

A guide to fun in the Valley

New book written for high desert newcomers

By PENNY SORLAGAS
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Bonnie D. Stone wishes there would have been a book like the one she's written when she first came to the Antelope Valley from Hawaii in 1986. She said it would have been so much easier to discover all of the fun and sometimes hidden treasures that make up the history of the Valley and surrounding areas.

It was this realization, plus an interest in history including the history of the Antelope Valley, that prompted Stone to write her latest of six books.

“San Andreas Ain’t No Fault of Mine: Fun and Fact-Filled Guide to the Antelope Valley” is just that — a guide to the many spots for fun and historical interest in the Valley and other nearby areas. Under listings such “A Blast into the Past,” “Can You Dig It” and “Lights, Camera, Action,” the table of contents hints at what the reader will find inside this 220-page discovery guide.



Photo by Ron Siddle/Valley Press

Although many of the tedious hours that went into the creation of this book were spent on research, the most enjoyable hours that went into the creation of the book were also spent on research, the kind of research that took Stone and her husband, Leighton, down dirt roads, up and up on narrow foot-paths and out into remote desert areas.

“After I finished the research and was proofing it, I wasn’t comfortable with some of what I was finding. So I asked my husband, as a favor, to go with me on some day trips.”

To her surprise, Leighton was a very willing participant.

Originally hired by a publishing company to write a book on the Antelope Valley, Stone began her research seven years ago. , But the company went bankrupt and Stone’s notes went into a box.

Two years later, the box went with her when her husband was transferred to a job in Alabama. When they returned to California, Stone still had the box and decided not to

toss out the history research. She had discovered that she not only loved history, she loved doing research as well.

In writing the guidebook from her research notes and day trips with her husband, Stone said she did a lot of rewriting and lightening up. The book includes just enough history to jog a reader's interest, so Stone added notes to direct readers where to go to find additional information on selected topics.

"I tried to do this book from the perspective of a newcomer," she said, hoping that the information will make it easy for newcomers to find their way around the vast desert and mountain areas, including spots in Tehachapi, Lone Pine, Death Valley and the Poppy Reserve.

"You've heard the saying, 'It takes a village to raise a child.' Well, this book took a village to write," said Stone, citing the help she received from friend Isabelle Michaels, Lancaster librarian Bill Thomas and Cynthia Kincaid, who designed the colorful book cover.

Inside the cover, in Chapter 22, titled "Guide to Movie Locations," Stone wrote, If you look around the Antelope Valley and have a sense of déjà vu, it's because at one time or the other, so many places have been used for filming. It would be fun to rent the movies and TV shows listed ("Quantum Leap," "I SPY," Columbo and others) and see if you can spot the Antelope Valley as a stand-in for other states, nations and even alien territory.

Ski resorts, golf courses, museums, gold mines and aerospace sites are just a few of the listings that encourage discovery and exploration, not just by visitors or newcomer but by old-time Valley residents.

Copies of the \$14.95 book, published by Lancaster's Fawltly Press, may be found at Reagans Hallmark in Lancaster, Mojave Desert Information Center in Lancaster, The Apple Shed in Tehachapi, Air Force Flight Test Center Museum in Palmdale and Blackbird Airpark in Palmdale.

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