



Town of Apple Valley

"A Better Way of Life"

Historical Points of Interest in Apple Valley



**Compiled by the 2021-2022
Apple Valley Historic Advisory
Committee**

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Dedication

The third edition of the “Town of Apple Valley’s Historical Points of Interest” booklet is dedicated to the 2002 and 2005 members of the Apple Valley Historic Advisory Committee, who produced the first two editions of the booklet. Historical research was also provided by the Mohave Historical Society’s Local History Room at Victor Valley College, Katie O’Rourke’s “History of Apple Valley” book, and the Lewis Center for Educational Research. After the committee spent several years considering many proposed sites, interviewing property owners, writing the descriptions, and designing the markers, the first edition was presented at a grand ceremony in front of the Westlund, then Rogers residence, April 24, 2002. Apple Valley Public Relations Officer, Kathie Martin, MC, introduced the speakers: Dorothy Westlund, wife of Apple Valley co-founder Bud Westlund, first residents of the property from 1949-1965, telling tales of her family’s experiences; and Roy Rogers, Jr., son of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, whose family resided there from 1965-1980, relating his family’s adventures in the home. Mayor Ted Burgnon made closing remarks and presentations. The ceremony was followed by a tour of the home, led by Dorothy Westlund and Dusty Rogers, who continued their interesting and somewhat unusual tales.

Apple Valley Town Council

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Mayor Pro Tem, Art Bishop
Council Member, Larry Cusack
Council Member, Curt Emick
Council Member, Scott Nassif

Historic Advisory Committee (2021-2022)

Chair, Rick Piercy
Vice Chair, Marcella Taylor
Member, Barbara Davisson
Member, Tom Hoegerman
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A Point of Interest

A “Point of Interest” is defined by the Town’s Municipal Code as a historic, cultural, or natural building, structure, site, or object associated with events or persons that made a significant contribution to local, state, or national history, and/or exemplifies a particular period of history, and/or displays unique or significant location, design, workmanship, or aesthetic feeling.

This booklet is intended to provide a glimpse into the rich history of Apple Valley. The sites listed do not represent a comprehensive list, nor does a site’s omission indicate less historical value. The Town is indebted to all individuals who researched sites and provided photos.





Town of Apple Valley History

There are several versions as to how Apple Valley acquired its name. According to local historian Mary Hampton, the name arose from the abundance of apple orchards that existed in the 1920's.

Unfortunately with the Great Depression and the expense of irrigation, the orchards withered. Some associate the name with the Appleton Land Company, based in this area in the early 1900's. Ursula Poates, an early homesteader, is credited with naming Apple Valley.

A temperate climate led to the establishments of health retreats around the turn of the century. The dry desert air was touted as a cure for all sorts of ailments, including tuberculosis and asthma. Some provided a haven for World War I shell shock victims, while others developed into guest ranches.

The modern developers of Apple Valley, Newton T. Bass and B.J. Westlund, partners in the oil and gas industry in Long Beach, formed the Apple Valley Ranchos Land Co. in 1946. The area was marketed as a destination resort and quality residential community. The construction of both the Apple Valley Inn and Hilltop House, provided a recreational outlet for both the townspeople and the rich and famous Hollywood celebrities Bass and Westlund sought to attract. The townspeople and the rich and famous Hollywood celebrities Bass and Westlund sought to attract.

The incorporation of Apple Valley in 1988 started as a feasibility study for a graduate course taught by Dick Pearson in 1983. The Local Agency Formation Commission completed a formal study in 1986 and "Measure K" was placed on the ballot for November 8, 1988. With 10,683 yes votes to 2,117 no votes, 84% of voters approved the incorporation of the Town of Apple Valley.



Early Apple Valley Business Directory

A. John Charles Thomas Romany Hall

Address: 21066 North Outer Highway 18

John Charles Thomas, born in 1891 in Meyersdale, Pa., became an established star of Broadway musicals. He made his operatic debut in 1924, singing baritone with the Royal Opera in Brussels, and the New York Metropolitan Opera House. During WWII he performed at military bases and Victory Bond rallies. Thomas introduced "Home on the Range" and many other popular American songs, and was the first to sing "The Lord's Prayer."

When Thomas and his wife Dorothy moved to Apple Valley, they had two houses constructed. While they lived in the Rancheria home, the Hwy. 18 home, built in the early 1950's, was used by Thomas to teach music lessons and rehearse his newly developed popular singing group, the Romanies. They performed regularly at the Apple Valley Inn, at early Pow Wow celebrations, as well as at many other local events. The home, which was built in a u-shape around the pool, has five bedrooms and five bathrooms, two kitchens, and a large great room at the entrance.

A pioneering figure in radio, Thomas started the KAVR Apple Valley Ranchos station, which broadcast from the Inn. The program opened each day with Thomas singing "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning," and closed with him singing "The Lord's Prayer."





B. Apple Valley's Pink House

Address: 13733 Navajo Road

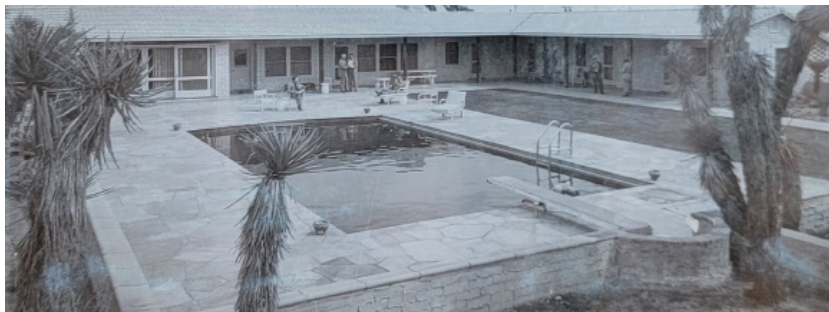
Newt Bass and Bud Westlund, the two developers of "modern" Apple Valley, sold their first town lot on Feb. 22, 1946. This parcel was in AV Ran-chos Unit 1, which consisted of a tier of 25 lots on the east side of Navajo, and another 100 lots on the west side. Bass took two for himself: the large corner lot at Hwy 18 and Navajo, for commercial purposes, and the lot just north of that for a home site.

