

San Andreas Ain't No Fault of Mine

By **KATIE CORBETT**

The discovery that there was no guidebook of the Antelope Valley inspired award-winning author Bonnie D. Stone to write her sixth book --- the newly published 200-page “San Andreas Ain't No Fault of Mine: Fun and Fact-Filled Guide to the Antelope Valley.”

The book is growing in popularity as readers are finding it a comprehensive guide to festivals, sights and day trips for those who are wondering what to do in the Antelope Valley. In addition, Stone has included plenty of information to help visitors find the locations - maps, directions, addresses and phone numbers, etc. In the appendixes of the guidebook are lists of movies shot in the area, famous pilots on Lancaster's Aerospace Walk of Honor and Milestone Flights at Edwards Air Force Base.

During her research Stone said she was surprised by what she discovered. “Did you know that the Valley has the largest concentration of petroglyphs in the Western Hemisphere and the world's oddest trees, Joshua trees? Did you know that the rows of wind turbines topping the Tehachapi Mountains near Mojave make up the largest wind-energy area in the world?”

Referring to another amazing fact, the San Andreas Fault inspired the title of the book. The title is humorous and eye-catching, but also is a reminder that the San Andreas earthquake's fault runs through the Valley's southern end.

The book points out that the fault is very evident along the Antelope Valley Freeway where twisted rock strata greets freeway drivers just north of Lake Palmdale.

After she finished her tedious hours of research, she said, “I wasn't comfortable with some of what I was finding. So I asked my husband to go with me on some day trips to confirm some of the facts.”

As a result, she and her husband Leighton Stone spent last summer visiting places and checking directions and mileage to various sites.

After drafting the book from her research notes and day trips with her husband, she did a lot of rewriting and lightening up the copy. The book contains just enough history to peak the reader's interest.

“I did this book from the perspective of newcomers,” she said, “to make it easier for them to find their way around the area.”

Originally the book started out seven years ago as a history project for a publisher who asked Stone to write about the Valley's history. She began her research and was

interrupted when the publishing company went bankrupt and her husband was transferred to a job in Alabama.

When the couple returned to California, she decided to use her history research for a book that eventually evolved into a guidebook for newcomers, children and families.

Growing up in Los Angeles, Stone said that she knew nothing about the Antelope Valley except when her parents dragged her to St. Andrew's Abbey's fall festival in Valyermo. She recalled the desert was **HOTTER THAN HADES** in the summertime.

Her next exposure to the Valley was when she and her husband Leighton moved to Lancaster after he retired from the Navy and took a job at Edwards Air Force Base. A journalism graduate of Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis., Stone worked at newspapers from Hawaii to the East Coast as she accompanied her husband in his Navy career and raised their family of three sons. She edited three newspapers in Hawaii: Ka Nupepa, the Mililani Town Newspaper; the Caducean, Tripler Army Medical Center; and The Shopper.

Then she was the family section editor for Lakeland Publishers' five weekly newspapers based in Grayslake, Illinois, and the Angeles Mesa News Advertiser, Los Angeles.

Other positions she held included deputy public affairs officer for Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii; and public relations director for American Diabetes Association, Hawaii Chapter.

When her three sons were young, she freelanced for magazines specializing in writing about the family for numerous publications.

Between 1988 and 1991 Stone authored four non-fiction books: "When Husbands Come Out of the Closet," (Haworth Press, 1989); "Aloha Cowboy," (University of Hawaii Press, 1988, with Virginia Smith); "Uncle Sam's Brides" (Walker Press, 1990); and "Campfollowing, History of the Military Wives," (Praeger Press, 1991). In 1998, she wrote a children's fiction "Civil War in Paradise" (Archway/Minstrel).

Her awards include Who's Who of American Women, and American Women Writers; four Galley Awards for excellence in writing from International Association of Business Communicators! Hawah; Tad Quattlebaum Award, South Carolina, for best state-wide feature story; South Carolina Press Association state-wide first place awards for newspaper page layout, article writing and photography; and three National Federation of Press Women awards for newspaper articles.

To find local places where "San Andreas Ain't No Fault of Mine" can be purchased or to order the book contact <http://www.bonnedstone.com>

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