



# Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert

230 W. Ridgecrest Blvd. • P. O. Box 2001, Ridgecrest, CA 93556 • 760-375-8456

Vol. 34, No. 2

February 2019

To see our schedule of events, visit us at [hsumd.org](http://hsumd.org) or on Facebook at [hsumd](https://www.facebook.com/hsumd)

## Legendary Earp Clan Featured

**W**e've previously heard from Russ Kaldenberg about Wyatt Earp's connection to the Trona area. Our February meeting will continue the story with a presentation by Nicholas R. Cataldo on "The Legendary Earp Clan in Southern California."

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19, at the Historic USO Building, 230 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.

The story of Wyatt Earp lives on in books, movies, and even a 1950s television series. The focus has always been on his "lawman" escapades in Tombstone. The truth is, he lived there just a little over two years. What is not well known is that the entire family spent most of their time in Southern California, starting when the patriarch of the family, Nicholas Porter Earp, moved the family to San Bernardino by wagon train in 1864. "The Legendary Earp Clan in



Southern California" is the seldom-mentioned story of the family's many years living there.

A native of Somerville, N.J., Nick

Cataldo has made San Bernardino his home since 1966. Nick has been a member of the San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society, having served as president. He has been editor of its publications and program chairman since 1980. He also serves on the San Bernardino Historic Preservation Commission.

Nick is a member of Western Writers of America and has been is a contributing western history writer for the *Tombstone Epitaph*, the Oregon-California Trails Association, the Old Spanish Trail Association and *Wild West Magazine*.

Nicholas Porter Earp and his wife Virginia Ann pose on their 50th wedding anniversary.

*Courtesy of the San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society*



Our speaker, Nicholas R. Cataldo  
*Courtesy of the speaker*

He is the author of *Images of America: San Bernardino* (published by Arcadia in 2002) and *The Earp Clan: The Southern California Years* (published by Back Roads Press in 2006). He is co-author of *Pioneers of San Bernardino: 1851-1857* (published by the San Bernardino County Museum Association).

See p. 5

**President's Message —****This Promises To Be a Busy Month**

Tex Hoppus

February is upon us, and it promises to be a busy month for the Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert!

For us the month starts on Saturday, Feb. 2, with a Ladies Crazy Hats Tea. Doors open at 11 a.m. at the Historic USO Building. This is one of our fun events that harkens back to our community's first days in the USO Club when they started with such a crazy hats event. (You can see our first Crazy Hat gathering from the 1940s in a photo in our lobby!) Please get your tickets in our Gift Shop for a mere \$9 each!

This year we are returning to our original theme with a variety of luncheon items reminiscent of a bygone era. Appetizers, salads, tiny sandwiches and tasty desserts will be served. We are encouraging your participation — wearing a crazy hat or period attire and/or hat in keeping with a '40s and '50s theme. There will be prizes, take-home treats and treasures for our ladies. The Caliches will perform on-stage.

We do some more "harkening back" with a celebration of the birthday of our country's first President, George Washington.

And there is also the all-important St. Valentine's Day! As a gentle reminder to you romantic-minded folks, HSUMD will have plenty of See's Candies in its Gift Shop for you to get for that someone special — and we all have someone special. Our shop has other gifts that you or your someone special might enjoy, but specialty candies? Oh, yes!

And, of course, we'll have our couples- and family-friendly Classic Movie Nights on certain Wednesdays (the 6th and 20th), we'll have our entertaining and always-fun Open Mic Nights on certain Fridays (the 1st and the 15th), we'll have our monthly Veterans Breakfast on the third Thursday morning (the 21st), and our monthly General Meeting on Tuesday night (the 19th). As described on our front page, the meeting is open to the public, with a great presentation planned!

Yet another event to be thinking about: In February we will make final preparations for a fantastic musical appearance by the esteemed band, The Whatevers!

This group of local musicians, which is well known along the Eastern Sierra for its classic rock, its blues, and its other awesomeness!, will perform on our Joe Fox Auditorium stage on Saturday, March 2.

