

What's New In Books...

By Robert C. "RC" Goodman JR.

Staff Writer

San Andreas Ain't No Fault Of Mine

All I can say is that it's ABOUT TIME someone took the initiative to write a fun and fact-filled guide for local residents regarding the Antelope Valley. As for the contents of this marvelous title, credit is due—to Bonnie Stone for writing an interesting and informative book that gives unique insight on places to visit and see within our own little part of the world.

If it's adventure you're looking for, believe me the author went to extremes to bring out the best that the Antelope Valley has to offer. *San Andreas Ain't No Fault Of Mine* is not just the usual travel guide you'll find on an obscure book or magazine stand at a local grocery store or gas station. This book is a history buff's cup-of-tea.

Information and travel secrets within this book will keep you and your family occupied for weekends to follow. Or maybe a trip with a friend is in order; anyway you look at it this book is a must-have for anyone bored with weekend garden work or sitcoms followed by more sitcoms.

As a train buff, I was amazed to read about how and when the railroad came to Lancaster. In 1876, the Southern Pacific started the town (settlement) as a watering hole for their steam locomotives. The name, Lancaster was officially given to the township by the railroad. And NO, the town was not named after the famous, but dearly departed actor... Burt Lancaster!

It's the trivia throughout the book that first catches your attention. Earlier, when I mentioned that this book is a fact-filled guide—what an understatement. You'll spend hours browsing through pages of surprising facts that few people know about. For instance, did you know that Frances Gumm and her two sisters regularly performed at the Valley Theater on Sierra Highway? Of course, no one knows who Frances Gumm is, or was. Her stage name was, Judy Garland.

Another tidbit of information came to my attention while reading this title. Marion Morrison rode a skinny, ugly horse to and from Lancaster Grammar School a few years after the Titanic sunk in 1912. In reality, Marion Michael Morrison would grow up to be, The Duke, John Wayne.

Rosamond residents will be happy to know that their town is also mentioned throughout the book. In addition to Willow Springs International Raceway, a wonderful chapter on the history of the Tropico Gold Mine is included.

Ah yes, the author did not forget to bring out an important fact that Edwards Air Force Base is within the Antelope Valley realm. After the Wright Brothers, the history of flight, especially military aircraft became a reality because of testing at Edwards Air Force Base. Today, the base is still the U.S. Government's number-one test facility in the world.

It's impossible to bring out all the details this book has to offer, nor can all the intriguing vacation spots be highlighted. So, if you're looking for a great book on facts and trivia, and a guidebook that definitely can open your mind to travel, *San Andreas Ain't No Fault Of Mine*, by Bonnie D. Stone—is just what the doctor ordered! A top-notch title, I suggest that you get your copy while quantities last.

A note to Antelope Valley Authors: May I suggest that all of us support Bonnie in her new venture as the author of, *San Andreas Ain't No Fault Of Mine*. A giving individual, her steadfast support of all Antelope Valley writers has been, in several cases the determining factor of success over failure. We owe her a lot, and this author is supporting her wholeheartedly!

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