

**MOJAVE TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM FOUNDATION
and MOJAVE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

www.mojavemuseum.org

**PLANE-TRAIN CRAZY SATURDAY
CELEBRATING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF MOJAVE!
After Action Report – SEPTEMBER 17, 2016**

Photos by Cathy Hansen, Mike Massee and Roy Gant



Mojave Transportation Museum Foundation and Mojave Chamber of Commerce joined together for Plane-Train Crazy Saturday celebrating Mojave's 140th Anniversary.

Thank you Senator Jean Fuller and Assembly Member Tom Lackey for the beautiful California Legislature Resolution, thank you Congressman Kevin McCarthy for your warm letter of congratulations and thank you Supervisor Zach Scrivner for the



Certificate of Recognition from the Kern County Board of Supervisors. Presentations were made before Bill Deaver, MTM Vice President, gave a thorough history of the multiple railroads that existed in the area, beginning with Southern Pacific Railroad Company in 1876.

Pictured in the above photo: *(Left to right)* Keenan Hothschild, representative from the Office of Congressman McCarthy; Bill Deaver, MTM Vice President; Cathy Hansen, MTM President, holding Resolution, Ben Stark, representative from the Office of Senator Fuller and Assembly Member Tom Lackey.

Photo by Roy Gant

The Resolution, letters and certificates will be on display at Mission Bank for all to read.

Like many towns and communities that were built in or near the Mojave Desert after California's admission into the Union in 1850, Mojave owes its existence to goods hauling and passenger routes created by the Southern Pacific Railroad Company which established and named the township of Mojave on August 8, 1876 – the same year the first passenger train arrived.

Bill's presentation, complete with historical photos, stirred memories for many Mojave 'old-timers.'

Just seeing the Mojave train station with Harvey House on the second story of the building, was a treat.



Bill told of other railroads in the region, including the Randsburg Railroad, Epson Salts Railroad, the Trona Railroad and the Carson and Colorado that later became Southern Pacific narrow gauge. It operated from Mound House, NV to Keeler, CA. After Southern Pacific acquired it, the route was eventually cut back to Laws, CA (just east of Bishop) and the railroad ended its days running between Laws and Keeler, with an interchange to the SP Jawbone branch at Owenyo, a bit up the line from Keeler. The original plan was to run the C&C all the way down to Mojave, but it only made it as far as Keeler before the mining and other interests that the railroad served began to wane.

In 1967, Bill and his mother, Marion Deaver, wrote chapters in the book *"Along the Rails from Lancaster to Mojave."* Mrs. Deaver wrote the chapter entitled, 'The History of Mojave' and Bill wrote a chapter on the railroad history.



Santa Fe Railroad arrived in 1884 and that same year Mojave became a terminus for the Twenty Mule teams which brought borax ore to Mojave for shipment by rail. Mojave was the site of construction of the famed mule team wagons, designed by J.W.S. Perry and manufactured by J. A. Delameter at a cost of \$900 each.

The rear wheels on the Borax wagons were seven feet high and made of one-inch thick iron. The wagon beds were constructed of solid oak and measure sixteen feet long and six feet deep. They weighed 7,800 pounds empty.

Remi Nadeau constructed a warehouse and a blacksmith shop, eating house and bunk house for his teamsters.

In November 1876, the Borax Lake of Death Valley Company, later known as The San Bernardino Borax Company, built an office in Mojave and loaded borax onto trains in Mojave, bound for San Francisco for refining. This site on Sierra Highway, where Colonel Sanders Chicken restaurant used to be, has been designated a California Registered Historical Landmark (No.652).

The routes were from Furnace Creek, CA to Mojave and from the mines at Old Borate to Mojave. The town of Mojave was the nearest railroad spur and it was 165 miles from Death Valley! The 330 mile round trip took twenty days to complete.

The railroad constructed homes for workers on the west side of the railroad tracks and they are still standing today! Buildings were assembled to last for many years back then. I wonder if they would have guessed that they would still be standing 100 years later! Bill Deaver told us that the railroad house he lives in on H Street is over 100 years old.

Out on the flightline of Mojave Air and Space Port was a mixture of vintage airplanes, a variety of scale



model trains, plus Sanico Trains LTD of Lancaster. Emmanuel Sanico 661.917.0546 will bring his train to your event or private party. Everyone enjoyed a ride down the famous flight line at Mojave Air and Space Port!

Al Hansen's Canadair F-86 Mk-6 with the Avro Orenda 14 turbojet engine that develops 7,275 shaft horsepower and was the favorite fighter jet of American pilots during the Korean War.

