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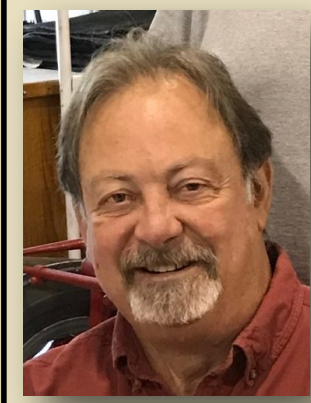
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CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE

The Fair is coming at the end of the month. I remember as a youngster that was one good thing and one bad thing. The good part was the fun of the Fair – the Livestock Auction, seeing friends, and food: tacos, Sioux burgers, pastrami sandwiches, frozen chocolate bananas, candy apples, cotton candy. The Rural Olympics. The Rodeo. The Horse Show. Memories. The bad thing was the end of summer vacation and the start of school that meant taking off the summer clothes and wearing new, stiff clothes and shoes. Ahh, the innocence of childhood.

These memories are what the AVRM is all about. Being able to reopen childlike eyes at your favorite part of growing up in the Antelope Valley - whether it be finding a grinding rock or arrowhead from ancient tribes, a piece of a cracked airplane you saw flying when you were younger or maybe even worked on. Seeing equipment that was used around you or even used by you. Remembering things like the KAVL (Carter) Jeep that was used in parades, at football games, and other events. Remembering high school football games with packed stands through yearbooks and memorabilia from the teams and bands.

Come on in and visit us during the Fair or on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 10 AM to 2 PM, and rekindle those great memories. Next, join us so we can keep building on these memories and help develop new memories with the children of today.

Hope to see you soon,
Giovanni “G” Simi



RAWLINGS' REVIEW



The AVRМ is proud that two of our Founders, Giovanni Simi and Jeff Godde, were honored on Friday, August 11th at the 2023 AV Fair Kickoff Dinner. The annual event gives thanks and honors to the hundreds of volunteers and many committees that make the AV Fair Event successful.

It was my honor to present the Gold Ribbon Award, which is given for FIFTY YEARS of volunteer work at the Fair, to my friends "G" and Jeff.



AV Fair Association President Angie Hughes, Jeff Godde, Giovanni "G" Simi, G's granddaughter Sienna Dow, and Bill Rawlings during the Gold Ribbon Award ceremony.

In my June newsletter message, I announced that after 90 years of being the premier event of the Antelope Valley Fair, the FINAL Rural Olympics competition was held last April 22nd, during the Poppy Festival, and that on that day, Jake Kyle, Raymond Juarez and Mike Yates were inducted into the Rural Olympics Hall of Fame for 2023. Once future events had been cancelled and the Rural Olympics Committee dissolved, the Hall of Fame Committee found that we needed to present two more Gold Hay Hook awards in what would be the 73rd and 74th and final induction ceremonies. Those two Golden Hay Hook awards were presented during the AV Fair Kickoff dinner. The Rural Olympics Hall of Fame will always be cherished and located in the Antelope Valley Rural Museum.



Angie Hughes, Jimmy Godde and Jeff Godde after the Rural Olympics Hall of Fame award was announced by G Simi and presented by Jeff to his son Jimmy.

Debbie Smith poses with her Golden Hay Hook award flanked by Angie Hughes and Bill Rawlings. Debbie was a founder of the Rural Olympics Hall of Fame along with G and Bill.



ANNUAL FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER

The Annual Flapjack Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, October 21st, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Lancaster Applebee's located in the Target Center, 43545 10th St. West.

	<p>Do it Good in the Neighborhood Applebee's</p> <p>Flapjacks to Raise Funds for:</p> <p>Antelope Valley Rural Museum</p> <p>† 43545 10th St West Lancaster Ca 93534</p> <p>Saturday Oct. 21-2023</p>	<p>Antelope Valley Rural Museum</p> <p>Do it Good in the Neighborhood Applebee's</p> <p>Saturday Oct 21-2023</p>
	<p>141 8:00am - 10:00am \$12</p>	

Breakfast includes pancakes, syrup, butter, scrambled eggs, sausage, orange juice, and coffee served by AVRМ volunteers.

Tickets may be purchased from any AVRМ Board member during the Fair at the AV Rural Museum sales counter, or for will call on our website at: <https://avmuseum.org/contribute/> using your credit card or PayPal. Under comments or instructions note your contact information and "Flapjack Fundraiser Tickets." For more information or to reserve tickets, e-mail me at: avmuseum@verizon.net.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



LAKE HUGHES TRADING POST

By Dennis Miller

In the beginning, circa 1926, [it's not known when the Trading Post was first built] B. Brannon, owner of the Trading Post was delinquent on his property taxes. At that period of time the Trading Post, built of wood, fell into disrepair! Joel B. Hurd was passing through from his property in Arrowhead and heard of Brannon's demise and saw a future in this small town and the Trading Post. Mr. Hurd offered to pay the back taxes for half ownership and Mr. Brannon agreed. The two of them began rebuilding and repairing the damaged store. While Joel Hurd managed the store and added the Post Office, he eventually bought out Mr. Brannon.



