



# Antelope Horn

Newsletter of the Kern-Antelope Historical Society, Inc.  
PO Box 1255 Rosamond, CA 93560  
November, 2019

## Meetings:

### Regular Meetings:

- 2nd Thursday of the month (except July & August)
- 5:30 pm - at the Wanda Kirk Library, 3611 Rosamond Blvd., Rosamond, CA.

### Board Meetings:

- 4th Thursday of the month as needed. All are welcome.
- 4 pm - location to be announced

## Looking Ahead:

**December:** Thursday, Dec. 12th,  
5:30 pm - Annual Christmas  
Dinner and Meeting -  
**Greenhouse Cafe**

Happy Thanksgiving



**60<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary of the  
Kern Antelope Historical Society  
1959-2019

### November Meeting - Walter Feller - Photographer, Historian, Desert Lover

The Kern Antelope Historical Society is very pleased to welcome **Walter Feller on Thursday, November 14th at 5:30 pm, at the Wanda Kirk Library in Rosamond.** He has a great love of all things related to the Mojave Desert. As he described when listing topics that might be found on his popular website, *Mojave Desert Net*, such as "history, geology, geography, ecology, wildlife, flora and pretty wild wildflowers and generally desert photography (mostly mine) including ghost towns and gold mines and even more stuff like that than that", he adds "I am not an expert in any of the above. **I just like the desert.**"

When William Randolph Hearst III decided to produce a 'coffee-table' version of Mary Hunter Austin's book, *The Land of Little Rain*, he went to Feller who provided over a hundred photographs to complement Austin's 1903 book, a classic on the American southwest. This edition, with Feller's photographs, was printed in 2014.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear from Feller and learn about this fascinating desert we live in. Mark your calendars.

The following are Walter Feller's websites that you can go check out: [mojavedesert.net](http://mojavedesert.net), [digital-desert.com](http://digital-desert.com) and [mojaverivervalleymuseum.org](http://mojaverivervalleymuseum.org).

Last month's article was about the **Covington - Dearborn - Greenleaf - Burton family**. This article is excerpted from *HERE ROAMED THE ANTELOPE*, another one of the KAHS books available for purchase. These two letters were written by John D. Covington, uncle of Alice E. Burton and they give a little idea about life in the 'early days' of the Antelope Valley, including how many antelope once roamed the valley.

### Reminiscences of JOHN D. COVINGTON

This letter appeared in the *Antelope Valley Ledger-Gazette*, Lancaster, California, Friday, May 7, 1915.

April 18, 1915

Editor, Ledger-Gazette,  
Lancaster, Cal.

Dear Sir:

I noticed in your paper recently an item offering a life-time subscription to the Antelope Valley Ledger-Gazette, to the oldest continuous resident of Antelope Valley. As far as I can remember, I believe the honor to be all mine.

In January, 1869, my step-father, mother, myself and four other children, came with a herd of cattle from Los Angeles and camped at what is now known as Indian Wells, near Rosamond. The nearest neighbors, and only people in the country at that time, were Nelse Ward and family at Willow Springs, who kept the Overland Stage Station.



Please notice: if you are receiving a hardcopy (black and white copy) of this newsletter and would like to enjoy it in color, it is available at our website: [www.kahs1959.org](http://www.kahs1959.org).

We camped there about one year and then moved up to the Irvin Lakes\* on the north side of Antelope Valley, inside Liebre Grant. Here, within a radius of seven miles, I have lived ever since. I have seen the Valley practically from the beginning to its present development, and have known the people who have come and gone.

I have had many exciting experiences, which at this time seem hardly conceivable. When I was a boy, thirty cowboys and myself gathered together, as nearly as we could count, 7000 antelope. Deer were plentiful, and it was unusual not to have either venison or antelope on the table every day.

When I first came to the country, the Tweedy Boys and the owners of the Tejon Ranch were the largest cattle owners. There was hardly any farming, except that of growing a small patch of potatoes here and there in the mountains. Big bands of cattle and sheep roamed the valley.

At that time the only means of transportation was a stage running between Los Angeles and Bakersfield, via Willow Springs. I remember distinctly when the railroad first came through. I went to Tehachapi to see the first engine that came over the Tehachapi grade.

