

# The Joshua Tree

January 12, 2021

## THE HISTORY OF VICTORVILLE (PART 1)

We began this week with a new series from our own **Terry Caldwell** about the history of Victorville, continuing from a series in 2020 by "The Griz" on the history of Hesperia. Where Terry is Senior Partner at Caldwell, Kennedy & Porter, 8-time Mayor of Victorville (*he's a slow learner*) and 40 years on the City Council, we can now call him the resident Historian of Victorville.



The story of Victorville begins way back in 1902. At the time there was not much in the area, but that year helped begin to shape the High Desert all the way past Bishop to the Nevada Border. At that time the LA Department of Water & Power got water by any means necessary from Owens Lake. They did this by building canals to export water to Los Angeles.

By 1908 the development of canals in the Sierra Mountains started the Big Creek Hydro-Electro Plant, with the damming of rivers so water would have to run through the Plant which allowed for electricity for communications, as there were no phones back then. During this time there were a crop of electric companies such as Pacific Light & Power, Edison, So Cal Co., and California Electrical Power.

In 1910, the Interstate Telegraph Company was founded and by 1912, they serviced 2 counties in Nevada, Inyo, Eastern Kern and some parts of the California Desert. With the arrival of the telephone system, the company changed its name from "Telegraph" to "Telephone" and serviced all of 388 phones, to those who could afford it. The company was headquartered in Bishop, CA and led by Willard Wade. Once established Willard then chose to move its facility to a little place

called Victorville due to there being no future for the company in Bishop, as the LA Dept of Water & Power owned most of the land, but Willard knew that as long there was water, the Desert region would grow.

In 1962, Victorville incorporated and the main proponent in making that happen was none other than, yep Willard Wade. Willard became the first Mayor of Victorville and helped shape the City of 8,000, which was largest city in the desert at the time.

Finally, in 1966, there was an acquisition of Cal Interstate by Contel, and the company grew even larger from there. Contel handled all telecommunications for the Western States and the Caribbean, all from their headquarters in Victorville! Contel became the 4th largest telecommunications company in the world, and was later bought by GTE and then acquired by Verizon.

That closes the chapter on part one of our history of Victorville. We look forward to hearing from Terry again soon, and more about our great city.

### This Week's Functionaries

**Invocation:** Chris Ackerman

**Flag Salute:** Steve Orr

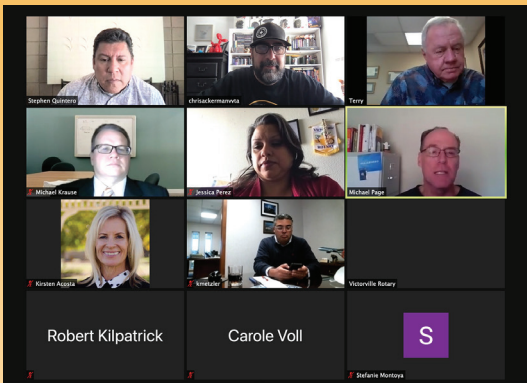
**4-Way Test:** Steve Orr

## ORR'S ROARS



*I want to thank Terry Caldwell for sharing the first part of his History of Victorville series. I do apologize for the technical difficulties on Tuesday as the meeting became split, where our Zoom participants got*

*to hear Terry's presentation and those at El Pescador got to witness the raffle and dice draw. Hopefully we can get this all worked out soon but at least all comes together in this newsletter where we have the whole meeting documented in one place.*



*Next week we will have the Rotary Club of Sheridan, Wyoming speak to us via Zoom where they will talk to us about their Gunpowder & Buckskin Hunt. This Hunt is their signature event where the State of Wyoming allocates, annually to their club, 25 nonresident deer tags. It is designed to promote fellowship with out of state Rotary Clubs.*

*Until next week,*

*Steve*



[www.victorvillerotary.org](http://www.victorvillerotary.org)



January 11, 2021 was National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The Summerlin Rotary Club's Child Sex Trafficking Awareness Campaign Committee will be producing and hosting a special one-hour Zoom Webinar on that day at 6:00 p.m. that will explore the problem in Southern California and Southern Nevada. The awareness campaign, NV/CA's Children are Priceless, will launch in the fall of 2021 and we will be a pilot project that will be the model used for spreading the awareness campaign across all of District 5300. It's more than just a hashtag, it's actually doing something.

According to the FBI, the average age a teen enters the sex trade in the United States is 12 to 14 years old. Many victims are runaway girls who were sexually abused as children. Human trafficking earns global profits of roughly \$150 billion a year for traffickers, \$99 billion of which comes from commercial sexual exploitation.

Confirmed speakers are: **Cozette Vegari, PDG**, who established an awareness campaign in District 5280 and launched a website, Rotarians Fighting Human Trafficking; **Elyne Greene**, manager of the Sex Crimes Bureau for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and **Kimberly Mull**, child sex trafficking survivor and activist.