The picture at left of the Trading Post is circa 1927 when it was wood with the separate garage and the newly built apartments.

The photo below is the Rock Inn, formerly The Trading Post in Lake Hughes. Circa 1930s after being rebuilt.



Around the end of 1927 or 1928, Joel Hurd was repairing the roof with hot tar when his wife called him down to take care of some business. The wind came up and blew over the tar pot and within two hours the store, garage and apartments burned to the ground. Along with what they were able to salvage out of the building, they also retrieved the old General Electric refrigerator with the unit on top. Joel and his sons reopened back up across the street in a few short hours in a cabin which is now PJ deHaas Properties.

Not to be beaten, Joel Hurd, Sr. with the help of his sons Joel W. and Charles A. built the present day Trading Post and surrounding buildings with rocks from nearby canyons. After two years, in 1929 the Lake Hughes Trading Post reopened. Joel Hurd, Sr. remained the Post Master for the Post Office until 1951. In 1949 a birthday celebration was held for Joel Hurd, Sr. It was held at the Recreation Association building pictured above which was built in 1934 for the Civilian Conservation Corps and has continued as the 49er Day Festival center for 73 years!

In 1970-71 Arian and Delores "Dee" Shroul ran the trading post and called it "Harley's Rock Inn." In 1975 Paul Koslo bought and named it "The Rock Inn." Paul passed away in 2019 and his daughter Chloe, now owns the Inn.

The Aqueduct in the Antelope Valley

By Norma Gurba

Little did the residents of the Antelope Valley know how their lives would be altered when the local paper in July 1892 reported: “A William Mulholland was in the Elizabeth Lake area, and it was reported that he had a big water scheme planned.” The big water scheme, of course, turned out to be the Los Angeles Aqueduct constructed from 1908 through 1913.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Los Angeles’ population exceeded 100,000 residents which was severely affecting the city’s dwindling water supply. To solve this problem the 233-mile-long Owens Valley—Los Angeles Aqueduct, the dream of William Mulholland, was developed.

In 1907, the City of Los Angeles approved a \$23 million bond issue to finance the construction of an aqueduct which would draw water south from the sparsely populated Owens Valley. Work on the Aqueduct began the next year under the direction of William Mulholland, the founder of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

This engineering feat had a deep impact on the Antelope Valley. After the horrible drought of the 1890s and early 1900s which severely affected families, ranches, farms and businesses, the construction of the Aqueduct revitalized our valley’s economy as the region had almost become a patchwork of ghost towns. The Aqueduct created hundreds of new jobs. Many people who had left during the dry years returned when the situation improved due to the construction of the Aqueduct.

The construction of the Aqueduct began in 1908—the same year that work was started on the Panama Canal, which eclipsed this astounding project—near Independence in Inyo County.



Water was transported for about 250 miles across the sterile desert, foothills, and ranges. The Aqueduct was constructed across the western portion of the Valley (primarily from 1908 to 1910). The Aqueduct enters the Antelope Valley north of Neenach, skirts the foothills, enters the natural reservoir at Fairmont, goes through a five-mile solid concrete tunnel extending under Elizabeth Lake, and then into the San Fernando Valley.

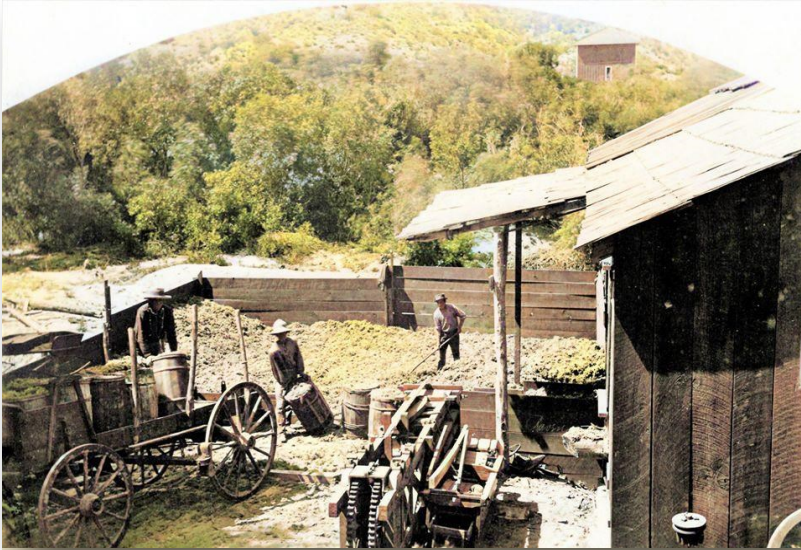
The workers, numbering up to 6,000, poured millions of tons of concrete, hammered millions of board feet of wood, dug through hills, laid cement, drove tractors and water wagons, hauled pipe sections and worked with picks and shovels. The Tuff deposits at Fairmont Butte became the ideal ingredient to blend and use in the construction of cement. The Aqueduct was a twenty-four-hour a day, seven days-a-week project.