The structure built on the residential lot by architect Hugh Gibbs of Long

Beach, came to be known as the "Pink House." It has many design elements similar to those of the Apple Valley Inn, which Gibbs also designed. These include huge timber beams from the Tonopah and Tidewater railroad trestle, wagon wheel chandeliers, and wood paneling.

Bass and his wife Virginia were known for entertaining guests at the Pink House. After his partner, Westlund, who owned a sprawling house on Rancherias, built a new house for his wife on Symeron and Hwy 18, he gave the Rancherias house to Bass. Bass in turn donated the Navajo house to the Apple Valley Rancho Company. From March of 1949 until 1952, the property was used as the Ranchos' administrative office, until a new office was built across from the Inn.

In 1952 the Pink House was sold to golf pro Cleve Clayton for \$60,000, a hefty price tag for the time. The property, which includes a main house, a stable (later converted to rental units), and a pool surrounded by flagstone paving, has been well-maintained, and contains many of the original design elements of 1949.



C. El Pueblo Shops

Address: 21810 Highway 18

The El Pueblo Shops, located in the original Village of Apple Valley, were constructed in 1949 just east of the AV Ranchos office building. Consisting of two strip-type buildings facing each other, with an inviting lawn and shade trees between, the complex encouraged not only shopping, but picnics and relaxation for residents and visitors to the new town of Apple Valley.

The first business to open in 1949 was Arthur R. Shields, Public Accountant, who occupied Unit 7. That same space was later occupied by George

E. Scott of Victor Valley Insurance, then Stockton and Chase Construction. Judy Rose Donut Bar moved into Unit 3, Western Fashion into Unit 4, Children's Round-up into Unit 5, Larriato Cafe in Unit 9, and the Oasis Malt Shop into Unit 1. Other businesses occupying the site included Mar-Len Desert Casuals, a yardage store, a beauty shop, a barbershop, a massage parlor, and a dentist.

Over the years various businesses such as antique shops, thrift stores, and counseling services have occupied the building, helping to preserve an important piece of Apple Valley history.





D. Yucca Loma Elementary School

Address: 21351 Yucca Loma Road

The first Apple Valley school was located on the Carroll homestead, at present day Deep Creek and Rock Springs Roads. In order to have the required six pupils to open a school, the enterprising Mr. Carroll imported Esther Larsen of Long Beach to join the two Foster children, the two Carroll children, and Bill Phillips.

In 1913 the school building was moved to the corner of Deep Creek and Bear Valley on land donated by the Westphals. The following year the Bell Mountain School was established on the Corwin Ranch property. These students became part of the Victorville School District. Eventually, all attended Yucca Loma School.

During the 1930's, community members and the Apple Valley Grange made additions to the Bear Valley site through the WPA (Works Progress Administration), a work relief program under the "New Deal" of the Hoover and Roosevelt era. A new kitchen, meeting room, and stage served both the students and community groups.

In 1950 the buildings were moved a second time to a location on Yucca Loma Road. The original school building was in use until 1955, when it was moved off campus. It continued to be used for school purposes and as a youth center until being dismantled in 1978. The bell has been preserved at the District Offices on Navajo Road.

A 1992 excavation of the Bear Valley site, conducted by Dr. Lee Kinney in conjunction with the Historical Preservation Committee, the Victor Valley Museum, and Victor Valley College, not only uncovered vintage school supplies, but provided a construction history of the school.



E. James A. Woody Community Center

Address: 13467 Navajo Road

With the formation of the Community Services District in 1950, the idea of a Community Center was launched. Bass and Westlund again donated the land, and members of the community provided much of the materials and labor. The CSD held fundraisers to finance construction.

The “Buck a Block” campaign was a great success. Blocks were “bor-rowed” from the local Tingley Lumber Co., Then sold to community mem-bers for \$1.00. The donation entitled a person to have his name painted on the block. When construction was completed in 1951, the Community Center became the gathering place for dinners, dances, and the annual Pow Wow Days.

The portion of the building that was destroyed by fire in 1954 was soon rebuilt. The Arts and Crafts room, named for Esther Brown, a founding member of the Apple Valley Art Guild, was added. A final addition, the Les Ward Room, was built in 1971. In 2017 the Gymnasium was dedicated to Mike Martin, a staple in the youth sports community. Today the Town of Apple Valley Park and Recreation Department uses the facility for classes and activities. It is also available to rent for weddings, parties, and other social events.





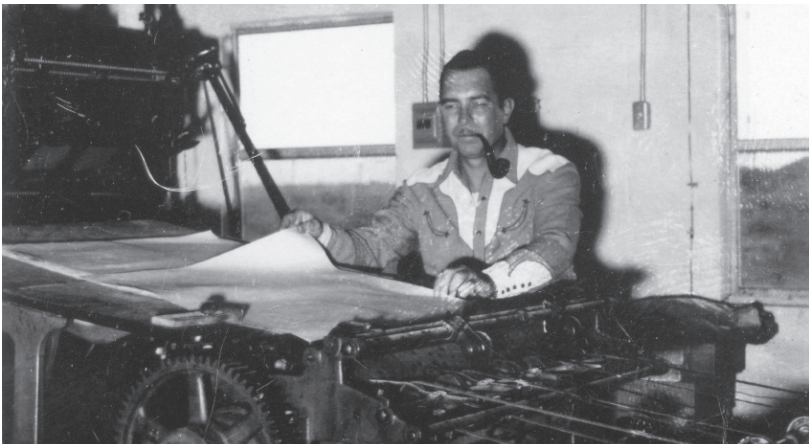
F. Conrad Publishing House

Address: 21825 South Outer Highway 18

In 1951 Warren White constructed a new building to house a newspaper publishing business. Al and Mollie Brunsdon were the first publishers listed in the masthead in 1948, then C. Allen Smith, in 1949, then Bud and Evan Conrad, who bought the paper from Smith in 1950, which they operated until 1983. Additions were made to the building as the business grew.