In response to the MiG-15, the U.S. sent the Sabre to Korea, setting up one of the classic aerial confrontations of all time. On paper, the MiG-15 and the F-86A were fairly evenly matched and with the introduction of the improved F-86E model with a more powerful engine, the Sabre could easily out fly the MiG at low to medium altitudes and hold its own at higher altitudes. However it was the superiority of the American Sabre pilots that made the difference in what became known as "MiG Alley". In less than three years

of intense combat, often against overwhelming odds, F-86 pilots established a kill ratio of better than 8-to-1 over the MiG-15 and claimed nearly 800 of the Russian built fighters.

Two famous astronauts flew F-86s with the 51st Fighter Wing in Korea – Major John Glenn (USMC) and 1st Lt. Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin (USAF). Other familiar names with the 51st and 4th FIW, include: Capt. Iven C. Kincheloe (USAF) – Ace (5); Capt. Ralph D. "Hoot" Gibson (USAF) – Ace (5); Col. Francis S. "Gabby" Gabreski (USAF) – Korean Ace (6.5) (USAAC) – WWII Ace (28); Capt. Ralph S. Parr (USAF) Korean Ace – (10); Maj. Frederick C. "Boots" Blesse (USAF) – Korean Ace (10); Maj. James Jabara (USAF) Korean Ace – (15) and Capt. Joseph D. McCommell Jr. (USAF) – Korean Ace (16).

The top-ranking aces in the war were Captain Joseph D. McConnell JR, with 16 kills; Major James Jabara, with 15 kills; and Captain Manuel "Pete" Fernandez with 14 kills. Jabara had actually been the first jet ace and

was in competition with McConnell, but Jabara's eagerness got the better of him and his 16th kill turned out to be a Sabre. The pilot escaped unharmed, though a 12.7-millimeter bullet grazed him close enough to tear open his life jacket.

Mike Masee and Eber West set up their meticulously hand-constructed 7.5-inch scale steam engines with hand built riding cars for display.

Eber's steam engine is an oil burning design, while



Mike's engine runs on coal.

Al and Cathy Hansen had a coal burning Shay steam engine on display, and a Fairmont speeder.

Al Hansen brought the USMC, all aluminum body, Mighty Mite M-422 down for display, as well. The M-422 was designed as a very role specific vehicle for the United States Marine Corps. During the Vietnam War, the Marines needed a Jeep that could be carried by their combat helicopter into any situation while still being light enough to allow the helicopter to carry other items and/or personnel.



Miss Mojave, Courtney Woodruff; Jr. Miss Mojave, Colleen Murillo and Tiny Miss Mojave, Deanna Vidales with their new Mojave shirts!

Thank you to Doug Pickard and the Tehachapi Loop Railroad Club for coming to help celebrate our 140th Anniversary. They set up their portable 'O-Gauge' Lionel train layout. Kids of all ages loved it!





The Friends of the Tehachapi Depot had an exhibit with photos, shirts and lots of items for train lovers.

Thank you to MASP Operations Director, John Himes; CEO Karina Drees; Security Chief, Chris Spandorf; and the MASP Fire, Crash and Rescue Firemen for their exceptional support during this special occasion.

There were many happy faces on little kids and their parents after a tour of the big yellow MASP fire truck!



Thank you MASP Fire Chief, Rich Fauble for taking the time to share the cutting edge equipment that we are so lucky to have at Mojave Air and Space Port!

Maybe next time we can spray a little water!

Great to see Kern County Board of Trade on the ramp too handing out great information about the best county in the State of California!



Thank you to MTM Board members, Bill Deaver, Steve Rushford and Ursula Finkbeiner, as they were busy at the promotions table the entire time. Was great to see Chris Martin again too!

Mojave Chamber of Commerce President Doug Clipperton and Erma Martin of Mission Bank shared photos, brochures and the Train Town Emblem presented to the chamber by Union Pacific.

Golden Queen Mining Company, LTD Administration Manager Ken Mann was there giving away cups and reusable shopping bags and shared good news about the gold mine on Soledad Mountain, just south of Mojave. Go to:

<https://collab.dronebase.com/v/23d6a3135b43dae24907557345f21449> for an outstanding video taken by a drone! It shows their complete operation – very interesting. They have 180 employees working for them presently. Thank you Ken Mann and Golden Queen Mining for helping us celebrate 140 Years!





This beautiful Thorp T-18 belongs to Erin Hambrick and Phil Moores.

Erin is the Principal Engineer on the Strato-Launch Simulator at Scaled Composites.

Erin and Phil love their Thorp T-18 that they purchased from Howard and Elaine Ginn, and they are building a Harmon Rocket.

You could say they are "Plane Crazy!"



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The Loop Community Newspaper

Thom Lapworth -





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Karl's Hardware – Rosamond/Mojave/Boron

Next PLANE/TRAIN Crazy Saturday will be held on October 15, 2016 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
SALUTING OUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HEROES and EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL
 "Emergency" presentation at 11 a.m. in MASP Board Room
 Topic to be determined