

Marking Time in Barstow, 1880s-1960

I get all sorts of interesting research jobs through e-mail. Usually they come from people trying to remember a special event or someone looking for someone in their family tree. Recently I got an email from John Rader, city spokesman asking the Mojave River Valley Museum's help on Barstow's timeline.

If you go to the City Council's Chamber you can see the timeline as it stands. What the city was looking for was a few more specific dates and to see if they are missing anything. They are also looking for nominations for events to be included especially from the last five years.

As I was first looking into this project I realized that this really shouldn't just be the city and the museum's project. It is our timeline and I feel everyone should have the chance for their two cents worth. The following is the timeline with my input, additions, subtractions and a couple of personal favorite historical events. If you have any special event you would like to see on the timeline or even corrections (I am not proud) please e-mail me at barstow@verizon.net or call me at the museum at 256-5452. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

1880s

Waterman Junction Post Office changed there name to Barstow Post Office effectively naming the new town after William Barstow Strong, President of the Santa Fe Railroad, January 15, 1886

1910s

Modern Harvey House opened, 1911

Barstow High School first established in a home near corner of First and Williams Streets, September 15, 1915

First Barstow Branch Library started as part of the Barstow High School, 1916

Hillside Apartments, on the end of Cottage Street first unit built 1917. Longest continuing running business in Barstow

1920s

Grand opening "of our newly rebuilt city" after business district was moved from in front of the Harvey House in between the railroad tracks to where Old Town Barstow is today, July 4, 1925

Route 66 Established, 1926

Barstow International Airport opened, one of the first national airports. The site near Lenwood Road and National Trails Highway was chosen by Charles Lindburgh for TAT (later TWA) airline, October 1, 1929

1930s

First Street Bridge opened, April 26, 1930

Beacon Tavern (hotel) opened in 1930 delayed due to the stock market crash of 1929

Southwest Gas Established, 1931

First Mardi Gras Parade, October 31, 1932

Modern Barstow High School Opened, September 1938

1940s

Mojave Anti Aircraft Range (later Camp Irwin) established, 1940
Harry Partch, avant garde composer and hobo, hitchhiked through Barstow and is inspired to write his seminal work, *Barstow-Eight Hitchhiker Inscriptions*, February 1940
Marine Corps Logistics Base Established, December 28, 1942
Lee Berry Founded Slash X Ranch, 1942
Victory Homes Established, 1943
Brunner's Tiny Time Shop "The Worlds Smallest Store" opened, 1946
Barstow High School's Award winning and Rose Bowl attending Marching Band Started, 1947
City of Barstow incorporated, 1947
Griego's Market, later became Rosita's Restaurant, began 1948
Barstow Park & Recreation District Formed

1950s

Idle Spurs Restaurant Opened, 1955
Printer Review Became Desert Dispatch 1958
Franchise to Southern California Water
Barstow Community Hospital opened at New Location (left Williams Street)—
June 9, 1957 only to close on July 25 due to lack of funds it will open for good on January 15, 1958
Pioneer Antenna at Goldstone is put into service, October 1958

Read next Week's column for Barstow's timeline from 1960 on.

Marking Time in Barstow, 1960-present

The 1960s were a period of great growth and expansion in our area. As I look through the papers at the time I am always running across notice of new banks, businesses, parks and streets. As you read the later events in Barstow's timeline You can definitely see the great steps we have made in the last 40+ years.

The Mojave River Valley Museum has been asked to update the timeline that is on display in the City Council Chambers. Beside our ideas on what should be on the timeline I am asking anyone for additions, corrections or clarifications for the whole timeline. Anyone with any suggestions call me at the museum 256-5452 or email me at barstow@verizon.net.

1960s

Barstow College Welcomes Students, April 1 (first classes held at Barstow High School), 1960, First classes at modern college location, February 1964
Camp Irwin became Fort Irwin, 1961
Henderson Pool at Fogelsong Park opened, 1961
First American Field Service exchange students, Nimet Unsal and Poul Christofferson arrived, August 15, 1963
I-15/I-40 Interchange Construction Project Began
Mojave River Valley Museum Built with Donated Funds, April 26, 1968
City Hall/Police Department Built
Calico Ghost Town Donated to San Bernardino County from Knotts Family, October 1966
First Female Mayor (Ida Pleasant)
Waste Water Facility Built
Mt. St. Joseph Church Built at Mountain View Location, 1966
Harvey House Closed
Brubaker Mann Established, June 6 1950
Kennedy High School Built
Sun & Sky Golf Course Built
H&E Home Center Built
Tore Down Santa Fe Round House

1970s

Fort Irwin Deactivated Used as National Guard Training Center from 1972-79
Del Taco opened on First Avenue, Feb 22, 1972
California Highway Patrol Office Built
Court House Built
Barstow Mall Open
Established Transit System
Desert Discovery Center Built
Santa Fe Hump Yard Built (Biggest West of Mississippi)
Yellow Freight Located in Barstow
Redevelopment Agency Established
New Fire Station Built on Barstow Rd.
City Corporation Yard Moved From Portales Ct. to Avenue H and Vineyard
Modern Library Opened, 1974

Rudy Lara Heart Transplant Telethon Gave Barstow "Little City with a Big Heart"
Name

Fort Irwin reactivated as the National Training Center, August 1979

1980s

Sewer Line/Water Line extended to Lenwood Rd.

Al Vigil Indoor Pool built

Mercado Mall Constructed

McDonald's Burned

First Modern General Plan

Barstow Station Too opened

Desert Manna Established

Downtown Beautification Project

Mojave River Adjudication Finalized

Mojave Water Agency Pipeline Started

Robert A. Sessions Memorial Sportspark Open

1990s

First Southern California Veteran's Home Open, February 1996

Highway 58 Interchange (New Section) Open

Harvey House Rededicated, 1999

2000s

The Route 66 "Mother Road" Museum was dedicated, July 4, 2000

Western America Railroad Museum opened, February 17th, 2001

First Congregational Church celebrated their Centennial, June 4, 2001

Barstow's First Juneteenth Celebration, June 22, 2002