

News from the . . . High Desert

By Pat Helm
385-4118

"Let Freedom Ring" in the theme of Morongo Valley's Fourth of July observance which will take place in Centennial Park over the three-day holiday. Properly called Fiesta and sponsored by the Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations, the celebration is the biggest, most active weekend of the year for the townspeople and their guests and visitors. This year, in honor of the nation's birthday, it will feature good, old-fashioned American fun, food, games and a special patriotic program.

The always-enjoyable Fiesta will get a busy start Saturday when the booths and exhibits open. All the festivities are at the park. There will be games and booths staffed by volunteers and food booths operated by the local food business people. Outdoor diners can choose among barbecued ribs, Mexican dishes, hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream, watermelon, soft drinks and other beverages. The Morongo Valley Fire Department will be in charge of the beer booth.

All day Saturday and throughout the weekend there will be an art show, an antique car exhibit and a complete array of arts and crafts. Game booths will include the popular dunk tank.

Also, each day of the holiday there will be horse-shoe pitching contests, volleyball tournaments, square dancing and a display of children's and "forever children's" games such as the egg flip, totem pole climb, thirty feather, darts and balloons, shoe relay, hula hoop races, wheelbarrow races, arm wrestling and watermelon-eating contests.

Saturday night will close out the first day's activities with an admission-free country and western dance.

Sunday the Morongo Valley Lions Club will put on a scrumptious pancake breakfast from 7 to 11 a.m. Country and western dancing will continue Sunday night.

The Fourth of July Parade, sponsored by the Lions Club, will be held Monday, starting at 9:30 a.m. Among the floats will be equestrian entries, classic cars, Boy Scouts, etc. The route will be off the highway and go through Centennial Park and down Vale to Centennial Park. Prizes will be awarded and parade entry blanks must be in by June 30, sent to the Lions Club, P.O. Box 808, Morongo Valley 92554. All of Morongo Valley's sister and neighboring communities are invited to participate.

After the parade, an all-states picnic will be held in the park, is sponsored by the Boardman-Greene Garage and will feature a special Patriotic Program starting at 1 p.m.

All in all, Morongo Valley's big weekend is a relaxing, fun-loving get-together.

It was a very disappointed Ed Scoggins who spoke on the phone saying his flight to London where he was to join a Mid-East archeological expedition had to be cancelled because he landed in the hospital for surgery instead. Fortunately, he is now home and recovering and hopes to make it to Mexico for a short archeological tour before summer's end.

Years ago it was Ed, a Joshua Tree Elementary School teacher, who started the theatrical ball rolling by presenting his actor-friend Jim Deberry in "A Man Called Peter" at the school's small-staged multipurpose room. The late Kay Brown and David Drouma, first manager of the then-United California Bank in Joshua Tree, accepted the challenge and started plans for what ultimately blossomed into the Hi-Desert Theatre Guild and its first real home, the Cabaret Playhouse, at Sportsman's Hall.

Key, in one of the early reviews, sang "Cabaret" did an outstanding impression of Phyllis Diller and brought down the house.

He was most pleased with the current production of "Cabaret" which has had to add two more performances to its schedule. Friday and Saturday nights, July 8 and 9. If you haven't seen it call the guild's box office at 386-3461, Monday through Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.

The Pioneertown people don't want to get too excited yet, but the feeling is building. When the town's water district is actually formed and functioning, the problem that has held back phenomenal growth will be headed toward a final solution. They absolutely want to keep the Western motif of the town, and many want it to stay small, but with plenty of piped water available the growth will mushroom.

Among those who have waited so patiently are Ron Young and his mother Gladys, who have owned and operated the Pioneertown Bowling Alley for 24 years.

"It looks like it's becoming more and more of a reality every day," says Ron.

There's a whole lot of dreamers and planners no longer with us, who would have been mighty happy with the water development and Pioneertown's more than deserved place in the sun.

Magic show slated

DESERT HOT SPRINGS — The Desert Empire Volunteers will present a "Disco Fun" Saturday for youngsters at Angel View Crippled Children's Foundation here.

The day will be complete with clothes, games, prizes, food and magician John M. Calhoun and his show "How Does He Do It Magic?"

Calhoun is a member of the Academy of Magical Arts and the Magic Castle and the International Brotherhood of Magicians. He received his training at the Pasadena Playhouse of the Performing Arts.

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MAKING FRIENDS — Ardele Perko, a client of the Stroke Activity Center, gets acquainted with Holly, a collie belonging to Linda Wenger, (looking on) following a dog show presented at the canine by members of the Kennel Club of Palm Springs. Holly has a lot in

common with the clients of the center, as she too, is recently recovered from a stroke. According to Ms. Wenger, Holly could not walk for several days following her stroke and took about six weeks to recover.

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