Put it on your calendars! (And buy tickets to attend, because this band — our Society's musical heart and soul — is giving this performance as a fundraiser for us!)

— Tex Hoppus



The Caliches and their "roadies" at our 2017 Ladies Tea.



Chuck Bolt of the Whatevers in a previous appearance in the Joe Fox Auditorium. Photos by Liz

# News About Our Collections

## Of Hats & Flags & Many Things

I will not be as long-winded as usual this month, since I am preparing for the Ladies Crazy Hat Tea to be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2.

We have had amazing publicity on this event so the is getting a only mention here (and I realize that most of you will get the newsletter after the tea is over). I'm hoping for a nice turnout and good time.

We have recently added several items to our collection. The items will be held in the following collections: Veterans, Cultural Preservation and Local Area History.

One special donation is an amazing 48-star American Flag given to a local veteran, then donated by his family to Joe DePina, a Vietnam vet. Joe in turn beautifully framed the flag and presented it to us.

We have also received items



Three colorful hats handmade by Doreen Davis. Wearing them at an earlier WACOM luncheon are (from bottom to top, left to right) Donnie Goettig, Linda Bego, and Dottie Cowan.

*HSUMD collection*



from longtime Burroughs High School and Cerro Coso Community College foreign-language instructor Charlie Humphrey's estate, as well as many beautiful hats created by Doreen Davis and donated by Eleanor Stanford.

The hats from Eleanor differ from those we received from Kathy Armstrong's family in that the recent donations are original creations handmade by a local artisan, and Kathy's donations are all period hats acquired from local ladies — more of a historical addition.

Here is a sampling of three of Doreen's beautiful hats modeled by our local ladies at a WACOM Luncheon some years ago.

— Carol Porter

# The Reign of the King of Movies Continues



Clark Gable, studio publicity still, 1938.  
Wikimedia Commons

During this special Month of Love, movie lovers are sure to fall head-over-heels, as the Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert continues its latest Classic Movie Night series, “Clark Gable: King of the Movies!”

On Wednesday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m., hold on to your chairs as we cinematically whisk you off to that great city to the north for some real “rock and rolling!” The Historic USO will shake to its very rafters as Spencer Tracy and Jeanette MacDonald co-star with Gable in director W. S. Van Dyke’s 1936 blockbuster from MGM.

The main story of a ruthless gambling hall owner trying to exploit a beautiful opera singer winds its way to an eventual climax never before seen in a motion picture. Produced long before computer enhancements, this epic became the gold standard for disaster films for decades to come.

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m., we will wind up the Month of Love, like a film winds to its finish on a spinning reel, with a story featuring a more mature Gable in a 1953 remake of one of his biggest early MGM hits. In the earlier (1932) version, the King romances Jean Harlow and Mary Astor in a thrilling jungle adventure. The great John Ford directs a still very handsome Gable in a lavish Technicolor® remake featuring the alluring Ava Gardner, and the pretty princess-to-be, Grace Kelly. It seems that as Gable

matured, his leading ladies became younger and younger. (Oh, my — what’s a film idol to do?)

Looking ahead to March, (March 6, to be exact) we will conclude the series with one of the King’s final films that co-stars the very popular Doris Day. The romantic team sizzles in the 1958 Paramount newsroom comedy that also features a hilarious Oscar® nominated performance from Gig Young.

And be on the watch for “Reel People, Part 2” beginning Wednesday, March 6. More film depictions of real people who captured the public’s imagination and admiration will, we hope, top last year’s popular series attendance.

All films screen at 7 p.m. on flex Wednesdays. Our fabulous Snack Bar opens at 6:30 p.m. for hungry movie lovers. Admission is, as always, FREE, but those lovely \$2 donations will continue to make us very grateful. For film titles and more information, call 760-375-8456, or stop by for a new film schedule. See you at the movies!

— Nick Rogers



Screenshot of Clark Gable and Grace Kelly, 1952.

