

Hesperia Museum's Junior Historian Program

A Project of the Hesperia Historic Preservation Committee



[Harrison Exhibit Center](#)

16367 Main St. Hesperia, CA
(760) 244-5488

“Preserving Our History
Through Education”

HOW TO BECOME A HESPERIA JUNIOR HISTORIAN

History is anything that has happened in the past. History in general is very important to explore and maintain. Researching and studying your local history brings to light how your area became what it is today. But being a Junior Historian is more than that.

In this activity, you will explore a variety of events that have happened, structure and areas that once existed, and some that still do but have a different use. Learn about these places and events, and complete fun educational activities.

Research and Study - Many things and/or events cannot be seen in the area today. Use a variety of sources to do your research. Knowledge may only build success, but making it your own will enhance the experience.

Protect and Preserve - Many historic sites and/or events are on commercial and/or private property. Be extra careful to protect and preserve these historic areas.

Courteous and Safe - As researchers, Junior Historians have an inherent obligation to be courteous and safe along their journey.

The Badge comes with completion of the activities.

After completing the activities, you can become a Junior Historian by taking the pledge with an educator or the Museum Curator. Thereafter, proudly wear your badge (located at the end of the book). For more information on our unique Junior Historian Program, visit our Hesperia Historic Preservation Group Facebook page, or the [Hesperia Recreation and Park District](#) website.

As a Junior Historian, I promise to:

Explore the

Magnificent and beautiful area I live in.

Learn About

Our City/Town History

Protect Our

Public/Private lands and the things that make our history special.

I promise to enjoy our public lands and share what I learn with my
family and friends

Sign or Print your name_____ Date_____



(Hesperia Days Parade 1980s Honoring Pioneering Women)

MATCHING: TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. When was Hesperia Founded?
2. What Famous Athlete was involved in Hesperia mid 50s?
3. What crop was grown on the Mesa in the 40s and 50s?
4. What as the Hesperia Golf Course been that no other has?
5. Who was the 1st Hesperia Rodeo Queen in 1948?
6. Who was the Summit Valley Telegraph operator in the 40s and 50s?
7. Where did Hesperia's 1st Water source come from?
8. When did Hesperia become a City?
9. What does Hesperia mean?
10. When was Hesperia Rec and Park District established?
11. What was Hesperia Lake originally named?
12. What national show was Head'in for Hesperia sung on?
13. Who wrote and sang Heading for Hesperia?
14. When was the Original School House built?
15. What event put Hesperia into a growth dormancy from 1926 to 1954?
16. What Crop on the Mesa was a national record harvest?
17. What status did the purchase of Hesperia hold in 1954?
18. Who was the foreman on the 1912 expansion of the Flume/Ditch?
19. Where were the first electric street light placed in Hesperia?
20. Why did the Hesperia Hotel have to be demolished in the 1960s?

TRIVIA ANSWERS

- a. Onions
- b. 1957
- c. Frank Columbus Hedrick
- d. It was constructed out of sun dried adobe clay bricks
- e. Arthur Godfrey
- f. The Establishment of Route 66
- g. PGA Tour for 4 years
- h. Jack Dempsey (Boxer)
- i. 1883
- j. Old Town Hesperia
- k. F.X. McDonald
- l. Potatoes
- m. 1885
- n. Ro-To-Bo
- o. Deep Creek
- p. 2nd largest land purchase in the western United States
- q. Garden of the West/Star of the West
- r. 1988
- s. Chard Walker
- t. Lillian Stratton

ONLINE RESEARCH

1. With your parent's/guardian's permission, research the following historical points of interest. Why are they significant to Hesperia's history? Document your research by filling out the Historical Points of Interest chart below.

| Junior Historian Historical Points of Interest | |
|--|------------------|
| Point of Interest | Why Significant? |
| Old Town Hesperia (Sultana and Orange Streets) | |
| Hesperia Golf Course | |
| Hesperia Air Park/Airport | |
| Outpost Cafe | |
| Old School House Addition (N/W Corner of C Ave. and Main St.) | |
| Hesperia/Joshua Circle Elementary | |
| National Old Trails Road: Summit at the S/E corner of Muscatel and Maple and Main Street east of 7 th Hesperia Rd | |
| Hill 582 | |

FIELD RESEARCH

2. Visit the [Hesperia History Museum](#) (Harrison Exhibit Center) at 16367 Main Street in downtown Hesperia. Document your visit by filling out the chart below.

| Junior Historian Hesperia Museum Chart | | |
|---|--------|-------------------|
| Date and Time of Visit | Selfie | What did I learn? |
| | | |

3. Visit each of the [16 Historical Markers](#). Document your visit by filling out the chart below.

| Junior Historian Historical Markers Chart | | | |
|--|------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Historical Marker | Date and Time of Visit | Selfie | What did I learn? |
| 1/ Old School House | | | |
| 2/ Walters Store and House | | | |
| 3/ A) Hesperia Hotel and B) Train Station | | | |
| 4/ John Brown Road Crossing at Main Street | | | |
| 5/ John Brown | | | |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Road at the Mojave Trail Crossing | | | |
| 6/ Hesperia Original Water Source | | | |
| 7/ Atongai Indian Village | | | |
| 8/ Summit Train Station | | | |
| 9/ Elliot Ranch | | | |
| 10/ Miller's Corner | | | |
| 11/Original Hesperia's First General Store | | | |
| 12/ Original Water Supply Ditch | | | |
| 13/ Rolars "66" Gas Station | | | |
| 14/ A) Mojave Indian Trail and B) Hesperia Lake | | | |
| 15/ Holcomb Valley Road | | | |
| 16/ Stratton Homestead | | | |

ONLINE RESEARCH

4. There were 2 songs written about Hesperia in the 1950s. One of which was ["Headin' for Hesperia"](#) (1954) by F.X. McDonald. Listed below are some of the lyrics. Study them.

