



Goffsgram



Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association
Goffs Schoolhouse

#2025-05 | 1 November 2025
Goffsgram Editor: Laura Misajet



CAMP WITH THE CAMELS CELEBRATE ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL

- Where? Mojave Desert Heritage & Cultural Association, Lanfair & Route 66, Goffs CA
- When? Tuesday November 11, 2025
- Why? Learn the history of camels in the East Mojave Desert & on Route 66
- Cost? \$50 per person includes continental breakfast Tuesday morning & BBQ Tuesday night, camping spot for Monday & Tuesday nights if desired. Kids under 12 are free.
- Register below or via text to 760-733-4482 or email to MDHCA.Goffs@gmail.com

[Register to Camp with the Camels](#)

CAMP WITH THE CAMELS Coming up Soon!

November 10 - 12, 2025

ITINERARY

MONDAY NOVEMBER 10th: The Camels will arrive at Goffs

Early bird campers set up camp

Spaghetti dinner in the Flywheel Cafe (it's outside, so bring your warm jackets, etc.)

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11th: This marks our kick off event for the start of the Route 66 year-long centennial celebrations!

7:30 AM Meet at the Flywheel for coffee and continental breakfast (It's outside, so dress accordingly)

8:30 AM Camel owners/helpers will introduce themselves and talk about their camels, and basic dos and don'ts around camels

9:30 AM Nance Fite will talk about the Gyrotory Crusher as we make our way to the Exhibit Hall where Nance will explain her Camel Exhibit and then onto the CAMELOT to watch the camels get ready for their walkabout. We will walk the camels up around the remnants of Camp Goffs, one of General Patton's Desert Training Centers, then down to the Mojave Phone Booth for photo opportunities.

11:00 AM We return to the CAMELOT (corrals) for some demonstrations before lunch

12:00 PM Lunch on your own

1:00 PM Meet back at the CAMELOT corrals for more demonstrations on how camels were used, cared for, and packed

3:00 PM We walk the Camels down to Route 66 for more photo ops

4:00 PM We walk the Camels back to the Camelot and watch as they get put to bed for the night.

5:30 PM Dinner in the Flywheel. (Bring your warm jacket and hats)

6:30 PM An evening around the campfire with Lt. Beale. He will tell us about the history of Camels in the East Mojave Desert and the connection to Route 66

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12TH: Campers pack up and depart Goffs.

Last chance to say goodbye to our camel friends!

46th Annual Rendezvous Recap



46th Annual Grand Marshals

A big thanks to all of you who supported and attended our 46th Annual Rendezvous, and we missed our friends who could not join us. We had about 80 in attendance, and raised close to \$19,000. 28 received Wagon Masters at Friday night's ceremony this year, and if you were not in attendance, yours is being mailed out to you, as are the raffle prizes to all our winners not present.

We thank our amazing line up of speakers this year:

- Archeologist, Jim Toenjes gave a talk on "Black Homesteading in Lanfair Valley."
- Larry Vredenburgh talked about the "Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad."
- Austin Schoenkopf gave a talk on "Desert Magazine & the Postwar Rise of Desert Recreation."
- Arioeh M'Greene gave an update on the "Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep."

- Garret Baquet talked about “Environmental Intelligence.” We are still trying to digest that one.
- Lance Holter joined us all the way from Hawaii to give a talk on “Traveling the Shell Trade Highway with Indigenous People, Francisco Garces, and Jedediah Strong Smith.”
- Our Keynote Speaker Saturday night was Ramona Daniels talking about “250 Years of the California Desert.”

A shout out to Bill and Marsha Moser for providing a scrumptious breakfast both Saturday and Sunday mornings.



The Millmen team did an incredible job running the American Boy 10 Stamp Mill and demonstrating the Stotts 2 Stamp Mill and the Gyrotory Crusher. Nance Fite received her Professor of Cams & Stamps diploma. Arioeh M'Greene received his Master's Degree of Cams & Stamps diploma. And Garret Baquet received his Bachelor's Degree of Cams & Stamps diploma of Graduation at this year's Rendezvous. Perhaps the highlight of Friday night's ceremony was the special acknowledgement bestowed upon Dale McBride and Roger Camplin for their many years of dedication and expertise to the MDHCA Millmen program, working along side Charlie Connell.



For those of you who missed our 46th Annual Rendezvous, our Educational Field Trips are always a huge hit, so here are just a few highlights:

Thursday, October 9, 2025, was the first day of our Educational Field Trips for the 2025 Annual Goffs Rendezvous. First stop was the Valley Wells cemetery, a lonely but charming resting place for Boots & Bessie Yates.

