

Big attractions, fun facts all in one new book

By Charles F. Bostwick • *Staff Writer*

LANCASTER

Author Bonnie Domrose Stone found the world's largest wind-energy area, the only drive-through earthquake fault and the world's oddest "tree" — the Joshua — in researching a guidebook to the Antelope Valley.

"San Andreas Ain't No Fault of Mine" — which she thinks is the first-ever guidebook entirely about the Antelope Valley — lists festivals, sights and day trips, plus tidbits like milestone Edwards Air Force Base test flights and famous former residents like John Wayne and Judy Garland, who lived in Lancaster as children.

"I had a blast writing it," Stone, a Lancaster resident, said.

The 200-page-plus book contains directions, maps, phone numbers and details on things to do and see around the valley, as well as information on local history.

Stone said she was surprised by some of the facts she unearthed during her research.

She found out the rows of wind turbines topping brushy mountain ridges west of Mojave form the largest wind-energy area in the world. The twisted rock strata visible to motorists driving the Antelope Valley Freeway near Lake Palmdale are the work of the San Andreas Fault. The Navy's China Lake testing center contains the largest petroglyph concentration in the Americas.

"Every time we tuned around it seemed like we'd find another gem," Stone said.

A former newspaper reporter who has written five other books, Stone worked at papers from Hawaii to the East Coast as she accompanied her husband in his Navy career and raised a family.

Growing up in Los Angeles, her only contact with the Antelope Valley was when her parents brought her to St. Andrew's Abbey's Fall Festival, which she found astonishingly



*Photo by Jeff Goldwater/
Staff Photographer*

hot. But she moved to Lancaster when her husband went to work at Edwards Air Force Base.

This book started out as an Antelope Valley history. But Stone decided there were enough local history books. Then she thought of places to take her grandchildren, and turned the book into a guide for the valley's thousands of newcomers.

After she had the research done, she and her husband spent last summer driving through the valley checking directions and mileage.

The title came to her in the middle of one night. It's humorous but also a reminder of the San Andreas earthquake fault's presence along the valley's southern rim, she said.

"I'm afraid a lot of newcomers don't know how close we live," Stone said.

"San Andreas Ain't No Fault of Mine" can be purchased at locations including the Lancaster Museum/Art Gallery, 44801 Sierra Highway; Antelope Valley Winery, 42041 20th St. W., Lancaster; Reagan's Hallmark, 2050 W. Ave. J, Lancaster; Burns Pharmacy, 866W. Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster, and the Air Force Flight Test Center Museum at Edwards. List price is \$14.95.

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