He was a huffin and puffin coming fast along the trail
 With a snortin' sneeze, he cut the breeze, his shirt tail was a sail
 As he passed me I asked him why, he hollered, "I can't hear ya"
 But there's not a doubt, I heard him shout, "I'm Heading for Hesperia"

(Chorus) Hedin for Hesperia, I'am getting out of here
 I'm leavin' my gout and headin for California's new frontier
 Where there's no smog, no smoke, no noise, and freedom from hysteria
 I'm tellin' ya Mac, I'm ballin' the jack. I'm headin' for Hesperia

Out where common things are handy, sold in the general store
 Calico eggs and candy, the post office behind the door
 Out where the air is fresh and clean, there is no smog or smoke
 Out where you held in high esteem and the undertaker's broke

If you're hiring a psychiatrist who is treating your hysteria
 Jump off his couch and shout out loud , I'm "Headin for Hesperia"
 Then tell old Mac you won't be back, now pack your sack and call a hack
 Get off the rack and make a track, and on the way be "ballin' the Jack"

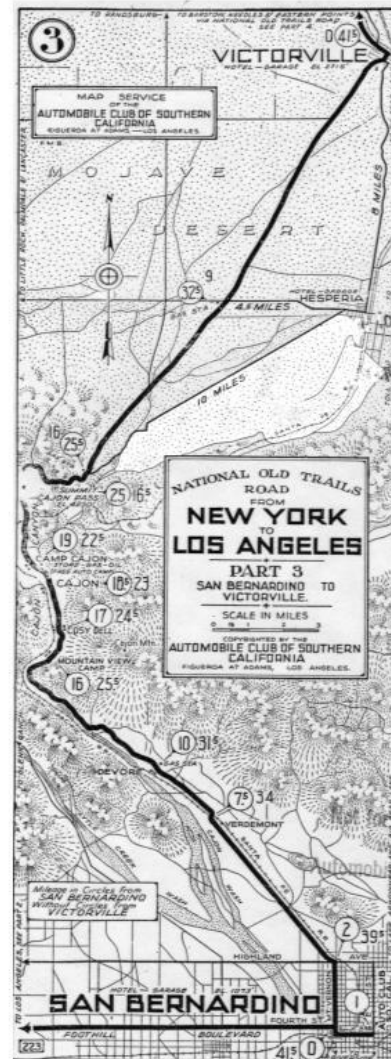
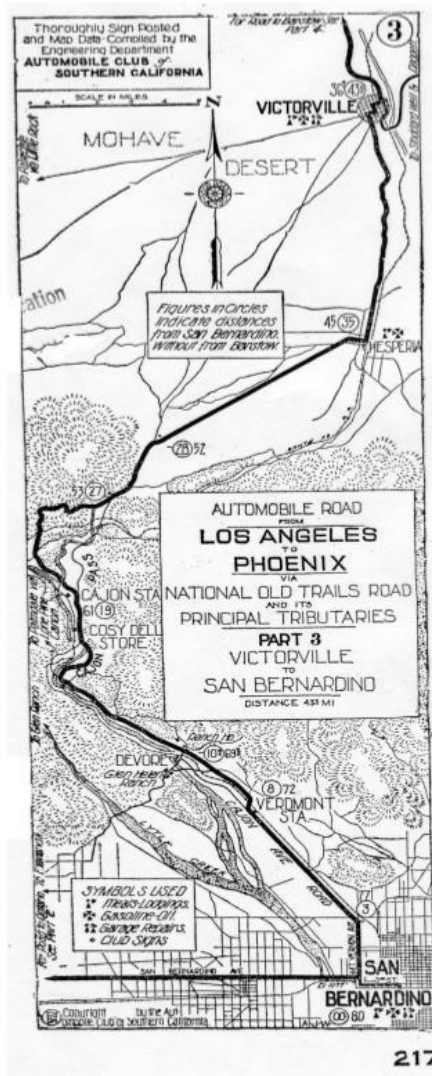
Now, describe what you think the specific lyrics below are referring to...

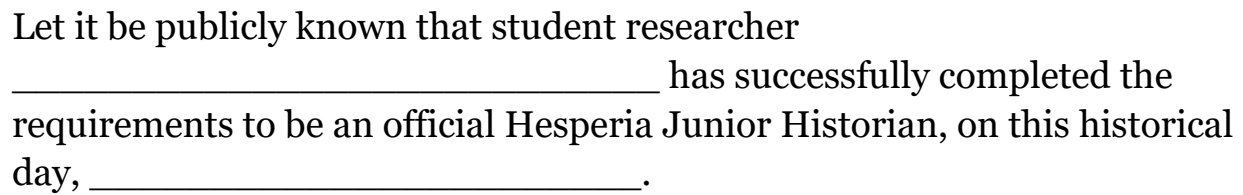
1. "With a snortin' sneeze"
2. "I'm leavin' my gout"
3. "Calico eggs and candy, the Post Office behind the door"
4. "Out where the air is fresh and clean. There is no smog or smoke"

5. “Out where you’re held in high esteem and the undertaker’s broke”
6. “If you’re hiring a psychiatrist who is treating your hysteria”
7. “On the way, be “ballin’ the Jack”

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

What is the major difference between the 1912 map on the left and the 1923 map on the right? Explain. What impact do you think it had on Hesperia? Explain.





Date

Date _____

Hesperia Historical Preservation Committee
Griz Drylie, Facilitator
Lisa Chavez, Member
Jim Hoffmann, Member
Rebekah Swanson, Member