Besides the well-known "Apple Valley News," the company printed local newspapers for the communities of Big Bear, Running Springs, Lake Arrow-head, and Wrightwood, as well as the Marine Corps Bases in Twenty-nine Palms and Barstow, and George Air Force Base in Victorville. They also printed business stationery, four-color, annual reports, catalogs, and other products businesses needed.

Under the Conrads, the "Apple Valley News" had as its motto: "A Very Independent Newspaper." Eva, who used the slogan "See No Eva," covered local news extensively, including high school sports and society events. Eva was deeply involved in the community and put a personal spin on the town events she covered. (See Appendix pages 29-31 for some tidbits of the boom days of Apple Valley.)



G. Lone Wolf Colony

Address: 23200 Bear Valley Road

Sam Coldwell, whose Indian name was “Lone Wolf,” came to the Victor Valley in 1922 to establish a retreat for World War I veterans recovering from exposure to mustard gas. At the time he lived in Victorville in a one-room cabin and worked for Home Telephone.

In 1926, with 250 volunteers from Pacific Bell, Lone Wolf Colony was established. The original living quarters, six tent houses, were moved in from Dry River Flats. A 6,000 square foot ranch house and ten one-room cabins were soon built. The cabins were rent-free for employees, and came with three meals per day, served in the dining room. Food was grown on the property's 20 acres.

Fundraisers such as boxing matches helped support the colony at first.

Then when Sam died in 1934 from complications of tuberculosis, the colony was sold to Pacific Bell for \$1. In 1967 the phone company sold the colony to its employees, again for \$1. United Way funded the colony from 1967 until 1983.

The ranch is still used for recuperative purposes, free of charge, to those who qualify. A doctor's letter stating a stay would be beneficial to a patient's health is all that is needed.

Accommodations include a pool, a saunna, spa, and library, as well as a

57-unit camping area. Rentals of campsites, and the main hall for events and meetings, generates income, allowing the non-profit to give back by hosting community events such as the Easter egg hunt and annual backpack giveaways.

A very interesting and educational Telephone Museum is also open for visits.





H. Western White House

Address: 22974 Bear Valley Road

Richard Nixon's Western White House was located on a U.S. Coast Guard base near his home, "Casa Pacifica," in San Clemente. Within the confines of the nine modular units, decisions were made that affected lives around the world. Leaders such as John Erlichman, Chief Domestic Affairs Advisor; Bob Haldeman, Chief of Staff; and Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State, worked in the buildings.

When the complex was declared surplus by the government in 1979, it was purchased by the Apple Valley Unified School District for use as the district offices. The cost of \$150 per modular unit, plus \$10,000 in relocation costs, was less than one-third of what new construction would have cost. According to Art Bolding, AVUSD business manager at the time, the new building was a step up from the previous Board Room, which was located in the bus barn.

However, the new facility was not without its problems. When district staff attempted to tape record the first school board meeting, which was common procedure, something went wrong. It was soon discovered that the ceiling and walls of the former President's office, were loaded with various types of electronic blocking equipment, installed to keep hackers from listening in.

Other remnants of President Nixon's office remain. The original teakwood paneling is still on the walls, and the indentations of the military branch flags are visible in the carpet.



I. Early Apple Valley School

Location: *Southeast corner of Bear Valley and Deep Creek Roads*

The first Apple Valley school was located on the Carroll homestead, at Deep Creek and Rock Springs Road. To enroll the six pupils required to open a school, the enterprising Mr. Carroll imported Esther Larsen of Long Beach to join two Foster children, two Carroll children, and Bill Phillips.

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During the 1930's, community members and the Apple Valley Grange made additions to the Bear Valley site through the WPA (Works Progress Administration), a work relief program under the "New Deal" of the Hoover and Roosevelt era. A new kitchen, meeting room, and stage served both the students and community groups.

In 1950 the buildings were moved a second time to a location on Yucca Loma Road. The original school building was in use until 1955, when it was moved off campus. It continued to be used for school purposes and as a youth center until being dismantled in 1978. A 1992 excavation of the Bear Valley site, conducted by Dr. Lee Kinney along with the Historical Preservation Committee, the Victor Valley Museum, and Victor Valley College, uncovered vintage school supplies, and provided a construction history of the school.





J. Jess Ranch Turkeys

Location: Jess Ranch Marketplace & Sun City Development Area

Dr. Harris Garcelon and his wife homesteaded the original 160 acres of what is now the Jess Ranch area in 1910. They advertised the ranch as being an ideal climate to cure asthma and tuberculosis.

It later became a sanatorium for World War I shell shock victims. Besides opening the first hospital in the valley, and traveling miles in his buggy to deliver babies and tend to patients, the doctor also turned his property into a guest ranch where early cowboy movies, starring Tom Mix and Wil-liam S. Hart, were filmed.

Although Dr. Garcelon had a vision of his ranch being developed into a master planned community, with a golf course, swimming pool and other amenities, the Great Depression put an end to those plans. He sold the ranch to his nephew, Stoddard Jess, in 1932.



Jess teamed up with his neighbor, Gay Lewis, a homesteader since 1901, to start a 900-acre tur-key farming operation. From a modest start with 200 birds, Jess Ranch developed into one of the largest integrated turkey ranches in the western United States. The ranch had its own hatch-ery, with a capacity of 80,000 eggs per setting. People could buy eggs, poults, and meat birds. 80,000 turkeys (15-pound hens and 28-pound toms) were processed per year. The fifty-year operation employed many locals, who raised the birds from eggs, then processed, packaged, and shipped them to consumers throughout

the southland. The 1955 Apple Valley Ranchos driving tour advised: "Drive slow. ... Do not blow horn. Any excessive noise will panic the turkeys and they will trample themselves to death."



J. Jess Ranch Trout Farm

Address: 11495 Apple Valley Road

Wanting to make use of his water rights, Stoddard Jess built a series of nineteen impound lakes. He was able to raise 2,000,000 trout of the Royal Coachman brand per year. Both live and dressed trout were sent to Southern California markets. Starting in April of 1955, he opened his an-gling ponds to fisherman, charging a \$1.00 entry fee plus 35 cents per fish caught, no limits and no license required. The water, fortified by the pres-ence of fish, served as a nutrient-rich irrigation source for the then 1,500-acre ranch. Using the most advanced technology of the time, Jess produced his own fish pellets, from alfalfa and other grains he raised.

