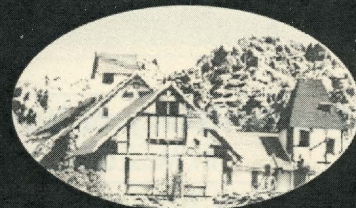


FAVIM Bulletin

Friends
of the
Antelope Valley
Indian Museum



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Elsie Purdy - Indian Museum Volunteer

BY FAVIM HISTORIAN, ANNE KITTLITZ

Elsie Purdy, a long time volunteer at the Indian Museum, has given the museum a very generous gift of \$30,000. This money will be used to renovate Yucca Cottage. The project that will be done with it are to put in an updated heating and cooling system, new book shelves and flooring. Also freshly painted rooms will be enjoyed by all.

Elsie became volunteer for the Indian Museum in 1982 when she took the Docent training class. Her long career as a teacher helped make her an excellent children's tour guide. She led school tours for many years. In recent years she has been a weekend volunteer where she welcomes visitors and helps them enjoy the native cultures through the artifacts at the museum. Elsie has accumulated 1840 volunteer hours working at the museum.

Also, during her years as a volunteer she served as the Classroom Visitation Coordinator during 1987 until 1994. This was a program where volunteers went to classes who had made reservations for a tour of the museum. She and her committee would acquaint the children about the cultures and artifacts they would be seeing on their tour of the museum. This prepared them for a much richer visit.

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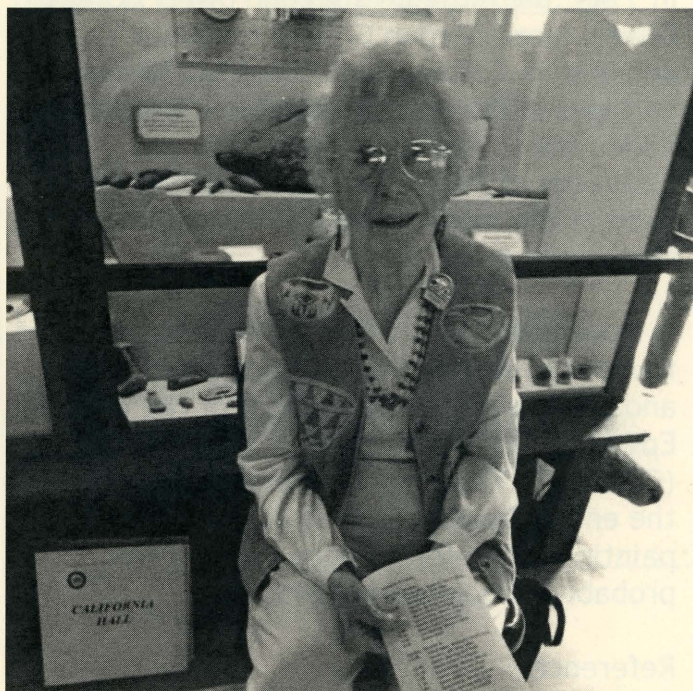
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<http://www.avim.parks.ca.gov/info.shtml>

But most of all, Elsie has been and still is an enthusiastic, knowledgeable and dependable volunteer. She has made a difference for many years. And now she has given such a generous gift that will help the State Park for many years. Thank you Elsie.



Elsie Purdy

A Short History of Yucca Cottage

BY MUSEUM CURATOR, PEGGY RONNING

The kitchen of Yucca Cottage was constructed by the museum's first owner Howard Arden Edwards. It appears in photographs of the museum complex dating to the 1930s, and it may be one of the cottages or outbuildings listed on Edwards' final proof testimony for his homestead claim in 1933.



Yucca Cottage in the 1930s
(Photo courtesy of Elaine Fetterman)

In 1944, the museum's second owner, Grace Oliver, hired Gordon Gain to renovate Yucca and Joshua Cottages and construct four new cottages in the museum complex. Gordon Gain added the sitting room, bedroom, and bathroom to Yucca Cottage. The Gain family lived at the museum from 1944 to 1946 during the construction.

