

The Joshua Tree

September 15, 2020

The Genesis of Hesperia 1840 - 1900

If there is one thing Griz knows everything about, it's Hesperia. As Foundation Director of the Hesperia Area Recreation District Foundation and curator of the Hesperia Old Town Museum, **Gary "Griz" Drylie** has amassed quite a collection and knowledge of all things Hesperia, and was on hand this week to share, what is touted as part 1 of a 3 part speaking trilogy, beginning with its first 60 years, from 1840 - 1900. Dressed in 1840s period clothing, Griz shared some of his incredible knowledge with the Club.



In the 1840's, before the area was known as Hesperia, Kit Carson and General Fremont first explored the area while traveling West along the Mojave Trail. From there, Silas Cox was a fur trapper in the area, and known as a modern

day Daniel Boone. A story shared was that once some horse thieves stole his horse named "Chappo" and he went on the hunt to find it. Once found, he not only took his horse back but set all the other horses free so the thieves couldn't chase after him! This happened in Summit Valley, which is sometimes referred to as "Horse Thief Canyon & Little Horse Thief Canyon". The stories just continued from there.

The founding of Hesperia truly began in the 1860's with the Widney brothers, Robert Maclay Widney and Joseph Palmaroy Widney, who were early entrepreneurs. Coming out of Ohio, they saw the new railroad being built across the country, and had the foresight to buy up water rights and land before



the railroad companies came through. By the time they got to the High Desert in 1885. They purchased the land and founded what is now known as Hesperia. Side note, both brothers are also known as the founders of USC.

Jumping back a bit, Griz shared about the John Brown Toll Road in 1860. John Brown received a government contract to build & operate a toll road up the Cajon Pass, through the High Desert and beyond. After the first 18 months of back breaking

This Week's Functionaries

Invocation: Bill Edwards
Flag Salute: Arsalee Morales
4-Way Test: Steve Orr
Finemaster: David North

Continued on page 2

ORR'S ROARS



This desert is full of many wonderful characters, but none so passionate and informed about the history of Hesperia than The Griz, Gary Drylie! In what looks to be just the first part of three presentations, I was so happy to have Griz share

the first 60 years of the region. I can't wait until you return to start digging into the 1900's!



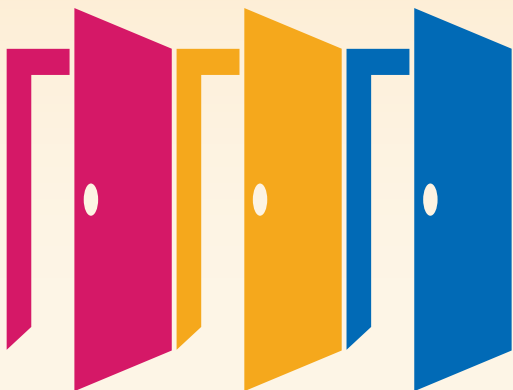
Our 5th Tuesday's are back! In two weeks, we will be having an evening meeting and Fireside at the home of Arsalee Morales at 5:30pm. Her address is 14010 Smoke Tree Road in Victorville. Please contact Margaret Cooker if you and significant other/guests will be attending so we have a good head count, as we plan to cater this event.

We are planning another online auction in the next 3 weeks or so. We already have some vacation destinations that will be up for grabs, but we are needing more, so please think of something of significance you can donate to raise needed funds, so our Club can continue doing good work throughout the community and beyond.

Finally, congratulations to our own Jessica Perez, who is now part of our Board of Directors!

Have a great Rotary week!

Steve



www.victorvillerotary.org

Griz...

Continued from page one

work, Mother Nature destroyed it all in one storm. This was no ordinary storm; a torrential 4 day storm that dumped 50" of rain and created four 4ft. lakes in the area. The toll road was gone, and work had to begin again from scratch.

Griz also spoke about the first Hesperia Schoolhouse and the old Hesperia Hotel. The original School House was built in 1883 with fired red brick that were brought to Colton from Los Angeles via railroad car and then transported up the John Brown trail to Hesperia by freight wagons. The Railroad arrived in the area that became known as Hesperia in 1885. The Hesperia hotel was three stories tall, or four if you count the basement which is where the kitchen was housed. It took 2.5 years to be built and was made with sun dried adobe clay bricks, but painted red to protect the adobe.



Griz has many unique and wonderful items at the Hesperia Rec. & Parks Harrison Exhibit Center that houses The Hesperia Old Town Museum collection and the John Swisher/McGinnis Collection. There are artifacts such as blueprints for Hesperia railroad stations, plus bricks and hardware from the old schoolhouse and hotel and much more. Currently closed due to the pandemic, once back opened you can learn more about Hesperia by visiting the Museum at 16367 Main St. in Hesperia. Until the next chapter Griz!