The ranch began losing money in the early 1970's, falling victim to the energy crisis, as well as the many farm conglomerates suddenly springing up around the area. He, therefore, made the decisions to cease turkey production in 1977, and close the trout farm at the end of 1994.

Jess took the opportunity to turn his land into the master-planned retire-ment community envisioned by his uncle, Dr. Harris Garcelon. Opened in 1986 as a gated complex for people 55 and older, Jess Ranch today includes housing, recreation facilities, retail stores, a church, fire station, and an RV park. The opening of the golf course in 1993 completed Garcelon's dream.

Compare Jess Ranch today to the 1926 architectural plans on display in the sales office trailer. While there are no more turkeys to be found, trout farming was reinstated in 2000. Jess Ranch Fishing Lakes are open and stocked with both trout and catfish, for enjoyment of both the casual fish-erman and the pro, hoping to win one of the popular fishing derbies.





K. Yucca Loma Ranch

Address: 13342 Rincon Road

Catherine Boynton of Colorado Springs, Colorado, had a vision of a peace-ful place where she could provide spiritual and medical help to those who needed it. She found just such a place in 1911, a few miles east of Victor-ville, that was to develop into the famous Yucca Loma Ranch.

In the ranch's heyday of the 1920's, Los Angeles papers regularly published accounts of the comings and goings of the Hollywood set who visited. The clean air and wide open spaces of the desert attracted a diverse group of visitors, many from back east and overseas, as evidenced by the guestbook's entries.

The 160-acre homestead, boasted about 30 unique structures, including guest cottages, residences, a barn, a pumphouse, a pool, tennis courts, and servants' dwellings. Guests and residents alike were provided three meals a day served in the main ranch house, with dinner often followed by lively discussions of world news and politics, games, and musical entertainment. The ranch, a mini-community in itself, made many contributions to the culture and image of the Victor Valley from the 1920's to early 1950's.

The only remaining ranch structure is the David Manners house, former home to the flamboyant movie star who lived to be 98 years old. He claimed the best years of his life were spent in his little adobe house built in the early 1930's. There, in his retirement, Manners wrote several books, penned a weekly column in the Victor Press called "Under the Old Yucca Tree," invited friends over to listen to music on the radio, view the stars and planets through his telescope, and enjoy life in general.



L. Adobe House

Address: 14546 Riverside Drive

The 1958 "Adobe House," the first home built on Riverside Drive, sits on a fenced six-acre estate property. In addition to the 4,000 square-foot house, with 6,000 feet of roof coverage, a pool with a 900 square-foot guest house offers luxury living. The inspiration for the home came from Adelaide Newton, wife of George Newton, an Apple Valley Ranchos salesman, also well-known for his Newton's Outpost at the Cajon Summit.

Designed by Douglas McFarland of McFarland and Bonsall, Los Angeles architects, the house shared similar elements with the Apple Valley Ranchos Sales Office (now Agio Real Estate,) and the original Bank of Apple Valley, which the company also designed. The contractor was Gibbs, Clark, and Mangrum, (the Lloyd Mangrum golf pro.)

The rough-cut cedar and adobe brick construction required no paint. The high roof line, large overhang, and open-air circulation in the attic, was adequate to maintain comfortable temperatures without air conditioning. The thick solid kiln-dried hard pine beams, some up to 25 feet long in the main room, lend character.

As no natural gas was available in that section of Apple Valley, the house was originally designed as a "Gold Medallion Home," an all-electric house featured by Edison Co. ads for Apple Valley Ranchos Development where they touted the Adobe House, as did the Home section of the "Los Angeles Times." The estate was passed down to their son, also named George, and his wife Ede.





M. St. Mary Regional Catholic School

Address: 18320 Highway 18

In 1953 Monsignor Van Garssee opened St. Mary's Academy, with an enrollment of 120 students. Developers Bass and Westlund donated the land for the school site. In the spring of 1954 the Immaculate Heart Sisters took over the operation of the school; then in 1968 the Benedictine Sisters took charge, assisted by a strong lay staff. During the 1970's the school expanded its curriculum to include 9th grade. When kindergarten classes were added in 1974, the name was changed to St. David's School, to coincide with the new Apple Valley Parish of St. David. Shortly thereafter, the name was changed back to St. Mary's School.

Several other name changes occurred in the coming years. When the 9th grade curriculum was discontinued in 1983, the school was renamed Our



Lady of the Desert Catholic School, in conjunction with the Church of Our Lady of the Desert, which had been built behind the campus. Preschool classes were added in 1987. On Oct. 12, 1992, his Excellency Bish-op Gerald Barnes rededicated the facility as St. Mary's Regional Catholic School, under the auspices of the Diocese of San Bernardino, Office of Catholic Schools. In 2003 the school celebrated fifty years of quality Catholic education.

After the school officially closed, the campus was used by the Academy for Academic Excellence for upper elementary grades. Today the church is again using the facility.

N. Westlund's Family

Address: 19900 North Outer Highway 18

When Apple Valley co-founder Bud Westlund discovered that his new wife, Dorothy, did not particularly like a house he owned on Rancherias Road, he quickly made plans to build her a unique adobe along Highway 18 at Symeron. Designed by architect John Blesch, and constructed by Leo Chase, the 1949 four-bedroom, two bath house was large for its time, with beamed ceilings and a custom rock roof. Newly revised covenant re-strictions protected the joshua trees on the more than two-acre property with a backyard pool.

During the early 1950's, the Westlund home was an Apple Valley land-mark. Coming from Victorville, visitors were told to "travel quite aways across the Narrows bridge until you come to the adobe house on the left side-that's where Apple Valley begins." (Mary Hampton, "Our Apple Valley: A Chatty Guide.")

Before long Dorothy Westlund started making extensive renovations to the house, adding a whole wing, and turning the home into an estate property. The master suite, large bath, and male and female dressing rooms were of a different construction than the original adobe, boasting huge doors and plaster walls, with a basement space underneath. The original garage became a den; the long porch became a dining room. Eventually a large garage, a carport, a workshop, stables, a tackroom, corrals, and a practice room were added.