Wikimedia Commons

# Legendary Earp Clan

From p. 1



Nick Cataldo (left) and Wyatt Earp, a descendant of the legendary western lawman, on Oct. 26, 2014, when today's Wyatt, an actor and director, gave a one man performance, "Life on the Frontier" at the Pines (restaurant) in Big Bear. "It just so happened to be on the 133rd anniversary of the famed 'Gunfight at the O.K. Corral.' If you look at photos of the frontier marshal, you will see a close resemblance between the two," said Cataldo.

*Courtesy of the speaker*

At right is the famed Wyatt Earp himself in 1926.

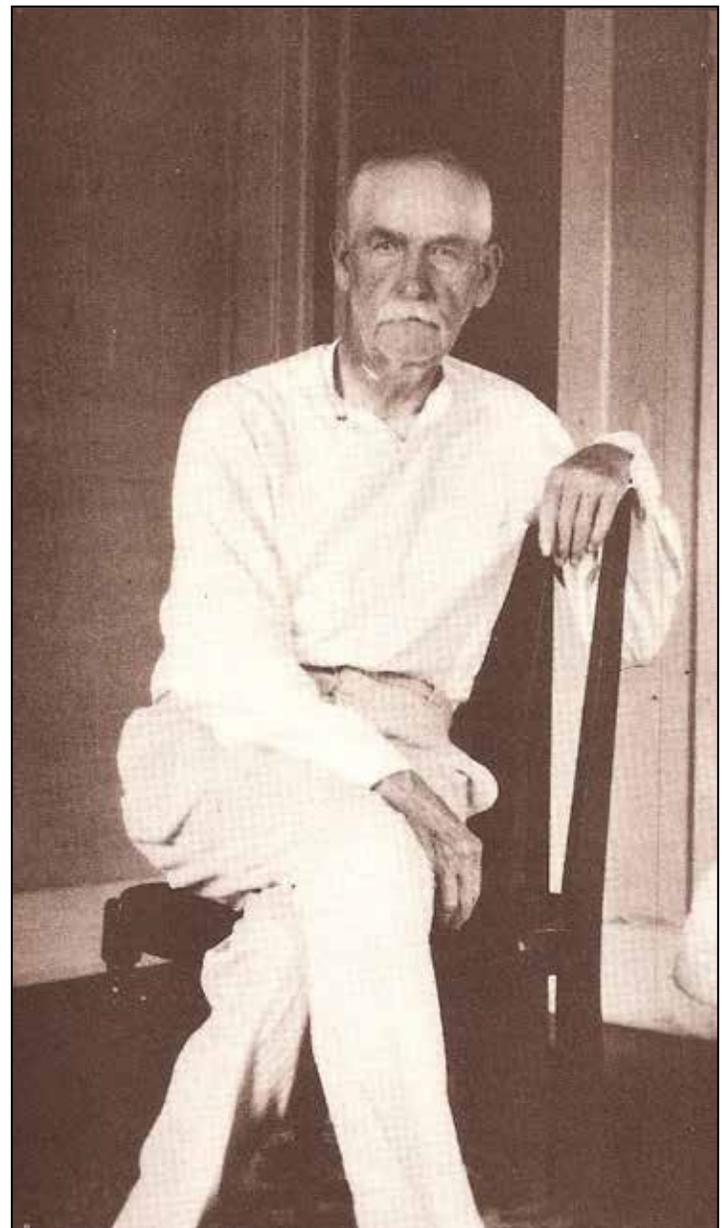
*Glenn G. Boyer collection*

tion in 2001) and co-author of *The Earps of San Bernardino County* (published by the San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society in 2002).

He writes a local history newspaper column for the *San Bernardino County Sun*, and is in the process of writing two more books — *Creating the Gate City: San Bernardino, Ca.*, and *Nicholas Porter Earp and Sons*.

Our program meetings are on the third Tuesday of most months. Meetings are free, and all are welcome to attend. For more information on this or future meetings, call us at 760-375-8456.

— *Andrew Sound*



Here are glimpses of our holiday party. At right President Tex solicits audience applause for Norma Abbott, one of the seven winners of our sweater contest.

