



Historical Society of the Upper Mojave Desert

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

Vol. 32, No. 1

January 2017

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

Year's First Meeting To Feature 'Sand Canyon Station'

Our first meeting of the new year will feature a showing of the video "Sand Canyon Station," an HSUMD production written, directed, and edited by Mark Pahuta. Charlotte Goodson, then an HSUMD board member, coordinated the production.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17, and will be held at the Historic USO Building, 230 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.

The video starts with the construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct that passed through Sand Canyon just west

See p. 4



Aqueduct construction camp in Sand Canyon.

Stan McBryant collection, Maturango Museum



Craig Porter (at right in white shirt) speaks with young SEEP participants at the History Station in Sand Canyon.

Photo by Lloyd Smith

FEB. FIELD TRIP PLANNED

There is no planned field trip for January, but I do plan to do one in February. How many people would be interested in going to the Goffs Schoolhouse and touring the Mojave Desert History and Cultural Association site? For information see the association's site at <http://mdhca.org/>, then let me know if you're interested.

Contact me at 760-371-2458 or j.kenney@verizon.net.
— Jim Kenney

President's Message —

Hurrah for our Volunteers and Donors!

As we all start the year 2017, I find myself eager to continue and even build upon the great things that we accomplished last year.

An ever-growing team of volunteers continues to work upstairs and in the Veterans Memorial Building to collect, organize, document, scan, and display artifacts of our history and our veterans.

A dynamic group of volunteers has successfully made our Historic USO Building and our Veterans Memorial Building centers of popular activity in the community, with Movie Nites and Open Mic Nights and monthly history presentations, etc.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who have made the Historical Society a center of support for our veterans, with a monthly Veterans Breakfast that everybody loves, a Veterans Memorial Building that displays stories of service, and a Combat Stress Support Group

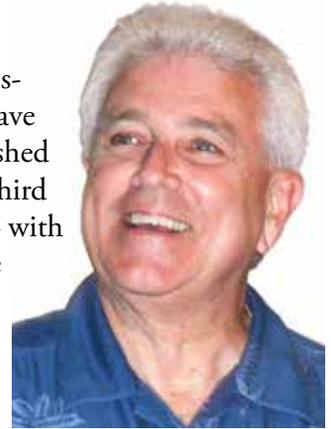
that meets regularly.

We are stewards of the most historical buildings in the city and have restored two of them; we just finished restoring the Old County Jail (a third building), and are starting work – with the deeply appreciated help of the Aquabonita Flyfishers – on the old firehouse.

There's more, but you get the idea. With the help of our community volunteers – and the help of our Society and community donors – we will continue to accomplish much.

If we can get more interested volunteers – and if we can get additional donations supporting our optimistic goals – we will see fantastic rewards!

— *Tex Hoppus*



Tex Hoppus



The Whatevers, a popular local group especially beloved by Historical Society members, return to the Joe Fox Auditorium to play and sing for a small but avid crowd at our holiday party on Dec. 20. From left are Tom Rindt, Sayer de Woadhyll, ClairAnn Herbert, and Chuck Bolt. We also enjoyed a delicious dinner catered for us by Casey's Steaks & BBQ, and an assortment of sweet dessert treats contributed by attendees. See p. 7 for a special feature of the event.

Photo 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 at 7 sharp. Come see the fabulous musicians right here in Ridgecrest! Isn't 2017 the year for you to discover the riches of our homegrown talent?

DENIZENS OF OZ VISIT THE HISTORIC USO



Appropriately garbed Oz citizens Bob Pearl (left) and Leon Achlmeier greet audience members entering the Historic USO for our special Oz event Wednesday, Dec. 28.

Ever seen a white Toto? At right Travis Osterhout as the Scarecrow shows off his li'l buddy to Patrice Kuby.



At left Leonard Pearl appears in a reflective mood for the evening of films and reminiscences, all arranged by Nick Rogers and Lyle Gregory.



Carol Porter (above) shows off a pair of ruby slippers and other artifacts of Oz that Lyle Gregory loaned HSUMD for the evening. (Sorry, Lyle, you were moving too fast for me to get your picture.)



At left, our genial host, Nick Rogers, and Snack Bar volunteer Marnie Dobbs await orders of Crumville hot dogs and other delicacies appropriate to the event.

All photos by Liz

'Sand Canyon Station' From p. 1



Standing where history actually happened, HSUMD volunteers John Di Pol and Charlotte Ostermann show youngsters from Gateway School early aqueduct photos, 2008.

