

The Joshua Tree

June 4, 2024

GROWING UP IN OLD VICTORVILLE

This is the story and **Al Hom** and **Dennis Hom**, who grew up in Victorville in the “old days”, when life here was a lot different than it is today. Al works for Key City Insurance while Dennis volunteers his time with the Mohave Historical Society. Both men came to the Club this week to share stories and memories of the Hom family in Victorville.



Al and Dennis were both born at a health facility in Victorville, as there were no hospitals in the area before 1956, with the closest being St. Mary Hospital in San Bernardino.

The childhood home they grew up in was built in the 1920's on Sixth Street and still stands today. All they did

was play outside around town, as the area was so small everyone knew each other and ate at the Cafe, as it was the first restaurant in the area.

They attended Victorville Elementary and at the time they started school, only spoke Chinese. When the

school sent a note home pinned on Al, Tommy and Edna began to only speak English in the house. The school is now Sixth Street Prep, one of the top Charter Schools in the City.



Their dad Tommy came to America in 1940 to work in his Uncle's restaurant in San Francisco when he was only 15 years old. Six years later he came to Victorville to run the B&B Cafe on Seventh Street,

which later became the New State Cafe. Their mom Edna was born in San Francisco as well, and were married in 1951, much to her dismay having to live in Victorville.



The brothers reminisced about Joe's Trading Post, the yellow army surplus store where they spent a lot of their time. They also spoke about the first shopping center, Victor Plaza, with Shaw's Variety, a hardware store and Hartwick's Market. In fact their whole area growing up was either down to the Mojave River, and up to Joe's

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This Week's Functionaries

- Invocation:** Mike Johnson
- Flag Salute:** Don Lager
- 4-Way Test:** Darron Poulsen
- Fine Master:** Bill Edwards



BILL'S BANTER

Thank you to Al and Dennis Hom for coming by this week to share such wonderful stories and



memories of growing up in Victorville from their young days through their teenage years. We hope to have you back again soon for more wonderful antidotes.

The Demotion Party is coming soon at the home of Dan & Kris Dever! It will be held on June 15th at 4:00pm. Please make plans to join us for a lot of fun and the announcement of Rotarian of the Year! We currently have a sign-up sheet going around so we have a good head count, so please let us know if you will be attending.

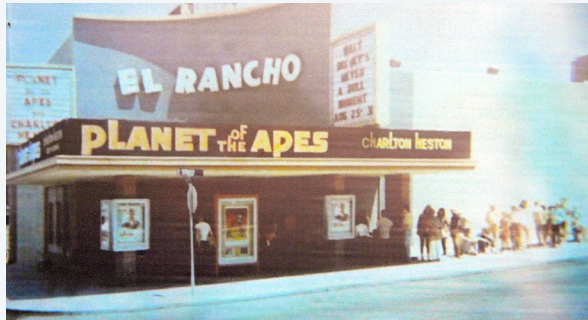
Move Night at the Hove's is coming up on July 13th! Please sign up to bring an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert for everyone to enjoy!

We only have three more weeks until the start of our new Rotary year. Please consider coming to the meetings and bring guests and potential members.

Bill Edwards

Al & Dennis Hom

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Trading Post. Other memories included the El Rancho Movie Theater, the Jess Ranch Trout and Turkey Farm, plus Pioneer Market and Western Auto on D Street.

Their parent's legacy was the New State Cafe in the 1960's The restaurant served American and Chinese food and everyone ate there as there were not many places to eat in Victorville. They were very busy, working seven days a week. On Friday and Saturday nights the boys would go up on the roof of the second floor motel that ran across the whole block and watch the bar fights coming out of the Covered Wagon Bar!

One evening someone fell asleep in the motel with a cigarette in hand and set the motel up in flames, burning down the whole block, including the New State Cafe. The family was devastated.

Soon enough the family took over running The Red Log in Victorville, a dinner only establishment. This allowed Tommy and Edna not have to work so hard, while still making a good living for the family.

During their teenage years, Al and Dennis enjoyed cruising and street racing at the Victor Plaza, but were shooed away many times to do their street racing on Corwin Road and at the Apple Valley Regional Airport, which was located at Highway 18 and Rancherias, now the site of Viva Maria's.

Their family name was finally cemented in the High Desert with the land purchase, building and opening of Hom's Restaurant on Palmdale Road. Their parents worked so hard. When it came time to retire, Tommy and Edna did not want Al and Dennis to take it over, as they worked to allow their children a better life, one where they didn't have to work as hard as they did. The location is now called House of Joy.

