On the night of Sept. 26, 1909, an Indian known at Banning as Willie Boy, shot and killed Boniface Boniface, an Indian, at the Gilman Ranch while asleep, and seized and took away against her will from the camp the fifteen year old daughter of Boniface, known as Ioleta. The murderer had stolen a 30-30 Winchester rifle from Gilman, and also a belt of cartridges. While the murder happened about 9 p.m., the women in the camp were so frightened by the threats of the murderer that it was not known in yesteryear's cultural prejudices, political agendas, and media slants account for the discrepancies, yet if the adage that history repeats itself is true, then some of those prejudices and agendas may linger today. On October 16, the play The Last Posse, written by local playwright Pat Patterson, explores both facts and probable fiction, offering new perspectives of the Willie Boy story. (See insert for play details)
the possibility of more, they kept on hoping to overtake him in the open. In this they were disappointed, for while rapidly following his fresh trail, on the afternoon of Oct. 7th, a shot came from the mountain side, seriously wounding Chas. Reche. At this time the posse was open. In this they were disappointed, for while rapidly following his fresh trail, on the afternoon of Oct. 7th, a shot came from the mountainside, seriously wounding Chas. Reche. At this time the posse was

**Letter from President: Lloyd Noel**

When Sallie Brown announced to the Board of Directors that she needed to resign as Board Secretary because of a vision problem, she highly recommended Carole Schreiber to fellow Board Members as her replacement. In addition to serving as past secretary for the Genealogical Society, Carole’s many areas of expertise, organizational and business skills and dependability, have proven to be an asset to MBHS that is priceless and treasured by everyone who works with her. The Board unanimously approved Carole’s appointment as Board Secretary when she agreed to serve.

As our new Registrar when Ruth Long retired, Carole attended the Past Perfect software training for accessioning/logging MBHS donations, pictures, books, papers, artifacts, etc. Besides taking on the Herculean job of Registrar and doing all the filing as well, Carole seems to always be there to assist other committee chairs when needed. You will find her helping with special programs and events from the “1st Wednesday” programs to yard sales, weeding at Warren’s Well, working on the YV history book committee, performing and assisting with the play “The Last Posse,” and doing archival research, just to mention a few roles.

Thank you to Sallie Brown for her term as Secretary and continued dedication to MBHS through Voices of the Past, Newsletter Editor, research and written items of local history, and for always being there as a supportive and positive MBHS member and friend.

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**MBHS MEMBERSHIP**

**Pioneer Town Museum**

**Our Current Membership is 240**

**Welcome — Welcome — Welcome**

Joining us since our last newsletter are new members:

- Doreen K. Thompson and a Gift Membership to CAROLE KESTER, Membership Chair, and E-Mail Coordinator pioneertownmuseum@earthlink.net or 760-365-4096

**OUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP IS 240**

**PIONEERTOWN**

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**EARLY BIRDS PROGRAM**

Did you attend the first portion of the program, the lecture on burial protocols and practices? The second portion of the program will be hands-on programs to yard sales, weeding at Warren’s Well, working on the YV history book committee, performing and assisting with the play “The Last Posse,” and doing archival research, just to mention a few roles.

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the possibility of more, they kept on hoping to overtake him in the open. In this they were disappointed, for while rapidly following his fresh trail, on the afternoon of Oct. 7th, a shot came from the mountain side, seriously wounding Chas. Reche. At this time the posse was composed of Reche, John Hyde, Joe Newlin, W. de Crevecour, and Segundo Chino, all brave men, who had followed the murderer persistently over 700 miles, finally overtaking him, tired and at bay behind rocks on the mountain side with the posse in full view of the valley below. Joe Toutain, one of the best men of the posse, who had hardly taken time to go to church on the day before resting in camp, and Under Sheriff Evans had given up his horse for that day to Segundo Chino. After Reche fell from his horse, the murderer rapidly shot four of the five horses, and the posse was forced to seek shelter behind neighboring boulders as it was impossible by reason of the smokeless powder to locate the murderer. It was afterwards found that he was 250 yards distant. This point was only about 3 miles from the place where he had killed loleta 8 days before.

Not knowing the location of Willie boy the posse remained on watch till twilight, in the hope of getting to grips with the remaining members of the posse, John Hyde, at the risk of his life, started on the run for the camp 30 miles away. Two shots were fired at Hyde as he started, but fortunately he escaped and soon after dark gave notice to the others of the situation. Before they could arrive over the almost impossible country the wagon and remaining members had placed Reche on the remaining horse and started for camp.

Towards morning they met the other members of the posse, and after consultation, and believing the murderer could not escape, and provisions having become almost exhausted, the posse worn out, and Reche's wound being very serious, it was decided to return to Banning and after obtaining supplies again take up the trail. Provision was made to guard the water places, and the Santa Fe R.R. and also the S.P.R.R., were well guarded by men on the lookout. On the 12th day of Oct. I accompanied the posse to the mountains again, with ample provision for a protracted stay. On ascending the mountain side where the murderer had fired upon the posse his dead body was found. When the posse had left the evening with Reche, they heard another shot, and supposed it intended for them, but it turned out to be the last cartridge Willie Boy had, and he had killed himself with it. The body was badly decomposed, and after full identification, it was cremated under my direction.

I cannot too earnestly praise the bravery and persistency with which our men from Banning followed. To travel over two weeks through hardship and danger that can only be realized by those who were in the hills, or know the hardship required to stand for over two weeks without shelter the hot, cold days, nights, and almost sleepless pursuit of a desperate and well armed murderer in a mountain country well known to him. He was so vigorously pursued that he was finally worn out, and used his last cartridge to end his own life. The posse is entitled to all the credit for having driven the desperado to his death.

The bills for the expenses of the posse have been approved by me, and I respectfully submit the same for your approval. The course taken seemed to me to be the only one consistent with my duty to follow to his arrest or death of one of the most desperate and cold-blooded murderers ever known in our country.

—Nov. 2, 1909 F.P. Wilson, Sheriff of Riverside County
On the night of Sept. 26, 1909, an Indian known at Banning as Willie Boy, shot and killed, and took away against her will from the camp the fifteen year old daughter of Boniface, and girl some 10 miles east of Banning, beyond Cabazon, leading into the mountains. I at once followed and took up the trail with a posse. After tracking him through the mountains till the morning of the 30th, I found it necessary to obtain food and horses and return to Banning. I returned to the camp, some 70 miles, knowing that a well supplied force was now necessary to keep up the pursuit of the murderer. On Friday the 1st day of Oct. a well equipped posse, accompanied by Under Sheriff Evans was made up from the best mountain men of Banning, and horses accustomed to mountain and desert trails. The men who had found the body of the girl were among the men who had accompanied this posse. The next day the posse found the murderer in the mountains, and returned to Banning with the body. When the murderer was brought to Banning, the trial was held there and he was found guilty. After the trial was held, the murderer asked for a pardon, which was denied him. The murderer was then hanged in San Bernadino.

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The last posse—a collection of the best mountain men of Banning—made up from the best mountain men of Banning, and horses accustomed to mountain and desert trails. The men who had found the body of the girl were among the men who had accompanied this posse. The next day the posse found the murderer in the mountains, and returned to Banning with the body. When the murderer was brought to Banning, the trial was held there and he was found guilty. After the trial was held, the murderer asked for a pardon, which was denied him. The murderer was then hanged in San Bernadino.