Below Chuck Cordell (center) and his helpers Randy Etoch (at left) and Lynn Collie prepare our holiday feast. Thanks so much, guys!

*Photos by Liz*



HSUMD'S Open Mic Night is the place to be for great music and ambiance every non-flex Friday. Admission is a mere \$2 per adult. Children younger than 12 are free. Beers and wines are available along with the usual candies, sodas, popcorn, and Jumbo Crumville hot dogs. The entertainment starts a 7 sharp.

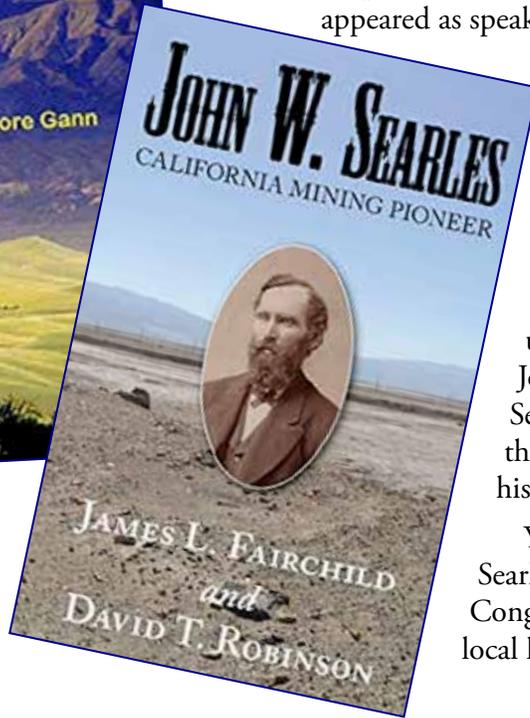
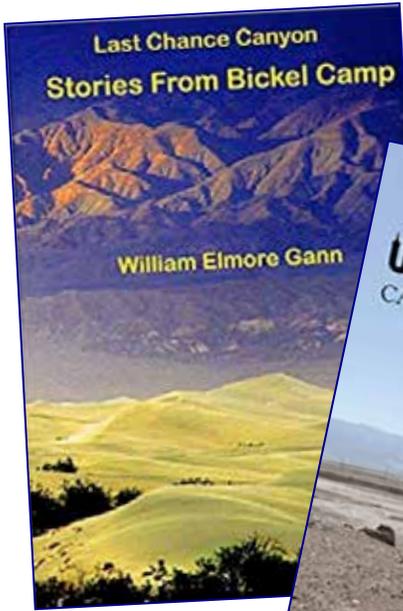
## *Come to Our Gift Shop for Sweet Valentine Treats*

Just for your Valentine — the Historic USO Building Gift Shop has a great selection of See's Candy — from (your newsletter editor's favorite) a small heart-shaped tin with a cute panda on it to that classic favorite — assorted chews and nuts.



We're open Mondays–Saturdays, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Please drop by to visit with Joe DePina and his friendly staff and find a wide selection of items with a local flavor. It all benefits HSUMD!

# New Local History Books



Recently published books about local history include two from authors who have appeared as speakers at HSUMD programs,

Bill Gann, now a resident of Yukaipa, appeared at our April 21, 2015, meeting to show us photos of and recount stories about some of the colorful characters he met at Bickel Camp. He has now published *Stories From Bickel Camp*, the book he was working on at that time.

Closer to home, Jim Fairchild of Trona has teamed up with David Robinson, great-great-grandnephew of John Searles, to write a long-awaited biography of John W. Searles. The Searles Valley Historical Society has published the book and all profits will go to that worthy neighboring historical entity.

You may remember that Jim Fairchild appeared as “John Searles” in a popular program for HSUMD in March 2009. Congratulations to both authors for their efforts on behalf of local history!

— Liz Babcock

## Member Categories

HSUMD has three membership categories — all very important to us. Our regular memberships are \$35 per individual or family. Our business memberships are \$45 each. We also have a special category: life member, which is something the board bestows only on members who have supported HSUMD in sustained and special ways. Our life members’ names are displayed on our website.