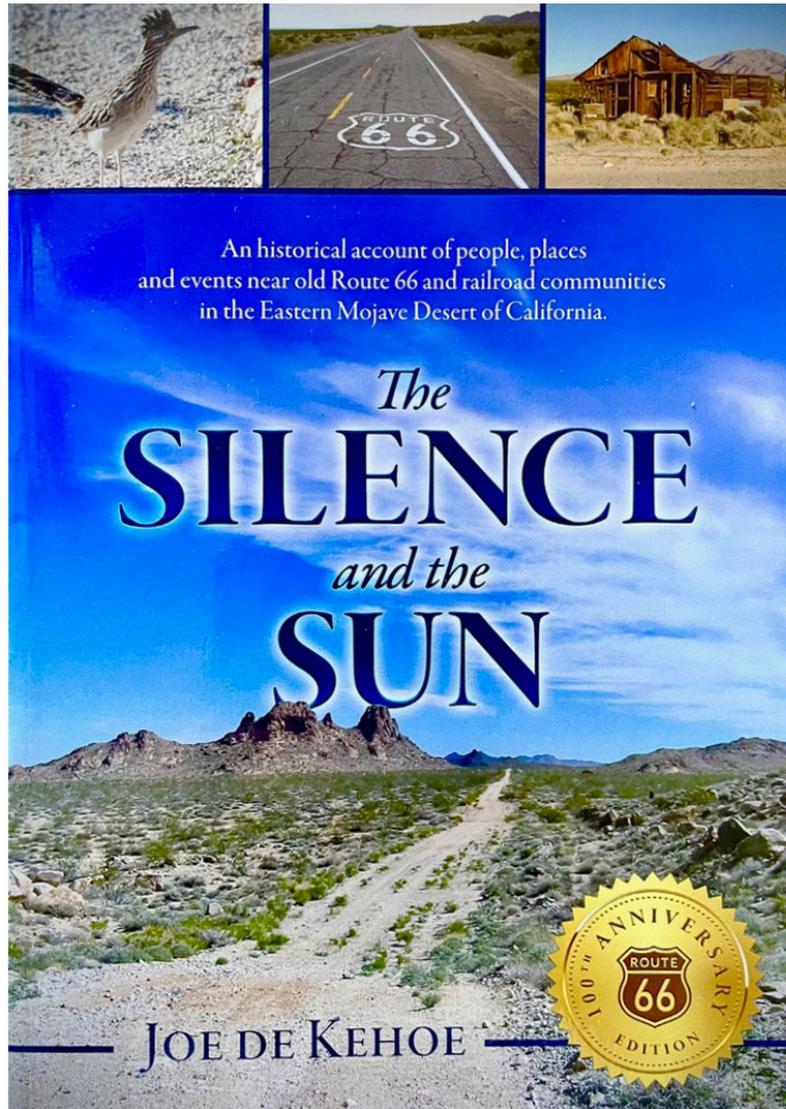
Our second stop was to visit the site of the Mescal mine and the Nantan Post Office. This town had its heyday in 1879, but now it's home to our host, Roger Sandoz. The quaint little post office stands as a tattletale sentinel that this place once was a productive gold and silver boomtown.



Friday October 10th Educational Field Trip was “Mitchell Caverns: Beyond the Cave.” A gracious “THANK YOU” to Providence Mountains State Park’s Andy Fitzpatrick for revealing the hidden secrets inside and outside of Mitchell Caverns. Participants of the tour saw bats, cave insects, and hidden inscriptions from WWII – we received Andy’s BEST tour, which also included the exteriors of some of the original buildings that Jack & Ida Mitchell crafted (to include colorful local gem quality rocks). This tour also focused on the life of Mary Beal, friend of the Mitchells and notable desert Botanist.



Saturday October 11th Educational Field Trip went to Lanfair Valley and Bobcat Hills. Our group explored the mining claims that were once worked by members of the Cram family. There is still an old cabin standing, now known as the American Flag Cabin aka Mojave Hilton. Then we moved on to the newer claims at the Rattlesnake Mine. We returned back to Goffs via The Mojave Road, making a "coin drop" at the famous Penny Can, and admired the Petroglyphs at Indian Spring. Thank you, Debbie Miller Marschke, for always organizing these interesting and popular educational field trips. We need more trip leaders for next year so please reach out to us.



Book Release Announcement

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Route 66, Joe de Kehoe has released a third edition of *The Silence and The Sun*.

The first two editions of the book have been out of print for several years, but this 3rd edition is now available, and includes all of the information in the previous editions plus added chapters on Essex and Mountain Springs, is liberally illustrated with both modern and historical photographs, and includes contributions by Steve Reyes, Fran Blake and Roger Hatheway. The price of the book is \$34.95 and is available for purchase at Goffs or directly from the author at trailsendpublishing.com.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR - GOFFS WORK WEEKEND DECEMBER 5 - 8, 2025

San Bernardino County will be dropping off several dumpsters on December 4th along our Bone Yard here at MDHCA as part of their Route 66 clean up. A few of them will be placed along the length of the Bone Yard so that we may start to fill them up with all our debris. They will not take the treated wood such as the railroad ties (we have plans for those anyway). They asked that we separate the old golf cart tires from the rims, which Bill Slutter and Chris Wirth did last weekend, and they will pick up the tires separately November 1st, the rims can go into the dumpsters. The County Public Works will provide a 950 Loader with operator on December 12 to lift and load the bulkiest of piles and green waste into the largest north end dumpster. The remaining debris can be loaded by hand or via our backhoe over the December 5 - 8 weekend into the many dumpsters provided. One dumpster will be located down by the Mojave Cross area for community use on Saturday December 6th. A notice will go out to the Mojave Land Owners Association. So if you don't mind some heavy lifting and camaraderie over evening campfires, join us for a few hours, or a few days. Bring your work gloves and don your boots. RVs/trailers will be first come first serve. Bengay and Ibuprofen will be provided. Email us at MDHCA.goffs@gmail.com or text or call 760-733-4482.



Physical Address

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(At the intersection of Lanfair and Goffs Roads)
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East Mojave Heritage Trail Facebook: facebook.com/groups/559278615161496

EMHT Location: [Google Map](#)