The Westlunds hosted many social gatherings in the home, where they raised their three sons: Ben, Richard, and Morris. Pictures of the property appeared in numerous Ranchos promotional publications, including the "LA Times," and "Herald Examiner" supplements, as well as Long Beach papers and local maps. The family sold the house and relocated to Oregon in 1965.





N. Rogers' Family Home

Address: 19900 North Outer Highway 18

Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, and family passed through Apple Valley on the way to their cottage in Big Bear, often stopping at the Apple Valley Inn. Having fallen in love with the area, they “retired” to the desert after tragically losing their 12-year-old adopted daughter Debbie in a church bus accident.

In 1964 Roy leased the Apple Valley Inn from Newt Bass, renaming it the Roy Rogers Apple Valley Inn. The following year the couple purchased the Westlund home, then opened the first Roy Rogers Museum in 1967, all three properties on Highway 18 within a few blocks of each other. Upon arriving in Apple Valley, daughter Dodie entered eighth grade at Apple Valley Jr. High School, while son Roy, Jr. (Dusty) completed his senior year at Victor Valley HS. One son and three daughters were already married. Soon after settling in, another tragedy occurred. Son Sandy died while stationed in Germany.

The Apple Valley community was very welcoming to the Rogers family, and respected their privacy. As stated by daughter Mimi Rogers Swift at the 70th Anniversary of the Apple Valley Inn: “Mom and Dad could finally relax and be themselves, going to church, shopping, and playing cards with the neighbors, after the circus of living in Hollywood and the Valley.”

The Rogers lived in the Highway 18 house until 1980, when they moved a few blocks away to a new home on Tomahawk. But memories of Roy and Dale and their family linger. Fans can see the storage room where Dale hung her costumes, the wagon wheel and tack Roy placed in the front yard, and the home’s central sound system, with Roy’s handwritten instructions. The current owner has kept the history alive, by keeping the traditional antique and western decor, and purchasing items from sales and auctions of Rogers memorabilia. This home is a nostalgic part of Apple Valley’s heritage. In 1994, in recognition of the famous couple’s contributions to the Town, Highway 18 was renamed Happy Trails Highway in their honor.



Publicity Shot - Roy and Dale - 1966
Kitchen of first Apple Valley home
19900 Highway 18



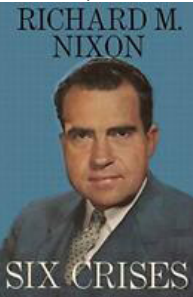
O. Fairhope House

Address: 14695 Tigertail Road

The Fairhope House, built in 1955 as a one-story, four-bedroom house by Mervyn Hope, President of Hollywood Savings and Loan, was later acquired by Newt Bass as VIP lodging for the booming Apple Valley Inn. Notable guests included Bob Hope, Billy Graham, and Richard Nixon. The house has not changed much since it was built, although the view which once looked over the Apple Valley Golf Course has been obstructed by development.

After serving eight years as Vice President of the United States under Dwight D. Eisenhower, then suffering a 1961 defeat to John F. Kennedy, one of the closest Presidential elections in U.S. history, Nixon retreated to California at Bass's invitation. Nixon had enjoyed stays at the Apple Valley Inn several times before. Here in Apple Valley Bass provided Nixon with accommodations, as well as either car transportation or use of his twin-engine AERO Commander with a very competent pilot.

During his three-month stay at Fairhope, Nixon completed his first book, "Six Crises," chronicling in detail his involvement in six events that marked important turning points in his life. This was accomplished by the use of



a Dictaphone, then transcription in longhand. Here in Apple Valley, Nixon even began toying with the idea of re-entering the political arena and running for governor of California.

Nixon expressed his appreciation to Bass through a handwritten note dated October 25, 1961, that partially appears on a plaque in front of the house: "You were thoughtful indeed to have placed Fairhope House at my disposal, and I assure you that its seclusion and comfort helped greatly to make my efforts productive."





P. Apple Valley Center For Innovation

Address: 20702 Thunderbird Road

The Apple Valley Center for Innovation formerly known as the Lewis Center for Educational Research, is globally recognized for its unique partnership with NASA. The concept for the center was developed in 1985 by kindergarten teacher Rick Piercy.

Teachers, parents, students and business partners worked for five years to raise the initial \$2 million to build the first phase, which was the observatory.

The groundbreaking ceremony in 1987 was followed by a grand opening in October of 1990. In May of 1997 the center was granted a Public School Charter, the Academy for Academic Excellence (AAE.) In 1998 the facility was expanded and renamed in honor of Congressman Jerry Lewis.

The Lewis Center's original campus, a NASA educational site, houses a full observatory with computerized telescope, and a T-40 Jet Flight Simulator from the U.S. Air Force. The campus is now the home of the Apple Valley

Center for Innovation, a joint STEM-initiative with the Apple Valley Unified School District.

The Lewis Center's premier program, GAVRT (Goldstone Apple Valley Radio Telescope) project, is a partnership with NASA and JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory,) using a decom-missioned 34 meter (111 foot) Deep Space Network (DSN) Radio Telescope.

Students across America are able to control the massive telescope located at NASA's Deep Space Communications Complex at Goldstone.

The data compiled by student astronomers is made available by JPL for use by scientists, astronomers, teachers, and students around the world.



P. Lewis Center for Educational Research

The Lewis Center has a second campus, located on 150 acres near the Mojave River, it offers additional classroom space, as well as an enhanced technology center. At this location hundreds of students, teachers, and parents have access to the telescope, by connecting via the Internet to Mission Control. The Lewis Center operates to ensure student success in a global society through data driven and research-based programs that are safe, innovative, and culturally inclusive. AAE is recognized as a Silver Medal High School by U.S. News and World Report, and has maintained 100 percent graduation rates. In 2021 AAE became only one of ten schools across the nation to convert its award-winning Air Force Jr. ROTC to Space Force Jr. ROTC.