## New Members

Tracy Christenberry  
David Lee  
Sam Schoenhals

## Business & Nonprofit Members

Ale’s Steakhouse and Bar  
Allen County Public Library,  
Genealogy Department  
Anna Marie Bergens, Realtor  
Best Western China Lake Inn  
Bob & Ardyce’s Bicycle Shop  
China Lake Photographic Society  
Clarion Inn  
Comfort Inn  
Comm. Light Opera & Theatre Assoc.  
Cordell Construction Co.  
Desert Empire Fair  
Diana Said, Vaughn Realty  
Earth Landscaping  
Eastern California Museum  
Econo-Lodge  
Edward Jones Investments –  
Brook H. Andreoli

The Flower Shoppe  
Heritage Inn  
High Desert Genealogical Society  
Phyllis M. Hix, Attorney  
Inyokern Chamber of Commerce  
IWV Premier Landscaping  
Jack & Dana Lyons, Realtors  
Kern Antelope Historical Society  
Kern County Historical Society  
Kern River Historical Society  
Maturango Museum  
MOAH  
Mohahave Historical Society  
Mojave River Valley Museum  
Motion Tire & Wheel  
Needles Regional Museum  
*The News Review*

Pleistocene Foundation  
Rand Desert Museum  
Red Rock Books  
Ridgecrest Area Convention &  
Visitors Bureau  
Ridgecrest Automotive, LLC  
Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce  
Ridgecrest Moving & Storage  
Ridgecrest Regional Hospital  
Roaming Dog Kitchen  
S&M Coins & Collectibles  
Searles Valley Historical Society  
Shoshone Museum Assoc.  
Starbucks  
Gary P. Staab & Assoc., Inc.  
Tehachapi Historical League  
Vaughn Realty  
Warren’s Automotive  
Wrightwood Historical Society

## DIRECTORS

**Tex Hoppus, President**

760-382-1852, tex.hoppus@me.com

**Doug Lueck, Vice President**

760-375-8202, racvb@filmdeserts.com

**Richard Hendricks, Secretary-Treasurer**

shoreline83@me.com

**Andrew Sound, Programs**

760-608-7296, afsound@verizon.net



**John Abbott, Building Mgr., Bldg. Rental**

619-808-2223, jga2nja@yahoo.com

**Chuck Cordell, Building**

cordell.construction@yahoo.com

**Carol Porter, Accessions & Exhibits**

760-446-3400, carporter@gmail.com

**Nick Rogers, Movie Nite, Publicity**

Wnr428@hotmail.com or call

760-375-8456 for info

**Matthew Zubia, Fundraising**

760-793-8152, mzubiasr@gmail.com

## COMMITTEE LEADERS

**Liz Babcock, Newsletter Editor**

760-382-9224, lizbab@fastmail.fm

**Joe DePina, Gift Shop Manager**

plnajoe65@gmail.com

**Marti Hoppus, Bookkeeper**

760-382-1852, tex.hoppus@me.com

**Jim Kenney, Field Trips Coordinator**

760-371-2458, j.kenney@verizon.net

**Craig Porter, SEEP Coordinator**

760-446-3400, cporter48@mchsi.com

**Donna McCrohan Rosenthal, PR Coordinator**

760-375-4308, mccrohan@iwvisp.com

**Here's an easy  
way to see this  
newsletter in color!**

Just email Liz at *lizbab@fastmail.fm* and ask to be put on the list to get a PDF copy emailed to you each month.

We don't plan to stop sending paper copies, but online is the way to go if you prefer living color. Unless you stipulate email only, we'll also continue to mail you a copy.

## Important Reminders

- ★ Annual dues are \$35 (family) and \$45 (business).
- ★ Please remember the Historical Society in your wills, trusts and other gift giving. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

**MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2019**  
Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m., Historic USO Building



Historical Society of the  
Upper Mojave Desert  
P. O. Box 2001  
Ridgecrest, CA 93556

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 9  
RIDGECREST, CA