*Photo by
Holly Farris*

of the Indian Wells Valley. The canyon was one of the challenges on the aqueduct's route, and the video will explain about a disaster that delayed construction for about six months.

The "big pipe" was controversial in Owens Valley, to put it mildly, and after aqueduct completion in 1913, its owner, the City of Los Angeles, hired patrolmen to inspect and protect it. Some of these patrolmen lived in Sand Canyon, and their children, Robert "Bob" Ramsey, Lois Ramsey Carr, and Litha Crowell Mattis, are featured on the video talking about life in the canyon in the 1930s-40s.

In more recent years, the Sand Canyon Environmental Education Project (SEEP), has told the story of nature and human impacts on Sand Canyon to local 4th and 5th graders. One of the HSUMD's longtime contributions to the community has been to present the history of the canyon on SEEP field trips to the location.

In the early years of the program, the patrolmen's children listed above, along with Henry "Hank" Schuette, whose father worked on the aqueduct and later settled in the Indian Wells Valley, would join the trips to provide a living link with the history of the area. The video to be shown at the meeting preserves that legacy for future generations.

We meet on the third Tuesday of most months. Meetings are free and all are welcome. — *Andrew Sound*

Archive Helpers Needed

It seems a bit odd to welcome a new year and a new beginning when everything we touch in our archive area is 20 plus years old. I guess I will think of the new ways we are preserving, storing and filing as the 2017 new.

With the departure of the Stagers we could certainly use a couple of folks willing to come in and help organize our photo albums by subject. If you see someone you can identify, that is frosting on the cake. I would be thrilled if we could just get all the sports in one area and the wildflower photos in another, for example.

I think people would be amazed to see that we have 30 linear feet of albums to organize without counting the phoroa in protective sheet but not yet in albums.

Any Tuesday or Wednesday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. you will find the upstairs area open and ready for volunteers.

We are also working on the displays for the VMB on the third Thursday of the month, following the Veterans' Breakfast. Help is also welcome in this area. We are in the Veterans Memorial Building between 10 a.m. and 1p.m.

I am looking for any photos out there of our Ridgecrest call firemen, perhaps a old photo of our early fire trucks. We want to have some photos to add interest to the original Firemen's Dorm and Office walls as we complete the renovations.

I appreciate the recent donation from Leroy Doig of several Balloon Festival T shirts. Amazingly enough, we didn't have all of these already in our collections. Thank you, Leroy. — *Carol Porter*

CHANGE OF HOURS

Because of a shortage of volunteers, the Historic USO Building will no longer be open on Mondays. We will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

I'd like to thank John Abbott, Alan and Joann Woodman, Nick Rogers, Rosemary Bailey, and Tex Hoppus who run the gift shop during the week. Carol Porter, Andrew Sound, and Norma Abbott pitch in when we need them. We will miss Tom and Patty Stager! Please consider joining our team so we can again be open six days a week.

— *Michelle Andreoli*

A SPECTACULAR Start to the New Year

Another cinematic year winds down at the Historic USO Building, and things are looking really “spectacular” for the next Classic Movie Night series. “Of Epic Proportions: Classic Hollywood Film Spectacles” will present five classic big-budget, big-star, big-production motion pictures dating from the early pre-code era to...just this year! A wide variety of genres will certainly make it BIG with our audiences.

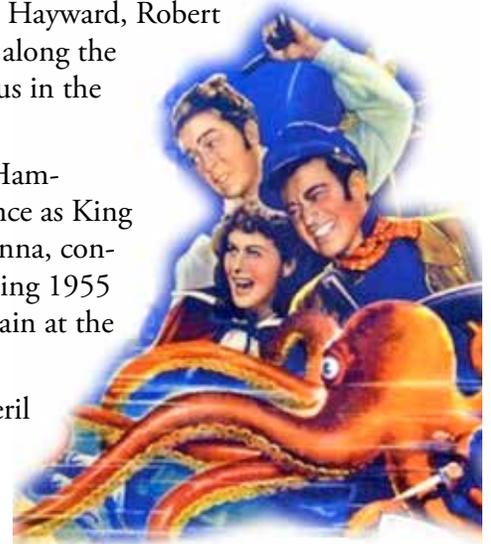


Wikimedia Commons

brilliant three-strip Technicolor,[®] John Wayne, Paulette Goddard, Ray Milland, Susan Hayward, Robert Preston, and Raymond Massey star in a swashbuckling adventure set in the 1840s along the Florida coast that climaxes with Wayne battling an incredible special-effects octopus in the deep blue sea. This film was wildly successful with moviegoing audiences in 1942.

