



# Goffsgram



Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association  
Goffs Schoolhouse

#2025-03 | 27 August 2025

Goffsgram Editor: Laura Misajet

## Director's Message

Thank you for your patience. We know it's been a while since you've heard from us. We recently switched over to a new Webmaster and software, so our website and Goffsgram may have a slightly new appearance. Please keep returning to our website as we continue to update our calendar and events. We hope you will update us as well. If you have moved in the last year or so, please go to your membership account on our website [themojaveroad.org/my-account-2/](http://themojaveroad.org/my-account-2/) and update your mailing and/or email address so that we may continue to communicate with our valued members. You may also send us emails at [info@themojaveroad.org](mailto:info@themojaveroad.org).



Rendezvous October 9 - 12, 2025

The 46th Rendezvous is right around the corner, and you should be receiving your raffle tickets in the mail any day now. It's only \$5 per ticket and \$10 per pack of 11. There will be two packs included in the envelope. Just tear off the short end and fill in your contact info and return those with your check payable to MDHCA. You can always purchase more; we will fill them out for you or you can include your return mailing labels to make it even easier. Either way, we are happy to help. And a special thanks to A to Z Printing for once again donating the printing of the raffle tickets and envelopes.

Your donations go to fund our expanding educational programs, new exhibits, archival storage & maintenance, outreach, campus infrastructure, and maintaining our historic stamp mills and other artifacts.

You can pre-register on our website, or in the Schoolhouse starting Friday morning. We will post a preliminary schedule on our website by mid-September and update it as we get closer. As always, we will kick off festivities with a popcorn social at approximately 4:30pm on Thursday evening, Oct. 9th for the early arrivals.

Volunteers are needed to cover the Schoolhouse Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and as docents for the Exhibit Hall and AT&T Shed, and as tour guides for the archives. To volunteer, as well as request certain camp spots (first come first serve), contact Laura Misajet at [lhmisajet@themojaveroad.org](mailto:lhmisajet@themojaveroad.org)

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## Overland Expo Foundation Grant

MDHCA is excited to announce we have been awarded a grant from the Overland Expo Foundation to support the overlanding community by providing a base camp with additional dry camp sites out in our western flank here at Goffs. Their generous grant will allow us to provide community gathering areas with some much-needed sturdy shade structures, picnic tables that will stand up to the winds and harsh desert sun, BBQ units, well-marked, yet natural peaceful camp spots for those who want some privacy. Pathways will connect the Ol' Miner's Camp with the new Overland Camp. Like-minded adventurers can share stories,

maps, dos and don'ts, a few beers, or whiskies, (or a wine or two), or just enjoy the solitude of a desert night....and a few train whistles. Many thanks to the Overland Expo Foundation.

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## Upcoming Event

### **ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL**

The centennial of Route 66, commemorating its establishment on November 11, 1926, will be celebrated in 2026 with numerous events and initiatives across the eight states it traverses. We are working closely with the Inland Empire Route 66 Centennial Marketing Committee to highlight what Goffs has to offer. We are fortunate this amazing organization is dedicated to shine a light on the rural unincorporated sections of California Route 66. And yes, that certainly describes us here at Goffs. From now all through November of 2026 towns and cities along the route as well as gateway communities like 29 Palms are planning events. We here at Goffs will kick off our festivities with Camp with the Camels on November 11, 2025, and then again on November 11, 2026. Hey, anyone can have a car show, we have camels and camping.

So, why camels at the Route 66 100th year celebration, you ask? In 1856, camels were purchased by the US Government and were brought into Texas. The ship called the Supply brought the first shipment of camels. They landed off Indianola Texas, with about 33 Dromedaries, Bactrians, and a Tuili (a hybrid half Dromedary/Bactrian).

In 1857, Lt. Edward Fitzgerald Beale, a Naval officer, service of the U.S. Army Corps of Topographical Engineers, was ordered by the War Department to survey over the 35th parallel to build a government-funded wagon road. His secondary orders were to test the feasibility of the use of camels as pack animals in the harsh Southwestern desert. Camels helped to create some of what became Route 66.

Watch our website for details and registration for Camp with the Camels for this November. It's limited to 100 people. Registration fee of \$50 per person will cover the meals and camp spot. Please RSVP via the website no later than November 1st. Campers will arrive the evening of November 10th and set up camp and learn about the constellations if it's a clear night. In the morning we will have a light breakfast and meet the camels. There will be educational opportunities throughout the day and a BBQ at night on the 11th. Perhaps Lt. Beale may even make an appearance. More Route 66 Centennial events will follow.

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## Other Happenings at Goffs

Earlier this year we installed a new metal roof on the Library Depot thanks to a generous grant from Groundworks. The Groundworks Grants program is administered by the California State Library in partnership with Myriad Consulting and Training and is part of the library's

“Ready or Not: California Cultural Heritage Disaster Preparedness Project,” funded by the State of CA.



Our next roof replacement / repair project will be the Route 66 House and Schoolhouse roof. Two other grant applications have been submitted so fingers are crossed we can proceed with these much-needed repairs. (Photo: Laura Misajet)



On July 18th we moved all the oral history cassettes plus photo negatives from the south pantry to the climate-controlled Library Depot. From left: Site Manager, Chris Wirth, Jim Toenjes, Bill Slutter. (Photo: Laura Misajet)



Jim Toenjes loading up the drawers of cassettes for the move from the South Pantry to the Library Depot. (Photo: Laura Misajet)



Chris Wirth and Bill Slutter unloading the extremely heavy cabinets (photo: Laura Misajet)



Also, this July, member Nance Fite donated some historic mining and farming equipment from her land up in Caruthers Canyon to MDHCA. Here it is getting delivered and has now joined our outdoor artifact collections.



Volunteer Jackie Ridge created a very detailed information board for our AT&T Shed at Goffs, located near the WWII Exhibit at the South end of the MDHCA property.

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### **Physical Address**

37198 Lanfair Rd., Goffs, California  
(At the intersection of Lanfair and Goffs Roads)  
760-733-4482 (voice and text)

### **Mailing Address**

37198 Lanfair Rd. G-15  
Essex, California 92332

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