Raffle

Donna Wells was our big winner this week and will be doing a lot of shopping with the \$25 Midway gift card she won from **Don Lager** and the \$20 VISA gift card she received from President **Steve Orr** at Heritage Victor Valley. Donna also will do some reading with the book "Road to Recovery" she won, courtesy of **Bill Edwards**.

Our President will stay clean with two bottles of Victor Valley Transit hand sanitizer he won from **Chris Ackerman** and Chris himself received a web cam from **Bill Edwards**.

Rotary Opens Opportunities

Big Blue Dice



Terry Caldwell started us off again with another opportunity to grab the Blue Dice, but took out the first white one.

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

Foundation News

Margaret Cooker shared with the Club this week that six members of the Board, including International Chair **Ben Tafoya**, plus **Steve Orr** and incoming presidents through 2026 were all on a Grants Training Program. The completion of this program means our Club will get over \$2500 in Foundation money for our Read B4K program.

In addition, our Global Grants Cancer Screening Bus in India has garnered interest with the District Foundation Chair. She thought it sounded like a good project that could use some of the District's \$85,000 District Designated Funds. **Ben Tafoya** will be sending her the project for review. If we get a match of \$3,000 from District Designated Funds, then The Rotary Foundation will match with another \$3,000 - making our donation shoot up to a whopping \$9,000! That's how your donations to The Rotary Foundation work.

Rotary Guests

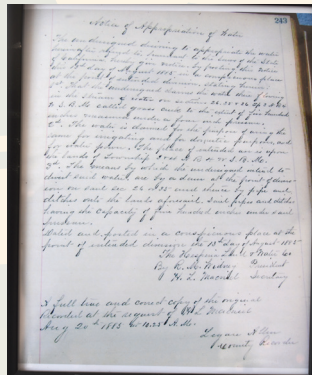
This week we welcomed **Shelly Drylie**, spouse of our speaker Griz, and **Marianne Edwards**, spouse of our own **Bill Edwards**. Also joining Bill & Marianne was their daughter **Marina Kies**.

Finally we welcomed **Cindy Smith** from Century 21 Desert Rock Realty who found our Club via Facebook.

Fine Session

David North was our Fine Master this week and began by giving everyone a preview of next week's fine against **Bill Edwards**, who will be fined \$20, unless he sings one of the two songs written about Hesperia! Come next week and find out.

During the presentation by Griz, he showed a one sheet handwritten piece of paper that shored up the water rights to the Widney brothers back in 1865, and for lawyers like **Terry Caldwell** that would have to use about 11 pages for the same document, Mr. Caldwell was given an \$11 penalty.



Next up for David was a new feature he called "Meet Your Future Rotary

President". First up was **Arsalee Morales**, who will be Club President for the 2022-2023 Rotary year. **Mike Page** was asked what Arsalee's Track & Field specialty at Victor Valley High School and the answer of pole vaulting was correct. In fact, Arsalee still holds the school record! **Donna Wells** was asked what Arsalee's previous job was, and just like that another correct answer! Before her current role of sales and marketing for Apple Valley Communications, Arsalee worked for **David North** in banking! The final question went to **Don Lager**, who was asked what Arsalee's favorite football team was. Don walked away with a \$10 fine for thinking she was a Cowboys fan, instead of the correct answer, as she is a die-hard Saints fan.

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$11.75
Collected to Date: \$17,460.23
Total equals: 96,034 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
P.O. Box 734 • Victorville, CA 92393 • www.victorvillerotary.org

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 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
Publicity/Public Relations	Kevin Kane
Club Service	Bill Edwards
Community Service	Paul Earle
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC	Arsalee Morales
Vocational Service	Dr. Bowtie Brian
Grants/Speech Contests	PLEASE VOLUNTEER
Scholarships.....	Please Volunteer
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest	Ron Boyd
Membership.....	Don Lager
Billing Officer	Esther Mears

Members-at-Large:

Dwight Johnson • Jon Hove • Rob Kilpatrick

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary	Marilyn Buttlerwerth
Programs	Mike Page
Public Service.....	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley & Greg Benson
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

MONDAY:	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
TUESDAY:	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
WEDNESDAY:	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.
THURSDAY:	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
FRIDAY:	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

Calendar Dates

Oct 13: Board of Directors meeting
5:30 pm Meeting
DCB Board Room, 2nd Floor
Hesperia and Silica Roads

Upcoming Programs

Sept 22: Terry Caldwell, Caldwell, Kennedy & Porter
Topic: "You Can "Trust" Me, I'm a Lawyer: The Law and Covid-19"
(Page)

Sept 29: 5th Tuesday Evening Meeting and
Fireside at the Home of Arsalee
Morales
5:30pm • 14010 Smoke Tree, Victorville



**I'M
A
PROUD
MEMBER**

www.rotary.org

Design & Layout By



Printed By

