillip Brown - Phillip Brown, Real Estate  
 Bob Stephenson - ProVideo  
 Stacey Clayton, Valerie Meyer & Michelle Nemechek -  
 Rainbow Stew  
 Adam Spitz - Ultimate Motors, Inc.  
 The Millers - Yucca Valley Insurance  
 Tamma Rae McCombs - Tamma's Magic Mercantile



Photo by Stephanie Kern

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