A review of the 1910 Census reveals that the three main languages spoken by Mulholland’s “army” of workers—as the Aqueduct construction crews were called—were English, Spanish and Russian/Serbian. Many Mexican laborers (mostly single men) were employed as day workers, tunnel laborers, miners, grading camp personnel, teamsters, plasterers.

Los Angeles Aqueduct pictured at left.

REVENNA OR RAVENNA

By Bob Alvis



Pulp mill at Revenna near Acton, Los Angeles Co., California.

When visiting history it is always fun to try and put yourself in the moments it all played out and try to get a feel for what it was like when what we would call “crazy” today, was looked at as a major business opportunity.

Some time ago, I was looking for the remains of an operation in Revenna that took place in the 1800s. I came up short on the exact location, but thanks to a very old picture I’m pretty sure I was in the correct location. Over the years old timers have told me that some of the old structure remains, and I would very much like to find it.

When George Thomas Webber came to our valley, he was on a quest for - of all things - a wild idea from the London Daily Mail newspaper. They believed the iconic Joshua trees would be a good source for paper pulp that could be processed and sent to England to become the sheets of paper for

the newspaper. He must have put a lot of thought and effort into it, as his quest actually bared fruit and a small operation was established. Looking back on this venture it seems it would have been overwhelming by the standards of those days and yes, maybe even today!

Imagine this scenario of what the undertaking was like when it was in full operation. Crews were out east of Lancaster chopping down and pruning Joshua trees and then loading them on wagons where they would meet the trains in Lancaster. From that point they were loaded onto flat cars and shipped down to Revenna just southwest of the Acton area where the Joshua trees were unloaded and ground up into a fine pulp. Once they reached the required consistency, the product was then placed into storage containers and loaded back onto the railroad cars where it was shipped down to the ports of San Pedro and placed on ships. After a long trip “around the horn,” as they say, in sailing world, the product would finally sail into the harbors around London, England.

Thinking back, it makes one wonder why somebody would think that such a process was going to produce a superior product over the standard paper products of the day that we still use! It was said that they did produce a couple of issues on the new paper stock, but it did not live up to the hype that it was sold as by investors of the time.

Two observations from me that I think about on occasion, and it came down to two positives that ended up happening and ended up blessing our town and region. George Webber never left our valley or had to return to England in disgrace as he ended up buying the Western Hotel and marrying the queen of the Antelope Valley, the iconic Myrtie Webber! The second miracle as I call it, is the failure of the Joshua pulp project that if successful may have very well destroyed thousands of acres of Joshua trees to a point that the Joshua forests would have been reduced down to a point where the birth and regrowth would have been so devastated that their survival may have well been a final stage blow as the chain of the Joshua trees would have been severed and the survivors we see today would have been no more.

Just a bit of local history that I hope you enjoy as you read this. I hope you take that trip back with your imagination and think of what it looked like as wagons full of Joshua trees came rolling into Lancaster only to hit the rails and sailing ships, and end up in jolly old England! God save the Joshua trees!



THE ODD & UNUSUAL

I used to write a column for a newsletter that I edited with my friend, Karla Archuleta called *The Joshua Journal*. The title of the column is above.

Sometimes it would include interesting newspaper items regarding the Antelope Valley. I have included a few of them here.

Los Angeles Times, Aug. 23, 1915

Surveyor Gathers Data as to the age of the Joshua Tree How Old is the Joshua?

The question is ancient on the desert, and has never been answered. Ed Ham, deputy County Surveyor, is back from the region west of Hesperia and believes he has discovered vital evidence in connection with the long-disputed question.

In checking the government survey notes of 1857, Ham found Joshua trees described as having been blazed sixty-one years ago, and he had no difficulty in finding the marked trees, and on most of them there had been apparently little growth in the past threescore years, for the blaze marks were still plain.

Palmdale Post, November 13, 1915
She Kills A Coyote



Ed Borton, who operates a ranch east of Lancaster, and a late model Studebaker car (*mostly* Studebaker car), came home from a ride Thursday, and the thought of having his firearms in readiness in case the war should extend to Borton and ranchward. A search failed to locate the artillery, and when about concluding the Lost, Strayed, or Stolen column of the *Palmdale Post* would be required, he was surprised by the rapid firing of a gun in a far corner of the ranch.