Initially the Mojave River campus served AAE junior and high school students, while grades K-2 attended the Thunderbird campus and grades 3-5, the former St. Mary's Catholic School campus on Highway 18 and grades 6-12 at the Mojave River campus. As of the 2016-2017 school year, all grades have attended classes at the Mojave River campus. The location serves as a natural classroom for both local history and earth



science, giving students first-hand experience with both.

During the 1980s a group uncovered stone tools, arrowheads, and shell beads that dated back 6,500 years, demonstrating that what is now Apple Valley was a part of the trade routes Native Americans used to criss-cross North America. Petroglyph's, the only



form of written communication used by early man, can be found in the Narrows above the Lewis Center. The property is also home to one of the last freshwater marshes in California.



Q. Railroad Tie House

Address: 21849 Waalew Road

Dr. Roscoe C. Steele, a chiropractor, and his wife Lois moved onto an old ranch site, just south of the famous McCarthy Ranch on Waalew. Dr. Steele designed and built a very unique building entirely from used railroad ties purchased from the Victorville Cement Company. When completed in 1951, the small house consisting of a living room, kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom, became his chiropractic office for several years.

There were two other structures on the property on Zuni Road. Dr. Steele and his wife lived in the main house next to the railroad tie house. The small cottage on the west side of the property served as Mrs. Steele's shop, housing her looms and yarn, and other tools of her trade. She was national-ly known as the "Desert Weaver," for creating beautiful fabrics to be made into skirts, ponchos, tablecloths, and blankets.

After several years the couple moved to another old ranch west of Navajo and just north of Waalew, on which Dr. Steele then



established a second office. Although the two other structures on the Waalew property are no lon-ger standing, the railroad tie house remains. After being vacated by Dr. Steele, it was for many years used as rental property.



R. Victor Valley Animal Protective League

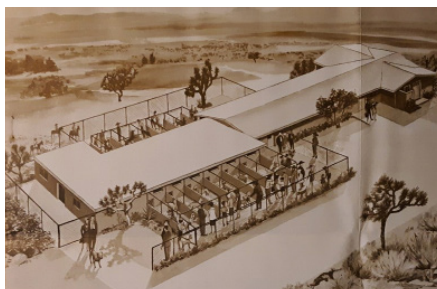
Address: 21779 Zuni Road

In 1956, a local group met with a representative of the National Humane Society about the need for an animal shelter in the Victor Valley. In 1958 Victor Valley Animal Protective League (VVAPL) incorporated as a nonprof-it animal welfare organization, with the first goal of building an animal shelter. In 1960 Newton T. Bass donated the five acres needed to open the shelter in 1962.

The shelter idea was inspired by Dorothy Thomas, wife of baritone John Charles Thomas, who operated the KAVR radio station, broadcast from the Apple Valley Inn. The nine-member board, with Mrs. Thomas as Treasurer, set out to attract 1,000 supporters to pledge \$5 per year (or life members to give \$100), to support "the League." Besides contributing to animal wel-fare, a \$5 donation could get you a genuine 12" long-playing high fidelity John Charles Thomas Collectors Record, "a fine masterwork of favorite songs and music."

The VVAPL's large fold-out brochure stated that the modern fully-staffed shelter would protect many small animals "from the ravages of hunger, thirst, distemper, accidents, and other unfortunate occurrences," serving Apple Valley and most other communities of the high desert by sheltering strays and abandoned pets. The history of the organization has been pre-served in several huge scrapbooks, still displayed at the facility.

Today VVAPL contracts with Adelanto and Victorville to accept strays. How-ever, all communities are welcome to use their services: vaccinations, spay and neutering, microchipping, euthanasia, and adoptions. In addition, mo-bile adoption events are staged periodically, presentations to local groups and organizations can be scheduled, and information booths are provided at community events. School children benefit from staff visits presenting lessons on animal safety and responsible pet ownership. The VVAPL has served an important role in Apple Valley for the past 70 years.





Tidbits of Apple Valley History

January 27, 1950: The first edition of the first newspaper printed in Apple Valley hit the stands. The Apple Valley News was published by Eva and Bud Conrad.

April 28, 1950: Apple Valley Country Club opened their golf course for play. It was initially opened to the public, but they were warned, 'Cowhand boots were taboo.'

August 5, 1950: Public-spirited citizens met at the Branding Iron to hear the results of a Fire Protection Committee report that took nearly a year to prepare. This report marked the beginning of the formation of the Apple Valley Fire Protection District.

February 24, 1951: Apple Valley Ranchos marked their fifth anniversary by announcing a \$250,000 expansion of the Apple Valley Inn. The Inn was just more than two years-old and its popularity and capacity spurred the expansion.

May 5, 1951: The Chamber of Commerce absorbed the Businessmen's Association. This action permitted individuals as well as businessmen to participate. Individual membership was \$5 per year.

September 25, 1953: The FCC approved a 5,000-watt radio station for Apple Valley, its signal extending from Needles to the Cajon Pass. KAVR went on the air in May 1954, broadcasting from the Apple Valley Inn. The grand opening was attended by Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis, John Charles Thomas, and other celebrities.

August 5, 1954: Apple Valley News celebrated its expansion with an open house, displaying new printing equipment.

August 26, 1954: While testing an F-86-H jet based at Edwards Airforce Base, Captain McConnell crashed August 25. Apple Valley was Captain McConnell's home.

November 4, 1954: The owners of the Circle M Ranch drilled for oil just north of their main gate, near Kiowa and Tussing Ranch Roads. Unfortunately, oil was never found.

March 17, 1955: A huge crowd gathered to witness the burning of mortgage papers for the Apple Valley Community Center. The building opened in 1948, and the crowd celebrated paying off the mortgage in just seven years with a potluck and official burning.

November 24, 1955: The Chamber of Commerce census reached 3,295 permanent residents; 618 non-permanent residents. Fifty-nine percent of permanent residents were employed in Apple Valley; 394 people traveled through the Narrows to work each day; 95 percent of permanent residents had radios; 75 percent of permanent residents had television, and television reception was rated as 'Fair' to 'Excellent'.
January 12, 1956: Local golfer Lloyd Mangrum won \$6,000 in the \$30,000 LA Open. He shot a 272 for the 72 holes. This was his fourth win at the LA Open, previously winning in 1949, 1951 and 1953.