We lighten things up a bit with a blockbuster film adaptation of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s hit Broadway musical. Yul Brynner received an Oscar[®] for his performance as King Mongkut of 1860s Siam, opposite the lovely Deborah Kerr as the schoolteacher Anna, contracted to tutor his many children. Rita Moreno co-stars in this multi-award-winning 1955 film presented in Twentieth Century-Fox’s Cinemascope 55[®] (a process I will explain at the showing.)

Let’s speed up in time and watch in wonder one of the very first airplanes-in-peril films. These never seem to go out of favor as witnessed by the huge success of the recent “Sully.” In 1969 Universal put together the ambitious production we will see, a movie based on Arthur Haley’s popular novel. The studio spared no expense in lavish production values and stellar cast including Burt Lancaster, Jean Seberg, Dean Martin, Jacqueline Bisset, Van Heflin, Maureen Stapleton, Dana Wynter, and Helen Hayes who won a Best Supporting Actress Academy Award[®] for her tender comic role. This is a film that will keep you on the edge of your seat, for sure!



Now here’s something we’ve never done before...show a very recently made film. This 2016 entry is a third telling of the famous chariot race fable set in the time of Christ. Why Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, which produced both of the popular previous versions, would want to do this a third time is anyone’s guess. Critics and audiences were not impressed with this \$100-million endeavor. But I found it entertaining — skillfully produced and well-acted. In this version, we actually have an ethnically diverse cast rather than a bunch of long-in-the-tooth Hollywood glamour stars (sorry, Charlton Heston!). The story is told in a tight two hours instead of a butt-numbing four and a half. Yet it leaves out nothing in its shorter running time. And this third version of the famous chariot race will not disappoint!

You will want to pick up an “epic” copy of the newest series film schedule at the Historic USO Building for titles and flex Wednesday show dates, or call 760-375-8456. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for hungry cinema connoisseurs to enjoy the utterly “spectacular” Snack Bar. The big films roll out on our big screen at 7 p.m. Admission is as always free, but we are colossally appreciative of donations! See you at the BIG movies!

— Nick Rogers

Volunteers Needed

We have a handful of volunteers doing a *WHOLE LOT* of tasks to make our society and the building run smoothly. Please consider helping for a few hours each week. It would greatly alleviate the responsibility placed on a few tiring shoulders. Plus — the more the merrier!

TREASURER

Keep financial records and submit monthly reports to the Board. Work with the bookkeeper to see that bills are paid.

GENEALOGY LEADER

Find speakers or coordinate webinars for our monthly genealogy meetings. Take charge!

GIFT SHOP MANAGER

Order merchandise, maintain inventory in POS system, coordinate staffing, clean and organize shop, advertise as needed, conduct annual inventory count, coordinate away sales.

IT MANAGER

Keep our computers and software up-to-date and our router working.

VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING HELPER

Our VMB is ready and waiting to be shared with the community. In between welcoming visitors you can read, use our WiFi, or help further an archival project. The building has heating and air conditioning. We'd like to open the VMB Mondays through Saturdays 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Can you give us two or four hours a week?

GIFT SHOP HELPER

When we say "work in the gift shop," we also mean "welcome people to our building." Show off our new displays, talk history, and answer questions about our activities.

Of course you will also be selling our wares, For our new point-of-sale system it is helpful to be familiar with touch screens or iPads. Currently the gift shop has openings for the following days and times:

- ★ Thursdays 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- ★ Saturdays 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- ★ 3rd and 4th Tuesday nights 6:30-9 p.m. during HSUMD regular meetings

You can also volunteer to be a sub to cover absences

OPEN MIC NIGHT HELPER

We need several types of helpers on-flex Fridays 6:15-10 p.m.

Stage facilitator: helps set up performers' equipment and keeps the stage flow moving.

Sound board operator: ensure that sound equip-

ment is set up and operate sound during events.

Host: announce performers, manage the flow of the performances and stage.

General helper: assist with managing traffic in the lobby, refreshments sales, and popcorn making. Also assist with entrance fee duties.

AUDIOVISUAL ASSISTANT

Learn the ins and outs of our audiovisual equipment. Be on the list of people we can call for programs and movie nights.

HELPER ON HISTORICAL PROJECTS

Many HSUMD articles and photographs are waiting to be organized, scanned, and labeled. Spend a couple hours each week helping to advance our mission.

ON-CALL HELPER

Sometimes a renter asks us to host the bar (beer, wine, sodas). This is usually an evening gig. Can we call you?