That is the story told by Al and Dennis, with more to come in the future.



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**



CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

Big Blue Poker Chip



Mike Johnson had the chance to pick the Blue Poker Chip, and picked a green one and saved the chance for another Rotarian.

We will continue next week with 9 chips and \$325 for the one lucky Rotarian who has their ticket drawn.

Raffle

Don Lager was the Flagstar winner this week! Don left the meeting with a tumbler, utility knife and an ice cream scooper, all from Mike Johnson. Mr. Lager gave away a gift card that will be used by Bob Basen



and Angel Espino donated a book and water bottle that was taken home by Dr. Ron Boyd.



Finally, Bill Edwards gave away a Belavi porch swing with pillow that was won by Rob Kilpatrick, but the ol' softie gave it to Arsalee Morales who REALLY wanted it!

Fine Session

Bill Edwards was our Fine Master this week and began by fining Don Lager \$10 for stopping by and still getting rent from Howard's, even though they have left.

Rob Kilpatrick was in attendance and was also penalized \$10 for having the Spoon for a whole month and not attending one meeting to use it! Since it takes 12 million gallons of water per day for the VVWRA do successfully do their jobs, he left with \$12 less in his pocket. Finally, Bill fined himself \$10 since he will be taking his mother-in-law's dog to Dr. Ron Boyd.

Spoon of Exemption


The Spoon was made available to purchase for the month of June and was bid on for \$50 by Arsalee Morales. Mike Johnson countered that by offering \$75 for it and won it for the month.

Currently at Flagstar Bank, if you bring \$25,000 you can get a savings account that pays 5.55% APY for 5 months. The account is a liquid savings account with no fees. Please see Mike if you have any questions.

Presented by the Victor Valley College Foundation

PROUD TO BE VVC!

Scholarship Ceremony 2024



Tuesday, June 11, 2024
 Ceremony Begins at 9:00am
 Victor Valley College
 Performing Arts Center

The Polio Pig

Collected this week: \$20.00

Polio Pig: \$15 + Dice (Mike Johnson) \$5 = \$20.00

Collected to Date: \$20,502.33

Total equals: 101,983 Doses!

One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!

\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!



VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

Board of Directors

President 2023-2024	Steve Murray
President 2024-2025	Bryan Gillespie
President 2025-2027	Bill Edwards
President 2027 - 2028	Please be Interviewed
Immediate Past President/Special Projects.....	Arsalee Morales
Treasurer/Scholarships	David North
Executive Secretary/Foundation/Grants	Margaret Cooker
Club Service/Membership	Bryan Gillespie
Community Service/Speech Contests	Mike Johnson
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC/Ethics Essay.....	Ron Boyd
Vocational Service	Bill Edwards

Members-at-Large: Rob Kilpatrick & Bob Basen

Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary	Pam Murray
Billing Officer	Esther Mears
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Bill Edwards
Flowers and Gifts	Linda Hove
Foundation & Grants	Margaret Cooker
Fundraising.....	Arsalee Morales
Joshua Tree Editor	Chris Ackerman
Membership.....	Bryan Gillespie
Programs	Mike Page
Publicity/Public Relations	Rob Kilpatrick
Public Safety.....	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley, and John Wickum
Sergeant At Arms.....	Steve Murray
Scholarships.....	David North
S.T.A.R. Students	Maureen Mills and Michal Krause

The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship
at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Bear Valley
Country Club, 13229 Spring Valley Parkway, 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:	San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, DiNapoli's Firehouse, 1358 E Main St, Barstow, CA
THURSDAY:	Apple Valley, Rusty Bull, 13685 John Glenn Rd, Apple Valley, Noon. 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

- June 15: Demotion Party**
Home of Dan & Kris Dever
13166 Waco Road, Apple Valley, CA
4:00pm
- June 17: Board of Directors Meeting**
5:00pm Fellowship
5:30pm Board Meeting
Location: Robar Enterprises
17671 Bear Valley Road, Hesperia, CA
- July 13: Movie Night at the Hove's**
Movie: August Rush (2007) PG
More information soon

Upcoming Programs

- June 11:** Ashley Palmer, CTSA Manager, Victor Valley Transit Authority, **TOPIC "VVTA Programs that Benefit Seniors and Disabled"** (Ackerman)
- June 18:** Steve Murray and David North, **TOPIC "State of the Club"**
- June 25: OPEN**
- July 2: OPEN**
- July 9: OPEN**
- July 16: OPEN**

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