I have been a subscriber to your paper since the first edition, and look forward with pleasure to a life-long subscription to it, providing I am the oldest continuous resident.

Yours, truly,

J. D. Covington

\* Note: "Irvin Lakes" is a misprint, should be "Twin Lakes".

(Twin Lakes is now known as White Oak Lodge, located at the west end of the valley in the Tehachapi foothills. jlw)

*Copy of letter received by Alice E. Burton (his niece) from John D. Covington.*

Altadena, California

Jan. 21, 1947

Dear Alice:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that appeared in the Ledger Gazette 1915, which mentions the Antelope incident Mrs. Adams spoke of. It is a little inaccurate, however, as we did not actually gather them up. Just for sport, the cowboys lined up across the valley, wedge shape, with a couple of men at a point to count the antelope, as another bunch of cowboys drove them down the valley. They counted them in tens and I suppose the number decided on was more an estimate than anything else, but it gives a good idea of the immense herds of antelope that once roamed the Valley.

As settlers came into the valley, fences cut the antelope off from the range and of course they were heavily hunted. The railroad, too, was very hard on them, as they were afraid to cross the tracks, and many of them starved, especially in the winter. They were shot at from trains (train schedules were not too perfect in those days) and the freights would often stop to pick up the antelope the crews shot.

One winter that I remember (I don't remember the exact year) somewhere in the 80's, the snow was seven or eight feet deep at Twin Lakes, and solid enough to walk on, and that same year it snowed heavily clear across the country to Death Valley, as I heard it later from the Borax teamsters. That is the storm, in my opinion, that destroyed the antelope. Trapped in the heavy snow, they couldn't get away. They died by hundreds, and the coyotes lived on them.

For several years there was a small band of antelope in the west end of the valley, but they were killed off one by one. Some of them got "hung up" in the fences, and others were killed by settlers. They became very wild and in recent years I have not heard of any at all.

(Balance of letter personal)



Uncle John



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## VETERANS DAY

It was originally called Armistice Day, commemorating the end of World War I.

World War I officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. However, the fighting ended about seven months before that when the Allies and Germany put into effect an armistice on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

For that reason, Nov. 11, 1918, was largely considered the end of “the war to end all wars” and dubbed Armistice Day. In 1926, Congress officially recognized it as the end of the war, and in 1938, it became an official holiday, primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I. But then World War II and the Korean War happened, so on June 1, 1954, at the urging of veterans service organizations, Congress amended the commemoration yet again by changing the word “armistice” to “veterans” so the day would honor American veterans of all wars.

For a while, Veterans Day’s date was changed, too, and it confused everybody.

Congress signed the Uniform Holiday Bill in 1968 to ensure that a few federal holidays — Veterans Day included — would be celebrated on a Monday. Officials hoped it would spur travel and other family activities over a long weekend, which would stimulate the economy.

**For some inexplicable reason, the bill set Veterans Day commemorations for the fourth Monday of every October.**

On Oct. 25, 1971, the first Veterans Day under this new bill was held. We’re not sure why it took three years to implement, but not surprisingly, there was a lot of confusion about the change, and many states were unhappy, choosing to continue to recognize the day as they previously had — in November.

Within a few years, it became pretty apparent that most U.S. citizens wanted to celebrate Veterans Day on Nov. 11, since it was a matter of historic and patriotic significance. So on Sept. 20, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed another law (Public Law 94-97), which returned the annual observance to its original date starting in 1978.

**Other countries celebrate it, too, in their own ways.**

World War I was a multinational effort, so it makes sense that our allies also wanted to celebrate their veterans on Nov. 11. The name of the day and the types of commemorations differ, however.

Canada and Australia both call Nov. 11 “Remembrance Day.” Canada’s observance is pretty similar to our own, except many of its citizens wear red poppy flowers to honor their war dead. In Australia, the day is more akin to our Memorial Day.

Great Britain calls it “Remembrance Day,” too, but observes it on the Sunday closest to Nov. 11 with parades, services and two minutes of silence in London to honor those who lost their lives in war.