HOST OR HOSTESS

Prepare refreshments for HSUMD meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Arrive by 5:45 p.m. to get things set up for the 6:30 door opening. We have everything for the coffee and will give a quick lesson to those who volunteer. (Store-bought cookies disappear just as quickly as home baked.)

Coordinate and set up for our twice-yearly dinner meetings (May and December). Set tables, create centerpieces, prepare drinks, clean up. We have many items on hand to use as table decorations.

GROCERY SHOPPER

Do you like to shop for the best deals? Help us keep our kitchen and janitorial supplies stocked. Besides shopping trips in town, this may require an occasional trip to the IWV Brewery. We also purchase items from Costco and Smart & Final. Anyone willing to stop by those stores when going out of town would be a big help. We will provide a shopping list.

LAUNDERER

Did you know that when we rent out our building, we also give the option to rent tablecloths? Those tablecloths need to be washed after each use. No ironing required. We also generate a load of towels in the kitchen every week.

— Michelle Andreoli



In a special feature of our holiday party, President Tex Hoppus (left) presents Doug Lueck with a well-deserved life membership. Doug and the other outstanding volunteers awarded life memberships by our board during 2016 are listed at right.

Photo by Liz

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, with a one-time listing of our 2016 honorees given above.

Business Members – please patronize them!

Allen County Public Library,
Genealogy Department
Anna Marie Bergens, Realtor
Best Western China Lake Inn
Blues After Hours
Bob & Ardyce's Bicycle Shop
Cal-Sun Pools
Clarion Inn
Comfort Inn
Cordell Construction
Cruise Planners-IWV
DeathValley.com
Desert Empire Fair

Desert Garage Door
Earth Landscaping
Econo-Lodge
Edward Jones Investments
Brook H. Andreoli
The Flower Shoppe
Griffin Excavation & Paving
Heritage Inn
Phyllis M. Hix, Attorney
Jack & Dana Lyons, Realtors
Maturango Museum
Motion Tire & Wheel

Nevins Tech. Consultants
The News Review (Farris)
Pleistocene Foundation
Professional Tax & Business Services
Red Rock Books
Ridgecrest Automotive
Ridgecrest Moving & Storage
Roaming Dog Kitchen
S&M Coins & Collectibles
Gary P. Staab & Assoc., Inc.
The Swap Sheet
Truffles@1105
Warren's Automotive

THANK YOU ALL for the outstanding response to our membership renewal letter. We were able to capture several changes of address, telephone numbers, email addresses, and email-only distribution of our newsletter. We already have over two thirds of our members renewed for 2017.

A friendly reminder if you have not yet renewed — dues are due for the 2017 membership year.

— *Lloyd Smith*

New Life Members

John Abbott
Chuck Cordell
Jim Kenney
Doug Lueck
Carol Porter
Andrew Sound
Alan & Joann Woodman

New Member

Ann Haney

DIRECTORS

Tex Hoppus, President

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

Doug Lueck, Vice President

760-375-8202, racvb@filmdeserts.com

Richard Hendricks, Recording Secretary

shoreline83@me.com

Andrew Sound, Programs

760-608-7296, afsound@verizon.net

Treasurer Needed



John Abbott, Building Mgr., Bldg. Rental

619-808-2233, 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

760-608-3186, mzubiasr@gmail.com

COMMITTEE LEADERS

Liz Babcock, Newsletter Editor

760-375-7900, lizbab2@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, cporter148@mchsi.com

Donna McCrohan Rosenthal, PR Coordinator

760-375-4308, mccrohan@iwvisp.com

Lloyd Smith, Membership Coordinator

760-377-3542, lloyd.smith@hughes.net

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

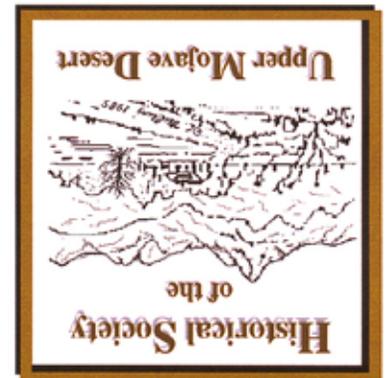
Just send an e-mail to our membership coordinator, Lloyd Smith at *lloyd.smith@hughes.net*, and ask him to put you on the list to get a PDF copy e-mailed to you each month.

We don't plan to stop sending paper copies, but online is the way to go if you prefer living color.

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 JANUARY 2017
Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m., Historic USO Building



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