

# **Antelope Valley Press, Lifestyle Magazine, June 2007**

By Rich Breault

If you're wondering what kind of fun-filled, educational and seasonal things there are to do in the Antelope Valley and nearby environs, author Bonnie D. Stone has done the work so you don't have to.

Her book, "San Andreas Ain't No Fault Of Mine: Fun and Fact-Filled Guide to the Antelope Valley" is about to undergo its sixth revision.

"With the price of gas what it is, local trips should be especially important for families and others," said Stone, who lives in Lancaster along with her retired husband, Leighton.

"I'm still surprised at all there is to see and do here. When I first came here (in 1986), I looked at the desert, and it was so blah! It was not a destination. But after a while I realized that there are plenty of places to see, explore and enjoy."

Stone, author of five other books, was tabbed to do a book on Antelope Valley history, "but the company that hired me went bankrupt," she said. "I already did my research and most of my writing."

The notes and research papers went into storage for a few years, "then one day I was talking with a friend about where to take the grand-babies when they come to visit."

"Then something clicked and I knew I had a book here. I didn't think the Valley needed another history book."

Out came the notes and Stone tied in her history research with outings and events in the Antelope Valley.

As far as the title—"I woke up in the middle of the night with the title. It just came to me," she said.

There are items of fun and historical interest in the book, Stone said.

"I tried to keep it lighthearted, whetting readers' appetites with some history and then guiding them to related things to do and places to go. I wanted to write it with a newcomer's perspective in mind."

Sections of the book include: A Blast Into the Past; Can You Dig It?; Romance of the West; Super Secret Stealth & Other Planes; Lights, Camera, Action; Fast Roads, Aqueducts and Faults; Wait—There's More!!!

Although much of the research was done at home, she and Leighton went on the road to most of the destinations in the book.

“When you talk to people during your research, sometimes directions might not be correct or descriptions inaccurate,” Stone said.

There are chapters for mining, railroad, aerospace, racing, film and history buffs—a touch of local history and places to go. If you like Hollywood, you’ll like Chapter 20—Hollywood’s Back Lot, which details Hollywood filmmakers’ use of high desert shooting locations.

Chapter 22, a Guide to Movie Locations, guide you to (where else?), movie locations in the Valley. For instance, Mojave Airport has been a location in the filming of movies such as “DieHard II,” “Executive Decision,” “The Rookie” and “Waterworld.”

In the back of the book, stone outlines a few day trips readers can use to explore the Antelope Valley and nearby areas. There is also an events and festivals calendar and lists of library locations, museums and art galleries, plus city county and state parks, areas where you can hike, fish and enjoy the outdoors.

“Even now I learn more and more about the Antelope Valley and things to do here,” Stone said. “I’m jazzed about the Antelope Valley.

“There are still roads and places to explore here. I just haven’t gotten there yet. But I will.”

The book is available at many bookstores and gift shops in the Valley. For details about the book, or to order a copy, visit Stone’s Web site [www.bonniestone.com](http://www.bonniestone.com).