In November 1944, Oliver hired museum founder H. A. Edwards to paint the cottages and the murals on the exterior of the museum. Edwards was in residence at Joshua Cottage (Casa de la Rosa) from November 1944 through the end of December 1945 to complete the painting. Therefore, Yucca Cottage was probably completed in 1945.

References:

Gain-Martin, Lorraine
2009 *Memories from the Mid-1940s*. Unpublished manuscript on file at Antelope Valley Indian Museum, Lancaster, California.

Oliver, Grace

1973 Letter written to Shelton Gordon regarding Grace Oliver's acquisition and operation of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum. August 15, 1973. Document on file at Antelope Valley Indian Museum, Lancaster, California.

Excerpt from the Museum *Docent Chants* newsletter, August 1987

This April [1987], a Minnesota couple, Russ and Clarice Olsen, walked onto the museum grounds (someone had obligingly left the gate unlocked). Jack [Atkinson, the museum caretaker] spotted them and was ready to send them on their way until he heard this story:

In April, 1954, Clarice had driven out to the Antelope Valley from Minnesota in her old Kaiser [automobile] to be married to the young Russ at Edwards Air Force Base where he was stationed. They were housed in a very hot Quonset hut! As the summer drew nearer, not suffering in silence, Clarice scanned the "for rent" ads and eventually found an interesting one to discuss with Russ. The ad described a cottage on private grounds in the desert, with a pool for \$75 per month, contact Grace Oliver!

Russ agreed; Clarice phoned; they moved and lived in Yucca (Docent) Cottage for three months that summer. They sunned on the buttes, splashed in the pool and had a terrific three-month honeymoon at Grace's oasis in the shadow of the present AVIM!

Jack loved their story and took them through the museum - changed but still unchanged in many ways, so the Olsens remarked. They had enjoyed Grace's stories and remembered Joe Oliver driving a tractor on the property and doing handyman kind of work.

The Olsens had almost given up finding that honeymoon cottage until a kind librarian in Littlerock gave them a map to the AVIM. We're glad Sam [Jack's ferocious guard dog] wasn't loose! Thanks for the story, Jack!



You can see in the 1939 photo that the living room of Yucca Cottage was not built yet. You can also see the barn peeking out from behind the cottage. The barn was not moved to its current location until 1948.



Bill Walkup judging the chili!

Another improvement this year was a discrete sound system for singer Michael Tcherkassky, so his music could be enjoyed by more visitors as he crooned cowboy poetry around the campfire. His wife, Paulette, served cowboy coffee to those brave enough to try it, and poured hot water for the kids to make cider or hot cocoa.

Rose Edwards' original 1940's chili recipe was reproduced by professional chef Jeffrey Rivera of Lake Los Angeles, so visitors could sample the rib-sticking chili she was known for at the early homesteaders' annual Christmas celebrations.

9th Annual Holidays on the Homestead

BY INTERPRETER I, JEAN RHYNE

After a week of rain followed Thanksgiving snow and the Weather Service distributed a cold weather warning for the weekend, attendance for the 2019 Holidays on the Homestead was expected to be low. However, over 130 visitors made the trek despite the forecast, and were rewarded with perfect weather for the event!

The grounds were exceptionally beautiful this year, with professional lighting services donated by Erick Pelaez of Erick Production Designs. The up-lighting of the Joshua trees, lighting of pathways and buildings, and highlighting of the activity areas with vibrant colors brought a professional look and feel to the event. Erick had attended the event the previous year, and graciously offered to contribute his talents to benefit our park!



Professional lighting by Erick Pelaez of Erick Production Designs

Jeffrey also delivered the straw bales for seating around the campfire, loaned for the event every year by The Feed Store. The firewood was donated by Lake Los Angeles' Moses Medina.