In 2018, over half (51.6%) of the criminal human trafficking cases active in this country were sex trafficking cases involving only children. The Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children estimates 5,687 victims of child sex trafficking in Nevada. In Los Angeles, the average age of the first encounter with trafficking is 12-14 years and 11 or 13 years of age for girls and boys, respectively, and they have a 7-year life expectancy after this first encounter. And, 58% of sex trafficked girls in Los Angeles County were foster kids. These statistics are most likely lower than the actual number because it is difficult to track all child sex trafficking incidents.

Registration is on the District Calendar on [dacdb](http://dacdb).

# Rotary Opens Opportunities

## Big Blue Dice



*Bill Edwards started us off with a new round of the Blue Dice, but drew a white one and donated his \$5 back to the Polio Pig.*

*We will continue next week with 13 dice and \$225 for the Rotarian who can pick the Blue Dice out of the bag.*

## Luncheon Guests

Our only Stand-in this week was **Stefanie Montoya** for **Bryan Gillespie**. We also welcomed **Caroll Voll** on Zoom.

**IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART  
WE ANNOUNCE THE  
PASSING OF PAST 5300  
DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
GARBIS DER YEGHIAN.**

*There will be a small graveside service in La Verne with just Angela (his wife), his two sons, and Garbis's brother and sister. There will be a larger celebration of his life later on this year once things open again.*

*Also Prayers go out to Rotarian Bryan Gillespie On the Passing of his Father.*

## Raffle



**Margaret Cooker** and **Steve Orr** took home a set of Christmas plate mats from **Bill Edwards** to begin this week's Raffle drawing. **Jon Hove** will enjoy the bottle of whiskey he received from **Dwight Johnson** and Dwight will be doing some shopping with the Walmart gift card he got from President Orr and the \$25 Midway gift card he won from **Don Lager**. Finally, **Stephen Quintero** over on Zoom will be receiving a Goodwill motorized bar soap and scented candle.

## The Polio Pig

**Collected this week: \$25.00**

*Polio Pig: \$20.00 + Dice (Bill Edwards): \$5.00= \$20.00*

**Collected to Date: \$17,648.23**

**Total equals: 96,410 Doses!**

*One dollar equals 2 doses of vaccine!*

*\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!*

# Rotary Club of Victorville, CA



The Joshua Tree is a Weekly Publication of the Rotary Club of Victorville  
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If you are not receiving your newsletter, please contact Editor Chris Ackerman at  
chris@signifydesigns.com or 760-559-1686 to be added to the e-mail or mailing list.

## VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

### Board of Directors

President 2019-2021 .....	Steve Orr
President 2021-2022 .....	Jon Hove
President 2022-2023 .....	Arsalee Morales
President 2023-2025 .....	Jessica Perez
President 2025-2026 .....	Bill Edwards
Immediate Past President .....	Margaret Cooker
Treasurer .....	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary .....	Margaret Cooker
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Club Service .....	Bill Edwards
Community Service .....	<b>PLEASE VOLUNTEER</b>
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC .....	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service .....	Jessica Perez
Grants/Speech Contests .....	<b>PLEASE VOLUNTEER</b>
Scholarships.....	Esther Mears and Arsalee Morales
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest .....	Ron Boyd
Membership.....	Don Lager
Billing Officer .....	Esther Mears

**Members-at-Large:** Dwight Johnson & Rob Kilpatrick

### Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary .....	Marilyn Buttelwerth
Programs .....	Mike Page
Public Service.....	Rick Bessinger, Teressa DeAtley
Sergeant At Arms.....	Arsalee Morales
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Dr. Bowtie Brian
S.T.A.R. Students .....	Jim Barnes/Robin Cackler
Fundraising.....	Bill Edwards
Flowers and Gifts .....	KayMarie Gregory
Joshua Tree Editor .....	Chris Ackerman

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Green Tree Golf Course Clubhouse, 14144 Green Tree Blvd., Victorville

### Make-up Days and Locations

<b>MONDAY:</b>	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	High Desert/Hesperia Club meets 7:00 a.m., Denny's, 14165 Main St., Hesperia San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, Rositas, 540 Main St, 12:00 p.m.
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	Apple Valley, ZOOM Meetings, 1st, 2nd and 4th Thurs Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m. Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

## Calendar Dates

- Feb 7: Super Bowl Party**  
TBA
- Feb 8: Board of Directors meeting**  
5:30 pm Meeting  
DCB Board Room, 2nd Floor  
Hesperia and Silica Roads

### Mar 5 & 6: PETS

## Upcoming Programs

- Jan 19:** Terry Weitzel, Sheridan Rotary Club & Brightline  
**Topic: Gunpowder & Buckskin**  
(North)



**I'M  
A  
PROUD  
MEMBER**

[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

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