March 29, 1956: The County Department of Agriculture showed that over \$1 million in crops were recorded in Apple Valley. Crops included turkeys, alfalfa, dairies, chicken fryers, corn, alfalfa seed, grain, hay and nutria breeding stock.

January 3, 1957: A groundbreaking was scheduled for January 11 for the Apple Valley Country Club. The club will include a swimming pool and large clubhouse. Bennington & Smith were contractors.

May 9, 1957: It was announced that Reverend Hansen would be installed on May 19 as the Pastor of Church of the Valley. Reverend Hansen returned to his native state of California from Wamega, Kansas. He and his wife, Mary Ellen, made Apple Valley their home.

May 30, 1957: The Lions Club dedicated two baseball fields behind the Community Center on Navajo Road. Newton T. Bass threw out the first ball. The Lions Club raised \$7,000 to pay for the bleachers, backstops, sprinklers, and grass.

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May 22, 1958: Apple Valley Little League's first night game was scheduled for June 2 at 7

p.m. It pitted the Apple Valley Kiwanis (Manager, Pep Proulx) against the Apple Valley Sales-men (Manager, Dr. Gilliland)

June 26, 1958: Part of a brand new building at Mariana School was burned.

Apple Valley, Victorville and Forestry departments responded, with seven minutes elapsing from the Mrs. Albert Mendel called.

December 31, 1959: The state and county reached an agreement for the construction of

a 4-lane highway and curb frontage roads through the Village. The state will pay \$125,000, and property owners, between \$50,000 and \$70,000, which will be advanced by the county and repaid within the next 24 years.

June 23, 1960: St. Mary's School opened its Junior High in September by adding ninth grade to the seventh-and eighth-grade classes. The seventh-through-ninth grade class combination was the first of its kind in their Diocese.

October 27, 1960: The Apple Valley Village Association, Inc. was formed to handle the final stages of the Apple Valley Village Paving Program. They took plans for the widening of Highway 18 and the installation of frontage roads to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors in November. The completion of the project made Apple Valley Village one of the most beautiful shopping centers in the High Desert.

December 15, 1960: John Charles Thomas died. The world-renowned Metropolitan Opera baritone passed away in his Apple Valley ranch home December 13, following a lengthy illness. Thomas and his wife, Dorothy, who was at his bedside when he died, came to Apple Valley in 1954, and from 1955 to 1959 John Charles Thomas managed KAVR.

January 18, 1962: The two bridges that cross the Mojave River, and are the only gateways to Apple Valley from the west, were replaced by modern new spans, and wider, finer roads. Highway crews with tons of dynamite and heavy equipment chewed through the granite mountains at the Narrows. Construction occurred on a new bridge, going in right next to the old one on Bear Valley Road.

July 19, 1962: Ground was broken for the construction of a 16-lane bowling center, complete with cocktail lounge and coffee shop. "Apple Bowl" was located on a 2-acre site behind Security First National Bank and featured the new "Sparemaker," an electronic device to show beginners how to pick up spares. Apple Bowl opened March 2, 1963.

December 13, 1962: A 2,700 square-foot clubroom was added to the Community Center, making it the largest community building of any Recreation District in San Bernardino County. In attendance was Mr. George Stott, an Apple Valley resident from 1947 to 1960, and the first chairman of the Apple Valley Community Center Board of Directors before it came under county control, and the President of the Parks and Recreation Board, Herald Bertolotti. **October 24, 1963:** Groundbreaking ceremonies took place for a \$90,000 school maintenance facility on Bear Valley Road. The facility housed bus and maintenance operations. The front five acres were developed for administrative use.

November 12, 1964: On November 15, the Apple Valley Inn became the Roy Rogers' Apple Valley Inn. A 25-year lease was signed during that week. The Inn, built in 1948 by Newt Bass and Bud Westlund, has 101 guest rooms, cottages, bungalows, executive suites, and honey-moon cottages. Roy Rogers and Dale Evans continued their careers in television, state fairs and rodeos. Roy Rogers and his family considered moving to Apple Valley.



August 19, 1965: Roy Rogers was the Grand Marshal of the Pow Wow Days parade. **December 2, 1965:** The Reserve Oil and Apple Valley Building and Development Company merger was announced. Real estate activities in Apple Valley were conducted under the name Apple Valley Ranchos, as a division of Reserve Oil.

January 12, 1967: The Hilltop House, built in 1960 at a cost of \$250,000 was discovered ablaze at 4 a.m. Vandalism was suspected. On January 26, a 24- and-17-year-old from Summit Valley were arrested on two counts of burglary, and one for arson.

June 27, 1968: On May 15, 1953, Captain Joseph McConnell, Jr., became the world's first triple jet ace, when he shot down 3 MIG-15s, bringing his total to 16 destroyed in the Korean Conflict. His F-86 Sabrejet was named after his wife, Beauteous Butch. A similar plane was dedicated as a memorial to the Apple Valley pilot on June 30 at the entrance to the airport.

March 5, 1970: John W. Conrad set a record, when he became the youngest commercial pilot and flight instructor in the country on his 18th birthday, February 27. John is the son of Evan Conrad.

1988: The idea for the incorporation of the Town of Apple Valley started as a feasibility study assigned to graduate students taught by Dick Pearson. A formal study was subsequently completed by the Local Agency Formation Committee in 1986, leading to Measure K being placed on the Nov. 8, 1988, ballot. With 10,683 Yes votes to 2,117 No votes, the incorporation was approved by 84%.

1992: The Newton T. Bass Stadium was dedicated in a special ceremony honoring the early Apple Valley developer and his instrumental role in supporting the project. **2000:** The Town Council approved the Town of Apple Valley Historical Landmark and Points of Interest program, with committee members being selected by Town Council members. **2001:** The Town took over responsibility for the operations of the Recreation and Park District (AVRPD). As part of the agreement with the Local Area Formation Commission, the Town must continue to provide at least the existing level of service to the 166.2 square mile area previously served by the AVRPD.