From US Dept of Defense website: <https://www.defense.gov/explore/story/article/1675470/5-facts-to-know-about-veterans-day/>



## Member Dues - Pay Using Zelle!

The Kern Antelope Historical Society is happy to announce that we will now be accepting payments through Zelle. If you’re already using this app, you know how handy it is, and if not, you may want to check it out. Basically, it’s an app for your mobile device and you enter the phone number for KAHS, indicate the amount of money you are sending and the reason, and it moves the money from your account to pay for your membership. More details coming soon!



If you are not a member of the historical society, we hope you will consider joining. You can make a check, payable to Kern Antelope Historical Society and mail it, along with this coupon to the address below.

**KERN ANTELOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**


*Mail to: Kern Antelope Historical Society  
PO Box 125  
Rosamond, CA 93560*

	<u>MEMBERSHIP TYPE</u>	
Date	<u>Type</u>	<u>Dues</u>
Name _____	Student & Military	\$5
Address _____	Individual	\$15
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E-mail _____	Business	\$35

Club Year - June 1st through May 31st

**Website: [www.kahs1959.org](http://www.kahs1959.org)      Email: [info@kahs1959.org](mailto:info@kahs1959.org)**

Please visit the website for more information about Antelope Valley history. Copies of recent newsletters are available, as well as other information. The first online KAHS book is now available. *Glimpse of the Prehistory of Antelope Valley*, by Stuart Glennan, is described as "Archaeological Investigations at the Sweetser site". We hope to be able to add other KAHS books in the future.



*The Kern Antelope Historical Society greatly appreciates its business members.  
We hope you will support them and say thanks when you see them.*



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## For Sale by KAHS

### Books - \$10 (\*\$8) Each:

Here Roamed the Antelope  
Bears - Borax and Gold  
Along the Rails from Lancaster to Mojave  
The Antelopes Left and the Settle-ers Came  
In Love with Life in Lancaster (Hard Times  
1927-1932)  
Antelope Valley Pioneers  
Castles in the Valley - Shea's Castle  
A Page in the History of Antelope Valley: the Arthur  
Pickus Story: His Home for Seventy Five Years  
Mojave, A Rich History of Rails, Mining and Flight  
Gold-Fever - 40 Years Digging Antelope Valley  
History  
Antelope Valley News and Views During Part of the  
Great Depression 1925-1935

**Video DVD - \$15:** Antelope Valley Yesteryears

**Maps - \$4 (\*\$3):** Historic Settlers Circle Map

**Online Book:** *Glimpse of the Prehistory of Antelope Valley*

*\*Members' Discount Prices in Parentheses*

## 2019-2020 Executive Board

### Officers:

President: Gretchen Winfrey    winfrey@qnet.com  
Vice President: Delores Julian    ddjulirosa@yahoo.com  
Secretary: Janet Winters    poppiesrme@gmail.com  
Treasurer: Terry Landsiedel    visitrosamond@gmail.com

### Directors At-Large:

Joe Pauley  
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Frances Thompson

**WEBSITE:** [www.kahs1959.org](http://www.kahs1959.org)    **EMAIL:** [info@kahs1959.org](mailto:info@kahs1959.org)

### General Meetings:

5:30 pm-Second Thursday of the Month, September through June  
At Wanda Kirk County Library  
3611 Rosamond Blvd. Rosamond, CA 93560  
(Exceptions: June, September & December -  
Location to be announced)

### Memberships:

\$5 - Student & Military; \$15 - Individual; \$20 - Husband & Wife;  
\$30 - Family; \$35 - Businesses

The Kern Antelope Historical Society was established in 1959 for the purpose of learning and preserving the history of California, especially the Antelope Valley, which includes parts of Los Angeles and Kern counties. Speakers are invited to talk at our monthly meetings about aspects of our various cultures. Subjects range from Indians of the past to the Space Age. The Society offers field trips for members to significant locations in and around the valley throughout the year. Come join us to learn more about the wonders of this area we live in and also meet some new people.

**KERN ANTELOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**P.O. BOX 1255**  
**ROSAMOND, CA 93560**



*Since 1959*