This year's chili cook-off winners were return-contestant Joanne Parker with her "Ranch Hand Chili" winning the first prize of a \$20 museum gift certificate, the Colman family's "Kick Your Butte" chili coming in second for a gourmet hot sauce set, and the third place prize of a day-use pass to any of the Great Basin District State Parks went to Lydia Alcantar's "Tumbleweed Chili"- which she looks forward to using with her granddaughter!

This year's chili cook-off judge was Bill Walkup, administrator of the Explorers of the Mojave Desert Facebook page and an ardent supporter of our State Parks. "XMD" shares family-friendly, non-political posts about our desert's beauty, and promotes responsible enjoyment of its natural and cultural features.

Originally a 1930's homestead, the museum's historic grounds were decorated in vintage style with live greenery made by volunteers.



Chili Cook-off winners left to right: Mike Tcherkassky, Bill Walkup, Jean Rhyne, Lydia Alcantar and her granddaughter, Stephanie Coleman, and Joanne Parker



Happy crafters at the craft boutique

State Park Interpreter Jean Rhyne led a nighttime tour of the grounds, including Lizard Cottage which was furnished for the evening with the original Monterey-style furniture seen in a 1950's dude ranch-era brochure.

The craft boutique featured three return crafters - Debra Wilson (Kitty Loaf Designs), Tracy Alden (Art Resurrected), and Jami Bostjancic (Accent Allusions) - and two new participants, Juliana Quiroz (Flint and Feather) and Sandy Parker (Auntie Bellum's Attic). Visitors enjoyed the needlework, jewelry, ornaments, and other festive creations that invoked the season, and the crafters enjoyed the ambiance of the evening and supporting the park's event.

Volunteers, FAVIM board members, and staff all worked together to make the 2019 Holidays on the Homestead the most smooth-running one yet! We are very happy that it continues to grow into a beloved holiday activity in our community.



New Shipment of Black Pottery

BY GIFT SHOP BUYER, SUSY MARTIN

We have some lovely new pieces of black pottery. The artist is Maria Adelicia, a native artist from New Mexico.

We have covered boxes, vases, and large fetish type figures. Come check it out.



New pottery by Marian Adelicia: a bear effigy, a box, a jar, and a large vase.



New pottery by Marian Adelicia: a jar, a box, and the buffalo effigy is also a magnet!

President Sez

BY FAVIM PRESIDENT, DON BORCHERS

I would like to give a big shout-out to Elsie Purdy, a long time Antelope Valley Indian Museum docent. She has given a very generous donation to FAVIM and the Museum. The donation will be used for the renovation of Yucca Cottage.

Elsie has spent many hours in the cottage with other docents eating lunch and talking about past museum activities. We hope to start the renovations in the spring. Thank you Elsie!



FRIENDS OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY INDIAN MUSEUM DIRECTORS 2019-2020

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FAVIM Bulletin Editor: *Vacant Position*

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State Historic Park

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(Avenue M between 150th St. & 170th St. East)

Phone: 661-946-3055



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

<http://www.avim.parks.ca.gov>

and FAVIM is now on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/AVIndianMuseum>

Your Membership Is Important To FAVIM

FAVIM raises funds to support Projects and Activities at Antelope Valley Indian Museum.

Membership is renewed each September, except in the case of Life Membership.

Please make membership checks payable to "Friends of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum" (or "FAVIM"), and return to: P.O. Box 1171, Lancaster, CA 93584.

If you are not yet a member, and would like to support the Indian Museum, and receive a quarterly FAVIM Bulletin, and also receive a 10% Discount with Membership Card to use in the FAVIM Gift Shop, please send your check to the above address.

Select BULLETIN Delivery Option:

- either Email - provide Email address
- or USPS Postal mail

Dues:

Individual	\$ 15	Organization	\$ 35
Family	\$ 20	Patron	\$ 50
Life	\$ 200		

If your name or address is not correct, or you have moved, or you just need information about the Park or FAVIM, please call 661-946-3055.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PO Box 1171, Lancaster, CA 93584

Indian Museum

Friends of the Antelope Valley