Not knowing whether it was the Allies in full action or the back-firing of his former Flivver*, he started on a run for the scene of action, and discovered Mrs. Borton with a rifle in one arm and the other akimbo while she stood with one foot resting on the head of a large coyote killed by her sure-hitum arm.

The animal was sent to William Ritter's taxidermy shop, where the stuffodist will make it into a rug as a trophy of the plucky young lady's skill with a gun.

*A cheap car, especially one in bad condition.

LOVEJOY BUTTES

Who are the Lovejoy Buttes named after?

By Karla Archuleta

There are a few speculations to this mystery. While searching through land patents for the Antelope Valley, I found two Lovejoy's homesteading land at Township 5N and Range 7W on December 10, 1866. This land is located east of Llano, CA. Allen P. Lovejoy is located in the 1880 U.S. Census in Sonoma, CA. His occupation is listed as a dentist there. J.P. Lovejoy has not been located at this time. Second found was Henry Lovejoy homesteading land at T13N R14W on October 10, 1878, which is located near Rosamond, CA.

In a *Los Angeles Times* article, "Antelope Valley Rich in Lore of Indian Pioneer Era", on February 19, 1950, William O. Beck was quoted as saying the buttes were named after a cattleman and retired sea captain that lived on the land for quite some time in privacy. Where did he obtain his information?

Here is what we do know. Lovejoy Butte is called by this name as far back as 1883 in the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper. Locating old maps of California has been a slow process, but the name is present as far back as the early 1870s on the maps I have located.

According to Dayle DeBry, she has researched the Lovejoy name as well. After researching John Fremont's expeditions into California, she has located information that Fremont had a man named Lovejoy with him. It is very likely that the butte was named after this man, but we haven't confirmed it yet.

More research is required to solve this long mystery of the Antelope Valley. If you know of any information pertaining to this mystery, please let us know.



ANTELOPE VALLEY FAIR 2023 HOURS

Friday 9/22: 4 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Saturday 9/23 & Sunday 9/24: 2 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Monday 9/25 & Tuesday 9/26: 4 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Wednesday 9/27: CLOSED

Thursday 9/28 & Friday 9/29: 4 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Saturday 9/30: 2 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Sunday 10/1 2 p.m. - 12 a.m.



AVRM VISITOR - CONGRESSMAN MIKE GARCIA

We were pleased to have a visit to the AVRM by 27th District Congressman Mike Garcia who enjoyed the displays at the Museum. Congressman Garcia had great things to say about the Museum, and we all had a wonderful time talking with him. Garcia was a highly decorated U.S. Naval Officer who flew over 30 combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photos taken by Lynn DuPratt.



Congressman Mike Garcia was very impressed with the AVRM, especially the Faces of the Fallen display. We thank him for taking the time out of his schedule to visit the Museum and to speak with some of our Directors. We hope he will back to visit again soon!



Website: www.avmuseum.org
[www.facebook.com/Antelope Valley Rural Museum](https://www.facebook.com/AntelopeValleyRuralMuseum)

Mailing address:

AVRM
P.O. Box 1316
Lancaster, CA 93584



Contact us:
avmuseum@verizon.net

Donate and pay dues via PayPal and credit card on our website

ANTELOPE VALLEY RURAL MUSEUM GIFT STORE

Annual Individual membership dues	\$30.00
Hats—all baseball hats (Members)	\$10.00
Hats—all baseball hats (Non-members)	\$15.00
Lancaster, CA Through Time	\$25.00
History books—all books are priced at:	
Images of America “Lancaster”	\$20.00
Images of America “Palmdale”	
Legendary Locals of the AV	
(Above AV history books signed by Norma Gurba)	
P-38 Lightning	
Images of America “Edwards Air Force Base”	
DVDs Listed are priced at:	\$20.00
Jane Pinheiro Wildflowers	
Yester Years—AV History 1876—1942	
1987 Rural Olympics (narrated)	
Evolution of the Rural Olympics book	
(On DVD—Excel & Word Doc format)	

The AVRM is a 501(c)(3) public charity
EIN: 27-1002922

MISSION STATEMENT: The AVRM will honor the history of the Antelope Valley with documentation, preservation, exhibition, and education.

DONATIONS

Pickus Challenge 2023—2024 Building Fund	\$1,000
Honor the Past Plaques and Display Sponsorship (Custom laser cut wood plaques with Personal memorial or message)	\$1,500
Bronze Sponsorship Donor	\$100
Silver Sponsorship Donor	\$1000
Gold Sponsorship Donor	\$10,000

Antelope Valley Rural Museum
P.O. Box 1316
Lancaster, CA 93584

AV RURAL MUSEUM IS OPEN ON THE *FIRST & THIRD*
SATURDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