2003: The new Town Hall complex on Dale Evans Parkway opened, housing the Library, Police Station, Parks and Recreation, and other Town Departments, all in one location. **2006:** The Town opened the first community-owned pool at Civic Center Park, operated by the Park and Recreation Dept.

2008: Because of Brewster Park's significant role in hosting tournaments involving teams from all over Southern California, the name was changed to Lenny Brewster Sports Park. **2008:** The Town celebrated its 20th Anniversary of incorporation with a day in the park, where residents could visit booths to learn about the Town's history. Throughout the day, residents were treated to bus tours to Apple Valley Historic Points of Interest sites, using the booklet developed by the first Apple Valley Historic Advisory Committee.

2009: The Town was excited to welcome Trigger home to Apple Valley after a six-year visit to Branson, Missouri. The Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce produced video, "Trigger is Coming Home to Apple Valley," documents the journey, starting with an interview of Dusty and Dustin Rogers in Branson. It follows Trigger's route back across the country, capturing the large and excited crowd that lined Highway 18 to enjoy the home-coming.

2010: The Town opened its own independent Animal Services building on Powhattan Rd. to serve Apple Valley residents.

2011: The Town opened the Publics Works Yard on Nomwacket Road.

2012: The Town opened the Community Dog Park at Civic Center Park.

2013: The Healthy Apple Program secured funding to build the first outdoor fitness park in the region, also located at Civic Center Park.

2013: Apple Valley hosted a two-day celebration for the Town's 25th Anniversary, including a reception, entertainment, and booths representing each town department. A number

o of local organizations and individuals filled the Event center with displays celebrating the Town's history, including representatives from happy Trails Childrens' Foundations, the Victor Valley museum, and the newly formed Apple Valley Legacy Trails committee. **2015:** The Village PBID started sponsoring the annual Happy Trails Parade, Street Fair, and Car Show in the original heart of Apple Valley. The event, originally known as the PowWow Days, started in 1948 as a weekend of much-needed small town entertain-ment. Sponsored by the Businessman's Association, predecessor to the Chamber of Commerce, the celebration included a parade, the Honorary Mayor's race, square dances, horse races, a carnival and shows, sponsored by every club and organization in town. Between 1993 and 2006 the event continued as either Frontier Days or Round-up Days, before being re-instated as the Happy Trails event.

2015: The Town contracted with Verizon to build the Clock Tower, located between the po lice station and Town Hall, whose prominent Town logo, visible form Highway 18, wel-comes visitors to Apple Valley .

2016: The Town purchased the iconic Hilltop House property, whose location was approved to become part of the Park and Recreation system.

2017: After completing its section of road improvements needed to eventually provide another corridor connection Apple Valley to Victorville, the Town opened the Yucca Loma Bridge, a long-awaited engineering feat.

2017: Town staff and local residents honored the long-time community service Coach Mike Martin, by renaming the gym at James Woody Community Center the Michael H. Martin Gymnasium.

2018: The Town celebrated thirty years of incorporation with historic displays and a reception in Town Hall.

2019: Beyonce and crew descended upon Apple Valley's Horsemen's Center Equestrian park for the video production of "Spirit" for the "Lion King" live action movie.



Horsemen's Center Park, scene from the music video
"Spirit" featured in the "Lion King"



2019: The 26 foot tall statue of Trigger, which originally stood atop Roy Rogers Apple Valley Museum from 1967-1976, moved to his fifth location at the Spirit River Center, showing off a fresh coat of paint.

2021: American Idol finalist Chayce Beckman returned to his hometown of Apple Valley to film segments for the show's "Welcome Home" finale, the week before being crowned the winner.

2021: Apple Valley resident Megan Jastrab returned home from the Tokyo Olympics with a Bronze Medal in cycling.

2021: The Billy Holcomb Chapter of the Honorable E. Clampus Vitis erected a mon-ument honoring long-time Apple Valley resident Roy Rogers, known as "The King of Cowboys", in Horsemen's' Center Park.

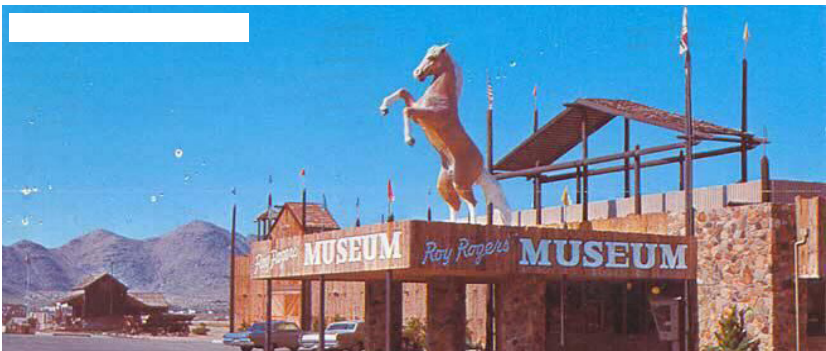
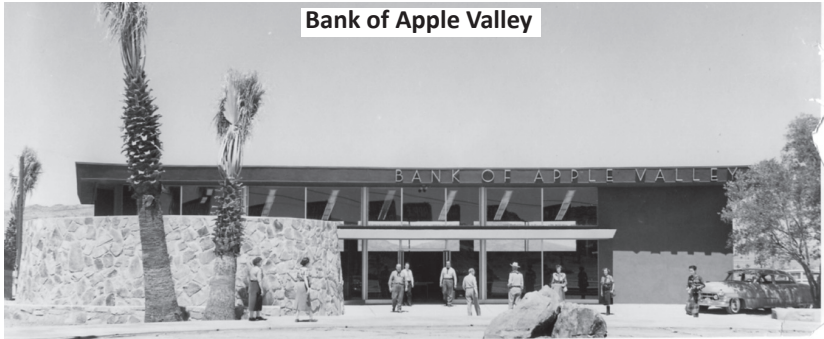
Mayor Emick presents
the Golden Apple to
Apple Valley resident
and American Idol
finalist Chayce Beckman.



Apple Valley resident,
Megan Jastrab Bronze
Medalist in the 2021
Tokyo Olympics.



Historic Apple Valley Buildings



approved date 3/8/2022